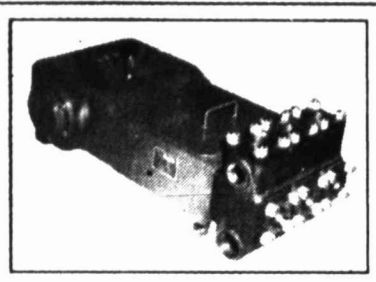


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THE Pamper

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004

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Official: No plague, West Nile virus here

BY MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

No incidences of West Nile virus have yet been found this year in the Texas Panhandle, and no indications of plague have been reported in Gray County so far this year, according to Dr. James Alexander, Texas Department of Health Region 1 zoonosis control veterinarian in Canyon.

"We had one bird in Lubbock in February that tested positive for West Nile virus, but it couldn't have been

transmitted because it was too cold for mosquitoes," Alexander said in a telephone interview Friday.

There have been five birds in Harris County and one in Montgomery County that have tested positive for West Nile virus in 2004. One horse each in Fort Bend County, Montgomery County and La Salle County have been found to have the virus so far this year, Alexander said.

Some fleas from a prairie dog town in Dallam County have recently tested positive for the plague, which naturally

occurs in the rodent population of the western United States, Alexander said.

"I went out and collected fleas from other areas, and I am still waiting on the test results of those fleas," Alexander said.

The concern with the positive plague result from fleas in the prairie dog town in Dallam County is that it might be transmitted to humans.

"That is an area where people come from around the country to hunt prairie dogs. They are not an endangered or threatened species yet. Our concern is

next summer when people from other states will come in and need to take precautions," Alexander said.

There are at least six different prairie dog towns in the Rita Blanca grasslands, where the infected fleas were found, he said.

Another area of concern is in Midland and Glasscock counties, where wood rats have been dying in larger than normal numbers. The TDH has found the bacterium that causes the plague in some of the dead rats.

(See **PLAGUE**, Page 3)

Landfill, streets on agenda for city meeting tomorrow

The landfill, city streets and some economic development will be on the Pampa City Commission's agenda Tuesday afternoon.

The commission, during their regular meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, will be asked to extend a lease at 1038 S. Barnes to Amarillo Air Transport, a trucking company, for \$200 a month for five years with an option to buy the property for \$35,000.

The commission will also consider bids for this year's seal coating project and development of Cell Three at

the Pampa Landfill.

The commission plans to amend the city budget, putting \$175,000 that the city has gotten beyond its budget projections this year from sales taxes, along with \$10,000 from the 31st District Attorney's office, toward a skate park.

Also on Tuesday's agenda is a bid of \$100 from James Stone for delinquent tax property at 920 S. Sumner, a bid of \$4,000 from the Wells Street Church of Christ for 7.5 acres of delinquent tax property on 23rd Street east

of Price Road, a bid of \$250 from Verne Cave for delinquent tax property at 1019 Ripley and a bid of \$100 from Brandon Baxter for delinquent tax property at 219 Gillespie.

In other business, the commission will consider a resolution to formalize mutual aid agreements with surrounding Texas Panhandle cities through the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

The commission will also hear reports on water sales and the ambulance task force.

Tuesday last day for early voting

On May 15, Pampa voters will decide who will serve on Place 6 and 7 of the Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education and in two seats of the Pampa City Commission.

Early voting for the city/school election will end Tuesday, May 11.

Early voting began April 28 and continues through tomorrow, May 11. Early ballots may be cast at the school district's offices at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert, for the school board. Votes will be accepted during work hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Early votes for the city commission can be cast in Room 205 at City Hall.

Greg Brown, Ken Cargill, and Willie Nickleberry, seek Place 7 on the school board. Joe Martinez, current school board president and holder of Place 6 on the board, is running unopposed for his position.

Shirley Nichols challenges incumbent Faustina Curry on the Pampa City Commission. Ray Boring runs unopposed for the seat on the commission left vacant when Jeff Andrews resigned. Commissioners appointed Boring to fill Andrews' position until the May 15 election.

The May 15 city/school election will be conducted at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston.

Nickleberry: Discipline, appearance matter

BY DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

If elected to the Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education, Willie Nickleberry would focus his attention on strengthening "old-fashioned" values of discipline and pride in appearance within the school system.

The retired U.S. Army veteran seeks Place 7 on the board, a position also sought by two others, Greg Brown and Ken Cargill. Incumbent Joe Martinez is running unopposed for spot on the school board. The city/school election is set for Saturday, May 15.

"The main thing I'd like to see is if the school board could help instill more discipline," Nickleberry said.

He'd also like to see an ROIC (reserve officer training program) started in Pampa schools. "It would be an elective, but that would help instill discipline," he explained.

He'd also like to see a greater cross-



Willie Nickleberry

section of teachers in the district.

"That wouldn't only be good for the black children, it would be good for all children," he said. "They'd get to meet a cross section of people - different cultures - and get to know them."

He said he'd like to see black history taught in Pampa schools.

"All of the students know everything about Caucasian history, but none have any idea about black history," he explained.

Nickleberry believes that a stricter dress code would benefit students.

He said that as a representative of the local chapter of the NAACP handing out scholarships, he was shocked by what the students wore to the awards assembly.

He believe students should be given incentives to dress better.

"If they don't have guidance in school when will they," he said. "They need to dress for the occasion."

Nickleberry said he feels teachers should be role models for students by what they wear.

"If teachers wear blue jeans, why shouldn't the students," he said. "When I was growing up there were several people I looked up to, and they all dressed well."

"This may sound old-fashioned but that's me," he added.

Standardizing curriculum across the district could help with student test scores, Nickleberry said. He said that black and Hispanic students may be testing lower because the questions on the tests do not reflect their range of experience.

He said if teachers were given more power to handle problems in their classroom, morale would be better.

"I don't mean a free hand, but the ability to do what they need to do solve a problem," he explained.

Nickleberry said he attended the recent training for school board candidates presented by Region 16. He graduated from B.T. Washington High in Wellington and John Tyler Community College.

He retired as a first sergeant from the U.S. Army after 24 years of service, including three tours in Vietnam. He

(See **NICKLEBERRY**, Page 3)



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa High School seniors, Jake Hopkins, left, and Shawn Goodin, recipients of Anderson Foundation scholarships.

Anderson Foundation awards scholarships to two PHS graduates

Graduating Pampa High School seniors Shawn DeBarge Goodin and Jacob Lee Hopkins have won this year's Anderson Foundation scholarships, according to a news release from Pampa High School.

four-year scholarship of \$8,000. He plans to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he plans to study civil engineering.

Goodin is valedictorian of the 2004 graduating class. He

Goodin has been awarded a

(See **AWARDS**, Page 3)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PLAGUE

according to an Associated Press report.

"The odds of humans getting the plague right now is very low," Alexander said. "We would like people to let us know if they notice a large die-off of rats, squirrels, rabbits or prairie dogs."

West Nile virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, Alexander said, and symptoms in those who are infected range from mild to fatal. There are two

vaccines available for horses, he said.

"Eighty percent of people who get West Nile don't know they have it. It can also be fatal," he said. Lingered fatigue is one possible aftereffect for survivors.

Once daily temperatures reach the 70s and consistently remain in that range or higher, mosquito larvae can develop into mosquitoes, which become active as adults and can transmit the virus.

Individuals should practice

the four Ds to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes, Alexander said. They are:

- Dusk and dawn are times to avoid being outside, when mosquitoes are most active.

- DEET-containing insect repellents are the most effective at keeping mosquitoes away.

- Drain standing water, where mosquitoes lay their eggs.

- Dress in long sleeves and long pants when outside if possible, especially if it is

necessary to be outside near dusk or dawn.

Alexander also recommends making sure screens on doors and windows will keep out mosquitoes.

Precautions to avoid exposure to the plague from fleas includes using DEET-containing insect repellent, wearing rubber or other types of gloves to handle any type of rodent or dead animal, and wearing long sleeves and long pant legs with tight-fitting wrists and ankles.

Alexander also warns pet owners to observe their dogs and cats regularly.

"Cats that roam outside, and possibly dogs, could pick up the plague themselves or take infected fleas home to the family," he said.

Pet owners should practice good flea control and eliminate any rodent populations in and around their homes, and avoid leaving pet food outside at night. They should also practice good pet control by not allowing their pet to roam,

Alexander said.

Pets who have been infected with the plague may exhibit a swelling under the chin, Alexander said. If the swelling breaks and starts draining, the pet is very infectious if plague is present.

Some cats which are exposed to the plague may develop pneumonia.

Ranchers and farmers should protect their feed supply and control rodent populations on their land, Alexander said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

AWARDS

is a member of the National Honor Society and National Honor Roll. He is a National Ventures Scholar and has received the PHS Award of Excellence for business law, algebra II and U.S. history.

He is co-captain of the wrestling team and has won the PHS Wrestling Character Award. He has won an Optimist Youth Award for community service. He is chairman of the ASTRA Suicide Prevention Programme and has been honored by Texas State Senator Eliot Shapleigh.

Hopkins has been awarded a four-year scholarship of \$16,000. He plans to attend Texas Tech University, where he plans to study pre-pharmacy.

Hopkins is salutatorian of the 2004 graduating class. He

is president of the National Honor Society and vice president of ASTRA and the Student Council. He is District secretary of Future Farmers of America, and has exhibited and sold livestock at the Houston Livestock Show.

Hopkins has received awards from the Rotary Club, Optimist International, Colorado School of Mines and Daughters of the American Revolution. His essay, "Our American Heritage and My Responsibility to Preserve It," won second place in the DAR state competition.

Eugene Anderson, president of the Eugene and Daniela Anderson Scholarship Foundation, presents scholarships to graduating Pampa High School seniors each year. Anderson is himself a PHS graduate and currently lives in London, England. The

scholarships for Goodin and Hopkins were announced by telephone link to London during the PHS Awards Banquet May 4.

The foundation was established several years ago to assist students to obtain higher education. Scholarship recipients are chosen for their high academic standards, positive contribution to school and community, and financial need.

Past recipients of Anderson Scholarship Foundation scholarships who are graduating from college this year include Samantha Hurst, Brigid Milligan, Kevin Osborne, Lacy Plunk and Kerry Turner.

Hurst is scheduled to graduate this year from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor of Architecture degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. She has

enrolled in the Texas Tech College of Architecture and is pursuing a Master of Architecture degree.

Milligan is scheduled to graduate this year from Wellesley College in Massachusetts with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a minor in Spanish. She plans to attend New York University, where she will pursue a master's and doctorate degree in English literature.

Osborne is slated to graduate this year from Texas A&M University at College Station with a Bachelor's Degree in aeronautical engineering.

Plunk has graduated one semester early from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication.

Turner plans to graduate from Oklahoma State University in December this

Bush praises Rumsfeld in meeting at Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush issued a strong endorsement of embattled Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld on Monday, telling him after a meeting at the Pentagon, "You are doing a superb job."

On Capitol Hill, senators scheduled another hearing on the prisoner abuse issue that has prompted calls for Rumsfeld's resignation. Witnesses at the Tuesday hearing include Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, author of the report that found numerous "sadistic, blatant and wanton criminal abuses" at the prison near Baghdad.

Bush's comments at the Pentagon appeared designed to

head off rising speculation that Rumsfeld would resign as both men braced for the anticipated release of more pictures and video images showing Iraqi prisoners being abused by American soldiers.

The Pentagon agreed to send as-yet unreleased photos and at least one videotape to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday. But senators had not determined when or under what circumstances they would be viewed by lawmakers.

The president acknowledged that images of Iraqi prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad had damaged America's image abroad.

"Those responsible for

these abuses have caused harm that goes well beyond the walls of a prison. It has given some an excuse to question our cause and to cast doubt on our motives," Bush said.

The president emphasized that the controversy over Iraqi prisoners came while "our troops continue to face serious danger. And this government is giving them every means of protecting themselves and every means necessary to gain victory."

Bush urged Congress to approve a \$25 billion contingency reserve fund that can be used for ongoing operations in Iraq.

He said his administration would stick to its vow to turn

over sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government on June 30 despite the recent rise in violence against coalition forces and civilians. "Men and women across the Middle East are watching closely. And they will see America keep its word," the president said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

NICKLEBERRY

was assigned to mortuary service and served as an identification specialist for five years in Germany.

His wife Margrette is also retired. He has four adult daughters, Brenda, Gail, Wanda and Tammy.

His civic involvement includes serving as a board member for Southside Senior Citizens Center.

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MONDAY • May 10, 2004

The Pampa News comics

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

WIFE HAS NOWHERE TO RUN FROM UNFAITHFUL HUSBAND

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Ron" for 11 years. Throughout our marriage he has been unfaithful. We have three children under age 12. I work a minimum-wage job and have no family, nowhere to go, and no one to turn to.

A few months ago, Ron brought home a sexually transmitted disease, which he gave to me. I feel trapped, alone and terribly depressed. I realize the children must be sensing my tension and pain. As Ron is not physically abusive, I cannot go to a shelter, and this has taken a toll on my health and well-being.

Should I stay until I'm financially able to leave? Or should I flee now and hope for the best? -- LONELY AND SAD IN LOUISIANA

DEAR LONELY AND SAD: If you haven't already done so, contact your physician and be treated for the STD. Make a list of Ron's assets, as well as his Social Security, driver's license and bank account numbers. Next, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: (800) 799-7233. Although there may not be room for you at a shelter, they can help you formulate an "escape plan." Once that's in place, consult an attorney who specializes in family law. You've suffered enough.

DEAR ABBY: My 19-year-old son was killed by a drunk driver. Garrett was hit at freeway speed as he got out of a disabled vehicle that had been blocked by a flatbed tow truck with its lights flashing.

The drunk driver went around the tow truck and never slowed down. He already had a prior DUI from seven years ago. From my research, the laws are too easy on these people. Offenders are getting five years, often reduced to one or two or com-

munity service, for taking an innocent life. The vehicle is their weapon. This should be second-degree murder, not manslaughter.

How can we get the laws changed? Whom do we contact to get results? It won't bring my wonderful, loving son back, but these verdicts are nothing but a slap on the wrist to the drunk drivers, and a slap in the face to families who lose their children. My son was my best friend. He had his whole life ahead of him. This man took it away because he made the choice to drink and drive. Please, Abby, help me make a difference. -- GRIEVING MOTHER, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.

DEAR GRIEVING MOTHER: I offer my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. One way to channel your grief would be to join a community of other grieving parents who are also determined to put more teeth into the punishment meted out to repeat offenders.

I recently became a member of the advisory board of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). It is a non-profit, grassroots organization that's a leader in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking. Because of MADD, more than 2,300 anti-drunk driving laws have been passed, public awareness has increased, and thousands of drunk-driving victims have received assistance. With their help, you can work within your own community to change the laws regarding repeat offenders in your state. The toll-free number is (800) 438-6233, and the Web site is www.MADD.org. Call and you will receive the support you need.

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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Add up

6 Storage building

10 Common daisy

11 New York's Island

13 Low cards in pinochle

14 Swiftly

15 Wedding words

16 Polite address

18 Big snake

19 Features of some magazines

22 Pen contents

23 Convene

24 Molecule makeup

27 Sloppy

28 Part to play

29 Oinker

30 Baines and Quincy

35 Each and every

36 Rink makeup

37 Fire-fighter's tool

38 Forest goddess

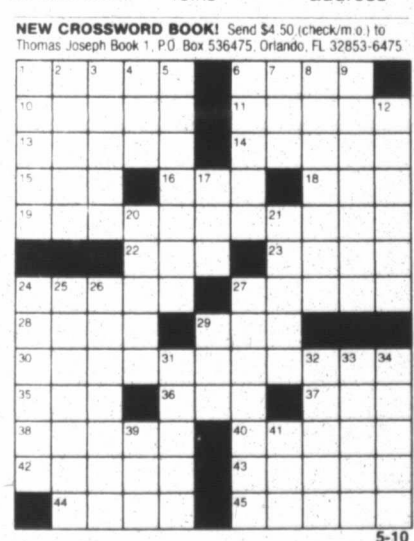
40 Take it easy

42 Flexible conjunction

43 Designer Simpson

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AIRY SAYERS
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INANE OATER
SITIN WREST
CAPE LAST

Saturday's answer



Marmaduke



"It's easier to walk over him than to try and get him to move."

The Family Circus



"Was this wheat shredded in our shredder?"

B.C.



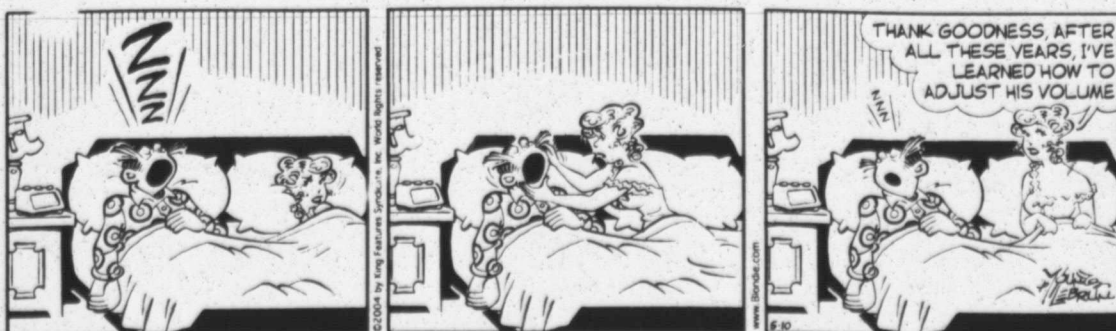
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Blondie



Flo & Friends



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SPORTS

Andrews outlasts Pampa in scoring parade

LUBBOCK — Both Pampa and Andrews got involved in a run parade in the second game of the Class 4A bi-district series Saturday. When the scoring finally stopped, Andrews was leading 17-15 to advance into the Area playoff round.

Andrews used four different pitchers with Matt Gardner earning the win. Dusty Lenderman started for Pampa and re-entered to replace Tyler Doughty in the sixth inning. Lenderman was charged with the loss.

It was a back and forth contest as Andrews put together

17 hits and Pampa finished with 13.

Andrews' big inning was the fourth when the Mustangs exploded for eight runs to take a 12-8 lead. Andrews was ahead 15-10 when Pampa rallied in the sixth to knot the score as the Andrews' defense fell apart. Four of the five Pampa runs scored on fielding miscues. Seth Brown's RBI single tied things at 15-15.

Andrews tacked on the final runs in the bottom of the sixth on a run-scoring single by Kelvin Roberts and a sacrifice fly by Gardner.

Pampa threatened in the seventh as Lenderman and Nick Story singled. But with one out, Gardner struck out the last two Harvesters to end Pampa's season.

This outing was far different than Friday's bi-district opener when Andrews notched a 4-0 win over Pampa in a pitching duel.

Pampa wasted little time getting on the scoreboard Saturday, scoring three runs in the top of the first with Lenderman's run-scoring single the only hit. Seth Foster drew a bases-loaded walk and the other run came home on a

wild pitch.

The Mustangs tied the score in the bottom of the first on Gardner's three-run homer. They went ahead 4-3 in the second inning on Cassidy Hamilton's RBI triple.

Pampa would tie it at 4-4 in the top of the third on Tyson Hickman's sacrifice fly.

In the only inning Pampa would hold Andrews scoreless, Brown pulled off a pair of defensive gems in the bottom of the third. Brown, the catcher, accounted for two of the three outs as he threw out a runner at second on a steal

attempt and another runner trying to take third after a wild pitch.

The Harvesters grabbed an 8-4 lead in the top of the fourth as Derek Lewis sparked Pampa with a two-run homer over the left field fence. Two more runs scored on a throwing error by the Andrews catcher.

After Andrews' eight-run fourth, Pampa came back with two runs in the top of the fifth on an RBI single by Brown to make it 12-10.

The Harvesters finished the season with a 15-13 record.

3 of 3



(Photo by Stephen Rogers)

Pampa first baseman Whitney Roden reached base all three times she came to the plate in the Area matchup with El Paso Ysleta Friday. Roden had a double, single and walk in Pampa's 5-3 loss.

Tigers defeat Rangers, 5-3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Detroit Tigers put Saturday night's meltdown behind them.

Alex Sanchez hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Nate Robertson allowed three hits in seven-plus innings, leading the Tigers past the Texas Rangers 5-3 on Sunday.

The teams combined for 32 hits in Texas' 16-15 victory in 10 innings on Saturday. In that game, the Tigers squandered a 10-run lead in the greatest comeback in Rangers history with the teams combining for a major league-record 18 runs in the fifth inning.

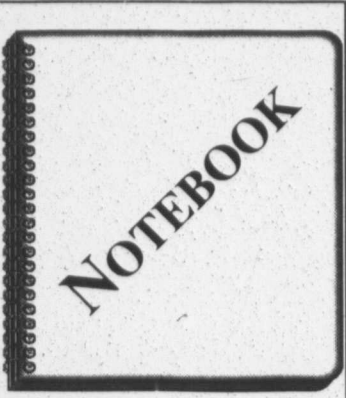
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SOCCER

PAMPA — There will be a Harvester Soccer Booster Club meeting at 7 tonight in the Ready Room at the high school athletic building.

New officers will be elected.

BASEBALL

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Trevor Helms hit a two-run triple in the ninth inning as Missouri defeated Texas Tech 3-1 on Sunday.

Helms, who went 4-for-5 in the game, also scored the Tigers' only other run as he came home on a wild pitch by Tech's Michael McGown in the third.

Missouri (29-18-1, 8-12 Big 12) held the 1-0 lead until the seventh when designated hitter Dallas Braden hit an RBI single.

Taylor Parker (1-2) got the victory in relief for Missouri and Mark Alexander picked up his eighth save of the year.

Corey Gerstner (5-10) took the loss in relief for Tech (32-15, 12-8). He gave up two runs on two hits in the ninth.

ATLANTA (AP) — The Atlanta Braves are wondering how they might do with their regular lineup.

So far, they haven't gotten much of a chance to find out.

The ailing Braves took another loss, falling to the Houston Astros 2-1 Sunday in a game that had only six hits — three by each team.

Atlanta, which has won 12 straight division titles, lost for the fourth time in five games and has captured just one series in the last six.

"We're not very deep," Chipper Jones said. "If we don't go through the season somewhat healthy, we're going to struggle. That's been the case the first month."

The projected top five of the Braves' lineup has been together for only six games. Rafael Furcal and Marcus Giles didn't start Sunday because of lingering injuries, forcing Atlanta to go with its 26th different alignment in 30 games.

Andy Pettitte won a pitching duel with Russ Ortiz, who retired the first 12 hitters and gave up only one legitimate hit in 6 2-3 innings.

But that led to the winning run, which scored on Orlando Palmeiro's bases-loaded walk in the seventh.

The Astros have won nine of 11 to lead what figures to be a hotly contested race in the NL Central. Their latest victory came without any help Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell, who were both rested.

Ladies Partnership Results

Pampa Country Club Ladies Partnership

Championship Flight

1. Sue Sisemore-Laurie Walker, 65.
2. Sue Winborn-Debbie Hargus, 66.
3. Kris Reed-Lind Messenger, 67.

First Flight

1. Melinda Williams-Jan Ruzawski, 69.
2. x-Ronda Jennings-Sharra Kark, 71.
3. Jane Jones-Ann Dunavin, 71.

Second Flight

1. x-Dusty Lovell-Linda Autry, 71.
2. Jan Rollins-Lana Brown, 71.
3. Kathy Gowdy-Ann Stewart, 72.

Fourth Flight

1. Lynette Keel-Marci Welborn, 72.
2. x-Barbara Turner-Billie Weatherly, 78.
3. Elnora Haynes-Barbara Talley, 78.

x-won playoff

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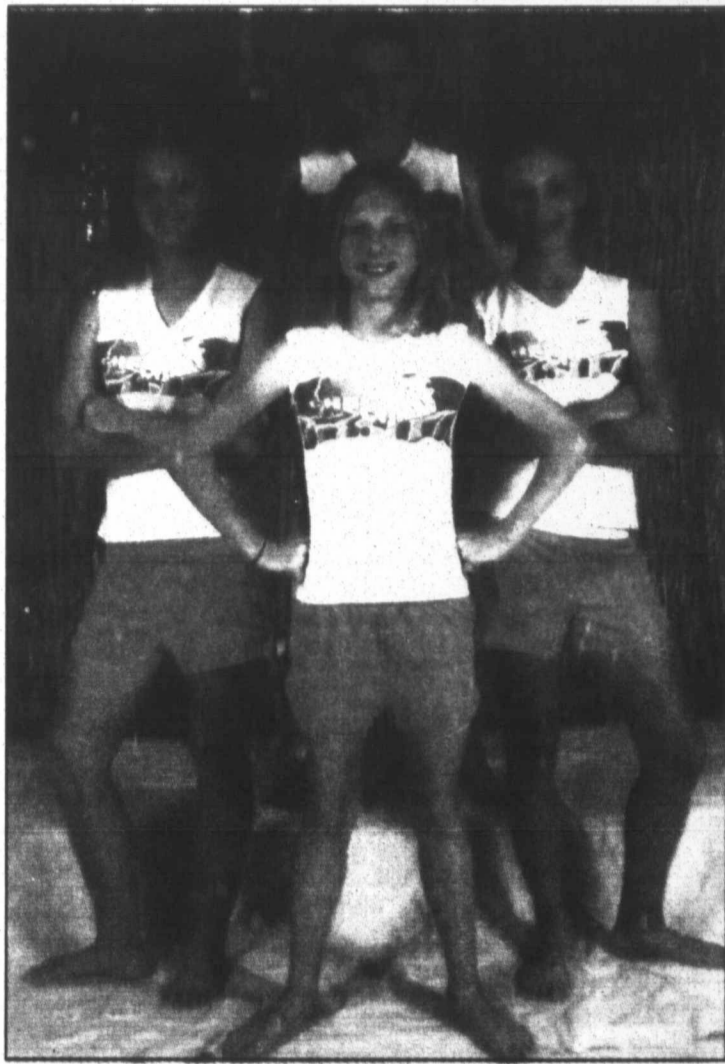
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Gymnastics recital



(Courtesy photo)

Starting at 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 14, these Gymnastics of Pampa junior high cheerleading students will be performing in "An Island Adventure" recital at the gymnasium north of Pampa. Above: (back row) Chandler Tally, (middle row) Macy Schadle, Cortnee Thornberry and (front) Danielle Towles.



(Courtesy photo)

Starting at 5:30 p.m., Friday, May 14, these Gymnastics of Pampa junior high cheerleading students will be performing in "An Island Adventure" recital at the gymnasium north of Pampa. Above: (back row) Kelli Willson, Kelbi Barton, Whitney Jenkins, Krishna Henderson, Jamie Pergason, (middle row) Ashley Owen, Allie Ramey, Aleah Noble, Ashley Williams and (front) K'Lyn Holmes.

Cable One adds 'Fuel' to digital value pak

If extreme sports are your passion, Cable ONE's got the digital network for you. It's Fuel, the first and only 24-hour U.S. television network dedicated to extreme sports like snowboarding, surfing, skateboarding and free-style motorcross.

Fuel is now available as part of Cable ONE's Digital Value Pak, which offers nearly 30 channels of programming for only \$4.50 per month. Other popular favorites in the Digital Value Pak include History International, National Geographic, Discovery Wings and The Outdoor Channel.

Fuel, created by Fox Cable Networks, will be carried on Cable ONE's Channel

309. Designed for all fans, Fuel particularly targets the Generation Y male audience that thrives on alternative sports.

"Whatever your taste in extreme sports, Fuel brings the best in competitive and performance achievements into your home," said Terry Harris, general manager. "The line-up covers world class action in international sports events and competitions seldom found on television, ranging from skateboarding and wakeboarding to BMX, snowboarding and motor cross."

Fuel's programming includes original series such as "Firsthand," which takes viewers into the daily lives of elite action athletes, and "Split," featuring top music videos accompanied by extreme sports

action footage. Other Fuel highlights include "360 Surf," covering all aspects of today's surfing scene; "High Octane," a behind-the-scenes view of the free-style motorcross world; and "10 Count," a countdown of the 10 "best of" moments from the biggest wave to the best trick.

The programming is complemented by action-packed interstitials, featuring the best slams, top tricks and voices of the extreme sports industry. These include "First Aid," 60 seconds of wipeouts, slams and other action sports' mishaps, and "f-stop," spotlighting groundbreaking photos from across the action sports industry.

Sign up for the Digital Value Pak by calling Cable ONE at 665-2381.

Take the old SAT before the new one? Class of '06 decides

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

As they look for a college admissions edge, soon-to-be high school juniors face a unique dilemma: Should they take the old SAT in the fall, or wait for the new version, with a timed essay, in the spring of 2005?

It's a question that applies mainly to the high school of class of 2006, whose leap into the college admissions fray coincides with the transition to the new SAT. For some students, it's adding an extra dose of stress and strategizing to an already complex process.

And it isn't helping that the two major test prep companies are split on whether taking the old SAT next fall is a good idea.

"It's just raised the fear level tremendously," said Patrick Smith, director of communications and customer services for undergraduate admissions in the Penn State University system.

Why bother to take the old test when most colleges are focused on the new one?

Some students think they might do better on the old version, which 1.4 million students took at least once last year. The new test replaces quantitative comparisons and verbal analogies (the old "clay is to potter as stone is to sculptor" questions) with more reading comprehension and advanced math, as well as the essay.

Some colleges, like those in the University of California system, say they will look only at scores from the new SAT (or the ACT, which also has a new, optional writing component).

But others are handling the transition year differently. More than 80 percent of schools that responded to a recent survey by

test-prep company Kaplan Inc. indicated they would consider, in varying ways, verbal and math scores from either test.

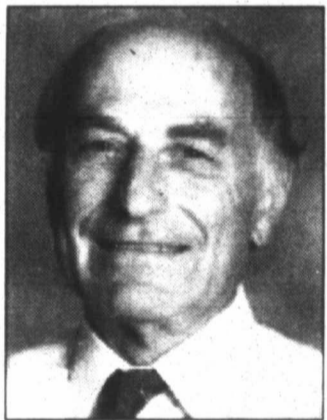
Duke, for instance, will require the new SAT or ACT so it can evaluate essay-writing. But if a student's highest scores on either the verbal or math portions came on the old test, they will count. Penn State would do the same, though it looks only at the highest combined score from a single sitting of the test.

"It's an enormously confusing and nuanced situation," said John Mahoney, director of undergraduate admission at Boston College, which will also count scores from the old test if they prove highest. "I don't think, in many cases, colleges understand their new policies."

Christina Ng, a sophomore at Franklin High School about 25 miles southwest of Boston, plans to take the old test this fall. She hopes she'll do well enough to avoid having to take the new test at all. Several friends, she said, are doing the same — though that may prove tough, with the College Board reporting at least 280 school will require some kind of standardized writing test.

The College Board, which owns the SAT, is urging next year's juniors to contact each school they're considering and inquire about its policy, then decide whether taking the old test makes sense.

Kaplan, however, is advising '06ers to take the old one before taking the new one. This summer, it starts a "3-in-1" class to prepare students for the Preliminary SAT, the test students have traditionally taken junior fall, plus the old and new SATs. The class runs longer and will cost \$100 more.



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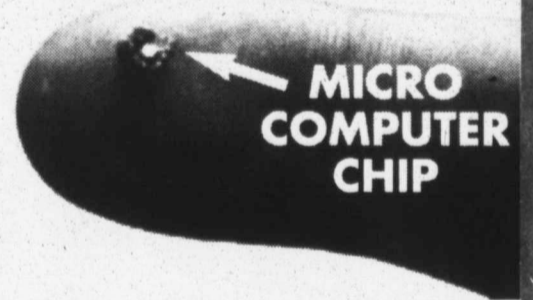
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