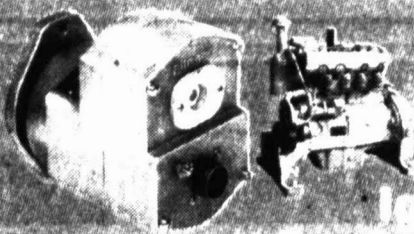


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Insurgents launch series of attacks

Violence increases as handover of Iraqi sovereignty nears

BAQOUBA, Iraq (AP) — Insurgents launched coordinated attacks Thursday against police and government buildings across Sunni Muslim areas of Iraq less than a week before the handover of sovereignty. The strikes killed 69 people including three American soldiers, and

wounded more than 270 people, Iraqi and U.S. officials said.

Most of the deaths were in Mosul, where 44 people were killed and 216 injured in attacks that included a string of car bombs. Clashes also occurred in Baqouba, Ramadi, Baghdad and other areas.

The extent of the attacks was a clear sign of just how powerful the insurgency remains and could be the start of a new push to torpedo the June 30 transfer of sovereignty to an interim transitional government.

Iraqi police, who have been entrusted to take a larger role in secu-

rity after the handover, appeared out-gunned and unable to hold positions in most of the cities under fire. American troops raced to offer support, using aircraft, tanks and helicopters to repel the guerrillas.

The military wing of Abu Musab

See **ATTACKS**, Page 3

Plan now for Labor Day event

Pampa Fine Arts Association is gearing up for its annual Chautauqua celebration held each year on Labor Day in Central Park.

This year Labor Day falls on Monday, Sept. 6.

Early morning activities will include a 5K and Fun Run. Registration for these two events is set for 7 a.m. Both runs will get under way at 8 a.m.

Pancakes will be served after 7 a.m.

Free stage performances will be scheduled throughout the day, and organizers are currently reserving booth space for eligible parties or organizations. No fees will be levied towards booths that are free to the public such as displays, exhibits, petting zoos, etc.

Sales, entertainment and food booths that charge must pay a \$20 fee before July 31. After July 31, the fee will go up to \$25.

An additional 10 percent of gross sales is due at 4 p.m. at the Chautauqua booth on the day of the celebration.

Food booths are limited to non-profit organizations. Returning organizations from last year are entitled to sell the same product this year. Booths may only sell what has been okayed by Chautauqua organizers to sell. When booths unexpectedly add items, PFAA officials say, they often duplicate other sales booths.

All booths should come complete with an explanatory sign attached to or beside the booth with tape, string or a stake. Nailing signs to a tree or trees is not permitted.

Entries must be post-marked or received by July 31. Checks should be made payable to Pampa Fine Arts Association. Mail to Chautauqua, PFAA, Box 818, Pampa, TX 79066-0818. This fee is non-refundable.

For additional information, contact PFAA at 665-0343.

Skate Park action



Photos by AMANDA RASMUSSEN



▲ Action abounds at the site of the new park for skateboarders currently being constructed in Pampa's Central Park. In the photo above, Eric Gerber of Mounting Ramps puts together a "fun box" for the skate park.

◀ Eric Klink can't wait for the park to be finished. As Gerber works, Klink practices jumping a wall of skateboards nearby. Shane Stokes of the city's Park and Recreation Department said the first phase of the Skate Park construction was to be completed today.

Supreme Court upholds death sentences

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused Thursday to overturn the death sentences of more than 100 inmates who argued their fates were improperly determined by judges, not jurors.

The 5-4 decision spares at least four states from having to decide whether to spend millions of dollars for new

sentencing hearings or consent to prison sentences for the convicted killers.

It was issued on the two-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's ruling that the constitutional right to a trial by jury means that jurors should weigh factors that determine whether a particular killing merits death or life

in prison. Justices said in the follow-up decision that the 2002 ruling does not apply retroactively to inmates who have exhausted their regular criminal appeals.

The justices ruled against Arizona prisoner Warren Wesley Summerlin, sentenced to die more than 20

years ago by a judge who later lost his job because of a drug problem. Summerlin was convicted of raping and bludgeoning to death a bill collector who came to his house in 1981 to collect a payment for a piano.

The case involved the biggest death penalty issue of the court's term, which is

expected to end next week. Next fall, justices will consider a broader subject, whether it is unconstitutional for states to execute people who committed their capital crimes when they were juveniles.

Separately Thursday, the

See **COURT**, Page 3

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Sunday, June 20
Child neglect was reported in the 1100 block of South Nelson.

Wednesday, June 23
Burglary of a building was reported in the 900 block of West 23rd Avenue. Method of entry was unknown.

A bicycle was reported stolen in the 1100 block of Ripley. Estimated value of loss is \$500.

Criminal mischief was

reported in the 1000 block of Huff Road. A window was broken on a vehicle, for an estimated loss of \$100.

Robert Gayle Barker, 57, 808 S. Reid, was arrested in the 800 block of South Reid for assault causing bodily injury to a family member. No information was available on injuries.

Thursday, June 24
Domestic violence was reported from the Western Motel. The incident occurred in the 500 block of South Barnes. Minor injuries.

Robby Leon Holt, 26,

2107 Duncan, was arrested in the 500 block of West Foster for possession of marijuana under two ounces and failure to register vehicle.

Andrew Shane Johnson, 20, 1601 N. Somerville, was arrested at Hobart Street and McCullough Avenue for driving under the influence/minor and no motorcycle endorsement.

Wednesday, June 23
Adolfo Hernandez, 31, 413 N. Russell, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for aggravated assault.

block of Charles. The firefighters found a failure in the short-circuit breaker and panel of the home.

5:28 p.m. — Two units and three firefighters responded to the 400 block of Wynne on a possible fire. A resident was burning trash.

ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transferred a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:54 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

11:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Reid. No transport.

7:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

Fire

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

Wednesday, June 23
8:47 a.m. — Three units and seven firefighters responded to a possible structure fire in the 2400

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, June 23
10:13 a.m. — A mobile

Sheriff

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

Obituaries

Florence Pauline Stroud, 79

Florence Pauline Stroud, 79, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, June 22, 2004, at Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the First Baptist Church in Pampa with the Rev. Carl Novian, associate pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Stroud was born June 6, 1925, near Sayre, Okla., to Homer and Jessie Gossett. She was a resident of Pampa since 1947. She married Wilson DeWitt "Dee" Stroud on Nov. 9,

1941, in Elk City, Okla. He preceded her in death on July 23, 2001.

She was a homemaker and a member of the First Baptist Church, where she was a member of the Parlor Sunday School Class, and had taught Sunday School for several years.

Survivors include four sons and their wives, Larry Stroud and wife Debbie, Jerry Stroud and wife Brenda, Jim Stroud and wife Jan, Richard Stroud and wife Jayne, all of Pampa; one sister and her husband, Hazel Vitcovich and husband Eddie of Spokane, Wash.; four grand-

sons, Greg Stroud and wife Alisha of Pampa, Bryan Stroud of Euless, Tracy Stroud and Terry Stroud, both of Pampa; three granddaughters and their husbands, Karri Evans and husband Randy of Big Spring, Texas, Angie Martindale and husband Jackie of Pampa, and Robin Keough and husband Jimmy of Pampa; several great- and great-great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner St., Pampa, TX 79065 or Odyssey Health Care, 1000 S. Jefferson St., Amarillo, TX 79101.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



STROUD



Nathan Ferguson, 5, of For Heaven's Sake Daycare & Preschool, draws his vision of a "Storm."

Services tomorrow

STROUD, Florence Pauline — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

Missionary rescued after fall in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A Mormon missionary from Texas was in a critical condition in an Australian hospital Thursday after falling 230 feet into a canyon, officials said.

The 21-year-old former

Brigham Young University athlete fell on Wednesday afternoon from a lookout in Morton National Park, in New South Wales state's southern highlands, south of Sydney.

Matthew Weirich was

walking with three other missionaries when he fell into the canyon after climbing over the lookout's safety barrier to retrieve a shoe, ambulance officials and a family spokeswoman said.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high around 90. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

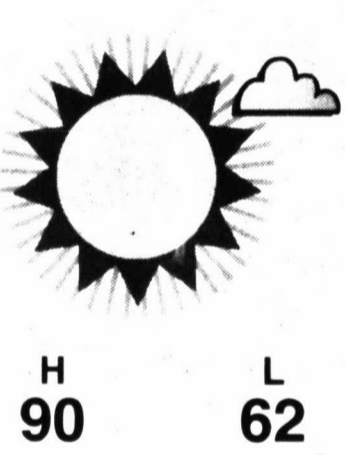
Tonight: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 7pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northeast.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80. North

northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph becoming calm.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 60. Southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 5pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high around 84. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.



Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Andrus (units of Pampa)		Coca Cola		JCP		
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Corn	4.96	30.36	0.26	63.32	40.07	
Soybeans	8.42	34.85	-0.50	13.24	40.01	
		NOI	31.11	-0.02	94.76	0.12
		KMI	60.04	-0.04	53.66	40.08
		KEFI	17.17	0.06	21.77	40.07
		KEFM	84.08	-0.10	16.36	40.08
		NOM	45.33	0.13		
		Limited	18.94	-0.19		
		Williams	12.25	-0.02		
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ROLANDA'S SUMMER Sale 20-50% off select arrangements, wreaths, swags.

THE BURROWS of Clarendon will be @ 810 W. Foster with produce Sat. 6-26-04 7am. More produce each day as it is ready.

Ruling allows House speaker to keep phone records secret

AUSTIN (AP) — A ruling from the state attorney general's office will allow Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick to keep details of phone bills secret.

In an opinion released Tuesday, Attorney General Greg Abbott's office said a 1987 state law allows Craddick to keep the records confidential.

It cited a provision that makes lawmakers and the lieutenant governor exempt from disclosing "records of personal information about the person communicating" with them.

Two previous speakers, Gib Lewis and

Pete Laney, had declined to use the law to block the release of individual numbers on their phone bills, the Austin American-Statesman reported Thursday.

Other state officials and agencies routinely make public their bills of calls made using state phones under the Texas Public Information Act.

The open-government law gives citizens access to records to monitor the performance and actions of their government. The American-Statesman in March requested access to Craddick's phone records from Sept. 1, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2003.

Student who hid box cutters avoids prison

BALTIMORE (AP) — A college student who hid box cutters on airplanes to expose weaknesses in airline security was sentenced Thursday to two years supervised probation and a \$500 fine.

Nathaniel Heatwole, of Damascus, also must serve 100 hours of community service and reimburse his parents for up to \$500 in legal expenses after sentencing in U.S. District Court.

Heatwole, 21, told Judge Paul Grimm that his intentions were "positive and

constructive." He said he never meant to embarrass the Transportation Safety Administration or put anyone in any danger.

"My goal all along was to assist TSA," in the agency's efforts to secure the nation's airlines. Heatwole also promised to continue to provide future assistance to federal authorities.

Federal prosecutors initially charged Heatwole last fall with a felony — taking a dangerous weapon aboard an aircraft — at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. That charge carried a possible 10-year prison sentence. The charge was reduced later to a misdemeanor.

Heatwole placed three disassembled box cutters and razor blades — with tape over the sharp edges — on a Southwest Airlines flight Sept. 14, along with strike-anywhere matches and about 8 ounces of liquid bleach. He also smuggled aboard modeling clay made to look like plastic explosives.

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Just hang
Hanging around
Molly Darling,

Court

Continued from
high court a Texas death row inmate's chance to his sentence, and Pennsylvania death row inmate cannot r appeals.

The Pennsylvania issue unlikely to a inmates.

The Texas case could affect several Texas death row who claim they low IQs and were enough chance to mitigating evidence jury.

The 2002 Supreme ruling, Ring v. Ford, forced changes in

Driving records online

AUSTIN (AP) — easier for Texans to driving records.

Copies of driving are now available at Department of Public announced Thursday.

The new service eligible driver license holders to order record using a credit card, the DPS said.

Information from applicant's current driver's license is needed to access the online service.

The Web site is www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Texans often need of the records for driving classes or ment screening pur

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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Just hangin' around

Hanging around on one of the jungle gyms at Austin Elementary School Thursday morning are, from left, Molly Darling, 11; Candia Jimenez, 11; and Kaylene Wyant, 10.

Court

Continued from Page 1

high court allowed a Texas death row inmate another chance to challenge his sentence, and ruled that a Pennsylvania death row inmate cannot reopen his appeals.

The Pennsylvania case raised a narrow procedural issue unlikely to affect many inmates.

The Texas case, however, could affect several dozen Texas death row inmates who claim they have very low IQs and were not given enough chance to present mitigating evidence to a jury.

The 2002 Supreme Court ruling, Ring v. Arizona, forced changes in the death

penalty laws of Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Nebraska and Colorado, because those states left it to judges to determine whether a killer should be executed. The ruling also cast doubt on death-sentencing procedures in other states that used a combination of juries and judges to impose death sentences.

Had the high court ruled the other way, states would have had to decide whether to pursue death sentences for 85 Arizona inmates and about 25 others in Idaho, Montana

and Nebraska. Inmates in other states also could have tried to use the ruling to win new sentences.

Summerlin's death sentence had been overturned by the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, under the 2002 Ring decision. Supreme Court reversed the 9th Circuit, reinstating Summerlin's death sentence.

Arizona argued that the sentencing change required by the court two years ago was not significant enough

to warrant reopening old cases.

The ultimate question for the Supreme Court, which does not automatically make its rulings retroactive, was whether this one involved "watershed" rules.

It did not, said Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the court.

"The right to jury trial is fundamental to our system of criminal procedure, and states are bound to enforce the Sixth Amendment's guarantees as we interpret them," Scalia wrote.

It does not follow, however, that when a defendant has had a full trial and has lost the appeal of his conviction "he may nonetheless continue to litigate his claims indefinitely on hopes that we will one day have a change of heart," Scalia wrote.

'The right to jury trial is fundamental to our system of criminal procedure...'

— Antonin Scalia
Supreme Court Justice

Attacks

Continued from Page 1

al-Zarqawi's group, the Tawhid and Jihad movement, claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement on an Islamic Web site. The statement said that members of the "martyrs' battalion" had carried out a number of "blessed operations."

President Bush, who is appealing to NATO to help quell the escalating violence, updated members of Congress about the situation in Iraq during an hour-long meeting at the White House.

The heaviest fighting raged in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where two American soldiers were killed and seven were wounded. The U.S. 1st Infantry Division said.

U.S. aircraft dropped three 500-pound bombs against an insurgent position near the Baqouba soccer stadium, said Maj. Neal E. O'Brien, a U.S. 1st Infantry Division spokesman.

Insurgents roamed the city with rocket launchers and automatic weapons, seized two police stations, and destroyed the home of the police chief of surrounding Diyala province.

A man dressed as an Iraqi policeman detonated a car

bomb near a checkpoint manned by Iraqi and American soldiers in the southern Baghdad district of Dora, killing four Iraqi soldiers. Three U.S. soldiers tended a wounded American soldier as he lay on the road, his helmet nearby. Black smoke and flames rose from a burning pickup truck.

Attackers also set off an explosion as a military convoy passed in Baghdad, injuring one soldier.

Also in Baghdad, insurgents attacked four Iraqi police stations using mortars, hand grenades and AK-47s on Wednesday and Thursday. Police fought back, defending the stations with minimal assistance from coalition forces, a U.S. statement said.

Baqouba's main hospital, doctors standing in pools of blood struggled to deal with a steady stream of wounded. Civilian cars raced to the emergency ward, bringing people with gunshot and shrapnel wounds.

"May God destroy America and all those who cooperate with it!" screamed one man in the corridor. Another who drove up outside the hospital screamed, "Oh God, Abbas is dead." He later carried in the body of a young man with a bullet hole in the back of his head.

'May God destroy America and all those who cooperate with it!'

— Man in corridor of Baqouba hospital

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Driving records online

AUSTIN (AP) — It's now easier for Texans to get their driving records.

Copies of driving records are now available online, the Department of Public Safety announced Thursday.

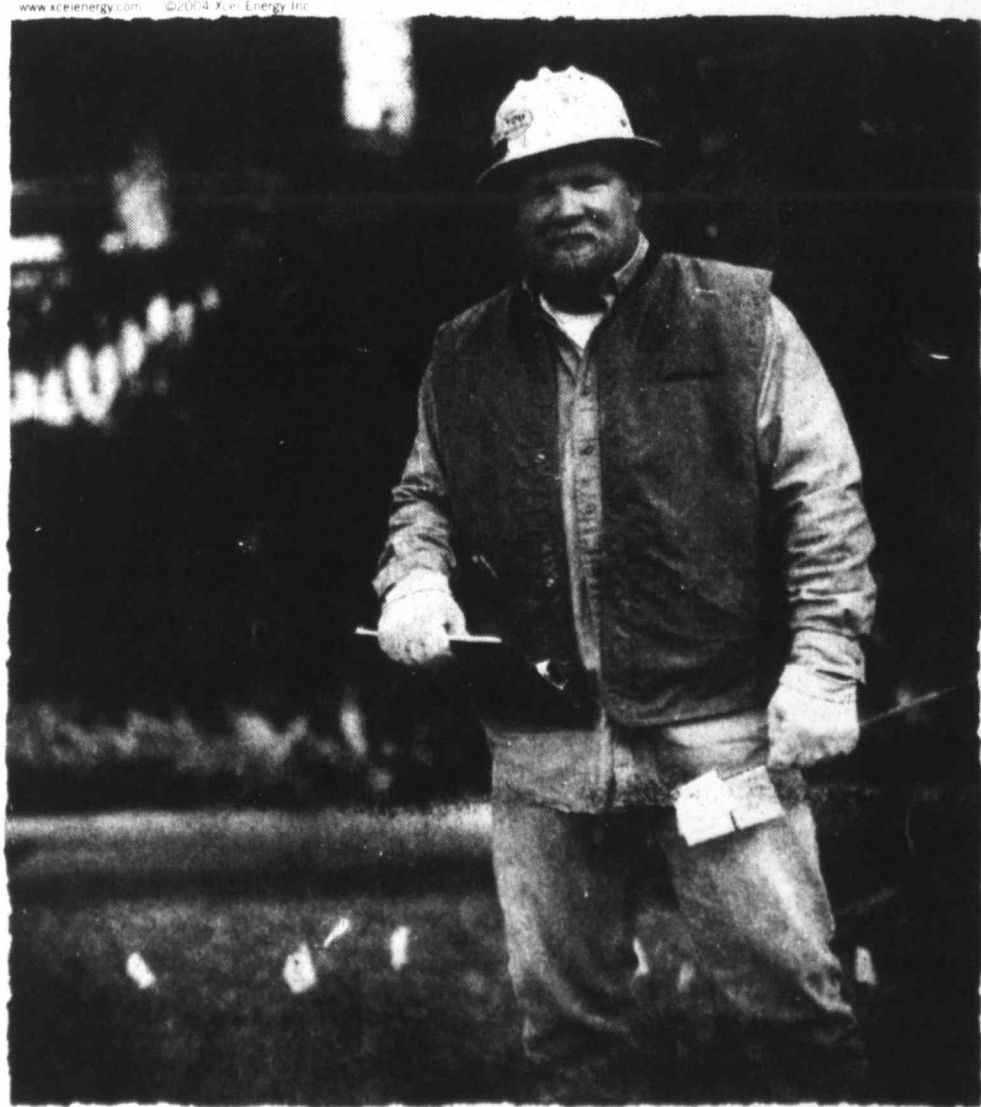
The new service allows eligible driver license and commercial driver license holders to order a driver record using a credit or debit card, the DPS said.

Information from the applicant's current Texas driver's license is needed to use the online service.

The Web site is www.texasonline.com.

Texans often need a copy of the records for defensive driving classes or employment screening purposes.

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Jack, Troubleman

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



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Viewpoints

Frankly, nature doesn't care about man

At last there is proof that exercise and fresh air can be unhealthy.

In western England on a road near Holsworthy in Devon, bicyclists discovered recently that taking to the great outdoors in a healthy pursuit is becoming decidedly, well, unhealthy.

A 71-year-old gentleman thought the side mirror on a truck — excuse me, lorry — had accidentally grazed him while he was out bicycling one day not long past. No doubt thanking his lucky stars the truck had not made further contact with him, the septuagenarian was sudden-

ly beset by, of all things, an angry flapping, flying bird which came to be identified as an "angry" dive-bombing buzzard.

Needless to say, the imagined culprit, the "lorry," was completely absolved of any wrong-doing.

The headline for the article detailing this strange happening came from News with CNN on-line and read "Angry Buzzard Terrorizes English Country Road."

I'd say the buzzard was feeling downright murderous considering he or, she put a reported three-inch gash in the elderly cyclist's head.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds advised the citizenship that the bird was most probably guarding a nest of young.

Oh, well, that's okay.

Cyclists were warned to steer clear of this particular roadway or paint eyes on their bicycle helmets (no explanation given).

Surprisingly, or maybe not so surprisingly, no mention whatsoever was made in

the article of capturing or otherwise controlling the marauding bird.

The article went on to say that a total of 22 cyclists, traveling the road during competition, were injured by the swooping buzzard. They, the article said, "suffered head injuries or had gouges taken out of their helmets."

How absurd.

If a human being was causing harm along a public

roadway, would the authorities do nothing about it? While this situation is somewhat funny, the bird did, according to the article, actually injure a great number of people. A three-inch gash to the head is nothing to be taken lightly, yet it sounds as though from the article that this aspect of the situation was downplayed.

I do believe God intended us to be good guardians over Planet Earth and all her inhabitants. However, I am not one of those individuals who, unfortunately, place animal life on the same or on a higher plateau than that of

mere humans.

Life is about balance and survival. It's about birth, death and, sadly, annihilation. Only man has the capacity to truly care about other species or habitats. You don't see chimpanzees struggling to save an obscure rodent from extinction or a tiger desperately trying to rescue bird or sea life from an oil slick in the middle of an ocean somewhere. That is why humans are at the top of the food chain.

Man can be good or man can be bad, but nature is uncaring.



Skyla Bryant
News editor

Today in History

(AP) — Today is Thursday, June 24, the 176th day of 2004. There are 190 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 24, 1948, Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the massive Berlin Airlift.

On this date:

In 1314, the forces of Scotland's King Robert I defeated the English in the Battle of Bannockburn.

In 1509, Henry VIII was crowned King of England.

In 1647, Margaret Brent, a niece of Lord Baltimore, was ejected from the Maryland Assembly after demanding a place and vote in that governing body.

In 1793, the first republican constitution in France was adopted.

In 1908, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, Grover Cleveland, died in Princeton, N.J., at age 71.

In 1940, France signed an armistice with Italy during World War II.

In 1968, "Resurrection City," a shantytown constructed as part of the Poor People's March on Washington, D.C., was closed down by authorities.

In 1975, 113 people were killed when an Eastern Airlines Boeing 727 crashed while attempting to land during a thunderstorm at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Our readers write

For the whole town

To the editor,

I don't know who came up with the Burnin' of the Bricks recently or whose idea it was, but it was a good one. Hats off to them and a great big hand clap.

Pampa has needed something like this for a long time and needs more events to occur. Mainly it sounded like it was a bunch of plain ol' working people that got it together — every day people.

They encouraged the whole town to participate and take part, not just a select few. And since the whole town could take part,

it didn't start at nine in the morning and close down as quick as they could.

You haven't and didn't hear anything about it taking too many bucks out of their pockets or too much time just because the other side of town could take part. It was just good clean fun and something for the whole town, all citizens to enjoy.

If more of these events took place maybe the division of the town would stop. Maybe a lot of people would realize there are a lot more citizens here than just a few.

Maybe somebody would realize there's a lot more needs here than just meeting them for a few people.

Continued on Page 5



Islam at war with Western world

The Muslim world is at war with Western civilization. We have the military might to thwart them. The question is: Do we have the intelligence to recognize the attack and the will to defend ourselves from annihilation? Their intent is clear, but let's refresh our memories with a bit of history.

At the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, several athletes were massacred. In 1979, the U.S. embassy in Tehran was taken over and 52 hostages held for more than a year. In 1983, U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut were blown up, killing 241 U.S. soldiers. In 1988, Pan

Am flight 103 was bombed, killing 270 people. In 1993, there was the first bombing of the World Trade Center, and in 2001, it was reduced to rubble, killing more than 3,000 Americans.

In 1998, U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed, resulting in more than 200 dead and 4,000 injured. Who are the people responsible for these and other wanton murders of innocents, including the

recent barbaric beheading of two innocent men? They were all Muslims.

You say, "Williams, you can't make an indictment of a whole people and their religion!"

I'm not, and let me clearly state: By no means are all Muslims murderers.

But on the other hand, I've never heard broad Muslim condemnation of their fellow Muslims' murderous acts committed in the name of their God. If anything, there has been

celebration and dancing in the streets in the wake of Muslim attacks on Westerners. Contrast their response to the widespread Western condemnation of the, mild by comparison, behavior of a few coalition forces in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

Muslim atrocities, and the collective Muslim response to those atrocities, might be better understood knowing their belief system as spelled out by a few, among many, passages from the Quran: "Fight those who do not believe in Allah" (Surat At-

See ISLAM, Page 5



Walter Williams
Columnist

Handle deposed dictator with care

What to do with Saddam Hussein, who currently is held by the United States as a prisoner of war, has become a question of some urgency as the official end of the occupation of Iraq draws near on June 30. The Geneva Conventions, it seems, require the release of POWs when a war or occupation ends, unless criminal charges are brought against them.

In addition, the new Iraqi interim government has called for the United States to hand Saddam over to Iraqi custody for trial by an Iraqi Special Tribunal, created in December of last year. The Americans, however, are

concerned about security and the Iraqis' ability to hang on to him. A compromise apparently has been worked out involving a paper transfer of the country's former leader to Iraq while physically he remains under American control.

Of course, with the issues of post-occupation custody and criminal charges come the questions of trial and venue. The United States agrees with the Iraqis that they should be able to try their

tormentor. And on the surface that seems only just. However, there are serious questions about whether Saddam and his henchmen could receive a fair trial in Iraq, about whether security there would, in any reasonably near future, be good

enough that trial judges would feel safe in rendering an objective verdict.

Also, there is a strong desire elsewhere in the world for an international dimension to the trial of

Saddam. It is important, many feel, that Saddam's trial not only be thorough and fair, but that it also should serve to emphasize the principles of the Nuremberg Tribunal of 1945-49. It was at Nuremberg that the Allied powers conducted the war-crimes trials of Nazi war criminals. Those trials first established the principle that genocide and other crimes against humanity could and should be punished by the world at large.

Those of us who witnessed the Nuremberg trials, as well as those who organ-

See DICTATOR, Page 5



Walter Cronkite
Columnist

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Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS

Brave chief

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner literally has a tiger by the tail — a full-grown white tiger named "Apollo," complete with fangs and claws. Apollo was part of the Amarillo Wildlife Refuge booth at the Chamber's Business Expo last weekend.

Islam

Continued from Page 4

Taubah 9:29). "I will instill terror into the hearts of the unbelievers, smite ye above their necks and smite all their finger tips of them" (Quran 8:12). "The unbelievers among the People of the Book and the pagans shall burn forever in the fire of Hell. They are the vilest of all creatures" (Quran 98:1-8). "Fight against those who believe not in Allah, and those who acknowledge not the religion of truth (Islam), until they are subdued" (Surat At-Taubah 9:29).

Phil Lucas, editor of the Panama City, Fla., News Herald, in his editorial "Up Against Fanaticism," asks,

"Can anybody name three ongoing world conflicts in which Muslims are not involved?" Lucas says, "They can't get along with their neighbors on much of the planet: France, Chechnya, Bosnia, Indonesia, Spain, Morocco, India, Tunisia, Somalia, etc., etc., etc."

My colleague Dr. Thomas Sowell observes, "Those in the Islamic world have for centuries been taught to regard themselves as far superior to the 'infidels' of the West, while everything they see with their own eyes now tells them otherwise." He adds, "Nowhere have whole peoples seen their situation reversed more visibly or more painfully than the peoples of the Islamic world." Sowell adds that few people, once at the top of

civilization, accept their reversals of fortune gracefully. Moreover, they don't blame themselves for their plight. For the Muslim world, it's the West who's to blame.

History never repeats itself exactly, but we might benefit from the knowledge of factors leading to the decline of past great civilizations. Rome was one of those advanced civilizations. Rome was so caught up in "bread and circuses" and moral decline that it couldn't manage to defend itself from invading barbaric hordes who ultimately plunged Europe into the Dark Ages. The sooner we recognize the West is in a war for survival, the more likely we'll be able to escape the fate that befell the Roman Empire.

tribunal closed up shop.

Today, the International Criminal Court, sitting in The Hague, embraces the principles of Nuremberg and would seem a fitting venue for Saddam's trial. However, it has one very serious problem. The court has no jurisdiction over crimes committed before it was created on July 1, 2002. That would mean that Saddam's most horrific crimes, including his campaigns against the Kurds (human-rights groups say as many as 300,000 might have disappeared in the 1980s and '90s) and his invasions of Iran and Kuwait, would be immune from prosecution.

But there are other means of internationalizing the trial proposed. The United Nations has, in the past, established special tribunals for such purposes for Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Cambodia. Why not for Iraq?

That alternative could defuse another potential problem for internationalizing the trial — perceptions in the Arab world that the West is trying to deny the Iraqis the justice (or revenge) they are entitled to.

But there seems to be no reason why the United Nations, the United States and Iraq could not work out a system in which the experience and expertise of the international community might be used to assist the Iraqis in conducting a genuinely fair and thorough trial.

It would seem to be not only politically doable, but the best solution possible. It would recognize the legitimate claims of Iraq, defuse any sense of "Western arrogance" and reaffirm the principles of Nuremberg, as well — an important warning to the world's would-be despots.

start staying open on Saturdays, too, instead of just Monday through Friday.

Maybe a lot more people would have a reason to come here. Maybe a lot more people would have a reason to stay.

People need to start think-

ing about the whole town and its citizens, not just keeping bucks in their pockets, afraid to do for the citizens or the other side of town because it might break them.

Sue Meeks
Pampa

Dictator

Continued from Page 4

ized and participated in them, were highly conscious of the fact that history was being made. Even though those were trials of the vanquished by the victors in a brutal world war, there was, nonetheless, a sense that genocide, other crimes against humanity and aggressive war itself were in the dock. A truly historic precedent had been set among the nations of the world. And what emerged was a set of principles that held national leaders and those who do their bidding to be accountable for crimes against humanity and to face punishment by the world community. When the many crimes of that conflict were adjudicated, however, the

Letter

Continued from Page 4

Maybe the stores and businesses would take an interest in the town and even

Bush and Kerry vying to appear most positive

WASHINGTON (AP) — Happy days are here again. Or so say President Bush and John Kerry, who paint a rosy picture of America's future when they're not pounding each other with criticisms.

"I'm optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America," Bush says in campaign commercials. Kerry does too. "We're a country of the future," the Democrat says in one of his TV ads. "We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do people."

With the presidential race even in the polls, both candidates are trying to win over voters by projecting a bright outlook, despite looming challenges in Iraq and a host of domestic woes.

"It's a bedrock principle in the United States," said Darrell West, who teaches political science at Brown University. "Americans almost always go for the optimistic candidate."

But taking the glass-is-half-full approach requires delicate balancing.

The incumbent, Bush, must couch his enthusiasm for economic growth at home with the reality of ongoing turmoil in Iraq — or risk being seen as out of touch. Kerry, too, must walk a fine line as the challenger, trying to appear positive while pointing out the deficiencies he says merit a change in leadership. But he must do it without going so negative that he gives credence to Bush's new label for him: pessimist.

Both can be done. As the sitting president in 1984, Ronald Reagan recycled his "Morning in America" campaign mantra from four years earlier into "Morning Again in America," stressing the nation was strong but could be better. Bill Clinton ran as a can-do challenger in 1992 and successfully tempered his criticism of the first President Bush while tapping into the country's upbeat, forward-looking nature.

For Bush and Kerry, the definitions of optimism are different, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, an expert on political rhetoric at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center.

"The president has to be more optimistic about the moment we're in," Jamieson said, "and the challenger needs to be more optimistic about where he can take you."

Both candidates have latched onto the theme. Kerry released an ad titled "Optimists" while Bush criticized Kerry in another called "Pessimism." Nearly everyday, they or their surrogates say they are optimistic about something.

Bush began his re-election campaign by telling voters he believed America was prevailing through tough times — the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the economic

recession. Then, the political environment turned sharply negative. His campaign simultaneously unleashed attack ads against Kerry and received a rash of difficult news out of Iraq.

Once the economy started to rebound, Bush had something to be hopeful about. He now embraces job-growth numbers — and tries to paint Kerry as a downer.

As jobs grew, Kerry argued America could do better and that Bush was not in tune with the public's concerns. The Democrat said any new jobs were low paying and proposed boosting the minimum wage. He claimed families continue to struggle and offered a plan to give parents more child care money.

Kerry noted that Bush still has "the worst jobs record of any president since Herbert Hoover" and said "the middle class has been losing."

Meanwhile, Kerry's campaign circulated a document called "Americans are too optimistic to settle for George Bush's economy" and unveiled TV ads that seek to subtly contrast policies under the Republican's administration with Kerry's own proposals — without naming Bush.

Bush swung back with the pessimist label, in effect, inoculating himself from Kerry's criticisms. The president's latest TV and radio ads list ways he says the economy is better and then accuse Kerry of talking about the Great Depression, intoning "pessimism never created a job."

At a recent speech before the National Federation of Independent Business, Bush referred to "modern-day economic pessimists," an obvious reference to Kerry. "They can find the dark cloud, but they can't see the sunshine," Bush said, "and they don't

know where to take the country and they don't know where to lead."

In e-mail missives and conference calls, Bush's campaign said Kerry was on a "Pessimism and Misery Tour," and campaign manager Ken Mehlman criticized the Democrat for "talking down the economy" with "1970s rhetoric."

Republicans said Kerry simply criticizes Bush's economic policies without recognizing job growth, giving Bush legitimate reason to call Kerry a pessimist.

"It's a framework you'll see for a while," said Charlie Black, a former Republican National Committee chairman.

Democrats find it baffling that Bush is crying pessimism after spending months attacking Kerry through TV ads.

Jenny Backus, a Democratic strategist, called Bush a "Georgie-come-lately" to the notion of optimism. "Bush left open the high road for six months and John Kerry took it," Backus said.

'We're a country of the future. We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do people.'

— Senator Kerry in campaign commercial

'I'm optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America.'

— President Bush in campaign commercial

Poll: Bush, Kerry locked in tight Pennsylvania race

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and Democrat John Kerry remain locked in a tight contest in Pennsylvania, a key battleground state that Al Gore won by 4.2 percentage points in 2000.

Kerry had the backing of 44 percent, Bush 43 percent and independent candidate Ralph Nader 7 percent in the Quinnipiac University poll released Thursday.

In May, Kerry had 44 percent and Bush 41 percent. Bush had a slight lead in the state in April.

In a two-way matchup, Kerry leads Bush 49 percent to 43 percent in the state with 21

electoral votes.

The economy is the most important issue for Pennsylvania voters, with just over four in 10 saying it is their top issue. Just over a fourth said Iraq, and another fourth said terrorism.

Voters feel Kerry would do a better job on the economy by 50 percent to 43 percent. Bush and Kerry are virtually tied on who could best handle Iraq. Bush has the advantage on terrorism 53 percent to 38 percent.

The poll of 839 registered voters taken June 21-22 had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Community happenings

- **Open Door Al-Anon meets at 8 p.m., Monday and Wednesday each week at 910 W. Kentucky.** For more information, call 665-9702. Birthday night begins at 7:30 p.m., the fourth Wednesday of each month.

- **Open Door Al-Anon Alateen Winners Group meets at 8 p.m., Wednesdays at 910 W. Kentucky.**

- **Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes.** Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

- **Pampa Caregivers Support Group will meet at 12 noon the second Thursday of each month at Shepards Nursing, 918 N. Crest Road.** The meetings are open to all caregivers of individuals suffering from medical conditions such as stroke, heart attack and

Alzheimer's.

- **Panhandle Alliance for the Mentally Ill, a support group for the mentally ill and family members, meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell.** This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

- **The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will offer "Pathways,"** a four-part support series for those who have lost a loved one, from 1:30-3 p.m. Tuesdays throughout the month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I had a problem similar to the one described by "Stressed-Out by Mom," the college student whose mother calls to unload her problems. A therapist taught me a technique that worked wonders. When Mom called and complained, instead of sympathizing (which is why she called in the first place), I'd mirror her complaint back to her so she didn't receive the positive feedback she was seeking.

When she said, "Your sister doesn't know how to save money," I'd reply, "So what you're saying is my sister doesn't know how to save money." However, when she said something positive, like, "Isn't it a lovely day?" I'd be sure to give her all kinds of positive feedback. "It sure is! I'll bet your marigolds are really blooming now!"

It worked like a charm and preserved my relationship with my mother. She quickly lost interest in the topics that didn't bring positive feedback, and we'd end up talking about all kinds of interesting things.

This method is tried-and-true. It's based on behavioral psychology, and it works with spouses, kids, co-workers -- the applications are endless.

— TRIED IT IN PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR TRIED IT: Thank you for the suggestion. I was unprepared for the deluge of mail I received from readers who identified with "Stressed's" problem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 57-year-old woman who has had the same problems with my now 76-year-old mother since childhood. Please tell "Stressed Out" that she must take immediate steps to set healthy boundaries. She should schedule an appointment at the student health center and talk to a psychologist about her problem.

I am the only family member still on speaking terms with Mother. Her eight siblings, the folks at the senior center and people from her former church no longer talk to her. I'm the only one she has left to lash out at -- and if I try to set boundaries now, the breach it will create will leave

her with no support system at all. — WISH I'D DONE IT IN FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

DEAR WISH: Perhaps the suggestion offered by the next writer will be of help to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have a relative who is an alcoholic. He calls to ramble, complain and generally make me miserable. I relieve my stress by playing computer games, reading a magazine or watching TV, while he's talking. The trick is to otherwise engage your mind while uttering an occasional response. It works. When he hangs up, I have no idea what he said, but he is happy and I'm not stressed. He's never really wanted answers -- just somebody to unload on.

— COPING IN BLOOMINGTON, IND.

DEAR COPING: Not everyone has your level of tolerance. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I made similar calls to my daughter. They would begin as friendly calls to chat and nosedive from there. I hope that girl's mother locates a therapy group to attend. Maybe she can find some help and comfort there. My daughter eventually made it plain that if I continued to cry when we were on the phone, she would not talk to me. I know she screens her calls and often doesn't pick up.

So now I talk to the women in the group about my problems. Most of them have daughters they're close to. When I see families with mothers, daughters and grandmothers all together I am happy for them, but sometimes I'm jealous.

— SCREENED OUT IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SCREENED OUT: I'm pleased you're getting emotional support from your therapy group. It may be healthier for all concerned. Many people have confessed that they, too, screen their calls because they haven't the courage to set boundaries. However, no one ever solved problems by dodging them.

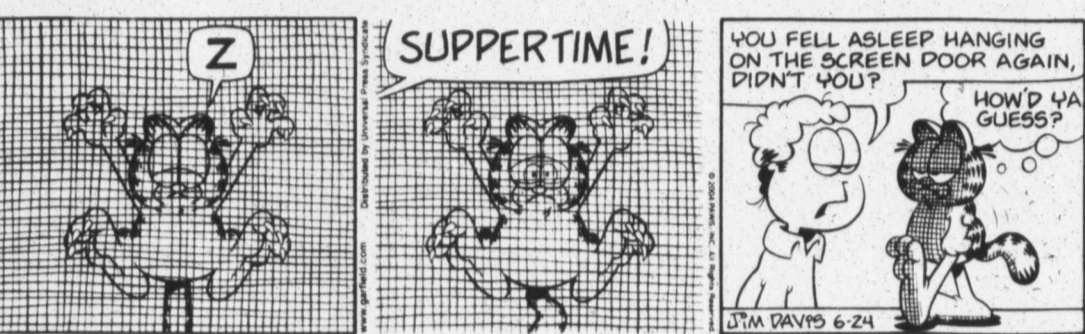
For Better Or Worse



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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

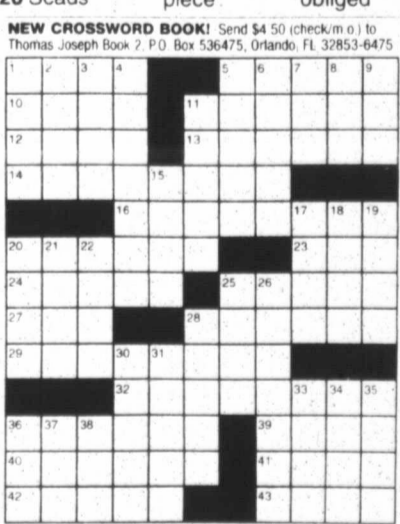
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- 5 Tussle
- 10 Pennsylvania port
- 11 Woman, to an Aussie
- 12 Chow
- 13 Golf
- 14 Forks and spoons
- 16 Exposed
- 20 Back in the navy
- 23 Once known as
- 24 Ladies' men
- 25 Sum up
- 27 Dedicated verse
- 28 Antisocial folks
- 29 "Be well"
- 32 Rider's cost
- 36 Str up
- 39 Heed
- 40 Keg contents
- 41 Theater award
- 42 Suit material
- 43 Works leather



Yesterday's answer

- 2 Vaccine type
- 3 Poet Dove
- 4 Got cozy
- 5 Pottery piece
- 6 Paparazzi target
- 7 Edge
- 8 Drink with a head
- 9 Hole number
- 11 Portugal neighbor
- 15 Much of history
- 17 Poker cost
- 18 Back
- 19 Snaky fish
- 20 Scads piece
- 21 Ice cream parlor order
- 22 Long journey on TV
- 25 Spelling on TV
- 26 Ruler measure
- 28 Less strict
- 30 Piano
- 31 Put in a box
- 33 "Mamma Mia" group
- 34 Horse strap
- 35 Potato buds
- 36 Likely
- 37 Squabble
- 38 Be obliged



NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 7, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

Marmaduke



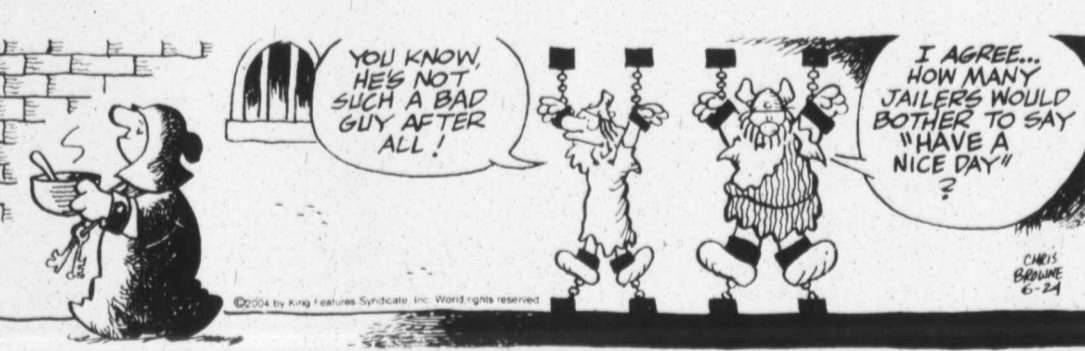
The Family Circus



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day



PAC team members take a moment out of their busy training schedules to pose for team picture. Front row, left to right, Tyler Wishon, Monica Wishon and Jessica Baggerman. Middle row, left to right, Kirby Broadus, Kaleb West and Nathan Miller. Back row, left to right, Kevin Schepp, Abby West, Lydia West, Tyler O'Neal, Amber Bradford, Erica Schepp and Derek Wishon. Not pictured-Taylor Dalton.

UT to CWS final

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Texas will be resting while South Carolina and Cal State Fullerton meet again in the College World Series.

"The advantage is ours," Texas coach Augie Garrido said.

The top-seeded Longhorns (58-13), playing for their second national championship in three years, advanced to the best-of-three final with a 7-6 comeback victory over Georgia on Wednesday.

South Carolina beat Fullerton 5-3 to force rematch with the Titans on Thursday night for a spot in the final.

South Carolina coach Ray Tanner and Fullerton's George Horton were considering using their top starters — the Gamecocks' Matt Campbell (10-5) and the Titans' Jason Windsor (12-4).

Windsor threw a three-hitter in beating Campbell and the Gamecocks 2-0 in the first round.

"We're here to win a national championship, and you can only do that if you get to (the finals)," Horton said. "If Ray uses Campbell and we use Windsor, then advantage Augie, I guess."

A South Carolina victory would set up a rematch of its 2002 CWS final against Texas. The Gamecocks (53-16) have advanced to the final three times, but have never won a title.

Fullerton (44-22) is seeking its fourth title. The Titans won in 1979, '84 and '95, all under Garrido.

The Longhorns are set to start All-American J.P. Howell, the Big 12 Pitcher of the Year, on Saturday in the first game of the best-of-three final. He allowed two hits in 6 2-3 innings in Texas' 13-2 first-round victory over Arkansas.

In Texas' victory over Georgia (45-23), Carson Kainer doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and Huston Street (6-1) pitched three innings of one-run relief. Georgia lost twice to Texas in the tournament, squandering a five-run lead Wednesday.

"They're a championship ballclub that continues to answer everything their opponent brings at them," Bulldogs coach David Pero said.

The Longhorns' rally marked the first time in the CWS that a team has rallied from five runs down to win since Stanford erased an eight-run deficit to beat Tulane in 2001.

"I believe that's the 27th time we've come from behind to win, so it wasn't our first rodeo," Garrido said.

In the second game, Jason Fletcher and Chad Blackwell combined to hold Fullerton hitless over the last five innings. Bryan Triplett homered and drove in the go-ahead run for South Carolina.

"Last night when I got the word I was going to start, I had chills going all night," Fletcher said. "I tried to call everybody I knew to let them know they should watch the game tomorrow."

PAC team prepares for summer

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Summer has only just begun but it has already been a busy one for the swimmers and divers of the Pampa program. Coach Miller says he is very pleased with the hard work and dedication the athletes are putting in to their preparation for the upcoming season.

Swimmers have taken part in two meets so already this season and have done well. The PAC (Pampa Aquatics Club) has limited to travel, swimming in the USA Swimming Western Kansas Division, based on the high cost of gas. As such, all the meets are within three and a half hours of Pampa.

Swimmers were in Dodge City, Kansas last weekend where they took part in a meet, placing in the top 12 in almost every event. Next on the schedule is a meet in Laking, Kansas next week.

According to coach Miller, "These kids are working really hard to ready themselves for the upcoming season. It's hard to get up at 7a.m. and swim for 2 hours. It is good to see they are willing to pay the price to be great."

One diver in particular, Whitney Penrod, makes the journey to Amarillo every morning to train for 2 hours and work on a new list of dives.

Coach Miller asks that should you bump into a PAC team member, you wish them luck and let them know you appreciate them.

TYSON GRANTED LICENSE

What venue wants him

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The boxing commissioner of New Jersey, a rocket scientist named Larry Hazzard, granted Mike Tyson a boxing license this past Monday. Hazzard actually tried to rationalize his decision with this node of wisdom, "He (Tyson) has been behaving himself for quite some time."

What? That statement alone tells me that, to be boxing commissioner in the state of New Jersey, one only needs to fog a mirror.

Thankfully the state's much wiser governor limited the locations Tyson would be allowed to fight in. Gov. James E.

McGreevey said he would not allow Tyson to fight in any facility owned or operated by the state of New Jersey. So what does that leave? Considering most sports arenas would be off limits, it would appear to limit the 38 year old former heavyweight champ to Garden State venues like pool halls, night clubs, parking lots, perhaps an opponent's house or secluded alley-venues better suited to accommodate Tyson's boxing skills. Boxing skills? Sounds like an oxymoron to me.

Aside from his obvious and utter ignorance concerning Tyson's criminal history, Hazzard's decision causes me to assume he

must already have a fight location in mind. Better yet, he must have some money down on Tyson. Maybe Hazzard is behind on a car or house payment. Maybe he is somehow related to P.T. Barnum. Perhaps saying he believes Tyson has been behaving himself for a while is a cry for help. I can only hope a caring family member has since intervened.

Mike Tyson is no more a boxer today than I am. What Mike Tyson is is a convicted rapist who also has a few assault and other charges attached to his record. He has become a freak show that some still can't seem look away from. Worse yet, there are those still willing to pay to see it-willing to lay down hard-

earned coin to watch as Tyson makes fools of them all and walks away with more money than most will ever earn.

Larry Hazzard and others like him don't care whether Tyson can still bring it in the squared circle. What they are really banking on is the mystery of the unknown. What stupid thing will Tyson do when the bell sounds? Tyson will most likely oblige.

So to you Tyson hangers-on I say let go. Boxing is trying to work itself out of the ditch in which it has been languishing for years. The sport and all involved with it would do well to distance themselves from Mike Tyson. So would you.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



All Stars this weekend

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Cal Ripken League all star baseball tournament is scheduled to get underway this Saturday, June 26, at the Pampa Optimist Club.

This tournament will include 9 teams from Pampa, Tulia, Plainview, North Randall County Association, and Canyon.

These teams are in the 9 & 10 year old age group.

The tournament will feature a double elimination format with games scheduled to begin at 1p.m. Saturday.

These games will be played on two fields. Eight games will take to the diamonds on Saturday, while the remaining games will take place through Tuesday, June 29. The Championship game will be held June 30th.

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Office technology grads



Clarendon College-Pampa Center Office Technology Program graduations this spring included (left to right) Patricia Leshner, Jodie Adams, Jovita Rios, Barbara Bachus, Rhonda Gutierrez and Tina Renner with instructor Jan Haynes.

North Korea reportedly makes massive request for energy aid

BEIJING (AP) — North Korea presented a massive demand for energy aid Thursday at six-nation talks as Washington insisted that the North give up nuclear weapons development. Japanese news reports said.

The North wants the equivalent of 2 million kilowatts of power per year in exchange for freezing work on its nuclear program, the Kyodo News agency reported, citing diplomatic sources on the second day of talks in the Chinese capital.

It wasn't clear whether Washington would even discuss such a request, since the United States says the North must commit to dismantling the program, not just freezing development.

The United States offered its first detailed proposal for ending the dispute Wednesday, offering the North a step-by-step plan that would provide energy aid and security guarantees in exchange for the dismantling of the nuclear program.

Both Japan and South Korea say they would consider giving the North fuel oil if it freezes its nuclear program as a step toward its eventual dismantling. The United States says it wouldn't provide energy assistance under its proposal.

Also Thursday, U.S. and North Korean envoys held a rare one-on-one meeting at a Chinese government guesthouse, according to a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity. She didn't immediately have any details of the discussions.

Competing U.S. and North Korean proposals for ending the dispute dominated the second day of talks, which also include Russia.

"There are considerable differences, but there is common ground as well," said Cho Tae-yong, a member of the South Korean delegation. He wouldn't give any details of the proposals.

North Korea was offering to freeze work at its main nuclear facility at Yongbyon, according to Kyodo. It didn't say whether that included a commitment sought by Washington to dismantle all nuclear facilities.

The North's energy request is the equivalent of 2.7 million tons of fuel oil per year, Kyodo said. It said North Korea is believed to consume about 8 million kilowatts per year.

U.S. officials said their proposal was meant to break the

impasse in talks, which went through two earlier rounds with no major progress.

The U.S. proposal would include a three-month preparation period, in which the North would freeze work on its nuclear program, submit a list of all nuclear activities and remove key weapons ingredients.

U.S. officials said it might be several days before North Korea responded to the "very complex" proposal.

Moscow was willing to help provide energy aid and security guarantees, said Russian envoy Alexander Alexeyev, according to the Russian news agency Itar-Tass. The report didn't say what conditions Russia might attach to that offer.

North Korea's negotiating partners all say they want an end to the communist North's nuclear weapons development.

The dispute erupted in late 2002 when Washington said North Korea admitted operating a secret nuclear program in violation of a 1994 agreement.

North Korea has agreed in principle to give up its existing weapons programs. It denies a U.S. claim that it has a uranium-based program in addition to one based on plutonium that it has acknowledged.

The U.S. government says the danger posed by the North Koreans would remain if they dismantled their plutonium program while leaving intact a uranium-based bomb program.

Washington says any settlement has to include monitoring to ensure Pyongyang doesn't renege on its promises, and must include all of the North's nuclear programs.

Ahead of the latest talks, North Korea demanded that Washington withdraw its call for an "irreversible" dismantling of its nuclear program, casting doubt on hopes for a breakthrough.

The North Korean envoy, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan, said Wednesday that Pyongyang was willing to renounce nuclear weapons in exchange for aid and an end to Washington's "hostile policy."

North Korea has insisted that without a security guarantee from the United States, it must keep its nuclear program to deter a possible U.S. attack.

U.S. envoy James Kelly said Wednesday that a resolution of the dispute would "open the door to a new relationship" between Washington and Pyongyang.

'There are considerable differences, but there is common ground as well.'

— Cho Tae-yong
Delegation member

Iran hands over eight servicemen

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Eight British servicemen who were detained after their boats strayed into Iranian territorial waters have been turned over to British diplomats, officials said Thursday.

Protesters angry about the occupation of Iraq tried to approach the six Royal Marines and two sailors as they arrived at Tehran's airport accompanied by British consular officers, but they were kept away by police.

The eight were detained Monday after their boats apparently strayed into the Iranian side of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, or Arvand River, that runs along the Iran-Iraq border while delivering a patrol boat to Iraq's new river police.

"I'm told that they are in very good spirits and were well cared for," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in a brief statement.

He said they would be taken to the British Embassy. He did not specify where they would then go.

Iran also briefly detained, investigated and then released an unspecified number of Turkish troops who had strayed across the border "by mistake," state-run television reported Thursday.

It gave no timing for the detention or release of the troops, but unconfirmed reports said Wednesday that

25 Turkish soldiers chasing Kurdish rebels crossed into Iran and were detained by Iranian forces.

The Arabic-language Al-Alam television station said a number of protesters waited at the Tehran airport for the arrival of the British servicemen. Hard-line Iranians opposed to Britain's prominent role in the occupation of Iraq have in recent weeks held angry demonstrations outside the British Embassy.

Strains between the two nations rose last week when Britain helped draft an International Atomic Energy Agency resolution rebuking Iran for past nuclear cover-ups.

The servicemen's capture had further fueled tensions between the two countries, but Straw said he remained convinced that Britain's policy of engaging with Iran was wise.

"We have diplomatic relations with Iran, we work hard on those relationships and sometimes the relationships are complicated but I'm in no doubt at all that our policy of engagement with the government of Iran ... is the best approach," he said.

He praised the efforts of his Iranian counterpart, Kamal Kharrazi.

Iran had initially said it would prosecute the British servicemen for illegally entering Iranian waters.

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Bomb goes off in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — A bomb blast aboard a bus killed at least three people and injured eight, a senior police official said. Earlier, a bomb exploded outside the Ankara hotel where President Bush is expected to stay before this weekend's NATO summit.

The Istanbul explosion occurred as the bus traveled in a residential area of the city, the police official said on condition of anonymity. Ambulances rushed to the scene in the Fatih district, about five miles from the summit area.

About 250 miles away in Ankara, a small bomb

exploded outside the Hilton Hotel, injuring three people, including two police officers.

One officer lost a foot in the blast, said Adil Surat, head of the trauma unit at Hacettepe University hospital, speaking to the Anatolia news agency.

A second officer had scratches on his face and appeared to be in shock. He was in good condition, as was the civilian, Surat said.

The officers were injured when they approached a package containing the explosives after an anonymous tip that a bomb was placed nearby. Police Chief Ercument Yilmaz said.

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