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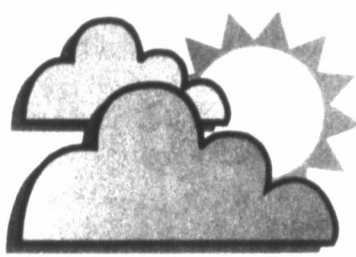
Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Volume 100 • No. 1174

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Today's weather



H 40 L 27

Deaths

Betty Irene Word, 74, homemaker.

Groundhog Day

Punxsutawney Phil's prediction: More winter on the way

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP) — Punxsutawney Phil has spoken, and the news isn't good.

The world's most famous furry forecaster saw his shadow Wednesday on Gobbler's Knob, suggesting another six weeks of wintry weather.

The chubby critter delivered the prediction after he was pulled from his burrow in an oak stump at 7:31 a.m. by a top-hatted handler, and his prediction was greeted by boos from the thousands in attendance.

"He's only the messenger!" one of the members of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club — the volunteer group in charge of Phil and the town's Groundhog Day festivities — reminded the crowd braving the frigid weather.

In the years since The Punxsutawney Spirit first carried word of the groundhog's failing to see its shadow in 1886, this town of 7,500 people about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh has been dubbed the "Weather Capital of the World."

The tradition stems from the Christian holiday of Candlemas, and the belief that if a hibernating animal sees its shadow, winter will last another six weeks. If there's no shadow, spring will come early.

That was the forecast from Lilburn, Ga., groundhog, Gen. Beauregard Lee, who did not see his shadow when he emerged as light rain fell Wednesday morning. Beau made his appearance with a female groundhog their handlers at Yellow River Game Ranch hope will produce offspring to continue the tradition if the aging prognosticator retires this year.

Civil hearing to remove DA set Feb. 14

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A hearing on the plaintiff's requested temporary orders in the civil action filed to remove Rick Roach from the office of 31st and 223rd District Attorney has been set for 9 a.m., Monday, Feb. 14, in the 31st Judicial District Court

in Gray County.

Rebecca Bailey, an employee of the district attorney's office, filed an original petition for removal of Roach from the office on Jan. 12, one day after Roach was arrested at Gray County Courthouse by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents from Amarillo on a charge of possession of

methamphetamine. Three additional counts were later added to Roach's indictment which involve methamphetamine, cocaine and firearms.

Steven R. Emmert, 31st Judicial District judge, recused himself from presiding in the matter on the same day as its filing, Jan. 12.

Kelly G. Moore, 121st District judge from

Brownfield and presiding judge of the Ninth Administrative Judicial Region of Texas, assigned himself the case on Jan. 13. Yesterday, Moore assigned the civil case to 84th District Judge William D. Smith, in an order of assignment filed in the District Clerk's office.

The original petition for removal was filed by County

Attorney Josh Seabourn. William E. "Bill" Kelly III of Canyon, Roach's attorney, filed the answer.

In the order setting conditions of release of Roach from jail on the federal criminal drug and weapons charges, he was restricted to Potter County and was to

See ROACH, Page 3



Cindy Malone, agent, stands at the counter of the Pampa Greyhound Bus Station. The station will close Thursday.

Bus station closes doors on Thursday

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Editor

Despite a public outcry and numerous e-mails, cards and letters, Greyhound Lines, Inc. of Dallas will close the Pampa bus terminal on Feb. 3.

Local employees, supporters and members of the media are to be on hand at 10 a.m., Thursday, in recognition of the station's last day of service.

Greyhound officials first planned to close the Pampa terminal in 2001, but public response then managed to keep the local station open, although many others in surrounding areas, such as Borger and Wheeler, were closed.

"This is the last of the public transportation through Pampa," said Debra Epperson, manager of the local bus station, said after learning of the proposed closing.

The Pampa terminal is to be closed "as the next step in improving our passenger network and the service we provide to the majority of our customers," said Ted Burk, vice president of Greyhound operations, in a letter to Epperson.

"These changes will expedite service on the long-haul interstates that connect Texas to the West Coast. Frequency changes are being made and some routes and locations are

See BUS, Page 3

Stevens: Overheated compressor likely start of Juniper Street fire

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Editor

After spending almost the same amount of time that it took to put out a major house fire, state and local fire marshals late Tuesday determined an overheated refrigerator compressor likely caused the blaze at 1100 Juniper.

"We feel like it was a compressor unit in a refrigerator that overheated and then ignited combustible materials behind it," Pampa Fire Marshal Gary Stevens said this morning.

"There were two things, the compressor and an extension cord in the

same area," Stevens explained. "We can't rule out the cord, but we really think it was the compressor."

Stevens said he called in the State Deputy Fire Marshal Kelly Vandergriff of Abernathy to help him with the task of investigating the Monday fire, made more difficult because the roof of the single-story brick home had caved in.

"It's not suspicious," Stevens said Tuesday. "It's just that this is such a massive fire, it's going to be a heck of a job to dig through all this and find out what happened."

See FIRE, Page 3



Firefighter Jerry Brock stands in patchy snow as he sprays down the back of a burning home at 1100 Juniper Monday.

Commissioners accept sheriff's vehicles bids

Editor's Note: This is the second part of a report on the Feb. 1 Gray County Commission meeting.

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office will pay \$49,179.87 for two new patrol

vehicles and retire two of their oldest ones after county commissioners approved acceptance of a bid by Culbertson-Stowers, Inc., during this morning's commissioners' meeting at Gray County Courthouse.

The funds will buy two 2005 Chevrolet one-half ton crew cab pickups with 5.3 liter engines. Their

uses will include patrol duties.

Bids from four dealers were received and were opened at this morning's meeting. Bids had been sought for sport utility vehicles as well as pickups; all bids concerning SUVs were higher than those for pickup trucks.

Philpott Motors of Neches had

submitted the lowest original bid of \$48,976 for two 2005 Ford F-150 4x4 crew cab pickups. However, problems associated with accepting a bid from that distance, such as cost of traveling to pick up and bring back the vehicles, was cited.

See COUNTY, Page 3

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrest.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

Eight traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from Christine and Duncan streets, the 200 block of Tignor, and Wilks and Hobart streets. A hit and run accident was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles, and at One Medical Plaza. A vehicle accident was reported in the 800 block of South Faulkner.

A suspicious person was reported at Kingsmill and Purviance streets, and in the 600 block of Magnolia.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 2600 block of Cherokee, the 700 block of South Cuyler, and the 100 block of South Wells.

Domestic assault was reported in the lobby of the police department. The incident occurred in the 1000 block of South Faulkner. No injuries were reported.

Domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of North Sumner.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks. Warrant service was conducted at three locations.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 600 block of Reid.

A suspicious vehicle report was made in the police department lobby.

A harassment report was made in the police department lobby.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 200 block of North Wells.

Assault was reported in the 900 block of Brunow and the 900 block of South Wells. No injuries were reported in the 900 block of South Wells.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported at Cinderella and Rosewood streets.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of North Wells.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive and at Jordan and Bradley streets.

Medical assistance was requested in the 1900 block of Christine.

An animal complaint was received from the 2100 block of Lea.

One business alarm was reported.

Tiffney LeeAnn Britton, 17, 333 Sunset, was arrested in the 300 block of Sunset for failure to attend a school function and *capias pro* fines for three counts of failure to attend school.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Feb. 1

4:06 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a

report of a gas odor at Wilks and Faulkner streets. No source of the odor was found.

6:32 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a

Ambulance

medical assist in the 1900 block of Christine.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

11:12 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Browning and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

3:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Hilton Road and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

6:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Jordan prison unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:50 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:24 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Lowry and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:06 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

6:49 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Jordan prison unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

Obituaries

Betty Irene Word, 74

Betty Irene Word, 74, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, 2005, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. C.W. Parker, pastor of Central Baptist Church, and the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Word was born July 12, 1930, in Maramec, Okla. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1950.

She married Roy Conrad Yeager on June 25, 1949, in Eunice, N.M. He preceded her in death on April 25, 1961. She later married

Thomas J. Word on April 14, 1962, in Sayre, Okla. He preceded her in death on March 19, 1994.

She was a member of the Central Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, Connie Jo Morrison of Houston; one son, Robert Glen Yeager of Fritch; two sisters, Joan Yeager and Lucybell Duff, both of Canyon; four granddaughters, Angela Faye Warren and Jennifer Anne Sealy, both of Houston, Holly Melissa Yeager of Farmington, N.M., and Cherie Hannan of Charleston, S.C.; and three great-grandchildren, Kyle Roy Warren and Cassandra Irene Brobst, both of Houston, and Elizabeth Hannan of Charleston, S.C.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred T. and Addie A. Welch; and two brothers, Roy Glen Welch and Alfred Eugene Welch.

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



Word

Report: Intelligence officials believe North Korea sold processed uranium to Libya

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence agencies and government scientists have come up with strong evidence that North Korea sold processed uranium to Libya, apparently to assist the North African country in nuclear weapons development, an administration official said Wednesday.

The materials were detected in Libya's shipments of weapons-related materials to the United States after the country agreed to dismantle its nuclear arms program in late 2003, said the official, asking not to be identified.

The official said he was uncertain as to whether U.S. officials ever asked the Libyans about the country of origin of its nuclear materials.

The possibility of North Korea's export of nuclear materials and technology has long been a concern of the United States. The reclusive communist state is known to have sold missiles to Iran and Syria in past years.

The story about the alleged dealings between North Korea and Libya was first reported by The New York Times. It has previously been reported that Libya relied on the A.Q. Kahn network in Pakistan for nuclear materials.

The White House and the State Department had no comment on the reported link between Libya and North Korea.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said, "North Korea's nuclear program and nuclear weapons programs and its past and continuing proliferation activities are a threat to global peace and security."

"North Korea's actions underscore the importance of moving forward through the six-party talks," he said.

McClellan said that two members of the National Security Council staff recently traveled to several Asian capitals to discuss ways to restart the negotiations.

"We put forward a proposal at the last round of talks," he said. "We believe it addresses the concerns of all parties involved in those decisions. We believe that the proposal is the way forward to finding a peaceful,

diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue in North Korea."

"The proposal and the six-party process is the best way for North Korea to address the concerns of the international community and to end its international isolation," McClellan said.

The U.S. objective in the discussions is the verifiable dismantling of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

The strong belief that North Korea transferred nuclear materials could increase the sense of urgency among administration on the need for a diplomatic solution.

"We believe it addresses the concerns of all parties involved in those decisions. We believe that the proposal is the way forward to finding a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue in North Korea."

— Scott McClellan
White House press secretary

The Times report said the tentative conclusion about the North Korean activity supports earlier clues that the dictatorship exported fuel for atomic weapons.

Government officials in Washington are trying to determine whether North Korea has sold uranium, an ingredient necessary for atomic weapons, to other countries, including Iran and Syria. So far, there is no evidence of that, the Times said.

The Times reported that international inspectors tested nearly two tons of uranium material that Libya surrendered to the United States when it dismantled its nuclear program. The material, uranium hexafluoride, can be converted into bomb fuel.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed intelligence official as saying that that testing showed "with a certainty of 90 percent of better," that the materials came from North Korea.

Experts said the findings advance the West's understanding of North Korea's uranium program.

"It means the North Koreans have built a facility to process uranium," Leonard S. Specter, the deputy director of the Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Monterey Institute in California, told the Times. "And it raises the disturbing prospect that they've now made enough of it to feel comfortable selling some."

Services tomorrow

WORD, Betty Irene — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Second man gives up in money-found case

DALLAS (AP) — A second man charged with kidnapping a 12-year-old boy who wound up with wads of another man's money has turned himself in to police.

Nicholas Harris, 23, was charged with aggravated kidnapping. He turned himself in Tuesday night.

Harris and Sylvespa Adams are accused of threatening to harm pupils at the J.J. Rhoads Learning Center in Dallas after at least one pupil found tens of thousands of dollars, spent part of it and shared the rest with friends.

The 12-year-old told police he was kidnapped, beaten and forced to point out classmates who also had some of the money.

Adams claims that \$30,000 was stolen from a house he owns. He said his business manager lives in the house with his son and girlfriend. He has said he never kidnapped anyone and was only looking for his money.

Police say they can't confirm where the money was found, who found it and how much was there. Investigators initially said up to \$100,000 may have been found.

"The investigation is still ongoing,"

Dallas police spokeswoman Lt. Jan Easterling said.

In the days after the money was found, parents told police that men had come to their doors, threatening their children and demanding their money back.

The elementary school was so rife with rumors and threats of a drive-by shooting that it was locked down for an hour Jan. 23, and about 200 of the 600 children stayed home the next day.

Harris has a criminal record, including misdemeanor charges of criminal trespassing and possession of marijuana that are pending in court, The Dallas Morning News reported in Wednesday's editions. He served 12 days in jail for unlawfully carrying a handgun in 2000.

The mother of the 12-year-old boy has told the newspaper that her son lives in fear. The woman, whom the newspaper did not identify by name, said she also believes that her son, who was dropped off at home after being held for about an hour, could become a target because he can identify his kidnapers.

Information from: The Dallas Morning News, <http://www.dallasnews.com>

Gray County Weather

Today: Areas of fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming partly sunny, with a high near 40. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 27. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 53. Wind chill values between

18 and 28. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 28. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.03
Milo	3.11
Corn	3.61
Soybeans	4.37

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	59.81	+0.41
BP PLC ADR	60.96	+0.45
Cable Corp	34.60	-0.40
Cabot Oil Gas	50.16	+0.96

Coca Cola	41.62	+0.20
VLO	59.20	+2.24
HAL	41.05	+0.11
TRI	41.95	-0.13
NOI	37.59	+0.51
KMI	75.94	+0.76
XCEL	18.11	-0.09
Kerr McGee	62.83	+0.13
XOM	53.69	+0.42
Limited	24.15	+0.14
Williams	17.39	+0.43
MCD	31.63	-0.35
Atmos	28.08	+0.20
Pioneer Nat	39.12	+0.27

JCP	42.17	+0.07
COP	94.73	+0.12
SLB	68.80	+0.47
Tenneco	16.40	-0.27
CVX	55.62	+0.47
Wal-Mart	52.81	+0.20
OKE	28.13	+0.15
NS Grp	30.85	+0.33

New York Gold 421.00
Silver 6.72
West Texas Crude 47.12

CITY BRIEFS

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HARVESTER LANES REWARD!! FAM. Beloved Youth Bowling Leagues now forming ages 3-18, Sat., Feb. 5th, 10:30 am. No one sits, everyone plays!

HARVESTER LANES Clock Out Rock Out!! Starts Fri. 9:30 p.m. Lites, music, & fun.

BACON & Pancakes, all trimmings, St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 727 W. Brown, Tues. February 8th, 5-8 p.m. Tickets \$5, pre-school free. Day School Support Group Book Fair.

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Bush

WASHINGTON — With four years of his legacy, Bush's State of address outlines to give Social makeover, stay in Iraq, push for ic reform abroad an array of dom at home.

Bush was de speech Wedn Capitol Hill, scene of a tes debate over his p

Bus

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"We would h offenders direct from our parole

Fire

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Stevens said gators pinpoint fire had star kitchen. They v to find that the have to mov debris from th

At 12:23 p.m. Pampa Fire

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Fenton Moto Messer Ford of bids. Gene Mess 150 4x4 crew ca Their bid on tw was \$56,024.

Fenton Moto 150s was \$53,7 Expeditions wa

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TETERBORO — A corporate the end of an a Wednesday wh to take off, spee highway and str before slamming house. About 13 injured, one c nobody was ki

said. The injured least two peopl officials said. Eleven peopl plane; the m

Bush to outline goals on Social Security, Iraq tonight

WASHINGTON (AP) — With four years left to build his legacy, President Bush's State of the Union address outlines his goals to give Social Security a makeover, stay the course in Iraq, push for democratic reform abroad and tackle an array of domestic issues at home.

Bush was delivering his speech Wednesday on Capitol Hill, already the scene of a testy, partisan debate over his plan to offer

private retirement accounts. His ideas for changing the 70-year-old Social Security program scored just two sentences in last year's State of the Union. This year, it's the signature topic of his 40-minute speech before Congress and a nationally televised audience at 9 p.m. EST.

The White House says Bush will offer new details about his plan to let younger workers divert some of their Social Security payroll

taxes into personal investment accounts. But experts say while the president will seek to reassure Americans who are at or near retirement that they can expect to get their Social Security checks as expected, he'll leave larger questions unanswered.

"He's leading with the dessert and not revealing the spinach," Peter Orszag, an economist at the Brookings Institution and former Clinton White House adviser, said Tuesday.

Social Security is projected to start paying out more in benefits than it collects in taxes in 2018, according to Social Security trustees, and can pay full promised benefits only until 2042. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has projected that the program will be solvent until 2052.

"The real question is how he will restore solvency to Social Security?" Orszag said. "What benefit reduc-

tions will be needed and what are the debt implications? The type of questions he's prepared to address won't answer that."

On Tuesday, a group of lawmakers including Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada asked Bush to answer two questions in his speech: "First, how much additional federal debt would be incurred under your privatization plan over the next decade and the following 2-3 decades?

Second, to what extent will middle class workers have their guaranteed benefits cut under your proposal and will those cuts apply to people who choose not to risk their money in privatized accounts?"

While stopping short of offering specifics, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the president would "extend his hand to work in a bipartisan way to find solutions to permanently fix the system."

Bus

Continued from Page 1

being eliminated. Making these changes is essential to our ability to meet the needs of our customers and increase our profitability so the company is financially viable in the long term," Burk said in the letter.

"A lot of people are calling me and asking what are they going to do," said Agent Cindy Malone this morning.

Malone said she feels like she's more of a counselor than an agent as people react to the upcoming closure.

"One 80-year-old lady called and said, 'I'm going to sell my house and move,'" after learning the bus station was closing, Malone said. "She said (company executives) just don't realize how important (the bus service) is to people who don't have cars."

Malone, a White Deer resident, will lose her job as a result of the closure. She said she is looking for another part time job, but hasn't found one yet.

Businesses such as auto repair shops rely on bus service for fast transport of parts from Amarillo.

The Pampa terminal handled passengers as well as packages.

Transportation for prisoners from the Jordan and Baten units of the Texas Department of Corrections is often accomplished via bus.

"We would have to re-route some of our offenders directly to Amarillo for release from our parole facilities at the Baten unit,"



A sign telling of the impending closure is posted on the front counter at the Pampa bus station.

said Warden Chris Bell of the Jordan and Baten units, upon learning the station might close.

"It would also impact the offenders' visitors who depend on the bus to get to Pampa. It could very well impact our man hours. We may have to transport some prisoners by one of our vans," he added.

Other passengers include a variety of persons seeking a relatively inexpensive means of traveling.

Greyhound officials said that Pampa passengers can go to Amarillo to board the buses.

— Staff Writer Marilyn Powers contributed to this report.

Roach

Continued from Page 1

avoid all contact "directly or indirectly with any persons who are or who may become a victim or potential witness in the subject investigation or prosecution."

The Potter County restriction later was amended to include Randall County at least in part because Roach's attorney and a close family member are in that county, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Christy L. Drake.

Roach was also not to go within 100 yards of the county courthouses in the five counties served by the 31st and 223rd judicial districts. Those counties are Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts and Wheeler.

"That's a very good question. I don't know how his attorney is going to handle that," Seabourn said when asked how Roach could appear in 31st District Court at Gray County Courthouse for the Feb. 14 hearing without violating a condition of his release. Seabourn said he will represent Bailey in the civil suit.

Attempts to reach Kelly and Drake by telephone were unsuccessful as of press time today.

The temporary orders requested in the plaintiff's petition for removal are to issue a temporary order suspending the defendant from acting as or discharging the duties of the office of 31st district attorney, prohibit the defendant from having any contact in any manner or means or through any agent with any employee of the 31st district attorney's

office, and appoint another person to perform the duties of the office of 31st district attorney pending a resolution of the civil suit.

In a sworn statement filed with the petition, Bailey said she observed Roach "inject himself with a substance he represented to be, and which I believed to be, methamphetamine" on Dec. 16, 2004 and on Jan. 3 at Caprock Apartments.

On Jan. 7, Bailey said in the statement that she observed Roach "in possession of a substance he represented to be, and which I believed to be, methamphetamine" in the district attorney's office on the fourth floor of Gray County Courthouse.

"I have personal knowledge that there is an ongoing Federal investigation of Richard J. Roach for Federal

"That's a very good question. I don't know how his attorney is going to handle that."

— Josh Seabourn
Gray County Attorney
when asked how Roach can meet conditions of release and still attend civil hearing on petition to remove him from office.

Fire

Continued from Page 1

Vandergriff arrived in Pampa about 11 a.m. Tuesday. He and Stevens began their investigation about 12:30 p.m. and concluded the probe at approximately 5 p.m.

"We were really fortunate, there was so much debris I thought it would be two days before we were through," Stevens said. "But we located the point of origin pretty quick."

Stevens said the investigators pinpointed that the fire had started in the kitchen. They were relieved to find that they would not have to move as much debris from that area.

At 12:23 p.m. Monday, Pampa Fire Department

received a call of a structure fire at 1100 Juniper, according to fire reports. The home belongs to Margaret Lawyer, fire officials said, but she was not at home at the time.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, the front of the home was ablaze with thick smoke pouring out. Unable to go into the home because of the fire and smoke, firefighters worked on extinguishing the blaze from the outside.

Firefighters battled the fire for approximately five and half hours. A total of seven units and 16 firefight-

ers responded, including seven call-back personnel.

Radio transmissions indicated city officials were asked to adjust water pressure to the area because so much water was being used to fight the fire.

North Crest street and part of Juniper were closed to traffic as firefighters worked to extinguish the blaze. Despite the heavy smoke, no evacuations were necessary, fire officials said.

The home was completely destroyed, according to fire reports. Including contents of the home, damages were estimated at \$100,000.

"We were really fortunate, there was so much debris I thought it would be two days before we were through."

— Gary Stevens
Pampa Fire Marshal

County

Continued from Page 1

Culberson-Stowers' original bid on the two Chevrolets was \$49,823.64. Sheriff Don Copeland suggested the bed covers be deleted from the bid and skid plates added, resulting in the final total accepted by commissioners.

Fenton Motors of Pampa and Gene Messer Ford of Amarillo also submitted bids. Gene Messer's bid on two Ford F-150 4x4 crew cab pickups was \$52,746. Their bid on two Ford Expedition 4x4s was \$56,024.

Fenton Motors' bid for two Ford F-150s was \$53,706, and their bid on two Expeditions was \$57,854.

Commissioners approved a service agreement with Trane for the chiller and circulating pumps at the courthouse. The previous contract with Scottco was terminated Jan. 15.

The county will pay Trane \$3,540 for a one-year agreement which will include parts, labor, diagnosis and repair, and exclude work outside the scope of service. Also included in the total are control panels which are needed for the system.

Trane will also perform three inspections of the system under the contract, said Larry Andrus, head of courthouse maintenance.

"Scottco was getting quite a bit more (than the Trane contract), and not doing anything," Andrus said.

Commissioners accepted the resigna-

tion of Don Pletcher, who was elected Precinct 4 Constable in last November's elections. Pletcher had pledged to vacate the office if elected in order to save taxpayers' money.

"I will not support appointing a constable (to take Pletcher's place)," said Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hefley.

"I do not support appointing anyone, either," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

"Justice of the Peace Mary Ann Carpenter supports that thinking and feels she does not need one. She feels a constable is not necessary there," County Judge Richard Peet said.

Commissioners voted to pay \$75 in annual dues to the North Rolling Plains Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Small jet runs off runway, hits building; about 15 hurt

TETERBORO, N.J. (AP) — A corporate jet hurtled off the end of an airport runway Wednesday while attempting to take off, speeding across a highway and striking two cars before slamming into a warehouse. About 15 people were injured, one critically, but nobody was killed, officials said.

The injured included at least two people in the cars, officials said.

Eleven people were on the plane; the most seriously

injured was the pilot, who suffered a broken leg, said officials, who did not disclose the identities of the passengers or crew.

"I think everybody at this point is extremely lucky and fortunate," said acting Gov. Richard J. Codey.

One witness said a pilot crawled out of the wreckage and told him the crew lost control of the plane.

It was headed for Midway Airport in Chicago when the accident happened around

7:20 a.m., said Greg Martin, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington. A National Transportation Safety Board team was dispatched to the site.

Authorities initially said there were 14 people on the plane but later said there were 11. They gave no information on what company or group had chartered the jet.

One witness said the plane never made it off the ground after "sliding and skidding"

down the runway.

"Usually we see them lift off, but this one just went straight and started scratching the ground. There were sparks shooting out all over the place," said Joseph Massaro, a psychologist who lives nearby.

Video from television station helicopters showed wheel tracks, plainly visible in snow, that ran straight off the end of the runway, through a fence and a snow bank and then across six-lane U.S. 46.

firearm violations misappropriation of funds," Bailey said in the statement.

In a defendant's original answer filed Jan. 20 in the district clerk's office, Roach "denies each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Original Petition for Removal, and demands strict proof thereof as required by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure."

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FEB 02 2005

Viewpoints

Time-consuming paper work worth the effort

As I stared at my computer screen which broadcasted my e-mail inbox last night into my room which was only lit by the television screen flickering images of NBC's new hit drama "Medium," I felt a great sigh of relief fall upon me.

Right there, the fourth e-mail down, after some spam, junk e-mails about "The latest virus protection you have to buy" and "Ten ways to improve your love life," was one of the best messages I have read during the winter season.

I had received confirmation that my sixth and last college application was

received by the University of Texas at Austin's Admissions Department early yesterday morning. This meant that I would no longer have to endure the grueling challenge of filling out college applications. In short I felt a great relief.

I felt this calmness because the college application process was one of the most difficult task I have ever undertaken. For starters, it is extremely time consuming. For each application, I spent an average of 14 hours carefully crafting my answers and six hours painstakingly editing those responses to the applica-

tion's questions.

The majority of this time was not spent on what I always expected to be the most daunting part of the applications, the essays. I always ended up taking more time researching and discovering the answers to questions such as what is the exact day, month and year that my brother and sister graduated from college or the elementary school that my mother and father attended. Even though I

know that the answers to such questions will decide my educational future over the next four years, I am thrilled to be done with the challenging process of applying to the universities of my choice.

That was until I realized this morning that I have still folders and folders full of scholarships left to apply for. Each of which will not only require the typical listing of extracurricular and volunteer activities, an essay or

two, but also at least one of these time-requiring questions.

When it comes down to it, I have begun to doubt that college application process is ever truly over, that is until the day of freshman orientation at which ever educational institution I end up at.

I came to an even more alarming conclusion today in one of my classes during a lecture from the teacher on a subject which I found particularly boring. I am not only fine with the seemingly everlasting application process. I am elated by it. That is because I know that

any amount of work I put into the process will be greatly rewarded over the next four years when I will enter a new chapter of my life.

I will fill out any amounts of paperwork if it helps to guarantee that chapter will be a happy one. With that thought in mind I made it my goal to trudge onward through the stacks of applications and complete each and every question and form that comes my way.

Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School who is working as a journalism intern at The Pampa News.



Ben Briscoe
News Intern

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2005. There are 332 days left in the year. This is Groundhog Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 2, 1943, the remainder of Nazi forces from the Battle of Stalingrad surrendered in a major victory for the Soviets in World War II.

On this date:

In 1536, the Argentine city of Buenos Aires was founded by Pedro de Mendoza of Spain.

In 1653, New Amsterdam — now New York City — was incorporated.

In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican War, was signed.

In 1870, the "Cardiff Giant," supposedly the petrified remains of a human discovered in Cardiff, N.Y., was revealed to be nothing more than carved gypsum.

In 1876, the National League of Professional Base Ball Clubs was formed in New York.

In 1882, Irish poet and novelist James Joyce was born near Dublin.

In 1897, fire destroyed the Pennsylvania state capitol in Harrisburg. (A new statehouse was dedicated on the same site nine years later.)

In 1945, President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill departed Malta for the summit in Yalta with Soviet leader Josef Stalin.

In 1971, Idi Amin assumed power in Uganda, following a coup that ousted President Milton Obote.

In 1996, dancer, actor and choreographer Gene Kelly died at his Beverly Hills, Calif., home; he was 83.

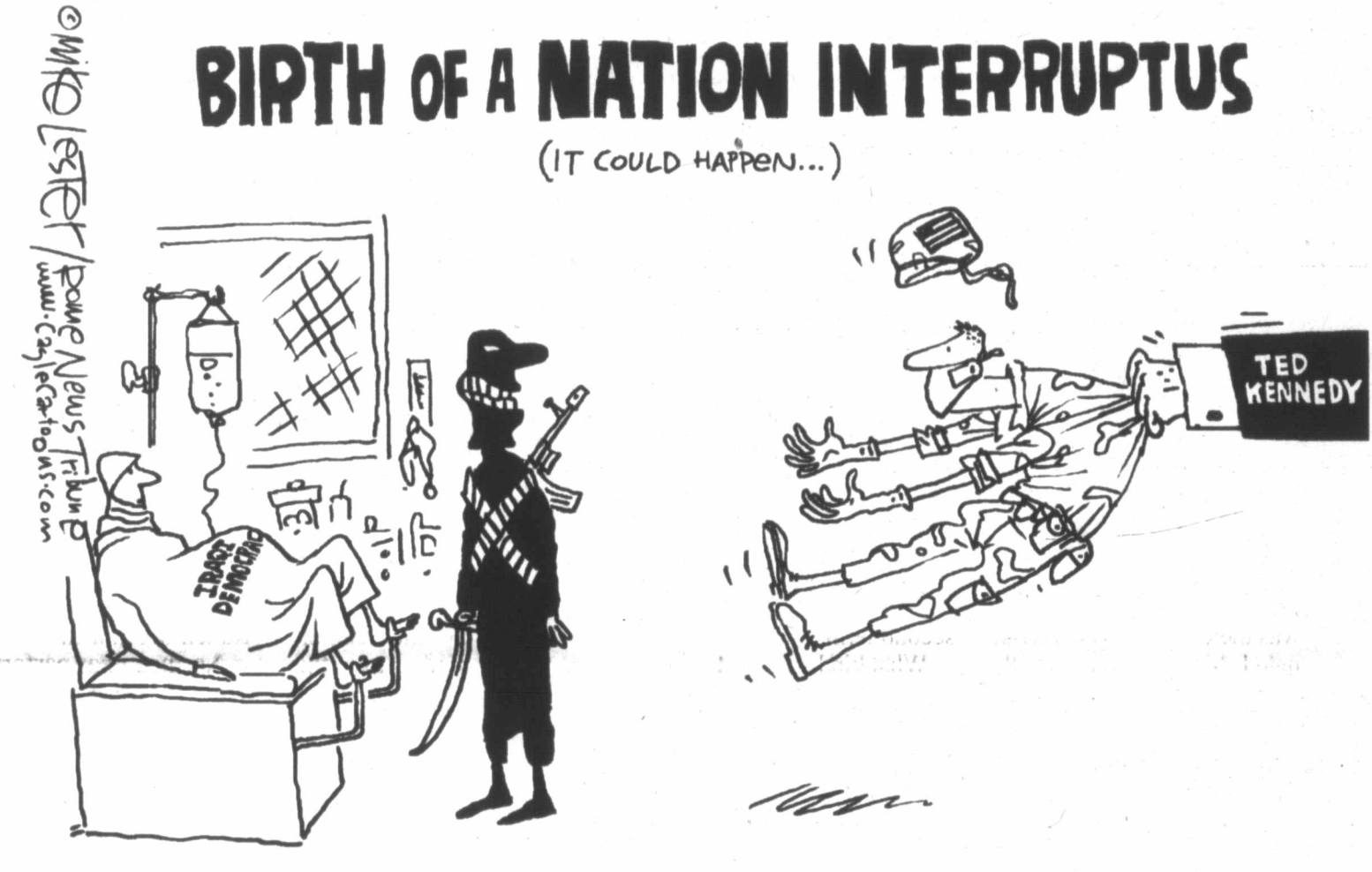
Ten years ago: President Clinton nominated Henry Foster Jr. to succeed fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders; however, Foster's nomination was later defeated in the Senate. The leaders of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians held an unprecedented summit in Cairo to try to revive the Mideast peace process.

Five years ago: Searchers recovered the cockpit voice recorder from the wreckage of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 in the Pacific Ocean, off the California coast.

One year ago: President Bush unveiled a \$2.4 trillion budget featuring a record deficit, as well as big increases for defense and homeland security. Deadly ricin was discovered in offices used by Senate majority leader Bill Frist. Israel killed a leader of Islamic Jihad and three other militants in a Gaza raid. An 11-story apartment building collapsed in Konya, Turkey, killing 92 people.

'Absence is to love what wind is to fire; it extinguishes the small, it inflames the great.'

— Bussy-Rabutin
French soldier and writer



Democrats at mercy of liberals

When the British ultra-liberals in the pre-Tony Blair Labor Party published their lengthy election manifesto in the late 1980s, the radical document so explicitly spelled out their defiance of English public opinion that a Tory politician called it "the longest suicide note in history." Now, in choosing their new national leader, the Democratic Party is publishing a much more succinct suicide note. It reads "Chairman Howard Dean."

There is a school of thought among Democrats that by embracing policies and programs deeply at vari-

ance with what most Americans think will enhance the party's electoral viability.

It was such wisdom that led to the selection of doomed nominees like Walter Mondale, Mike Dukakis and John Kerry.

It is only when the views of these crazies were repudiated — as with the nominations of JFK, LBJ, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton — that the party can win elections.

So why are the Democrats selecting Dean?

And why is Harold Ickes, the putative spokesperson for the Clintons, embracing the choice? Because Dean's momentum is unstoppable and nobody wants to stand in the

way of the avalanche of self-destructiveness which is pouring onto the Democrats from their left-wing supporters.

Here's how it works:

When moderates and centrists embrace the GOP and President Bush, they leave the Democrats to the tender mercies of the liberals. The party is deprived of the ballast offered by swing voters, the party moves further and further to the left, driven by a Jacobin desire for revolutionary purity and revenge against those who urge pragmatism and point to the path to victory.

And the Clintons? Even as Hillary tries to fool us once more into believing in her political moderation, they do

See LIBERALS, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



U.S. border alert makes good sense

Eight years ago, then-Texas governor George W. Bush agreed with a U.S. State Department warning to Americans traveling in Mexico. After a spate of armed robberies of U.S. travelers in Mexico City, including the shooting of Texas Monthly magazine writer Jan Reid, Bush warned that "anybody who goes to Mexico City should be very careful about where you go and what time of night you travel and how you conduct your business when you're there."

Bush's common sense statement created no controversy at the time, unlike a similar caution issued this week by State Department

officials and reinforced by a letter from U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza. The alert specifically cautioned Americans traveling across the border into northern Mexico of increased violence and murders spawned by warring drug gangs.

While the department did not call on U.S. citizens to avoid Mexico entirely, it echoed the former governor in advising Americans to visit border cities during daylight hours and avoid areas known to shelter prostitution and ille-

gal drug activity.

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez reacted as if the honor of his country had been insulted. He declared that his government should have been told in advance that the alert was coming, and he described its contents as "exaggerated and outside the scope of reality."

Apparently the two governments see different realities, but the U.S. position is based on chilling statistics rather than defensive national pride. According to the State Department, 27

Americans have been abducted in Northern Mexico over the past six months. Two have been killed and 11 remain missing. That doesn't include a number of other incidents in which tourists have been abducted, forced by their kidnappers to withdraw cash from ATMs, and later released.

The Mexican government's reaction brings to mind the reluctance of the country's officials to seriously investigate the serial murders of dozens of women in Ciudad Juarez until the spotlight of international outrage became too intense

See ALERT, Page 5

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Defense contractors run ads as Congress starts budgeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — A fighter jet takes off from an aircraft carrier and a missile is launched from its deck as a voice says in a television commercial: "When America goes ashore, Northrop Grumman is right there. Maritime superiority.

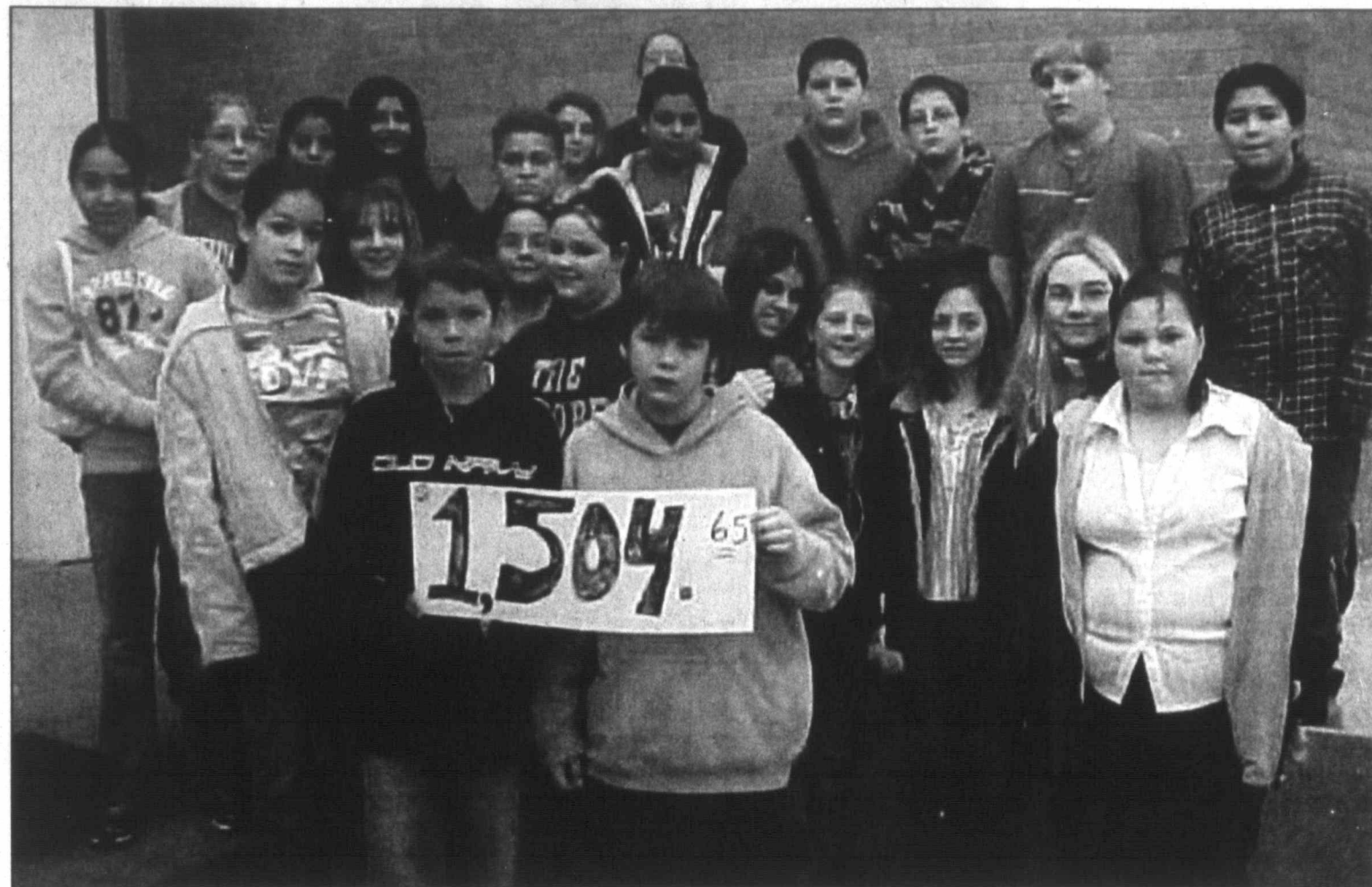
Northrop Grumman, defining the future." Seconds later, an ad by Lockheed Martin Corp. appears on the TV screen, showing a military aircraft and proclaiming, "We never forget who we're working for."

Defense manufacturers Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman are running commercials designed to remind their biggest customer — the federal government — that big-ticket weapons systems are critical to national security.

While defense contractors often advertise throughout the year, industry analysts say their commercials tend to run more frequently in the first quarter. That's when Congress considers whether to give the Defense Department money to buy

weapons systems. The Pentagon's 2006 budget will be released next week. The ads also are precisely targeted, mainly running in the Washington media market and on cable public affairs and news stations during programs watched by

inside-the-Beltway decision-makers, such as early morning broadcasts. The companies are two of the Pentagon's largest defense contractors — and among those that are expected to be hit the hardest in the new budget.



PJHS raises funds for disaster relief effort

Pampa Junior High students raised \$1,504.65 during January for the tsunami relief effort. The money will be sent to aid in rebuilding an orphanage in Sri Lanka. This was a school-wide fund-raising effort by PJHS students and staff. The students gave the majority of the donation, said Randy Stephenson, principal. The project was conducted as an opportunity to voluntarily give as the student/staff member felt a need to do so, he said. Students placed their donations in a container carried by one of the principals before and during lunch.

Liberals

Continued from Page 4

not dare stand up against Dean. Even though they know that Dean knows that it was the Clintons who assassinated him en route to the nomination last year, neither Bill nor Hillary utter a peep as their party falls off the deep end.

The Clintons could have gotten Ickes the job, but neither one did any heavy lifting on his behalf. Why not? I'm no longer privy to their secrets, but my guess is that Bill was too sick, sad, physically weakened and unfocused — and that Hillary, an ingénue without his guidance and leadership, didn't dare to try on her own for fear of publicly failing.

For his part, Ickes likely acted out of pique in demeaning Hillary's chances for victory in 2008 and in withdrawing from the race for chair-

man entirely a few weeks later. Left to twist slowly in the wind, this normally loyal operative probably felt abandoned and unappreciated, as he did when he was passed over for chief of staff in Clinton's second term.

What kind of chairman will Dean make? He will probably be as bad for the party's prospects as Nancy Pelosi has been as Democratic leader in the House. He will dig a deeper and deeper hole for the party, alienating its moderate donors and holding it hostage to the likes of Michael Moore and the Hollywood left.

How odd it is to see Hillary trying to convince us that she's a red state kind of girl (offering moderate views on abortion, condemning illegal

immigration, emphasizing the importance of prayer in her life and backing the war) even as her party lurches to the left.

As the Clintons did after they lost Congress in 1994, they are moving to the center. And, as the Republicans did after taking control of Congress that same year, the Democrats are rushing to extremes. Eventually, Hillary and

Dean will clash for control of the party. Hillary will win the nomination in 2008, but she will face a party fractured by its ideological divisions and will find it harder and harder to please the left in her own ranks and the centrists in the swing states.

Dick Morris is a political analyst and was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

As the Clintons did after they lost Congress in 1994, they are moving to the center.

Fed expected to raise interest rates steadily

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues appear ready to kick off 2005 the way they ended 2004 — continuing a series of modest interest rate increases to make sure inflation stays in check.

Fed policy-makers were wrapping up their first meeting of the new year on Wednesday. It was widely expected that at the end of the two days of discussions the central bank will announce another quarter-point increase in the federal funds rate.

That would be the sixth quarter-point increase in the funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, since the first move last June when it had been at a 46-year low of 1 percent.

The funds rate now stands at 2.25 percent. Many analysts believe it will be heading higher throughout 2005, Greenspan's 18th and final year at the helm of the central bank.

The Fed's goal is to move the funds rate from an accommodative stance, where it is still stimulating extra economic growth, to a neutral stance where the funds rate is neither stimulating growth nor holding the economy back.

"The Fed is taking its foot off the accelerator without hitting the brakes," said Richard DeKaser, chairman of an American Bankers Association panel of economists that meets twice a year with Fed policy-makers to give them their views of where the economy is headed.

There is debate in economic circles about where the neutral level is, but many economists believe it is somewhere between 3.5 percent and 4.5 percent for the federal funds rate.

If the Fed keeps increasing rates by a quarter-point at each of the eight scheduled meetings this year, the funds rate would be at 4.25 percent at the end of this year.

Big Texan to host poetry breakfast

AMARILLO — Cowgirl poet Sara Gill Northcutt, of Miami and Canyon, will headline at the next Cowboy Poetry Breakfast set to get under way at 8 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo.

Northcutt has performed at the State Fair in Dallas, the National Cowboy Culture Symposium in Lubbock as well as at area events. She sometimes performs with her husband, Jimmy, a member of the Regiment of the High Plains.

The couple has entertained at several children's camps and at the Cowboy Christmas Ball at Cottonwood Springs

Ranch near Levelland. She and Jimmy also rode in the Rose Parade this year in Pasadena.

The SWCPA was formed to keep alive cowboy traditions, culture and memories.

Those interested in the development of the southwest cowboy heritage have a special invitation to attend.

The program will be followed by members of the Southwest Cowboy Poets Association in an open mic session. Cowboy/girl poets, singers and musicians are encouraged to participate.

Groups over 10 need to call the Big Texan for reservations at (806) 372-6000.

Alert

Continued from Page 4

to ignore. Even today, some Mexican officials dismiss the situation as unrelated homicides hyped by sensationalist journalists.

Such reactions could be dismissed as harmless international public relations if it

were more evident that Mexico is undertaking significant measures to get a handle on its growing lawlessness.

That it should do for the safety and peace of mind of its own citizens.

The fact that continuing criminality risks losing the income Mexico depends on from foreign tourism and business investment is fur-

ther incentive for the country to clean up its criminal justice act including rampant corruption within police ranks.

The current State Department alert on travel in Mexico is neither hype nor exaggeration, and it is exactly what Americans and Mexican neighbors ought to expect of a government looking out for its citizens.

Community Happenings

• Several courses, worth varying continuing education units, will be offered in the area for individuals with pesticide applicator licenses. The courses will include the following: Crop Production Clinics on Jan. 13 in Spearman and on Jan. 14 in Panhandle; West Rolling Plains Chemical Conference, Jan. 18, Dickens; Ornamental & Turf, Jan. 20, Texas A&M Research and Extension Center; Right of Way, Jan. 25, TAMREC; Hemphill County Ag Day, Jan. 27, Canadian; and Grain Elevator Workshop, Feb. 8, Amarillo Civic Center, Amarillo. For more information, contact Gray County Cooperative Extension office at 669-8033.

• The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Jan. 31 and March 29, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors; and March 24, First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

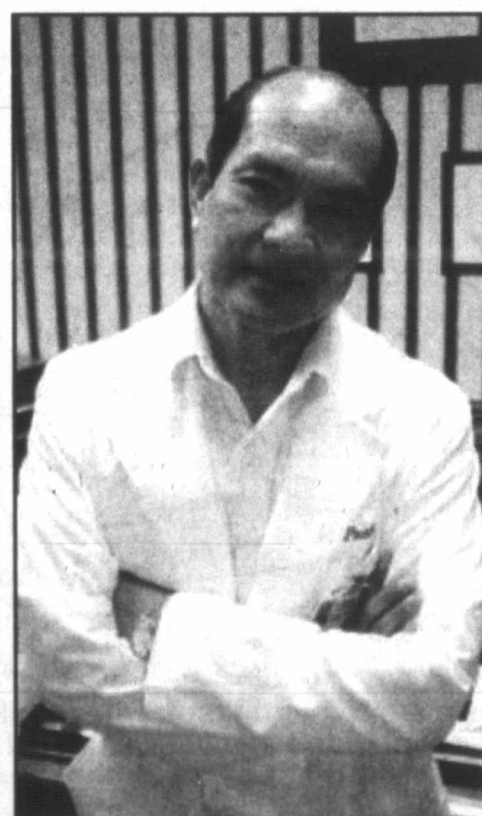
• The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type

B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Feb. 2 and 16, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa. For more information, call (806) 874-3211.

• Southwest Farm & Ranch Classic will be staged Feb. 3-5 at Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock. The new indoor show will feature unique events, entertainment and demonstrations along with a large exhibit area of commercial agricultural exhibits and displays. Show goers will be able to pick and choose from a full schedule of entertainers and family programs each day of the event. Local health organizations will conduct health checks and a blood drive is planned Saturday. If interested in exhibiting or attending the show or for more information, call (806) 798-7825 or e-mail swclassic@cox.net.

• BSA Hospice will offer a free volunteer training and community education class from 6-9 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, Feb. 7-March 3 at the hospice offices, 800 N. Sumner. Clarendon College will award 2.4 CEU's if the class includes 10 or more participants. The program, entitled "The Hospice Approach to Living with Dying," is designed for adults interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, who want to learn more about hospice care or who desire personal growth and enrichment. To register or for more information, contact Janet McCracken, volunteer coordinator, at 665-6677 or toll-free at 1-800-658-6985.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Because your column is like a huge community billboard, I thought I'd ask you to get this message out. Please remind women that when they schedule themselves for a mammogram, they should schedule their husbands for a prostate exam and PSA test.

There's an abundance of advertising about breast exams, yearly checkups and women's health centers, but little is seen about the same thing for men. Prostate cancer is a serious problem if it's not detected before the symptoms show up; by then it's already spreading outside the prostate. You know that men put off medical visits more often than women, so if you could get women involved in our health we might be around a lot longer.

As a prostate cancer survivor, I know from personal experience that early-stage prostate cancer has no symptoms and, having been cancer-free for the past six years, I am living proof that early prostate cancer can be cured. -- ALIVE AND KICKIN' IN KNOXVILLE, TENN.

DEAR ALIVE AND KICKIN': You have written an important letter. Many men, and women too, will appreciate your timely reminder. My mother was once asked what she thought was the most important ingredient for a lasting marriage. Her response: "A husband who lasts." Ladies, if you want your husband to last, improve the odds by making an appointment with his doctor every year.

best friend overdosed in my hotel room. I did drugs before then, but not as much as afterward.

One thing led to another, and soon I found myself behind the wheel of other people's cars and using other people's credit cards. I have been locked up for three months now, and looking back, I can't believe the life I was living. Is there still a chance I can turn my life into a success when I'm released? And what do you recommend I do to stay sober and lead a happy life? -- TOUGH LUCK IN CHATTANOOGA

DEAR TOUGH LUCK: You can still achieve success, but it will be harder. The first thing you must do is recognize that your situation had less to do with tough luck than a series of poor choices. Now that you are sober and thinking straight, it's time to start planning a different life when you are released. Some positive steps to take: Join a 12-step support group; people with problems who have emotional support accomplish more than they can on their own. Understand that you will have to forgo relationships with people who use drugs and steal. Complete your education.

It won't be easy, but if you do all of the above, you'll no longer be the same person you are today, and you will lead a happier life with fewer problems.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "CAN'T DECIDE IN MISSOURI": Many colleges and universities offer career counseling and aptitude testing to help people choose a career. Of this I am certain: If you choose a job that you love, you'll never have to "work" a day in your life.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Test tape
- 5 Ram's offspring
- 9 Growlup
- 11 Liquid measure
- 12 Stair part
- 13 Wear down
- 14 Catchall abbr.
- 15 Parent's warning
- 17 Wallet fill
- 19 Director's call
- 20 Empire
- 21 Skirt edge
- 22 Habit
- 24 Came down with
- 26 Urges on
- 29 Damage
- 30 Backwater burg
- 32 Scott classic
- 34 Ascot, e.g.
- 35 "West Side Story" heroine
- 36 Take cheap shots
- 38 Make law
- 39 Broken
- 40 Fill up

DOWN

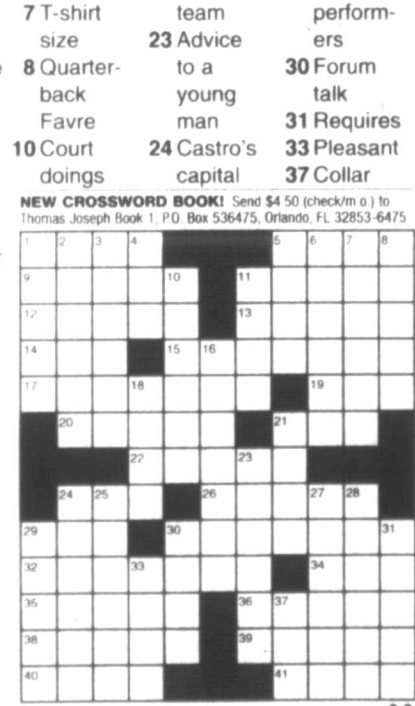
- 1 Challenged
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- 10 Court doings
- 11 Sediment
- 16 Near-sighted character
- 18 Praise
- 21 Miami team
- 23 Advice to a young man
- 24 Castro's capital
- 25 Turkish peak
- 27 Serve a sentence
- 28 Shoplifts
- 29 Silent performers
- 30 Forum talk
- 31 Requires
- 33 Pleasant
- 37 Collar

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Sediment
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- 23 Advice to a young man
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- 27 Serve a sentence
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- 31 Requires
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- 37 Collar

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!

Send \$4.50 (check/mo) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Ontario, FL 32853-6475



Marmaduke



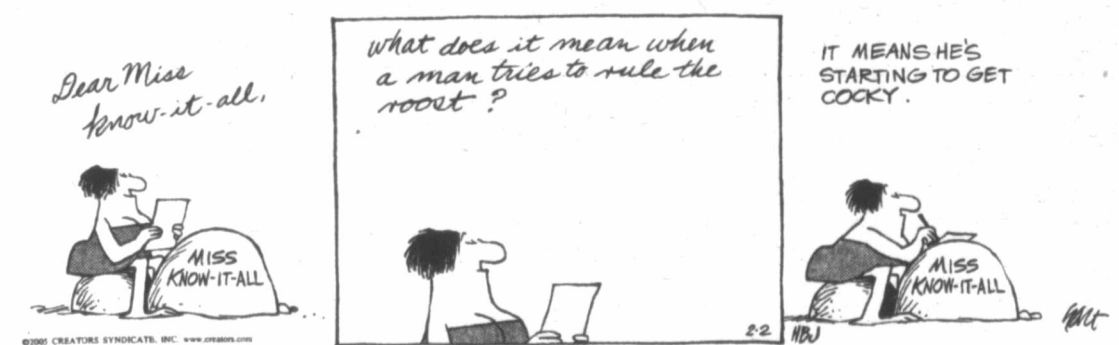
"Marmaduke alert! On your toes, everyone!"

The Family Circus

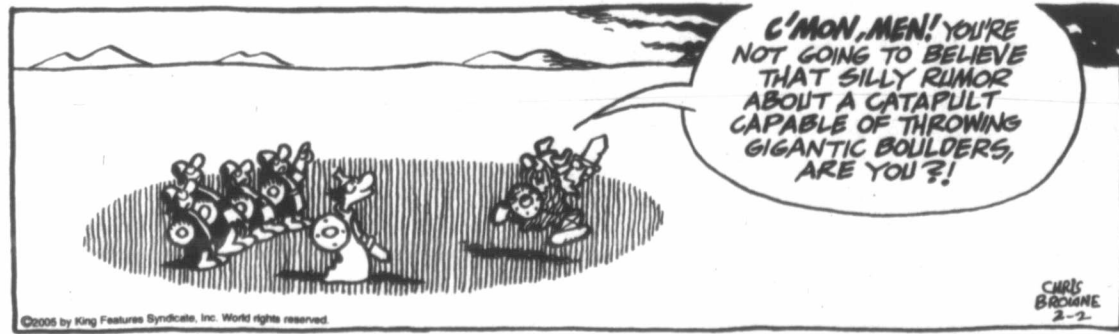


"You are NOT Punxsutawney Phil and you didn't see your shadow! Now get dressed for school."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



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Flo & Friends



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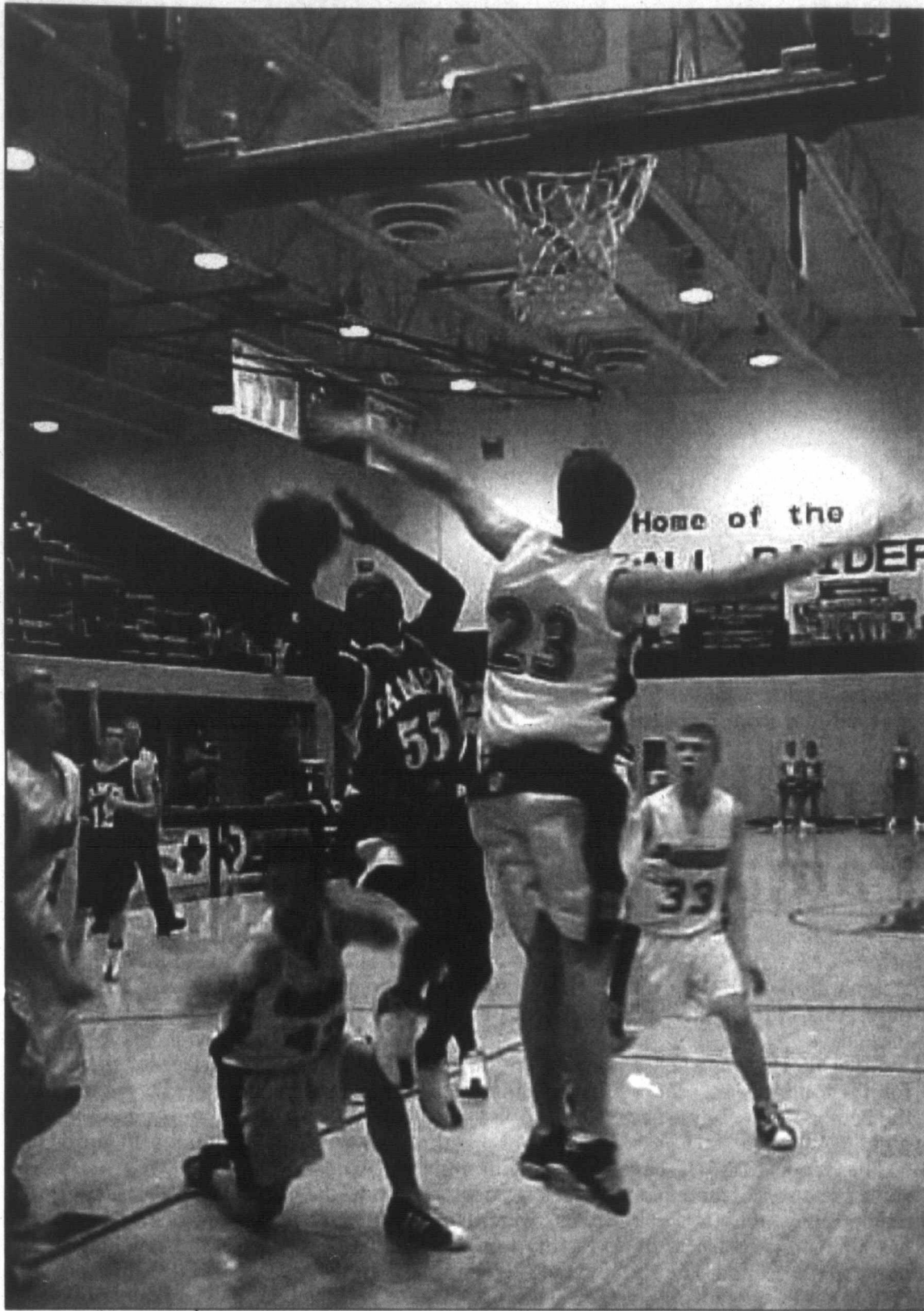
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Sports Day



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa's Sharod Young, #55, defies the Raider defense on his way to the basket last night. Young, who can often predict Pampa wins with double-digit scoring efforts, was held to just eight points last night. He is one of the players Coach Reed is depending on to lead the Harvesters into the post-season.

Raider's hill of hope becomes mountain of confidence in big 53-51 district win over Pampa

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

"We blew it. We had plenty of chances to bury them early and just weren't able to do it. Now we really do control our own destiny." Pampa head coach Jeff Reed, frustrated by last night's 53-51 road loss to Randall, expressed his concern over the loss, but was quick to note all is not yet lost in the Harvester's bid to extend its season.

The two teams swapped buckets throughout the first period of play. Pampa juniors Braydon Barker and Sharod Young showed early signs they would be the ones the Raiders would want to focus on. Barker was on fire early, sinking shots from 10 feet or more.

Young was able to split defenders and glide to the bucket for some early layups. But as the Raiders caught on, they were able to quell both Barker and Young by the break.

Junior Jarett Kotara, sporting the knee-high green socks he wore against Hereford last Friday, had added another 14 points to his season total. He also snagged his share of rebounds.

Still, what's up with the socks? "I'm really not sure," said Reed. "I think they are some socks he used to wear and he thought they might bring him some

luck." It's possible. Kotara had 20 points against Hereford and 14 points last night. But some might wonder if now is the best time to express yourself individually in a team sport such as basketball, so close to the playoffs. "I'm not one who really buys into superstitions or the good luck thing," said Reed.

Both teams would continue to match each other bucket-for-bucket, miss-for-miss. At the end of three periods, Randall led 43-39.

The Harvesters would fight back in the fourth, tying the game late, then pulling ahead for a moment.

But a late foul by Young allowed the Raiders to pull back into a 51-51 tie with just seconds remaining.

Randall was able to work the ball down court, sink a 2-point shot and seal the win.

"You have to give credit to Randall," said Reed. "They played a great game and deserved that win."

There were some questionable calls by the officials late in the game. Some might say there were some questionable no-calls. "I think the officials did a great job. They aren't the ones who beat us last night," said Reed.

Top scorers for Pampa last night include Kotara's 14 points, Clayton Hall with 12, and Braydon Barker's dozen.

Young ended the night with eight points. In the last six games, Pampa has won each time Young has scored in double-digits.

Pampa will be on the road again Friday when the Harvesters visit Caprock.

'You have to give credit to Randall. They played a great game and deserved that win.'

— Jeff Reed
Head Coach, PHS Boys' Basketball

He has said before a little individualism is not bad so long as it doesn't have a negative impact on the team.

Pampa and Randall opened the second half with the Harvesters down, 28-23. But by this time, the Raiders' confidence was starting to show. They were hustling for rebounds and diving for loose basketballs. This did not look like a team that entered the night 8-15, 1-4.

D.J.'s lead Celanese Mixed Fall League at Harvester Lanes

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

After week four of the 15-week Celanese Mixed Fall League at Harvester Lanes, D.J.'s hold the top spot. D.J.'s is comprised of Jody & Darrin Clendennen, and Gary & Diane Sims.

Here are the rest of the league standings as provided by Harvester Lanes:

Celanese Mixed Fall League

Week 4 of 15

- 1- D.J.'s
- 2- The Wolf Pack
- 3- Team 8
- 4- Darcy's Team
- 5- Pinheads
- 6- Team 7
- 7- The Misfits
- 8- BYE

Church League

Week 11 of 14

- 1- Reeborn #1
- 2- Reality
- 3- Team 11
- 4- The Masters Sons
- 5- Re:Born #2
- 6- Carpenter's Creation
- 7- Holy Rollers
- 8- Team 1
- 9- Striking Beauties
- 10- Team 4
- 11- Team 12
- 12- BYE

Scratch Trio 04

Week 23 of 35

- 1- Sears
- 2- Red's Pro Shop
- 3- Ford Fixers
- 4- Not A Clue!
- 5- Strike Zone...2nd Qtr
- 6- Triple X
- 7- Rebels On Fire
- 8- Delete Dents...1st Qtr
- 9- T&A Variety Show
- 10- Peggy's Place

Harvester Combo

Week 18 of 34

- 1- Wolf Pack
- 2- A-1 Concrete
- 3- Mike's Plumbing
- 4- Nolte Electric
- 5- Team 3
- 6- Long Hindies
- 7- Team 13
- 8- Red's Pro Shop
- 9- Onie's Regulars
- 10- Team 5
- 11- Team 10
- 12- Blackgold Restaurant
- 13- Culligans 2
- 14- BYE

LoneStar

Week 19 of 32

- 1- Harvester Cafe
- 2- Pampa Transmission
- 3- Gutter Busters
- 4- The Carpentry company
- 5- Whitehead Cattle Co.
- 6- Now And Then
- 7- Texas Bailbonds
- 8- BYE

Wednesday Night Mixed

Week 22 of 34

- 1- The Woodpecker Shop
- 2- One Stop Flooring
- 3- Heard-Jones
- 4- Beta Tax
- 5- Team 3
- 6- UPS Store
- 7- K&S Photos
- 8- Travelers

Harvester Women's League

Week 21 of 34

- 1- Davis Mini Mart
- 2- Peggy's Place
- 3- Coney Island
- 4- O'Brien Enterprises
- 5- A&T Yard Service
- 6- Harvester Lanes
- 7- Harvester Snack Bar
- 8- Gymnastics Of Pampa

Lakers win after hearing coach may be retiring

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caron Butler and Chucky Atkins put on a performance that would make Rudy Tomjanovich proud. Maybe it'll help persuade their ailing coach to remain with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Butler had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Atkins added 19 points and eight assists to lead the Lakers over the Portland Trail Blazers 92-79 on Tuesday night, hours after learning Tomjanovich might resign for health reasons.

"I'm a Rudy Tomjanovich fan. I hope he comes back — the sooner, the better," Atkins said. "Right now, he's still our coach. Everything else is just speculation. We expect him to come back and lead us to where we want to be."

See NBA, Page 8

Several top Texas recruits plan to remain in state

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas snagged three of the state's top 10 players and Texas A&M got two. Unfortunately for the other Texas schools, the remaining players on the list are leaving for out-of-state options.

Wednesday is the first day high school seniors can sign binding letters of intent.

Texas A&M got a commitment from what some call the state's best recruit in Alief Taylor tight end Martellus Bennett. He will also play basketball for the Aggies.

They will also get Harker Heights offensive guard Michael Shumard who rounds out the top 10.

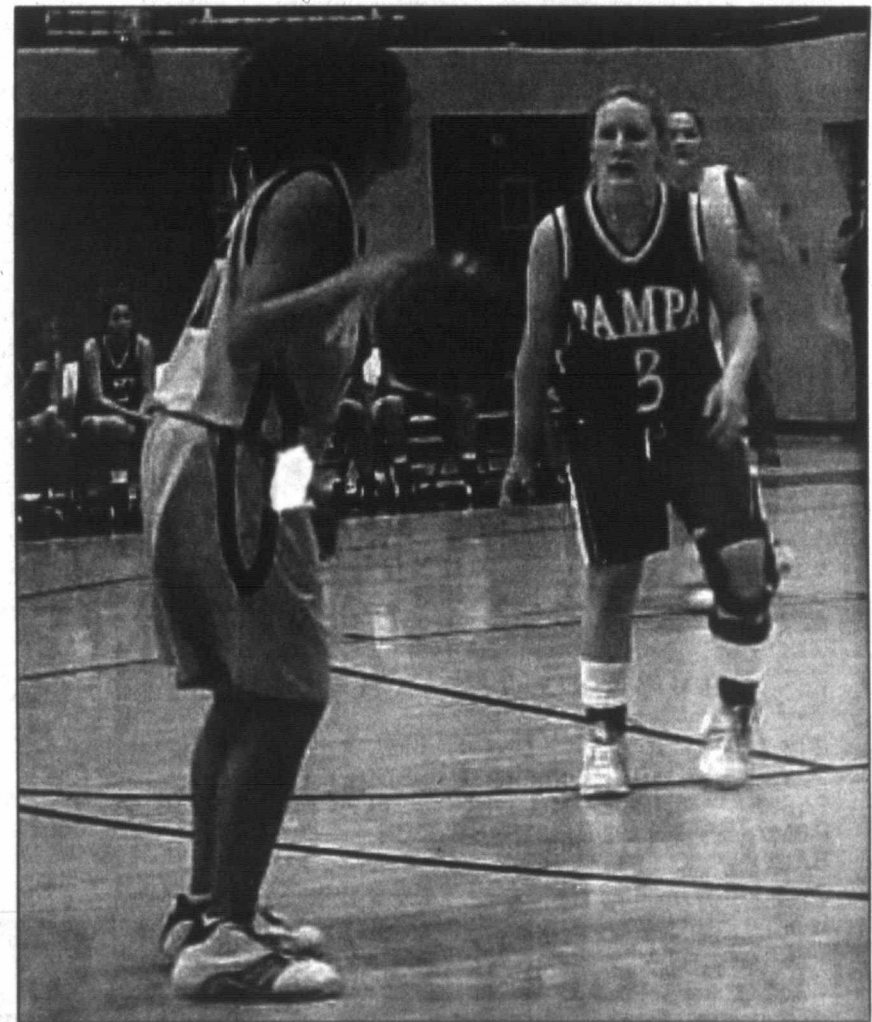
These two, along with a bevy of other talent from across the state, could give Texas A&M one of the best classes in the country and what will almost certainly be the premier signing list in the state.

"This is going to be the third consecutive top notch class that they've brought in," said Rivals.com national recruiting analyst Bobby Burton. "But this one is going to be the best yet. There's no question that they'll have the best class in Texas."

Rivals currently ranks Texas A&M's class as the fifth in the country while Max Emfinger Recruiting calls it No. 4.

Jamaal Charles, who is perhaps the best running back in the state and the fourth best recruit, will play for the Longhorns. He is joined by fellow top-ranked running back Henry Melton of Grapevine.

See RECRUITS, Page 8



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester Lindsey Ammons stands between Randall's Melissa Ceja and the Lady Raider basket during last night's game

Despite loss, Lady Harvesters in district 3-4A playoff hunt

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Despite the 51-39 loss to the Lady Raiders last night, Pampa (13-15, 5-3) still has hopes of making the playoffs for the first time since 1991. Randall clinched its 16th consecutive playoff birth.

The first half of last night's meeting was as expected, close — very close. Randall ended the first period with a 14-12 lead. The two teams would only add nine points each before the break. So it was 23-21 at the start of the third period, and the two would continue to go at it.

Sophomore Lady Harvester Britteni Rice was a scoring machine much of the game. However, late in the third, with

Pampa within striking distance at 31-29, the Lady Raiders went on an 8-0 run, shutting Rice down in the process. In fact, Rice would not score in the final 12 minutes of the game. Still, she would end the game with 19 points, including three 3-pointers.

Randall outscored Pampa 28-18 in the second half en route to the win.

The Lady Harvesters have only 2 games remaining. They will visit Caprock Friday, and host Dumas next Tuesday. Though no game should ever be taken for granted, these are both games Pampa should win. A 15-15 record would be nice. But it's the 7-3 district record Pampa would cherish most.

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NBA

Continued from Page 7

Tomjanovich, who returned to coaching this season after recovering from bladder cancer, missed his second straight game because of what the Lakers said was a stomach virus. Team spokesman John Black said Tomjanovich also had a sinus infection.

"This has nothing to do with cancer," Black said. "He's our head coach until he decides to do otherwise."

Black said he had no idea when Tomjanovich would be back on the bench — if indeed he stays on the job. Tomjanovich signed a \$30 million, five-year contract last summer.

In other games, it was: Detroit 105, Washington 96; Orlando 105, Cleveland 102; New Jersey 107, Chicago 97; Memphis 108, Phoenix 97; Milwaukee 91, Minnesota 86; Dallas 109, Miami 104; Charlotte 109, Utah 105; Denver 96, New York 76; and Seattle 106, Sacramento 101.

Assistant coach Frank Hamblen, the only holdover from former coach Phil Jackson's staff, has led the Lakers to a pair of victories in Tomjanovich's absence.

"I don't even want to talk about it. I hope Rudy's back tomorrow," Hamblen said when asked about Tomjanovich's future.

Lamar Odum scored 18 points for the Lakers, who improved to 5-4 since Kobe Bryant sprained his right ankle Jan. 13 in a victory over Cleveland.

Damon Stoudamire scored 25 points, Ruben Patterson added 20 and Nick Van Exel had 18 for the Blazers, who lost for the 14th time in 18 games.

Portland's Zach Randolph, averaging a team-leading 19.9 points, missed all 12 of his shots in going scoreless while playing 29 minutes. "I have never played like this in my life," Randolph said.

Magic 105, Cavaliers 102

At Orlando, Fla., Steve Francis scored 30 points and tied a season high with 13 assists, spoiling LeBron James' return from a sprained ankle.

Grant Hill scored 21 for the Magic, who have won seven of eight home games. James finished with 28 points, seven assists and five rebounds. The Cavaliers split their two games during his absence.

'This has nothing to do with cancer. He's our head coach until he decides to do otherwise.'

— John Black
Spokesman, L.A. Lakers

Jeff McInnis appeared to send the game into overtime with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, but the officials waved off the shot after a brief huddle. Replays clearly showed the ball in McInnis' hands as the clock ran out.

Nets 107, Bulls 97
At East Rutherford, N.J., Jacque Vaughn moved into the starting lineup and tied his career high with 23 points, and Jason Kidd narrowly missed the 62nd triple-double of his career.

Kidd had 26 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists, and Vince Carter had 31 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Nets, who won their season-high fourth in a row.

Pistons 105, Wizards 96
At Washington, Chauncey Billups scored 11 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and Detroit closed with a 20-11 run to win its fourth straight.

Tayshaun Prince added 25 points.

Grizzlies 108, Suns 97
At Memphis, Tenn., Jason Williams had 19 points and eight assists for the short-handed Grizzlies, who shot 12-of-23 from 3-point range in ending the Suns' five-game winning

streak. Memphis has won three straight and five of six. Suns guard Steve Nash was ejected with 3:05 left.

Mavericks 109, Heat 104

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and Jerry Stackhouse got rolling in the final five minutes, just about the time the Mavericks' defense found a way to throttle Shaquille O'Neal and Miami.

Two straight baskets by Stackhouse and a jumper by Nowitzki got Dallas within one.

Another jumper by Stackhouse put the Mavericks ahead 99-98, and they never gave up the lead.

The Heat missed eight straight shots down the stretch. Stackhouse led Dallas with 24 points, and Nowitzki added 19. O'Neal had 25 points, 13 rebounds, five assists and three blocks.

Bucks 91, Timberwolves 86

At Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 19 points, Joe Smith added 17 and the Bucks held off Minnesota.

Toni Kukoc provided a huge lift with nine points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals in his first start in almost three seasons for the Bucks, who had lost 10 straight to the Timberwolves.

Bobcats 109, Jazz 105

At Salt Lake City, Gerald Wallace scored 28 points and helped rally Charlotte from an 11-point deficit to the second road win in team history.

Brevin Knight added 21 points and eight assists.

Nuggets 96, Knicks 76
At Denver, Kenyon Martin scored a season-high 27 points, Carmelo Anthony added 19 and the Nuggets earned their third consecutive victory under new coach George Karl.

Martin shot 11-for-17 to help Karl win his home debut in Denver.

He received a nice ovation when he walked onto the court, then improved to 3-0 since taking over for interim coach Michael Cooper.

New York has lost 14 of 16.

SuperSonics 106, Kings 101

At Sacramento, Calif., Ronald Murray scored a season-high 23 points in place of ailing All-Star Ray Allen, who missed his second straight game with the flu.

Rashard Lewis had 24 points for the Northwest Division-leading Sonics, who again played without coach Nate McMillan following the death of his mother.

Sacramento forwards Peja Stojakovic and Chris Webber weren't in uniform because of injuries.



Pampa junior Steven Smith gets ready to throw the ball back into play during yesterday's soccer game against Amarillo High at Dick Bivins Stadium.

Amid chaos of construction, Pampa falls to Sandies, 3-1

The following was submitted by Pampa head soccer coach Byron May.

Amarillo's Dick Bivins Stadium isn't the only Amarillo product getting a face-lift these days.

Amarillo High notched a victory over its fourth-straight 3-4A school after defeating the Pampa varsity boys soccer team 3-1 last night.

The Sandies (8-5-1) have been playing some great soccer amongst the wreckage of major renovations at Dick Bivins, which has almost every aspect of its facility torn down to the ground. The Harvesters (3-8-1) battled hard, but were out-manned at almost every position.

Amarillo High struck in the 8th minute with a deflected ball off the head of Brad Williamson, then followed 10 minutes later with a goal from a streaking Tanner Irwin.

The Harvesters wouldn't be able to

regroup before Sandie centerpiece and WT recruit Juan Convers found the back of the net in the 22nd minute.

With the wind to their backs, the Harvesters found a way to stave off the effort of the Sandie offense for the rest of the game. Freshman Tanner Dyson was able to take advantage of an Andrew Fraser throw-in in the 70th minute to upset the shutout bid.

Despite the 3-1 loss on Tuesday, goalkeeper Brody Smith had one of his better performances of the season, notching seven saves in the match. Drew Morrison and Chase Phillips both played the entire game without the help of injured fellow forward Nick Robbins.

The Harvesters will take the weekend off before beginning district play on Tuesday against Randall.

Reports: Emmitt Smith expected to announce retirement Thursday

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Emmitt Smith, the NFL's all-time rushing leader and a three-time Super Bowl winner with the Dallas Cowboys, was expected to announce his retirement Thursday, according to media reports.

Smith, a free agent who played the last two seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, will make the announcement three days before the Super Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the reports Tuesday.

The 35-year-old running back, who holds the NFL records for most rushing yards and most rushing touchdowns, was as elusive about his plans as he was on the field. "Did you see my year last year? Do you think I'm ready to retire?" he told The Dallas Morning News for a story posted Tuesday on its Web site.

ESPN.com and the Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram also reported Tuesday that Smith would retire. ESPN.com cited "confidants" of the star running back that it did not identify; both newspapers cited unidentified sources.

An eight-time Pro Bowler and the

league's most valuable player in 1993, Smith holds the career rushing touchdown record with 115. He has 18,355 yards 164 TDs overall.

Smith played 13 years in Dallas, where he won three Super Bowls. He said Monday that he wanted to retire as a member of the Cowboys.

Reliable and durable despite carrying a heavy load year after year, Smith broke Walter Payton's rushing record with the Cowboys in 2002 but signed with Arizona the next season as an unrestricted free agent. His first year with the Cardinals in 2003 proved frustrating: For the first time in his career, an injury sidelined him for a significant period and he struggled to gain yards when healthy enough to play.

But he bounced back this season, rushing for 937 yards and nine touchdowns for the Cardinals, who — despite their 6-10 record — showed signs of improvement under new head coach Dennis Green.

Neither the Cardinals nor Cowboys had any announcements planned regarding Smith.

Recruits

Continued from Page 7

Also committed to Texas is Killeen Shoemaker defensive tackle Roy Miller.

For the second consecutive year, Oklahoma has plucked some of the state's best players. Last year the Sooners got the nation's top recruit and quarterback from Texas when they signed Palestine's Adrian Peterson and Grand Prairie's Rhett Bomar.

This time around they'll get the nation's best defensive tackle in Dallas Kimball's DeMarcus Granger. They also have commitments from Longview wide receiver Malcolm Kelly and Sulphur Springs defensive back Keenan Clayton.

"DeMarcus has got a motor that is always running," said Rivals.com analyst Matt Malatesta. "He doesn't take any plays off. He's a bull on the defensive line."

Miami also found plenty of talent in Texas and will likely sign two of Texas' top five recruits.

One future Hurricane is 6-foot-5, 280-pound Reginald Youngblood. The hulking offensive tackle is the state's second ranked player and the ninth best in the country.

"He is a legitimate NFL prospect," Malatesta said. "He's a can't miss guy. He

can come in and play his first year."

While often overshadowed by Bennett, Houston is also home to another top tight end prospect. Galena Park North Shore's Dajleon Farr is the third best tight end in the country and fifth best recruit in Texas.

He'll join Youngblood at Miami next year and coaches there have already told the 6-6 player to be ready to play in the Hurricanes' opener against Florida State.

While the Longhorns have several strong recruits, their recruiting class will probably be remembered for who they didn't get.

Louisiana quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, the Longhorns' most coveted prospect orally committed to the school months ago, but has since wavered on his decision and will likely sign with LSU.

"Their number one need in this recruiting class is quarterback," said Burton, who is convinced Perrilloux won't become a Longhorn. "It hurts because he is a kid that was committed to them for so long. I'm sure there are some things they would like to do over as far as this recruiting class."

The only other quarterback currently committed to Texas is Class 2A Jim Ned's Colt McCoy. The small school product is the 73rd-ranked player in the state and threw for 3,806 yards with 47 touchdowns and 10 interceptions.

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.

2-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

BNQ REQKTSZQ UY EUPQ
EKTBT ISB K XUXQCB. BNQ
RKHC UY EUPQ EKTBT
K EHYQBHXQ. — YZQCGN

RZUPOZI
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE SUN, THOUGH IT
PASSES THROUGH DIRTY PLACES, YET
REMAINS AS PURE AS BEFORE. — FRANCIS
BACON

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... Honey & Daisy

These adorable poodles are housebroke. Honey is an 8 year old male and Daisy is a 1 year old female.

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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

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ARIES (March 2

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WAITSTAFF & Cook needed. Willing to work any hrs, good attitude essential. Apply Dixie Cafe.

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21 Help Wanted

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Spokesperson declares pontiff's health 'no cause for alarm'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — John Paul II had difficulty breathing as he battled the flu and will spend a few more days in the hospital, but his heart was functioning normally and the pope had a restful night, the Vatican said Wednesday.

The 84-year-old pontiff had "just a little fever," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in elaborating on a terse medical bulletin issued by the Holy See. He told Vatican radio the pope would spend "a few more days" in the hospital, but added that there was "no cause for alarm."

John Paul was being treated Wednesday for respiratory problems in the Gemelli Polyclinic. He was rushed there late Tuesday from his Vatican apartment after coming down with influenza, Vatican officials said.

"The cardio-respiratory and metabolic levels at present are within the

norm," the bulletin said.

Prayers for the pope were being said by faithful in churches around Rome, as well as in his native Poland.

"After we got the news we added a special prayer during our morning Mass," said Bishop Szczezan Wesoly, who presided at the service at the Polish church near Piazza Venezia in the center of the city attended by Polish nuns in black habits.

The papal spokesman said John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital after doctors decided "he could be better treated there than here (the Vatican)." In response to a reporter's question, Navarro-Valls

denied that the pope lost consciousness, saying: "No, for God's sake!" and he ruled out any need for a tracheotomy.

Navarro-Valls said that as he was

hurried admission to a special papal suite on the 10th floor of the hospital as "mainly precautionary" for the pope, who also suffers from Parkinson's disease.

Navarro-Valls even joked at one point that John Paul was taken by ambulance to the hospital because "the subway doesn't go that far."

John Paul was first examined in the emergency room before being taken to his hospital suite, Italian TV and news agency reports said.

Navarro-Valls, who has a medical degree, told The Associated Press early Wednesday that the pope has the flu and acute laryngeal tracheitis — inflammation of the windpipe —

and had a "certain difficulty in breathing." He denied Italian news reports that John Paul had a CAT scan at the hospital or that he was taken to intensive care.

The Vatican also said the pope had experienced a "larynx spasm crisis." Tracheitis requires hospitalization and usually a breathing tube to keep the airway clear. The spasms are likely a complication from the respiratory illness the pope has had. It is possible his Parkinson's disease, which makes muscle control difficult, made it harder for him to breathe.


The first sign of the frail pope's illness came on Sunday, when he kept clearing his throat during a 20-minute appearance at his studio window, thrown wide open on one of Rome's most bone-chilling days in years so he could release a pair of doves symbolizing peace into St. Peter's Square.

'The cardio-respiratory and metabolic levels at present are within the norm.'

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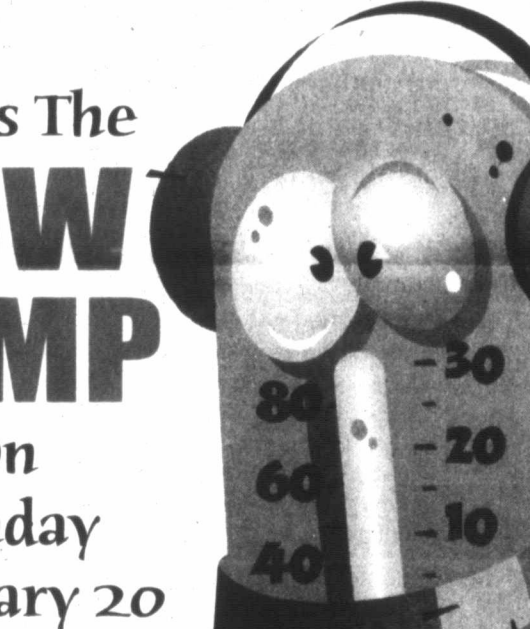
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