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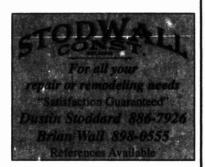
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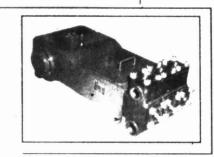


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Thursday, May 13, 2004

NFM2



s Daily . Sunday \$1

Big screen TVs recovered by **GCSO** deputies

By MARILYN POWERS STALL WRITER

sets were recovered by Gray to two juveniles who had County Deputies Robert bought the big screen televi-Douglas and Chad Brooks Sion sets, Douglas said, Both vesterday, bringing to about surrendered the TVs to \$10,000 the total value of deputies. Three televisions merchandise recovered so far recovered so far in connection from the Western Auto burgla with the burglary had been ry reported to law enforce soid to juveniles. Douglas ment on May 4.

Daniel Hatfield, 20, 532 Roberta, was arrested and booked into jail at about 11 p.m. Tuesday after a search of Hatfield's house yielded a DVD players. Craftsman number of items taken in the burglary, said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing. A male juvenile was also arrested and turned over to Gray County Juvenile Probation Office concerning the burglary

Hatfield was charged with theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000, and bond was set at \$2,500, according to a Gray County Jail spokesperson. He is currently free on bond, officials said today.

The search of the house on Roberta led to another search at 1232 E. Foster, which also vielded items that had been stolen in the robbery, said

Douglas and Brooks, along

with two members of the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force, gath-Two big screen television ered information that led them

> Between 30 and 40 items were taken in the burglary. including television sets. radios, compact disc players, tools, tool boxes, "and even a chain saw, weed eaters and three tricveles, still in the boxes," Douglas said, Total value of the stolen items is approximately \$12,000.

"We are confident we have all the suspects" in the robbery in custody. Douglas said.

The burglary took place at a building on Price Road which Western Auto Appliance Center had been using for storage of merchandise after the roof of their store at 2225 Perryton Farkway caved in following a heavy rain earlier

We are asking anyone who

(See BURGLARY, Page 3)

Skate Park under way



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Work started this week on Pampa's skate park. Mac Martinez cuts a metal pole that was used to hold a net at the multi-use courts in Central Park. The basketball goals are scheduled to come down next and the courts will be resurfaced with asphalt in preparation for ramps and jumps for skate board-

School board resets date to canvass election votes

describes the 7:30 a.m. special quorent was present, despite meeting of the Pampa the absences of members Bill Independent School District's Jones and Jay Johnson. Board of Education today

votes following the May 15 Short and sweet best school board election.

After voting the board

Lee Porter moved to reset the time to canvass votes to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 25, during the school board's regular meeting Previously, the board

(See VOTES, Page 3)

Grant: Cleaner town mea

BY MARILYN POWERS

STAH WRITER

up its act, at least along one major thor- forum for Highway 60 property owners

ing been distributed by City Manager aspects that give a false impression of Clean Pampa Inc., Pampa Police Mitch Grant to notify property owners our city and tenants along the highway of the sent out for the persons involved to inside city limits. They range from a churches, various committees, and the

The City of Pampa wants to clean the city commission, and a public Auditorium, The Highway 60 Project is under according to the presentation, is "to rid include the city fire marshal, code

project's goals. Surveys have also been code violations along Highway 60 citizens, business owners, civic groups

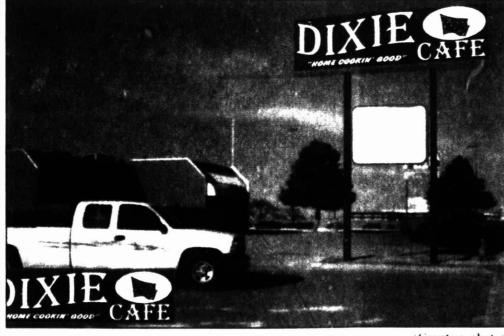
few dollars to thousands of dollars to. Texas Department of Transportation. Grant has given a presentation on fix." Grant said at the public forum. the project before several civic groups. held May 4 at M.K. Brown Civic is divided into three phases Phase Lis

and tenants. The goal of the project, implementing the project. They way, with letters and door hangers hay - the Highway 60 corridor of visual enforcement and health inspector. Department, the city's public works "We estimate there's over 200 city department, Pampa Lire Department,

The plan for completing the project to review the Highway 60 area by doc-The presentation lists "tools" for umenting problems with photographs and placing them in files, reviewing the photos and setting standards, and publishing the plans and making citizens aware of them.

> Phase II is the legislative phase, and consists of passing ordinances if current ordinances are madequate, consid-

> > (See CLEAN-UP, Page 3)



(Courtesy photo)

This is the proposed sign for the new Dixie Cafe' family restaurant to open in mid-June where the Texas Rose Steakhouse is now located, according to owner Shane Dyer.

A taste of change

New family restaurant to open in June

Pampa sometime in mid-June, he and bread will also be offered. fast, lunch and dinner seven days per sometime in late. May, Dyer said. week. The family restaurant, operated. Several pasta dishes and an expanded by SBD Restaurants owned by Shane scafood selection will be the major and Shelley Dver, will serve no alco menu changes at the new location. hol and will operate from 6 a m to 9. Additional property has been pur-

Steak along with traditional favorites trant-

Pampa will soon see a new family. Tike Ju Ju's Pot Roast, Cooder's restaurant featuring Southern cooking. Chicken and dumplings and and a familiar steak house will find a Momma's Meatloat will highlight the new home here. Shane Dver menu, Dver said Eighteen vegetable choices will add variety to the menu. The Dixie Cate will open in he said, and made from-scratch pies

said. The 150 seat restaurant located Texas Rose Steakhouse will move at 2537 Perryton Pkwy, now Texas, to the C&C Cattle Company building Rose Steakhouse, will serve break - located at 2841 Penyton Parkway chased behind the building to provide Almost Famous Chicken Fried extra parking for the 115 seat restau-

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104 S. Price Road ... \$200,000 McJunkin Bldg. 300 Cuyler ... \$200,000 **Downtown Movie Theater** 304 N. West ... \$48,500



RIES

LILLIAN LUCII LE FOSTER

DALLAS, Texas - Lillian Lucille Foster. U n i t e d 92, of Dallas, died Sunday, May 2, 2004, at Plano, Texas. Mrs. Foster was cremated. Mémorial services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 15, 2004, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Scott of Dallas since Penrod, pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Foster was born Oct. 26, 1911, in Russellville, Ala. She attended schools in L. Chisholm of lege and worked in Amarillo prior to her marriage. She married Herman D. Foster in Childress, Texas. They lived in Childress, Amarillo and Borger before making their home in Pampa.

Mr. Foster was a pharmacist who owned the Harvester Drug in Pampa and co-owned B&B Pharmacy in Pampa.

Mrs. Foster worked for the Medical & Surgical Clinic in Pampa, and was later coowner and manager of B&B Pharmacy.

She was a member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Omicron Chapter, and was active in the B&PW. She loved to sing and dance and was involved in the Lion's Club Minstrel for many years. She was a member of the First

Methodist Church Pampa. She had been a resident 1997 to be near her children.

Survivors include daughter, Janis

Alabama and Texas, and attended business col- Dallas; one son, Dan Robert Foster and wife Molly of Dallas; two brothers, William O. Johnston of Borger and J.E. Johnston of Clarendon; two grandsons. Dan Thomas Chisholm and wife Amy of Tueson, Ariz., and Mark Foster Chisholm of Dallas; and one granddaughter. Kelli Colleen Chisholm of Long Beach, Calif. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman D. Foster in 1953, and two brothers, Col. Henry R. Johnston of Arlington, Va., and Walter H. Johnston of Clarendon,

> The family requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, TX 79066-1981.

> -Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

TWYLA FAY LONG

Twyla Fay Long, 71, of Pampa, Texas, died Miller Wednesday, May 12, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 15, 2004, at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Childress, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Long was born Sept. 17, 1932, in Floydada. Texas. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1947, moving from Skellytown. Jesaka Long She married Owen Long on Oct. 11, 1947, in of Pampa. He preceded her in death on July 8, 2002.

and was later a dispatcher for Alibates. Pampa; and two great-granddaughters, Bailey Trucking Co.

She was a member of the Central Baptist Church, and a former member of the Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by two sons.

Paul Long and Phillip Long.

and husband Stan of Pampa; two sisters, Bonnie Jordan of Fort



Wash., Amanda Soukup and husband Dave of Amarillo, and Laura Miller and fiancé Daniel She was employed by Marie Foundations Frye of Houston; one grandson, Justin Long of Soukup and Tori Soukup, both of Amarillo.

The family requests memorials be to Odyssey Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo.

The family will be at 109 E. 27th in Pampa. -Sign the on-line register book at Survivors include one daughter. Pama www.carmichael-whatley.com.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported block of North Wynne. No injuries were reported. the following incidents and arrests.

Tuesday, May 11

Disruption of class was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. One male juvenile was arrested and taken to Gray County Juvenile Probation Office.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 2200 block of Lea.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart, where \$17.31 in gasoline was

Assault was reported in the 600 block of North Frost. Minor injuries were reported.

Found property was reported in the 2600 block of Hobart. A bicycle was found.

Magnolia. A suspect cut a chain and took a Whirlpool refrigerated air conditioner, a red Snap-On five-drawer tool box and a Craftsman five-drawer tool box containing a few tools. The stolen items were all on a flatbed trailer in the front yard. Estimated value of loss was \$1,055.

An information report on retaliation was made at the police department. The incident occurred in the 2200 block of Lea.

Wednesday, May 12

A terroristic threat was reported in the 500 block of North Naida.

A gas drive-off was reported at Taylor Food Mart, 2101 N. Hobart, Taken was \$8.87 in

Burglary of a motor-vehicle was reported in the 800 block of Locust. The vehicle was unlocked. Two life vests were taken. Estimated loss was \$80.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1900 block of North Dwight. Method of Theft was reported in the 700 block of centry is unknown. Taken were approximately 10 compact discs and some cash, for an estimated loss of \$155.

> Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of North Christy. The vehicle was unlocked. Taken was \$2,500 in cash.

Edmon Gregory Harden, 35, 1700 Duncan. was arrested in the 200 block of North Russell Domestic assault was reported in the 100 for violation of a protective order.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Saturday, May 8

7:52 a.m. - A 1998 Chevrolet Tahoe, driven by Jason Vance, 23, Amarillo, and a 1995 Jeep Cherokee, driven by Melford Neil Hanks Jr., 25, 1601 W. Somerville #601, collided in the 1800 block of 23rd Avenue. No injuries were reported. Vance was cited for following too closely.

Tuesday, May 11

9:47 p.m. - A 1999 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Demetrio Martinez IV, 18, 1020 Terry Road, and a 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix. driven by Enrique Miranda, 25, P.O. Box 913, collided in the intersection of Randy Matson Avenue and Duncan Street. No injuries were reported. Martinez was cited for failing to yield right of way at a stop sign.

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AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, May 12 8:44 a.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the

1200 block of Williston. No transport.

9:58 a.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Gray and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

3:24 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the Baten prison unit and transported a patient to PRMC

5:01 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells. No transport.

11:26 p.m. – A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan prison unit and transported a patient to Thursday, May 13

12:18 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie and transported a patient to PRMC.

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

FIRE

Wednesday, May 12

12:21 a.m. - One unit and four firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

SHERIFF

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

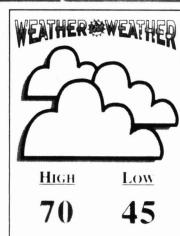
Wednesday, May 12

James Thomas Bridwell, 53, Gainesville, was arrested on a probation violation on a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and for an open container.

WEATHER FOCUS

Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, highs in the lower to mid 70s and west winds 5 to 15 mph, shifting to the north 15 to 25 mph in the morning. Tonight should fall on mostly cloudy skies with lows in the mid 40s and north winds 15 to 25 mph. Friday should see partly

cloudy skies. Highs in the lower 70s. North winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows near 50. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy.



Highs in the lower 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in

Sunday, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Sunday night, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s.

Monday, partly cloudy Highs in the upper 80s. Monday night, partly cloudy Lows around 60.

Tuesday, partly cloudy Highs in the lower 80s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy Lows around 60. Wednesday. partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s.

City Briefs

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

Taylor police officer shown hitting suspect in video AUSTIN (AP) — Taylor—sive force in making an arrest. The patrol car video, obtained officer after he was videotaped by the Austin American-

police have reprimanded an

while hitting a suspect with a Statesman Tuesday through the flashlight and using other exces- Texas Open Records Act, also remained in Williamson County

shows Taylor Officer Pedro Gutierrez attempting to push the man from a truck with his feet. The suspect, James Blair,

Jail after his arrest on charges of driving while intoxicated and evading arrest

The Taylor Police Department gave Gutierrez a written reprimand and ordered him to attend use-of-force training after the Jan. 29 confrontation with Blair, 35. He suffered a swollen right eye in the beat-

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The fight ing a surpris by Defense H. Rumsfeld to calm the Iraqi prisor soldiers. He

Pampa

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by Air Fo Myers, chai Chiefs of Sta Pentagon's lawyers. Rumsfeld prison and

"we'll get th tional upro inmates. In Karba

radical cleri regrouped i

VOTE the sch Previously, t

on Tuesday, School explained th to changes in that the vote days after th afterward.

On May 7 on the Pa

CLEA er reinve

historical p

zoning over Phase II phase, in w code enforc begin and review wil

results repo

missioners. Existing be applied to area include other codes ings, fire, n housing, m cal, plumbir

Suggeste ordinances paved park fence appea minimum s mercial bui for auto rep prohibiting use outdoor presentation

City deferred act nances afte



(Courtesy photo)

suffered during a clash in west-

Pampa High School seniors from Jamie Greene's homeroom class sign a contract for the Drug and Alcohol Free All-Night Party. Pictured, seated from left, are Nathan Roy, Heather Dean, Jamie Alemen, and Alan Arzola. Standing, from left, are Amber Heltzel, Kori Dunn, Joe Johnson, Lauryn Langford, Heather Hall, Erin Norris, Krissa Galloway, Gregory Wiley, and Ryan Carter. Anyone interested in making a donation to the party, can contact Janyth Bowers at 665-8006.

U.S. soldiers, militiamen battle in holy city

militiamen near a gold-domed afire. shrine that is one of the most Thick smoke rose over the city center.

The fighting continued during a surprise visit to Baghdad to calm the storm over abuse of sovereignty on June 30. Iraqi prisoners by American Pentagon's lawyers.

Rumsfeld toured Abu Ghraib "we'll get through" the interna- moment of their history tional uproar over abuse of inmates.

radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr Hussein. regrouped in alleys north of

KARBALA, Iraq (AP) — Imam Hussein shrine. Smoke which began Tuesday night, left Heavy gunfire and huge explo- drifted over the shrine, appar- many homes destroyed and soldier on Wednesday in sions resounded Thursday as ently from a nearby a power shops gutted by fire, and many Baghdad and a Marine in the American forces battled Iraqi generator that had been set families fled to safer areas of Fallujah area on Thursday, U.S.

sacred sites for Shiite Muslims. city's Imam Abbas shrine. American forces are concerned majority Shiite population as three and four moved in side by Defense Secretary Donald the United States tries to stabi- streets. H. Rumsfeld, who was seeking lize Iraq ahead of a transition to

soldiers. He was accompanied of the Shiites' most revered shrine, and two employees by Air Force Gen. Richard saint, Imam Ali Ibn Abu Talib, loaded his merchandise into a Myers, chairman of the Joint the Prophet Muhammad's truck for storage elsewhere. Chiefs of Staff, and some of the cousin and son-in-law. Hussein "I cannot wait any longer. Sunni leader, and Shiites view shop until all this is over." Ali prison and told U.S. troops his death as the defining said from atop the truck.

the city. In some cases, men officials said. Another Marine Fighting also raged near the stayed while women and childied Wednesday of wounds

Young men gathered at some ern Anbar province on the same that any damage to the two street corners to watch the fight-day. shrines could enrage Iraq's ing. Militiamen in groups of

Majeed Mohammed Ali, owner of a cloth shop across the Imam Hussein was the son road from the Imam Abbas

was killed in a 7th century bat- Many shops have been burned tle with the army of a Muslim down. I will not reo en my

Pilgrims pleaded with guards Abbas, the namesake of of the two shrines to let them in. Karbala's other prominent but they remained closed. Many phones to assure relatives that

In Karbala, fighters loyal to shrine, was a half brother of of the faithful searched for tele-Residents said the fighting, they were safe:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE presentation at their May 3

meeting, instructing him to

nances he felt were needed

and present them to commis-

sioners at a future meeting:

Grant had also mentioned the

possibility of passing an ordi-

nance regarding dead trees.

permit for salvage yards.

and requiring a specific use the forum.

to attract jobs and people to meeting.

write up the specific ordi-

VOTES

the school board's regular meeting. Previously, the board had voted to canvass votes on Tuesday, May 18.

School Superintendent Barry Haenisch explained that the meeting time was moved due to changes in the election law which now states that the votes be canvassed a minimum of eight days after the election and no more than 11 days afterward

On May 15, three Pampans will vie for Place 7 on the Pampa Independent School District

CLEAN-UP

zoning overlays.

missioners.

er reinvestment zones for

Phase III is the action

phase, in which concentrated

code enforcement efforts will

begin and a block by block

review will be done, with

results reported to city com-

be applied to the Highway 60

area include visual codes and other codes concerning build-

ings, fire, manufacturing and housing, mechanical, electri-

Suggested new laws or

ordinances include requiring

paved parking for car lots, fence appearance regulations,

minimum standards for commercial buildings, screening

for auto repair companies and prohibiting indoor furniture

use outdoors, according to the

deferred action on new ordinances after Grant gave the

commissioners

presentation.

City

cal, plumbing and zoning.

Existing laws which will

historical preservation, and

Board of Education in this year's local school board election

The three men, Greg Brown, Ken Cargill, and Willie Nickleberry, seek the seat presently held by Bill Jones. Jones did not file for reelection to

Joe Martinez, current school board president and holder of Place 6 on the board, is running unopposed for his position.

Voting in the city/school election will be conducted Saturday from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston.

town, Grant told those attend-

business is what brings people

to town and jobs to town. As

someone else once said.

'Don't try to attract industry

to your town if your town's

not attractive." Grant said at

The Highway 60 Project

"Industry and commercial

ing the public forum.

Summer Recreation Program set June 7

Summer Recreation Program session is scheduled on weekfor all school-age children days, June 21-July 2. recreation superintendent.

School. Registration forms Middle School facilities. must be signed by a parent or ... For more information, con-Tegal guardian and fees are tact the Recreation Office at payable at registration.

City of Pampa's Recreation First session will be on Department will be offering a weekdays, June 7-18. Second

beginning Monday, June 7, at Class topics include soccer, the Pampa Middle School, outdoor games, arts and crafts, announced Shane Stokes, computers, basketball, cheerleading and gymnastics.

Registration will be from 6. Each class is scheduled for p.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday, May one hour per day, beginning at 27, and Thursday, June 3, at the 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11 southeast entrance of the a.m. Registration fees are \$10 Pampa Middle School. Late per student for one class and \$5 registration will be the first day for each additional class. All of class at the Pampa Middle classes will be held at Pampa

669-5740

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BURGLARY

has recently bought electronic items new and still in the render the item. If anyone wishbox, such as big screen TVs. es to check an item they recentfrom an individual to please contact the sheriff's depart- cation and serial numbers of the ment. The law is that they're missing items," Rushing said.

considered innocent purchasers if they didn't know the item was stolen, but will need to surly purchased, we have identifi-

Hail Season Is Here!

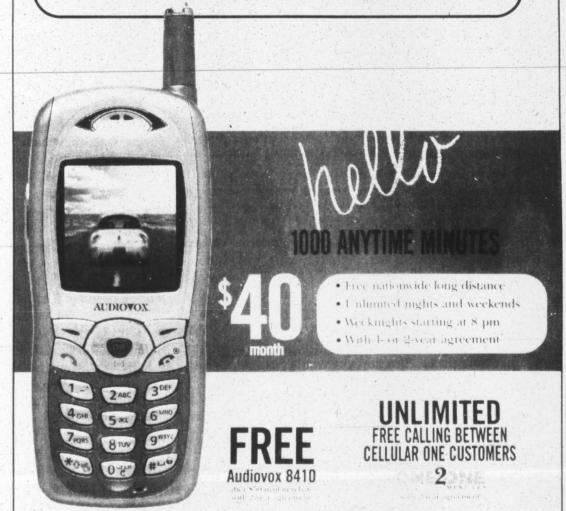
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CELLULARONE



China Dragon

One reason to improve the was not included in the May

appearance of Highway 60 is 11 regular city commission.

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Lunch ~11-2 pm Saturday All Day 11-8:30 pm Lunch

Sunday

Seniors and Children's discounts available - For Take-Out Call 665 8286

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Adi's Treasures, 665-0370 Totally Wireless, 669-1551 Pampa Office Supply, 669 3353

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Warlable while supplies last Not available it all are

Irish Phones, 256-5357

VIEWPOINTS

™ Pampa

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Poastmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa news, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall Editor: Dee Dee Laramore Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods Composition Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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Pampa News

Single Copies Daily 50c / Sunday \$1.00 Member: Associated Press

Subscription Rates

Carrier Home Delivery 6 mos. \$22.00 1 mo. Mail Subscriptions Mail in Roberts, Gray, Carson, Wheele and Hemphill Counties in Texas 6 mos \$51.00 \$102.00

6 mos \$57.00 Single Copy Mail Sunday \$1.50 that exceeds the current collection period. the city limits of Pampa, Mail subscriptions must be paid 3 months in advance

Mail All Other Areas In U.S.

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

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 cashstrapped 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.

Ouoting 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

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 of the British crown? shameful secret?

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-

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

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

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

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 supervi-

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 rea-

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 mem-

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-elec-

tion. 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 postprimary 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

But now Clinton is rol bing 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

Today's Highlight in

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 waralready existed against Mexico. In 1917, three peasant chil-

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

In 1954, the musical play "The Pajama Game" opened on Broadway.

Seaway Development Act.

In 1958, Vice President

Nixon's limousine was battered by rocks thrown by anti-U.S. demonstrators in Caracas, Venezuela.

dren near Fatima, Portugal, In 1985, a confrontation reported seeing a vision of the 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

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NEW India's op party captu parliament according Thursday, Prime Mi Vajpayee t tain to r dynasty to

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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 Italianborn 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

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 part-

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 11member 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 have Palestinians 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 Wednesday's attack included the son of Shlomo Vishinski, a well-known actor.

Vishinsky 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 hardline policies.

Soldiers: Abuse not representative of military interrogators as whole

(AP) — Pfc. Ryan Johnsson 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 Johnsson. "It's nothing like

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

The training at Fort Intelligence Huachuca's Center emphasizes

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. 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.

Spc. 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

will not offer marriage licenses to out-of-state couples, a decision that adds to the con- performing gay or lesbian from than a week before gay mar- restrictive language in the riage would not be legal in riage becomes legal in canons and prayerbook of the 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 to Massachusetts, and sign the left the decision to individual same-sex couples. 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 secondlargest 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 age gay population, said they would adhere to Ronney's guidelines.

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, headed by

BOSTON (AP) - Boston three bishops who support clergy members. gay marriage, said it would nonetheless bar clergy from fusing patchwork of rules less weddings. The diocese cited Massachusetts if their marchurch.

Several other denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, the United Methodist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Presbyterian Church (USA), have asked clergy not to officiate at same-sex marriages. The Unitarian Universalist conservative groups asked a Association has endorsed residency. Instead, couples same-sex unions, and other on the decision by the state's would be required to fill out a denominations, such as the highest court permitting marform saying they plan to-move United Church of Christ, have riage licenses to be issued to

Romney has said a 1913 state law prohibits couples marrying their home state. No other state recognizes same-sex

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 federal judge for an injunction



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"MY ADVICE ON OVERHEAD POWER LINES? DON'T TOUCH 'EM WITH A 10-FOOT POLE. 10-FOOT LADDER. 10-FOOT FISHING ROD. 10-FOOT PRUNER ... "

"Don't touch them with anything. Tools, ropes, kites - anything that hits a power line has the potential to kill. Then there are the things a line can hit by itself. The ground, for one, in high winds or a storm. If you see a downed power line, leave the area immediately and call our Emergency Line, 1-800-895-1999. Or in case of fire or injury, call 911. And take it from a parent - if your kids want to climb a tree, the one near the power line is not the place to do it. Play it safe. Stay over 10 feet away from the power lines around your house and yard. Remember: Stay away. Stay alive." Xcel Energy. You get all of our energy.

For more safety tips, visit our website at www.xcelenergy.com



Crossword Puzzle

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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THURSDAY • May 13, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

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

ing 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 rep -- and often it is welldeserved.

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 daughtersin-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

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,

Yesterday's answer

33 Sousa-

34 Vampire

35 Cote

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DEAR ABBY: I just finished read- 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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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



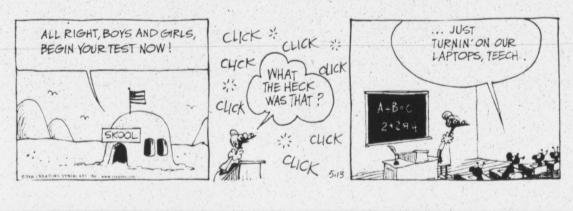
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Marvin



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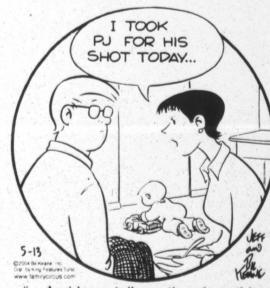
Peanuts





The Family Circus

Marmaduke



"Sometimes there is nothing but garbage on

TV. He loves that."

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

Blondie



BASEI

LOS Chicago is expec schedule sore arm tears in th Wood game aga Dodgers a

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SPORTS

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@thepampanews.com at The Pampa News sports department.

Photos must have a J-Peg

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

Glo-Valve gets revenge win over Celanese PAMPA — Two weeks can pitching one inning, striking the score 5-0 in Glo-Valve's

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

out two of the three batters he favor.

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 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.

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 the inning, a triple, chased Clendening

Meschke home.

Chester, with a double and triple in two trips to the plate, a run scored and two RBI, The roof fell in on 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 play. Chester's second hit of 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.

Deadline is June 4 for softball signups

PAMPA — The City of and by-laws are available at Recreation the Recreation Office at Department will be offering City Hall, Room 204 the following leagues for between the hours of 8 a.m. Summer Softball: Men's and 5 p.m. Monday through Open, Mixed Open, Men's Friday.

The entry fees or spon- tions or would like more sor's fees for teams are information on the Summer \$200 per team (\$185 if team is currently sanctioned). The player's fee is \$15 per player with a minimum of II 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

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

Hidden Hills Seniors Long-Short Scramble (May 12) 1. Bill Hammer, Joe Mabry, Doug

ness hours

Reeves and Dale Butler, 138 Jim Ashford, Carl Johnson, Dwayne Stiles and Richard Abbott, 3. Jerry Davis, Nathan Lancaster,

If you have any ques-

Softball Leagues, please

call 669-5740 during busi-

Golf

Charlie Terrell and Reece Field, 141. 4. Gerry McCabe, Ray Covalt, Bob Henderson and Norman Willingham, Closest to pin: Norman Willingham,

. 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 supersti-

"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 8-5 morning-line favorite, with pick.

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 Testamony in '83 and Red Bullet in 2000.

Smarty Jones opened as the

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 socalled lucky charm: horse-

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

"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

"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 the closer to the rail, the better it said. "It's a new match."

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

"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, differsaid. "I think everybody knows ent competition," Biancone

Heat, Pacers are all even

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-

May occur 30 to 50 years after

exposure to asbestos. Many work-

ers were exposed from the 1940s

through the 1970s. Industrial main-

tenance and operators are among

MIAMI (AP) — A series 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."

Ryan A. Krebs, MD, JD

Richard A. Dodd, L.C.

Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C.

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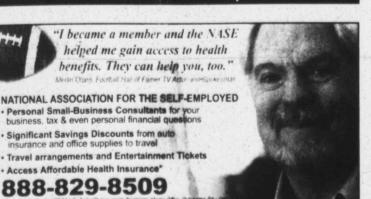
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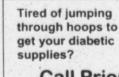




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Week's High Scores High scratch game Sandra Farrington, 193; High scratch eries. Kim Davis, 525, High handicap game. Jan Chambers 239. High handicap series. Voinie Skinner, 644. Generation Gan

Pampa Trans

J.B 's Contr

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Split This	24	
For Better Or Worse	21	
The People	21	
M&M's	19	
The Wintonizers	17.	
We Don't Know	16	
Bottom of the Barrell	16	
Rice O'Roni's	- 11	
Week's Hig	h Scores	

Girls High scratch game. Shayley Morriss, 176, High scratch series Shayley Morriss, 46

High scratch game. Zach Wilson, 254. High scratch series Each Wilson, 650; High handicap game: Michael Adams, 285; High handicap series: Michael Adams, 741

High scratch game. Judy Morriss, 232. High scratch series: ludy Morriss, 569, High handicap game, Judy Morriss 278 High handicap series Judy Morriss, 687 Men

Ladies

High scratch game. Gary Winton, 287. High scratch series Gary Winton, 801. High handicap game: Gary Winton, 287.

High handicap series	Ciary Wint	on. 801:			
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	National I	eague			
East Division					
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Florida	19	14	576		
Philadelphia	16.	1.5	516	2	
New York	1.5	19.	441	4:1/2	
Atlanta	14 .	18	438	4 1/2	
Montreal	1()	24	294	9 1/2	
Central Division					
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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: -	1.7	433	6.1/2	
West Division					
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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	1.2	1.9	110	8:172	

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 (Éstes 4-2 and Jennings 2-4), 2, 3:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Zambrano 3-1) at Los Angeles (Nomo 3-3), Philadelphia (Padilla 1-4) at San Francisco (Rueter 1-3), 3:35

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

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

Chicago Cubs (Mitre 1-2) at San Diego (Valdez 3-1), 10:05 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 Pittsburgh (Vogelsong 1-3) at San Francisco (Hermanson 1-2).

10:15 p.m.

Texas

American League **East Division** GB New York 552 1 1/2 Baltimore 412 20 Torento 10 281 Tampa Bay Central Division Pct GB 594 1/2 13 581 18 155 4 1/2 424 5 1/2 19 344 GB Anaheim

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515 Oakland 364 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 Anaheim 11, N.Y. Yankees 2 Texas 9, Tampa Bay 8

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,-2:05 p.m.

Baltimore at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain

Texas (Dickey 4-1) at Tampa Bay (Hendrickson 1-3), 2:15 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 (Benoit 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

Anaheim (Colon 4-2) at Baltimore (Ainsworth 0-1), 7:35 p.m. Minnesota (Lohse 1-3) at Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 3

Oakland (Hudson 3-1) at Kansas City (Gobble 1-1), 8:10 p.m.

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

PAMPA - In a good old- on errors, Braden Hunt four and walked one. 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

DFB's Braden Hunt and Chase's Shane Smith battled pitch for pitch until DFB

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

Marlins 5, Astros 2

Dontrelle Willis stood in front

of his locker without even a

trickle of sweat on his brow or

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

"He was in complete con-

manager Jack

trol of the game except for one

McKeon said, "and he got out

and Mike Lowell homered

twice, leading the Florida

Marlins over Houston 5-2

the season against Los

Angeles last week, Willis (4-

1) bounced back with a domi-

nant performance against the

NL's top-hitting team.

Coming off his first loss of

Wednesday night.

Willis pitched a six-hitter

Astros.

inning,"

of that.

HOUSTON (AP)

fashioned pitching duel, crushed a 2-2 pitch over the Duncan, Fraser & Bridges left field fence for a three-run made outstanding defensive home run. That gave DFB a plays.

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 scored four runs in the bottom and two errors by DFB's defense, the score was 4-2. With the score at 0-0, Sean 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 improved its record to 5-1.

Several players for Chase

In the bottom of the sec-Hunt took a no-hitter into ond 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

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

(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 off." Soriano's two-run double in the

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. 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

> "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

Huff's drive hit high off the

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

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

off and relax.

Soriano, Kevin Mench and

wall in deep right-center, coming Brad Fullmer also homered for Texas, which has 14 homers in five games against Tampa Bay and has gone 4-1 against the

> "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

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 sevengame 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

pedigree," Texas manager Buck 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

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 thee 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 speeial 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

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

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 clear 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

BORN TODAYActress Cate Blanchett 1 F J T K Q H Q (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

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

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 Brittney 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 Sharonda 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 twohitter 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.

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

GECHFLXYH EJL UDXL SJG RXEEJL

UXODKEMLJE Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE ROAD TO RUIN IS ALWAYS KEPT IN GOOD REPAIR, AND THE TRAVELERS PAY THE EXPENSE OF IT. - JOSH BILLINGS

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

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

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.

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69a Garage Sales

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GARAGE SALE 912 S. Sumner

1937 N. Faulkner, Fri. 8-6 & Sat.8-? Furniture, bedspreads. household & tools.

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

2306 Charles, Fri. 8 a.m.

Home Int., lamps, trash

compactor, 2 anti-kitchen chairs, anti. trunk. 25e clothes, nice oil painting. 4 Family Garage Sale Tappan gas stove, vacuum cleaner, electric edger, air conditioner. dishwasher. books, lots of clothes, &

mise: items. Sat. 8-4

1008 S. Wells 4 Family Sale, 2500 Block N. Hobart, Pampa, Sat. 7 a.m.-? A variety of many things. You must equip., kids toys, iir cond. (water). Too many items,

GARAGE Sale. Saturday 8:00-2, 1600 N. Christy MULTIPLE, 3 family garage sale. Welder, furni ture, misc. Sat. 8-2. Sun

to mention.

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PNC observes special week

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



(Courtesy photo)

Lena Watson, a resident at Pampa Nursing Center, enjoys activities during a Texas-style Hawaiin 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 pro-

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 goahead, 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

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 wouldshut 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 gov-

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 proj-

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 The project 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas committee. So Hobson is faced with a \$750 is facing major challenges in getting an NRC million shortfall that — if it is to be provided license and developing a waste transportation 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 pro-

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 ernment wants to bury 77,000 tons of highly target for opening the facility.

House wants to make permanent new tax bracket

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reminding voters that President Bush's tax cuts have fattened their paychecks, the House wants to make permanent a new tax bracket that lowered taxes on the first \$7,000 earned by workers.

It's the third in a series of he said. bills that together are an election-year push to lock in some of Bush's most popular tax cuts. Democrats have used each bill as an opportunity to blast Republican stewardship of the economy and deepening deficits.

The House expects to vote Thursday on a bill making permanent the bottom tax bracket created in the 2001, which lowered taxes on the first \$6,000 in wages from 15 percent to 10 percent. In 2003. Congress expanded the bracket to cover the first \$7,000 earned.

Without action, the bracket shrinks back to \$6,000 next year and disappears completely in 2011. Other popular tax cuts also disappear at the end of the decade, including tax cuts for married couples and a bigger child tax credit.

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

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

bracket would cost \$218 bil-

lion 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 grand-Preserving the broadened kids 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.

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

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-Qaidalinked 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 businessfrom 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 emails 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

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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