

VIEWPOINTS

Majority must take lead now



SKYLA BRYANT
NEWS EDITOR

According to a recent article by the Associated Press, the city of Everett, Wash., is being drained by a lawsuit demanding the removal of a Ten Commandments statue that sits outside its police station plus \$1 million in punitive damages.

The AP reports that the city is cash-strapped with an economy that is not exactly up and coming. The article quotes a county worker as saying he believes the lawsuit "ridiculous" yet not worth the money involved in an extended fight.

How long has the statue been a part of the city? Only since 1959, the AP reports.

Quoting from the AP, "... city officials claim the monument recognizes the Ten Commandments as a historical legal document and does not promote religion, unlike the 2 1/2-ton Ten Commandments memorial hauled out of the Alabama Supreme Court's rotunda last year."

Is separation between church and state violated by 10 simple rules that espouse such heretical views as don't steal, don't lie, don't commit adultery? Is this statue

selves to be deprived of our God, yes, God-given liberties by a few radical elements on the fringe of mainstream society?

If the majority does not rise up and make the sacrifice now, the costs will be enormous in the long-term. Liberty is easily lost, but hard-gained as I'm sure our founding fathers could attest if they were able to speak today.

The same is true with the war in Iraq. No war is without blood-shed. No war is without cost, but if that which is at stake is important enough, the fight is worth winning. I say the people who were "executed" in the Twin Towers on 9/11 are definitely "worth" it.

Where would we be if our forefathers had decided the price of revolution was too high, had decided to pay the British high taxes, knuckle under to the demands of the British crown?

They forged a mighty nation that became a world "super power" because they decided freedom was worth any sacrifice, that life without it is a mockery and a curse.

forcing itself upon the public? Is it attempting to coerce attention from the crowd? Is an armed guard marching everyone over to it and, gun to their head, demanding a full verbal recitation of its contents?

I'll wager dozens of people walk by it each and every day without truly registering its existence, let alone what it means. How long are we going to continue to deny that this nation was founded on Christian principles? How long are we going to permit this fact to be swept under the carpet as if it hiding some shameful secret?

What is worth the fight? I realize it is easy for me to say, but sometimes the fight is worth the blood and the money. Just how far are we going to allow our-

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TEXAS EDITORIAL

What was the FDA thinking?

From the Houston Chronicle:
 Last week, Food and Drug Administration officials decided to reject over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception medication known as morning-after pills. Their rejection represents a missed opportunity to reduce unwanted pregnancies and abortions. Worse still, the officials contrived a ludicrous argument on which to base their decision.

Basically, the regulatory agency told women they could not have convenient access to this proven, safe and reliable method of preventing unwanted pregnancy because minor girls might not be able to figure out how to use it.

In denying Barr Pharmaceuticals' application to sell its product in drugstores, the FDA ignored the recommendation of its own advisory panel of physicians, who overwhelmingly agreed last December that women could safely use the drug, Plan B, to avoid pregnancy without a doctor's supervision.

To get approval to sell the medicine without a prescription, Barr now will have to come up with a way to prevent juveniles under 16 from buying it or conduct new studies to show that they can use it safely on their own.

The FDA's position showed the agency is more inclined to bend to political pressure than to meet women's health needs. Regulators bowed to pressure from President Bush's re-election campaign and abortion opponents, who falsely liken Plan B to abortion. Other moralists worry needlessly that, despite the dearth of evidence, access to morning-after pills will promote unsafe sex and promiscuity.

In the first case, emergency contraception does not cause the abortion of a fetus; taken up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse, it prevents the implantation of a fertilized egg in the womb or disrupts ovulation to prevent fertilization. It holds the potential to reduce the number of abortions sought because women got pregnant as a result of rape, birth control failure or simple unprotected sex.

In the second case, the United States is saturated with sexual come-ons. They are a staple of advertising, movies, television, magazines, novels, billboards, adult book stores and videos, the Internet, sports halftime shows and telephone chat services. Respectable women hold sex toy parties the way housewives of the last century got their girlfriends together to buy plastic containers. Easy access to the morning-after pill as an inducement to promiscuity would be bringing coals to Newcastle.

Incidentally, cigarettes are widely available in stores in spite of being in contrast to safe and effective morning-after pills addictive, carcinogenic and without any healthful function. It is illegal to sell cigarettes to anyone under 18.

Couldn't morning-after pills be safely sold to women 18 and over, preventing countless unwanted pregnancies and abortions?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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



Clinton stealing Kerry's limelight

Bill Clinton has now been out of office for 39 months. There are but six months to go until the election. Why must he choose June to publish his memoirs?

Why bring them out during the election campaign? Couldn't the \$10 million payday wait a few more weeks until the election was over? Obviously, John Kerry would rather that Clinton wait until after the election to publish.

Clinton used to flinch whenever Jimmy Carter spoke in public during his 1992 campaign. Constantly fearful of identification with Carter's presidency, Clinton went out of his way to distance himself from his predecessor.

Al Gore needed to give Clinton a wide berth in 2000, not just because of Monica Lewinsky, but in order to establish his own identity as an "alpha male."

Hillary, too, needed her own space during her Senate race and Clinton cooperated staying on the sidelines, discreetly quiet - and busily raising money - while Gore and Hillary ran their campaigns. So why is Clinton jumping in now?

The impact of Clinton's memoirs on the Kerry campaign cannot have escaped so astute a political observer as our 42nd president. He knows full well what he is



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

doing and what its effect on the Kerry campaign will be.

When Clinton's book hits the shelves, Kerry will not be able to get a word in edgewise. All the stories will be about Clinton, just as the Democratic candidate for president is trying to define his themes and get out his message.

Clinton will, of course, use the book tour to campaign for Kerry. He will knock President Bush and praise the Massachusetts Democrat extravagantly. But nothing will deflect from the attention Clinton will get and Kerry will not. There is only so much oxygen in the room and the president will suck it all up.

Clinton is deciding to publish now because he wants to deprive Kerry of momentum. He realizes that if Kerry wins, Hillary will probably never be president. He knows that she won't be able to run in 2008 because a victorious Kerry would undoubtedly seek re-election.

Even in 2012, it is Kerry's vice president who would be the likely nominee. And, if he or she wins, he'll run for a second term in 2016. By 2020, Hillary will be 73.

Or is Clinton publishing in June to generate momentum to force Kerry to put his wife on the ticket?

Either way, Clinton must know the impact his publication is likely to have. Kerry did not have a very good introduction to the American people. His post-primary period has been, thus far, a disaster, with his own flubs emphasizing Bush's accusation that he is unready to lead America during wartime.

The Democratic National Convention, in early August, is his chance to re-introduce himself. He needs all of June and July to build momentum. But instead, he will face all Clinton all the time.

After the Democratic Convention, Kerry faces two events that will leave him gasping for breath - the Republican Convention at the end of August and the third anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. He desperately needs a good summer to prepare and fortify his vote against these shocks.

But now Clinton is robbing him of the chance. And that is not by chance.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**
- Today is Thursday, May 13th, the 134th day of 2004. There are 232 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History:
- On May 13, 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot and seriously wounded in St. Peter's Square by Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca.
- On this date:
- In 1607, the English colony at Jamestown, Va., was settled.
- In 1842, composer Sir Arthur Sullivan, who collaborated with Sir William Gilbert in writing 14 comic operas, was born in London.
- In 1846, the United States declared that a state of war already existed against Mexico.
- In 1917, three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, reported seeing a vision of the Virgin Mary.
- In 1940, in his first speech as prime minister of Britain, Winston Churchill told the House of Commons, "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat."
- In 1954, 50 years ago, President Eisenhower signed into law the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Act.
- In 1954, the musical play "The Pajama Game" opened on Broadway.
- In 1958, Vice President Nixon's limousine was battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.
- In 1985, a confrontation between Philadelphia authorities and the radical group MOVE ended as police dropped an explosive onto the group's headquarters; 11 people died in the resulting fire.
- Ten years ago: President Clinton nominated federal appeals Judge Stephen G. Breyer to the U.S. Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Harry A. Blackmun.
- Five years ago: Russian lawmakers opened hearings on whether President Boris Yeltsin should be impeached. (The lower chamber of parliament ended up rejecting all five charges raised against Yeltsin, including one accusing him of starting the Chechen War.)
- Pulitzer Prize-winning editor and columnist Meg Greenfield died in Washington at age 68.
- One year ago: A judge ruled that Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols should stand trial in state court on 160 counts of first-degree murder. The government unveiled a more colorful version of the new \$20 Algerian army commandos freed 17 European tourists who'd been kidnapped in the Sahara Desert by an al-Qaida-linked terror group.

Gan oppo wins

NEW India's opposition party captured parliament according Thursday, a Prime Minister Vajpayee's dynasty to the Vajpayee ceded defeat for Sonia Gandhi's born widow Prime Minister to become it. It was one political up independent ago.

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Gandhi-led opposition wins coup

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's opposition Congress party captured the most seats in parliamentary elections, according to early results Thursday, a stunning defeat for Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee that was almost certain to return the Gandhi dynasty to power.

Vajpayee's ruling party conceded defeat, opening the way for Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, to become the country's leader. It was one of the most dramatic political upsets since Indian independence almost 60 years ago.

The results reflected the feeling by millions of India's rural poor that they had been left out of the economic boom promoted by Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party-led government.

"We have not got the mandate of the people," said BJP President Venkaiah Naidu, adding that the decision was taken at a 90-minute meeting of the party and its coalition partners.

Congress and its allies had already claimed victory and declared that Gandhi, the party leader, would be the next prime minister, after early results showed the party and its allies were ahead of Vajpayee's 11-member National Democratic Alliance.

After more than four hours of vote-counting for 539 of Parliament's 543 elected seats, all television stations cited unofficial figures showing Gandhi's bloc ahead of the governing alliance.

George Fernandes, defense minister under Vajpayee, said the new Parliament could meet as early as Monday.

It was an embarrassing defeat for Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist-led government, which had called elections six months early because it felt confident of winning an even bigger majority in Parliament, based on the roaring economy and prospects of peace with Pakistan.

Before the five-phased elections, which began April 20, Vajpayee and his alliance had been expected to win enough seats to eventually form a government and rule the country for another five years.

But Congress focused its campaign on the country's 300 million people who still live on less than a dollar a day. It hammered away at the lack of even basic infrastructure, electricity and potable water for millions of rural poor.

A leader in Vajpayee's coalition said the results were "totally against our expectations."

Gandhi has pushed for a secular India in contrast to the BJP's Hindu nationalist message. Her two children, Rahul and Priyanka, are up-and-coming politicians and state-run television reported that Rahul won his race to enter parliament for the first time.

The Gandhi dynasty dominated Indian politics since independence from British colonial rule in 1947. Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, headed the country from independence until his 1964 death. He was followed by his daughter, Indira Gandhi, who was killed by her own bodyguards in 1984.

Rajiv, her son and Sonia's husband, took power and ruled until 1989. Two years later, he too was assassinated.

During the campaign, Mahajan had called Gandhi's Indian-born children foreigners and had stoked the debate — dubbed the "Sonia factor" — over whether a foreign-born citizen should rule India.

Israel authorities search for remains of soldiers

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hundreds of Israeli troops fanned out along the Egyptian border Thursday to search for remains of five comrades killed in the bombing of a military vehicle, while Israeli missile strikes on a Palestinian refugee camp killed 11 people and wounded 29 others.

The five soldiers were killed Wednesday when Palestinians blew up an Israeli armored vehicle, the second such attack in two days. In three days of rapidly escalating violence, 11 Israeli soldiers and 26 Palestinians have been killed. At least 235 Palestinians have been wounded.

Early Thursday, Israeli forces pulled out of Gaza City following the biggest offensive in the area in years. The military said it had completed its search for body parts from six soldiers killed in the first bombing, a huge explosion that destroyed an armored vehicle on Tuesday.

The army left behind a swath of destruction in Gaza City: one high-rise building demolished, two others rendered uninhabitable, walls collapsed from explosions, hundreds of trees uprooted, Gaza's main road rendered impassable for two miles.

The escalating violence renewed debate in Israel over its presence in Gaza, where 7,500 Jewish settlers live among 1.3 million Palestinians. Israeli com-

mentators said the violence was increasingly reminiscent of Israel's guerrilla war in Lebanon that ended with a sudden pullout in 2000.

Following Wednesday's armored vehicle attack, as many as 1,000 Israeli soldiers and dozens of tanks and armored personnel carriers fanned out in the border area between Gaza and Egypt.

The forces were looking for body parts, which were scattered over a large area, and securing the narrow road near the Rafah refugee camp where the attack took place.

The vehicle that exploded was carrying a ton of explosives, used to blow up weapons-smuggling tunnels, between Egypt and Gaza, military sources said. The army said it had been attacked by a rocket-propelled grenade.

The force of the blast sent body parts flying up to a half a mile away, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The dual attacks dealt a tough blow to the standing of Israel's military and raised new questions about its continuing presence in Gaza.

The victims in Wednesday's attack included the son of Shlomo Vishinski, a well-known actor.

Vishinski blamed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud Party for his son Lior's death, saying the young man had been a "patsy" of the party's hard-line policies.

Soldiers: Abuse not representative of military interrogators as whole

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. (AP) — Pfc. Ryan Johnson finishes his military training next week on the proper way to interrogate prisoners, though images from Iraq are casting a shadow over his new skills.

"Here we are putting all this time and effort into training and now the world is looking at us as if this is what we were trained to do," said Johnson. "It's nothing like that."

Photographs of military guards abusing Iraqis don't reflect the tactics used by Americans to extract information from prisoners, said Johnson and other soldiers at the nation's training ground for Army interrogators.

The training at Fort Huachuca's Intelligence Center emphasizes the

humane treatment of prisoners and a prohibition on torture and other abuses, the soldiers said Wednesday.

Pictures of abused Iraqi prisoners have sparked outrage throughout the world and led to criticism of the supervision at the military prison. Several American military prison guards have been charged with crimes at Abu Ghraib prison.

"That's a bunch of rogue soldiers conducting evil acts," said Maj. Gen. James A. Marks, commander of Fort Huachuca and its Intelligence Center, about 55 miles southeast of Tucson.

Spe. Jen Scott, who completes her military intelligence training next week and then will begin learning Korean, said the images of abuse don't reflect the Army's values.

Kids exhibit



(Courtesy photo)

Stephen Taylor, a student with "Kay's Kreative Kids," is busy at work with pencil and pad. Kay's Kreative Kids will exhibit their art from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, May 16 at White Deer Land Museum in Pampa. The display is open to the public.

Boston backs governor's conditions for out-of-state gay, lesbian unions

BOSTON (AP) — Boston will not offer marriage licenses to out-of-state couples, a decision that adds to the confusing patchwork of rules less than a week before gay marriage becomes legal in Massachusetts.

The city's chief lawyer, Merita Hopkins, issued a statement Wednesday saying the city will accept marriage applications "from everyone except partners who do not reside in Massachusetts, and neither one of which intends to reside in Massachusetts."

Officials said the city would not require proof of residency. Instead, couples would be required to fill out a form saying they plan to move to Massachusetts, and sign the form under penalty of perjury.

The move apparently falls in line with Gov. Mitt Romney's efforts to limit same-sex unions by making them illegal for non-residents, although communities across the state are divided.

So far, officials in Worcester, the state's second-largest city; the Cape Cod town of Provincetown; and the Boston suburb of Somerville have said they will issue licenses to out-of-state couples.

Officials in Cambridge and Northampton, a western Massachusetts city with a large gay population, said they would adhere to Romney's guidelines.

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, headed by

three bishops who support gay marriage, said it would nonetheless bar clergy from performing gay or lesbian weddings. The diocese cited restrictive language in the canons and prayerbook of the church.

Several other denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Presbyterian Church (USA), have asked clergy not to officiate at same-sex marriages.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has endorsed same-sex unions, and other denominations, such as the United Church of Christ, have left the decision to individual

clergy members.

Romney has said a 1913 state law prohibits couples from marrying in Massachusetts if their marriage would not be legal in their home state. No other state recognizes same-sex marriage.

A spokesman for Romney declined to comment on Boston's decision. He has in the past threatened legal action against city and town clerks statewide who defy his interpretation of the law.

Boston's move came as conservative groups asked a federal judge for an injunction on the decision by the state's highest court permitting marriage licenses to be issued to same-sex couples.

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Tom, Lineman

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The Pampa News Comics

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

MOM CUT CORD TO HER SON FOR EACH DAUGHTER-IN-LAW

DEAR ABBY: I just finished reading the letter from "Sick of the Bad Rep." who is depressed at the thought of having three daughters-in-law when her three sons marry. Well, I have eight daughters-in-law, and I, too, was scared. Yes, mothers-in-law do get a bad rap -- and often it is well-deserved.

When my eldest son married, I knew it was time to cut the cord. So, I cut the strings off a thoroughly worn apron -- a visible sign of my intentions -- and washed, starched, ironed and placed them in a gift box, and gave it to my new daughter-in-law. She was thrilled and let me know it.

I now have seven more daughters-in-law, and they are all precious to me. One after another, they have told me how much they appreciated the manner in which they were welcomed into the family, and my ability to let go.

I agree with you, Abby, that "Bad Rep's" attitude is self-fulfilling. If she has done a good job rearing her sons, she has nothing to fear. Love is not divided; it is multiplied. Her sons' wives will bless her, and she'll have three precious daughters. -- ONE WHO KNOWS

DEAR ONE WHO KNOWS: I have received a bushel of letters echoing your sentiments -- but yours was by far the most original way of demonstrating to your daughters-in-law there would be no competition. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: It isn't just straight couples who have that dilemma. I'm a 48-year-old gay man. Twenty-five years ago I was in my first cohabiting relationship, with "Boyd." His mother made Joan Crawford look like June Allison. Boyd had been married and divorced years before we met. His father was very pleasant. Boyd and I shared a room when we visited their home. The first time we stayed there,

I noticed there were pictures of his wedding everywhere. When his sisters came to meet me, one of them asked why the wedding pictures were out. The four of us had a good laugh.

I am a fastidious housekeeper. The first time Boyd's parents visited us, I cleaned the house from top to bottom. One morning I got up to start breakfast and found his mom cleaning the sliding glass patio doors. I bit my tongue. As I handed her a cup of coffee, she said the sun looked so pretty coming through the doors, but the streaks on the glass had ruined the view. I wanted to slap her, but I hung onto my cool.

When people complain about their mothers-in-law I often share my stories. My point is, a woman can be a bad mother-in-law, be it to her son's wife -- or husband. -- OVER THE RAINBOW, HARRISBURG, PA.

DEAR OVER RAINBOW: I'm sorry your mother-in-law turned out to be the Wicked Witch of the West instead of Glenda. I have a mountain of letters from readers who respect, admire and love their mothers-in-law. They enjoy relationships straight out of the Book of Ruth, which, by the way, contains one of the most beautiful love poems ever written -- spoken by Ruth to her mother-in-law, Naomi:

"Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

"Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me." (Ruth 1:16-17)

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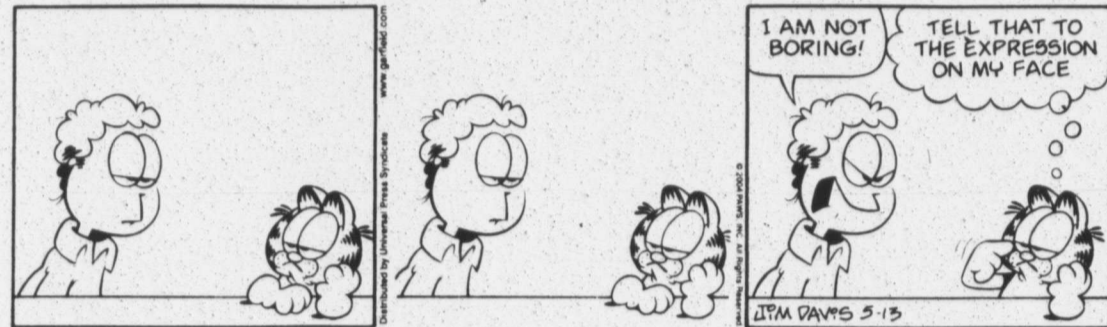
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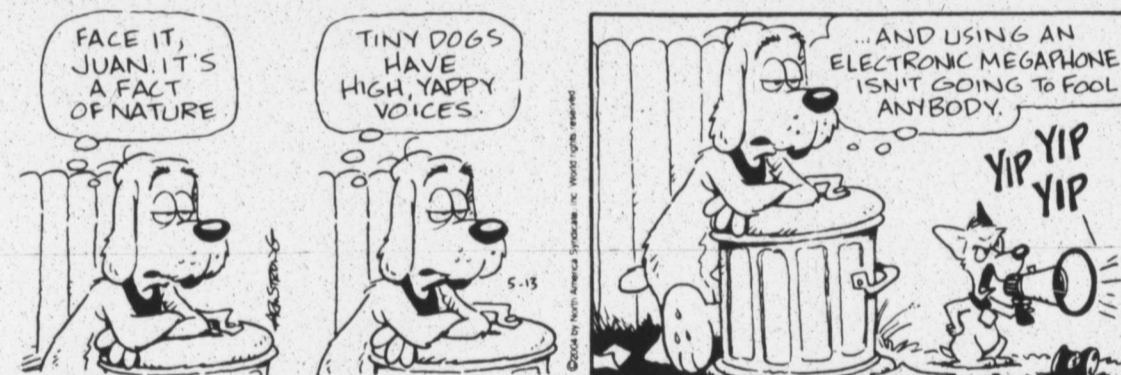
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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

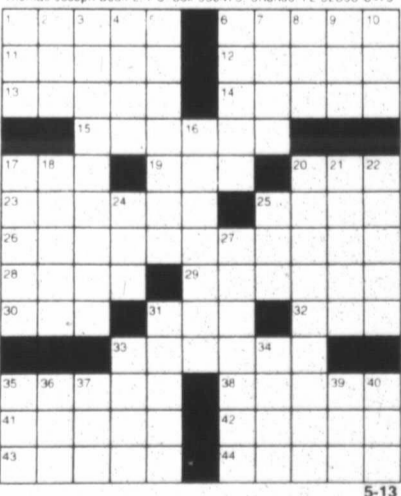
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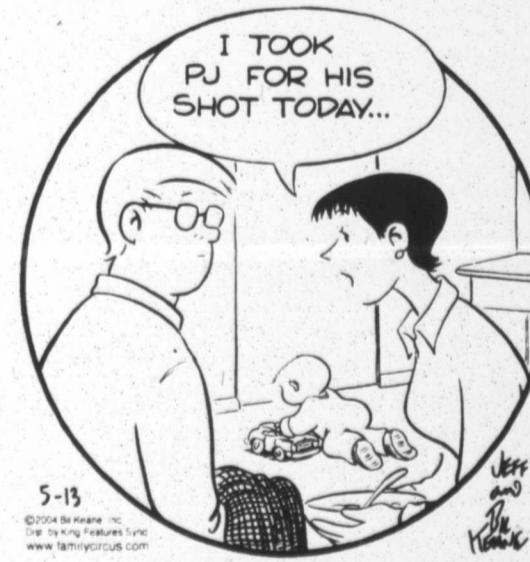


Marmaduke



"Sometimes there is nothing but garbage on TV. He loves that."

The Family Circus



"... And I can tell you there's nothing wrong with his lungs or his tear ducts."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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SPORTS

Glo-Valve gets revenge win over Celanese

PAMPA — Two weeks can make a lot of difference in the Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken League. Two weeks ago, Celanese Corporation had only three hits, but they soundly defeated Glo-Valve Service 15-5. Tuesday, Celanese again had only three hits, but Glo-Valve turned the tables with a 15-0 win.

Tyler Malone won his third game of the season following allowing a first-inning single to Brent Green, a third-inning single to Tanner Davis, a fourth-inning single to Brenden Rice and allowing Rylan Clark to reach base after being hit by a pitch. He struck out 10, walked none and allowed no runner past second base. Alex Clendening

pitching one inning, striking out two of the three batters he faced.

Glo-Valve went to work in the first inning. Anthony Allen walked and went to second on a wild pitch. He made the first run of the game on a single by Kade Wilson. Wilson took second on a passed ball, stole third and trotted home on a single by Clendening. Clendening made it to second and third on wild pitches and scored when the Celanese pitcher dropped the throw back from the catcher after a pitch.

Walks to Cody Davis and Allen to open Glo-Valve's second inning were followed by a double steal and an error, plating both runners to make

the score 5-0 in Glo-Valve's favor.

The winners scored three more in the fourth inning. Allen hit an inside-the-park home run. Wilson singled and went to second on an error. After advancing to third on a ground out, he scooted home on a wild pitch. Clendening walked, stole second and went to third on an error and scored on a passed ball.

The roof fell in on Celanese in the fifth inning. Travis Chester opened with a double. He was sacrificed to third by Brennan Dickinson and scored on a wild pitch. Davis walked and came all the way around to score on a double by Allen. A single by Wilson sent Allen home.

Wilson advanced to second on an error and came in to score on a double by Malone. Clendening walked and Evan Meschke was safe on an error with Wilson scoring on the play. Chester's second hit of the inning, a triple, chased both Clendening and Meschke home.

Chester, with a double and triple in two trips to the plate, a run scored and two RBI, was one of the leaders for Glo-Valve in hitting. Wilson was three for four scoring three times and making two RBI. Allen had a double, a home run and two walks. He scored four runs and had two RBI.

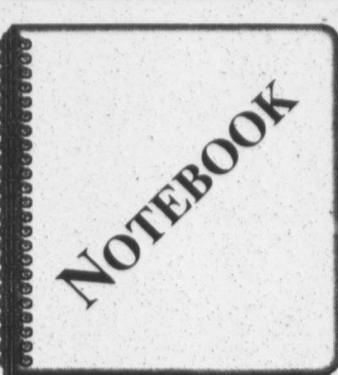
The defensive play of the game for Glo-Valve was made

when Malone, at second base, went into short right field to jump and backhand a bid for a Texas League single to end the game.

Tanner Davis made a great throw from deep second base to third to nail a Glo-Valve runner trying to advance on an overthrow for the outstanding defensive play for Celanese.

Glo-Valve kept pace with Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency for first place with a 5-1 record. DFB edged D.E. Chase Inc. 4-2 in the nightcap.

Games remaining this week include Rotary Club against Chase at 5:45 p.m. Friday, followed by Celanese and DFB at 7:45 p.m. Friday.



BASEBALL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Chicago Cubs ace Kerry Wood is expected to miss his next scheduled start because of a sore arm, but tests found no tears in the All-Star's triceps.

Wood left Tuesday night's game against the Los Angeles Dodgers after two innings as a precaution after feeling tightness in his right triceps muscle. He was examined Wednesday and an MRI exam showed inflammation underneath the muscle and mild tendinitis in his elbow.

Wood is 3-3 with a 2.82 ERA. He's tied with Roger Clemens for second in the NL in strikeouts, behind Randy Johnson.

The Cubs' other ace, Mark Prior, has been on the disabled list all season because of a sore elbow and inflammation in an Achilles' tendon.

Wood missed the 1999 season after having reconstructive surgery on his right elbow.

POKER RUN

PAMPA — The third annual Special Olympics Poker Run on Saturday will begin and end at the Top O' Texas Rodeo, east of the city on highway 60.

Special Olympian athletes will be working at all the stops.

The first bike out is at 11:30 a.m. and the last bike out is at 1 p.m. It will be \$10 per hand, unlimited hands.

A live auction begins at 3 p.m. and silent auction items will be sold at 3:30 p.m.

Winning hands will be announced after the silent auction.

High-hand is \$250 and low-hand is \$100.

Celebration entertainment will be held following the event featuring "Doobius," a classic rock band.

Sports e-mail

Articles and photographs from coaches or volunteer reporters can be e-mailed to sports@thepampa.com at The Pampa News sports department.

Photos must have a J-Peg format.

Articles may also be faxed to 669-2520 or left on voice mail at 669-2527, ext. 321.

Deadline is June 4 for softball signups

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be offering the following leagues for Summer Softball: Men's Open, Mixed Open, Men's Church.

The entry fees or sponsor's fees for teams are \$200 per team (\$185 if team is currently sanctioned). The player's fee is \$15 per player with a minimum of 11 persons for Men's Open & Men's Church and 12 persons for Mixed Open.

The entry deadline is June 4 at 5 p.m. There will be no teams added after this date.

Schedules will be available after 1 p.m. on June 9 at the Recreation Office.

Play will begin the week of June 14.

Roster Forms, fact sheets

and by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at City Hall, Room 204 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Summer Softball Leagues, please call 669-5740 during business hours.

Golf

Hidden Hills Seniors Long-Short Scramble

(May 12)

1. Bill Hammer, Joe Mabry, Doug Reeves and Dale Butler, 138.

2. Jim Ashford, Carl Johnson, Dwayne Stiles and Richard Abbott, 140.

3. Jerry Davis, Nathan Lancaster, Charlie Terrell and Reece Field, 141.

4. Gerry McCabe, Ray Covalt, Bob Henderson and Norman Willingham, 143.

Closest to pin: Norman Willingham, No. 12.

Closest to pin: Carl Johnson, No. 15.

Halftime huddle



The Cobras huddle up at halftime in a recent Pampa Soccer Association game. The Cobras are an Under 12 boys team.

Smarty Jones banks on lucky No. 7 in Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP) — John Servis is counting on lucky No. 7 to produce another victory for unbeaten Smarty Jones.

Picking second Wednesday in the Preakness post-position draw, Servis selected the seventh spot for his Kentucky Derby winner. The calculated decision took into account the other 10 horses, yet was based primarily on plain, old superstition.

"We've had a lot of luck with 7 this year, and with that post open, there was no reason to change," Servis said. "He was 7 in the Southwest Stakes and 7 in the Rebel, and the Kentucky Derby was his seventh win in a row."

And so, Smarty Jones will attempt to move one step closer to becoming the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978 by bolting from the seventh gate in Saturday's race.

"I think we got a good post. We tried to get some speed inside us," Servis said. "We've also got a couple of real tough

horses outside us, and they kind of have the same running style that we do. So it might set up a lot like the Derby, where we have some horses outside of us pushing us down to the inside."

Servis and the Smarty Jones contingent would like nothing more than a repeat of the Kentucky Derby, when the horse stayed in striking distance before finishing with a flourish to win by nearly three lengths.

A field of 11 3-year-olds was entered Wednesday, including Derby runner-up Lion Heart, The Cliff's Edge (fifth), Borrego (10th) and Song of the Sword (11th) are also back for another shot.

The newcomers are Derby Trial winner Sir Shackleton, Tesio Stakes winner Water Cannon, and Little Matth Man. Only two non-Derby starters have won the Preakness since 1983 — Deputed Testimony in '83 and Red Bullet in 2000.

Smarty Jones opened as the 8-5 morning-line favorite, with

Lion Heart at 3-1 and Imperialism at 5-1.

Rock Hard Ten was 6-1; The Cliff's Edge and Eddington were both 8-1; Borrego 15-1; Sir Shackleton, Song of the Sword and Water Cannon were each 30-1; and Little Matth Man was 50-1.

While Smarty Jones has found success in the No. 7, The Cliff's Edge has derived little good fortune from another so-called lucky charm: horse-shoes.

The dark brown colt lost both front shoes in the slop at the Derby, and now is in danger of missing the Preakness because of a sore right front foot. Trainer Nick Zito said he will decide Friday whether to run the horse in Saturday's race.

"Maybe everything related to the shoes has caught up to him," Zito said.

Unlucky for Zito, perhaps lucky for Eddington, which got the No. 9 post with the ninth pick.

"That's fine. I'd rather be out there than inside," trainer Mark Hennig said. "It's not a bad post. Sounds like we might be the 8 instead of the 9 anyway, and if that happens, that's where we would have selected, even if we had the first choice."

Lion Heart trainer Patrick Biancone chose the rail, a decision that had nothing to do with superstition and everything to do with the speed of his horse.

"I took it because we want to be on the inside," Biancone said. "I think everybody knows the closer to the rail, the better it

is."

Which is why Water Cannon got stuck at No. 11 after picking last.

"If we had our choice, we'd go for No. 1. We didn't get that choice, so now we're on the other end," trainer Linda Albert said. "That's OK. We'll figure out a strategy."

Albert will be plotting to do the same thing as her peers — beat Smarty Jones.

"We're on a new track, a new surface, less horses, different competition," Biancone said. "It's a new match."

Heat, Pacers are all even

MIAMI (AP) — A series that once looked so one-sided is now dead even. And Reggie Miller feels lucky to be in that position.

Lamar Odom scored 22 points and Caron Butler added 21 to lead the Miami Heat to a 100-88 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday, tying the best-of-

seven Eastern Conference semifinal series at two games apiece.

"Right now, we're not playing as hard as the Heat," said Miller, who was 0-for-5 from the field. "Is it time to panic? No, but right now is the time for us collectively to understand the mistakes we've been making."

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SCOREBOARD

BOWLING				
HARVESTER LANES				
League Standings				
Lone Star League				
(Week 25)				
Team	Won	Lost		
Harvester Cafe	65	35		
Pampa Transmission	57	43		
Naw & Then	57	43		
UMC	53	47		
G.B.'s Contractors	49	51		
B&K Carpentry	48	52		
Whitehead Cattle Co.	45	55		
Week's High Scores				
High scratch game: Sandra Farrington, 193; High scratch series: Kim Davis, 525; High handicap game: Jan Chambers, 239; High handicap series: Yvonne Skinner, 644				
Generation Gap				
(Week 33)				
Team	Won	Lost		
Split This	24	1		
For Better Or Worse	21	2		
The People	21	3		
M&M's	19	4		
The Whittonizers	17	5		
We Don't Know	16	6		
Bottom of the Barrel	16	7		
Rice O' Roni's	11	8		
Week's High Scores				
Girls				
High scratch game: Shayley Morriss, 176; High scratch series: Shayley Morriss, 467				
Boys				
High scratch game: Zach Wilson, 254; High scratch series: Zach Wilson, 650; High handicap game: Michael Adams, 285; High handicap series: Michael Adams, 741				
Ladies				
High scratch game: Judy Morriss, 232; High scratch series: Judy Morriss, 569; High handicap game: Judy Morriss, 278; High handicap series: Judy Morriss, 687				
Men				
High scratch game: Gary Winton, 287; High scratch series: Gary Winton, 801; High handicap game: Gary Winton, 287; High handicap series: Gary Winton, 801				
BASEBALL				
National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	19	14	.576	—
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	2
New York	15	19	.441	4 1/2
Atlanta	14	18	.438	4 1/2
Montreal	10	24	.294	9 1/2
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	21	12	.636	—
Chicago	18	15	.545	3
St. Louis	18	16	.529	3 1/2
Cincinnati	17	16	.515	4
Milwaukee	17	16	.515	4
Pittsburgh	13	17	.433	6 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	22	10	.688	—
San Diego	20	14	.588	3
San Francisco	15	19	.441	8
Arizona	14	19	.424	8 1/2
Colorado	13	18	.419	8 1/2
Tuesday's Games				
Milwaukee 8, Montreal 5, 14 innings				
Houston 6, Florida 1				
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 1				
Pittsburgh 15, Colorado 10, 12 innings				
Arizona 9, N.Y. Mets 5				
Cincinnati 6, San Diego 3				
Los Angeles 7, Chicago Cubs 3				
Philadelphia 10, San Francisco 4				
Wednesday's Games				
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 2				
Milwaukee 4, Montreal 3				
Florida 5, Houston 2				
Pittsburgh at Colorado, ppd., rain				
N.Y. Mets 1, Arizona 0				
San Diego 2, Cincinnati 1				
Los Angeles 4, Chicago Cubs 0				
San Francisco 4, Philadelphia 3				
Thursday's Games				
Montreal (Kim 2-0) at Milwaukee (D Davis 2-2), 1:05 p.m.				
Atlanta (Thomson 2-2) at St. Louis (Suppan 3-3), 1:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Benson 3-2 and Ol Perez 2-1) at Colorado (Estes 4-2 and Jennings 2-4), 2:30 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 3-1) at Los Angeles (Nomo) 3-3), 3:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Padilla 1-4) at San Francisco (Rueter 1-3), 3:35 p.m.				
Florida (Pavano 3-1) at Houston (Redding 1-3), 8:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Seo 1-3) at Arizona (Webb 2-2), 9:35 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Acevedo 2-2) at San Diego (Peavy 2-2), 10:05 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Atlanta (Ramirez 0-3) at Milwaukee (Santos 1-0), 8:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 3-3) at Houston (Oswalt 2-1), 8:05 p.m.				
Florida (Beckett 3-2) at St. Louis (Marquis 1-3), 8:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Milton 3-0) at Colorado (Kennedy 4-0), 9:05 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Mitre 1-2) at San Diego (Valdez 3-1), 10:05 p.m.				
Montreal (Ohka 1-5) at Arizona (Fossum 0-0), 10:05 p.m.				
Cincinnati (P Wilson 4-0) at Los Angeles (Ishii 5-1), 10:10 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Vogelsong 1-3) at San Francisco (Hermanson 1-2), 10:15 p.m.				
American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	14	.588	—
New York	19	14	.576	1/2
Baltimore	16	13	.552	1 1/2
Toronto	14	20	.412	6
Tampa Bay	9	23	.281	10
Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	19	13	.594	—
Chicago	18	13	.581	1/2
Detroit	15	18	.455	4 1/2
Cleveland	14	19	.424	5 1/2
Kansas City	11	21	.344	8
West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Anaheim	23	11	.676	—
Texas	21	12	.636	1 1/2
Oakland	17	16	.515	5 1/2
Seattle	12	21	.364	10 1/2
Tuesday's Games				
Boston 5, Cleveland 3				
Oakland 5, Detroit 4, 15 innings				
N.Y. Yankees 8, Anaheim 7, 10 innings				
Texas 5, Tampa Bay 4				
Chicago White Sox 15, Baltimore 0				
Minnesota 7, Seattle 6, 11 innings				
Kansas City 5, Toronto 1				
Wednesday's Games				
Kansas City 4, Toronto 3				
Cleveland 6, Boston 4				
Oakland 2, Detroit 1				
Anaheim 11, N.Y. Yankees 2				
Texas 9, Tampa Bay 8				
Baltimore at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain				
Minnesota 4, Seattle 3				
Thursday's Games				
Oakland (Redman 2-1) at Detroit (Maroth 3-1), 1:05 p.m.				
Anaheim (Lackey 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Lieber 1-1), 1:05 p.m.				
Seattle (R Franklin 2-2) at Minnesota (Santana 1-0), 1:10 p.m.				
Baltimore (Cabrera 0-0 and Bedard 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Garland 2-1 and Diaz 0-0), 2:20 p.m.				
Texas (Dickey 4-1) at Tampa Bay (Hendrickson 1-3), 2:15 p.m.				
Boston (Schilling 4-2) at Toronto (Batista 0-3), 7:05 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
Boston (Lowe 3-3) at Toronto (J Miller 1-0), 7:05 p.m.				
Texas (Benot 1-0) at Detroit (Knotts 0-0), 7:05 p.m.				
Seattle (Meche 1-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Mussina 3-4), 7:05 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Abbott 2-4) at Cleveland (Ja Davis 1-2), 7:05 p.m.				
Anaheim (Colon 4-2) at Baltimore (Ainsworth 0-1), 7:35 p.m.				
Minnesota (Lohse 1-3) at Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 3-1), 8:05 p.m.				
Oakland (Hudson 3-1) at Kansas City (Gobble 1-1), 8:10 p.m.				

DFB wins Optimist 11-12 thriller highlighted by pitching and defense

PAMPA — In a good old-fashioned pitching duel, Duncan, Fraser & Bridges squeaked by D.F. Chase 4-2 Tuesday night in Optimist baseball action. The theme of the evening was defense and pitching for much of the game.

DFB's Braden Hunt and Chase's Shane Smith battled pitch for pitch until DFB scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth.

With the score at 0-0, Sean Malone reached first base in the bottom of the fifth on an error. He stole second base with two outs and took third on a passed ball. The ball got away from the third baseman, which allowed Malone to score the first run of the game. After Zach Organ and Corbin Clifton reached base

on errors, Braden Hunt crushed a 2-2 pitch over the left field fence for a three-run home run. That gave DFB a 4-0 lead.

Hunt took a no-hitter into the top of the sixth and quickly got two outs. But Kelby Rucker ruined the no-hitter with a solid single to right field. After another infield single by Joseph Mechelay and two errors by DFB's defense, the score was 4-2, and Chase had runners at second and third. But Hunt struck out the last batter to preserve the victory.

Hunt pitched six innings, giving up two runs on two hits. He struck out 16, walked one and hit one batter. Smith pitched five solid innings for Chase and gave up four runs on three hits. He struck out

four and walked one. Several players for Chase made outstanding defensive plays.

In the bottom of the second and no score, DFB loaded the bases with two outs. Olin Boyd hit a line drive into the right center gap, but Chase's Ramon Jimenez made a diving catch to save three runs.

In the bottom of the fourth with still no score, DFB's Zach Doan opened the inning by reaching on an error. Garrett Ericson hit a hard groundball up the middle, but Craig Connor made an outstanding play, stepped on second base and threw to Rucker at first for a rally-killing double play.

With the victory, DFB improved its record to 5-1.

Marlins 5, Astros 2

HOUSTON (AP) — Dontrelle Willis stood in front of his locker without even a trickle of sweat on his brow or uniform.

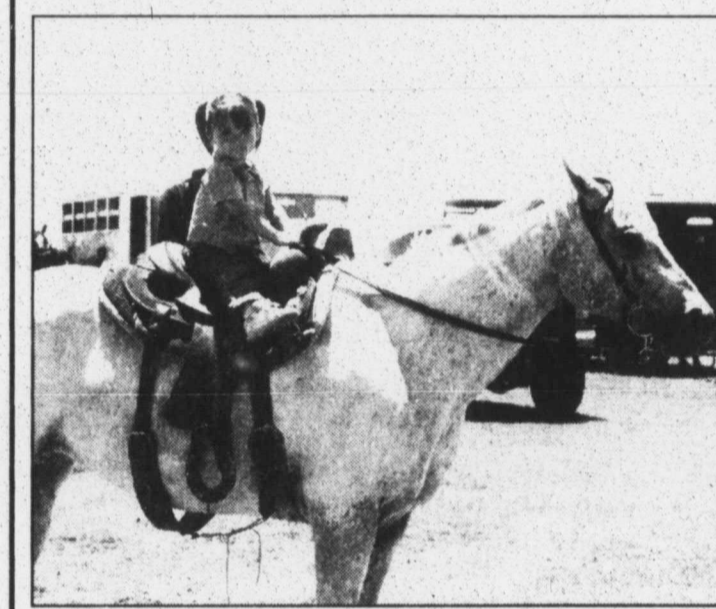
He didn't look the least bit tired after pitching the third complete game of his career. In fact, Willis probably could have gone another nine innings against the Houston Astros.

"He was in complete control of the game except for one inning," manager Jack McKeon said, "and he got out of that."

Willis pitched a six-hitter and Mike Lowell homered twice, leading the Florida Marlins over Houston 5-2 Wednesday night.

Coming off his first loss of the season against Los Angeles last week, Willis (4-1) bounced back with a dominant performance against the NL's top-hitting team.

Little cowgirl



Little cowgirl Madison Franks, 2, is pictured on Daisy at a recent play day at the Sam Condo Arena west of Pampa. The play day was organized by Sand & Sage Saddle Club. Madison's parents are Steven and Pam Franks.

Blalock's bat helps Rangers hang on against Devil Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The Devil Rays came up just short in their bid to end a lengthy slide.

Hank Blalock hit his third homer in two games, and the Texas Rangers hung on to beat Tampa Bay 9-8 Wednesday night and send the Devil Rays to their seventh straight loss.

Texas, which has won 13 of 17, took a 9-5 lead on Alfonso Soriano's two-run double in the

ninth, but in the bottom half Francisco Cordero allowed an RBI single to Rocco Baldelli and a two-run double to Aubrey Huff, who tied a career high with five RBIs.

"It seems like if we can get one win, hopefully we can start rolling from there," Huff said. "It seems like we've been in such a rut that maybe one win will set us off."

Huff's drive hit high off the

wall in deep right-center, coming within a few feet of being a game-tying homer.

"That might have put us over the hump," Tampa Bay second baseman Geoff Blum said. "It's just the nature of the beast-right now."

With runners at first and second, Cordero then struck out Julio Lugo on three pitches for his 12th save in as many chances. Soriano, Kevin Mench and

Brad Fullmer also homered for Texas, which has 14 homers in five games against Tampa Bay and has gone 4-1 against the Devil Rays.

"There's been a lot of home runs so far in these games, and that's been the difference in the series," Blalock said.

Chan Ho Park (2-3) gave up five runs and seven hits in seven innings for the win.

"This is a guy with some

pedigree," Texas manager Buck Showalter said. "Tonight was a good example of a guy battling his way through it and not pulling the dirt in around him."

Tino Martinez and Huff homered for the Devil Rays, who have lost 14 of 16. The seven-game slide equals Tampa Bay's longest (last June 5-12) since Lou Piniella became manager at the start of the 2003 season.

"The team battled," Piniella

said. "Saw some good things out there and some things we have to straighten out."

John Halama (0-1) gave up three runs and three hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Martinez hit a two-run homer in the first, but David Dellucci hit a sacrifice fly in the second and Texas took a 4-2 lead in the third when Blalock had a two-run homer and Soriano followed with a solo shot.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 14, 2004:

A lot goes on behind the scenes, and often others only see the end results, which could be a problem. Sometimes you might seem inordinately aggressive or strong. Learn to use words that others can hear to say what you need. If you are angry now and have been hurt, you should express those feelings before you hit the temper phase. Take time for yourself, whether it is walking or a new pastime. Yoga could help you work through stress. If you are single, you will meet people easily and actually could collide, literally, into your special person. You might be hesitant to reveal yourself too quickly. Make it OK to get to know each other slowly. If you are attached, spend more time with each other. Share more, and you'll bond more closely. Give each other permission to disagree. ARIES reads you cold.

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)
 ★★★★★ Your high energy can and will work against you if you're not careful. Sometimes you might not understand just how bossy you seem to others. Focus on what you want, and give others the space to tumble in whatever direction they would like. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★ Take your time making decisions or even expressing your malcontent about what goes on. Not everyone needs to understand what you are thinking. Pick and choose your words with care. You don't want to alienate anyone. Tonight: Take some time off.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Meetings develop into parties. Getting together with a friend could become a social occasion. Be willing to put your best foot forward. Be careful how much you spend in your pursuit of good times. There will be a tomorrow. Tonight: You are the party.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★★★ Mars in your sign gives you that extra get-up-and-go. At the same time, you could be slightly more feisty than normal. Bosses and those in charge push you to your limit. Handle your obligations with your normal diplomacy. Tonight: Let loose.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You might be acting out on more anger than you realize. You need to back up some and take a general overview of what is happening within yourself. You could be coloring your relationships more than you realize. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★★★ Let others run around and do what they need or want to do. Reactions prove strong and dynamic, though you don't have to play into anything. A partnership proves to be very important to you. Listen to this person; he or she supports you. Tonight: Don't be coerced into spending more than you want to spend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ Others can make demands, and you can say "no." Pressure builds at work. Just don't take on more than you can handle. Allow another's frustration to emerge. Just don't allow it to trigger you. Your popularity grows, especially if you choose to lie back. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★★★ Make merry but don't push others too hard. Prioritize getting work done before you decide to relax and do

more of what you want. A trip or adventure might be more costly than you desire. Say "no." Your comfort comes first. Tonight: Take your shoes off and relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★★★ Your playful, inquisitive nature could get you into trouble with a very special person. Do you really want this type of havoc in your life? This person could act out by going on a spending spree. Ouch. Tonight: Think "priorities." Add spice where it counts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★★★★ Others let you know what they think, even if you don't want to hear it. Focus on security and keeping the peace. Someone might have something that is worth listening to. Be open and walk in his or her shoes. Tonight: Head home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★★★ You have worried enough for two people lately. Take action and find friends. Get on the phone and make calls. Your energy draws much more to you. You have what it takes to lead your desk. Tonight: Out and about at a favorite spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★★★★ Balance your checkbook before splurging. You might want to have an especially good time or do something very different or new. Just set your budget and maintain it. You'll be a lot happier as a result. Recognize how much you offer. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

BORN TODAY: Actress Cate Blanchett (1969), director George Lucas (1944), actor Tim Roth (1961)

 Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
 (c) 2004, by King Features Syndicate Inc.

No upsets on first day of Big 12 softball tourney

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Iowa State and Texas Tech were eliminated Wednesday as there were no upsets on the first day of the Big 12 softball tournament.

Top-seeded Nebraska and second-seeded Texas A&M were the first teams to advance in the winner's bracket while Kansas and Texas stayed alive in the consolation bracket.

Jessica Yoachim gave Nebraska a 2-1 win against Texas with a two-run double in the bottom of the fifth. The Longhorns had taken the lead in the top of the inning with an unearned run on an error by Nebraska catcher Brittny Yolo, who was fielding a sacrifice bunt.

Christina Gwyn pitched a two-hit shutout as the Longhorns won their first game 2-0 against Iowa State. Amber Hall and Alexis Garcia drove in the runs for Texas.

Nebraska will play the winner of the Baylor-Oklahoma game and Texas will play the loser.

Jessica Kapchinski pitched a shutout and Sharonna McDonald scored on a wild pitch in the first inning as Texas A&M beat Kansas 1-0. The Jayhawks had advanced by beating Texas Tech 5-1 behind a two-hitter from Kara Pierce and two RBIs from Jessica Moppin.

Texas A&M faces the winner of the Missouri-Oklahoma game and Kansas will play the loser.

Red Raiders lose in extra innings

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Drew Holder hit an RBI-double in the top of the 10th Wednesday to give Dallas Baptist a 4-3 win over Texas Tech.

With two outs in the top of the 10th, Ryan Olivo singled for the Patriots (40-1) and scored on Holder's double to left center field.

Dallas Baptist walked two Red Raiders (32-16) in the bottom of the 10th, but Stuart Sutherland came on to pitch the Patriots out of the jam.

5 Special Notice
 ADVERTISING...
10 Lost/Found
 FOUND puppy...
 FOUND boys bicy...
 FOUND on Hol...
13 Bus. Opp.
ATTENTION
 Need business...
14b Appl. Repa
 APPLIANCES...
14d Carpentry
 CUSTOM home...
OVERHEAD
 REPAIR Kidwell...
14e Carpet Serv
 NU-WAY Cleani...
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5 Special Notices

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

10 Lost/Found

FOUND puppy 2-3 months old, mix breed, 665-4738, 662-0044

FOUND boys bicycle corner of Sierra & Hobart. Call and describe. 665-4536.

FOUND on Holly Ln. small siamese mix kitten. Call 665-2734

13 Bus. Opp.

ATTENTION! Need business help? Start/expand a business! All types of assistance avail. 800-690-6897

14b Appli. Repair

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

14d Carpentry

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

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

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

14e Carpet Serv.

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

14h Gen. Serv.

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

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

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

14n Painting

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

14s Plumbing/Heat

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

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

PLUMBING parts for Mobile Homes and RVs. Faucets, repair, or replacement parts. Stocking full line of Quest/PEX Tubing & Fittings. Chief Plastic Pipe & Supply, Inc. 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa. 665-6716 or toll free 800-649-6716 VMC/Disc/AmEx/Debit

21 Help Wanted

GRAIN Millwrights & Welders for 1 yr., long job in Puerto Rico. 10,000 yd. concrete job in Northern Iowa. 1 yr. long feed mill rebuild in Maine. Wanted laborers & exp. people. Call 740-360-1907 for application! Mogensen Steel Erectors.

WANTED exp. Oil Field Truck Drivers with current Class A CDL (will consider Class B for trainees). Interview with Paul at G.P. Gunn, Inc. Hwy. 60 & 83 South, Canadian, Tx. or call 806-273-2362. Competitive pay and company benefits

EXP. cook & dishwasher needed. Full-time. No phone calls please. Apply in person at Texas Rose.

Hemphill Co. Juvenile Facility In Canadian, Tx. Male or female, must be 21 yrs. of age, must have clear criminal record **1-806-323-9713 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Equal Opportunity Employer**

CATTLE Doctor McLean Feedyard is looking for a goal-oriented individual having exp. w/ handling and judging well being of cattle. Salary is dependent upon previous exp. and referrals. All interested people should apply at Feedyard, located 4 mi. south of McLean on County Rd. 273. McLean Feedyard offers a competitive salary, ins. program, and a yearly bonus to all employees.

GATTLER Doctor McLean Feedyard is looking for a goal-oriented individual having exp. w/ handling and judging well being of cattle. Salary is dependent upon previous exp. and referrals. All interested people should apply at Feedyard, located 4 mi. south of McLean on County Rd. 273. McLean Feedyard offers a competitive salary, ins. program, and a yearly bonus to all employees.

21 Help Wanted

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

FULL Time employment. Must be 18 yrs. old. Excellent benefits. Bartlett Lumber, 500 W. Brown.

STORE helper, must be able to do heavy lifting, drive forklift. Full-time position. Apply in person. 120 S. Hobart, Pampa.

INNOVATIVE STAFFING SOLUTIONS LLC

NOW HIRING TEMPORARY AND CAREER POSITIONS!

WED IMMEDIATELY! Apply at Pampa Office: **Mechanic** *Working in Pampa *Compressor or diesel experience required

Road Construction *Positions in Canadian *Roller Operators *Equipment maintenance Class B CDL *Experienced concrete workers

Never a fee to applicant! 1224 N. Hobart St., NBC Plaza II, Ste. 11 Pampa, TX 79065 Phone (806) 665-2991

TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED: Busy oilfield trucking business has immediate openings for 2 drivers. REQUIREMENTS: • CDL Class A & DOT Physical • Hazmat End & Oilfield Experience a plus • Must pass DOT Drug Screen BENEFITS: Medical & Dental Ins. Uniforms **Apply in person at: D.E. Chase, Inc. 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx. No phone calls!**

NOW HIRING FOR Case Managers Must have a BA in Social Services **Prior Experience Desired** Hemphill Co. Juvenile Facility In Canadian, Tx. Male or female, must be 21 yrs. of age, must have clear criminal record **Phone 806-323-9713 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Equal Opportunity Employer**

Mechanic Wanted Benefits: Busy oilfield trucking business has immediate opening. Medical & Dental Ins. Uniforms **Apply in Person, D.E. Chase, Inc. 1445 S. Barnes, Pampa No Phone Calls**

21 Help Wanted

NOW HIRING FOR Assistant Facility Administrator Hemphill Co. Juvenile Facility In Canadian, Tx. Male or female, must be 21 yrs. of age, must have clear criminal record **Phone 806-323-9713 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Equal Opportunity Employer**

NOW HIRING FOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR Must have a BA in Social Services. **Prior Experience Desired** Hemphill Co. Juvenile Facility In Canadian, Tx. Male or female, must be 21 yrs. of age, must have clear criminal record **Phone 806-323-9713 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Equal Opportunity Employer**

NOW HIRING FOR Food Service Workers Hemphill Co. Juvenile Facility In Canadian, Tx. Male or female, must be 21 yrs. of age, must have clear criminal record **Phone 806-323-9713 Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Equal Opportunity Employer**

POSITION avail. for Experienced "Finish" Blade Operator Call Personnel Director at (806)274-7187

OIL & GAS ACCOUNTANT for local independent oil co. CPA required. 5+ years exp. preferred. Send resume & salary requirements to Box 82 c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066

UNION Tank Car is taking applications for car repair person / welder. For more info. 806-663-4677.

MCLEAN Care Center has immediate openings for: Dietary Cook and CNA's 10-6 p.m. shift. Call Billy Ray Johnston 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, McLean.

College Students / H.S. Sr SUMMER WORK \$10.00 BASE / APT Flex sched. Sales / Service, no exp. nec. All ages 18+ Conditions apply. Work in Pampa, apply in Amarillo (806)322-7501 www.workforstudents.com

NOW hiring cook & wait-staff positions. Evening positions only. Apply in person. Dos Caballeros, 1333 N. Hobart.

21 Help Wanted

NOW taking applications. Apply at 801 W. Francis, Pampa.

PART-TIME Drivers. Must be 18 yrs. old, have proof of ins. & drivers license. Apply at Simple Simons, Hwy. 60, Pampa.

TAKING applications at Pak-A-Burger, 1608 N. Hobart.

CLARENDON COLLEGE invites applications for following positions: **SECRETARY PAMPA CENTER** Computer proficiency and office skills are essential. A Certificate or Associate degree is preferred. The desire and aptitude to help students achieve their educational goals and objectives are a must. Screening of applicants will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Send a letter of application, resume, transcripts, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three professional references to: Joe Kyle Reeve, Dean of the Pampa Center, Clarendon College, 1601 College, Pampa, TX 79226. Clarendon College is an equal opportunity employer.

EXCEL PRODUCTION CO. a division of Curtis Companies LTD. is now accepting resumes and/or applications for an experienced field pumpner. Individual must have knowledge and experience in the operations of oil & gas wells as well as compressors & tank batteries. No phone calls will be accepted. Please bring resume or pickup application at 1050 N. Price Road or Mail resume to: **Attn: Personnel Curtis Companies LTD. P.O. Box 1800 Pampa, Tx 79066-1800**

SONIC is now taking applications. Apply in person. 1418 N. Hobart, Pampa.

CLINIC Director. Immediate opening for career focused man or woman. Management duties, inc. daily operations, financial reporting, and staff supervision. Healthcare background helpful but not req. Send responses to Box 83 c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. Resumes without benefits and salary requirements will be disregarded.

MOVING Sale. All furniture & appliances must go. No reasonable offer refused. 665-0683.

RAGGEDY Andy antique dolls primitives, bakers rack, pictures, planter box. 1619 N. Hobart (next to Rolanda's).

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

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

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

Memory Gardens of Pampa is assigning FREE Cemetery Spaces to local VETERANS that qualify and do not own cemetery property. SPACES are limited. Call today to receive yours 665-8921

WANTED: Responsible party to take on small monthly payments on High Definition Big Screen TV. 1-800-398-3970.

ATTENTION: Concessionaires, Entertainers and Crafters, sign up now for a booth in Borger Beach Bash, June 5, 2004. Call Lee @ 274-2008 for booths or Sara @ 273-5191 for entertainment.

MOVING Sale. All furniture & appliances must go. No reasonable offer refused. 665-0683.

RAGGEDY Andy antique dolls primitives, bakers rack, pictures, planter box. 1619 N. Hobart (next to Rolanda's).

69a Garage Sales HUGE Sale: Sat. 8-5 Sun. 1-7 101 Virginia St. Furni., men's ladies, children's clothes, shoes, etc.

49 Pools/Hot Tubs

5 Person Hot Tub, display model. Full warranty. (806)358-9597.

24 ft. Round Pool. Complete. (806)358-9597.

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

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

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5 family lot sale. 400 Cole Additions. South of Harvester Lanes. Sat. 8-4 Sun. 1-4. Furniture, air conditioner, & lots more.

69a Garage Sales

MOVING Sale: 616 Frost. SxS fridge, Kenmore gas dryer, mattress, lots of household items, Apple II E computer, printer & sttwr., clothes, teen to XL. No early birds. Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-2.

HALF PRICE SALE 1425 Alcock Booth #37 & 1431 N. Hobart now thru May.

GARAGE SALE 1937 N. Faulkner, Fri. 8-6 & Sat. 8-7 Furniture, bedspreads, household & tools.

LOTS of misc. 1414 N. Christy Fri. 9:00-6:00 Sat. 9:00-3:00

2306 Charles, Fri. 8 a.m. Home Int. lamps, trash compactor, 2 anti kitchen chairs, anti. trunk, 25c clothes, nice oil painting.

Family Garage Sale Tappan gas stove, vacuum cleaner, electric edger, air conditioner, dishwasher, books, lots of clothes, & misc. items. Sat. 8-4 1008 S. Wells

Family Sale. 2500 Block N. Hobart, Pampa, Sat. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. A variety of many things. You must come to see. Exercise equip., kids toys, air cond. (water). Too many items to mention.

GARAGE Sale Saturday 8:00-2:00 N. Christy

MULTIPLE 3 family garage sale. Welder, furniture, misc. Sat. 8-5 Sun. 8-7 2129 N. Dwight

MULTI-FAMILY Yard Sale, priced to sell. Fri. 7-9 Sat. 7-4, 930 Christine

LOTS of misc. like new queen sz. mattress, box-springs & frame. Fri. & Sat. 8-7 2108 Lea

4-FAMILY lots of misc. Letter T-shirts, & bags. Fri. 8-7, Sat. 8-7 1033 Twiford

GARAGE Sale Lots of misc., clothing, big boy toys, Fri., and Sat. 8:30-12:00 2616 Fir

70 Musical 2 PIANOS FOR SALE 1-Solo Concerto Wood-ent Upright Piano, \$150, 1-Old Style Upright Handpainted Saloon Style Piano, \$300. 665-9792 or 662-1985

75 Feeds/Seeds MIDLAND 99 Bermuda Sprays for sale. Day 806-333-3234, night 806-244-5234, Dalhart, Tx.

77 Livest./Equip. 45 yearling Black Angus bulls. Sires Rep. Basin Max 602C. Sleep Easy, GT Max, Schurr Top Supreme, Fame, Fly Traveler, 1680 Precision, Battle Cry. Low to moderate BW, thick and beefy, 80 Sun. 1-7 101 Virginia St. Furni., men's ladies, children's clothes, shoes, etc.

5 family lot sale. 400 Cole Additions. South of Harvester Lanes. Sat. 8-4 Sun. 1-4. Furniture, air conditioner, & lots more.

80 Pets & Suppl.

KITTENS to give away. 665-6859

95 Furn. Apts.

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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

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

96 Unfurn. Apts. AVAILABLE NOW! 1 bdrm unfurn. apts. Newly Remodeled \$250-\$300 per month. 665-4274

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

CLEAN 1 bdr., stove, refrigerator, completely renovated, new carpet. All bills paid. 669-3672, 665-5900

DOGWOOD Apts. 1 bdr., furn. and 2 bdr. unfurn. References & deposit req. 669-9817, 669-2981.

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

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. avail. Ref. dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

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

98 Unfurn. Houses PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston. Update each Fri.

NEW Mgmt. N&L Investments. 1, 2 & 3 brm. apts., duplexes, homes & comm. prop. 665-4274.

LEASE / Buy. 2104 N. Wells. Nice & clean. cent. h/a. 3/1/1, \$530 mo. + dep. 669-6121.

3/1/2 1101 Sierra \$500 mo. Call 440-1610

NICE 2 BR. carpeted and new paint. 1312 Garland. \$350 mo. plus deposit. Call 665-1976.

98 Unfurn. Houses

3 bdr., 2 bath, 2 living areas. 1812 Christy. \$750 mo. Call 665-5667.

2 bedroom, washer / dryer hookups, fenced yard. \$200 mo., \$100 dep. Call 669-2724.

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

12X24 Portable Red Barn, dbl. doors. (806)358-9597.

16X32 portable Cabin. H.D. Floor with porch. (806)658-9597.

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

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

OFFICE, warehouse, shop, fenced yard. Call 669-3279.

103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

2 bedroom, recently re-decorated, 728 Lefors St., owner will carry with down payment. 665-4842

3 bdr. brick, new vinyl / carpet, new paint, c. heat and air, fenced, gar. C-21 Realtor 665-4180.

3 bdr., 2 ba., new inside paint, lots stor., \$36,500, will carry. Also lg. vacant corner lot. 665-1193.

BEAUTIFUL HOME 451 Harvey, in Miami. 3 bdr., 2 bath, garage, & carport. 1811 sq. ft. Wheelchair accessible. Call 806-868-4161 or 806-683-5326.

FSBO. 1308 Terrace. 3 bdr., 1 ba., c. h/a, \$15,000 cash or \$2000 dn., owner will carry. Hm. 665-2228, cell 898-4227.

FSBO. 2610 Seminole. 3 bdrm., 2 ba. Completely remodeled. \$67,500. 669-3152 or 669-6010.

HOUSE for sale. Large corner lot. See to appreciate. (806) 669-7923.

LARGE 1 bedroom with carport & storage owner will carry with \$500 down, \$200 mo. 665-4842.

MAD? Banks don't give house loans due to credit problems. I Do! **L D Kirk (254) 947-4475 Texas Fair Rates**

Owner Will Finance! Low Down! Low Monthly!

1129 Juniper Newly remodeled 3 bdr. 1 bath ch/a

413 Pitts 2 bdr. 1 bath Must Sell Make Offer

House in Miami 1501 Lion Rd. 3 bdr. 2 bath large den, ch/a.

Others Coming Soon! Call Milton 806-790-0827

104 Lots 6 lots in Howardwick at Greenbelt Lake, \$1000. 806-865-3354.

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

120 Autos Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062.

PNC observes special week

This year National Nursing Home Week is being celebrated through May 15. Sponsored by American Health Care Association, the theme of this year's event is "Embracing Our Heritage."

Organizers of the weekly celebration seek to bring awareness to nursing facilities and to recognize exceptional care givers, volunteers, families and others who foster the spirit of "embracing our heritage" throughout the year.

Pampa Nursing Center planned a full week of activities in conjunction with the celebration including a Mothers day ice cream social, a performance by Pampa Middle School's "Show Choir," a Texas style Hawaiian luau and more.

"Our residents have so much to share and we feel that activities such as these are a wonderful way of including not only residents



(Courtesy photo)

Lena Watson, a resident at Pampa Nursing Center, enjoys activities during a Texas-style Hawaii luau held in conjunction with National Nursing Home Week at PNC.

and staff but also the whole community," said Kristie Fuller, activity director for PNC. "No act of kindness is ever wasted. Even one person can make a difference. If you or someone you

know would like to be a volunteer, we would love to have you in our activity program."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact PNC at 669-2551.

Lawmaker warns Energy Department of money cuts for nuclear waste project

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department has been warned by an influential lawmaker that it may get a fraction of the money sought next year for a proposed nuclear waste dump in Nevada, jeopardizing any chance that site can open by 2010.

Congress has given the project the go-ahead, pending a permit by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. But securing the money needed every year so the Yucca Mountain project can stay on schedule has frustrated planners.

The latest potential roadblock came from the House Appropriations subcommittee that is considering a department request for \$880 million for the budget year that begins Oct. 1. The project 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas is facing major challenges in getting an NRC license and developing a waste transportation plan.

In a recent letter, Rep. David Hobson, R-Ohio, the subcommittee chairman, advised Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham that he may get only \$131 million, an amount that department officials say essentially would shut down the program.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the letter.

Hobson, a strong supporter of the project, asked Abraham for detailed information on how these limited funds would affect the program and the nuclear industry.

"We're working closely with chairman Hobson to address his concerns ... and advance the ball forward in getting the money we need," department spokesman Joe Davis said.

The proposed repository is where the government wants to bury 77,000 tons of highly

radioactive used reactor fuel now kept at commercial power plants, as well as defense waste. The effort has wide support in Congress. In 2002, lawmakers blocked an attempt by Nevada to short-circuit the project.

When it comes to annual funds, Yucca Mountain planners must compete with other programs under the subcommittee's jurisdiction, including popular water projects dear to individual lawmakers.

This year, the Energy Department sought to resolve that problem. It linked about \$750 million of the \$880 million requested for Yucca Mountain to congressional passage of legislation assuring that money collected through a special nuclear waste fund actually is spent for the project.

The legislation has languished in another committee. So Hobson is faced with a \$750 million shortfall that — if it is to be provided for Yucca — will have to come from other programs.

To make matters worse, the Energy Department always has relied on the House to come up with more money for Yucca Mountain. In the Senate, Nevada Democrat Harry Reid, an ardent Yucca opponent, is in the leadership, and this chamber has been more stingy in providing funds for the program.

Recently the Senate Armed Services Committee authorized funds for Yucca Mountain at \$577 million next fiscal year, a little less than current spending.

In March, Margaret Chu, director of the DOE office that heads the program, emphasized at a congressional hearing that the program is reaching a critical stage where spending below what the department is requesting would make it impossible to meet the 2010 target for opening the facility.

bigger child tax credit.

Rep. Pete Sessions, R-Texas, said the bill gives workers "more money, more take home pay, more opportunity."

"It does the right thing for middle-class wage earners," he said.

Preserving the broadened bracket would cost \$218 billion through 2014.

Democrats said they back the effort to preserve the bottom bracket, but not at the expense of a growing deficit.

They plan to offer an alternative tax cut that keeps the expanded bottom bracket through 2010. The tax cut would be covered by a 1.95 percent surcharge on individ-

uals who earn \$500,000 or more and couples who earn \$1 million or more.

After 2010, the bottom bracket stays in place only if Congress makes sure projections show the federal budget would be balanced by 2014.

"We don't want our grandkids to pay higher taxes tomorrow to pay for our tax cuts today," said Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, the top Democratic tax writer. "So all we are saying is, don't take credit for extending tax cuts on the one hand while you're breaking your promise to balance the budget with the other."

The bill is H.R. 4275.

U.S. offered flight out of Iraq to American shown decapitated

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government warned a young American to leave Iraq, and offered him a flight out of the country, a month before his grisly beheading was broadcast on an al-Qaida-linked Web site, officials said.

Authorities in Baghdad denied that Nicholas Berg, 26, was held in U.S. custody before he disappeared in early April, despite claims to the contrary by his family. The authorities said he had been held by Iraqi police for about two weeks and questioned by FBI agents three times.

The final movements of the telecommunications businessman from suburban Philadelphia remain unclear as officials in Washington and Baghdad try to piece together how Berg crossed paths with a group of Islamic militants who savagely decapitated him in a video released Tuesday bearing the title "Abu Musab al-Zarqawi shown slaughtering an American." It referred to an associate of Osama bin Laden believed to be behind a wave of suicide bombings in Iraq.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, told reporters Thursday in Baghdad that it appears al-Zarqawi was responsible.

Asked whether he meant al-Zarqawi personally carried out the execution, Sanchez said, "All indications are he did it." Asked about al-Zarqawi's whereabouts, he said, "We believe he's moving around the country."

Later, however, Sanchez said it wasn't clear that Zarqawi was present at the killing. "I don't know whether he was personally holding the knife or in the room," Sanchez said. "I do not know that."

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had said earlier it was likely that al-Zarqawi himself was "the lead perpetrator."

Berg's body was found Saturday in Baghdad. Two e-mails he sent to his family and friends show he traveled widely and unguarded throughout Iraq, an unsafe practice rarely done by Westerners.

Shortly before Berg's disappearance, he was warned by the FBI that Iraq was too volatile a place for unprotected American civilians and that he could be harmed, a senior FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday.

On April 10, four days after

Berg was released from an Iraqi prison, an American diplomat offered to put him on a flight to Jordan, State Department spokeswoman Kelly Shannon said.

Berg told the diplomat he "planned to travel overland to Kuwait and would call (his) family from there," Shannon said.

Several days later, around April 12, the diplomat received an e-mail from Berg's family in West Chester, Pa., that "noted he had not been in contact," Shannon said. Staff members at the \$30-a-night Al-Fanar Hotel in Baghdad told The Associated Press that Berg stayed there for several days until April 10.

Berg's father, Michael Berg, said that, although his son wanted to leave Iraq, he refused the flight offer because he thought the travel to the airport would be too dangerous.

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