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**Brief**

ODESSA (AP)—A West Texas school board will at least consider the possibility of the district offering a Bible-based class as an elective in the high schools.

A packed audience gave a standing ovation Tuesday after the Ector County school board heard a presentation from a man representing the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools on offering such a class.

Board President Randy Rives said the public deserves an answer on whether a Bible elective should be implemented, but a decision may not be made anytime soon.

"It would be beneath us to not ever address this again," Rives said. "But, we want to take our time and ask some questions."

## Pampa ISD may change fiscal year

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

In a budget report to the Pampa Independent School District Board of Education Monday, Carol Fields, PISD business manager, suggested changing the district's fiscal year from September to August to July to June.

The first year, she said,

the board would need to budget for 10 months during the transition. The following years would be for 12 months.

Fields said this would more closely align fiscal and academic years. She said it would make the auditing process easier and would come closer to conforming to various federal grants.

"We can see lots of advantages to it," Fields said.

She said that the budgets, which the board will begin to review in April, would be mostly concerned with salaries and technology replacement. Much of what can and cannot be done will rely on the state legislature

See SCHOOL, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER  
Charles Smith, secretary of the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees, signs paperwork at the March board meeting Monday.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

## Sprinkler repair

Dwight Fiveash, owner of The Sprinkler Company, works on repairs to a sprinkler system he installed at Lovett Memorial Library several years ago. The system was damaged when a new gas line for the library was installed.

## Burn patients on rise as result of fires at clandestine meth labs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — At a conference on the scourge of methamphetamine, one item on the agenda was a tour of a seemingly unlikely place: a burn unit.

Legislators, doctors, social workers and law officials — including the federal government's second highest-ranking drug czar — walked the halls of Vanderbilt University Medical Center regional burn center, where seven of the 20 patients were injured by fires and explosions in clandestine meth labs.

Vanderbilt doctors told Joseph Keefe, deputy director of the Office on National Drug Control Policy, and the other participants that meth cases are increasingly common and are driving up state medical expenditures. The costs of treating critically injured burn victims typically exceed \$10,000 a day each — and most meth patients don't have health insurance.

"As bad as this may sound, as a burn doctor I almost wish another drug, one less volatile that doesn't regularly explode during the manufacturing process, would come down the pike to overtake the popularity of meth," said the center's director, Dr. Jeff Guy.

Standing in the doorway of one patient's room Tuesday, Guy told Keefe that the man had spent 45 days in a hospital from an October meth blast and "has gone out and blown himself up again."

The man, Guy said, has been in the burn unit about 30 days from the second injury and his medical costs to date total about \$240,000. He said such victims often end up collecting disability.

See METH, Page 2

## Counterfeit money order scam making rounds, official says

Counterfeit Postal Money Orders are being presented by fraud victims who believe they're real, warned Pampa Postmaster Robert Schrock.

*'Within the past month, a Pampa postal customer received a counterfeit Postal Money Order, so this scam has reached our community. People using the internet and e-mail should be cautious about an offer that seems too good to be true.'*

— Robert Schrock  
Pampa Postmaster

Con artists — usually claiming to be from Nigeria or Great Britain — make contact online, peddling stories about needing an intermediary to cash their money orders, Schrock said in a press release. The victims receive the bogus money orders by mail and promise to wire funds — less a portion for helping out — to a specified address.

"Within the past month, a Pampa postal customer received a counterfeit Postal Money Order," Schrock said, "so this scam has reached our community. People using the internet and e-mail should be cautious about an offer that seems too good to be true."

Anyone exposed to this scheme should contact the Postal Inspection Service at [www.usps.com/postal-inspectors](http://www.usps.com/postal-inspectors).

### Florida battle

## Schiavo's parents win rare legal victory; federal court sympathetic

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP)—A federal appeals court agreed to consider an emergency bid by Terri Schiavo's parents for a new hearing on whether to reconnect her feeding tube, raising their fading hopes of keeping the severely brain-damaged woman alive.

In its order late Tuesday, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals didn't say when it would decide whether to grant the hearing. It was not clear what effect reconnecting Terri Schiavo's feeding tube would have on her, as she approached her 13th day without nourishment.

The order issued allowed Bob and Mary Schindler to file the appeal, even though the court had set a March 26 deadline for doing so.

Its one-sentence order said: "The

Appellant's emergency motion for leave to file out of time is granted." Three times last week, the court ruled against the Schindlers.

In requesting a new hearing, the Schindlers argued that a federal judge in Tampa should have considered the entire state court record and not whether previous Florida court rulings met legal standards under state law. It also stated that the Atlanta federal appellate court didn't consider whether there was enough "clear and convincing" evidence that Terri Schiavo would have chosen to die in her current condition.

Attorneys for the Schindlers didn't immediately return phone messages Wednesday. George Felos, Michael Schiavo's attorney, declined comment.

*The order issued allowed Bob and Mary Schindler to file the appeal, even though the court had set a March 26 deadline for doing so.*

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Southern Fried Jazz

# Local community concert association announces upcoming season lineup

By **BOBBYE COMBS**  
For The News

The Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live On Stage" has kicked off its membership campaign for the 2005-06 concert season. Gerry Caylor and Ruth Riehart are serving as co-membership chairs for the annual event.

Membership tickets will be available at the final performance for the current season — "The Southern Fried Jazz Band," scheduled for Thursday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa.

Season membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families and \$15 for students. For more information, contact Ronnie Holmes at 665-2631. Membership tickets will be mailed prior to the first concert this fall.

"The Southern Fried Jazz Band," and eight-member Dixieland band whets the appetite of its audiences with some of the most refreshing Dixieland music on the scene today.

Concerts planned for the upcoming 2005-06 season include Edger Cruz, guitarist extraordinaire. The Cruz performance is termed "The Greatest Hits of the Guitar." Those who have witnessed Cruz's performance become entranced at the precision, speed and complexity with which his fingers strike the strings of his guitar to create a symphony of sound unusual to just one instrument.

Also scheduled is "The St. Petersburg Classic Ballet," winner of the Gold



Southern Fried Jazz Band is scheduled to perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa.

Medal at 1999's Amber Necklace Competition at Kaliningrad, Russia. Also, Susan Egan, the "Belle of Broadway," featuring the music of Cole Porter, the Gershwins and Rodgers and Hammerstein as well as Broadway's hottest new writers.

Joint concerts with Borger in M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa are planned.

Planned is a concert by "The Coats" vocal band — one of the most in demand corporate, performing arts and college acts in the United States today.

PCCA has reciprocal

agreements with the community concert groups in Borger and Plainview. Bookings in those communities will be reported to local members at a later date. The reciprocal agreements allow local members to attend 12 or more concerts this season with only the price of one membership.

A spectacular, exciting season of professional performances awaits the residents of Pampa during the upcoming season.

PCCA wants to voice a special "thank you" to each of you who supported the PCCA "Patron Plan" for the

past season. Patron donations are tax-deductible, but do not include current memberships.

- Patron Plan
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- FRIEND. \$15-plus

Make checks payable to: Pampa Community Concert Association, P.O. Box 1935, Pampa, TX 79066-1935.

## Falwell hospitalized, in critical condition

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — Doctors for the Rev. Jerry Falwell described the Moral Majority founder as stable but "still critically ill" with viral pneumonia, the same infection he was hospitalized for less than a month ago.

Falwell's executive assistant, Ron Godwin, said he visited Falwell on Tuesday evening and found him responsive.

Falwell, 71, was breathing with the help of a respirator Tuesday after being admitted to Lynchburg General Hospital in "respiratory arrest" the night before, meaning his breathing had slowed or stopped.

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# Estimated 1,000 dead in wake of decimating Indonesia quake

GUNUNG SITOLI, Indonesia (AP) — Firefighters freed a man trapped in a crumpled house on remote Nias island on Wednesday, 36 hours after he was buried in rubble. As the first foreign military help arrived, officials said an estimated 1,000 people had died in the region's latest large earthquake.

Residents swarmed over collapsed buildings in Nias island's main town of Gunung Sitoli, searching frantically for survivors of the country's second catastrophe in three months, after December's massive quake and tsunami.

French firefighters from

the agency Firefighters Without Borders — who rushed to the island from Aceh province's west coast — used a car jack to free the legs of 25-year-old television repairman Jansen Silalalahi, who had been pinned between a motorbike and a cupboard.

As he was lifted out of the rubble of what was once a three-story building, Silalalahi smiled weakly and gave a thumbs-up.

"People knew I was there but it was difficult to reach me. I kept screaming whenever I heard anyone," said Silalalahi, who did not appear to be badly injured. "I feel relief because now I am

safe."

The improvised rescue highlighted the crisis situation officials face here: there are thousands of collapsed buildings and no machinery to help search through the rubble for survivors.

The town's hospital was barely functioning: It lacked power or water, and it had no fuel for generators.

"We know there are many people critically injured," said Dr. Norman Peeler, a medical coordinator from the World Health Organization. "It is essential they get treatment, infections spread easily in open wounds."

## Nexstar demands CableONE customers pay \$1.5 million or lose KAMR

Cable ONE customers have always received their local NBC channel with their service at no additional cost. But now, Nexstar Broadcasting is demanding an additional \$1.5 million for its stations including KAMR.

Nexstar wants you to pay extra or they're going to take KAMR away. As we continue our negotiations, we need your help. We're asking you to call them. Tell them how you feel. And maybe together, we can make a difference. Thank you.

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## School

Continued from Page 1

and the budget they approve, she warned.

The board approved the 2005-2006 school calendar. Haenisch said it is almost identical to the 2004-2005 calendar. The first day of school will be Aug. 15, 2005. The final day of school in the spring will be May 25, 2006.

Haenisch warned, however, that the state legislature could change that by requiring a standard start and end date for all schools in the state.

Board members extended the contracts of teachers in PISD for next year and hired four more at the meeting Monday.

They hired Travis Schulte as football coach and health and PE teacher; Brandy Wood, the head football coach's wife, as a math teacher at Pampa High School; Sonia VanGilden as head volleyball coach and health and PE teacher, and Lee Jones as an elementary teacher.

The board also approved fall athletic bids and, with one exception, approved band instrument bids as presented.

Board member John Curry asked that a bid of \$1,077 be accepted on a piccolo instead of a \$1,075 bid by Interstate, noting that the district would save more than the

\$2 difference in paperwork.

The band bids totaled \$13,084. The total athletic bids were \$5,563.88 for high school football, \$5,179.23 for junior high football, \$9,175.60 for volleyball, \$1,325.65 for junior high volleyball, and \$3,246.20 for cross country.

The PISD board appointed First Financial Administrators, Inc., as the third party administrator of the district's supplemental insurance and retirement plans.

The board also approved the sale for \$100 delinquent tax property at 737 Roberta.

The school board approved on second and final reading policies governing non-school use of school facilities and distribution of non-school literature.

"The new policies," Haenisch said, "reflect practices of the old policies."

Prior to the board's meeting, Pampa High School art teacher June Dirickson and one of her senior students, Jessie Parsley, presented each board member with a caricature of the board member that Parsley had done.

In other business, the board approved the quarterly financial report and a budget amendment that allowed for higher than expected transportation costs and bus repair and health insurance costs that were not budgeted in revenue or expense of the original budget.

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# Viewpoints

## Stopping meth labs worth waiting a minute

Several weeks ago I heard a program presented by Texas Ranger Bart Bivins concerning the fight against drugs in Gray County and all across the panhandle. Unfortunately, some of the problems law enforcement face here are the same problems found in smaller communities all across the country. The manufacturing and use of methamphetamine has become one of the biggest problems in this fight.

There are several factors that make this problem difficult to police, the biggest of which is the ease with which this drug can be manufactured. The ingredients used in this drug can be purchased in everyday locations such as grocery stores, hardware stores, and over the counter in drug stores.

Once the supplies are purchased, individuals can mix the elements and then "cook" the product in a matter of only hours. The equipment needed to cook the drugs is easily obtained and

the drugs can be cooked in a home kitchen or even in the back of a vehicle. These two reasons alone make it difficult to find these "meth labs."

To fight this problem several states have passed legislation restricting the sale of ingredients used in producing meth. One of the main ingredients of meth is

ephedrine and pseudoephedrine based products such as cold medicines.

Oklahoma is one state that passed legislation requiring drug stores to sell these products from behind the counter.

This means the person purchasing this product must get it from the pharmacist and they have to show identification before doing so.

This keeps an individual from buying large quantities of these products for the purpose of producing meth. Alabama has also introduced legislation for this same type of law.

There has been discussion of passing the same type a law in Texas that would put the same restrictions on these type of products. I believe it would be in the best interest of our community, as well as all communities dealing with these prob-

lems, to support any such legislation that would help fight this problem.

It has been reported that Oklahoma has had a great deal of success in reducing the number of meth labs as well as reducing the number of meth related arrests since this law has passed.

The future is our children and continuing to provide a safe and stable community should remain a top priority.

A few more minutes at the pharmacy is a small price to pay.

**Sean Smith**  
Publisher



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 30, the 89th day of 2005. There are 276 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 30, 1981, President Reagan was shot and seriously injured outside a Washington, D.C., hotel by John W. Hinckley Jr. Also wounded were White House press secretary James Brady, a Secret Service agent and a District of Columbia police officer.

On this date:

In 1822, Florida became a United States territory.

In 1842, Dr. Crawford W. Long of Jefferson, Ga., first used ether as an anesthetic during a minor operation.

In 1867, U.S. Secretary of State William H. Seward reached agreement with Russia to purchase the territory of Alaska for \$7.2 million, a deal roundly ridiculed as "Seward's Folly."

In 1870, Texas was readmitted to the Union.

In 1945, the Soviet Union invaded Austria during World War II.

In 1955, "On the Waterfront" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1954, while its star, Marlon Brando won best actor; in an upset, Grace Kelly won best actress for "The Country Girl," beating out Judy Garland for "A Star Is Born."

## Our readers write

### Deja vu all over again

The matter of the missing money in the care of a former county attorney was reported in The Pampa News, November 2003. A former district attorney to avoid prosecuting the matter named a David Scott, a Perryton lawyer, to act as a "special prosecutor."

Mr. Scott proceeded to act more as a negotiator. He closed his negotiations by allowing the elected official to resign and issued a statement justifying his decision by saying, "The people of Gray County will avoid a lengthy trial and will have a county attorney not impaired by an indictment."

Mr. Scott stated on at least four occasions (that) to prosecute the case would be too expensive. Guilt or innocence was not mentioned. Neither did Mr. Scott share

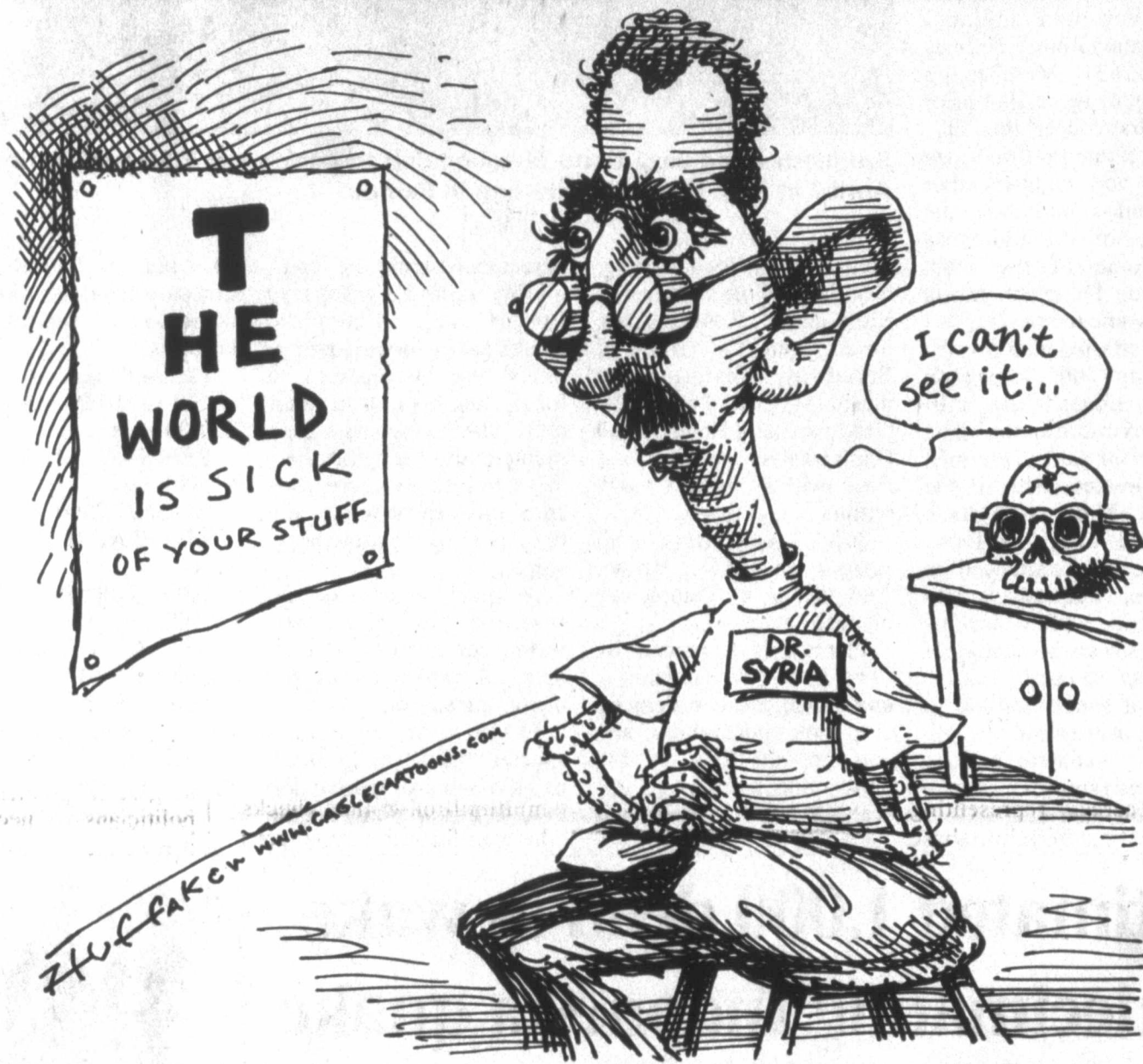
information of the amount of money missing and how much was repaid by the resigning official.

Now we have Judge Emmert naming David Scott as a "special prosecutor" in the Rick Roach matter. The amounts of missing funds Mr. Scott found in the former county attorney's office and the results of audits of Mr. Roach's three accounts should be made public as these are or were public funds.

The particulars of the two withdrawals made from the Roach accounts subsequent to his arrest should be made public. It will be interesting what kind of "special prosecutor" Mr. Scott is as his track record is unavailable.

If any crime is found by Mr. Scott to have been committed as to Roach, were the fruits of any such crime used to pay for a defense representation?

**Bill Reeves**  
**McLean**



## Billionaires up, infrastructure down

Two writers, Jamie Chapman and Kate Randall, took two separate reports and combined them for an interesting reflection on the state of the country. Billionaires are on the increase; the country's infrastructure is decaying.

Now, don't let a label shut down your brain when I tell you that their article appeared on the World Socialist Web Site (www.wsws.org.). Some of America's most popular programs — Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security — are socialist concepts. We have had a hybrid society — part free enterprise, part socialist and part fascist — for many

decades now.

The two reports they commented on are the Forbes list of billionaires and a report issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Forbes list shows that more than half of the world's billionaires are in the United States and that their number in the United States increased by 69 during the past year. The ASCE report grades the country's infrastructure as a D, which is down from the D-plus given

by the same organization in 2001.

Unlike socialists, I have no problem with billionaires.

Most of them are rich because of the ownership of huge numbers of shares of stock, in many cases inherited. That's a path to riches that is irrelevant for most of us. The stock market is like a casino — to win big, you have to gamble big. Who among us can afford to buy a million shares of anything? In my opinion, billionaires are

irrelevant.

The nation's infrastructure, which consists of highways, water plants, sewage plants, bridges, water systems and dams, is not irrelevant. According to the ASCE report, 3,500 dams are rated unsafe, and there have been 29 dam failures in the United States in the past two years. Some 850 billion gallons of raw sewage goes into our rivers, lakes and oceans every year. Some 6 billion gallons of treated water are lost every day because of leaky pipes and broken mains. One out of every four highway bridges is struc-

See REPORTS, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
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## Judicial nominations causing healthy debate

In June 2003, Robert A. Caro wrote to U.S. Sens. Trent Lott, R-Miss., and Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee. Several senators had asked Caro, author of the acclaimed and scholarly three-volume biography of Lyndon B. Johnson, for his thoughts on the Senate's role with respect to President Bush's judicial nominations.

Caro reminded the senators that extended debate the filibuster had been used to prolong some of the nation's most ignoble causes, such as racial segregation. But he cautioned the senators against changing the rules. The Founders, he said,

meant the Senate to be a deliberative body, one strong enough to resist a popular president when any of its members thought it their duty to do so. The Senate's constitutional role of resisting presidential authority and impetuous tides of popular passion would be ended if a simple majority could end debate even before it had begun.

Frustrated that Democratic senators have used extended debate to reject seven of Bush's judicial nominees, some Republican senators want to implement what has come to

be known as the nuclear option: allowing 51 senators (or 50 senators and the vice president) to end debate on judicial nominees. They wish to forget that

not imagine the day when they will return to the minority.

At crucial times in the past, senators of the ruling party have joined the minority to protect the Senate's independence from the White House and to defend the rights of the minority against the tyranny of the majority. It is hard to imagine that happening with any frequency today. Partisan power has become paramount, and the president can easily find 51 partisans eager to confirm any judicial nominee, no matter how far from the mainstream or how unqualified for lifetime appointment to the federal bench.

See DEBATE, Page 5

### Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

Republicans held up or rejected confirmation of an even greater number of President Clinton's judicial nominees. Triumphant after the last election and controlling the White House, Senate and House of Representatives, some members of the ruling party can-

Visitin

Megan Jou during a vi long appea he saw.

John

LOS AN legal career both victims and celebrity verged under when he defended O. Cochran, nosed with brain tumor 2003, died home in the Los Angeles With his room ora became kno oning the defendants a phrase, "If i must acquit murder trial. "He was gist who n with the con Sanford Ru mer colleague ticular pride with those s fully treated

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## Visiting the bunny



Megan Jouett and her 11-month-old nephew Rylee Day met the Easter Bunny during a visit to United Supermarket recently. The Easter Bunny put in a day-long appearance at United where he passed out candy eggs to all the children he saw.

## Johnnie Cochran Jr., dies at age 67

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Johnnie L. Cochran Jr.'s legal career representing both victims of police abuse and celebrities in peril converged under the media glare when he successfully defended O.J. Simpson from murder charges.

Cochran, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor in December 2003, died Tuesday at his home in the Los Feliz area of Los Angeles. He was 67.

With his gift for courtroom oratory, Cochran became known for championing the causes of black defendants and for the iconic phrase, "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," in Simpson's murder trial.

"He was a brilliant strategist who never lost touch with the common man," said Sanford Rubinstein, a former colleague. "He took particular pride in standing up with those who were wrongfully treated. He truly loved

people and the public adored him."

*'He was a brilliant strategist who never lost touch with the common man.'*

— Sanford Rubinstein  
Former colleague

While Cochran represented celebrities who included professional football players and rappers, he also stuck up for the "common man."

Cochran represented a Haitian immigrant tortured by New York police, a 19-year-old black woman who was shot a dozen times by police as she sat in a locked car and a white trucker who was videotaped being beaten by a mob during the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

He proudly displayed copies in his office of the multimillion-dollar checks he won for ordinary citizens who said they were abused by police.

"The clients I've cared about the most are the No Js, the ones who nobody knows," he once said.

Over the years, Cochran represented football great Jim Brown on rape and assault charges, actor Todd Bridges on attempted murder charges, rappers Tupac Shakur on a weapons charge, Snoop Dogg on a murder charge and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs on gun and bribery charges stemming from a nightclub shooting.

Cochran used the "if it doesn't fit" phrase in his closing argument at the Simpson trial, describing the moment when the former football player tried on bloodstained "murder gloves" to show jurors they did not fit.

## Reports

Continued from Page 4

turally unsound or deficient. Both highways and railways are way behind the curve as to adequacy and maintenance.

Altogether, the engineers estimate it will cost \$1.6 trillion just to bring the infrastructure up to minimum standards in the next five years. And their report did not include schools, which are in a deplorable state in many parts of the country.

I don't blame billionaires for any of this, although extravagant expenditures by anyone are, in my judgment, immoral, given the needs of so many people in the United States. Even a billionaire can only wear one set of clothes at a time, one pair of shoes, drive one car, sleep in one bed and eat only so much food.

The cause of the problem lies with politicians from city hall to the White House. What I have observed through the years is that politicians never set the right priorities. No city should ever spend a penny on a football stadium or a sports arena until every street is paved, every home is served by a sanitary sewer, every citizen has adequate police and fire protection, and the public health department and school system are in A-1 shape. It seems so obvious to me that you do the basics first and then, if you have money left over, provide the extras.

Unfortunately, our politics are driven by money. Those who provide the money get the attention. Since working men and women, the unemployed and the minimum-wage people have no money left to give to politicians, the politicians necessarily depend on the rich. And it's the rich who set the priorities for the politicians. It should be obvious to anyone that both federal and state tax systems favor the wealthy. It should be obvious to anyone that political patronage favors the wealthy.

It should be equally obvious that our system, as it is presently run, makes it easier for the rich to get richer and for the poor to get poorer. Ironically, we seem to be headed toward the same situation that was in the Soviet Union — rule by oligarchy over what is, except for the elite, a Third World country.

The answer is for honest men and women to find a way to get elected to public office. There is no such thing as an uncorruptable political problem.

## School shooting

### Police charging son of tribal chair with conspiracy to commit murder

RED LAKE, Minn. (AP) — Federal authorities refused to say what role the son of an Indian tribal leader played in last week's deadly school shooting, but one government official said prosecutors were contemplating a conspiracy charge against the teenager.

Louis Jourdain, 16, whose father Floyd Jourdain is chairman of the Red Lake band of Chippewa, was charged Tuesday with conspiracy to commit murder in federal court in Duluth, according to newspaper reports, citing family members and law enforcement officials.

The Associated Press could not verify the charge, mentioned by the government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said he had been briefed on the investigation.

Jourdain and Jeff Weise, who carried out the March 21 before taking his own life, were members of a clique of about five students known as "The Darkers," who wore black clothes and chains, spiked or dyed their hair and loved heavy-metal music, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Weise, also 16, killed nine people, five of whom were students, killed at the high school. It was the worst U.S. school shooting since the attacks by a pair of students at Columbine High in Colorado.

Two students, Jordain Warmington, 15, and Jazz Jordain-Warmington, 14, told the Minneapolis newspaper that when the shootings started, Louis Jourdain yelled that the shooter was Weise — before anyone in the library saw the gunman.

## Debate

Continued from Page 4

One such nomination Democrats thwarted last term was that of Texas Supreme Court Justice Patricia Owen. Albert Gonzales, the U.S. attorney general and for years President Bush's lawyer, once served with Owen on the Texas high court. While on the court, Gonzales wrote an opinion criticizing Owen's minority dissent as "an unconscionable act of judicial activism" the very thing President Bush says he abhors in a judge. Typical of

the imperatives of party loyalty, Gonzales supports Owen's nomination to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Bush says he wants his nominees to just follow the law, but one nominee has been reversed by the conservative Fourth Circuit more than 150 times. Either the nominee doesn't know the law, or he chooses to ignore it.

Conservative lawyers and jurists who could easily win confirmation are plentiful. Republicans should resist making the Senate a rubber stamp in order to curry favor with ideological segments of the party's base.

You're Invited to a Conversation with  
**U.S. Representative**  
**Mac Thornberry**

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**Saturday, April 2**

Borger City Hall  
Council Chambers  
600 N. Main  
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Pampa Community Building  
M.K. Brown Room  
200 N. Ballard  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For more information, please call 806-371-8844

## Calendar items

• Palo Duro Handweaver's Guild will meet at 7:30 p.m. March 31 in Amarillo. The meeting is open to anyone interested in weaving, spinning, dyeing or fiber arts. For meeting location or more information, call Becky at 358-2765.

• Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, Inc., will hold an "April Fool's Spring Fling" between 6:30 and 10:30 p.m. Friday, April 1 at the Civic Center North Exhibit Hall in Amarillo. Coors Cowboy Club will provide dinner and drinks. The event will include casino games, armadillo races and live musical performances with Texas Express and the Prairie Dogs. Gambling chips will be available for \$10 a bag. Every bag purchased will offer a chance to win one of several prizes to be raffled off throughout the evening. Tickets are available at [www.epictexas.com](http://www.epictexas.com) or by calling (806) 655-2181. Group tables and sponsorship opportunities are available for a limited time.

• Friends of National Rifle Association Dinner and Auction is planned for 6 p.m., Saturday, April 2, at M.K. Brown Auditorium and Civic Center in Pampa. Tickets are \$25 apiece, \$40 for couples and \$10 for youth 16 and under. For tickets, call ReDonn at 669-2525.

• Goodlett Gospel Jubilee will kick-off its 2005 concert season at 7 p.m. April 2 at the old rock gymnasium in Goodlett,

Oklahoma's own Corinth Singers will host the event and share the stage with the Fair Family of Fairfield, Texas. Organizers will pass the customary hat to support the concert series which is open to folks of all ages.

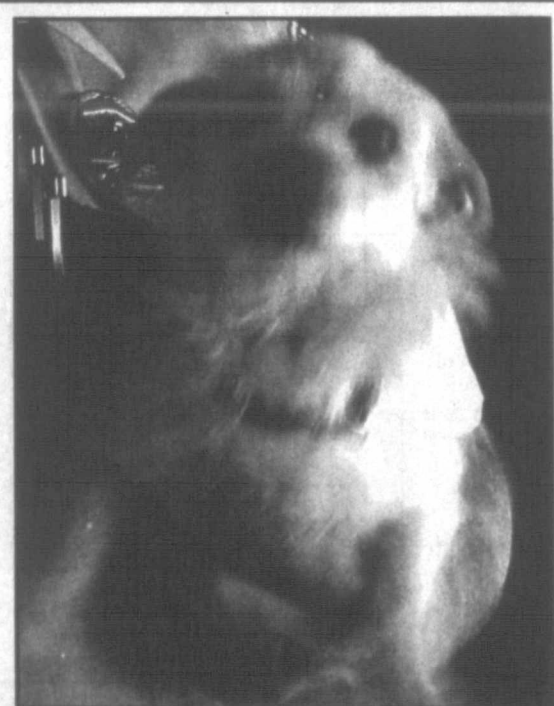
• Harrington House of Amarillo will begin its 2005 tour season Tuesday, April 5. Tours will be conducted between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through mid-December. Tours are approximately 60 minutes long and include three floors of the historic home. Admission is free. Each tour is limited to four persons, 14-years of age and above, and must pre-arranged by calling (806) 374-5490.

• Wildcat Bluff Nature Center in Amarillo is gearing up for its "Incredible Edible Insect" event to be staged between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Saturday, April 9 at the Center in Amarillo. The event will include a "Cricket Spitting Contest"; A "Creepy Crawly Petting Zoo"; "Insect Safari Hikes"; "Chocolate Chirp Cookies," "Yummy Hushbuggies" and other insect treats; and temporary insect tattoos. A general admission fee will be charged. Cost is \$3 for adults; \$2 per child; and \$2 for seniors. The center is located three miles north of I-40 on Soncy Road (Loop 335). For more information, call (806) 352-6007 or log onto [www.wildcatbluff.org](http://www.wildcatbluff.org).

## Pet of the Week

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband, a middle-aged minister, can rarely perform in the bedroom without wearing women's lingerie. I have put up with it because he seems to need it.

Lately he has begun wearing a bra around the house every day. He tries to hide it by wearing a heavy shirt or coat, but I can feel it when I hug him before leaving for work. I suspect he's even worn it to church. What would the parishioners think if they knew their preacher was delivering his sermon while wearing a bra?

It's starting to affect our marriage. He rarely speaks to me lately, and when he does, it's usually in monosyllables. I know he's not gay. Until now, our marriage has been a happy one.

I know many men have this problem. Maybe it shouldn't bother me so much, but it does. I don't know who to talk to. Everybody else takes their problems to their minister, but my husband IS one. If I go to his superiors, I'm afraid I'll get him into trouble, which I don't want to do.

Why do men wear women's clothes? Is it wrong? I appreciate any insight you can give me. — NEEDS TO KNOW IN THE SOUTHWEST

**DEAR NEEDS:** Men wear women's clothes for a variety of reasons. For some it's a sexual fetish; others do it because they say it calms them and relieves stress. It isn't "wrong," but it is different. Some wives go along with it and help their husbands to cross-dress. Others have a difficult time adjusting to it.

This is not something that should be discussed with your husband's superiors. More important than talking to anybody right now is for you to learn all you can about transvestism and cross-dressing. An excellent place to start would be to contact The Society for the Second Self, Tri-Ess National, P.O. Box 980638,

Houston, TX 77098-0638. Write to the society or visit its Web site: <http://tri-ess.org>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am 14 and hope you can help me. My parents have been married for, I think, 14 years -- but they have been together as a couple for 15.

During the last four years all they have done is argue. It has gotten so bad I have had to call the police to take my dad away. The main reason they fight is because of my dad's drinking. The last time they got into a fight, Dad got in trouble because of what he did. Now he has to go to counseling about the alcohol. Hopefully, that will help, but they still argue about small things.

I need help because my grades have been dropping, and I think one of the reasons may be the stuff that's going on with my parents. I don't know how to tell my mom that's the problem, because I'm afraid she'll think I'm making excuses. Please help me. — DEEPLY FRUSTRATED, CORTLAND, N.Y.

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** Explain your problem to a trusted teacher, counselor or administrator at school. An educator can not only explain to your parents what's causing your problem, but also see that you get the help you need to improve your grades. In addition to coaching, you will need a quiet, conflict-free zone in which to study. If no place is available at school, the home of a friend or a public library might be more conducive to concentration.

Sadly, many young people are affected by their parents' drinking. Support is available from Alateen, which has groups everywhere. (Their literature is available in 30 languages.) Visit the Web site at [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org). Please don't wait. You will find that you are not alone.

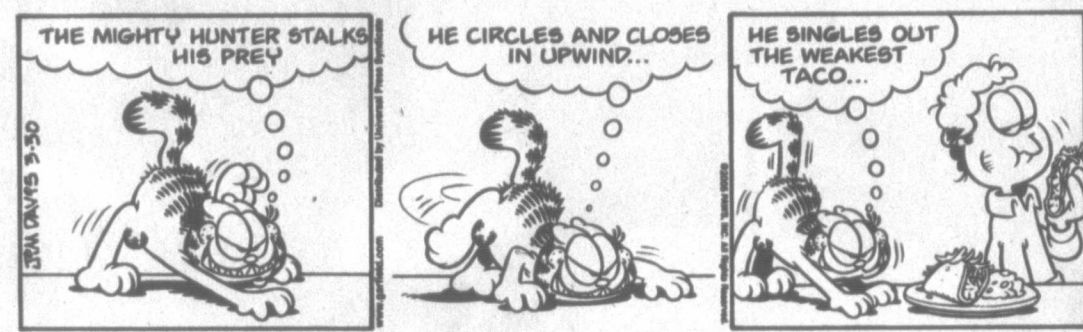
**For Better Or Worse**



**Zits**



**Garfield**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Marvin**



**Crossword Puzzle**

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Composer

1 Con-structed 41 Chow

5 College house

9 Pop stars

11 Sweet liqueur

12 Blame-dodging words

13 Macho fellow

14 Metal source

15 Stunned

17 Bubbly quaff

19 Period

20 Winter weather

21 Cubby hole?

22 Elroy's dog

24 Partner of poivre

26 Like some eclipses

29 Take the title

30 "The Zero Game" writer

32 Token of love

34 High card

35 Quiver item

36 Annoys

38 Tie up

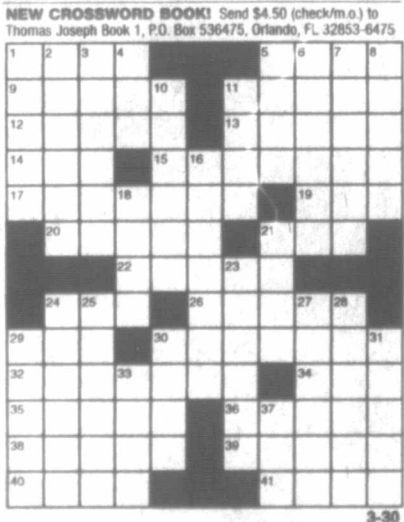
39 Perfume



Yesterday's answer

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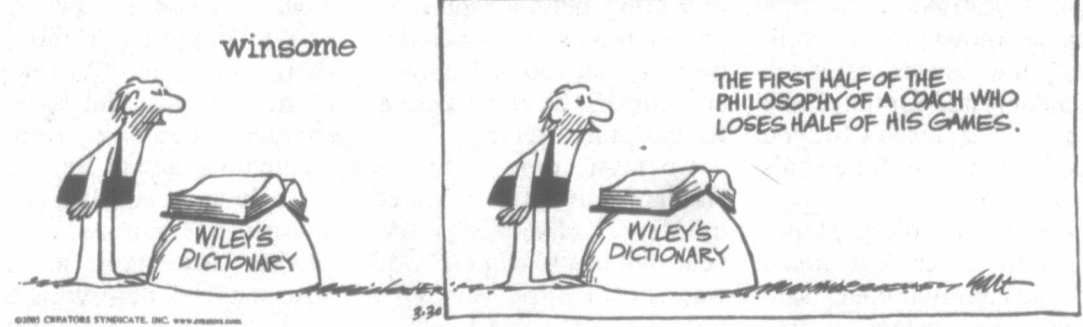
**Marmaduke**



**The Family Circus**



**B.C.**



**Hagar The Horrible**



**Peanuts**



**Blondie**



**Flo & Friends**



Pampa News

Harvester fr

waits for a f

**Clas**

The Lady 1/2 innings yesterday at pitcher Nicol just nine batt The victo impressive I importantly, perfect in dis However, offing this Fr to Dumas Demonette c start at 4:30 "Dumas i

**Big**

THE Andres Hodgkin's prolong his he wasn't retired — home run sl The 43- away from just .235 w RBIs in 17 A five-ti Glove winn Cat probabl York's 25-r camp. "This is felt it was Galarraga s playing up set for mys and I wan terms. "Playing

# Sports Day

## Hickman powers Pampa to huge win over Randall

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

Baseball fans filled the stands at Harvester Field Tuesday afternoon to watch as Pampa hosted Randall in a District 3-4A opener. A meeting between the two programs many believe will scrap for the district championship.

With the wind at his back, Tyler Doughty took the mound to start the game for the Harvesters. Both teams would show hitting promise, but the defenses would not allow anything more than that for two innings.

Pampa would finally get a run across the plate in the bottom of the third. Randall would tie it at 1-1 in top of the fourth.

The Harvesters mounted a two out rally in the bottom of the fourth. With two on, Tyson Hickman stepped into the batter's box. He worked the count to 3-2 and then launched one out of the park. As soon as he hit the ball, Coach Dennis Doughty barked from his post at third base, "Touch'em all boys, that one's gone."

With the score now 4-1, it would fall on the shoulders of the Harvester defense to protect the lead. The team stepped up with huge plays in the field. In the top of the fifth inning, with the bases loaded, Tyler Doughty knocked down a come-backer, then made a smart throw to home to catch a Raider runner on a force out.

Shortly afterward, Dusty Lenderman brought the Randall threat to end with a diving play to the bag at second to record the final out of the inning.

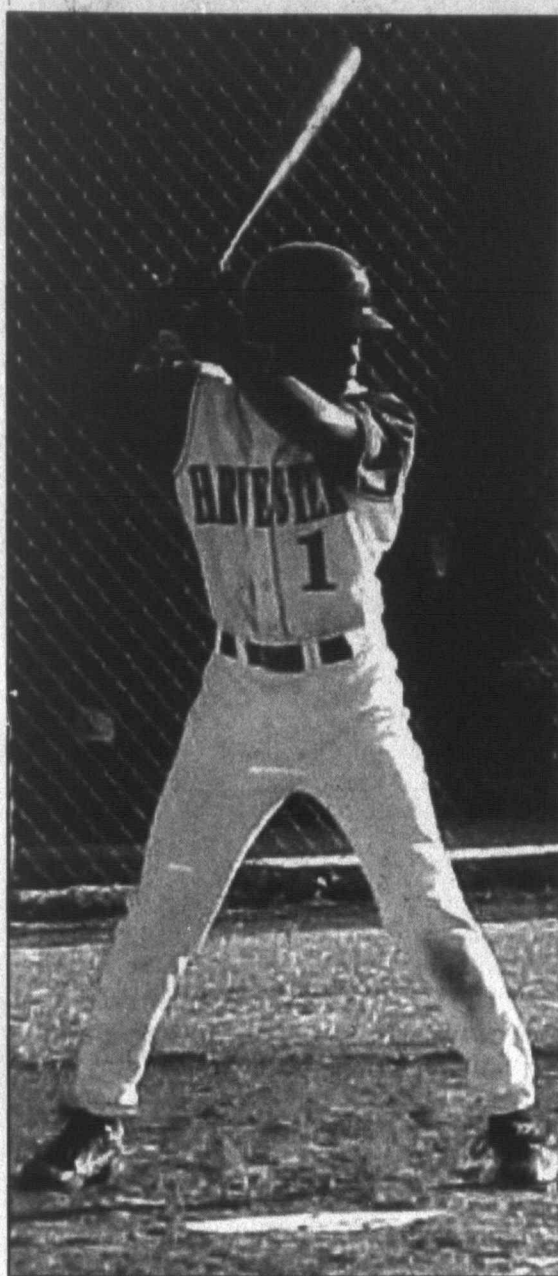
Said Coach Doughty, "Our defensive effort was outstanding. The Lenderman play was huge." He also pointed out other solid efforts. "Shea Brown made several plays a shortstop, including a very mature play in the top of the seventh when he bobbled the ball, but instead of trying to turn two, he settled for the sure out at first base."

There were some great plays in the field late in the game as well for Pampa. "Shavious Kelley made a good play in right on a sinking liner," said Doughty. He also praised the play of catcher James Coffee, who played like a veteran behind the plate all game long.

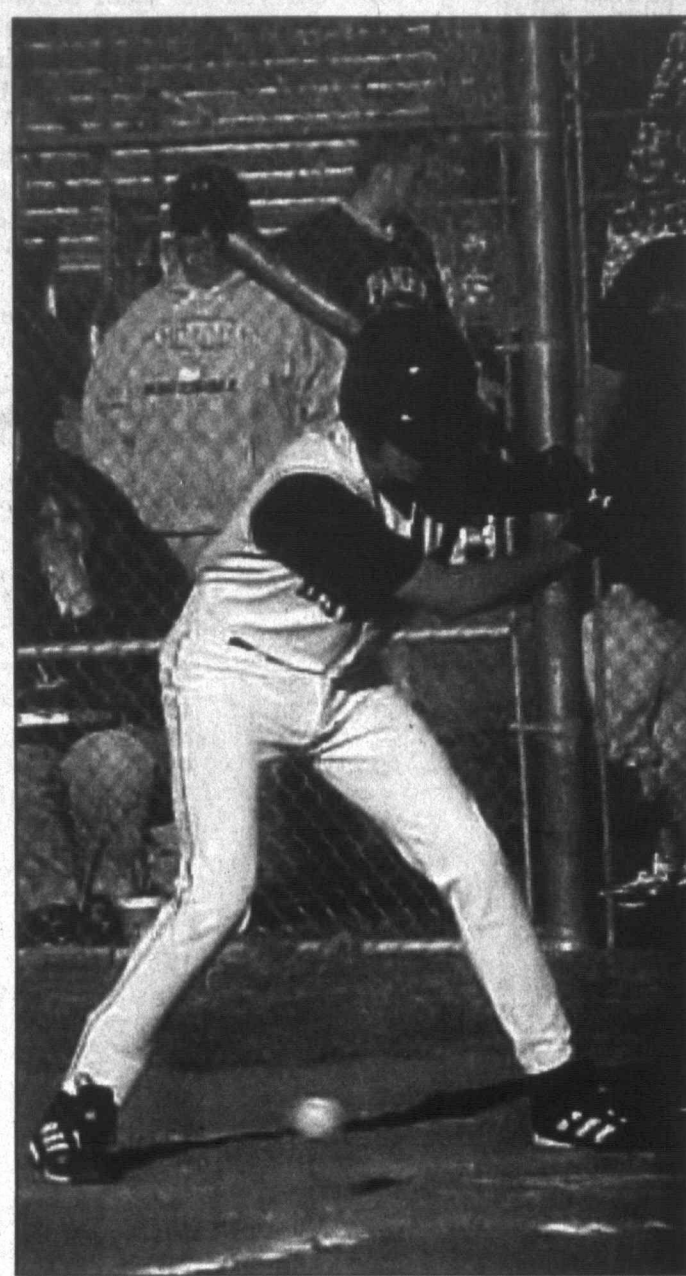
Take nothing away from Randall, who out hit Pampa 6-4 on the afternoon. "Randall threw three good pitchers at us, allowing only four hits. However, it was timely hitting that made the difference in the outcome. That, and Lenderman's big play. If not for that, the game could have turned out totally different," said Doughty.

For Hickman, the fourth inning blast was his first home run of the season. Doughty says Hickman is the "total package" at the plate. "He can drag a bunt, hit and hit with power. He is a very gifted baseball player."

See PAMPA, Page 8



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Harvester freshman Shavious Kelley waits for a Raider pitch Tuesday.



Pampa's Tyson Hickman watches a called ball pass just above his shoe tops. He would crush a Randall pitch moments later for his first home run of the season.

## Clark faces just nine in 16-0 rout

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters needed just 2 1/2 innings to defeat the Lady Dons yesterday afternoon, 16-0. Pampa pitcher Nicole Clark (8-5) would face just nine batters along the way.

The victory moves Pampa to an impressive 17-7 record overall. More importantly, the Lady Harvesters are perfect in district play (3-0).

However, there is a big test in the offing this Friday when Pampa travels to Dumas to square-off against a tough Demonette club. That game is set to start at 4:30 p.m.

"Dumas is a traditionally strong

program," said Pampa coach, Bobbi Gill. "We are very evenly matched. If we show up with our 'A' game, we should prevail."

The "A" game Gill speaks of should be easy for her club. This is a team rich in talent and driven by desire. You can sense the confidence level rise with each game. Dumas will be a challenge, especially on the road. But one that should be easily met by these Lady Harvesters.

A win against the Demonettes and Pampa could be tough to stop through the rest of the district run.

Clark will start at pitcher for Pampa Friday.

**Stats from yesterday:**  
Wendi Miller: 3 runs, 1 RBI  
Stephanie McVay: 1 hit, 2 runs, 1 RBI

Teryn Garner: 2 runs  
Cassy Tice: 1 hit, 2 runs, 3 RBIs  
Callie Cobb: 1 run  
Nicole Clark: 1 hit, 1 run, 1 RBI  
Logan Winkelman: 1 run  
Whitney Roden: 1 double, 1 run, 1 RBI

Brittany Adams: 1 double, 2 runs  
Ashley Parker: 1 run



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

4 Wendi Miller scores one for the Lady Harvesters after dashing for home from third base on a Palo Duro pass ball. Miller would cross the plate two more times in the 16-0 Pampa win over the Lady Dons Tuesday. The Lady Harvesters are on the road Friday to face the Demonettes of Dumas. Game time is 4:30 p.m.

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## Big Cat calls it a career

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andres Galarraga overcame non-Hodgkin's lymphoma twice in five years to prolong his stellar career. When he thought he wasn't reaching his usual standards, he retired — even though he was only one home run shy of 400.

The 43-year-old first baseman walked away from the game Tuesday after hitting just .235 with three home runs and seven RBIs in 17 games for the Mets this spring.

A five-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove winner in a 19-year career, The Big Cat probably would have been left off New York's 25-man roster when the team broke camp.

"This is a sad day for me, but I honestly felt it was the right time to step away," Galarraga said in a statement. "I just wasn't playing up to the expectations that I have set for myself throughout my entire career, and I wanted to walk away on my own terms."

"Playing has been a part of my life for so

long, but I just felt this was the right time to give a younger guy a chance to play."

Galarraga made his big league debut with the Montreal Expos in 1985 and has played for St. Louis, Colorado, Texas, Atlanta, San Francisco and the Angels. He finished his career with a .288 batting average, 2,333 hits and 1,425 RBIs in 2,257 games.

"Great, great career. Great man. Great person," New York manager Willie Randolph said before the Mets beat the Washington Nationals 4-3 in Viera, Fla.

"It was going to be a tough decision," Randolph said, referring to whether Galarraga would have made the 25-man roster. "You always want to go out on your own terms, so I was happy for him. He's one of the classiest guys in the game."

Galarraga missed the 1999 season after he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, then hit .302 with 28 home runs and 100 RBIs with Atlanta in 2000. The disease reoccurred in November 2003.

See MLB, Page 8



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## Easter events, activities



(Left-right) Jerry Lovinggood, Betty Gordon and Marion Jenkins at the Easter Show staged at Lovett Memorial Library by Pampa Garden Club. The show portrayed the life of Christ, from birth to Resurrection.



Ruth Barrett, left, Pampa Garden Club president, and Mary Ann Bailey, club secretary, at the Easter Show staged at Lovett Memorial Library by the garden club. The event celebrated the life of Christ, from birth to Resurrection.



Bryson Murrack, son of Phillip and Misty Murrack, at an Easter egg hunt hosted by the staff and residents of Coronado Healthcare Center.



Karina and Erik Hernandez hunt for Easter eggs at an Easter egg hunt hosted by Coronado Healthcare Center. They are the children of Monce and Brenda Hernandez.

## Civil aviation crashes down, board says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of civil aviation accidents in the United States fell by 8 percent last year, according to preliminary statistics released Tuesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board reported that civil aviation accidents declined from 1,864 in 2003 to 1,715 last year. There were also 9 percent fewer deaths in 2004 — 635, down from 695 the year before.

"There is a single strong common thread among safety that's woven among every aspect of aviation, from the design of the aircraft through the systems on board to the training the pilots receive," said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Greg Martin. "The payoff is the safest three years in aviation history."

Most aviation fatalities resulted from accidents involving private planes and on-demand air taxis, but the overall accident rate for both kinds of aircraft has been improving over the past few decades.

Martin said the aviation community has been taking safety lessons learned from heavy transport aircraft and applying them to smaller planes.

There were 68 accidents involving air taxis, or charter planes, last year, seven

fewer than the 75 reported the year before. The number of people who died in air taxi accidents rose 55 percent last year, to 65, from 42 the previous year.

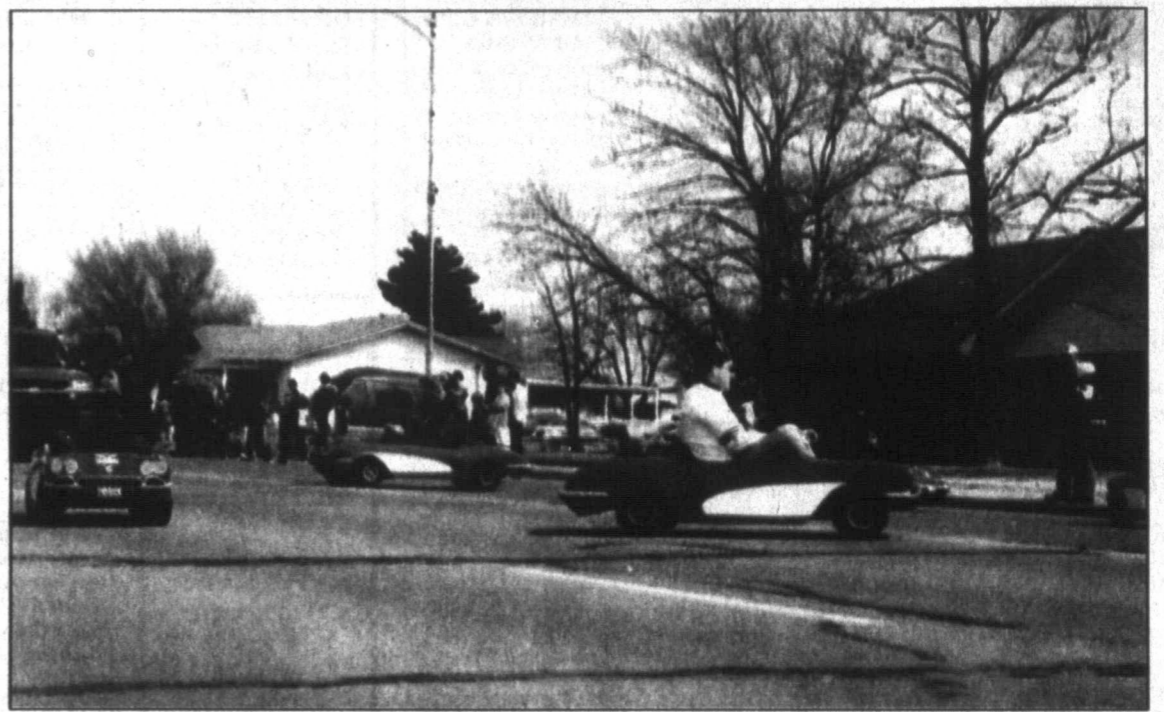
The accident rate, however, fell from 2.56 per 100,000 flight hours in 2003 to 2.21 in 2004. That was just slightly worse than the best year ever for air taxis, 1998, when the accident rate was 2.03 per 100,000 flight hours.

Paul Czysz, professor emeritus of aviation and engineering at St. Louis University, said one reason for the improving safety record of charter planes is that more experienced pilots are now flying them.

"What you're seeing is a lot of military pilots come into the pilot market, especially the Navy pilots, who are trained to fly in all kinds of ungodly weather and put that thing down on that postage stamp," Czysz said. He also said pilots from large airlines, which have been cutting their work forces, are now flying on-demand aircraft.

Private planes were also involved in fewer crashes last year. The accident rate fell from 6.77 per 100,000 flight hours to 6.22, the lowest recorded by the NTSB since it began keeping statistics in 1975.

## Riding in a 'mini-vette'



During a recent parade at Shamrock, Shriners drove miniature Corvette cars they called "mini-vets." Above: Tom Whitson, Sammy Jones, John Birchiel, Joe Bailey, Rodney Weaver, Keith Woods and Carl Galub.

# DOCTORS DAY MARCH 30TH



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