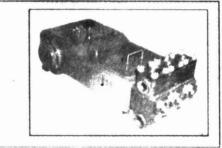
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THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1

ts Daily . Sunday \$1 No. 936 · Pampa, Texas

Robbins: Trinity buys old Wal-Mart

By MARILYN POWERS SIMI WRITER

Trinity Fellowship Church has at 2225 N. Hobart, according to Lonny—the old store to us." Robbins said——telephone Monday— Robbins, church pastor

store at 2225 N. Hobart will be closed. has had a "for sale" sign posted at the children and youth. We want to assite. Pampa

"It's a done deal. We have signed a closed on the sale of that building yet. other interested parties

and vacated. The SuperCenter is curb of the old Wal Mait store with a learner, he has a square about expected to be completed some time, website address, telephone miniber and a linux. In this is the second at each of the completed some time, website address, telephone miniber and a linux. In this is the second at each of the completed some time, website address, telephone miniber and a linux. In this is the second at the completed some time, we have a linux and the completed some time. deadline of March 4 for bids. A con-has a mean sy-"They have 90 days from the day must have been somed but not closed." 306 is a sobought the Pampa Wal Mart property, the SuperCenter is open to turn over, said a representative of the firm by at 1 % 8 % of

Keith Morris with Wal Mart Stores | Robbins declined to comment on a Warren "We purchased the property. We've im Bentonville, Ark, said Tuesday by the amount the church is peying for the said already got money in escrow." Robbins - telephone that "We do have an interest - property "at this particular targe." he said in a telephone interview today. ... ed parts in that building. We have not said. "To my knowledge, there were response to a question in a said law.

contract. We won't close on the proper- so until we do close on the sale, we. Right now, we re in the process of property ty until they (Wal Mart) move." he don't release the name of the prospecs working with an architectural rain to Trimity Lefford in a same of the prospecs. tive interested party. Because obvious develop some sketches of what we owns property which has an appeared Wal-Mart is currently building a by it doesn't become official until we could do with the existing building," market waday of approximately SuperCenter southwest of Pampa do close on it, so anything could hap. Robbins said. "Our main interest is \$801,930 are ordere to the website of Regional Medical Center Upon com- pen between now and then "going to be something the communants. Gray County, Appraisal District pletion of the new SuperCenter, the CB Richard Ellis, a brokerage firm, will be proud of Our focus will be on Robbins is also measure of the City of

Police link rash of counterfeit cash to Clovis, N.M. stash

SIMI WRITE

Counterfeit US currency 105 S Cuyler has been showing up for the "We think these are comes, with eight bills recovered same serial numbers are going as of today, according to to be linked to the Clovis, Pampa Police Det Donny N. I mad in where a big

been turned in to the police said department, along with three "We heard there was about phony 820s and one bogus \$550 cm counterfeit bills) \$100 bill Brown said Some brought to Pampa, but we're other counterfeit bills may not sare about that." he said also have been passed locally. Most of the funny money but turned in to banks and then has been detected with the

involved in the investigation stores. Brown said The pen is of the counterfeit currency in strawn across a piece of paper Pampa. All eight phony bills, money, and it it is connecticit. received at the police depart. a black mark will appear. It ment as of press time today, the money is not counterful were reported by businesses, no mark is lett on it Brown said, with the first - A close look at the bills showing up on April 20 at the may also help determine their Allsup's at 140 S authenticity The counterfeit

By MARILYN POWERS - es reportuit counterfeit bills include Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart, and Dollar General.

past week at Pampa business - puter generated. Some of the counterfeit ring was busted a

shipped away, he said lidlp of a marker pea which The U.S. Secret Service is can be found at local retail

Starkweather, Other business (See CASH, Page 3)

How's the weather up there?



A worker gets a bird's-eye view of downtown Pampa from the roof of the Chamber of Commerce building at 200 N. Ballard. A boom extends from a truck owned by Parsley's Sheet Metal and Roofing as repairs are made to the roof of the building this morning.

Pickens drills wells; PGWCD denies permit

By DAVID BOWSER STALL WRITER

WHIII DILR Boone Pickens entra waiting

Panhandle Conservation District denied three well permit applications by the Roberts County rancher and Dallas business man, but the water is already flowing

C1 Williams, PGWCD general manager, said following the group's meeting Wednesday that Pickens had drilled two eight inch wells capable of wells were not drilled under that permit, es. Williams said. View house is the 500 gallons per minute

The board of directors denied the applications for the three wells, saving corrector. Williams said, there would there was some speculation follow. It was not a jest. Williams said that the permit applications were utilize administratively incomplete. Robert

anhandle Ground Water Conservation District denied Pickens' applications for the three wells, saying that the permit applications were administratively incomplete. The property had been permitted under the district's old rules, but the wells were not drilled under that permit, officials said.

pumping 800 gallons per minute and Williams and The district this spring built on Pickens Mes. Vende Rate 3 one six inch well capable of pumping scharged than rules and a new set of. The six inch well is the a self-house this post a talk to be

The bal come in and done them, separate er, a problem

Harden, a hydrologist, acting on perint on the new perint forms, and tacilities, such as with a Pickens behalf submitted the applicate the discontinuous continuous course, but Kini Howers 182 Board applicate the discontinuous continuous course, but Kini Howers 182 Board applicate the discontinuous continuous course, but Kini Howers 182 Board applicate the discontinuous continuous course, but Kini Howers 182 Board applicate the discontinuous continuous course, but Kini Howers 182 Board applicate the discontinuous continuous continu ons as associated with the wells member representing much of Roberts again. It associates to adopt food were

under the districts old rules, but the tron is, well-s for construction purpos. Williams said there is me and, use of

mg Wednesday's meeting that the latery was a subtracted above Was a trying assemble that the wells were not wells would be used for as a strong

The property had been permitted. Whi is apparently being pullipped. County said it wasn't be a roll course. permitted a permitted of the process rule. The





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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Saturday, April 24

Criminal mischief was reported at Hobart Street Park. Graffiti was found on a bathroom. wall. Estimated damage was \$10.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of Garland. Two bicycles were stolen. Estimated — Estimated damage was \$500.

Their was reported at Hasting's, 1205 N. Hobart Taken and recovered were three comic books, two bookmarks and a magazine. with a total estimated value of \$25.95.

Monday, April 26

Passing counterfeit bills was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1700 block of Aspen. A window valued at approximately \$150 was reported to be damaged.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported at Pampa Middle School, 2401 N. Charles. Two juveniles were taken to the Juvenile Probation Office

Tuesday, April 27

Theft over \$50 was reported in the 1300 block of Hamilton. No signs of forced entry were found. A 38-caliber pistol was taken. Estimated value of loss was \$100.

A domestic dispute was reported in the 700 block of North Frost. No injuries were report-

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the fol-

lowing calls during the 24-hour period end-

Wednesday, April 28

2400 block of Perryton Parkway and trans-

ported a patient(s) to Northwest Texas

8:04 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to

8-39 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the

10:04 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to

PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-

300 block of South Canadian and transported

Duncan and Kentucky streets. No transport.

7 a.m. A mobile ICU responded to the

ing at 7 a.m. today.

Hospital, Amarillo.

patient(s) to PRMC

St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

Wednesday, April 28

Injury to a child was reported in the 800 block of North Lefors. The police report states that there were no apparent injuries.

Criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 1400 block of West Randy Matson. An egg was thrown at a vehicle

Kenneth Virgil Hatt Jr., 18, 1334 Coffee #1 was arrested in the 1500 block of Mary Ellen for two warrants, three capias pro fines and violation of probation on a charge of burglary

Tyson Dean Beck, 30, 12035 E. Frederic, was arrested at Atchison Avenue and Starkweather Street for violation of a protective order.

Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the 400 block of North Starkweather. Information on injuries is unknown, according to the police report Arturo Ruiz, 18, 415 N. Starkweather, was arrested in the 400 block of North Starkweather for assault causing bodily injury in connection with the incident.

Peter Galvez Rodriguez, 36, 412 S Ballard, was arrested in the 400 block of South West for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram and driving while intoxicated.

Donald Dwayne Johnson, 53, 812 1/2 N Wells, was arrested in the 1800 block of Alcock for theft over \$50 and under \$500.

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FIRE

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

Wednesday, April 28

7:59 a.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to a minor motor vehicle collision at Kentucky and Duncan.

CORRECTION

In a photo cutline and story about the Meals On Wheels Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon which was published in the Wednesday, April 28 issue of The Pampa News, Donna Powell should have been identified as an employee of Pampa Meals On

OBITUARIES

MAXEY E. HERD

Wheeler, died Wednesday, April 28, 2004, at - served in the Far East and San Angelo. Amarillo. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Church and American Legion. Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mr. Herd was born Dec. 13, 1935, at two brothers; and a grandson, Nathan Sauer. Wheeler, to Hammy H. and Gladys Criner Herd. He attended Wheeler schools, graduating from Wheeler High School in 1954. He Phil Herd of Georgetown; a daughter, Tina married Wanda Sue Waters on April 15, 1957. in Amarillo.

Mr. Herd joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and retired in 1975. He attended favorite charity.

WHEELER - Maxey E. Herd, 68, of Yale University during his service time and

Mr. Herd returned to Wheeler in 1983 the First Baptist Church with Dr. Toby where he opened-operated Maxey's Henson, former pastor, officiating: Burial will Steakhouse. He was a member of First Baptist

He was preceded in death by his parents;

Survivors include his wife, Wanda of Wheeler; two sons, Jeff Herd of Wheeler and Sauer of Amarillo; a brother, Waymon Herd of Fort Worth; and eight grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a

SERVICES TOMORROW

HAHN, Cecil R. — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Bible Church, Pampa. **HERD,** Maxey E. — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Wheeler.

City Briefs

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

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ty, Sat., May 1, 10-3 p.m., Best Cocoa Shell Mulch at Pollies ing, 50% off, Fri. & Sat. Near-Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart. Greenhouse. COMMUNITY CHRIS-ATTENTION ALL Sub-

TIAN School Hamburger. scription Customers, as of Lunch Fund Raiser/Friday, April 30/11:30-1:00/ 220 N. Ballard St./Burger, chips, drink, homemade dessert/ Pampa News, you will have FOR SALE: Top of the line to become Office Pay 1, 3, 6

electric motor wheel chair. April 2003 paid \$6400. Used 8 months. Asking \$5000, obo. To see call 669-9248.

GARAGE SALE Thursday prior, low down payment & and Friday, 9:00am, 1112 S. Nelson. Furniture, tools, antiques, dishes, & linens.

> HEADQUARTERS FOR outdoor grill replacement parts, Fireside Comfort, 530 W. Brown, Hwy. 60.

LOST QUEEN size pillow

and pictures on County Road plications for all positions, 8 6. Reward \$25, 806-665-5050. a.m.-3 p.m., Karen's Kitchen.

POLLIES SPECIAL this week-Tomatoes and Peppers-\$1.29/6 pk. Begonias-99¢/6 pk. Also, many herbs to choose from!

OVER 4000 items of cloth-

ly New. 2216 N. Hobart.

PROM TUXEDOS at T-Shirts & More, call 665-3036.

RED DEER Catfish House, Miami, Tx. Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Sun. 11-2 p.m.

TIME TO replace a driveway or sidewalks, or add a patio or slab? Howard Constr. provides exp. concrete installation, 669-1287.

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WEATHER FOCUS

Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon, highs in the lower 80s and south winds 15 to 20 mph. Tonight should fall on mostly cloudy skies with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, lows in the lower 50s and south winds 15 to 20 mph, shifting to the northwest late.

Friday should see mostly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of rain. Cooler. Highs in the mid 60s. North winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday

By JEANNINE AVERSA

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)

The economy grew at an annual

rate of 4.2 percent in the open-

me quarter of 2004, a solid

showing and tresh evidence that

the business recovery is solidly

on track. The performance was-

n't the blowout that some ana-



night, partly cloudy. Lows around 40. North winds 15 to 20 mph

Highs in the lower 60s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows around 40.

Sunday, partly cloudy Highs in the lower 70s Sunday night, partly cloudy Lows in the upper 40s.

Monday, partly cloudy Highs in the lower 80s. Monday night, partly cloudy Lows in the lower 50s.

Tuesday, partly cloudy Highs in the mid 80s Tuesday night, partly cloudy Lows in the mid 50s. Wednesday, partly cloudy,

Saturday, partly cloudy,

Highs in the upper 80s.

Economy grows at 4.2 percent rate in first quarter of this year

Economic growth in the first quarter was bolstered by spending by consumers, business and

strong 5 percent pace that economists were forecasting. GDP measures the value of goods and services produced within the United States and is

Issis Wanted The reading on gross domesconsidered the most important tic product for the January-tobarometer of the economy's March quarter, reported by the health.

Commerce Department Thursday, marks a slight pickup from the 4.1 percent rate registhe federal government, espetered in the final quarter of 2003. While the first quarter figcially on defense ure suggests that the recovery is . "We have a Goldilocks econin good shape, it fell short of the omy, meaning it is not too

> Corp. On Wall Street, stocks moved higher. The Dow Jones industrials gained 44 points and the Nasdaq was up 2 points in early morning trading.

> > The state of the economy fig-

dential campaign, where President Bush and presumptive Democratic nominee John Kerry have been facing off over that issue, among many others.

The Labor Department strong, it is not too weak but reported that new filings for jobsomewhere in just the right catless benefits fell last week by egory," said Richard Yamarone. 18,000 to 338,000, another sign economist at Argus Research that layoffs are easing. The cost of workers' wages and benefits grew by 1.1 percent in the first quarter, the biggest increase in a year, the department said in a second report.

> Economic growth in the current April-to-June quarter is

the range of 4.5 percent to 5 percent, according to some analysts' estimates. Growth in the second half of this year, however, may slow a bit to around a 4 percent pace, a still-healthy rate, some reconomists said. That may occur as the stimulus of tax refunds and tax reductions fades, if energy prices remain high and mortgage rates climb, analysts said.

"Looking forward, the prospects for sustaining solid economic growth in the period ahead are good," Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress last

Expectations for such solid economic growth raise hope that the jobs market will continue to show improvements in the months ahead.

ures prominently in the presi- expected to clock in at a rate in. March employment figures are a sign that the job market is turning a crucial corner. They said they want to see net payroll gains in the range of at least 150,000 to 200,000 a month on a sustained basis to provide confirmation that the corner has been turned and the labor market is on a real path to full

The shape of the economy and the jobs market are important issues in the presidential campaign. Kerry, a senator from Massachusetts, points to the loss of 1.84 million jobs since Bush took office in January 2001 as evidence that the president's economic policies aren't working. But Bush says they are, and he wants Congress to make his tax cut permanent, contending that this will make the economy stronger and spur job growth.

"Our recovery is broadbased durable and accelerating." Commerce Secretary Don Evans said of the latest GDP

Roses are red, Violets are blue. It sure is NIFTY, TERESA is now FIFTY. We Love You, The Judge, Laura, Eli, Michael, Mona

& Grandkids

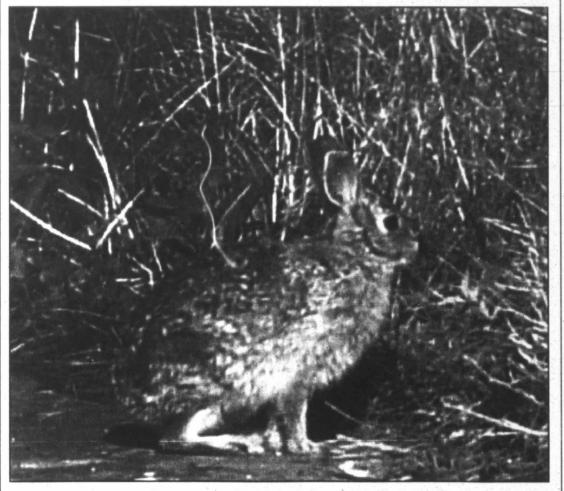
You're As Sweet As 38 Pieces of Candy!

After months of sluggish payroll gains, the economy added a hefty 308,000 jobs in March, the most in four years. Economists are hopeful the asked to Police D 5700. Bi should t description

counterfe

"We a mation o case is s tion," he

Find the bunny



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

This rabbit's coloration and markings help it blend into the scenery as it searches for breakfast one morning on the lawn of a home in the 2300 block of Cherokee.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WELLS

board rolled these over into the new permits.

Cecil Gill was permitted for 383 acres; Barbara Benyshek for 927 acres; the Vand Family Ltd, 2,271 acres; and Darla Padgett, 400 acres

Chad Breeding had applied for one permit on two tracks of land, 210 acres and 642 acres, but since they touched only in one place at the corner of the tracks, the board ruled it would require two permits under the rules. Charles Bowers, president of the board, said it should not make any difference, there was no additional fee, but wanted to wait until Breeding had been notified of the change before

Breeding's permits were tabled until the board's next. Hale said: meeting at noon, May 26.

The Roberts County residents' are part of a group of some 170 landowners who applied for permits last year. Bowers said those landowners have until June to roll their old permits over under the new district rules.

Flowers said there would be more coming in within the next 30 days.

"We're going to see a bunch of those at the next meeting." Bowers said. "We'll have a 100 or better."

Williams said he did not anticipate any problems with rolling the old permits over.

Steve Hale, who headed the Roberts-Hemphill County group told the board that he "It's served our purposes,

The PGWCD board approved a well permit for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for northwestern Donley County.

The well had previously

been approved, but the well contractor hired by the state agency couldn't get the well drilled within the time limit of the permit, and the permit

Bill Johnson, a biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, told the board that the agency had contracted with a new driller and they were ready to precede.

The well will be used to add water to a four-acre playa. lake for waterfowl and migrat-

Marines say tentative deal reached to end Fallujah siege

Fallujah, and a U.S. com- tract workers in Fallujah. mander said Thursday a tenta-

convoy attack in Baghdad and north of the capital.

reached under which Marines world. would withdraw and a newly former general in Saddam died in the fighting. Hussein's army would take

points" still needed to be not sure. worked out.

no deal yet and officials were of the insurgency. "still working on it."

could not confirm that a final Monday. deal was sealed.

a number of former generals, erals. and that it remains a U.S. goal The deal being worked out U.S. forces pounded the city

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP) — that the insurgents will turn known as the Fallujah Marines and former Iraqi gen- over those responsible for the Protective Army, to enter the erals were negotiating a pull- March 31 killing and mutila- city and provide security. It back of U.S. forces from tion of the four American con- will consist of up to 1,100

tive deal on ending the siege intense international pressure tary. Byrne said. had been reached. But a to find a peaceful solution to Pentagon official said the the standoff that killed hun-ally pull back from Fallujah to agreement was still not final. dreds of Iraqis and became a allow FPA forces to take posi-Elsewhere, 10 U.S. soldiers symbol of anti-U.S. resistance tions enforcing the cordon of were Affled, including eight in in Iraq, fueling violence that the city and move into some a car bombing south of made April the deadliest neighborhoods, Byrne said. Baghdad. Two were killed in a month for American forces.

roadside bomb in Baqoubah, manders threatened to launch control of the FPA." which After word of a possible root out an estimated 1.500 Marines. Byrne said, calling agreement in Fallujah, Sunni insurgents inside. Even the deal "an Iraqi solution to Marines and guerrillas skir- after Washington decided to an Iraqi problem: mished in the city, with blasts push ahead with political and sporadic gunfire heard efforts instead, Marines and mander only as Gen. Salah, a from a northern neighborhood. guerrillas continued to clash, former division commander Marine Lt. Col. Brennan with the heavy U.S. bombard- under Saddam. A Lt. Gen. Byrne told reporters in ment of the city the past two Salah Abboud al-Jabouri, a Fallujah that a deal was nights televised around the native of the Fallujah region,

created Iraqi force led by a April 5, and at least eight have was a senior commander in his

Marines on the south side

Deputy Defense Secretary were fighting guerrillas in the condition of anonymity. Paul Wolfowitz said there was Golan neighborhood, a bastion

Di Rita said he could not rule houses were on fire. Edge said. out that an agreement was in Ambulances and fire engines

Di Rita said U.S. com- were being held between U.S. positions. manders were in discussions forces and Fallujah representawith Iraqi officials, including tives, including four Iraqi gen- insurgents attacked Marines in

Tragi soldiers led by a former Washington is under general from Saddam's mili-

Marine forces would gradu-

"The plan is that the whole Only last week, U.S. com- of Fallujah will be under the an all-out attack on the city to will be subordinate to the

Byrne identified the comserved as governor of Anbar Marines encircled the city province under Saddam and

It seems likely that some of over security in the city of began packing up gear and the insurgent gunmen in the 200,000. The deal also had breaking down earthen berms city - mainly criminals, who been confirmed by a Pentagon and other security barriers fought Americans for money, Thursday in preparation to and some disgruntled ex-sol-Byrne later said the deal withdraw, But Byrne later said diers, though not hard-liners was "tentative" and "fine the timing for a pullback was or Islamic fighters - would likely end up as part of the On the north side, Marines force, a Marine officer said on

If the FPA entry is successful, the Marines may later par-Witnesses reported rockets ticipate in joint patrols with Pentagon spokesman Larry fired into the area, and two Iraqis, Marine Capt. James

The moves came after three place, but he said officials at were turned back by gunfire, days of intense violence, the U.S. military command in There have been repeated despite U.S. attempts to main-Baghdad told him that they clashes in the district since tain a cease-fire. On Tuesday night, warplanes and helicop-The Fallujah negotiations ter gunships struck guerrilla

Throughout Wednesday. several neighborhoods, and

Sept. 11 panel quizzes Bush, Cheney for hours

11 commissioners trying to learn door meeting that was off-limits every question they asked. how followers of Osama bin to all but White House counsel Laden pulled off the worst terror- Alberto Gonzales and two memabout how to better protect president and the vice president ist attack in American history. "I bers of his staff. answered every question," Bush three hours.

Speaking with reporters in the defended that arrangement. Rose Garden of the White House, Bush declined to say we wouldn't have met with them tions. I think it helped them board" that had been in public what questions the commission in the first place," Bush said. members specifically asked. But Critics have suggested the two I run the White House and how asked the vast majority of the he did say the session was cormen met together to make certain we deal with threats." Bush said. "questions and he answered them. dial. "I'm glad I did it. I'm glad I there were no discrepancies in took the time...I enjoyed it."

The 10 commissioners gath-

"If we had something to hide, their statements.

While he declined to say what sioners said they found the presi- answer."

President Bush and Vice who were seated on chairs near told reporters, "I was never coming and candid." President Dick Cheney answered the fireplace in the Oval Office advised by my counsel not to questions Thursday from Sept. for the unprecedented closed- answer anything. I answered ed will be of great assistance to

Asked why Bush felt it neces- interested in the recommenda- with the commission," the statesaid after the session lasting over sary to appear jointly with tions that they're going to lay out ment said. Cheney, the president vigorously and I'm interested in that as

WASHINGTON (AP) - ered around Bush and Cheney. the questions focused on Bush dent and vice president "forth-

"The information they providthe Commission as it completes "There was a lot of interest its final report. We thank the America," he said. "They're very for their continued cooperation

One commissioner. Jim Thompson, said the questions "I was impressed by the ques- included everything "across the understand how I think and how hearings. "The president was In a statement issued by the There was no questions the prespanel after the meeting, commis- ident or vice president did not

April 30th thru May 14th, 2004 We're All Ears!

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Monday-Saturday 10:00-5:30



CONT. FROM PAGE 1 CASH

money did not have the watermarks and plastic security strips that are features of genuine U.S. currency, Brown said. The watermarks and plastic strips may be seen by holding the bill up to the light. Watermarks are not embossed but are smooth and · are in the paper itself. Brown

"Look at them real close. Most of these are pretty obvious if you look real close," he said.

Anyone who thinks they may have a counterfeit bill is asked to call the Pampa Police Department at 669-5700. Brown said. Callers should try to get a good description of the person who passed the bill, he said.

No arrests have yet been made in connection with the counterfeit money. Brown

"We are gathering information on suspects, and the case is still under investigation," he said.



"DIGGING AROUND FOR SURPRISES? THAT'S FOR ARCHEOLOGISTS."

"You find all kinds of things when digging in your yard. But one thing you don't want to find is an underground electric or gas line. Hit one of those babies with a shovel or hole digger - and it can kill you. Our crews bury Xcel Energy lines a safe distance under ground. But erosion, landscaping and construction can often bring them closer to the surface. Any time you dig, you have to call DIG TESS, the Texas Excavation Safety System, at 1-800-DIG-TESS (344-8377) at least two business days before digging. They'll have someone come out and clearly mark where the lines are. Wait the required time. Then you just have to be careful to hand-dig around the markings. It's all for your safety. And it's the law. Take it from a guy that knows a thing or two about underground lines. Down there, you don't want any surprises. Remember: Stay away. Stay alive." Xeel Energy. You get all of our energy.

lack, Troubleman

For more safety tips, tasit our website at wiere xcelenergy com.



VIEWPOINTS

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TEXAS EDITORIAL

'Sin taxes' so much gibberish

From the Houston Chronicle:

Former Texas House Speaker Gib Lewis spoke with locution so fractured that his statements became known in some circles as "gibberish." When someone chided him on his syntax. Lewis reportedly responded, "Sin tax? I'm against all sin taxes."

Gov. Rick Perry's plan to use so-called sin taxes to underwrite school finance reform is as much a non sequitur as the previous exchange.

In order to reduce school property taxes and end recapture of school funds from wealthy districts (the Robin Hood system), the governor proposes to raise taxes on cigarettes \$1 a pack, allow electronic slot machines, and tax visits to topless bars. This is not leadership; it is an inducement to ridicule. If adopted, the plan would not help schools in the long run and would heap social costs on the state and local communities,

Increased cigarette taxes, Perry calculates, would bring in \$747. million in 2005 and \$897 million in 2006 before predictably: declining. The public schools do not need a shrinking revenue stream in an era of exploding enrollments. Also, every dollar of cigarette taxes would be accompanied by an incalculable but large cost on the health care system financed by employers and taxpayers, perhaps with no net gain in government revenue.

Perry says he opposes any enlargement of gambling's footprint in Texas, but he wants to let race tracks build new buildings filled with thousands of video lottery terminals slot machines, by any other name. To raise the annual \$400 million to \$800 million in taxes that Perry predicts, working Texans must lose \$2 billion or \$3 billion a year.

Either that money will be diverted from existing entertainments, or leached from family budgets for food, clothing, shelter and education. Opponents of VLTs say they cause a pernicious form of gambling addiction in many of those drawn to the machines.

Horse track owners argue that by emulating Louisiana, Texas could keep home some of the money Texans gamble away in Louisiana. First, Louisiana is not the best state model, and second, becoming more like Louisiana certainly should not be the basis for public school finance.

Perhaps most embarrassing is the governor's proclamation that Texans go to "adult" (really juvenile) nightclubs so often that a tax of \$5 per visit would produce \$45 million per annum. Then again, there is Perry's desire to sell lottery tickets at gas pumps.

These proposed taxes might be sin taxes, but they are burdensome nonetheless. What profiteth a man to save some money on his property taxes if he has to squander the savings on cigarettes, gambling losses and topless bars? If Texans don't follow that course, then Perry's plan won't work.

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, April 29, the 120th day of 2004. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp; that same day, Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun and designated Admiral Karl Doenitz his successor.

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TEXAS GOV. RICK PERRY

P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428 Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789 www.governor.state.tx.us/e-mail.html

Tips on buying a French veto

Anyone who pines for genuine international multilateralism would do well to follow the bribes now being uncovered in the United Nations' Oil-for- Food scandal.

Why did France and Russia oppose efforts to topple Saddam Hussein's regime? And why did they press constantly, throughout the '90s, for an expansion of Iraqi oil sales? Was it their empathy for the starving children of that impoverished nation? Their desire to stop the United States from arrogantly imposing its vision upon the Middle East?

It now looks like they it was simply because they were on the take. Saddam was their cash cow. If President Bush has suffered some discredit over his apparently false - but not disingenuous claims of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, the lapse is minor compared to the outright personal selfishness and criminality that appears to have motivated many of those who opposed his efforts to rid the world of one of its worst dicta-

Throughout the '90s, France and Russia badgered the United States and Britain to increase Iraqi oil production. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair fought them at each step, but then reluctantly gave way. First Iraq was allowed to sell 500,000 barrels daily. Then, on Franco-Russian insistence, it was raised to 1 million, then to 2 million and, finally, to 3 million barrels a day.

Each time, America and Britain - the nations now accused of coveting Iraqi oil - resisted the increases in Iraqi production and urged tighter controls over the



DICK MORRIS COLUMNIST

program. Each time, the French and the Russians prattled on about the rights of Iraqi sovereignty and the need to feed the children.

Now we know why the French and Russians were so insistent. Iraqi government documents (leaked to the Borhdad newspaper Al Mada) list at least 270 individuals and entities who got vouchers allowing them to sell Iraqi oil - and to keep much of the money. These vouchers, and the promise of instant great wealth they carried with them, bought vital support in the United Nations to let Saddam stay in power.

The list of those receiving these bribes includes France's former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua (who's a leader of Chirac's party) and Patrick Maugein, the head of the French Oil firm Soco International. France's former U.N. ambassador, Jean-Bernard Merimee, got vouchers to sell 11 million barrels.

In Russia, the payoff chain reached right into the "office of the Russian president." President Vladimir Putin's Peace and Unity Party also got vouchers, as did the Soviet-era Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and the Russian Orthodox Church. Nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky shared in the largesse.

Not to be left behind, the Rev. Jean Marie Benjamin of the Vatican got the rights to sell 4.5 million barrels as recompense for setting up a meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and the pope.

Indeed, the list indicates that Benon Sevan, the United Nations official in charge of the Oil-for-Food program. received vouchers. He denies the charge, but has decided to retire next month any-

At the start of the Oil-for-Food program, America and Britain proposed that the money flow only to accounts entirely controlled by the United Nations. Soon this standard was lowered to include accounts not actually controlled by the United Nations, but only monitored by

Then-Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) warned that "oil is fungible" and noted that once Iraq was allowed to pump and sell it, Saddam could sell all he wanted outside of officially sanctioned channels and nobody could tell which black liquid was legal and which not. But nobody imagined that there were actual bribes going to specific French, Russian and U.N. officials as part of the program.

Now it appears that Secretary-General Kofi Annan's sanctimonious posturing may have concealed oil bribes which reached high up in the ranks of the U.N. organization itself.

The defect of international coalitions is that they include the just and the unjust, the bribed and the honest, the democratic and the autocratic. And their members cannot be trusted equally. The group that stood up and backed the invasion of Iraq was nicknamed "the Coalition of the Willing." Now it appears it was also "the Coalition of the Honest."



Education prognosis not too bright

Drs. Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom's new book "No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning" shows that the government education whites receive is nothing to write home about, but for blacks, it's no less than a disgraceful dis-

According to National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) findings, only in writing do less than 40 percent of black high school students test "below basic." NAEP defines below basic as being unable to demonstrate even "partial mastery of prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work" at their grade. In math, 70 percent and, in science, 75 percent of black students score below basic.

Black high school graduates perform a little worse than white eighth-graders in both reading and U.S. history, and a lot worse in math and geography. The Thernstroms report, "In math and geography, indeed, they know no more than whites in the seventh grade." Finally, the Thernstroms conclude, "The employer hiring the typical black high school graduate (or the college that admits the average black student) is, in effect, choosing a youngster who has made it only through the eighth grade."

University of Dayton Law School Professor Vernellia R. Randall has an essay on her Web site titled "LSAT Discrimination and Minorities." The LSAT is an admissions test used at most



WALTER WILLIAMS COLUMNIST

law schools; a student can score between 120 and 180. Criticizing the use of the LSAT as an admissions criteria, Professor Randall says, "For example, based on a LSAT cut off of 145, over 60 percent of black applicants will be presumptively denied, but only 20 percent of white applicants will be presumptively denied." This, according to Professor Randall, is racial discrimination. It turns out that at top law schools such as University of Chicago, Yale and Harvard, even if a student scored 165 (better than 85 percent of test-takers) and had a GPA of 3.9, there's no guarantee of admission. At these law schools, the lowest LSAT scores and GPAs are 168 and 3.5, and their highs are 174 and 3.9 respectively.

Let's connect the dots between the Thernstroms' evidence and Randall's complaint. The typical black student enters college well behind the typical white student. This is partially evidenced by the 2002 average SAT scores of black students (857) compared to white students (1060), a 200-point difference. The grossly poor 12 years of primary and secondary education that black students

receive is not likely to be made up in four or five years of college, if ever. Therefore, no one should be surprised by poor black performance on graduate admissions tests such as LSAT, GRE and MCAT.

What makes the catch-up even more unlikely is the soft bigotry of low expectations and affirmative-action grading by white liberal professors and the selection by black students of touchy-feely curricula such as black studies, women's studies, multicultural studies, education, and other curricula of little academic content and challenge.

There's no question that black students can compete academically, but they face a perverse set of incentives. First, racial preferences in college admissions reduce the incentive to work as hard as they might in high school. The fact that colleges have race preferences in admissions helps conceal fraud at the government schools that confer diplomas attesting that a student is proficient at the 12th grade when in fact he might not be proficient at the eighth, ninth or 10th grade.

The irony and tragedy of this story is that the primary victims of fraudulent education give their allegiance to politicians and civil rights organizations who've become handmaidens of the education establishment and fight against any measure that threatens accountability, competition and alternatives to government schools.

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Group decries anti-Semitism around world

BERLIN (AP) - A 55nation group of European and North American countries on Thursday denounced "new forms and expressions" of anti-Semitism and rejected any attempt to justify them on the basis of strife in the Middle East.

The governments unanimously condemned "all attacks motivated by anti-Semitism or by any other forms of religious or racial hatred or intolerance, including attacks against synagogues and other religious places, sites and shrines.

U.S. and German delegates welcomed the document as a strong, timely denunciation of anti-Semitism and a pledge by each member to combat hate crimes against Jews.

The conference by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe came amid concern by Jewish groups about recent increases in anti-Semitic incidents and attacks in France, Britain and other European countries.

Delegates agreed that anti-Semitism "has assumed new forms and expressions, which along with other forms of intolerance pose a threat to democracy" and civilization in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

The declaration, adopted unanimously, committed the countries to teach children about combating Semitism and to promote remembrance of Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were killed by the Nazis.

It also pledged them to collect and submit reliable information about anti-Semitic and other hate crimes.

The conference declared "unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify anti-Semitism."

That was as close as the declaration came to meeting the demand of Jewish organizations that the conference point a finger at extremist Muslim groups, whom they blame for the rise in attacks on Jews and other anti-Semitic acts.

"This is an historic Berlin conference," said Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the two-day meeting in the German capital.

All 55 countries "are at long last united in both acknowledging that anti-Semitism is a serious problem and an egregious violation of human rights and that this an American astronaut hate must be crushed," he said.

The document "commits each nation to seriously monitor and combat hate crimes" and promote Holocaust remembrance and education. Smith said.

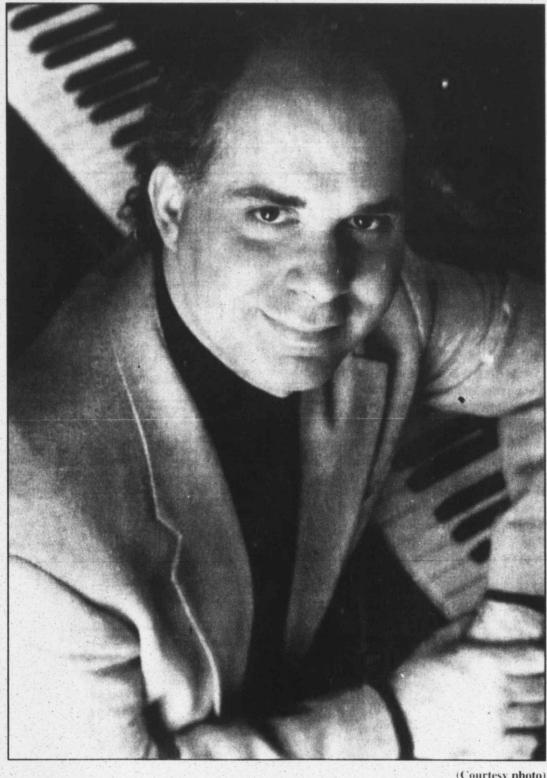
The OSCE gathering, held amid tight security, is the third major conference in Europe to address anti-Semitism in the past year.

An American Jewish leader said earlier that Europeans must stop excusing attacks on synagogues as legitimate political expression by Muslims upset with Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

"This is not a political statement. This is anti-Semitism," said Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League. "You need to have the guts to say what it is."

Foxman said the conference had "broken the taboo" of permitting criticism of Israeli government policies as long as they do not cross a line where they become anti-Semitic. Much of the discussion was an attempt to define where that line is, he said.

CCA membership drive



"Pampa Community Concert Association Presents 'Live On Stage' " has announced an "outstanding" series of concerts for the 2004-05 season. The concert association's annual membership drive is currently under way. Several professional performances await members of the Pampa association including a concert with Richard Glazier. Glazier, above, is a graduate of Indiana University School of Music and Cleveland Institute of Music. He holds a doctorate of musical arts degree in piano performances and is the recipient of many artistic awards such as the Deutscher Akademischer Austaushdienst grant and the National Federal of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition grand prize winner. In 1998, he was chosen to record a tribute to Gershwin in honor of the Gershwin Centennial for PianoDisco company's Artist Series.

American-Russian crew prepares to return to Earth

KOSTANAI, Kazakhstan station's Russian crew prepared October was smooth and on Moscow time Friday. Thursday to return to Earth target — unlike the dramatic in a Russian Sovuz spacecraft as they end their six-International Space Station.

The snug Soyuz TMA-3 capsule is scheduled to carry American astronaut Michael course. Foale and Russian cosmo-Alexander Kaleri, Friday. European Space Agency astronaut Andre Kuipers of the Netherlands will also be returning after a nine-day mission on the station.

This will be the third time comes back to Earth aboard a Russian craft since the U.S. manned space program grounded its shuttle fleet which is designed for confollowing the February 2003 trolled landing and recov-Columbia disaster.

The landing of the space ground in the uninhabited said in Kostanai.

May 2003, when a computer error sent the crew on a wild descent 250 miles off-

Col. Mikhail Polukhin. coordinator of the Russian involve 160 people, eight space agency's search and rescue operations, said Thursday his men were preadded there was no cause for worry so far.

"Our main fear is about been good," he said.

bell-shaped descent module.

previous steppe in north-central - An American- American-Russian crew in Kazakhstan at 4:12 a.m.

The Russian space fanding of the first agency is prepared for three American astronaut in a landing possibilities: the month mission on the Russian Soyuz capsule in most likely landing spot is 29 miles northeast of the town of Arkalyk - a base for five main search and rescue helicopters.

> The total operation will helicopters, two aircraft and two off-terrain vehicles.

Russian space officials pared for any situation but said Wednesday that the Soyuz spacecraft, that has en in space for six months, was leaking helium. weather, but the forecast has But both Russian and American space officials The Soyuz spacecraft's said the leak was very minor and would not affect the

There is no risk," NASA ery, is expected to touch spokesman Robert Navias

Powell says U.S. to release more terror war detainees

BY BARRY SCHWEID AP DIPLOMATIC WRITER

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday the United States expects to release more detainees from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba soon, but first must make sure that interrogators have learned all they can from them about terrorism activity.

"I expect action on the French detainees in the near future," he said in remarks to high school students in Denmark. But Powell emphasized that many of the detainees would be held indefinitely.

"Some of these are very, very dangerous people who should not be let out," he said.

Powell also told the students at Frederiksberg High School the United States was doing everything it could to counter terrorism and that they should be proud of the contribution being made by Danish troops in Iraq.

About 550 students had gathered in an auditorium to hear Powell.

Ketan Singla, 18, asked why the U.S. administration didn't try "nonviolent policy to solve problems instead of sending troops to war in Iraq."

"No one is more committed to finding diplomatic solutions," Powell answered. "War should be avoided at all costs. (However), when it becomes necessary to use force, one should not shrink to use force."

Finding diplomatic solu- listen to all viewpoints."

tions included trying to convince North Korea to abandon its a nuclear program, he said during the 45-minute session.

Kim Boesen, 17, who like the other students quizzed Powell in English, asked whether the U.S.-led war on terror was "a success." Powell responded the war was not over yet. He said in recent years, governments "were getting better and better at getting information on the terrorist networks."

When Powell told the packed auditorium that he had been married with his wife Alma for the past 42 years, students, ages 16 to 20. laughed and applauded.

Powell admitted "flunked many subjects' when he attended high school, causing laughter.

When leaving the session, two young women who were not students at the school, stood up with banners protesting the war in Iraq. Security guards edged Powell out and it was not clear whether he saw the banners.

Danish Defense Minister Svend Aage Jensby resigned last Friday amid criticism that the military had exaggerated the threat posed by deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to justify going to war in the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq.

Referring to his own role leading up to the war, Powell told the students that as a Cabinet officer, he provides "all points of view" and that President Bush "is wise enough and strong enough to

Two speechmakers prepare for commencement at WT

CANYON — Rather than sion that deserves to be shared turn family and friends away at the door, West Texas A&M University will host two graduation ceremonies Saturday, May 8 at the WTAMU Event | Center. Approximately 300 graduates from the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities and the College of Agriculture, Nursing, Science and Engineering will take center stage at 10 a.m. Graduates of the College of Education and Social Sciences and the T. Boone Pickens College of Business, numbering approximately 330, will follow at 1 p.m.

"Graduation is such a special time," Dr. Flavius Killebrew, provost and vice University hosts graduations president for academic affairs, in May, August and said. "It's a benchmark occa- December.

with family and friends.

"I think having two ceremonies is a much better solution to a potential overcrowding problem than having to turn people away or limiting the number of guests based on ticket allotments.

As is tradition for May graduations, keynote addresses will be delivered by members of the graduating class. Alexis Adams, an agribusiness/equine industry and business major from Lubbock will give the morning address. Jose Vega, a history major from Friona, is the featured speaker for the 1 p.m. cere-

West A&M Texas

Annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic



DogsFriday. April 30 & Saturday, May 2

Cats......Monday, May 3

All Vaccinations At Reduced Prices

Gray County Veterinary Clinic 1329 S. Hobart

Easley Animal Hospital

8741 Loop 171 (Loop 171 & Hwy 70 North)

Royse Animal Hospital

1939 N. Hobart

Dogs and cats over 3 months of age must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian. An animal must wear tag at all times ... it's the law.

Dinner-Dance-Raffle



Saturday, May 1 ~ 6:30 to 10:00 St. Vincent de Paul School 2300 N. Hobert Adults \$6 Children \$4 Bring the Family Proceeds Benefit St. Vincent School

THURSDAY · April 29, 2004

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Piercing Debate Highlights Emotional vs. Physical Scars

Collegeville, Pa.," regarding the 15year-old girl who wanted to get her still think he lied to me. belly button pierced. Your response included, "As long as the procedure is done hygienically, it shouldn't cause any damage.

I am a gynecologist. I have observed that navel piercings often cause significant permanent searring. especially at the upper piercing site. These scars are far larger than one would expect. They can also be associated with darkening of the skin at the scar site, which makes them even more cosmetically unacceptable.

I can't explain why other piercings such as earlobes usually have no scarring while navel piercings often result in unsightly permanent scars. Anyone considering a belly button piercing should be aware of this potentially permanent problem -- OREGON GYNE-COLOGIST

DEAR OREGON GYNECOLO-GIST: Thank you for writing. Although I live in Los Angeles, probably the navel-piercing capital of the United States, I cannot claim to have seen as many belly buttons "up close and personal" as you have, so I bow to your expertise. Many readers Read on:

DEAR ABBY: May I add a note to your response to the parents who agreed to let their daughter pierce her belly button, then changed their minds? I am 62 and still can't quite forgive my father for much the same thing. He was old-fashioned and wouldn't let my older sister drive. When I was 15, I begged to take driver's ed and get my license at 16. He agreed -- on the condition that I pay for Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at the lessons myself.

Well, I did -- and passed with flying 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. colors. But when I turned 16, he refused to allow me to get my license. When I asked why he'd lied to me, he

DEAR ABBY: I just finished read-said he hadn't lied. He simply thought ing the letter from "Upset in I'd never be able to save enough to pay for the course. Even after 46 years, I

My advice to the parents: Do not break your word. It could damage your relationship with your son or daughter forever. -- MARJ G., WESLACO,

DEAR MARJ: I agree. She fulfilled her part of the bargain, so the parents shouldn't have reneged on their promise.

DEAR ABBY: In some states. piercing isn't legal before age 16, even with parental consent. If the parents relent, I hope they'll find out what the local laws are and go to the most reputable person who performs piercings. My advice to potential piercers: Stay away from those who will do the piercing regardless of state law. SUZANNE. PRIMEVAL INK TAT-TOO, MONROE, WASH

DEAR SUZANNE: Good advice.

DEAR ABBY: While I respect the right to change one's mind, the relationship of a parent to a child can be permanently damaged by relatively small betrayals. In today's world, belly button piercing is little more than a fashion statement, and the parents who are waffling over their promise to let commented regarding that letter. their daughter pierce her navel in exchange for good grades risk far more by breaking their promise than by allowing the piercing. -- GEORGE (A YOUNG PARENT WITH CHIL-DREN), SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

> DEAR GEORGE: I agree. And you stated it very well.

> Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother. www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box

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For Better Or Worse



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11 Singer Twain 12 "Cold As Ever' rapper

13 Report card signer 14 Oneon-one meeting

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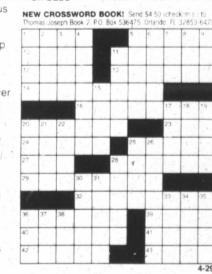
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Marmaduke



'Marmaduke, go find yourself some other spectator sport."

The Family Circus



"Mommy, will you sew a new beggarman on my shirt?"

B.C.

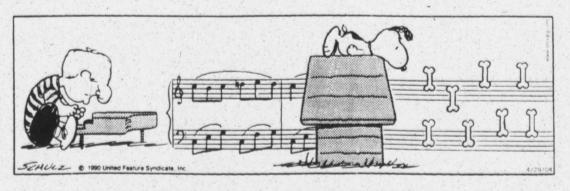


Haggar The Horrible





Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends





SPORTS

BASKETBALL

PAMPA The Basketball Harvester Booster Club will meet at 7 tonight in the Ready Room in the high school athletic building.

All basketball parents are asked to attend.

GOLE

PAMPA — The Pampa Harvester Golf Banquet will be May 19, starting at 7 p.m. at Pampa Country Club.

Cost is \$12 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the PHS Athletic Office.

Fans are urged to come and show support for the golf program.

HOCKEY

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche finally found a way to beat Evgeni Nabokov and the San Jose Sharks.

It might be too late.

Joe Sakic scored 5:15 into overtime and David Aebischer stopped 27 shots for his first career playoff shutout, lifting Colorado to a 1-0 victory over the Sharks on Wednesday night that kept the Avalanche's slim hopes

"We came into today's game pretty loose and we found a way to win a hockey game," said Sakic, who tied Glenn Anderson for second on the NHL list with his fifth overtime playoff goal. Hall of Famer Maurice Richard had

"It's going to be the same thing for Game 5. Hopefully, we'll find a way to win that one and put a lot of pressure on them coming back into our building."

It won't be easy.

The Sharks lead the series 3-1 and Game 5 Saturday is in San Jose, where Colorado was outscored 9-3 in the first two games. Even if the Avalanche win, they still have a long way to go only two teams in NHL history have rallied to win a series after trailing 3-0.

"We're in a do-or-die situation," Colorado's Adam Foote said. "We had to get the first win and haven't had momentum on our side of the court yet, so we'll see what happens."

In the other game Wednesday night, Toronto beat Philadelphia 4-1, closing the Flyers' series lead to 2-1.

Nabokov was superb again, stopping 35 shots. but wasn't able to recover fast enough after Mike Rathje couldn't handle a puck out of the corner in overtime.

Sakic took advantage of Rathje's fumble, lifting a shot just inside the left post and crossbar from the slot to end Colorado's scoreless streak against Nabokov at 178 minutes, 14 seconds.

"I don't think anybody expected us to sweep the Avalanche," Nabokov said. "One loss didn't make us a frustrated team.

Besides, the Sharks still have three more chance two in San Jose - to clinch their first trip to the conference finals.

Undefeated Smarty Jones isn't Derby favorite

A 6-for-6 record and a chance clear-cut favorite. to become the first unbeaten. since Seattle Slew in 1977 wasn't enough to make Smarty Jones the early favorite for Saturday's race.

That role belongs to The Cliff's Edge, who was made the slight 4-1 favorite Wednesday. Smarty Jones, the Arkansas Derby winner, was second at 9-2. Tapit was the third choice at

"It could have went either time Derby winner who trains smashed his head on the iron The Cliff's Edge. "This probably will be the best betting skull and driving his left eye

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Derby ever. I don't see any deep into his head.

Kentucky Derby champion though, Smarty Jones might made the favorite just be the people's choice because of his humble back-

> Smarty Jones comes from Pennsylvania, a state whose post. only Derby winner was Lil E. Tee in 1992. Trainer John Servis and jockey Stewart Elliott are based at small-time Philadelphia Park. Neither has been in the Derby before.

Smarty Jones almost died as starting gate, fracturing his

By post time Saturday, prised Smarty Jones wasn't tired:

graded stakes," he said.

The colt drew the No. 15

the first horse in the auxiliary gate," Servis said: "It leaves a little bit of a margin for error in case he ducks in. It keeps him from getting squeezed off."

way," said Nick Zito, a two- a 2-year-old. He reared up and far as the 1 1/4 miles he'll have me. to handle in the Derby, but Servis isn't worried.

Regional qualifiers

Servis said he wasn't sur- haven't been able to get him Derby winner Grindstone.

Churchill Downs oddsmak-We took the route of least er Mike Battaglia had a tough resistance. We only ran in one time picking between The Cliff's Edge and Smarty Jones.

"You can't knock Smarty Jones' record. The Cliff's Edge "We like the idea of being got a little bit better (speed) number in the Blue Grass," Battaglia said. "Nick Zito has won the Derby twice and The Cliff's Edge has won two races at Churchill Downs. Very, very Smarty Jones hasn't run as close, but that's what swung

Zito couldn't believe the 50-1 odds — highest in the race — I haven't gotten to the bot- assigned to his other entry, he likes him."

tom of him yet," he said. "I Birdstone, the son of 1996

"50-1 is insane. I love Mike,

but please," he said. The Cliff's Edge won consecutive races at Churchill Downs in November. He's coming off a victory in the Blue Grass. Lion Heart, expected to set the pace in the Derby, was second, and Limehouse, another Derby horse, was third.

"The victory in the Blue Grass was a devastating win. Lion Heart didn't give up one inch and he just ran him down," Zito said. "He's just getting better all the time. My good friend Bob Baffert says

Pampa plays Lakeview in bi-district playoffs

Pampa meets San Angelo Lakeview in the bi-district round of the playoffs at 4 p.m. Friday in Lubbock.

The Lady Harvesters finished the regular season with a 17-6-1 record and second place in District 3-

Lakeview, out of District 4-4A, goes into the playoffs with a 13-14 record.

The playoff game will be

held at Westerner Field at Lubbock High.

batting 400 or better. Amy Youree, a sophomore, leads the Lady

ting average. She's followed by Nicole Clark (.475), Teryn Garner (.421) and Abbi Covalt

Harvesters with a .532 bat-

(.400).

- Ken Harvey hit a tiebreak-

ing three-run homer in the fifth

inning, one pitch after just

missing a home run, as the

Kansas City Royals beat the

Texas Rangers 5-3 on

With the score tied 1-1,

Harvey hit Kenny Rogers' first

pitch down the left-field line

for what third-base umpire Tim

Welke ruled fair for a three-run

homer. After Rangers manager

Buck Showalter protested, the

umpires huddled and overruled

Harvey then sent Rogers'

bullpen beyond the left-field lead.

next pitch into the Rangers'

fence. He was 3-for-4 to raise

his batting average to .421,

Jimmy Gobble (1-0) picked

up the victory despite having to

because of muscle cramps. He

appearance this year for the

since spring training with a

Royals after being sidelined

Giants cut Collins

N.J. (AP) — Quarterback

Kerry Collins was released

less than a week after the

team traded for rookie Eli

Giants to the 2001 Super

Bowl, guaranteed the move

by refusing to renegotiate his

He was to earn \$7 million

this season and count \$8.95

million against the salary

Collins, who led the

by the New York Giants -

EAST RUTHERFORD.

second in the AL.

5 1-3 innings.

stomach virus.

Manning.

contact.

indicated the ball was foul.

Wednesday night.

She's also batted in 13

Callie Cobb, batting .375, is the team runs-batted-in leader with 19.

Clark, the freshman pitcher, takes the mound with a 13-6 record, including 10-2 in district.

A second bi-district tilt follows with Caprock taking ' on Big Spring at 6:30 at Westerner Field

Caprock finished third Pampa enters the bi-dis- behind Pampa in the final 3trict clash with four players 4A standings. District champion Dumas drew a firstround bye.

> This is Pampa's third appearance in the playoffs since softball became a UIL

Pampa advanced to the Youree's .660 on-base bi-district round last season percentage also tops the and went to the regionals in

three and struck out one in 62-

The Royals got an insurance:

Gobble became the third

run in the eighth when Benito

Santiago singled home Harvey.

Alfonso Soriano had RBI dou-

Royals pitcher in five games to

leave a game early with an

injury. Darrell May left his

start Saturday in the sixth with

a strained left groin, and Kevin

Appier departed in the second

inning Friday with a strained

Herbert's two-out triple in

Kansas City tied it in the

the first scored Michael Young

and gave the Rangers at 1-0

fifth on Tony Graffanino's RBI

single. One out later. Mike

Sweeney had a base hit to put

runners on first and second.

and Harvey followed with his

Eric Young opened the sixth

The Rangers loaded the

bases with one out in the sec-

ond, but Michael Young

stole third and scored on Kevin

ble in ninth for Texas.

Royals down Rangers

Welke's call, changing it to a right forearm. Appier will be

foul ball. Television replays out four to six weeks

leave with one out in the sixth three-run homer.

gave up two runs on 10 hits in for the Rangers with a double.

Mike MacDougal got three Mench's single off Jason

Gobble

outs for his first save in his first Grimsley, who replaced

3 innings.

Defense ruling Mavs-Kings series

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - When this playoff series began, defense seemed certain to be a dirty word. After all, the Mavericks and the Kings were the NBA's two highestscoring teams and usually two of the most indifferent on

qualify for the state meet.

But in the three games since the Kings' 116-105 win in the opener, points have been shockingly scarce. What's more, two games turned on heady last-second plays by Peja Stojakovic. who isn't exactly known as a

The Kings could end the series with a home victory in Game 5 Thursday night even though they're missing an unusual number of shots, laboring in their half-court offense and averaging nearly 17 turnovers per game.

And though the Mays have shot even worse, they're on the brink of elimination despite leading Sacramento in most other statistical categories.

· So what in the name of Mark Aguirre or Reggie Theus is going on? The Mays and the Kings both say their fans don't recognize them because this strange series has been governed by detensive excellence. not offensive ineptitude.

Though the Kings are in control, coach Rick Adelman, bristles when he still hears dis-

missive comments about his team's defense.

Because of the way we play during the regular season, it seems like some people just (believe) that our two teams don't do some of the things that other teams do." Adelman said. "It's a crock.... It's such an easy thing to do. It's such an easy way to talk, and when it's proven

wrong, no one remembers it." The Kings believe they've proved their defensive mettle by holding the NBA's third-best shooting team during the regular season to 38 percent in the play-

Six of the Mavericks' top seven scorers are below their regular-season averages, with only rookie Marquis Daniels raising his game.

Stojakovic, the NBA's second-leading scorer, rarely has, been offensively assertive since Chris Webber returned from a knee injury nearly three months ago. He hasn't been dominant in the playoffs, either, averaging just 17 points — but his defense helped to quell two late Dallas comeback attempts.

In Game 2. Stojakovic tipped the ball out of Michael Finley's hands as the Dallas star went up for a potential game-tying shot in Sacramento's 83-79 victory. In Game 4. Stojakovic didn't allow the Mavericks' pick-androll to confuse him, and he forced Steve Nash into a terrible shot to end the Kings' 94-92

"I can't say I'm a great defender, but I'm getting better," Stojakovic said. "Both teams are not shooting the ball well. I know people expected high-scoring games, but I guess we got something else: more high-intensity games, more lowscoring games.

The Mavericks have just one more chance to improve their late-game execution, which has deserted them twice. Though Dallas' Big Three has been together for six seasons. Dirk Nowitzki. Steve Nash and Michael Finley have exhibited little chemistry when it matters

"We've done it before," Finley said. "It's not like it's the middle of the season, and we're searching for our offense. We know what our offense can do. It's just about finding it again."

The Pampa Lady Harvesters are preparing for the Class 4A regional

track meet this weekend in San Angelo. Regional qualifiers include

(front, I-r) Kaysha Lee, Jaclyn Spearman and Kendall Stokes; (back, I-r)

Alyssa Bromwell, Brittany Irvin and Heather Dills. The top two finishers

the other end of the court.

defensive stopper.

Rogers (3-1) gave up four grounded into a double play. Hail Season Is Here! **Paintless Dent Removal** • Hail Damage



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SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL National League All Times EDT								
East Division								
	W	L	Pct	GB				
Florida	14	. 7	.667					
Atlanta	. 11	10	524	. 3				
Philadelphia	9	. 10	474	4				
New York	8	13	381	6.				
Montreal	5	17	227	9 1/2				
Central Division	1							
	W	L	Pet	GB.				
Chicago	13	8	.619	-				
Cincinnati	12	9	571	1				
Houston	11.	9	.550	1 1/2				
Milwaukee	12	10	.545	1 1/2				
St. Louis	10	11	476	3				
Pittsburgh	9	10	474	3				
West Division								
	W	L.	Pct	GB				
Los Angeles	13	7	.650	1.4				
San Diego	13.	9	591	- 1				
Arizon i	9	12	429	4 1/2				
Colorado		12	.429	4 1/2				
San Francisco	9	13	.409	. 5				
Wednesday's Games								

Florida 9, Colorado 4 Pittsburgh 4, Houston 2 Milwaukee 10, Cincinnati 9, 10 innings Philadelphia 6, St. Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 4. Arizona ? San Diego 5, Montreal 4 San Francisco 10, Atlanta-Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Mets 2

Houston (Pettitte 0-1) at Pittsburgh (K Wells 2-2), 12:35 Philadelphia (Millwood 2-2) at St. Louis (Carpenter 1-

Thursday's Games

Florida (Penny 2-1) at San Francisco (J.Williams 3-1). Montreal (Ohka 0-4) at San Diego (D. Wells 0-2), 10:05

N.Y. Mets (Seo ()-3) at Los Angeles (Weaver 1-2), 10:10

Friday's Games Arizona (Dessens 1-2) at Philadelphia (Wolf 1-1), 7:05 Cincinnati (Acevedo 2-1) at Houston (Clemens 4-0),

Pittsburgh (Benson 2-1) at Milwaukee (Sheets 3-1), Chicago Cubs (Wood 3-1) at St. Louis (W.Williams 0-

Atlanta (Hampton 0-2) at Colorado (Kennedy 3-0), 9:05

N.Y. Mets (Yates 1-2) at San Diego (Lawrence 2-2), 10:05 Montreal (Day 2-1) at Los Angeles (Ishii 3-1), 10:10 p.m.

Florida (Willis 3-0) at San Francisco (Correia 0-0), 10:15

A	merican L	eague		
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13.	6	.684	
Baltimore	11	8	579	2
New York	10	. 1-1	476	4
Tampa Bay	7.	. 11	389	5.1/2
Toronto	7	14	333	17
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	14	7 .	.667	_
Chicago	12	8	.600	- 1 1/2
Detroit	1.2	. 9	57.1	2
Cleveland	8	13.	381	. 6
Kansas City	7.	.12	368	. 6
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Anaheim	12	. 9	571	_
Texas	12	9	571	
Oakland	10 -	11	476	
Seattle	7	14	333	5
We	dnesday's	Games		
	White Sox 9			
	rau 10 An			

Detroit 10, Anaheim 2 Boston 6.ºTampa Bay 0 Baltimore 3. Seattle N.Y. Yankees 5, Oakland Minnesota 9, Toronto 5 Kansas City 5, Texas 3 Thursday's Games

Tampa Bay (Zambrano 3-1) at Boston (Kim 0-0), 1.05 p.m.

Anaheim (Washburn 3-1) at Detroit (Robertson 1-0), 1:05

Texas (Park 1-3) at Kansas City (D.Reyes 0-0), 2:10 p.m. Seat le (Pineiro 1-2) at Baltimore (DuBose 2-2); 3:05 p.m Tampa Bay (Moss 0-0) at Boston (Lowe 2-1), 7:05 p.m., 2nd

Toronto (Hentgen 0-2) at Chicago White Sox (Loaiza 3-0). 8:05 p.r Friday's Games

Oakland (Zito 2-2) at N.Y. Yankees (K.Brown 3-0), 7:05

Seattle (Garcia 0-1) at Detroit (Johnson 1-4), 7:05 p.m. Baltimore (Ponson 2-1) at Cleveland (C Lee 2-0), 7:05 p.m. Kansas City (B. Anderson 1-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 2 Oakland (Redman 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Waechter 1-0); 7:15

Boston (Arroyo 0-1) at Texas (Drese 1-0), 8:05 p.m. Toronto (Halladay 2-3) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 1-1),

Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz 1-2) at Minnesota (Silva 3-0), 8(10 p.m. BASKETBALL

> National Basketball Association FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7) Saturday, April 17. Indiana 104, Boston 88 New Jersey 107, New York 83 San Antonio 98, Memphis 74 L.A. Lakers 72, Houston 7 Sunday, April 18 Detroit 108, Milwaukee 82 Sacramento 116, Dallas 105

Miami 81, New Orleans 79 Minnesota 106, Denver 92 Monday, April 19 San Antonio 87, Memphis 70 L.A. Lakers 98, Houston 84 Tuesday, April 20 New Jersey 99. New York 81 Indiana 103, Boston 90 Sacramento 83, Dallasº79 Wednesday, April 21 Milwaukee 92. Detroit 88

Miami 93. New Orleans 63 Thursday, April 22 New Jersey 81, New York 78 San Antonio 95, Memphis 93 Friday, April 23 Indiana 108, Boston 85 Houston 102, L.A. Lakers 91 Saturday, April 24

Dallas 104, Sacramento 79 Denver 107, Minnesota 86 Sunday, April 25 Indiana 90, Boston 75, Indiana wins series 4-0 E.A. Lakers 92, Houston 88, OT New Jersey 100, New York 94, New Jersey wins series 4-0 San Antonio 110, Memphis 97, San Antonio wins series 4-0 Monday, April 26

Detroit 95, Milwaukee 85

Detroit 109, Milwaukee 92, Detroit leads series 3-1 Sacramento 94, Dallas 92, Sacramento leads series 3-1-Tuesday, April 27 New Orleans 96, Miami 85, series tied 2-2 Minnesota 84, Denver 82, Minnesota leads series 3-1 Wednesday, April 28

L.A. Lakers 97, Houston 78, L.A. Lakers Thursday, April 29 Milwaukee at Detroit, 8 p.m Dallas at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m. Friday, April 30

New Orleans at Miami: 7 p.m.

Denver at Minnesota, 9 30 p.m.

Saturday, May 1 Detroit at Milwaukee, TBA, if necessary Sunday, May 2 Miami at New Orleans, TBA Sacramento at Dallas, TBA, it necessary Minnesota at Denver, TBA, if necessary Monday, May 3

Milwaukee at Detroit, TBA, if necessary Tuesday, May 4 New Orleans at Miami, TBA, if necessary Denver at Minnesota, TBA, if necessary Dallas at Sacramento, TBA, if necessary CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7)

Sunday, May 2 L.A. Lakers at San Antonio, TBA CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7) NBA FINALS

> (Best-of-7) HOCKEY ational Hockey League Daily Playoff Glance All Times EDT FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7)

Wednesday, April 7 Boston 3, Montreal 0 Detroit 3, Nashville 1 Cólorado 3, Dallas 1 Vancouver 5. Calgary Thursday, April 8 Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 2 Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Islanders 0

Friday, April 9 Boston 2, Montreal 1, OT Colorado 5, Dallas 2 Calgary 2, Vancouver 1 Saturday, April 10 Detroit 2, Nashville 1 N.Y. Islanders 3, Tampa Bay 0

San Jose 1, St. Louis 0, OT

san Jose 3, St. Louis 1 Toronto 2, Ottawa 0 Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 2 Sunday, April 11 Nashville 3, Detroit 1 Montreal 3, Boston 2

Vancouver 2. Calgary 1 Monday, April 12 New Jersey 4, Philadelphia 2 Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Islanders 0 Toronto 2. Ottawa 0: Dallas 4; Colorado 3, OT Tuesday, April 13 San Jose 4, St. Louis 3 Boston 4, Montreal 3, 2OT

Calgary 4, Vancouver () Wednesday, April 14 Philadelphia 3. New Jersey (Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Islanders 0 Ottawa 4. Toronto 1 Colorado 3, Dallas 2, 2OT Thursday, April 15 Detroit 4, Nashville 1

Calgary 2. Vancouver 1 Friday, April 16 Toronto 2, Ottawa 0 Tampa Bay 3, N.Y. Islanders 2, OT, Tampa Bay wins series

San Jose 3, St. Louis 1, San Jose wins series 4-1

Saturday, April 17 Detroit 2, Nashville 0, Detroit wins series 4-2 Colorado 5, Dallas L. Colorado wins series 4-1. Philadelphia 3, New Jersey 1, Philadelphia wins series 4-1 Montreal 5, Boston 2 Vancouver 5, Calgary 4, 3OT Sunday, April 18 Monday, April 19 Montreal 2, Boston 0, Montreal wins series 4-3

Calgary 3, Vancouver 2, OT, Calgary wins series 4-3 Tuesday, April 20 Toronto 4, Ottawa 1, Toronto wins series 4-3 CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS (Best-of-7)

Thursday, April 22 Philadelphia 3, Toronto Calgary 2, Detroit 1, OT San Jose 5, Colorado 2 Friday, April 23 Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 0 Saturday, April 24 San Jose 4, Colorado 1 Sunday, April 25 Tampa Bay 3, Montreal 1 Philadelphia 2, Toronto 1 Monday, April 26 San Jose 1, Colorado 0

Tuesday, April 27 Tampa Bay 4. Montreal 3, OT, Tampa Bay leads series 3-0 Calgary 3. Detroit 2. Calgary leads series 2-1 Wednesday, April 28

Toronto 4, Philadelphia 1, Philadelphia leads series 2-1 Colorado, I., San Jose 0, San Jose leads series 3-1 Thursday, April 29 Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7 p.m. Detroit at Calgary, 10 p.m. Friday, April 30

Saturday, May 1 Calgary at Detroit, 3 p.m. Colorado at San Jose, 3 p.m. Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m., if necessary Sunday, May 2 Toronto at Philadelphia, 4 p.m. Monday, May 3 Tampa Bay at Montreal, 7 p.m., if necessary

Detroit at Calgary, 10 p.m., if necessary Tuesday, May 4 Philadelphia at Toro San Jose at Colorado, 8 p.m., if necessary Wednesday, May 5 Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m., if necessary

Calgary at Detroit, 7 p.m., if necessary Thursday, May 6 Toronto at Philadelphia, 8 p.m., if necessary Colorado at San Jose, TBA, if necessary

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-7

STANLEY CUPFINALS (Best-of-7)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 30, 2004: Your ability to clear the airways and

get down to the brass tacks emerges this year. You won't want to tolerate any confusion. Be straight about your concerns. Others will respond. You become a bit more willing to risk emotionally and/or financially, as you have an innate sense of well-being. Still, use care. If you are in an artistic profession,

you will find your groove this year, more so than in the past. From the fall on, you witness changes professionally, no matter what field you are in. You now find that upward movement is possible. If you are single, romance tweaks your life and puts a big smile on your face. This person could prove to be very special. If you are attached, work on your communication. Fuss less about money. Consider separate checking accounts this year if it means more peace between the two of you. VIRGO clearly adores you.

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)

*** You finally get to clear the air and grind out a problem. Expect a touch more chaos in the process, but know that someone close is wellintended. Watch a tendency to go to extremes; the end result might not be pleasant. Tonight: Change plans if need

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Share more of what has been worrying you. Others prove to be unusually receptive, which delights and surprises you. With conversation and understanding, you feel much better. Express yourself and allow more humor in. Clear the air of tension, please. Tonight: Plunge into the week-

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You might feel a lot better about a domestic matter than you have in a while. You gain a great deal of clarity and understanding. Someone has as much to share as you do. Let the good feelings transform what has been difficult. Tonight: Curb the socializing, and head home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** You might wish for more, but you cannot express what it is. Discuss your feelings with someone who could be quite helpful. Your instincts are right-on about a work-related matter. Gain greater insight. Be willing to adapt to new ideas and technology. Tonight: Relax with your pals. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Indulge yourself. Start plan ning a vacation or special weekend. You find that planning comes easily. Ask friends along if you want to really let go. A loved one could express jealousy. The results could be unpleasant. Careful. Tonight: Whirl ...) the week-

end; have bubblies with a special

friend. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

**** Clear out what has been an albatross. An associate or friend supports you. The end results will be obvious to everyone. Express your thoughts without worry. Tonight: Deal with uproar on the home front only when you are ready.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

** You could be delighted by a partner or a group of people. You can start planning for something you have wanted for a while. Keep your own counsel, as someone might be in "bully" mode later in the day. Tonight: Do what is

good for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Consider another's revelation your gain. You might not have to work so hard to prove your point. Refuse to get into saying "I told you so." A meeting helps direct your energy as well as that of others. Network away. Tonight: The more, the merrier.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** You could be on overload with all that is dropped on your plate. Handle what you must with an eye to the weekend. You finally find that someone key is ready to talk. Jump on this opportunity, as this person could change his or her mind. Tonight: Out and about. Flex with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Your ability to read between the lines comes through. You might be ready to confront what has been a difficult situation. Revise your thinking, if appropriate. Note a tendency to be a bit judgmental. Tonight: Take off ASAP. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Investigate what might be going on with a financial partnership, especially if you are the other half! You gain professionally as a result. How you speak to someone might have a lot to do with his or her willingness to share. Tonight: Opt for one-on-one rather than with the gang.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

** Others finally open up. Building security proves to be primary. Use your finances carefully, even though you could feet freed up, to a degree. For now, don't overindulge or spend. A boss might be a wee bit too demanding Tonight: With others.

BORN TODAY

Actress Jill Clayburg (1944), singer Bobby Vee (1943), King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustav (1946)

Lakers oust Rockets

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant wore a look of exhaustion as he held his 15month-old daughter Natalia while addressing reporters.

He looked a lot more wiped out than she did, and it was way past her bedtime,

"All I have to do is go out there and play, then go to sleep," Bryant said.

It was a bit more in this

Following three round-trip flights to Colorado in as many days for pretrial hearings in his sexual assault case, Bryant had 31 points, six rebounds and 10 assists Wednesday night as the Los 4 Angeles Lakers beat the Houston Rockets 97-78 to win their first-round series 4-

By winning, the Lakers moved into the second round of the playoffs, where they'll meet the San Antonio Spurs in a matchup of the teams who won the last five NBA championships.

Game 1 will be Sunday in San Antonio.

Looking worn and surrounded by bodyguards, Bryant showed up at Staples Center 26 minutes before the opening tipoff following his third straight day in court.

He had by far his best game of the postseason, shooting 12-of-21, along with 6-of-6 from the foul line, while committing only one turnover in 41 minutes.

He shot 33.8 percent in the first four games of the series.

Bryant left with 6:16 remaining to a standing ovation and was warmly greeted when he reached the bench.

"A lot of people will remember 31 points, but I'll remember that he's been doing a lot of traveling in a short period of time," teammate Karl Malone said. "You put that ball in his hand, and he's ready to play. And that's reporters. what it's all about."

Bryant said he was more tired than he'd ever been while playing a game and didn't plan to get off his couch on Thursday.

"In the car on the way over, I just felt so tired. I didn't want to go to sleep," he said, explaining that would have made him sluggish after

he awoke. "I tried to meditate on the way over.

"When I get on the basketball court, something just energizes me.'

The Lakers trailed 52-49 early in the second half before putting the Rockets away with a 33-7 run to finish the third quarter and start the fourth. Bryant had 11 points and four assists during the

The Spurs, who swept Memphis in the first round, bring a 15-game winning streak into the best-of-seven series including a 95-89 victory over the Lakers on April

The Spurs eliminated Los Angeles in the second round last spring on their way to the championship, ending the Lakers' bid for a fourth straight title.

San Antonio swept the Lakers in the second round in 1999 en route to its first championship.

"I think it's time — we are ready for them," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "They are playing as good as anybody, probably the best in the NBA right now, and we are going to have to elevate our game going into San Antonio to win.'

The Rockets-Lakers game was the only playoff action Wednesday night.

Milwaukee plays at Detroit and Dallas is at Sacramento on Thursday night. The home teams hold 3-1 leads in both

Malone had 18 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Shaquille O'Neal added 12 points, nine rebounds, five assists and four blocked shots for the Lakers.

"This is one of the best defensive games I've ever seen Shaquille play from start to finish," Jackson said.

O'Neal didn't speak with

Slava Medvedenko also scored 12 points, showing no ill effects from his strained right Achilles' tendon.

Jim Jackson led Houston with 17 points. Steve Francis had 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists, and Cuttino Mobley had 16 points for the Rockets — all but two in the first quarter.

Tigers assured of first winning April since 1993

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. **AP Sports Writer**

It took just one month for the Detroit Tigers to put last season's misery behind them.

Detroit ensured its first winning record in April since 1993 with a 10-2 victory over the Anaheim Angels Wednesday night. With two games left this month, the Tigers (12-9) will end April above .500 after losing an ALrecord 119 games last season.

"They're a vastly improved club," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "A totally different club."

Bobby Higginson hit a tworun double in a five-run third inning, and Mike Maroth improved to 3-1 after becoming the first 20-game loser since 1980 last season. He gave up two runs in seven innings, helping Detroit snap a fivegame losing streak.

"I want it to continue," said manager Alan Trammell, the shortstop on the last Tigers team to finish April above .500. "I've won before and I like the feeling, so there's no reason for us to stop. It's a winning April. Great. Let's do more."

Last year, the Tigers ended April 3-21, and it took them 47 games to earn their 12th victo-

"We're looking to do this for the whole season, not just April," said Higginson, an outfielder with the Tigers since 1995. "A lot of the guys around here don't know how bad it's been, so I don't think they really care."

In other AL games, it was

New York 5, Oakland 1; Chicago 9, Cleveland 8; Boston 6, Tampa Bay 0; Baltimore 3, Seattle 1; Kansas City 5, Texas 3; and Minnesota 9, Toronto 5. At Detroit, Bartolo Colon

(3-2) was chased after giving up seven runs and walking three in four innings. "When he made a mistake,

said.

they didn't miss it," Scioscia

The Tigers scattered 15 hits all over the field — as they often have this season. Detroit leads the majors with 133 runs scored. Last season, the Tigers were next-to-last in baseball with 591 runs.

Troy Glaus' two-run homer, his seventh, put the Angels ahead 2-0 in the first, but Rondell White's two-run double in the bottom of the inning

Both teams were without one of their stars. Ivan Rodriguez was scratched from Detroit's lineup with a finger injury and is day to day. Anaheim placed outfielder Garret Anderson on the 15-day disabled list, retroactive to April 22, with upper back stiff3 Personal CERAMIC

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House votes to retain Bush tax cuts for married couples

WASHINGTON (AP) -The House delivered the first in a series of election-year bills designed to shine a light on President Bush's domestic agenda by voting to preserve his tax cuts for married couples.

House Majority Leader Tom R-Texas. Wednesday that the alternative minimum tax, a levy aimed at preventing the wealthiest individuals from dodging taxes and now snaring less wealthy families, would be the next target in the GOP's sites. Lawmakers next week will be asked to pass a bill arresting its slow creep into the middle class.

Before Memorial Day. House Republican leaders intend to pass bills locking in the president's tax cuts for wage earners and parents with bills to preserve the expanded 10 percent tax bracket and the \$1,000 child tax credit. All are sched-

"Making this tax relief permanent will lay the foundation for sustained economic growth and job creation over the long term and enable taxpavers to better plan for the future." the Bush administration said in a the House bill. Democrats statement supporting permanent tax cuts for married couples.

Some couples face a tax increase next year unless Congress acts to make permanent three changes in law that reduced the so-called marriage penalty. The House voted 323-

95 on Wednesday to make those changes permanent and deliver \$105 billion in tax cuts to married couples over the next decade. The Senate must pass the bill before the president can sign it into law.

The marriage penalty most said often affects working couples with roughly equal incomes who get pushed into a higher tax bracket when their salaries are combined.

> Congress fixed part of the problem by making the standard deduction for married couples twice that of single individuals, and by increasing the 15 percent tax bracket for married couples to twice that of singles Those fixes were only temporary and are scheduled to roll back at the end of the year. The House bill would stop them from receding.

"By repealing the marriage penalty tax, we have given maruled to expire at the end of the ried couples a wedding present that will last a lifetime." House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-III.

> By 2008, couples who receive the earned income tax credit would see some of their marriage penalty lifted under argued that those couples should see immediate relief.

"You differentiate. Indeed you discriminate," said Rep. Sander Levin, D-Mich, "Why discriminate against working people who have less income.

Shirley

Nicholson

For efficient, accountable city government

For City Commissioner

May 15

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Local Girl Scout leaders honor one of their own

Mary Green from Clarendon recently received thanks from the leaders she oversees in Pampa on Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day. Green began her Girl Scouting experience 23 years ago as a troop leader for her daughter's troop. Through the years, Mary has been a troop leader, service unit manager, council committee member, Day Camp director, trainer, council program director (volunteer position), association chair and delegate before serving as Quivira Council President.

Green saw the Council through it's first merger as council president and helped ease the transition to a larger council. Throughout her volunteer and staff years, Green has received the highest honors adult Girl Scouts can receive, earning Outstanding Leader Award, Outstanding Volunteer Award, Celicia Fowler Award, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge I and Thanks Badge II.

Green joined the council staff in 1999 as a membership specialist. She traveled daily back and forth to Amarillo from Clarendon for three years to fulfill her position. In late 2001, she agreed to help with staff transition in several service units and to be officed in Clarendon.

Green currently serves the girls and



Mary Green from Clarendon was recently recognized on Girl Scout Leader Appreciation Day. Above, left-right: LeaAnn Griffin, Troop 245; Lynn DiTirro, Troop 232; Green, LaGayla Wheat Troop 55; and Denise Dodson, Troop 514.

adults in Hutchinson, Roberts, Hemphill, Carson, Gray, and Wheeler counties. She puts in lots of miles and time with training, meetings, and just answering questions for her leaders.

Green will help out again this year in the Pampa District Day Camp June 14th-17th, to help with any number of activities such as crafts, sing-a-longs, cooking, tending to scraped knees or calling parents in the event of bad weather.

Green is currently serving on the Girl Scout House Fund Board. This group is responsible for investigating and presenting information to the board of directors of the Five Star Council relating to the need of a new Girl Scout house in Pampa. If approved, the GSHF Board will then be responsible for overseeing the raising of funds and disbursement of the funds during the construction of the facility.

Leaders of Troops 55, 232, 245, and 514 wanted to let Green know how very important she is to them and how much they appreciate her hard work. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers, arranged in cowboy boots in keeping with this year's day camp theme " Lil' Camp on the

Critics: White House's China decision affront to U.S. workers

WASHINGTON (AP) --The Bush administration says it is pursuing a strategy of diplomatic engagement with China that offers the best hope of opening China's market to more America exports and narrowing the huge trade gap between the two countries.

But critics are harshly accusing the administration of selling out American workers by refusing to pursue allegations that China is gaining

unfair trade advantages by violating Chinese workers' rights and manipulating its currency.

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, hoping to capitalize on Americans' anxiety about the loss of jobs to overseas competition, said that when it comes American and Chinese workto China "the administration is ers." all talk and no action.

Wednesday that if elected presand I'm not going to sit idly by when China or any other country pursues policies that hurt our economy.

The official Xinhua News Agency carried word of but no comment in response. China's Trade Ministry had no comment, a spokeswoman said, and the Labor and Social Security Ministry said it was unaware of the report.

Last month, the AFL-CIO had petitioned the adminis-

tration to launch an investigation over its claims of widespread abuse of Chinese workers' rights. John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, had said the administration's refusal to take up the case "is an outrage and an insult to

The AFL-CIO petition con-He pledged in a statement tended that China's abuse of worker rights amounted to an ident, "I am going to fight to unfair trade practice under keep U.S. jobs in America U.S. trade laws that had given China a wage advantage of between 47 percent and 86 percent and had cost the loss of

tory jobs. U.S. Trade Representative Washington's announcement Robert Zoellick told a news conference Wednesday that the question wasn't whether the administration approved or disapproved of Chinese policies but how was the best way to get the country to make

an estimated 727,000 U.S. fac-

changes. "Accepting these petitions would take us down the path of economic isolationism," Zoellick said. "That is a path we will not take.

The decision drew criticism from Democrats in Congress and even some Republicans who represent states where manufacturing job losses have been high.

"I'm very disappointed by the administration's soft approach to China," said Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio. "Unless we get tough with a regime bent on stealing our technology and stealing our jobs, there won't be an American manufacturing sector."

Rep. Marty Meehan of Massachusetts, one of 27 Democrats who had written Bush on Wednesday urging him to accept the AFL-CIO petition, said the administration's action went against the findings of its own State Department, which annually cites China for human rights

World War II Memorial organizers announce opening

WASHINGTON (AP) Nearly 60 years after World War II, the more than 16 million men and women who were in uniform during the conflict will finally have a national monument — a testament to their service and sacrifice.

The National World War, weekend dedication. II Memorial, opening to the public on Thursday, has been almost two decades in the making. While the formal dedication ceremony is still a month away, project organizers have been racing to put the finishing touches on the memorial so that the

ever-dwindling number of veterans from that era can

American World War II vets are dying at a rate of 1,056 a day, the Veterans Affairs Department estimates. Fewer than 4 million will be alive at the time of the Memorial Day

Organizers announced the "soft opening" date late Wednesday, heralding a big day for veterans and tourists who, until now, have only been able to peek at the memorial from behind the confines of wire fencing that surrounds the

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Once the fence comes down, visitors will be able to walk freely about the memorial, which spans the length of a football field and sits promibetween Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall.

The \$174 million project is the culmination of years of arm-twisting and fund raising by veterans, including former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole. From schoolchildren to corporations, more than \$195 million was raised. The remaining money will be put in a trust fund for future use.

The dedication next month is expected to draw a big crowd. Some 117,000 free tickets were snapped up in a matter of weeks, and there's a waiting list with 50,000 names

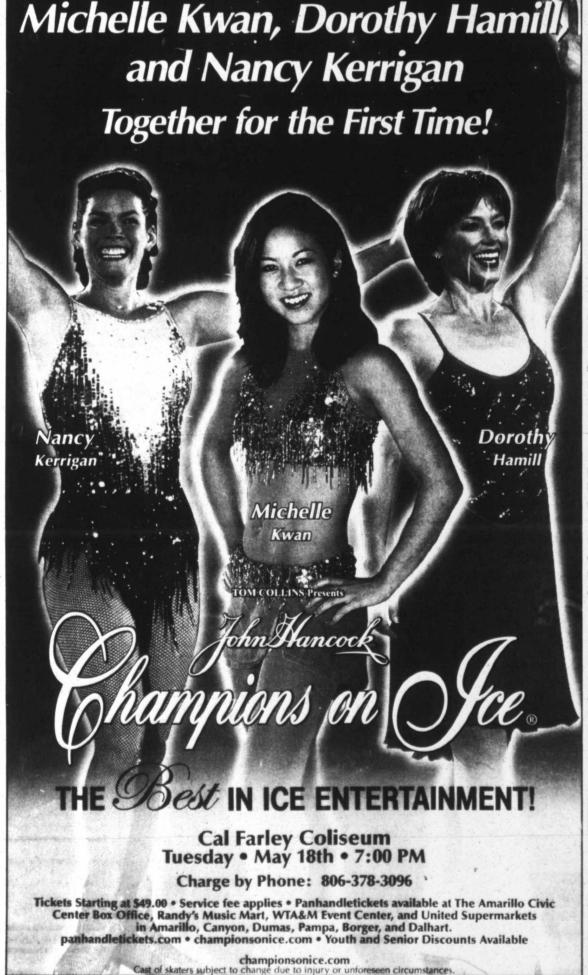
President Bush and all the living former presidents have been invited to the event.

The Smithsonian Institution is planning four days of festivities on the National Mall to coincide with the May 29 dedication ceremony.

On the Net:

World War II Memorial: http://www.wwiimemorial.co

Smithsonian's Tribute to a Generation: http://www.folklife.si.edu



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