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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

# 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, to various federal grants.

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

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

"We can see lots of advan-

tages to it," Fields said.

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.

# **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

> > — Robert Schrock Pampa Postmaster

true.

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, Scrock 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," Scrock 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/postalinspectors.

# 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

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

### Florida battle

Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

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

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP) - A feder- Appellant's emergency motion for leave to al appeals court agreed to consider an emer-file out of time is granted." Three times last week, the court ruled gency bid by Terri

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.

Schiavo's parents for a new hearing on whether to reconnect her feeding tube, raising their fading hopes of keeping the severely braindamaged 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 nour-

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

Its one-sentence order said: "The

against the Schindlers. In requesting a new hear-ing, 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 return phone messages George Felos, Michael Schiavo's attorney, declined comment.

### Louise 'Gigi' Acord, 90

Tuesday, March 29, 2005, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Rush Springs Cemetery in Rush Springs, Okla., with Chuck Goodall of Chickasha, Okla.,

officiating. Arrangements are Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa and Callaway-Smith-

Cobb Funeral Home of Marlow, Okla. Mrs. Acord was

born on Aug. 16, 1914, in Rush Springs, Okla. She was a resident of Chickasha, Okla., for over

be near her family. She married Glenn "Rocky" Acord on Oct. 29, 1929, in Marlow, Okla. He preced-

60 years before moving to Pampa in 1997 to

Acord

ed her in death in 1981. Mrs. Acord worked for the Selective Service System from 1941 until 1973 as chief clerk of the local draft board at Chickasha. She and her husband owned and

Louise "Gigi" Acord, 90, of Pampa, died operated Rocky's Ole Tyme Shoppe in Chickasha from 1967 until 1999.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Chickasha, the Chickasha Altrusa Club, and the Greater Oklahoma Antique Dealers Association in Oklahoma City.

Survivors include a daughter, Carolyn Copeland and husband Dean of Pampa; two granddaughters, Neysa Brown and husband Joe of Pampa and Nan Rivera and husband Arcadio of Amarillo; a grandson, Mike Copeland and wife Martha of Clinton, Okla.; four great-grandchildren, Brooke Brown, Hannah Rivera, and Adam Rivera, all of Amarillo, and Erik Brown of Hill AFB,

She was preceded in death by her parents, D. Ford Jones and Lillie Jones; and by two sisters, Carra Dowling and Mildred Wilson.

The family requests memorials be to Friends of the Library, P.O. Box 146, Pampa, TX 79066.

Mrs. Acord will lie in state until 11 a.m. Thursday, March 31, 2005, at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home in Pampa.

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

### Evaughn Bowermon, 84

Bowermon, 84, of Trophy Club, died Tuesday, March 29, 2005, at Grapevine, Texas. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Bowermon was born Jan. 5, 1921, in Pampa. She married Tommy Joe Bowermon, and they had celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary before her death.

She worked as a secretary in the oil and gas industry.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy Joe Bowermon, of the home; one son, Larry Bowermon and wife Lynn of Aurora, Texas; www.carmichael-whatley.com.

TROPHY CLUB, Texas — Evaughn one daughter, Lee Irwin and husband James of Trophy Club; four grandchildren, Jeff Bowermon and wife Bojana, Bryan Irwin and wife Jennifer, Amy Ellis and husband Blake, and Jill Gaskins and husband Bart; three great-grandchildren, Lane Irwin, Maddison Irwin, and Haley Bowermon; and two sisters, Mildred Lewis and Ruby Stanton, both of Pampa.

The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2005.

—Sign the on-line register book at

### Rev. C. Reginald Bridges, 79

Rev. C. Reginald Bridges of Idalou peacefully departed this life Monday, March 28, 2005 in Lubbock, Texas, at the age of 79 years. He was born Aug. 3, 1925, in Corsicana, Texas, to the late Clarence Odell and Minnie Willis Bridges.

Reginald graduated from Pampa High School in 1942. He was a veteran of the US

Navy and World War II, having served from 1944-1946 in the South Pacific on the LST-736. After his service in the Navy, he graduated from the University of Corpus Christ in 1950.

He married Verlyne Dillard, June 14, 1949, in Portland, Texas. Reginald then graduated from Southwestern

Baptist Theological Seminary in 1964. He was the first chaplain at the Lubbock State School and served in this capacity for 22

**Bridges** 

Rev. Bridges pastored at various Texas churches for 20 years. He was also Associate Director of the Lubbock Baptist Association and served as Consultant for the Mission Service Corps for the West Texas area. At the time of his death, he was pastor of Parkway Drive Baptist Church in Lubbock.

Reginald was a member of Yellowhouse Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rites Bodies, Eastern Star #76 in Lubbock, past president of the Idalou Lions Club, a member of the Texas Public Employee Association. He was

also Past Master of the Idalou Masonic Lodge and Past Worthy Patron of the Eastern

Reginald was a friend to many and will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved

Those left to mourn his passing include his wife, Verlyne Dillard Bridges of Idalou; a son, Lowell Bridges and wife Belinda of Lubbock; three daughters, Renee Fikes and husband Richard of Idalou, Christy Taylor and husband Steve of Plano, and Cheryl Shaw and husband Todd of Frisco; a brother. Dr. Doye Bridges of Nuevo Progresso, Mexico; a sister, Neldene Matusevich of Victoria; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 31, 2005 at First Baptist Church in Idalou with Rev.'s Alan Berry, Vestal Blakely, and Calvin Gray, officiating. Masonic graveside services with military honors will follow in Idalou Cemetery. Arrangements are under the personal care of White Funeral Home of Idalou.

Family will greet friends at the funeral home, 701 Main, Idalou, Texas, Wednesday, March 30, 2005, from 6-9 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to: North American Mission Board, c/o Parkway Drive Baptist, 2913 E. 2nd St., Lubbock, TX 79401 or First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 918, Idalou, TX 79329. Donations can be made to American Heart Association, 4630 50th St., Ste 400, Lubbock, TX 79414.

To register or send condolences on-line, go to www.whitefuneralhome.com.

# Gray County Weather

west northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy,

Today: Partly cloudy, with with a low around 38. Wind a high near 69. Windy, with a chill values between 29 and 34. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Thursday: A chance of 43.

rain and snow showers before 10 a.m., then a chance of rain showers. Increasing clouds, with a high around

# **CrimeStoppers Notice**

Caller #0909 and Caller #7475 need to call 662-1022 between 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. to make arrangements for your reward.



FISHING DILLS Catfish Ranch, open Saturdays, 12- cer Banquet, April 7, 2005@ 7p.m., 4 mi. west of Lefors, 7:00 p.m. First Baptist on Hwy. 2375, south on Rd. Church- Fellowship Hall. 12 1/2. 665-7500.

HIGH SCHOOL Sr. Girls interested in learning about college sorority recruitment are invited to Mother-Daughter Tea, Sun., Apr. 3, 2 p.m. at call Shannon Buck 665-7027.

PAMPA HIGH School Soc-Guests of players is \$12 each ticket. Must RSVP by March 31st by purchasing your ticket. Contact Tammy Morgan @ 665-1153 or 663-1174.

PAMPA SHRINE Club Spring BBQ, Sun. Apr. 3, 11 a-2p adults \$8, kids 6-12 \$5, 1206 Christine. More info. under 6 free. Top O Tx. Sportsman Club on S. Barnes.

### Stocks

Attebury Grain of Pampa.	acto are provided
Wheat	.3.16
Milo	.3.25
Corn	.3.80
Soybeans	.5.38
Market quotations ar Edward Jones & Co. of	Pampa.
OXY69.10	
BP PLC ADR62.13	
Cabot Corp33.20	+0.55
	+0.25
Cabot Oil Gas53.31 Coca Cola41.70	+0.25 +0.31

The following grain quotations are provided by

-0.55 +0.58 49 02 XCEL +0.53 Kerr McGee .77.29+0.60 +0.08 .23.71 .18.10Williams Atmos . . . . Pioneer Nat +0.24 .27.04 +0.64 .41.27 +1.52 48.20 COP 104.19 +0.48 +0.13 12.30 CVX .58.14 OKE 30.23 +0.02 NS Grp

.426.05 New York Gold Silver ..... West Texas Crude...

### Tammie M. Dinhobl, 44

Tammie M. Dinhobl, 44, passed away Friday, March 25, 2005, in Houston, Texas. She is survived by her mother, Peggy Mary Winegeart; brother, Gerrel Owens and wife

Jerry and daughter, Natash Good, all of Pampa, Texas. Funeral arrangements are pending under the direction of Claire Brothers Funeral Home of Houston.

### **Barry Martin Richards**, 46

Barry Martin Richards, 46, of Pampa, passed away, March 29, 2005. Barry was born Jan. 24, 1959, in San

Diego, Calif. He moved to Pampa in 1972 with his family and attended Pampa schools middle school and high school. He received his BA degree at West Texas A&M University and an associates degree from

Amarillo Richards College.

Barry worked for Flint Engineering and Johnson Home Furnishings. He was a substitute teacher for Pampa schools. He loved being with the children, and they all loved

him. Barry had the gift to make any one laugh regardless how blue they were.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Ivan and Irene Richards of Vancouver, Wash.; and his grandmother, Calista Taggart of San Diego, Calif.

Survivors include wife, Debbie, of the home; a daughter, Briawna, of the home; a son, Larry, of the home; his parents, Ivan and Selma Richards of Pampa; one sister, Molly Watson and husband Tom of Pampa; one brother, Patt Richards, wife Susanne and daughter Bianca of Los Angeles, Calif.

Memorial services will be at 5 p.m. Thursday in Trinity Fellowship Church of Pampa with Lonny Robbins, pastor of the church, officiating.

Barry believed: Please be an organ donor. Heaven knows we need them here.

### Services tomorrow

BRIDGES, Rev. C. Reginald — Celebration of Life services, 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Idalou.

HORNER, Forrest C. 'Frosty' — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

RICHARDS, Barry Martin — Memorial services, 5 p.m., Thursday, Trinity Fellowship Church, Pampa.

# Meth

### Continued from Page 1

Meth is also hurting innocents, Guy said.

A child was severely burned inside a trailer where someone cooking meth had lined interior walls with plastic to trap the odorous, toxic fumes, he said.

"We are seeing kids in meth labs," Guy said.

Keefe described what he saw in the burn unit as "devastating."

Methamphetamine is an over-the-counter ingredi- property and can cause

ents. Tennessee leads the health problems. nation in meth lab seizures and accounts for three-quarters of such busts in the South. Between October 2003

and August 2004, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration broke up about 1,200 clandestine meth labs in Tennessee, a nearly 400 percent increase from 2000. Also, Tennessee removed an estimated 750 children from the custody of meth abusers last year, up from 2003.

Ingredients cooked to make the drug include common cold medicines and addictive stimulant that workplace chemicals. Even system and is cooked from toxic vapors contaminate

Meth users account for 607,000 of the country's 19.5 million drug users in 2003, according to the most recent statistics from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Keefe commended Gov. Phil Bredesen and Tennessee lawmakers for approaching the drug problem with tougher criminal laws, public education and addiction treatment.

Tennessee's new methfighting measures, recommendations from a task force appointed Bredesen, would move certain cold medicines that conaffects the central nervous when labs don't explode, the tain pseudoephedrine behind

# **Emergency Services**

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Tuesday, March 29 Nine traffic stops were

A narcotic drug law violation was reported at the intersection of Browning and Starkweather streets. Assault was reported in

the lobby of the police department. Forgery was reported in

the 300 block of East Brown.

Found property reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. A driver's license was found.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles, and in the lobby of the police department.

Burglary was reported in 2300 block Rosewood. A drill and chain saw were taken, for estimated loss of \$270.

Theft was reported in the 600 block of North Wells. A bicycle valued at \$120 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells. A gun valued at \$250 was taken from a vehicle.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. Theft of services was

reported in the 1300 block of Coffee. Warrant service was attempted at one location.

ed in the 400 block of North Frost and the 1500 block of Williston. Indecency with a child

Civil matters were report-

was reported at Pampa Regional Medical Center. Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High

School. harassment Telephone was reported in the 1400 block of East Browning and

the 700 block of North Frost. Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the police department lobby. A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 600 block of East Foster. A suspicious person was reported at the intersection

of Crawford and Hobart streets. Zachary Lee Mears, 25, 2128 Hamilton, was arrested in the 1100 block of North

Sumner for possession of

under one gram of a controlled substance. Jacob Nocona Rowsey, 17, 1101 S. Hobart, was arrested in the 200 block of

Cook for assault causing bodily injury. Gabriel Hernandez, 28,

509 Short, was arrested in the 200 block of North Starkweather for driving while license is suspended.

### Sheriff

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

Tuesday, March 29 Raymond Ray Diaz, 46, homeless, was arrested for failure to register as a sex

offender, second offense.

Morris Morgan Johnson, 57, Amarillo, was arrested for criminal trespass and nine counts of issuing a bad check.

Joann Jackson, 59, 1152 Huff Road, was arrested for theft by check over \$20 and less than \$500.

Mary Ann Owens, 38, Lubbock, was arrested on a motion to revoke probation for a charge of driving while intoxicated.

### Fire

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

Tuesday, March 29

7:09 p.m. – One unit and four firefighters responded to the 1100 block of Neal Road on a call for medical assistance.

Wednesday, March 30 2:24 a.m. - One unit and four firefighters responded to the 900 block of East Frederic on a call for med-

### **Ambulance**

ical assistance.

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

Tuesday, March 30 1:35 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo, and transferred a patient(s) to a local nursing facility.

1:40 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transferred a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7 p.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1100 block of Neel Road. No transport. 11:40 p.m. - A mobile

ICU unit responded to the

200 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient(s) to PRMC. Wednesday, March 31 1 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC

to NWTH. 2:27 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 900 block of Frederic and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

and transferred a patient(s)

### Correction

In a photograph on page 6 Tuesday entitled hunt," the child pictured was incorrectly identified. The child in the picture is Erik Hernandez, son of Monce and Brenda Hernandez.

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Board n bid of \$1 instead of that the di

# 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 agreements with the com-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

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

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

munity 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

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

the price of one member-

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 GUARDIAN ANGEL. \$5,000-plus SPECIAL ANGEL. \$1,000-plus ANGEL. \$500-plus

SPONSOR. \$100-plus PATRON. \$50-plus ASSOCIATE. \$25-plus FRIEND. \$15-plus

BENEFACTOR. \$250-

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

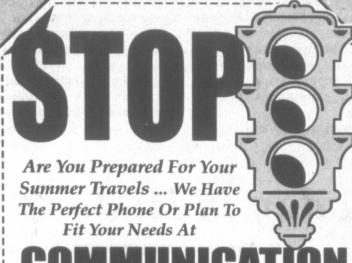
Falwell, 71, was breathing with the help of a respirator Tuesday after being admitted to Lynchburg General Hospital in "respiratory arrest" the night before, meaning his breathing had slowed or stopped.

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

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LG 4X3200 FLIP PHONE FREE (after \$25.00 rebate) KYOCERA SOHO \$24.99 (after \$25.00 rebate) LG LX5550 FLIP \$39.99 (after \$50.00 rebate)

**AUDIOVOX 8910 CAMERA PHONE \$49.99** (after \$50.00 rebate)

ALSO AVAILABLE MOTOROLA V810 CAMERA PHONE add up to 3 PARTNERS for \$9.95 each and get 3 FREE FLIP PHONES

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

**GUNUNG** (AP) Indonesia 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

SITOLI, the agency Firefighters safe." 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.

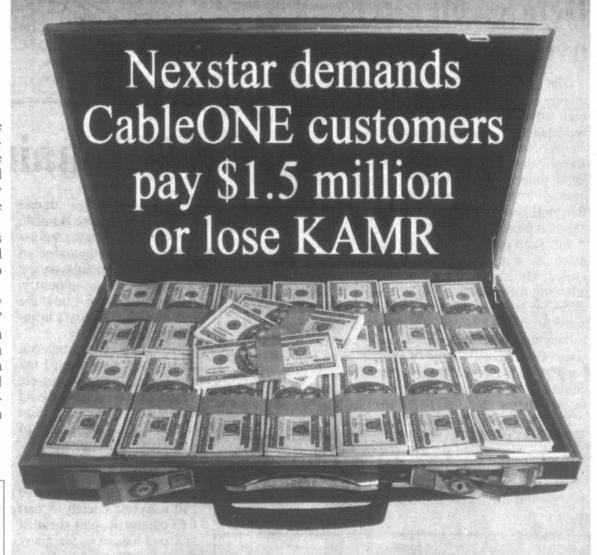
> As he was lifted out of the rubble of what was once a building, three-story Silalalahi smiled weakly and gave a thumbs-up.

"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

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 World Health Organization. "It is essential they get treatment, infections spread easily in open wounds."



# **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

The school board approved on second and final reading policies governing nonschool 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.

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.



KAMR

806-383-3321

Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc.

812-242-9917

# 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 everday 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 diffi-

Sean

Smith

cult to find these "meth labs." To fight

this prob-

**Publisher** lem several states have passed legislation

restricting the sale of ingre- This means the person purdients used in producing meth. One of the main

ephedrine and pseu- tification before doing so. doephedrine based products such as cold medicines.

Oklahoma is one state that passed



chasing this product must get it from the pharmacist ingredients of meth is and they have to show iden-

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

# 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."

## 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 Engineers. down your brain when I tell you that their article appeared on the World Socialist Web (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

Charley

Reese

Columnist

American Society of Civil 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 by the same organization in

Unlike socialists, I have no problem with billionaires.

Most

them

rich

because of

the owner-

ship of huge numbers of shares stock,

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 down from the D-plus given

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

# 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 author of the Caro. 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,

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 wish 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 judinominees, cial some Republican senators want to implement what has come to

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

# **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

Representatives, some members of the ruling party can-

not imagine the day when they will return to the minor-

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

Megan Jou during a vi long appea he saw.

Johnnie L. legal caree both victims and celebrit verged under when he defended O.

murder char Cochran, nosed with brain tumo 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 colleage ticular pride with those v fully treated

· Palo D

meet at 7:

The meeting ed in wear arts. For m mation, ca Texa Foundatio Fool's Spr 10:30 p.m Center No Coors Cov and drinks games, an performan the Prairie available f chased wi several pr out the ev www.epict 655-2181. ship oppor ited time. Friends

> Saturday, Auditorium Tickets an and \$10 fc ets, call R Goodle its 2005 c

at the old

Dinner and

# 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 daylong 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

'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 19year-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

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

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 uncorrectable 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 inves-

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

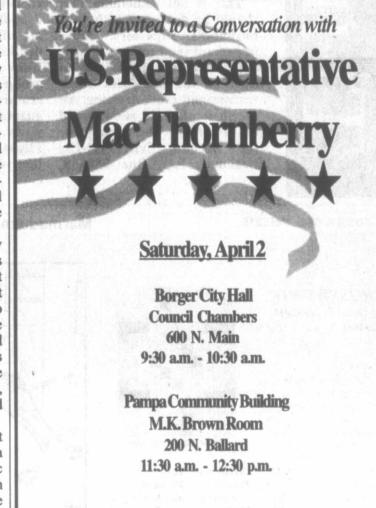
Continued from Page 4

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 party's base.

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

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



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.

Panhandle Texas 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 prices to be raffled off throughout the evening. Tickets are available at www.epictexas.com or by calling (806) 655-2181. Group tables and sponsorship opportunities are available for a lim-

 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,

Okla. Texoma'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.

# Pet of the Week

### PIXIE...

This female blond Terrier cross is 5 years old. Pixie is a very friendly and loving dog. She'll make a wonderful companion

... come by today!

sponsored by... The Pampa News



For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm, Closed Sundays & Holidays.

LOST YOUR PET? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

# AMPA

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 concentration. should be discussed with your husband's superiors. More are affected by their parents' important than talking to any-drinking. Support is available body right now is for you to from Alateen, which has y me learn all you can about trans- groups everywhere. (Their litvestism and cross-dressing. An erature is available in 30 lanexcellent place to start would guages.) Visit the Web site at be to contact The Society for www.al-anon.alateen.org. the Second Self, Tri-Ess Please don't wait. You will find

DEAR ABBY: My husband, a 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.

**FRUSTRATED:** DEAR 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

Sadly, many young people National, P.O. Box 980638, that you are not alone.

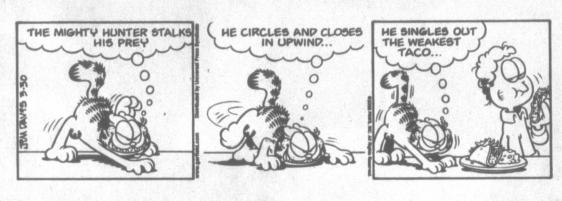
### For Better Or Worse



### Zits



### Garfield



### **Beetle Bailey**



### Marvin





### **Crossword Puzzle**

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 40 Compose 1 Con-Zimmer 41 Chow structed 5 College DOWN house 9 Pop stars 1 King of Crete 2 Loves to

11 Sweet liqueur 12 Blamepieces 3 "Spill it!" dodging words 4 Hack-13 Macho fellow 14 Metal co-star

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

30 "The Zero Game' writer Brad 32 Token of love 34 High card 35 Quiver item 36 Annovs

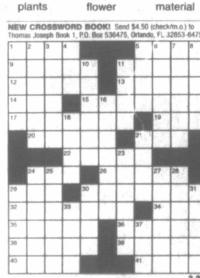
38 Tie up

39 Perfume



berry, e.g. 18 Blue hue 5 Ginger's 21 Mom's 29 Anger 30 Trims warning 6 Filmed 23 Measur the again ing aids 7 Warring 24 Mountain 31 Takes chain

woman 8 Doctrine 25 Evasive breather 10 Grabs maneuver 33 Flag 11 Blacken 27 Funnelcreator 16 Stinging 37 Rink shaped flower material



### Marmaduke



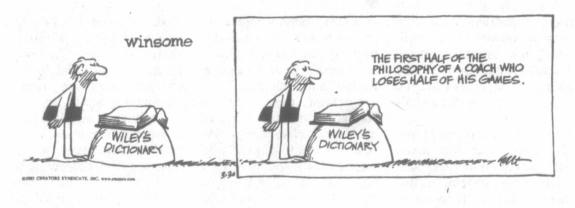
"Honest, it's not for you!"

The Family Circus



'If all the cookies won't fit in the jar. I'll get rid of the extras for you.

B.C.



### **Haggar The Horrible**



### **Peanuts**



### Flo & Friends



### **Blondie**



Pampa News Harvester fi waits for a

Cla

The Lady 1/2 innings yesterday a pitcher Nicol just nine batt The victor impressive 1

importantly, perfect in dis However, offing this Fr to Dumas to Demonette start at 4:30

"Dumas

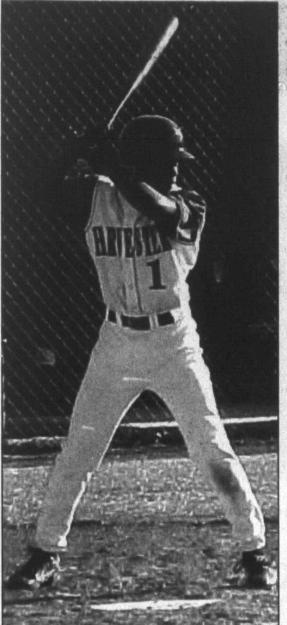
THE

Andres Hodgkin's prolong his he wasn't i retired home run s The 43-

away from just .235 v RBIs in 17 A five-ti Glove wint Cat probab York's 25-

camp. "This is felt it was Galarraga s playing up set for mys and I want terms. "Playing

# Sports Day



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS Harvester freshman Shavious Kelley

waits for a Raider pitch Tuesday.

# 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 scra p 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.

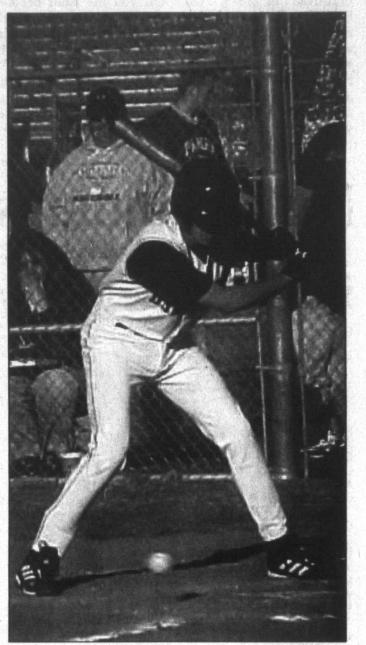
Said Coach Doughty, "Our defensive effort was outstanding. The Lenderman play was huge." He also pointed out other solid efforts. "Shea Brown made several plays a shortstop, including a very mature play in the top of the seventh when he bobbled the ball, but instead of trying to turn two, he settled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

1/2 innings to defeat the Lady Dons pitcher Nicole Clark (8-5) would face should prevail."

just nine batters along the way. impressive 17-7 record overall. More rich in talent and driven by desire. You 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 the rest of the district run.

The Lady Harvesters needed just 2 program," said Pampa coach, Bobbi Gill. "We are very evenly matched. If yesterday afternoon, 16-0. Rampa we show up with our "A" game, we

The "A" game Gill speaks of should The victory moves Pampa to an be easy for her club. This is a team 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

Clark will start at pitcher for Pampa

Stats from yesterday: idw . mostal A Wendi Miller: 3 runs (1) Stephanie McVay: 1 hit, 2 runs, 1

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

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

on the road Friday to

face the Demonettes of Dumas. Game time is

4:30 p.m.

One day you have urine loss. The next day you don't. End of story.



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GYNECARE TVT® Tension-free Support for incontinence can stop that "can't laugh, can't sneeze" urine loss with just one 30-minute outpatient treatment And it's clinically proven. 98% of women treated seven years ago are still dry, or report gnificantly less leakage. Although all medical procedures involve risks, GYNECARE TVT has a long safety record. It's not for everyone, including women who are pregnant or plan to be. Ask us how to stop that urine loss now.

Otoniel Huertas, M.D. P.A.

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Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

◀ Wendi Miller scores one for the Lady Harvesters after dashing for home from third base FAITH, LOVE, & HOPE on a Palo Duro pass ball. Miller would cross the How Much Are You Willing To Give? plate two more times in To learn about Christian Foster Care, ask for a free information the 16-0 Pampa win over packet or join us at our next foster parent training. the Lady Dons Tuesday. on April 14-16 The Lady Harvesters are at the Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd. Ave. Pampa, TX

The Bair Foundation Christian Foster Care

Toll Free 1-800-379-3187 or Local 806-355-3882 6900 I-40 West, Suite 100 - Amarillo, TX 79106

TFFA Agency of the Year for 2002 & 2004

# 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

"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

"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



Brian Gordzelik, DVM

**Gray County Veterinary Clinic** would like to welcome

Belinda Andrews, DVM to the practice and the community for both your large & small animal needs

1329 S. Hobart • Pampa • 806-665-7197

# Pampa

Continued from Page 7

With the win, Pampa improves to 13-5, 1-0. Randall falls to 6-12, 0-1. But Doughty says you are wrong to assume the Raiders, winners of the last eight District 3-4A titles, are out of the hunt. He knows they will be ready when the Harvesters come calling April 16.

Still, many believe the power of the district is shifting and Pampa is now the team to beat. If that is the case, it did not happen by accident. Doughty will tell you his team benefits not just from skill and talent, but great senior leadership, which he feels really paid off yesterday.

Up next for Harvesters is a road trip to Hereford. That game is set for 1 p.m. this Saturday.

Pct

GB

# **NBA** standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**All Times EST EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division** 

Boston Philadelphia	38 35	32° 35	.543 .500	3
New Jersey	33	38	.465	5 1/2
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Toronto	29	41	414	9
Southeast Division	20	71	.414	
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y-Miami	54	18	.750	_
Washington	39	30	.565	13 1/2
Orlando	33	37	.471	20
Charlotte	15	54	.217	37 1/2
Atlanta	11	59	.157	42
Central Division				-
oonii ai Divioion	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	43	27	.614	_
Chicago	38	31	.551	4 1/2
Cleveland	37	32	.536	5 1/2
Indiana	36	34	.514	7
Milwaukee	27	43	.386	16
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Southwest Division				
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x-clinched playoff spot

### **MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

# Cajun Dinner tickets can still be purchased

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Just a reminder to get your tickets for tomorrow's Cajun Dinner being presented by the PHS Baseball Booster

Tickets are only \$12 and can be purchased from a Harvester baseball player, a booster club member or, call 669-4830 for additional options.

The dinner will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 318 North Cuyler tomorrow from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, be amazed at what comes out. March 31, 2005:

You have much more get-up-and-go this year. No one can stop you once you determine the proper path to head down. Though you might weigh the pros and cons, you don't hesitate to make a decision once you are ready. How you see a situation could change frequently. Let others grasp the fact that you do change your opinion. If you are single, a relationship that is quite different could enter your life. You will enjoy how your mind grows with this person. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from your empathy and understanding. Walk in your sweetie's shoes. Spend a weekend together working on communication. Sign up for a seminar. SAGITTARIUS helps you see the other side.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) \*\*\* You hear news that helps you revise your thinking. Be willing to explore a different approach. Your keen perspective and understanding help create a more successful lifestyle. Be willing to put yourself on the line. Tonight: Opt for some intellectual fun. TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

\*\*\* Work with individuals, and you'll see situations in a very different light. Everything is not always as you see it. Learn to walk in others' shoes and understand what might be going on in their minds. Sometimes an innate rigidity gets in your way. Tonight: Opt for togetherness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) \*\*\* Others will reveal their true colors if you do and say less. You might

Sometimes you see matters differently. Know that there is no right or wrong. A friend or associate could be reinventing him- or herself. Tonight: Roll with the punches.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

\*\*\* You might accomplish a lion's share of work or errands. Find shortcuts wherever you can. You discover that many people will pitch in once they understand how they can help. Grow past a restriction. Find other paths. Tonight: Relax first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\* Dance to a different tune. Be spontaneous, and explain more of what you are doing with a child or loved one. Laughter earmarks your interactions. A flirtation or playful person in your life changes his or her tune. Tonight: Pretend it is Friday night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\* Anchor in on basics. You might be a bit surprised by what others think and feel. Perhaps you aren't in touch with their feelings. Start by trying to walk in someone else's shoes. Somehow you feel that a muse touched you, as you open up. Tonight: Nap first,

then consider romping. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

\*\*\* You say what you feel, but unfortunately don't always understand the implications of your words. Think before you speak. Feelings run much higher than you realize. Yes, you have backed someone into a corner. Tonight: Join a friend for munchies and head

home early SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

\*\*\* Investigate a changeable investment or financial situation. No, you might not always be comfortable. Understanding takes you in a new direction. Restructure by seeking out

your personal set of advisers. Tonight:

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\* What you say resonates with others. Understand that your belief system is constantly being updated. Be willing to go with the flow, but also let others know that the status quo doesn't exist with you right now. Tonight: Burst right out the door. Join a pal or loved

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\* Knowing when to put a halt to your imaginative meanderings could make a big difference. Paranoia could mark some of you. Others will clearly make moves to open doors. Tonight: Nap and feel renewed.

AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\* Follow through on a longterm desire that could involve a friendship. You might want to update your thinking because of what happens and information you receive. Much will change if you remain open. Tonight: Slow down. Take some time to your-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

\*\*\* Assuming control gives you a whole different sense of what will work. You might revise your thinking about being "the boss." Talk about a money-related matter that could be close to your heart. Tonight: Out on the

**BORN TODAY** Musician Herb Alpert (1935), actor Richard Chamberlain (1935), actress Shirley Jones (1933)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. (c) 2005 by King Features Syndicate



row- Clayton Hall, Jarett Kotara, Brittin East and Brandon Johnson.

# Kotara Harvester basketball MVP

Gross hit his eighth homer Outfielder Emil Brown, a

'Today shows you

what kind of a class

individual Andres

is. He's always

handled things

dignity

throughout his

entire career.

with class and

home run.

this spring, a three-run shot.

The 15th overall pick in the

June 2001 draft is hitting

.382 with 18 RBIs in 20 games. Carlos Delgado

(2001) is the only other

player in club history to hit

eight homers in spring train-

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS **Sports Editor** 

The Pampa Harvester basketball booster club held its banquet last night at First Baptist Church. Included among the evening's festivities were special honors and recognition with many receiving certificates and flowers.

The freshmen and junior varsity players were introduced by their coaches, who took time to share stories about them as well as the season

Varsity coach, Jeff Reed, then introduced his players, again sharing stories of about each. The seniors players were later gifted with scrap books. Coach Reed also announced award winners, with Jarett Kotara winning three. Clayton Hall was honored with two. Sharod Young,

Braydon Barker, Brittin East and Julian Salazar each won an award as well.

**Award Winners** 

(per game over 29 game season)

while striking out seven.

non-roster invitee who was

told before the game he

made Kansas City's roster,

went 2-for-4 with his fifth

Chone Figgins, Dallas

Angels.

Fla.,

Yankees 2

Red Sox 7,

At Tampa,

Rodriguez

grounded out

in the first

after scram-

bling out of

the way of a

first-inning

pitch by John

Halama in

first meeting

since Boston

won Game 7

of the ALCS.

teams'

the

Alex

McPherson and Steve

Finley all had triples for the

Hustlin' Harvester: Clayton Hall

Defensive Player of the Year: Clayton Hall

Rebounding: Jarett Kotara (231/7.9 per game)

Free Throw: (tie) Brittin East, Jarett Kotara (71%) Most Improved Player: Brandon Johnson I Am Third: Julian Salazar

Continued from Page 7

He underwent surgery that November and had a stem cell transplant the following February.

He hit his 399th home run the Angels September and signed with the Mets this offseason. hoping to hit the milestone homer before calling it

quits. "Today shows you what kind of a class individual Andres is," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "He's always handled things with class and dignity throughout his entire career. and this afternoon is another example of his high charac-

> six innings. Padres 13,

Rangers 12. 10 innings

Texas' Ian Kinsler hit a two-run homer in the ninth to force extra innings.

Royals 10, Angels 9

At Surprise, Ariz., Royals opening day starter Jose

AXYDLBAAXR

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

3-30

BZXL NZI VIFESIG ZDRRV VRX'C GSZC XSSV ZG GCIZFDACHZNQSCG. XSSV

GRTINS TXQXRKX

The evening was capped with the showing of a video highlighting the Harvesters 2004-05, 16-13 season.

**MVP:** Jarett Kotara

Offensive Player of the Year: (tie) Sharod Young, Braydon Barker

### In spring training games - Lima gave up two runs on runs in five pain-free Blue Jays 11, Pirates 5 At Bradenton, Fla., Gabe

allowing 10 hits and seven runs five earned in

ing.

his

poor

Pirates

left-hander

Dave

Williams had

consecutive

since being

chosen as the

No. 5 starter,

second

start

— Omar Minaya Manager, NY Mets

At Peoria, Ariz., Xavier Nady hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th. Nady also doubled twice and drove in five runs, and has likely earned a start in center field on opening day because Dave Roberts has been slowed by a strained groin.

The Red Sox scored twice in the third and once in the fourth against loser Aaron Small. The Yankees acquired

minor league catcher Wil Nieves from the Los Angeles Angels for righthander Bret Prinz. Boston reacquired left-

handed reliever Mike Myers from St. Louis for two minor leaguers. Rockies 4, White Sox 3

At Tucson, Ariz., making his first start in 10 days, Mark Buehrle gave up three

CRYPTOQUOTE

YSJCG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AN IRRITABLE MAN IS LIKE A HEDGEHOG ROLLED UP THE WRONG WAY, TORMENTING HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN PRICKLES. — THOMAS HOOD

seven hits and two walks, innings.

Cubs 13, Brewers 6

At Phoenix, Derrek Lee hit a three-run homer and drove in five runs, Jeromy Burnitz went 3-for-3 and Jerry Hairston was 4-for-5 as the Cubs collected 18 hits.

Astros 7, Indians 6

At Kissimmee, Fla., Cliff Bartosh squandered a tworun lead, allowing three hits, then was traded to the Chicago Cubs for minor league right-hander Ronald Bay.

Brandon Duckworth, competing with Ezequiel Astacio to be Houston's No. 5 starter, allowed eight hits and four runs with four strikeouts in six innings.

Giants Diamondbacks 5

At Scottsdale, Ariz., Jerome Williams hit a tworun triple, and struck out six in five innings for the Giants.

Cardinals 10, Marlins 5 At Jupiter, Fla., Albert Pujols went 3-for-3 with four RBIs and raised his average to .434. Pujols has six home runs and 19 RBIs, and has not struck out this spring. Mark Mulder allowed two earned run on eight hits over six innings for the Cardinals.

Dontrelle Willis allowed six earned runs and eight hits over 4 1-3 innings for Florida.

Orioles 4, Dodgers 3

Vero Beach, Baltimore's Chris Gomez went 4-for-4, and Daniel Cabrera held Los Angeles to two runs on two hits in five innings.

Dodgers starter Scott Erickson went five innings and gave up eight hits, but allowed only one unearned run while striking out three.

Athletics 10, Mariners 5 At Phoenix, Joe Blanton worked six innings and allowed eight hits and four runs for Oakland. Nick Swisher hit a three-run homer.

Seattle starter Aaron Sele gave up eight runs on seven hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Public Notice NOTICE OF INTENTION T INCORPORAT

BROCKS WEED TROL, whose pri place of business is Milliron Road, P. County, Gray fore February 28, 20 Dated: March 7, 200 Eugene D. Brock, (

**PUBLIC SALE NOT** DATE OF SALE FRIDAY, **APRIL 1, 2005** PLACE: 200 W. BROWN PAMPA, TX. 79065 TIME: 10 A.M.-3 P. Be advised that the cles listed below been accepted for st in accordance with provisions of the Ve Storage Facility (V.C.F...6687-9A.) vehicle was towe PAMPA, TEXAS b Authority of The County law Enforce This letter is to in you that these ve are presently being s at R.V.'S & Things ing & Recovery, 20 Pampa, Brown, 79065. If the Lien he of these vehicles f pay the charges acc lated from the dat storage, vehicle wi deemed abandoned will be sold for ch incurred by the st facility. LIST: 92 DODGE 1B7HE16Y2NS5421

70 CHEV. 164690R112869

94 CHEV. 1G1JC144OR715503 93 CADILLAC 1G6KS52B4PU8217

96 FORD IFALP42X7TF2111 MARCH 28, 2005 B-92 Mar. 30, 31, 2

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Call this

Dated: March 7, 2005. Eugene D. Brock, Owner Mar. 30, 2005

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LIST: 92 DODGE 1B7HE16Y2NS542123

70 CHEV. 164690R112869 94 CHEV.

1G1JC144OR7155031

93 CADILLAC 1G6KS52B4PU821736

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TexSCAN Week of

March 27, 2005

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21 Help Wanted

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JOHNSON Home Furnishings Is Now Taking Applications. Apply At 801 W. Francis St.

D.E. CHASE, INC. 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx. TRUCK DRIVERS

WANTED days on / 2 days off Medical & Dental Ins. **Uniforms** Monthly Safety Bonus Requirements: CLASS A CDL **DOT Physical DOT Drug Screen** HAZMAT Endorsement Apply in person NO PHONE CALLS!

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berglass Manufacturing General Labor •40 + hrs./ wk ·Salary based on exp.

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21 Help Wanted

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Apply in person or send resume to Dyer's Office. 2219 Perryton Parkway. CLERICAL position available in local insurposition ance agency. Exp. & licensing preferred, but not required. Send resume to Box 90 c/o Pampa News, PO Box 2198, Pampa.

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Guarantee Sign On Bonus **Paid Drive Time Demo Allowance** Retirement Pkg.

> Call Teresa Robinson or Mark Suna (806)874-3527 1-800-692-4088

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bart, Pampa

ASST. DIRECTOR OF

nursing home.

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50 Building Suppl.

101 S. Ballard 669-3291 **HOUSTON LUMBER** 420 W. Foster

**60 Household** 

\$128 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, ON Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr, . sell \$199, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr, sell \$169. Full size mattress set new, never used \$89, \$170 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$218 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$350, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999,

60 Household

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Lefors, on Hwy. 2375,

south on Rd. 12 1/2. Call

with only 88 hrs. Call

665-7500. 69a Garage Sales

BED, comp. desk, coffee table, kids clothes & toys 97' Nissan Sentra, loaded. Sat. 8-3, 2306 Christine.

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FREE (2) kittens, 5 weeks old, and a momma cat. Call 669-0017.

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on an equal opportunity

basis

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& new tile, washer / dryer hookups. \$300 rent, \$150 dep. 804 Beryl. 665-5473 HOUSE for rent in Lefors

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month dep. 1 or 2 bd., liv-

ing rm, bath, laundry, din-

ing rm, kitchen. Call 835-2860, 595-0656 to view. FOR Lease: 3/bedroom home on 3 acres. Call

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103 Homes For Sale

Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

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**NEW HOME** FOR SALE **LOOP 171 NORTH** WHITE ACRES COUNTRY LIVING 4 bdr., 2 ba., 3 car

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NICE 3/1/1, cent. h/a, cellar, stor. bldg., \$34K obo. Not financing. 2134 Sumner. 669-3780.

106 Coml. Property 2222 Perryton Parkway,

Vacant Commercial Lot. Price Reduced by 1/2. C-21 Realtor, 665-4180. 114 Recre. Veh.

86 Road Runner tt, 24 ft.,

exc, shape, new appli. 0372, 806-584-7755

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-

0079, 665-2450. 120 Autos

81 Mercury Cougar. 89 Chevy Suburban 4x4 . 96 Windstar LX-super nice. Call 665-5126. 1978 Thunderbird. Runs

Good. Phone 665-9512. 121 Trucks

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24 - Sunco Carriers

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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.

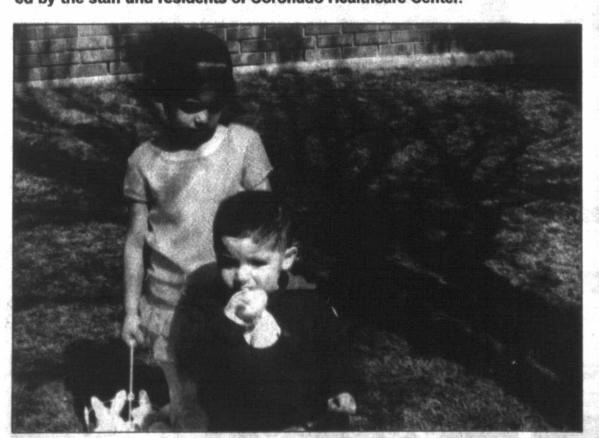


Ruth Barrett, left, Pampa Garden Club president, and Mary Ann Bailey, club secretary, at the Easter Show staged at Lovett Memorial Library by the garden club. The event celebrated the life of Christ, from birth to Resurrection.



Pampa News photo by LACI KENNEDY

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



Hernandez.

Pampa News photo by LACI KENNEDY Karina and Erik Hernandez hunt for Easter eggs at a Easter egg hunt hosted by Coronado Healthcare Center. They are the children of Monce and Brenda

# 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 vear 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 ondemand 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.

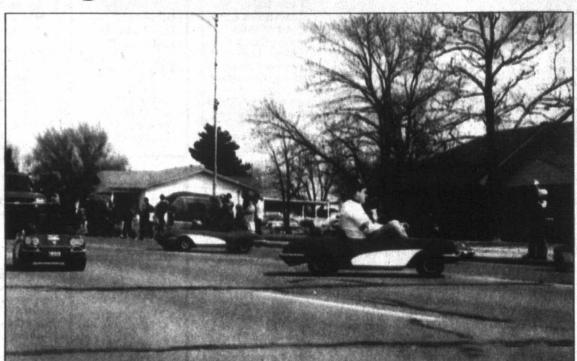
The accident rate, however, fell from 2.56 per 100,000 flight hours in 2003 to 2.21 in 2004. That was just slightly worse than the best year ever for air taxis, 1998, when the accident rate was 2.03 per 100,000 flight hours.

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

"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.

# RCH 30



Mustafa Hussain, MD

Office Located At 6900 I-40 West



Phone 665-0901 Office Located A

Phone 665-0801

Office Located At

3023 Perryton Park Suite 101



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Office Located At



Caleb Kim, DO

Office Located At









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