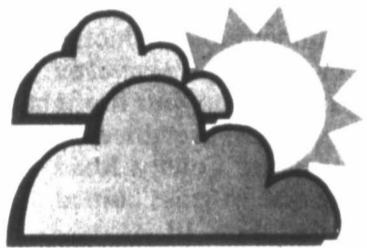


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### Today's weather



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### Deaths

Max Alexander, 73, welder and layout man.  
Opal Eloise Brown, 95, teacher.  
Sharon Kay Pearce, 61, bookkeeper.

### Local Briefs

#### API to convene next meeting

The Panhandle Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute has scheduled a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 at Pampa Country Club. The guest speaker will be Jeff Miller of Multi Products. His topic will be "Plunger Lift Applications."

Attendees will be treated to social hour followed by a chicken fried steak dinner buffet. Cost of the meal is \$15 per person. Memberships will be available at the door and all attendees are encouraged to bring a guest.

Door prizes will be awarded courtesy of Control Equipment and WB Supply.

#### Panhandle Community Services receives CEAP funding

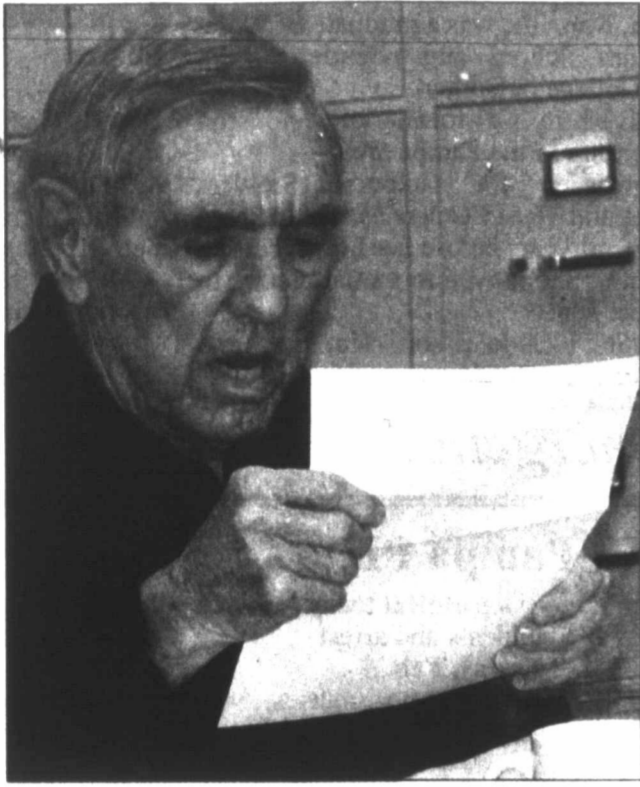
Panhandle Community Services, according to a press release, has received funding for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2005.

Though not an entitlement program, CEAP provides emergency utility assistance for low-income, elderly and disabled/handicapped families.

Assistance will be given only to those families determined by a priority matrix system as most in need.

To apply, submit Social Security cards for everyone in the household along with proof of income, current electric and gas bills and a 12-month billing history for those bills.

To find out more, visit the local offices of Panhandle Community Services.



(Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS)

Sam A. Haynes, chairman of the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors, reads aloud the votes cast by written ballot during this morning's regular board meeting.

## GCAD tables contract for industrial consultant

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Members of Gray County Appraisal District's board of directors took no action this morning on whether to renew a contract with an industrial consultant after Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley asked that the item be tabled.

"I don't have all the information I need right now" to discuss the renewal, Bagley told board members at the 7:30 a.m. regular meeting.

The industrial consultant's contract has drawn extra attention due to an error in the property appraisal of Celanese Ltd.

At a Gray County Commissioners' meeting on Feb. 1, commissioners learned

that the original 2004 tax valuation of Celanese property had been \$85,100,951. That value was later adjusted to \$78,453,698, a decrease of \$6,647,253.

The decrease in tax revenue means a loss of \$32,500.15 for Gray County and a loss of \$103,431.26 for Pampa Independent School District. Pampa Ground Water Conservation District lost \$1,010.38 in tax dollars as a result of the correction.

Bagley said today that the conservation district, not the City of Pampa, had lost the tax revenue.

Each of the three taxing enti-

ties sustained the loss because Celanese paid the amount of tax owed on the first, higher valuation, Bagley told county commissioners. Those entities must refund the amount of overpayment they received.

Celanese notified the appraisal district of a problem with their property valuation last Sept. 17, said County Judge Richard Peet at the commissioners' meeting, but the change in valuation was not done until four months later, in January.

Bagley had told county com-

See GCAD, Page 3



Bagley

## Deputies arrest man when meth discovered

By DEE DEE LARAMORE  
Editor

A Pampa man today remains in Gray County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond on a first-degree felony drug possession charge.

David Lee Sieber, 42, 1229 E. Foster, is charged with possession of a controlled substance over four grams and under 200 grams. Sieber appeared before Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman this morning who set bond at \$100,000 on the charge. Sieber had not made bond by press time, jail officials said.

Sieber's arrest resulted from an "ongoing investigation of meth trafficking in Pampa and Gray County," said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing.

A vehicle driven by Sieber was stopped west of Pampa on U.S. Highway 60 about 11 p.m. last night after a deputy observed a traffic violation, Rushing said.

"He was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected methamphetamine," the chief deputy said.

Officers believe the suspect bought the illegal substance in Amarillo with the intent of selling it in Pampa, Rushing said. He said approximately one ounce of the alleged methamphetamine and a small amount of what is believed to be marijuana was recovered in the course of the arrest.

Estimated street value of the methamphetamine, if it is found to be authentic, is \$2,800, he added.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Michelle Hutchison of Pampa looks at the new website for the City of Pampa on one of the public-access computers at Lovett Memorial Library. The new site is at [www.cityofpampa.org](http://www.cityofpampa.org).

## City announces new website

The City of Pampa has a new web-site: [www.cityofpampa.org](http://www.cityofpampa.org).

"People are really enjoying the new website," said Donny Hooper, Pampa's public information officer. "They can view the minutes from commission meetings or check out up-and-coming events that the city has to offer."

The site was constructed by CivicPlus, a Kansas-based web solutions company that creates websites for city and county governments, non-profit groups, schools, colleges and universities.

Hooper said the site gives the citizens of Pampa a convenient way to find out about city business or to

download important forms and documents without having to make a trip to City Hall.

"It's also nice for retired people or college kids who have maybe moved away, but who still want to keep up with things going on here,"

See WEBSITE, Page 3

## Engineer explains tree removal funding

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The Texas Department of Transportation district engineer that organized a citizens committee concerning the

elimination of trees along U.S. Highway 60 is still trying to explain the funding for the project.

In a letter to Hemphill County Commissioner Ed Culver, Mark E. Tomlinson,

Amarillo District Engineer with TxDOT, said that the project has always been funded, but late last year the source of those funds was changed because new monies had become avail-

able so the initial funding was moved to other projects.

Tomlinson said that when Kenneth Corse, a TxDOT engineer in Pampa, first announced the project in May, 2004, to the Lions

Club in Canadian, he anticipated using money that had been allocated to the Amarillo District. The project at that time, Tomlinson

See TREE, Page 3

## Piggies to go 'whee, whee, all the way home'

By DEE DEE LARAMORE  
Editor

Gray County Sheriff's deputies hope to have three little fugitive piggies go "whee, whee, whee all the way home" soon.

A front page article about three

wandering pigs being held by the Sheriff's Department Wednesday generated a telephone call identifying the impounded porkers' owner, said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing today.

The person believed to have recently bought the pigs has been out

of town, but is expected to return today, Rushing said.

"We're just waiting for this guy to get back home," he said.

The three pigs were reported to be loose near the city's water treatment plant west of Price Road, off Kentucky Avenue on

Monday evening.

Local residents helped deputies round up the three cross-breed barrows, weighing about 150 pounds each, officials said.

The animals have been in protective custody since then, waiting to be returned to their rightful owner.

FEB 10 2005



# Tree

Continued from Page 1

said, consisted only of removing trees near the roadway along U.S. 60 and parts of U.S. 83 between Amarillo and the Oklahoma state line for safety reasons. It has since been expanded to include all fixed objects, including utility poles and drainage structures.

He insists that although he never said he wouldn't remove any trees, the number of trees removed would be minimal and other fixed objects would be included in the project.

In June, Tomlinson said, there was a call for projects that might be funded under the state's Hazard Elimination Safety Program, a program he said that is intended to address issues like roadside safety. Selection under the Hazard Elimination Safety Program, Tomlinson said, is based on a cost-benefit ratio.

He said that preliminary costs are estimated and details of the project are developed later.

"Benefits are calculated using crash records and are basically the lives saved or injuries prevented by addressing hazards along the road," Tomlinson said. "In other words, the worse a highway's accident history is, the better chance it has for being selected."

Members of a citizens committee that Tomlinson organized in August, however, questioned the selection process since there were few vehicle-tree crashes in the designated area.

One member of the committee said there had been no record of fatalities in Roberts County involving trees, but Roberts County had the most trees schedule for removal.

"We submitted projects for all of U.S. 60 and U.S. 83 in Gray, Roberts, Hemphill, Lipscomb and Ochiltree counties," Tomlinson said. "Sections of these highways

inside city limits were excluded."

Tomlinson said that in August, he was notified that parts of the project, trees in Gray and Ochiltree counties, were selected for funding through the Hazard Elimination Program.

*'I believe the only responsible course of action to take ... is to continue working together ...'*

— Mark E. Tomlinson  
TxDOT engineer

That did not change his approach to the project, he said, but it did free up part of the Amarillo District funding and allowed him to use it for other projects. The part of the tree elimination project not funded by the Hazard Elimination Program, he said, would still be paid for

with district funds.

In August, he continued in his letter to Culver, a call went out for project funding using the state's new Safety Bond Program. The selection process was similar to that of the Hazardous Elimination Program. Tomlinson said he submitted the part of the tree elimination project not covered by the Hazardous Elimination Program and was notified in December, the day after his citizens committee met, that the tree elimination program along U.S. 83 in Hemphill County had been selected for funding under the Safety Bond Program.

"As we did with previously with the HES Program," Tomlinson said, "we will substitute this Safety Bond money for those Amarillo District funds we had allocated for U.S. 83 in Hemphill County, again effectively increasing funding for Amarillo District highways."

He said the change in

funding does not change their approach to the tree elimination program.

Tomlinson said the source of the funding does not influence whether or how the project will be done.

He said, however, that the fact the tree elimination program along U.S. 60 and U.S. 83 was selected by these two programs indicates to him that these highways have significant safety problems that should be addressed.

"I believe the only responsible course of action to take, as we have been doing," Tomlinson said, "is to continue working together to create a project which improves safety, and preserves beauty along the highways."

He said that he would have a preliminary proposal to present to the citizens committee at their next meeting.

# GCAD

Continued from Page 1

missioners that the erroneous first valuation was due to a "clerical error. The taxpayer made the error and then submitted a corrected asset listing."

Precinct 2 County Commissioner Gary Willoughby said this was the second year an error had been made on the school district's tax revenues concerning property evaluated by a consultant contracted by the appraisal district.

The industrial consultant, Hooper Industries of Corpus Christi, "looks at asset listings for businesses such as (chemical) plants, and estimates their value," Bagley said.

"I just didn't have all the information together yet. We've used this consultant for a number of years. When I talked to him last, he was in the midst of taking some classes, and also had some family issues," Bagley said this morning after the board meeting.

"I'll bet he's saved us a substantial amount of money over the years," Bagley said of the consultant.

"If I've made an error, and



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

**Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead, left, and Precinct 2 County Commissioner Gary Willoughby, members of the Gray County Appraisal District Board of Directors, listen to Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley explain the circumstances of a revision of Celanese Ltd.'s property tax valuation.**

"I believe I have, I feel it's in not communicating promptly with the taxing entities," he said.

"You will be ready soon to address the issue of the industrial consultant's contract?" Willoughby asked at the end of this morning's meeting.

"I'm hoping to. There's some other issues we need to deal with which I haven't quite developed yet. I hope

to be ready in a few weeks," Bagley said.

Another agenda item which caused discussion of differing viewpoints was the election of two members to the appraisal review board.

Nancy Coffee, Darville Orr and Bagley all discussed casting paper ballots, which Sam Haynes, board chairman, would then tabulate aloud. In the ensuing written voting, Paula Goff received

three votes, Bob Marx, four; Annette Goode, two; and Doug Locke, one.

"I disagree with the way this was handled. I disagree with having a ballot vote," Willoughby said.

"I don't know about whether that's normal to pick board members that way. The method of voting is pretty much up to the board," Bagley said after the meeting.

Section 551.203 of the Texas Open Meetings Act states that "The governmental body may not vote in an open session by secret written ballot," according to a 2002 publication of the act.

In other business, board members elected Haynes chairman and Coffee secretary. Other board members in addition to Haynes, Coffee, Willoughby and Orr are Gaye Whitehead, Gray County tax assessor-collector, and Wallace Birkes.

# Website

Continued from Page 1

Hooper said. CivicPlus professionals traveled to Pampa to train the staff on how to manage the website.

"We really got a lot out of the training," Hooper said. "From what I've seen, it's easy for us to get on the site and make changes instantly."

By giving City of Pampa departments the responsibility for adding, deleting and updating information online at any time, officials can tailor the site to meet the community's needs while controlling its evolution in a fiscally responsible manner.

The site uses a number of interactive features, including a drop-down Quick Link features allows visitors instant access to any page on the site.

The city's FixItForm is one of the most popular features, Hooper said. It gives residents the power to help the city identify problems that need to be addressed such as potholes, damaged sidewalks, litter or even barking dogs.

"That's been real beneficial," he said. "I think people have used that the most."

A staff directory provides the mailing addresses of municipal departments such as the Municipal Court or Utilities Office, and the names and phone numbers of key city staffers.

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# Viewpoints

## Thoughts on bleeding hearts and road kill

Whenever I travel, I find myself praying: "God, please don't let me see the road kill."

Not only are my eyes drawn to every bloody thing in the road itself, but my traitorous vision never fails to alert me to carcasses at the side of the road as well.

If it's dead and half-invisible in a ditch, I still see it. It is absolutely revolting and uncanny.

Driving along I suddenly wince (or moan), eyes directed painfully at the road. My victim, I mean my passenger — usually my poor mother since she is the only one who lets me drive — asks "What?" and looks

around anxiously, obviously not seeing what I just saw.

Wryly, I respond that it was a dead cat, dead bird, dead dog, dead possum, dead skunk, dead coyote — yes, I unfortunately do feel sorry for dead polecats, dead possums and dead coyotes.

At any rate, you no doubt see my point. What you don't see is my mother's extreme vexation at my almost scaring her to death.

That is why, if I have a choice, I eschew the front seat for a place in the back in any vehicle no matter how far I have to travel.

It may be creepy, but I am a bleeding heart for dead

animals. And, really, I wish I wasn't. After all, they're dead, and there ain't nothin' anybody can do about it.

Merriam-Webster Online dictionary defines a bleeding heart as "a person who shows extravagant sympathy especially for an object of alleged persecution."

There is, however, another meaning for the term, and you trivia buffs may find this interesting.

A bleeding heart is a type of plant. It has, the diction-

ary said, uniquely shaped "drooping" blooms.

The things I never knew. Intrigued despite myself, I widened my search for an image of this heart-shaped wonder and found one at

Wikipedia on-line encyclopedia.

Bleeding hearts, a.k.a. Dicentra formosa, are a type of plant that sport beautiful heart-shaped flowers.

"Bleeding heart is," Wikipedia on-line encyclopedia reports, "the common name of several flowering

plants, primarily of the genus Dicentra. The name comes from the appearance of the pink flower, which resembles the shape of a heart with a drop of blood descending."

It may sound rather sinister in this definition, but the visuals offered by Wikipedia of the actual plant(s) are quite lovely.

Why not, this Valentine's Day, give your sweetheart a bleeding heart? That is if you can find one.

According to USDA's National Resource Conservation Service web site these plants are primarily found in the Pacific Northwest and California.

I can't speak for the men-folk, but I'm sure women would enjoy being gifted with this unusual present. Why, you fellows could go into great detail about your quest to find the plant which I'm sure would impress her no end.

Just don't tell her you have "extravagant sympathy" for her because you sense her "persecution."

Unless, of course, you wish abjectly to thank her for being "persecuted" by you.

Just kidding. I'm sure nothing could be further from the truth.

Happy Valentine's Day.

**Skyla Bryant**  
News Editor



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 10, the 41st day of 2005. There are 324 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 10, 1967, the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, dealing with presidential disability and succession, went into effect.

### On this date:

In 1763, France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War.

In 1840, Britain's Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

In 1846, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons, began an exodus to the west from Illinois.

In 1942, the former French liner "Normandie" capsized in New York Harbor a day after it caught fire while being refitted for the U.S. Navy.

In 1942, RCA Victor presented Glenn Miller and his Orchestra with a "gold record" for their recording of "Chattanooga Choo Choo," which had sold more than one million copies.

In 1949, Arthur Miller's play "Death of a Salesman" opened at Broadway's Morosco Theater.

In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolph Ivanovich Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

In 1968, Peggy Fleming of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble, France.

In 1981, eight people were killed, 198 injured, when fire broke out at the Las Vegas Hilton hotel-casino.

In 1989, Ron Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee, becoming the first black to head a major U.S. political party.

**Ten years ago:** The House passed a GOP crime bill boosting funding for state prisons but requiring states to get tougher on violent criminals before they could receive any money.

**Five years ago:** The hijackers of an Afghan plane surrendered, ending a four-day standoff at Stansted airport outside London. The Federal Aviation Administration ordered inspections of MD-80, MD-90, DC-9 and 717 series jetliners after two Alaska Airlines planes were found to have equipment damage similar to that on Alaska Airlines Flight 261, which crashed off the California coast Jan. 31, killing all 88 people on board. Actor Jim Varney, best known for his comic character Ernest P. Worrell, died in White House, Tenn., at age 50.

*'Be nice to people on the way up. They're the same people you'll pass on the way down.'*

— Jimmy Durante (1893-1980)



## Government's job isn't charity

Charity to man's fellow man is praiseworthy, and Americans are the most generous people on Earth. According to a quote by American philanthropist Daniel Rose in "An Exceptional Nation," an article in Philanthropy magazine (November/December 2004), "American private charitable contributions this year will exceed \$200 billion, equal to about 10 percent of the total federal budget; that some 70 percent of U.S. households make charitable cash contributions; and that over half of all U.S. adults will volunteer

an estimated 20 billion hours in charitable activities." Americans contribute six or seven times more than some of our European neighbors.

What about President Bush's \$350 million commitment for earthquake and tsunami relief — is that just as praiseworthy? Let's look at it. Charity is reaching into one's own pockets to assist his fellow man in need. Reaching into someone

else's pocket to assist one's fellow man hardly qualifies as charity. When done privately, we deem it theft, and the individual risks jail time.

What would some of our ancestors say about government "charity"? James Madison, the father of our Constitution, said, in a January 1794 speech in the House of Representatives, "The government of the United States is a definite

government, confined to specified objects. It is not like state governments, whose powers are more general. Charity is no part of the legislative duty of the government."

A few years later, Virginia Rep. William Giles condemned a relief measure for fire victims, saying it was neither the purpose nor the right of Congress to "attend to what generosity and humanity require, but to what the Constitution and their duty require."

Unlike President Bush, a See CHARITY, Page 5

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



## Social Security: First, do no harm

The chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, predicts that Congress will not pass President Bush's Social Security proposals without public support. Grassley gives Bush three months to build that support.

If the fate of Social Security reforms, particularly Bush's proposed personal investment accounts, lies with the public, it becomes the duty of every American to be familiar with how the system works and what would change if Congress approves the president's proposals.

At a minimum, Americans

should consider the following points and expect the administration to explain how the finances of workers, retirees and the federal government would improve, or at least escape harm:

Most Americans have little savings and large debt. The desirability of personal retirement accounts is tempered by the need for trillions of dollars in additional federal borrowing.

Bush says there is not enough money coming in to meet the promises made to

retiring baby boomers. But diverting payroll taxes to personal accounts for younger Americans would reduce the money to pay baby boomer benefits, exacerbating the problem and enlarging the runaway national debt.

### Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

New White House budget figures predict that the rising federal deficit, now more than \$400 billion annually, will decline by half by 2009. However, those figures do not include war-fighting costs or the trillions in feder-

al borrowing necessary to establish personal retirement accounts. How can the administration simultaneously predict deficits cut in half and make its No. 1 priority a program that would increase the deficits?

Some calculations indicate that tomorrow's workers would benefit from the personal accounts, adding \$2,000-\$3,000 a year to their retirement benefits. In order for that to happen, however, each account must generate an average return of 4.5 percent over inflation. In the event of a deep or prolonged recession, that target would

See HARM, Page 5

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• Texas Cattl currently spo statewide schola school students Grote Memorial Applicants must graduating senic high school or ex tuition and must into an agricultur at a Texas colleg for the 2005 fall s deadline for appl returned to Am Box 570, Ca 79014, is Feb information, visi cattlwomen.on Internet or call Br 323-6397.

• Texas Extension in Oc

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## Community happenings

• **Texas CattleWomen** are currently sponsoring a statewide scholarship for high school students called the Pat Grote Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be a 2005 graduating senior at a Texas high school or equivalent institution and must be accepted into an agricultural-related field at a Texas college or university for the 2005 fall semester. The deadline for applications to be returned to Amy Brainard, P.O. Box 570, Canadian, TX 79014, is Feb. 18. For more information, visit [www.texas-cattlewomen.org](http://www.texas-cattlewomen.org) on the Internet or call Brainard at (806) 323-6397.

• **Texas Cooperative Extension** in Ochiltree County

will sponsor a beginning futures and options workshop for area producers from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Ochiltree County Expo Center in Peryton. The registration fee is \$10. To register or for more information, call Scott Strawn by Feb. 16 at (806) 435-4501.

• **The next Pampa Area Singles dance**, featuring Mike Porter, is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Sportsman Club on South Barnes Street. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. Snacks welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **The Second Annual Playwrights Showcase** of the Western Region is Aug. 12-

14, 2005, at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colo. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2005. Registration forms and more information are available at [www.rcc.edu/playwright-showcase](http://www.rcc.edu/playwright-showcase) on the Internet.

• **Christian Fine Arts Society** is conducting a free religious poetry contest with a \$1,000 grand prize. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 9588 Thornbush Lane Fishers, IN 46038 or go to [www.freecontest.com](http://www.freecontest.com). The deadline to enter is Feb. 26. Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem.

• **The Women's Center of**

**the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: March 24, First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, and March 29, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; and March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

• **Residents have until March 9** to order seedlings from Gray County Soil and Water Conservation District for windbreak and wildlife tree seedlings and shrubs. The

seedlings will be offered at a nominal cost. Species include Arborvitae, Austrian Pine, Pinyon Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Red Cedar, Rocky Mountain Juniper, Spruce, American Plum, Aromatic Sumac, Bur Oak, Caragana, Catalpa, Cottoncreeper, Desert Willow, Fourwing Saltbush, European Sage, Green Ash, Golden Willow, Hackberry, Honeylocust, Hybrid Cottonwood, Lacebark Elm, Lilac, Lombardy Poplar, Nanking Cherry, Native Plum, Osage Orange, Russian Olive, Sand Cherry, Sand Plum, Siberian Elm and Sumac. Wildlife packets containing 25 seedlings each of four different varieties to enhance quail,

pheasant, deer, turkey and squirrel populations are available. The district will also be offering a limited variety of larger hardwoods. For more information or to obtain an order form, contact Gray Co. SWCD at 665-1751, ext. 102.

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## Charity

Continued from Page 4

few of our former presidents understood that charity is not a government function. Franklin Pierce, our 14th president, vetoed a bill to help the mentally ill, saying, "I cannot find any authority in the Constitution for public charity," adding that to approve such spending "would be contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and subversive to the whole theory upon which the Union of these States is founded."

In 1887, President Grover Cleveland, our 22nd and 24th president, said, when he vetoed a bill to assist drought-inflicted counties in Texas, "I feel obliged to withhold my approval of the plan to indulge in benevolent and charitable sentiment through the appropriation of public funds. ... I find no warrant for such an appropriation in the Constitution."

Tennessee Rep. Col. Davy Crockett, in a speech before the House of Representatives, said, in protest against

a \$10,000 appropriation for a widow of a distinguished naval officer, "We have the right, as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity, but as members of Congress, we have no right to appropriate a dollar of the public money."

I'd like to ask President Bush and members of the 109th Congress whether they've discovered the constitutional authority for charitable expenditures undiscovered by James Madison, William Giles, Presidents Franklin Pierce and Grover Cleveland, and Davy Crockett. Major U.S. companies, such as American Express, Pfizer, Exxon Mobil and General Motors donated millions of dollars to tsunami relief efforts. Like those of the Bush administration and Congress, their actions aren't praiseworthy at all. The CEOs who authorized these "charitable" donations were

reaching not into their own pockets but into the pockets of their shareholders.

I get the feeling that the train of constitutional principles has left the station and the recent tsunami episode is simply another symptom of American obliviousness to constitutional government. Today's politicians can't be held fully responsible for our abandonment of constitutional government. While they can be blamed for not being statesmen, the lion's share of the blame rests with 280 million Americans. Elected officials simply mirror public misunderstanding or contempt for constitutional principles. Tragically, adherence to the constitutional values of men like James Madison and Davy Crockett would spell political suicide in today's America.

\*\*\*  
Walter Williams, Ph.D., is a John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

*'I cannot find any authority in the Constitution for public charity.'*

— Franklin Pierce  
14th U.S. President

## Harm

Continued from Page 4

not be met, leaving personal account-holders worse off than they would be under the traditional Social Security system. Is a possible increase in retirement income worth the risk?

Bush says personal accounts would allow Americans the chance to pass on a nest egg to their survivors. But in most cases that scenario would require premature death. In order to ensure adequate retirement income from a personal account, most retirees would have to purchase an annuity, depleting their nest egg.

Three months should be plenty of

time for the administration to assemble the numbers and present them to the public.

Unfortunately, establishing personal accounts would not improve the shortfall that will overtake Social Security in 2042.

Measures other than personal accounts will have to be adopted to sustain benefits.

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# Senate nearing vote on class action lawsuits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate appears to be nearing a final vote on a bill that would give President Bush one of his top second-term priorities by shifting many class action lawsuits from state to federal courts.

By successfully fighting off Democratic amendments Wednesday, the GOP-controlled Senate has so far preserved an agreement with the Republican-controlled House to move the legislation through unchanged.

If senators can finish the carefully compromised measure Thursday without allowing major change, the House plans to pass it next week and quickly get it to Bush for his signature.

Bush is urging senators to pass the measure without changing the version he is ready to sign.

"They're trying to amend the bill," Bush said Wednesday of the Democratic efforts. "That's code word for they're trying

to weaken the bill. They're trying to make the bill not effective."

Bush and other supporters say the bill, which would send most multistate class action lawsuits to federal court instead of allowing them to be heard in state courts, is needed because lawyers try to file their lawsuits in friendly state court jurisdictions where they are more likely to get large payouts.

Senators who back the bill

say greedy lawyers make more money from such cases than do the actual victims, and that lawyers sometimes threaten companies with class action suits just to get quick financial settlements.

"This bill, like most, is not perfect. But I believe that it represents the best that can be done to solve what is a real problem in our legal system," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Opponents of the bill say it is aimed at helping business-

es escape multimillion-dollar judgments for their wrongdoing and would hurt lawyers trying to litigate those cases.

"It is wrong to allow corporations to avoid responsibility simply because they harmed a large number of people in small amounts rather than a small number of people in large amounts," said Nan Aron, president of the liberal Alliance for Justice.

The Senate rejected, 60-39, an amendment by Sen.

Mark Pryor, D-Ark., that would have made state attorneys general exempt from the legislation's restrictions.

The bill's opponents contend federal judges routinely dismiss class action suits that deal with multistate law, saying that applying more than one state's law to a case makes it too unwieldy. If this legislation passes, those case will have nowhere to be heard, since state courts will be banned from hearing them, they said.

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Business Professionals of America

## Pampa High School BPA students travel to Amarillo for regionals



PHS' Business Professional of America students headed to state Business Professionals of America at Pampa High School recently participated in regional competition in Amarillo.

Sponsoring the local BPA students at the contest was Beverly Jordan.

Results of the competition are as follows:

Ashley Garner, first place state qualifier, Advanced Office Systems and Procedures.

Ashlie Stout, second place state qualifier, Payroll Accounting.

Lindzi Schaible, third place state qualifier, Database Applications.

Mayra Hernandez, state alternate, Advanced Work Processing Skills.

Whitney Parker, state alternate, Fundamental Word Processing Skills.

Garner, Hernandez, Schaible and Stout, fourth place state alternates, Administrative Support Team.

State qualifiers will go on to state competition March 2-6 in Arlington.

(Left-right) Mayra Hernandez, Ashley Garner, Whitney Parker, Kara Shephard, Lindzi Schaible and Ashlie Stout, members of Pampa High's BPA organization, recently competed in regional competition in Amarillo.



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## Seeking growth, better execution, Hewlett-Packard ousting CEO

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Carly Fiorina was long lauded as one of the most powerful and prominent women in corporate America, a forceful CEO who sought to invigorate Hewlett-Packard Co. with radical change during her nearly six-year tenure.

But her attempts to reinvent the company founded by two engineers in 1938 didn't create a more successful HP. On the contrary, the company seemed to stumble — especially after its hotly contested merger with Compaq Computer Corp. closed in 2002.

On Wednesday, directors ousted Fiorina because she didn't execute the board's strategy quickly enough. HP's stock, which has gone nowhere for two years and is down two-thirds from its peak in 2000, surged 6.9 percent, based in part on expectations that big changes may now be in store for the company.

"While I regret the board

and I have differences about how to execute HP's strategy, I respect their decision," said Fiorina, 50, who is expected to collect a sever-

ance package worth \$21.1 million.

HP directors appointed Chief Financial Officer Robert P. Wayman as interim chief executive. They also named director Patricia C. Dunn non-executive chairman and said they would immediately begin searching

for a replacement. Dunn and Wayman said directors were leaning toward outside applicants.

Dunn, a board member since 1998, said directors had been discussing the change for "quite some time" based on consultations with lawyers, venture capitalists and academics. She said the board discussed shifting day-to-day responsibilities from Fiorina to other executives in mid-January.

Directors said Fiorina, whose salary and bonus for 2003 totaled \$3.5 million, failed to evenly boost profits across all divisions, ranging from printers and computer servers to technology consulting contracts with Fortune 500 companies.

Fiorina was lured to HP in July 1999 from Lucent Technologies Inc., where her background was in sales, and put in charge of a company dominated by engineers. She quickly moved to reorganize its structure and remove bureaucracy, then launched ad campaigns focusing on HP's innovation.

But, observers say, HP lost more than expenses and thousands of employees during the process. Fiorina erased the employee-focused culture once known as the "HP way," focused single-mindedly on quarterly profits, and alienated employees. That, business experts say, ultimately may be her lasting legacy.

"This was a company that was the essential model of innovation, a great model of leadership style. Everyone used this as a model for the integrity of the engineers," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, associate dean of the Yale School of Management. "No CEO uses HP as a model for anything now."

*"While I regret the board and I have differences about how to execute HP's strategy, I respect their decision."*

— Carly Fiorina  
CEO of six years



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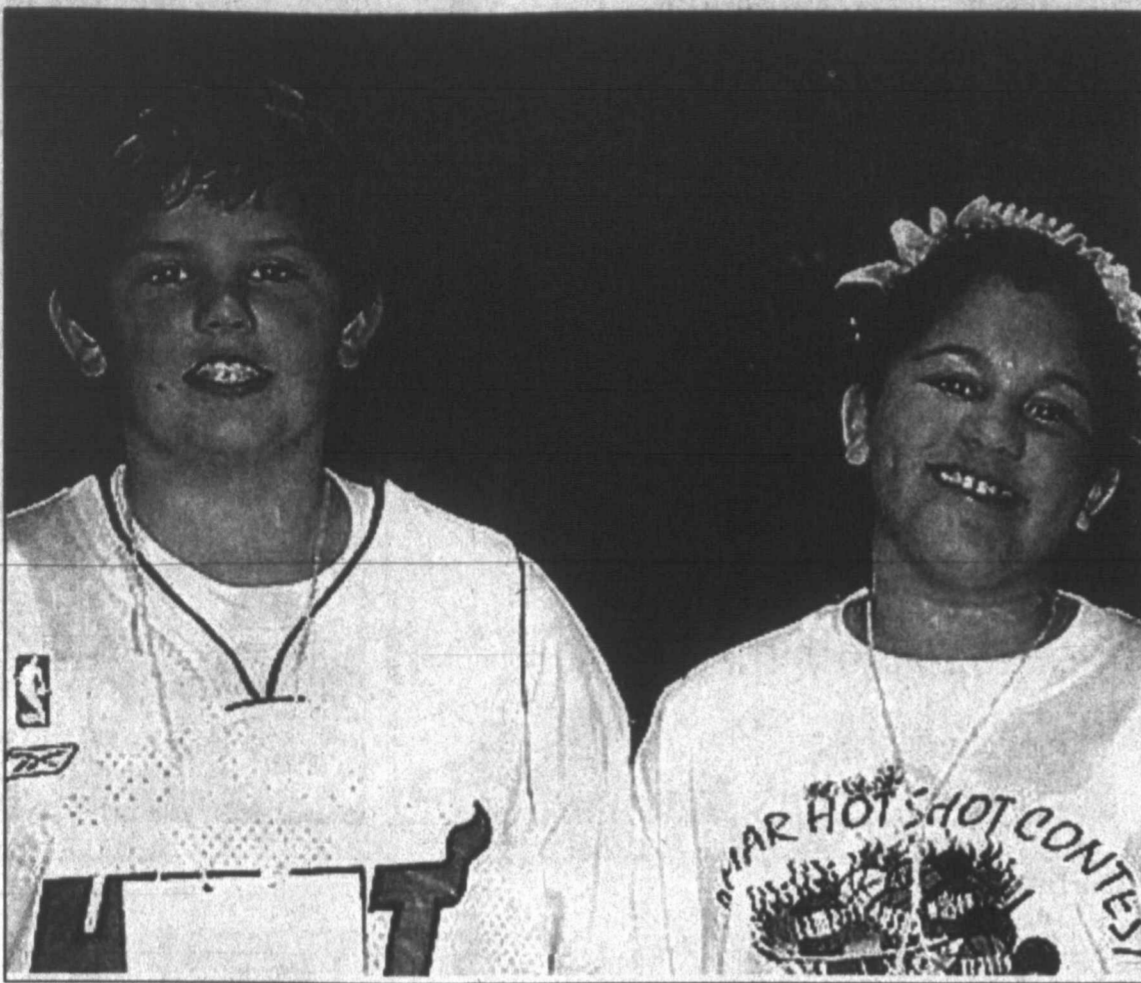
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## Lamar spellers



Jessica Kenney was finalist and Eddie Castillo runner-up during a spelling bee at Lamar Elementary School. Both are fourth graders at Lamar. Susan Burgin served as sponsor, working with contestants after school, and Tori Kelley pronounced the words. The judges were Kelley Smith and Doretta Gerber. Rose Steel assisted with staging the bee, and Anna Saiz photographed the event.



Brandon Cox was finalist and Elizabeth Willis-Fagg runner-up during a spelling bee at Lamar Elementary School. Both are fifth graders at Lamar. Susan Burgin served as sponsor, working with contestants after school, and Tori Kelley pronounced the words. The judges were Kelley Smith and Doretta Gerber. Rose Steel assisted with staging the bee, and Anna Saiz photographed the event.

## Seattle mandates recycling

SEATTLE (AP) — Garbage hauler Frank Treto quickly spots enough junk mail and cardboard to warrant whipping out a bright yellow warning tag, one of hundreds he's doled out since the city's mandatory recycling law took effect this year.

So far, no one's given him any grief. "Not yet," he said. "I'm looking forward to that. I'm going to see if I can get a bulletproof vest."

Recycling has been required for more than a decade in communities with progressive reputations, such as Madison, Wis., and several Northeastern states — with varying degrees of success.

Seattle has had ample reason to brag since 1989, when it became one of the first cities in the country to start curbside pickup of newspaper, cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles and office paper. But in recent years, its recycling rate has dipped below 40 percent, down from a peak of 44 percent in 1995.

Most cities would probably envy that rate, well above the national average of about 27 percent, according to the State of Garbage in America, a report published last year by the recycling journal Biocycle. But it's far from Seattle's goal of 60 percent by the end of the decade.

So the City Council

passed a mandatory recycling law that took effect Jan. 1, but penalties won't be enforced until next year.

Starting in 2006, people in single-family homes won't get their trash picked up if they dump "significant amounts" of recyclables in their trash, defined by the city as more than 10 percent by volume. Owners of apartments, condominiums and businesses will face \$50 fines.

So far, city officials say few people have complained. Most calls have come from people wondering how to comply with the

new standards.

"When you tell them what the story is, they say, 'Oh, OK,'" said Tim Croll, community services director for

Seattle Public Utilities, which runs the city's garbage and recycling systems.

The city has budgeted \$1.5 million for a three-year education campaign that began last year and includes mail-ers, how-to kits, a recycling hot line and friendly warning tags that open with "Why waste a good thing?"

In Madison, Wis., a liberal college town that embraced recycling enthusiastically when it began in 1991, a fine has never been imposed.

*"When you tell them what the story is, they say, 'Oh, OK.'"*

— Tim Croll  
Seattle Public Utilities

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend of 2 1/2 years, "Neil," broke up with me last August. At the time, I couldn't understand why he suddenly changed so drastically. Early in our relationship he had been accepting of my two children, but toward the end he became distant and cold to them. Then he told me he didn't want to raise another man's children and wasn't interested in being a mentor to a teenage boy.

Neil was also angry that I refused to end my relationship with my best friend, who happens to be a gay man. Neil said there is no place in society for gays and he didn't want a gay person calling his house.

Neil works for a company that he has always had an interest in owning. Last spring, the owner died suddenly and left shares of the business to his widow, "Nancy," and their children. Neil told me he intended to borrow money from his family and buy out the youngest son's interest -- but his family didn't have the money to loan. About a month after that, in the midst of complaining to me about his financial woes, Neil commented, "Maybe I'll get me a rich older woman to take care of me ... someone like Nancy."

Over the next few months, I saw him less and less. Little did I know Neil had already manipulated a relationship with her.

Abby, Nancy is a very nice, classy person. I like the woman. I went to her home for her husband's wake. Should I tell Nancy what Neil is up to, that he's a con-ning loser? I'm afraid if I do, she won't believe me. Neil can be very sweet when he wants to be, and I'm sure she hasn't glimpsed his hateful, controlling side. His only real love is money and power.

My motive is not spite. I don't want Neil back. I have a new boyfriend who is everything Neil could never be. I just feel Nancy should know what's ahead. She has a gay teenage son. I'm sure when Neil gets what he wants, that boy's life will be hell.

So, you tell me: Should I talk to Nancy and risk looking like sour grapes, or let her find out what a lowlife, gold-digging scumbag Neil is for herself? -- **TORN IN SAN DIEGO**

**DEAR TORN:** Ordinarily, I would tell you to stay out of it. However, because of Nancy's son, I'm reversing myself. Make a date with Nancy (if she'll see you), and without calling names, tell her about Neil's longtime interest in buying into her business, his cash-flow problem and his homophobia. If she has a legal adviser, I'm sure that person will discuss with her the advisability of a prenuptial agreement should she decide to remarry. And your conscience will be clear.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 13 years old. At home, when I do something wrong, I am usually threatened with a loss of my allowance, but lately it has gotten more severe. I took some food off my sister's plate. I was warned against it, but I continued to take her food.

My father threatened me with a \$20 deduction from my allowance. I don't get that much money in a month! Was that unreasonable of him, and furthermore, is this blackmail? -- **BIG SIS IN SILVER SPRING**

**DEAR SIS:** It was neither unreasonable nor blackmail. It was an expensive life lesson. Your father was telling you that the price for ignoring his warning would be steep, and he did it in a way that got your attention. In the future, I'll bet you won't ignore your dad when he gives you a warning.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

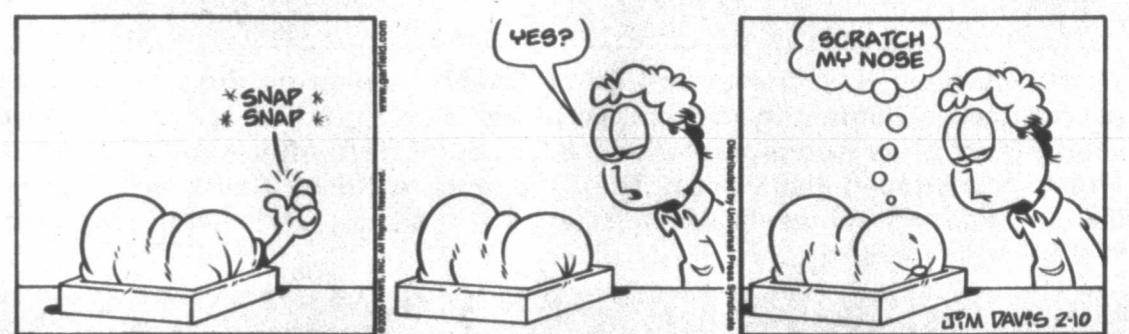
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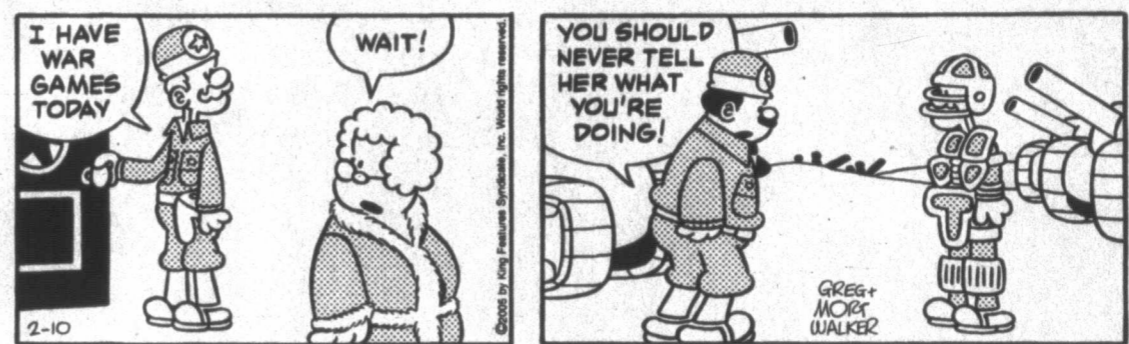
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## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

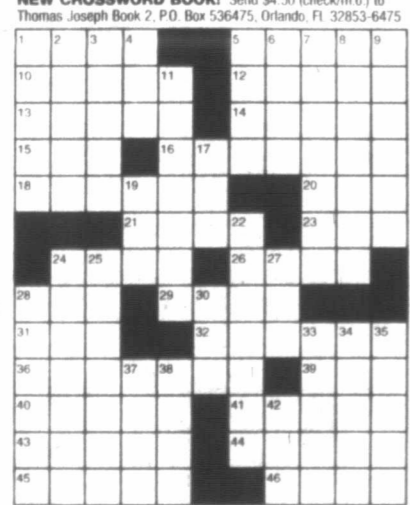
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- 18 Whole Draw
- 20 Canvas cover
- 23 Not to mention
- 24 Roof ornament
- 26 Shopping aid
- 28 Cacao holder
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- 36 Polar features
- 39 Burma's first prime minister
- 40 Dangerous gas
- 41 Bulls and stallions
- 43 Burger topper

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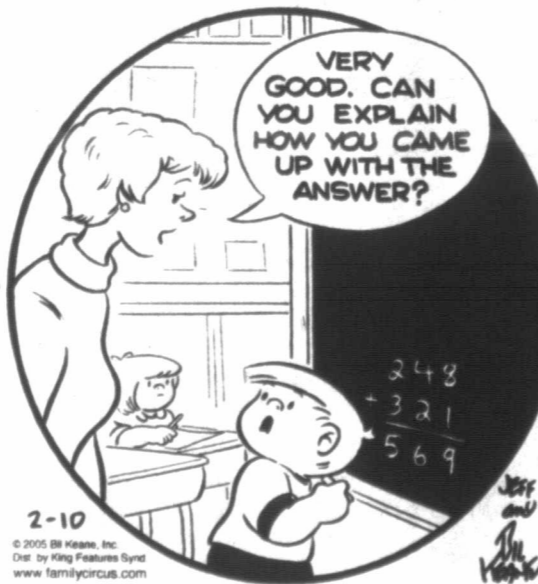


## Marmaduke



"You're not going to win a staring contest with that lady in the painting."

## The Family Circus

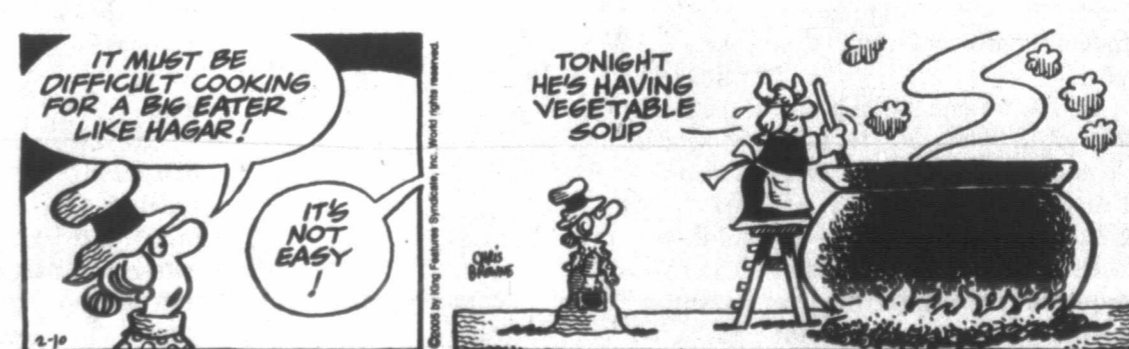


"No, I think it was just Divine intervention."

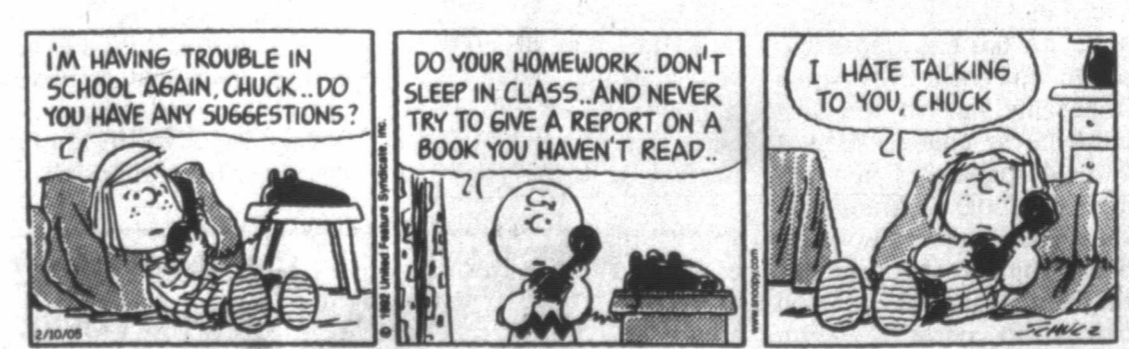
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# Sports Day

## Pampa hosts 8th grade district basketball tournament today

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

With the Lady Harvesters preparing for a playoff appearance — and the varsity team fighting for theirs — the Pampa Junior High 8th grade boys' A and B teams will compete in district playoffs beginning this afternoon. What's more, the tournament is being held here in Pampa.

Pampa will play host to Dumas, Hereford, Westover Park and Plainview today and tomorrow. Games will start this afternoon at 4 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. The A team games will be played in the boys' gym. B team games will be played in the girls' gym.

The district playoffs will resume Saturday so as not to conflict with Friday night varsity schedules.

### SPORT SUPPORT

## It's an exciting time to be a Pampa fan

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

This is a very exciting time for Pampa sports. However, I wonder if you are aware of just how exciting it is for these kids and their coaches? Allow me to bring you up to speed.

Did you know? The Pampa Lady Harvesters will be taking part in post-season play for the first time in 14 years this Tuesday in Canyon. This is a team and a coaching staff that did nothing more than face every challenge head-on this season. They have remained humble, win or lose. With an overall record of 15-15, and a district record of 7-3, this bunch has done the Harvester community proud. No matter how long the playoff run lasts, they deserve your support.

Did you know? The boys' varsity basketball team is in a playoff dogfight with Caprock and Randall. All have district marks of 4-4 with just two games remaining. Pampa hosts district champs Palo Duro tomorrow night. Pampa Coach Jeff Reed and his team will give the Dons all they can handle. The sixth man (that would be you) will be an important component tomorrow night. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Did you know?

The Pampa High School swim team rocked the house at the District Meet in Lubbock last week. The Harvesters were nothing short of dominant in claiming their sixth straight District 3-4A title. A few of those divers are back in Lubbock for Regionals which begin today. Whitney Penrod is ranked No. 1 in 4-A, Region 1 diving. Thomas Wilson is ranked No. 4 in the Breaststroke for Region I. He is ranked No. 18 in the state in 4-A.

Did you know? The PJHS 7th grade basketball teams just completed very exciting seasons, including this past weekend's tournaments. 8th grade tournaments get under way today. Coaches John East and Deanna Polasek are doing an outstanding job 'harvesting' Pampa's basketball future.

Did you know? Pampa High School wrestler Richard Leal will be taking part in Regionals this weekend in El Paso.

The soccer teams are at full speed, the tennis teams are gearing up, the baseball and softball teams are bringing the diamonds to life.

It's an exciting time for these kids and their coaches. It's an exciting time to be a Pampa fan.



## Harvester Booster Club cookin' up support with Cajun dinner

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

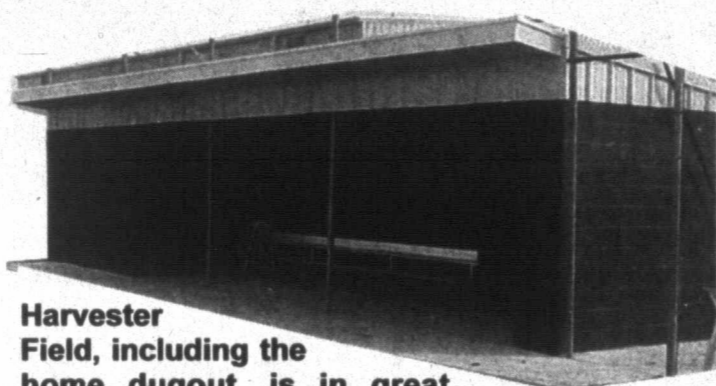
The Pampa high school baseball season is just around the corner. And the Baseball Booster Club has been hard at work getting ready for the season ahead.

The new home dugout is ready. The field is in great shape and the team is preparing for another successful season. Pampa will host a scrimmage this Saturday against Borger. Game time is 1 p.m.

Tomorrow night, the booster club will host a Cajun sampler dinner prior to the junior varsity and varsity basketball games in the Pampa High School cafeteria starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$12 each and will be sold at the door only. The club will prepare for 250 people and will serve until the food is gone.

Here's a great chance to support the baseball team, enjoy

some great Cajun cooking and cheer the basketball team on to victory.



Harvester Field, including the home dugout, is in great shape and ready for the season ahead.

## Report: Former NBA star's mosque donated money to alleged terror fronts, records show

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former NBA star Hakeem Olajuwon insists his mosque's donations to groups the government later determined to be terrorist fronts were meant to help the poor, not sponsor terrorism.

A Houston mosque that Olajuwon established and supported gave more than \$80,000 to groups the government labeled as fronts for al-Qaida and the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Olajuwon told the AP he wouldn't have given money to the groups had he known of the alleged terrorist ties — some of which had been the subject of news reports before the contributions were made. Olajuwon's mosque gave the money before the United States designated the groups as terrorist fronts.

"There is no way you can go back in time," Olajuwon said in a recent telephone interview from Jordan, where he is studying Arabic. "After the fact, now they have the list of organizations that are banned by the government."

A Treasury Department spokeswoman, Molly Millerwise, declined to discuss Olajuwon's contributions. She said that "in many cases, donors are being unwittingly misled by the charities."

Federal law enforcement officials said they weren't investigating Olajuwon, a 7-foot center born in Nigeria who played 17 seasons for the NBA's Houston Rockets and one for the Toronto Raptors before retiring in 2002.

The 42-year-old Olajuwon, who became a U.S. citizen in 1993, won the NBA's Most Valuable Player award in 1994, when he led the Rockets to the first of back-to-back championships.

The Olajuwon-founded Islamic Da'Wah Center in Houston gave more than \$60,000 in 2000 and \$20,000 in 2002 to the Islamic African Relief Agency, the center's tax

records show. The mosque gave more than \$1 million in donations during 2000 and about \$291,000 in 2002, the records show.

The government shut down the relief agency in October, saying it gave money and other support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

But the agency and its possible ties to terrorism had been in news stories years earlier, before Olajuwon's contributions.

— The U.S. Agency for International Development cut off two government grants to the Islamic African Relief Agency in 1999, saying funding the group "would not be in the national interest of the United States."

— A former fund-raiser for the relief agency, Ziyad Khaleel, was named in a federal trial in 2001 as the man who bought a satellite telephone bin Laden used to plan the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

— Numerous news organizations reported shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks that the relief agency was among more than two dozen Islamic charities under scrutiny for possible terrorist ties.

Olajuwon also participated in a 1999 celebrity bowling tournament for the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, which the government shut down in 2001, accusing it of sending money to Hamas. The Islamic Da'Wah Center gave more than \$2,000 to the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation in 2000, according to its tax returns.

At the time, Olajuwon was vice president of the mosque — which was named after him — and provided more than three-quarters of its money. Olajuwon heads the separate foundation that controls the Islamic Da'Wah Center.

All the donations came before the government designated the Holy Land Foundation and the Islamic African Relief Agency as terrorist fronts. Vipul Worah, an accountant for Olajuwon's charities, said

U.S. authorities have never asked about the contributions.

Olajuwon became a Muslim during his professional career and was known for playing in key games while observing dawn-to-dusk fasting during

the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Tax returns for Olajuwon's Islamic Da'Wah Center show it gave the Islamic African Relief Agency \$61,250 in 2000 and \$20,000 in 2002.

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## Titans believe Chow is ready for challenge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Norm Chow's impressive college resume was more than enough to convince Titans coach Jeff Fisher that he was the right man to be the NFL's newest offensive coordinator.

Fisher lured Chow away from his job as offensive coordinator at Southern California, where he helped the Trojans win two consecutive national titles.

"Everybody understands it's an opportunity for me and my family to get to the highest level of football, and they understand the excitement that we have," Chow said during a conference call Wednesday.

Fisher said he was impressed with Chow's ability to teach young players and pointed out that Chow has coached three Heisman Trophy winners, including the most recent in Matt Leinart. He also noted that Chow's offense has ranked in the top 10 nationally 15 of the last 21 years.

"We know which direction our offense wants to go, and I felt without any question in my mind that he's the right guy to get us

there," Fisher said.

Fisher has no doubt Chow can handle NFL defenses despite spending 32 years coaching in the college ranks. Chow's hiring may have also given quarterback Steve McNair another reason to return for next season.

"I believe that this decision put a little more bounce in his step than he's had," Fisher said of McNair.

One of Chow's top priorities is "to keep a quarterback on his feet and keep him from getting knocked down," Fisher said Wednesday at a news conference.

"Obviously, we share similar opinions. So that's one thing that's going to be a paramount priority of ours is to keep the pocket clean and keep Steve from getting hit."

McNair had bone grafted onto his sternum Dec. 28 after missing six starts and parts of two others last season.

He has said he'll wait to decide whether he should retire from the NFL after 10 seasons.

## Outstanding



The Pampa Junior High 7th grade B team proudly pose with the consolation plaque won during last week's Dumas tournament. Pictured are (from left to right), Back row- Uriel Diaz, Agapito Salazar, Zach Shaw, Eric Lewis and Anthony Allen. Middle row- Tanner Davis, Mitchell Killgo and Gabriel Rodriguez. Front row- Landon Long, Adam Acosta. Not pictured- Coach Tim Davis and Tye Powell.

## NHL SEASON MAY BE LOST

# Bettman: deals by this weekend or no hockey season

By IRA PODELL  
Associated Press

By this weekend, the NHL will either have a surprising deal that saves the hockey season or a dubious place in history.

The long-awaited deadline is set. If the league and the union can't hammer out a new collective bargaining agreement in this last round of talks that started secretly in Toronto on Wednesday, commissioner Gary Bettman will pull the plug.

The NHL would then have the distinction of being the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute. Bettman would rather not have that mark on his record but cautioned that the right deal is necessary for the NHL to survive.

"This has just been a very difficult, frustrating process and again we're sorry we have to go through it," he said. "But we had no choice."

Bettman and Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, had dinner late Wednesday night with players' association executive director Bob Goodenow and senior director

Ted Saskin but there were no formal discussions, a source close to the negotiations told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The group met again at the league's office in Toronto on Thursday morning.

The lockout reached its 148th day Thursday. If a deal is reached, Bettman said, there would be a 28-game regular season and the 16-team playoff structure would be preserved.

"It is clear to me that if we're not working on a written document by this weekend, I don't see how we can play any semblance of a season," Bettman said. "Obviously we will listen to everything the union has to say, but we've given all we can give and gone as far as we can go."

Bettman and Daly visited the players' association office in Toronto. The union made it clear that it wasn't going to initiate

new talks this week, so the league took a new offer to the players. It wasn't received well.

*"It's really not whether there's a better deal or a worse deal — it's the right deal, it's the fair deal."*

— Bob Goodenow  
Executive Director, NHL  
Player's Association

then the NHL's salary-cap offer from last week would go into effect the following season. Teams would then be forced to spend at least \$32 million on player costs but no

more than \$42 million, including benefits.

"The NHL delivered a one-page concept to us which they tried to suggest represented a compromise," Goodenow said. "The league's proposal was a transparent attempt to impose on our Dec. 9 proposal the effects of their twice-rejected Feb. 2 triple-cap proposal."

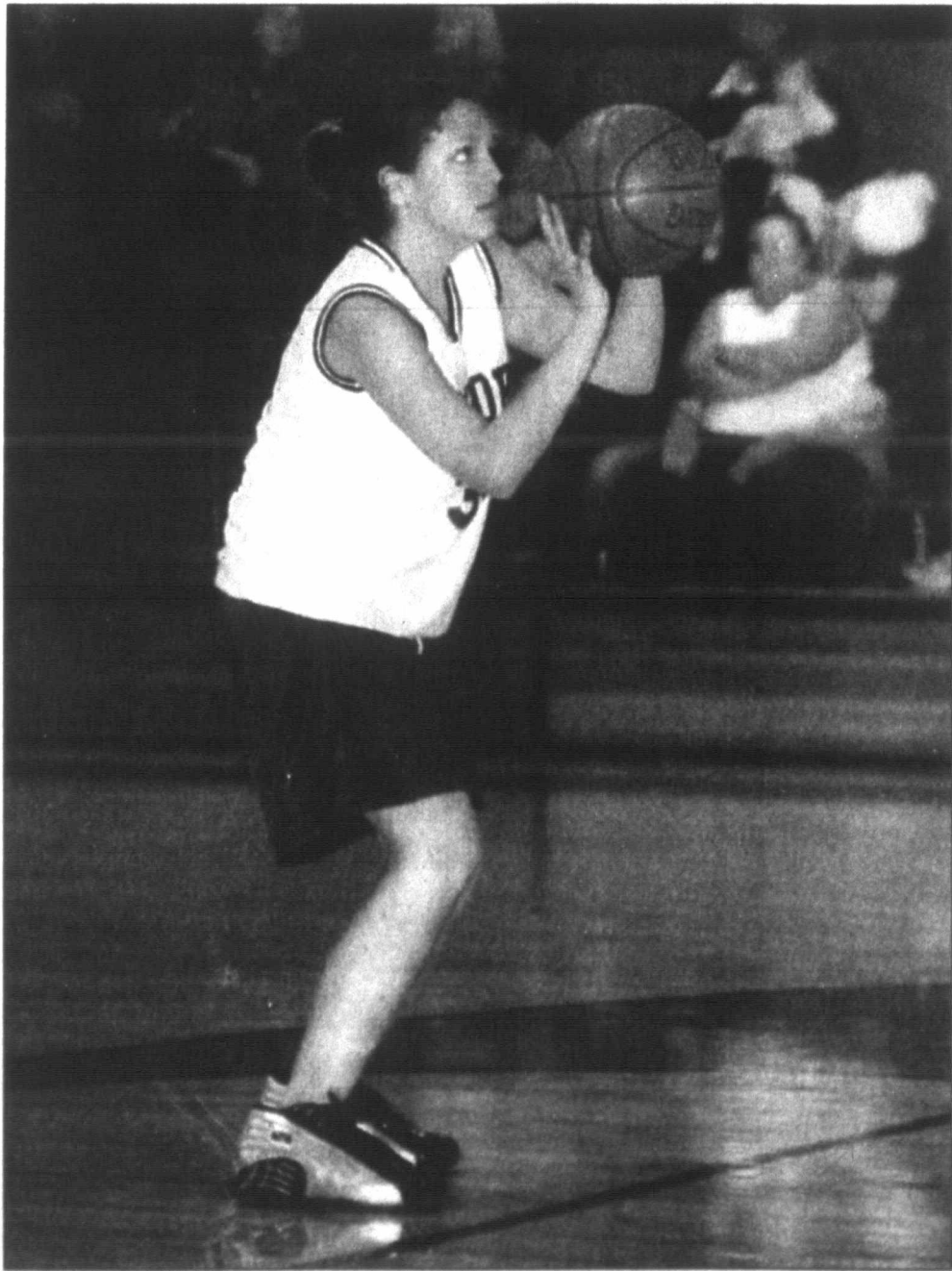
Goodenow said that one of the four limits would immediately be exceeded if this deal was put in place, and others could be easily reached.

The union asked Bettman and Daly to stay in Toronto through Thursday for negotiating sessions.

Goodenow said they would try to figure out new ways to get over the main stumbling block of a salary cap, but added that the players' association won't hand over a new proposal Thursday.

"We'll have conversations about these difficult areas and see if we can't come up with an idea, a framework or a mechanism for some common ground," Goodenow said. "The prospect that we'd be able to conclude an agreement by the end of the weekend is very daunting."

## Locked in



Lefors Bandit Ashlyn Johnson is focused at the free throw line during the Bandit's recent game against San Jacinto. Lefors came away with a 31-19 win. Haley Smith had 12 points for the Bandits. Emily Jackson knocked down seven points in the game. Brittney Coombes, Misty Parish and Tabitha Courter also contributed.

## Kansas keeps winning streak alive

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Another trip to Manhattan, another win for the Kansas Jayhawks.

Three Kansas players scored as many points Wednesday night as the entire Kansas State team to help the Jayhawks to a 74-65 victory, extending the Kansas winning streak to 29 games over their in-state rival.

"It's one of the most unbelievable things we have in sports," said Kansas coach Bill Self. "You just don't have this away from home. A lot of lucky bounces and a lot of good teams, and tonight we were fortunate to have both."

Kansas State (13-7, 3-6 Big 12), which has not beaten the Jayhawks in Manhattan since 1983, last won a game in the series in 1994 with an upset of top-ranked Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse.

In other Big 12 games Wednesday night, No. 25 Texas Tech cruised past Baylor 83-67, and Missouri fell to UNLV 74-71 in Las Vegas.

The No. 3-ranked Jayhawks (19-1, 9-0) never trailed Wednesday night, though they let Kansas

State get as close as four points late in the game before free throws and a couple of clutch 3-pointers put it away for Kansas.

Wayne Simien scored 23 points and had 13 rebounds for his 30th career double-double, while Keith Langford led the Jayhawks with 24 points. J.R. Giddens added 18 points, including 4-of-6 from 3-point range.

"They've got an awfully good basketball team," said Kansas State coach Jim Wooldridge. "They can move it from spot to spot and there is always a weapon waiting on it."

Fred Peete and Jeremiah Massey each scored 20 points for the Wildcats, who have lost three straight.

In Lubbock, Texas Tech (15-5, 7-2) led most of the way, though Baylor briefly took the lead in the second half on an 8-2 run that made the score 39-38. The Red Raiders responded with a 15-0 run that virtually put the game out of reach for the Bears (9-11, 1-8).

## Brees wants long-term deal with Chargers

KAPOLEI, Hawaii (AP) — Drew Brees came to Hawaii four years ago as a college all-star, looking to impress NFL teams at the Hula Bowl.

Brees is back on the islands, practicing with the league's best and preparing for his first appearance in the Pro Bowl. And he's looking for respect and a long-term contract from the San Diego Chargers.

Less than a year after San Diego all but gave up on him by selecting Philip Rivers on draft day, Brees is still basking in the glow of his superb season and the Chargers' run to the AFC West title.

His performance at the end of his four-year contract earned him a spot alongside Peyton Manning and Tom Brady on the AFC roster for the NFL's all-star game Sunday. It also made him one of the NFL's most attractive free agents, but Brees would rather remain with the club that didn't seem eager to stick with him.

"I want to stay in San Diego, absolutely," he

said. "I want a long-term deal, because I feel like I'm the guy. I'm the guy that needs to be there and lead us to a championship, so that's the way I feel about it."

"The ball is in their court, obviously, and we'll just see what happens."

Brees' life has changed dramatically in the four years since he represented Purdue in the Hula Bowl.

"I got married, had good seasons and bad seasons, battled for my starting job on two occasions, been benched a few times," he said. "I guess it's been a learning experience, but it has molded me into the person and player that I am now."

Brees was voted the NFL's comeback player of the year after throwing for 3,159 yards, 27 touchdowns and just seven interceptions in the regular season. In the playoffs, he passed for 319 yards and two TDs in the Chargers' 20-17 overtime loss to the New York Jets.



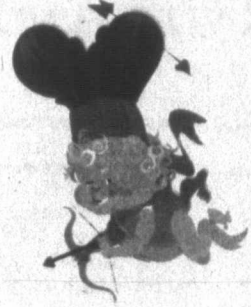
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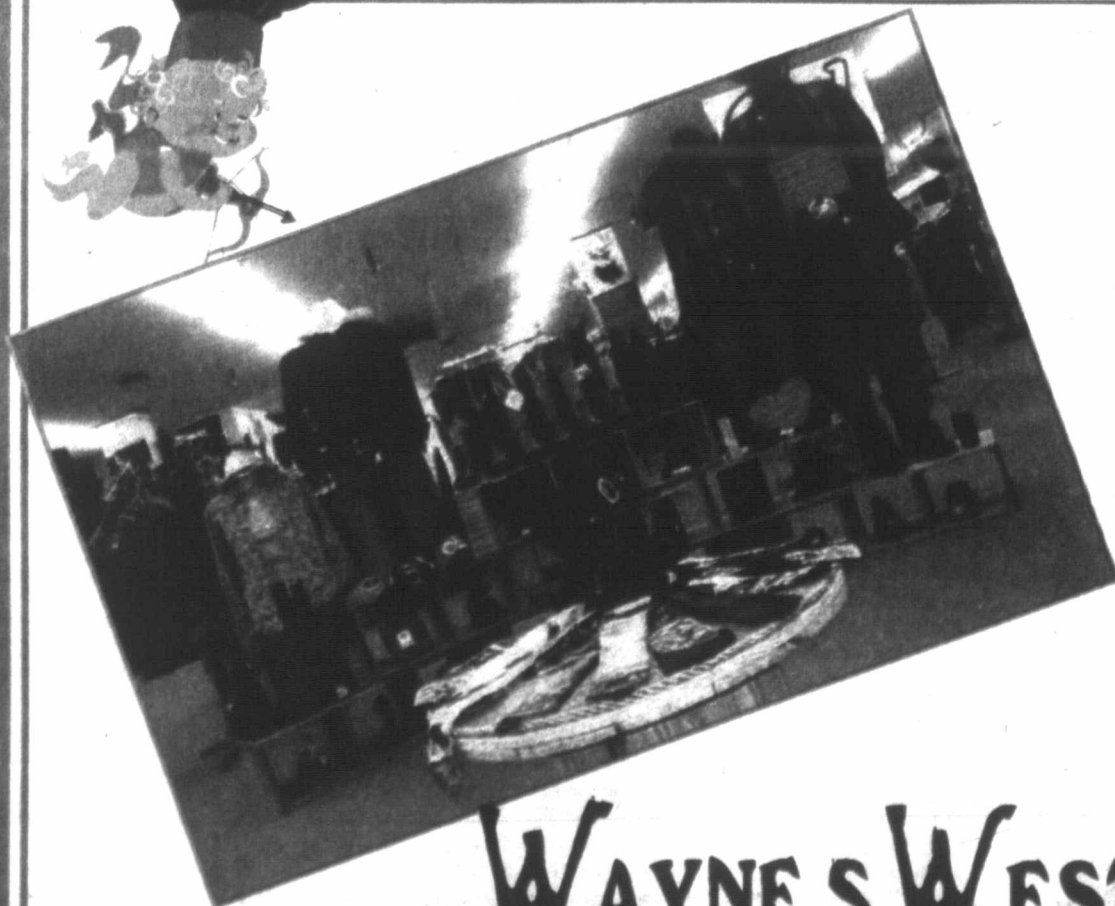


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