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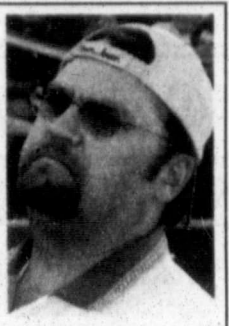
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WT football coach  
under investiga-  
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SEE PAGE 9



# THE PAMPA NEWS

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1235

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## GCAD evaluates Bagley at meeting

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

No action was taken following an executive session to evaluate Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley during this morning's Gray County Appraisal District board of directors meeting.

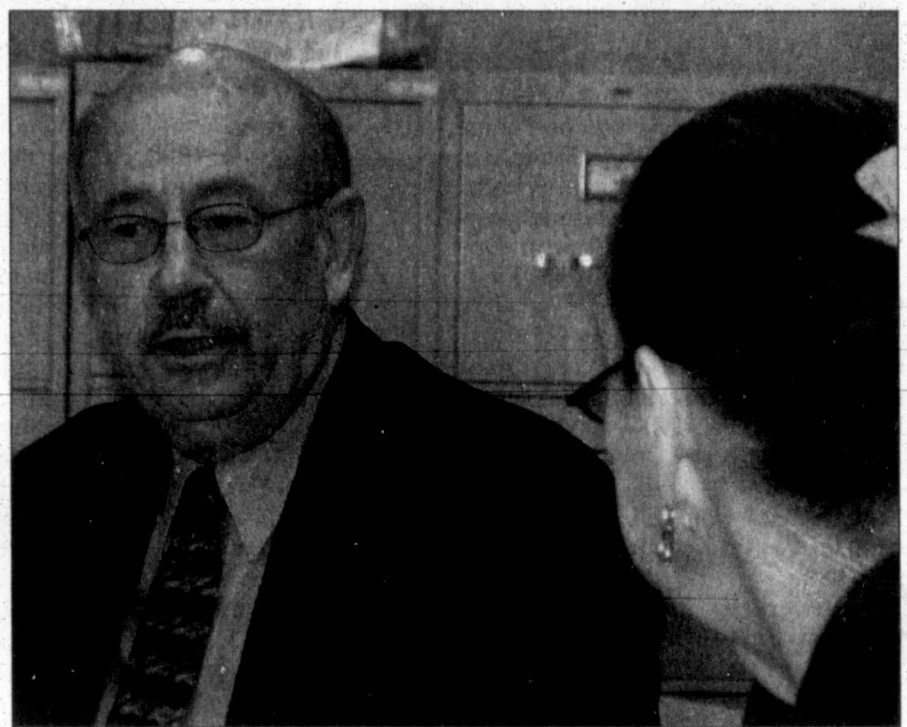
The executive session lasted 40 minutes. The agenda for this morning's meeting, held in the appraisal district conference room at 815 N. Sumner, stated that the executive session would include an "evaluation of Chief Appraiser in reference to questions submitted to Chief Appraiser by Board Member Gary Willoughby."

Board President Sam Haynes said

after the meeting that the evaluation of the chief appraiser was done annually, and that this morning's evaluation was "routine."

Willoughby had said in a telephone interview March 22 that he had given a list of 28 or 29 questions to Bagley and to members of the Pampa city commission and Pampa Independent School District's board of education for their upcoming meetings. The questions were prompted by a \$6.6 million decrease in the property tax valuation of Celanese Ltd. for 2004.

See DISTRICT, Page 2



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
Nancy Coffee, right, a member of the Gray County Appraisal District board of directors, listens to Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley, left, give his report to the board at their meeting this morning.

## Rudolph calls himself a 'warrior'

ATLANTA (AP) — During a two-year series of bombings in the Deep South, Eric Rudolph considered himself a warrior — against abortion, which he calls murder, and a government that permits it.

A sometimes-rambling, sometimes-reflective 11-page manifesto released by Rudolph's attorneys Wednesday soon after he entered his last guilty plea in the bombings gave the most detailed look yet into the mind of the former Army explosives expert who killed two people and injured more than 120 others.

Rudolph pleaded guilty in federal court to the deadly 1996 Olympic park bombing in Atlanta and attacks at two abortion clinics and a gay nightclub.

He was sentenced to four life sentences without parole, escaping the death penalty by telling authorities the whereabouts of hundreds of pounds of dynamite and other explosives he stashed while hiding in the North Carolina mountains for five years.

In the statement, Rudolph said stopping abortion — "this holocaust," he called it — was his main motive. Any agent of a government that allows it, he reasoned, is an enemy that deserves death.

He also apologized to his victims who don't work for the government or perform abortions, rejected virtually every theory about his motives laid out over the years, and spelled out the strategies, techniques and, ultimately, failures involved in his attacks.

Among the information: that the Olympic bombing was intended to be part of a week-long campaign of explosions aimed at shutting down the games and embarrassing the U.S. government.

Rebutting claims that his anti-government views were shaped by racism, his family or involvement in the extreme fundamentalist Christian Identity movement, Rudolph called himself a Roman Catholic at war over abortion.

"Because I believe that abortion is murder, I also believe that force is justified ... in an attempt to stop it," he wrote, "whether these agents of the government are armed or

See RUDOLPH, Page 2

### County government

## Treasurer to address next commissioners court

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Gray County Treasurer Lee Cornelison is scheduled to present a comparison of two proposals for the county's bank depository contract at county commissioners' 9 a.m. meeting Friday in the second-floor courtroom of Gray County Courthouse.

Commissioners will then award the depository contract to one of the two banks which had submitted proposals. The proposals, from Bank of America and FirstBank Southwest, were opened at commissioners' April 1 meeting.

Bank of America holds the current contract, which expires in May. The depository contract is for the county's 37 financial accounts, and is essentially an agreement between the county and a financial institution to provide banking services.

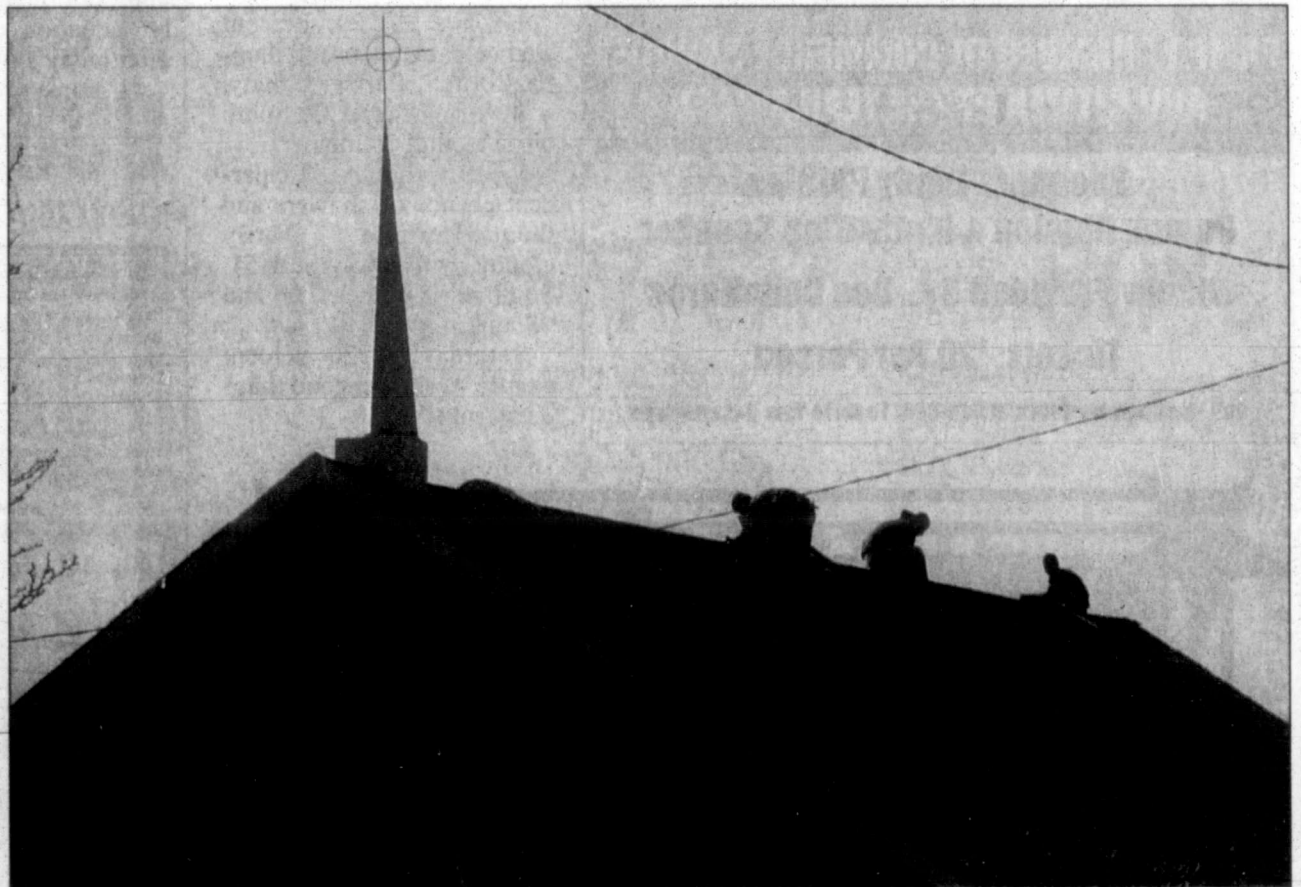
An addendum to the data processing services agreement with Local Government Solutions will be considered by commissioners.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright will be recognized for completing 2004 continuing education.

Jeanne Horton will be recognized as chief deputy in the county clerk's office, effective May 1. Commissioners will vote on adding her name to all county clerk checking accounts and removing Carolyn Law's name from those accounts, also effective May 1. Law is retiring from the county clerk's office.

Other items on Friday's agenda include a bylaw to the TAC unemployment compensation group account fund, the treasurer's report, and payment of bills and salaries.

## Roofing God's house



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
A bird's-eye view was available this morning to three roofers on top of Priest Park Church of God, 1123 Gwendolyn, as they re-roofed the church. From left are Edid Garcia, Emilio Alvarez and Rodrigo Vega.

## 76th ANNUAL PAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET AND CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Saturday, April 16 • 7:00 PM • M.K. Brown Auditorium  
Speaker... Lyndy Phillips-Humor, Illusion & Motivation Speaker  
Dinner Provided By... Dos Caballeros • Tickets... \$20 Per Person

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## Obituaries

### Services tomorrow

**McKINNEY, Guy H.** — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

#### Hilda M. Fortenberry, 76

Funeral services were held April 5, 2005, at 2 p.m. at First United Methodist Church for Hilda M. Fortenberry, 76, of Columbia, Miss. Mrs. Fortenberry died April 2, 2005, at Marion General Hospital. Visitation was held April 4, 2005, from 5-10 p.m.

The Rev. Barry Dickerson and the Rev. Jack Loflin officiated. Interment was in the Woodlawn Cemetery.

A native of Columbia, she was a curriculum coordinator and a teacher.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Delta Kappa Gamma fraternity for professional educators, Culture Club, Calleopian Club and a lifetime member of the Retired Teachers of Mississippi.

She was also a member of the First United Methodist Women's Association.

Survivors include her husband, R.E. Fortenberry Jr. of Columbia; one son, Rodney E. Fortenberry III and wife Sherri of Pampa, Texas; one brother, Marion Ray McCraine and wife Jackie of Naples, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Jareth and Colden Fortenberry of Pampa, Texas.

Pallbearers were Ken Prillhart, Cass Barnes, Charlie Strickland, Hal Kitrell, TB Waldrop and John Toney. Honorary pallbearers were the members of the Men's Sunday school class of the First United Methodist Church of Columbia.

#### Guy H. McKinney, 89

Guy H. McKinney, 89, of Pampa, died Tuesday, April 12, 2005, in Waco.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, April 15, 2005, in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites courtesy of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM.

Mr. McKinney was born on June 18, 1915, in Oklahoma. He married Nadine George on Feb. 23, 1939, in Graham. She preceded him in death on June 28, 1980.

He worked for Phillips Petroleum Company for 40 years, retiring in 1978. He

was a resident of Skellytown from 1949 until 1980. He was an avid fisherman and was a baseball fan.

He was preceded in death by a son, Raymond McKinney.

Survivors include a daughter, Mary Brown and husband Bill of Robinson, Texas; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials should be to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, 600 SW 11th Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101.

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whitley.com](http://www.carmichael-whitley.com).



McKinney

#### Robert Eugene 'Gene' Skaggs, 87

Robert Eugene "Gene" Skaggs, a former Lefors resident and instructor at Texas State Technical Institution in Amarillo, passed away on Wednesday, April 13 in Warsaw, Mo.

Born Nov. 7, 1917, in Grandfield, Okla., to the Rev. Luther and Jesse Brisindine Skaggs. He grew up in the Eakly, Okla., area and married Wheeler resident Addie Lou Jones on March 6, 1939, at Sayre, Okla.

Gene served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After graduating from Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, he was a teacher and athletic coach at Missouri and Kansas schools.

In 1957, he returned to his previous vocation of auto body repair and from 1960-1965 operated Skaggs Body Shop in Emporia, Kan. After that time, he combined his skills to head vocational school auto body repair programs.

In 1969, the couple moved to Lefors. Gene joined Texas State Technical Institute and Addie Lou was a teacher at Lefors Elementary. They were members of the First Baptist Church of Lefors.

Upon retirement in 1979, the couple moved to Warsaw, Mo. They also enjoyed the "snowbird" life, spending many winters at a second home in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

His wife Addie Lou, his parents and three brother preceded Gene in death. He is survived by one brother; two sisters; daughters, Marjorie Stotler and husband Gus of Chelsea, Ala., and Judy Duncan and husband Gary of Chillicothe, Mo.; son, Robert J. of Dallas; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services are Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at Reser Funeral Home, Warsaw, Mo.

## Weather

Today: Areas of fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a high near 72. South southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind around 15 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 75. South wind around 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 51. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

#### Wednesday, April 13

Officers conducted 38 traffic stops including one in the 300 block of East Foster which resulted in an arrest for possession of a narcotic; provided a funeral escort; provided police backup at Francis and Hobart streets; rendered EMS assistance; served, or attempted to serve, five warrants; and responded to a business alarm in the 1300 block of North Hobart St.

Billy W. Hardy, 31, 216 N. Wells, was arrested on a capias pro fine for no insurance and no inspection.

Juan Mejia, 18, 710 N. Christy, was arrested on a directive to apprehend from the Texas Youth Commission.

Clifford Eubanks, 31, 11997 Eshom Road, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Jason D. Sprows, 18, 2236 Dogwood Lane, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, assault, no registration and no driver's license.

Oaty Scott, 29, 1808 Coffee St., was arrested for hindering a secured creditor and for theft by check.

A forgery report was taken in the PD lobby.

A prowler complaint came in from the 700 block of North Banks Street.

Suspicious vehicles were reported at Montagu and Somerville streets and in the 1000 block of West Wilks St.

Suspicious person complaints were taken in the 2200 block of North Christy St., and at Montagu and Cuyler streets.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1000 block of West Kentucky Avenue, at Somerville and

Kingsmill streets, the 700 block of Kentucky Ave., the 1200 block of North Hobart St., and at Francis and Hobart streets.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 400 block of North Somerville where tools, estimated value unknown, were taken.

Burglary was reported in the 700 block of Doucette St., and in the 400 block of North Nelson St., where a microwave and lock box worth an estimated \$65 were taken.

Assault was reported in the 2100 block of North Sumner St.

Assault by threat was reported in the 600 block of North Christy St.

Forgery was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill Ave.

A vehicle accident was reported in a parking lot in the 2900 block of Perryton Parkway.

Theft was reported in the 800 block of Deane Drive, the 400 block of North Somerville St., the 400 block of East Frederic Ave., and the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway. Theft was also reported in the 900 block of Reid St., where uniforms, worth an estimated \$80, were taken.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester Ave., and in the 1100 block of Sirroco Place.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Frost.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 700 block of North Frost, and from the 1000 block of Prairie.

Taylor Mart #5136, 1340 N. Hobart St., reported a gas drive off. Gas valued at \$44.91 was taken.

A narcotic drug law violation was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill Avenue.

Found property was reported in the 1300 block of Christine.

**Thursday, April 14**  
An assault with bodily injury was reported in the 400 block of North Nelson. Minor injuries were reported.

### Fire

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

**Wednesday, April 13**  
9:23 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to the 500 block of Montagu on a call for medical assistance.

### Ambulance

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

**Wednesday, April 13**  
8:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 200 block of Anne and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:26 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 500 block of Montagu and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

12:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

1:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to a residence.

4:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2500 block of Aspen. No transport.

## District

Continued from Page 1

Willoughby had told Bagley in a March 4 appraisal district board meeting that he had a number of questions concerning the Celanese valuation. Bagley had asked Willoughby to put the questions in writing.

"He responded to my written questions with written answers. I'm satisfied with those answers, and I feel now we can move forward," Willoughby said after this morning's meeting.

"We all agreed that communication is the problem with this issue. That's one part I feel responsible for — not keeping everybody informed (concerning the tax property valuation of Celanese)," Bagley said after today's meeting.

"I think we've resolved most of the

issues. We have made some changes in our communication with taxing entities and so forth," Bagley said.

"I answered the questions in writing and presented the written answers in the executive meeting," he said.

"I think we have an understanding. I think we can move forward now with a few changes of the board," Willoughby said.

One change in the appraisal district board may be to hold regular monthly meetings. The proposal for regularly scheduled meetings is on the agenda for the board's next meeting.

At the beginning of today's meeting, which started at 7:30 a.m., board member Darville Orr said he had to leave by 8:30 a.m. Board member Wallace Birkes said he had to leave by 8:15 a.m.

In other business, Ashlee Orand, a Gray County Appraisal District employee, was appointed records management officer.

## Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		Pioneer Nat ...			
Wheat	2.93	Cabot Corp	31.45	-0.05	43.27	+1.39	
Milo	3.13	Cabot Oil Gas	33.89	+0.79	JCP	47.81	-0.15
Corn	3.68	Coca Cola	42.42	+0.32	COP	104.73	-0.57
Soybeans	5.47	VLO	72.71	-0.35	SLB	68.85	-0.15
		HAL	42.53	-0.23	Tenneco	12.39	-0.11
		TRL	51.93	+0.16	CVX	54.01	-0.26
		KMI	74.11	-0.01	Wal-Mart	48.30	-0.27
		XCEL	17.17	-0.09	OKE	29.80	-0.25
		Kerr McGee	80.21	+6.24	NS Grp	30.40	-0.39
		XOM	58.95	-0.20			
		Limited	23.27	-0.06			
		Williams	17.70	-0.12			
		OXY	68.68	+0.10			
		MCD	31.09	-0.13			
		BP PLC ADR	60.70	-0.56			
		Atmos	27.26	+0.07			
					New York Gold	429.04	
					Silver	7.19	
					West Texas Crude	50.22	

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**YARD SALE** 927 Love St. (Behind Doug Boyd's) Fri 9-7 CD's, clothes, nick-nacs, shoe's, comforters, gerbils.

## Rudolph

Continued from Page 1

otherwise they are legitimate targets in the war to end this holocaust."

In the Atlanta courtroom, he sat stone-faced and answered questions calmly and politely. But in Birmingham, he winked toward prosecutors as he entered court, said the government could "just barely" prove its case, and admitted his guilt with a hint of pride in his voice.

Emily Lyons, who lost an eye — and nearly her life — in the Birmingham clinic attack, wept and said she was almost physically ill as she watched in court from her front-row seat.

# TCE: Good nutrition important for cattle this time of year

By **STEPHANIE JETER**  
Texas A&M News

COLLEGE STATION — Beef cattle breeding season will begin soon. That means cattle should be receiving adequate nutrition, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

Although cattle are reproductively active throughout the year, spring is "ideal calving season" for most of Texas, said Dr. Joe Paschal of Corpus Christi, Extension livestock specialist.

With 13.8 million head, Texas ranks as the leading state for cattle and calves, according to the National Ag Statistics Service. About 70 percent to 75 percent are born during the spring.

Spring is the best calving time because more forage is available.

"[Forage] provides adequate nutrition to the cow and her calf through the milk," Paschal said.

To calve during the spring a cow must be bred about nine and a half months earlier, said Paschal.

The abundance of spring-born calves can affect the following fall market when the calves are weaned, Paschal said. "Early in September, the market raises as the demand for feeder calves increases. Then sometime in October, the demand is overwhelmed by the supply and prices begin to slip," he said.

Calves are born all year, but Dr. Bruce Carpenter of Fort Stockton, Extension livestock specialist, said the rule of thumb for almost all of Texas is "do not calve in the summer: too hot, too stressful." The exception is Far West Texas where summer rain and cool nights are normal.

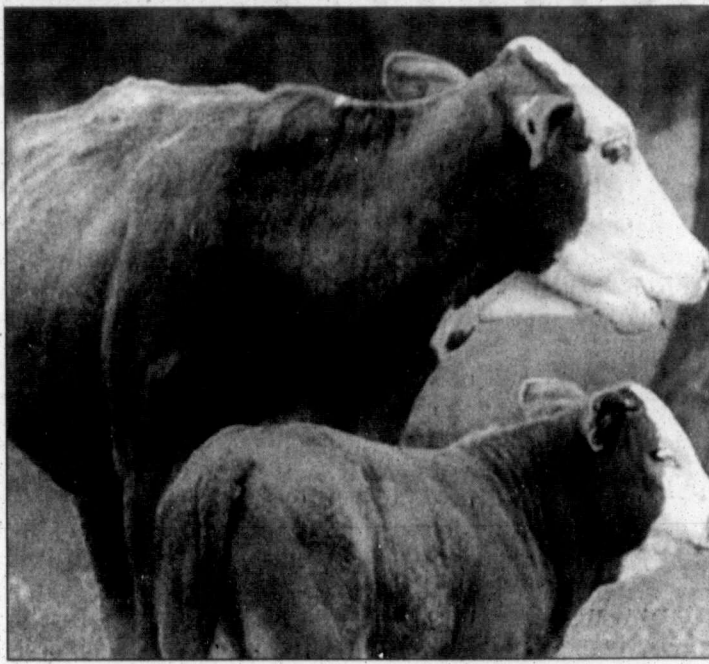
"The key is to have cows enter the calving season in good body condition; no ribs showing," Carpenter said. "After [the cow] has had a baby, it is usually too late to change her condition with supplemental feed."

According to the Texas A&M University department of animal science Web site, <http://animalscience.tamu.edu>, body condition is a system used to judge a cow's nutritional condition. It is scored using a nine-point scale with one being very thin and nine being extremely fat.

"Basically, body condition is just gauging the level of fatness," Paschal said.

Body condition is also a factor to successful breeding.

"Cows that are in poor condition either at calving or breeding, do not have estrous cycles and the vast majority do not breed back,"



(Texas Cooperative Extension photo by ROBERT BURNS)

With 13.8 million head, Texas ranks as the leading state for cattle and calves, according to the National Ag Statistics Service. About 70 percent to 75 percent are born during the spring.

Carpenter said. "If they do, they breed back late, becoming late calvers, placing them at risk next year for breeding failure."

Cows to be bred should have a body condition of at least five, Paschal said, which means moderate condition. Heifers to be bred should have a body condition of at least six, or moderate to good body condition.

Technology has introduced other breeding options, such as artificial insemination and embryo transfer. However, these methods aren't beneficial for all cattle operations.

"Artificial insemination and embryo transfer are tools," Carpenter said. "Like any tool, each is right for some jobs and not others."

Both offer ways to access high to very high quality genetics, he said, but not without cost.

Before using one of these methods, Carpenter said, producers should ask themselves two things, "One: what their market is, can it be recouped? Two: what their management capabilities are."

Each method will fail if cows aren't under good management, he said.

Cattle producers in the Coastal Bend are working fall calving cows, according to Darrell Dromgoole, district Extension administrator in Corpus Christi.

Calves in the Rolling Plains weighed heavier than normal at spring branding, said Galen Chandler, district Extension administrator in Vernon.

Cattle markets are strong in West Central Texas, said Scott Durham, district Extension administrator in San Angelo.

The following livestock, crop and weather conditions

were reported by Extension districts.

**PANHANDLE:** Soil moisture is adequate to surplus. Temperatures were variable. Rain and snow were reported. Wheat is rated fair to excellent. Light Russian wheat aphid and greenbug infestations continue to be reported.

Economic infestations of alfalfa weevil were reported in the southeast Panhandle. Many fields have been treated with insecticide. Corn planting is expected to increase in the next few weeks.

Rangeland grasses continued green up. Cattle were rated fair to good. Supplemental feeding continued at a reduced rate.

**SOUTH PLAINS:** Soil moisture is adequate. Temperatures fluctuated widely. High winds hampered herbicide application. Cotton ginning continued.

Land preparation contin-

ued. Winter wheat is in good condition and is progressing well. Pastures and rangelands were rated fair to good. Cattle are in good condition. Some supplemental feeding continued.

**ROLLING PLAINS:** Soil moisture is adequate. Strong winds were reported. Land preparation for cotton and peanut planting was reported.

Most cattle were removed from fields for grain harvest. Native rangeland grasses have greened up and will

continue to do so with rain. Livestock were in good condition. Calves weighed heavy at spring branding. Producers project shipping to start by June if conditions hold and yearlings keep growing.

Horse breeding is under way. Spring weeds appeared in landscapes and lawns. Control measures are needed. Leaf rust was reported in wheat fields. Dairy producers are gearing up for a good silage crop. Moisture will bring dark green color to wheat.

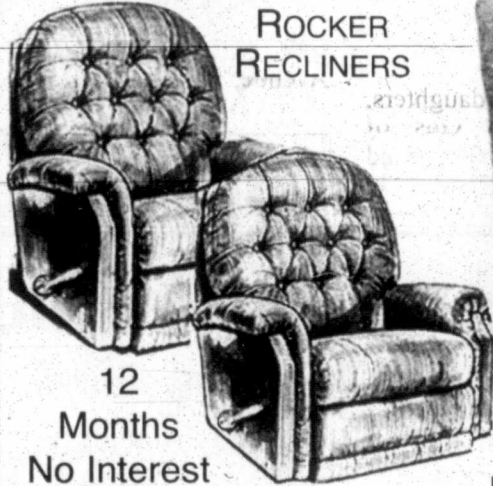
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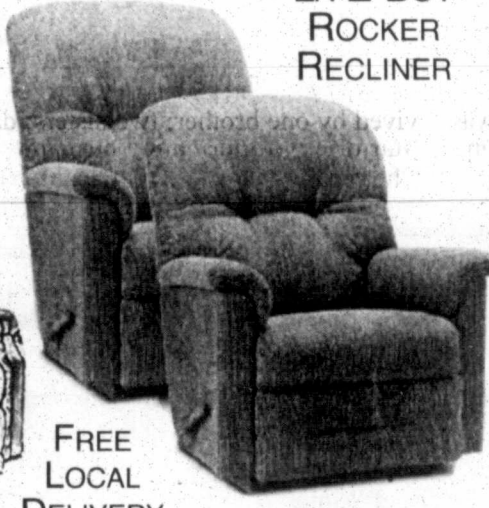
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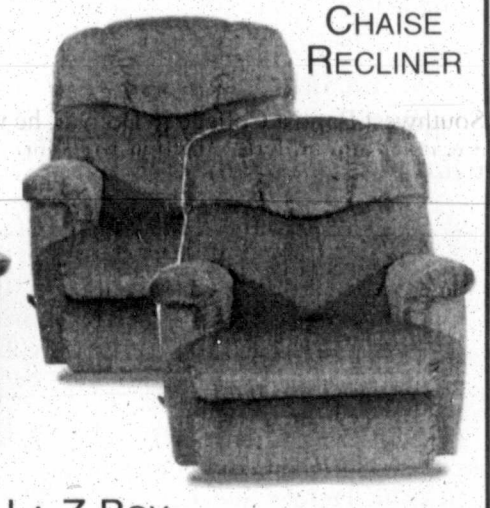
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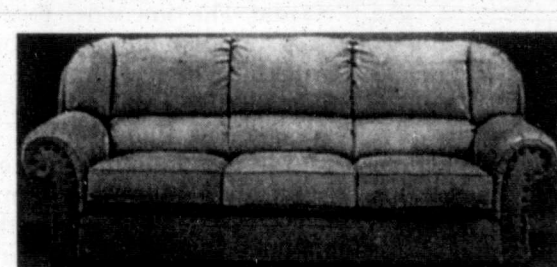
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### Girl Scouts



Girl Scout Brownie Troop 232 and Junior Troop 245 recently held a slumber party at First United Methodist Church of Pampa. The girls, parents and troop leaders worked on tie-dye T-shirts and craft bags to take to Girl Scout Day recently in Amarillo. In attendance were Brownie Scouts Kristina Brown, Kenzie Griffin, Kelsey Henry, Elizabeth Longoria, Cassidy Ramming and sister Brooke, Savannah Ray, Avery Malone, Tori Robles, Natalie Rodriguez, Maddie Taylor and brother Mason, Sammantha VanHouten and Jasmine Villarreal. Junior Scouts present were Miranda Beedy, Tiffany Britten, Mary Jo Collier, Christina DiTirro, Tammy DuBose and sister Chrissi, Elizabeth Willis-Fagg, Chelsie Griffin, Jennifer Hendrick, and Destiny Kobernick and sister Savannah. Parents helping with the party included Stacey Whitehead, Melissa Ketchum, Jeanine Malone, Lanora Ripple, Charlotte DuBose, Michelle Hendrick, LaNona Kobernick and Cherri VanHouten. Co-leaders Lynn DiTirro and LeAnn Griffin said that everyone there had a great time.

*Texas*

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# Viewpoints

## Citizens Against Government Waste releases oink report

This week during an excursion to cyberspace, I found myself at a familiar (though recently neglected) set of 'Net coordinates. For the first time in several months, I logged onto the homepage of Citizens Against Government Waste, where a particularly indignant headline — "2005 Pig Book" Exposes Record \$27.3 Billion in Pork!" — practically squealed off the computer screen.

To those of you unfamiliar with CAGW, it is described, by its own press at least, as "the nation's largest nonpartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in government."

Besides touting its 2005 "pork" review, CAGW now has that sacred cow of the federal government, Head Start, firmly in its crosshairs.

"Some of the most alarming (Head Start) cases," reports CAGW, "include: the indictment of both a Maryland Head Start director on charges that she stole \$335,777 and a South Dakota woman for embezzling \$185,000 from a Head Start service provider; and a New Mexico program suspected of defrauding the program of \$526,000."

While the fraud case was still up in the air, CAGW reports, the New Mexico program received an additional \$2 million in funding.

"When Head Start was up for reauthorization two years ago," the web site quotes its president, Tom Schatz, as saying, "the administration proposed handing over control to the states in an attempt to straighten out the mess that federal bureaucrats had made of the program. But members of Congress predictably resorted to 'the sky is falling' antics, claiming the reorganization would dismantle the program. Consequently, this important program is still rancid

**Skyla Bryant**  
News Editor



with waste, fraud and abuse typical of so many oversized bureaucratic machines." Well said and bravo to Mr. Schatz and the folks at CAGW. The site further reported that Windy Hill, the current federal administrator of the program, is suspected of mismanaging some \$140,000 and "improperly receiv(ing) \$30,000 in bonuses and perquisites" while she was head of Head Start in Texas. According to CAGW, Head Start is currently a \$7 billion program. As for its "2005

Congressional Pig Book," CAGW lifts the following examples of government spending run amok:

- \$10,000,000 for the International Fund for Ireland;
- \$3,000,000 for the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation;
- \$1.7 million for the International Fertilizer Development Center;
- \$1,430,000 for various Halls of Fame, including \$250,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn., and \$70,000 for the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in Appleton, Wis.;
- \$350,000 for the Inner Harmony Foundation and Wellness Center in

- Scranton, Penn.;
- \$100,000 for the Tiger Woods Foundation; and
- \$100,000 for the Bach to School Program."

CAGW says appropriations are up in fiscal year 2005, 31 percent over last year, which saw a total of 10,656 appropriations projects compared to 13,997 for FY 2005.

"Despite a record \$427 billion deficit predicted for fiscal 2005," Schatz said, "members of Congress are engaging in the worst form of blatant self-interest; larding the budget with pork for home districts and states."

To find out more, check out CAGW's pork report at [www.cagw.org](http://www.cagw.org).

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 14, the 104th day of 2005. There are 261 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington. (Lincoln died the following morning.)

On this date:

In 1759, composer George Frideric Handel died in London.

*"History repeats itself" and "History never repeats itself" are about equally true*

*... We never know enough about the infinitely complex circumstances of any past event to prophesy the future by analogy.*

— George Macaulay Trevelyan  
English historian (1876-1962)

In 1775, the first American society for the abolition of slavery was organized by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush.

In 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" was published.

In 1902, James Cash Penney opened his first store, called "The Golden Rule," in Kemmerer, Wyo.

In 1912, the British liner Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North

Atlantic and began sinking.

In 1931, King Alfonso XIII of Spain went into exile, and the Spanish Republic was proclaimed.

In 1939, the John Steinbeck novel "The Grapes of Wrath" was first published.

In 1981, the first test flight of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1986, Americans got first word of a U.S. air raid on Libya (because of the time difference, it was the early morning of April 15 when the attack occurred.)

In 1994, two American F-15 warplanes inadvertently shot down two U.S. helicopters over northern Iraq, killing 26 people, including 15 Americans.

Ten years ago: The U.N. Security Council gave permission to Iraq, still under sanctions for its invasion of Kuwait, to sell \$2 billion worth of oil to buy food, medicine and other supplies (however, Iraq rejected the offer). Actor-singer Burl Ives died in Anacortes, Wash., at age 85.

Five years ago: On Wall Street, stocks plummeted in heavy trading, with the Dow industrials down 617 points and the Nasdaq composite index falling 355 points, capping one of the worst weeks ever for U.S. stocks. In Washington, protesters dumped manure on Pennsylvania Avenue, seeking to disrupt meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

I THOUGHT BLOWING UP GAYS, JEWS AND CLINICS WAS A CAUSE YOU WERE WILLING TO DIE FOR?

ACTUALLY, IT'S A CAUSE I'M WILLING FOR YOU TO DIE FOR.



## TAKS = Test Anxiety Knots Stomachs

People have many phobias. There's a phobia of the dark, the light, food ... even bearded men! But walk into the junior high this time of year, and the tension of TAKS-phobia could cut you in half.

Yes, it's that time of year again. The time when teachers pile on the homework and tell you it will all be on the test. The time when you can either find kids up at midnight cramming their brains with useless information that isn't even on the test or avoiding everything that even has to do with the word "TAKS."

Many students at my school suffer from terrible cases of test anxiety. When taking pop quizzes, they seem to be fine, but if they are taking a test as major as the TAKS, you can hear people complaining about their stomachs being tied up

in knots, and their hands turning ice cold.

The majority of the time, students calm down, but I can definitely relate to the worry of failing and being stuck in 8th grade for the rest of our lives! But every year that I take the TAKS, I come to realize that it really isn't as hard as people make it out to be.

Sure, you should still prepare for it, but I still think that teachers make it seem a lot harder than it actually is so that students will take it seriously. It is a serious test, but anxiety will only make you tired and cranky while you're taking it (trust me, I know).

So what should you do to

make yourself less nervous? How can you make the butterflies in your stomach slow down for a while? Here is just a little advice to help you:

1. Eat a good breakfast and GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP! As cheesy as it sounds, your teachers are right. Taking the test on a full stomach is much easier than having to listen to that grumble and complain. Also, the thought of food won't distract you from concentrating on the questions. And it won't kill you to go to bed a little earlier the night before the test. Staying up late will only make you want to fall asleep during the TAKS, which in itself isn't the most

entertaining thing in the world.

2. Be prepared. The night before, go over your notes from each of the classes you'll be testing over. Also, bring a bottle of water or a coke if your teachers allow it. Taking a break every now and then for a sip is okay, just don't spill it on the test. Most teachers supply you with a pencil to use, but in case it breaks have an extra one ready.

3. Breathe. It will be okay if you miss a few questions! Just calm down and tell yourself that you can do this. Have confidence, and remember that it will all be over soon enough. You've worked hard all year long just to take this test, and I think that you will find it isn't as difficult and earth-shattering as you're making it out to be.

**Chandler Talley**  
PJHS 8th grader



## Refinery accidents need outside investigation

When disaster strikes Texas petrochemical facilities, outside investigators need greater authority and speedy access to the scene.

When things go terribly wrong in an industrial facility and people die, in most states local police and state and federal investigators quickly take control of the scene and perform essential public safety and fact-finding duties. As the explosion at British Petroleum's Texas City refinery that killed 15 workers last month illustrated, it doesn't work that way in the Lone Star State. Plant owners are accorded wide leeway in controlling access to facilities.

As Chronicle business columnist Loren Steffy

points out, for eight days after the March 23 explosion BP had almost exclusive control of the blast location. Company officials have thus far provided little information to the media concerning safety procedures in effect at the time of the blast.

Contrary to guidelines, workers were allowed to conduct a routine staff meeting in a flimsy temporary building next to an isomerization unit undergoing a risky start-up procedure. Even assuming the best intentions by the plant operators, standard police proce-

dures would not allow the party at legal risk for an accident to maintain unfettered control of the evidence.

A team of Chronicle reporters found that other states use various enforcement agencies to take control of an accident scene and conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the mishap. In Louisiana, the state police do the job. In California, state occupational safety officers conduct the probe. In Pennsylvania, fire marshals and state troopers enter and secure the accident site.

Because of the evolution of the massive petrochemical complex on the Texas Gulf Coast and the relative lack of expertise in dealing with hazardous chemicals by local police, plant operators have been accorded near-autonomy in the handling of accidents. The BP explosion and aftermath indicate that arrangement is now outdated. Law enforcement and environmental agencies need to formulate new procedures for securing disaster scenes and ensuring that evidence is gathered in a timely and impartial manner.

Local police officers may not have the equipment or expertise to safely enter a

See ACCIDENTS, Page 5

### THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Red Hats



The Red Hat Dollies recently visited Meredith House in Pampa. Above: Vivian Dykes, Laverne Corcoran (guest), Helene Baumgardner, Emilie Schneider, Rita Geiger, Betty Buckingham and administrator of Meredith House, Teresa Wade.

Community Camera photo by SHIRLEY NICHOLSON

## Calendar items

• **Amarillo Panhellenic** will host a Rush Information Meeting starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24, in the Parish Hall of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 4100 S. Coulter, Amarillo. Enter through the north, green canopied entrance. All high school senior women interested in Rush should attend the meeting to receive important information on Rush packets and deadlines. For more information, call Sandy at (806) 359-6706.

• **Donley County Extension** will host its seventh annual Health and Wealth Fair April 28 at Bairfield Building on the Clarendon College campus in Clarendon. For more information or to register a booth, call (806) 874-2141.

• **Ten free trees will be given** to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation throughout this month. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The 10 trees are the Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Weeping Willow, Green Ash, Thornless Honeylocust, Pin Oak, River Birch, Tuliptree, Silver Maple and Red

Maple. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between April or May with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, "Arbor Day" and "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Free Shade Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 30. For more information, check out the foundation's web site at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) on the Internet.

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## Holocaust

### Federal judge ruling goes against Swiss bank

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has approved a \$21.9 million award to heirs of two wealthy families victimized by the Holocaust, more than 65 years after a Swiss bank passed their fortune to the Nazis.

The award was by far the largest single claim paid thus far in a case against Swiss banks accused of betraying their Holocaust-era clients to gain favor with the Nazis. Lawyers said the previous high for an award was about \$4 million.

U.S. District Judge Edward R. Korman in New York City approved the payment based on the recommendation of a court-appointed tribunal that disburses funds set aside under a settlement between Holocaust survivors and the banks.

In a report dated Wednesday, the tribunal called the award "unique in its size" and "a striking example of the widespread betrayal of Jewish clients by the Swiss banks."

Holocaust survivors and their families sued Credit Suisse Group, UBS

AG and other Swiss banks, accusing them of stealing, concealing or sending to the Nazis hundreds of millions of dollars worth of Jewish holdings and destroying bank records to cover the paper trail. In 1998, Korman approved a \$1.25 billion settlement and appointed the tribunal to process thousands of claims.

The \$21.9 million award stems from a claim by Holocaust survivor Maria Altmann, 89, of Los Angeles, and about two dozen unnamed heirs of Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer and Otto Pick, both major shareholders in a large sugar refinery in Austria before World War II.

Altmann — Bloch-Bauer's niece — "is very gratified," said her attorney, E. Randol Schoenberg. "It's a very generous award."

In 1938, with Austria on the brink of a Nazi takeover, Bloch-Bauer, Pick and their families sought to protect their interest in the refinery by transferring their shares to a bank in Zurich. The bank guaranteed the shares

would not be sold without the families' consent. But after family members were arrested or fled the country, the banks bowed to pressure to transfer the shares to a German investor in a Nazi campaign to "Aryanize" Jewish-owned businesses, the tribunal report said.

The case demonstrated that "having marketed themselves to the Jews of Europe as a safe haven for their property, Swiss banks repeatedly turned Jewish-owned property over to the Nazis in order to curry favor with them," the tribunal wrote.

No records of the Jewish shareholders' deal with the bank were found in its files. Instead, the tribunal relied solely on documents provided by the heirs and independent archives.

"There was no record of this, which is significant because we've been suspicious all along that the banks destroyed an enormous amount of information," said attorney Burt Neuborne, a court-appointed representative for survivors worldwide.

### Columbia River spring salmon reported at historic low

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Usually by now, the Columbia River's spring chinook salmon are heading upstream over fish ladders in the tens of thousands to spawn. Not this year.

Fish biologists had predicted a spring run of about 229,000 chinooks at the Bonneville Dam, about 140 miles from the Pacific Ocean. As of Tuesday, near the customary midpoint of the spring run, only about

200 had been counted there.

"It's a never-before-seen scarcity," said Charles Hudson of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

It's so bad that the Indian tribes on the river had to get salmon somewhere else for their ceremonial celebration marking the return of the fish.

The chinooks enter the Columbia River from the Pacific at this time of year to

return to the streams where they were hatched two or three years before. There, they spawn and die.

Scientists say they don't have an explanation for the scarcity.

"Nobody knows why," said Brian Gorman of the Pacific Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle. "It's a mystery."

Gorman also described the run as "mysteriously late."

Most of this year's spring run went to sea in 2002 or 2003, said Norman, adding there were no conditions in those years that would readily explain the dearth of fish this spring.

Some fish managers wonder whether low water levels as a result of a dry winter — combined with murky water caused by recent rains — are keeping chinook from swimming up the Columbia.

## Accidents

Continued from Page 4

chemical plant that might be leaking poisonous fumes. However, some designated Texas law enforcement agency with disaster training and a hazardous materials unit should have the clear authority to do so with the required assistance of the plant operators. Accident investigators should be on site to secure evidence much sooner than the weeklong delay that occurred at the Texas City refinery scene.

Refinery operators might be doing the best job possible and their concern for proper procedures and worker safety high. Nevertheless, when a mishap occurs, outside regulators must take the lead in determining what happened and how to prevent it from occurring again. They can't do that if they're not there while the evidence is still warm.



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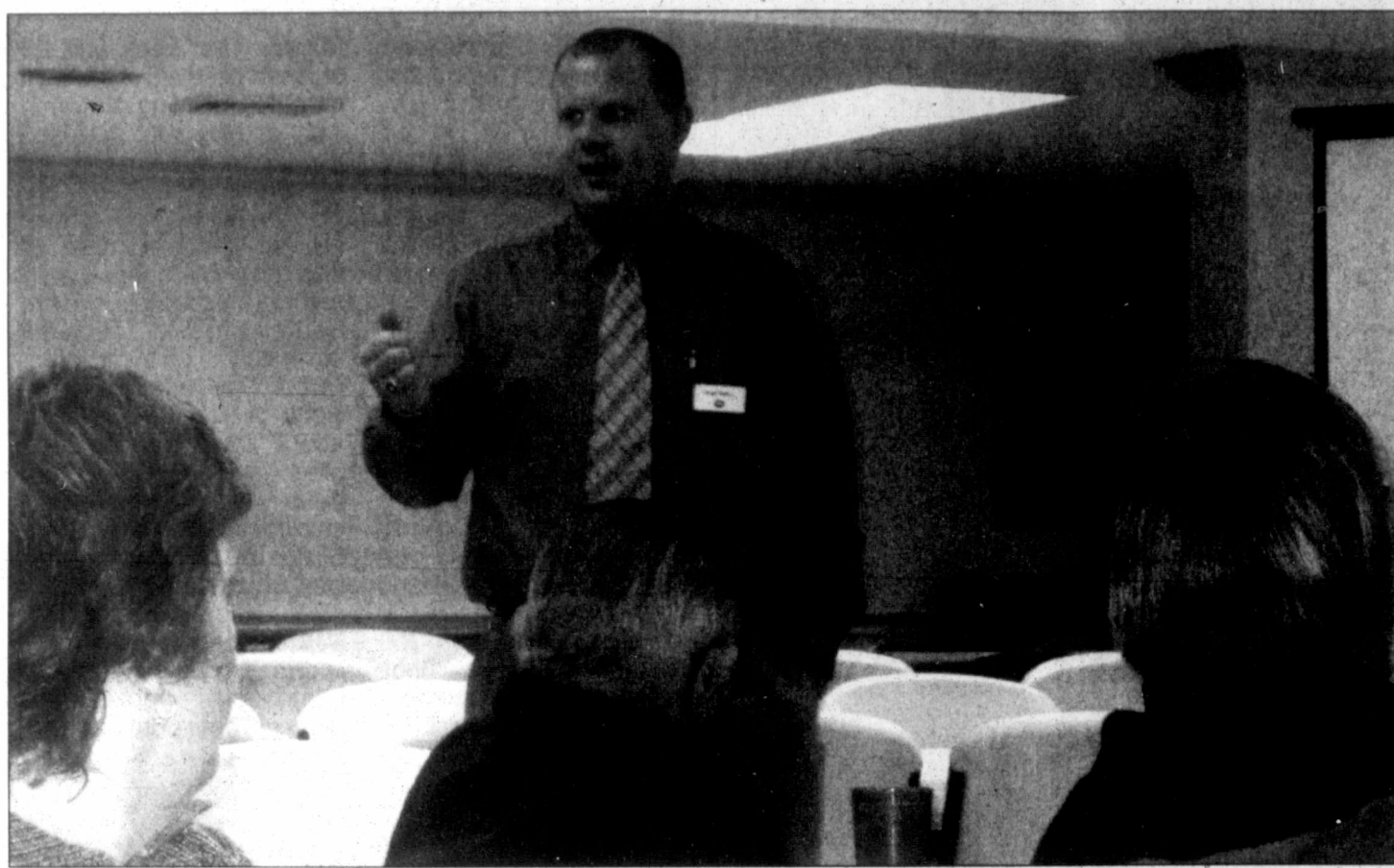
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Lions Club



Ryan Parnell, Pfizer sales representative, address a recent Lions Club meeting in Pampa. Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS

Thornberry's office to host upcoming Academy Forum

AMARILLO — U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry's Amarillo office will host an Academy Forum from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, Saturday, April 16 at Amarillo Southwest Branch Library in Amarillo to provide information to interested students and their parents about attending the United States service academies.

Representatives from West Point, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and the Air Force ROTC will give presentations and answer questions. Staff members from Thornberry's office will also be on hand to explain the application process.

The Forum is designed for potential nominees in their junior or senior year of high school, but all students, parents, and counselors are invited to attend. This is the seventh year Thornberry has hosted Academy Forums.

"Graduates of the service academies are essential to the continued strength of our Armed Services. As we fight terror at home and abroad, we must remember that the officers produced by the academies will be the future leaders of our troops. This is one of the reasons I consider nominating young people to service academies a very important part of my job," Thornberry said.

As a member of Congress, Thornberry is allowed to nominate a limited number of students for each service academy.

Applications for nomination must be submitted to Thornberry's office by Dec. 1 of a student's senior year.

After reviewing Congressional nominations, final selections and offers of acceptance are made by the service academies. Nominees who are accepted by the academies receive their education for free. In return, they agree to serve in the military for a minimum of five years after graduation.

Gaza settlers appoint lawyers as negotiators

NEVE DEKALIM, Gaza Strip (AP) — Gaza Strip settlers have appointed a team of lawyers to negotiate with the government about moving the settlers as a group to the coastal area of Nitzanim in southern Israel.

*'They are an independent group of ... lawyers, who decided to fight for us so that we can continue our ideological struggle.'*

— Eran Sternberg  
Gaza settler spokesman

Last week, representatives of the 8,500 Gaza settlers met with Sharon and floated the idea of moving together to Nitzanim, five miles north of the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon.

Eran Sternberg, a Gaza settler spokesman, said the settlers would continue a nonviolent

struggle against the evacuation from the area this summer, settler leaders said Thursday, the strongest sign yet that they are coming to terms with the upcoming pullout.

In another indication the plan is moving forward, a government spokesman said the first compensation payments to uprooted settlers have gone out after months of delays.

The army is also pushing ahead with pullout preparations, making plans to build three new roads in Gaza to aid with the evacuation of the settlers, military officials said on condition of anonymity.

Since Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced his plan to withdraw from all the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements last year, settlers have vowed to fight to resist the plan. But since Sharon won final parliamentary approval last month, the settlers have begun to show flexibility.

Wednesday's decision to appoint a negotiating team was the latest sign that the ideological battle is weakening. The decision, which came after a stormy, five-hour session of the Gaza

struggle against the evacuation but that the lawyers are needed to protect the settlers' interests if the withdrawal takes place.

"They are an independent group of ... lawyers, who decided to fight for us so that we can continue our ideological struggle," Sternberg said.

Haim Altman, spokesman for the government agency overseeing compensation, said a number of applications were processed and the first checks went out last week.

Settlers received 75 percent of their total compensation, with the remainder to be paid after they leave their homes, he said. Some families have indicated they will move at the end of the school year in June, weeks before the withdrawal is scheduled to begin, he said.

The government had planned on paying the advances months ago, but the money was held up amid the continuing parliamentary opposition to the plan. Last month, Sharon cleared the final hurdle when lawmakers approved his 2005 budget.

French government okays euthanasia law

PARIS (AP) — French lawmakers approved a law that would allow the terminally ill to refuse treatment but stopped short of legalizing euthanasia.

The law was spurred by the death of a man who had begged President Jacques Chirac for the right to die after a traffic accident left him deaf, mute and paralyzed.

Vincent Humbert, 22, died in September 2003 after his mother allegedly gave him a deadly dose of sedatives that induced a coma, and doctors then cut his life support.

The Senate quietly approved the law Wednesday without amending a text unanimously endorsed by the lower house

in November. Parliament had sought a middle ground between euthanasia and the current situation in France, where doctors risk prosecution for helping patients die.

"The ban on giving death remains," said Health Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy. "Allowing death is not the same as giving death."

The new law will enable the terminally ill or those with no hope of recovery to refuse treatment in favor of death. Doctors will be allowed to administer painkillers even if their secondary effects include shortening patients' lives. But the law does not allow mercy killings.

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Local UPS Store planning a special 'tax-break party'

The UPS Store planning special tax-break party With the tax deadline looming, many filers are now down to the wire. Fortunately, The UPS Store, 1538 N. Hobart, is available to help filers get their tax returns to the IRS with a little less stress this year.

To make this traditionally "taxing" task more bearable, the center is hosting a tax-break party April 15. The event will include refreshments, favors and prize drawings.

The UPS Store will make a copy of your tax return at no charge (limit 10 pages) and will even pay the USPS postage for you when you mail your return at the store between April 11 and 15.

Many people don't realize they can even ship federal tax returns via UPS and track them all the way to Uncle Sam.

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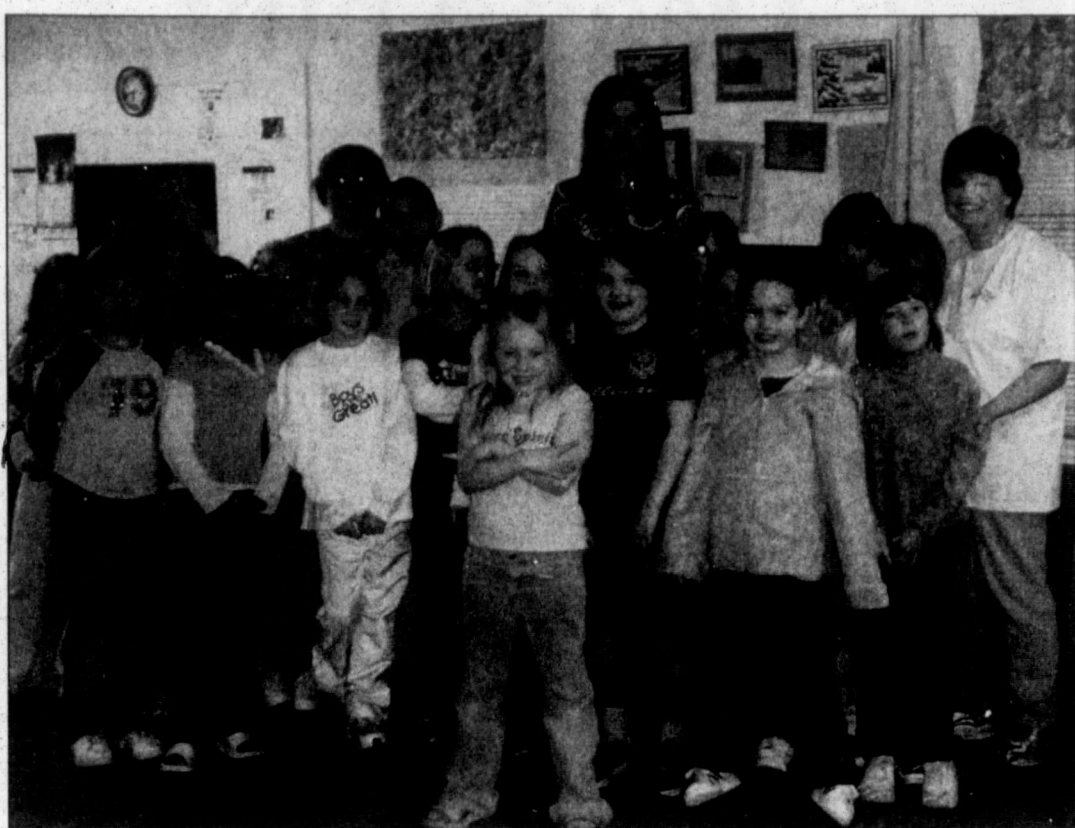
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## Girl Scout Troop 514



Girl Scout Troop 514 recently donated money from their cookie sales to benefit Taylor Smith who has been diagnosed with cancer. Above: Mayce Wheat, Daniela Vizcaino, Taylor Smith, Lauren McCollum, Megan McCollum, Kaylee Suttle, Mackenzie Parks, Savannah Kobernick, Brianna Hennig, Chrissi DuBose, Nikki Dabbs, Shay Shook, Susie Joiner, Brittane Hennig, Madison, Lacey Dodson, LaGayla Wheat, Erin Parr, Iris Pepi, Nikki Anderson, Ashlee Keith and Denise Dodson.



Jana Gregory recently accepted a donation on behalf of the American Red Cross from Girl Scout Troop 514 for the tsunami relief effort. Above: Nikki D. Brittane, Chrissi, LaGayla Wheat, leader, Iris, Brianna, Jana Gregory, local Red Cross representative, Nikki A., Ashlee, Denise Dodson, leader, Mayce, Danielle, Erin, Susie, Shay, Lauren, Megan, Mackenzie, Kaylee, Lacey and Savannah.

## Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa to host style show

Altrusa members are busy planning their Annual Style Show, which will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 23, in the Heritage Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium.

The theme, organizers say, for this year's event is "Swing into Spring" and will be reflected in the decorations. The style show is the club's major yearly fund-raiser.

Proceeds go towards various Altrusa community service projects including Pampa Senior Citizens, PHS and Pampa Learning Center Career Clinics, Tralee Crisis Center, Sheltered Workshop Reception, Adult Vocational Award, Senior Citizens Center, Schneider House, Salvation Army Angel Tree, and "Make a Difference Day" (Literacy Project).

In addition to the above projects, Altrusa members volunteer for Meals on Wheels, Celebration of Lights and Salvation Army Christmas Wrapping.

Models will be showing spring and summer fashions from local stores including Bealls, Dunlaps, V.J.'s Fashions, Bob Clement's Cleaners, Waynes Western Wear, and Wal Mart. Musical entertainment and refreshments will be furnished and approximately 15 door prizes awarded.

An added feature will be a raffle for a "Gift Basket" with proceeds being donated to the Medical Center League House project.

Tickets may be purchased from any Altrusa member or at the door for \$12 (\$10 tax deductible).

## Mother of Jackson accuser testifies

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — During more than four hours of jumbled and tearful testimony, the mother of Michael Jackson's teenage accuser said she originally trusted the singer to protect her family from unidentified "killers," but later decided Jackson was the one to fear.

The woman took the witness stand Wednesday after Judge Rodney S. Melville allowed her to testify despite her refusal to discuss alleged welfare fraud — an issue on which the defense had hoped to attack her credibility. She invoked the Fifth Amendment to avoid questions about it.

Looking directly at the jury, the woman once punctuated her words by snapping her fingers and later affected the German accent of a Jackson associate. At other times she glanced at Jackson, who sat motionless at the defense table.

Jackson, 46, is accused of

molesting a 13-year-old former cancer patient, plying the boy with alcohol, and holding his family captive in February and March 2003 to get them to help rebut a damaging documentary.

The boy's mother said following the broadcast of the documentary showing Jackson and her children, the pop star convinced her in a "love-dovey speech" that her children were in danger, that there were "killers" after them, and that he was the only one who could protect them.

"I thought, 'What a nice guy,'" she said.

She said Jackson spoke to her family "in a very male voice" in a Miami hotel room, and told them "that he loves us, that he cares about us, we're family. ... That we were in the back of the line, now we're in the front of the line, that he's going to protect us from those killers."

Later she said of Jackson and his associates: "And you

know what? They ended up being the killers."

She also testified that she saw Jackson lick her son's head during a February 2003 flight from Miami to California on a private jet. Asked about the event, she turned to jurors and pleaded, "Please don't judge me."

"Everyone was asleep. I had not slept for so long," she said. "I got up. I figured this was my chance to figure out what was going on back there. And that's when I saw Michael licking (the boy's) head."

She sobbed, pounded her chest and said, "I thought I was seeing things. I thought it was me."

Jurors were in a jovial mood as they returned from a break after the testimony. Several were smiling or laughing, and an alternate stuck his tongue out at a juror as he passed her on the way to his seat. There was no way of knowing the nature of their jokes.

## Oregon high court poised to rule on licenses for same-sex unions

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Even with the Oregon Supreme Court poised to rule on the validity of 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples last year, the governor said he isn't waiting.

On Wednesday, Democratic Gov. Ted Kulongoski said he will push for a law allowing gay couples in Oregon to form civil unions that would give them many of the rights available to married couples.

The move comes while the state's highest court posted on its Web site its plan to rule Thursday on marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples last year in Multnomah County.

Members of the Legislature have been awaiting the ruling to give them guidance on how to proceed on the issue of same-sex couples. Last November, Oregon voters approved a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

Vermont is the first and still the only state to offer civil unions to gays, passing a law in

2000. Massachusetts has allowed gay marriage since May.

Kulongoski's backing of a civil unions law expands on his announcement in January that he would support legislation extending anti-discrimination protections to gays.

"As I stated in January, we face a great moral challenge to make sure opportunity is an open door through which every citizen can pass — not a revolving door which turns for some and doesn't budge for others," he said.

Tim Nashif, head of the Oregon Family Council and the Defense of Marriage Coalition, said he's hoping the court will simply invalidate the 3,000 marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in Multnomah County.

Any other action, such as endorsing a civil unions law, would be "pretty hard to swallow" in view of voters' approval of a gay marriage ban, Nashif said.



### NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN ENVIRONS GAS RATES

On February 25, 2005, Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or the "Company") filed a Statement of Intent with the Railroad Commission of Texas (the "Commission") to increase its gas rates in the unincorporated area ("Environs") surrounding the Cities of West Texas Service Area (the "Cities"). This proposed increase in gas rates will apply to customers residing inside the city limits of the West Texas Service Area.

In its filing, the Company proposes to change its Environs base rates and service charge tariffs to the same level as those current rates previously approved by the Cities for customers inside the city limits. The service charge rates have been in effect inside the city limits since April 10, 2003 and the base rates have been in effect inside the city limits since May 1, 2004. The Company proposes to change the Environs rates effective April 1, 2005. The Commission may suspend the proposed effective date for up to 150 days.

The proposed changes will affect all classes of Environs tariff customers, including Residential, Commercial, Industrial, State Institution, and Public Authority customers. The Company's Air Conditioning Customers, who currently take service under a separate tariff, will instead be served under the Residential tariff. There are approximately 17,306 Atmos Environs tariff customers (15,071 Residential, 1,916 Commercial, 182 Small Industrial, 16 State Institution, and 121 Public Authority). The proposed changes in Environs base rates are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately \$440,274. The Company also proposes to implement and apply a new Weather Normalization Adjustment clause to the bills of customers in weather-sensitive classes (Residential, Commercial, State Institution, and Public Authority).

The typical monthly residential customer bill (assuming consumption of 6 Mcf) and the typical monthly commercial customer bill (assuming consumption of 30 Mcf) will be affected as follows by these changes:

	Current Bill (1)	Proposed Bill (1)	Difference
Residential Customer using 6 Mcf:	\$13.99	\$15.12	\$1.13
Commercial Customer using 30 Mcf:	\$43.05	\$43.10	\$0.05

(1) (a) Includes average PGA of \$4.96 per Mcf as of December 31, 2003.

Atmos estimates that the proposed changes to its nonrecurring charges will increase its Other Revenues in the Environs by approximately \$30,377 annually. The proposed changes are as follows:

Description	Current Charge	Proposed Charge	Increase
<b>DURING BUSINESS HOURS:</b>			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$23.50	\$32.00	\$8.50
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$19.00	\$23.50	\$4.50
<b>DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont'd):</b>			
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$10.50	\$15.00	\$4.50
Miscellaneous service calls	\$10.50	\$11.25	\$0.75
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer's request	\$29.50	\$37.50	\$8.00
Dishonored Check Charge	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:</b>			
Turn on new service (with meter set)	\$35.25	\$48.00	\$12.75
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	\$28.50	\$35.25	\$6.75
Turn on service (meter read only required)	\$15.75	\$22.50	\$6.75
Miscellaneous service calls	\$15.75	\$16.88	\$1.13
Reconnect delinquent service or Service temporarily off at customer's request	\$39.00	\$56.25	\$17.25

The various changes in base rates and nonrecurring charges proposed by Atmos would increase the Company's total revenues in the Environs by approximately \$470,651 on an annual basis, or 9.7%. The proposed change in revenues is a "major change" under state law. The new Environs rates will not exceed 115% of the average of all rates for similar services in all municipalities served by Atmos Energy within the same county.

Affected individuals may review a copy of the proposed filing during normal business hours (9 am until 5 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) at 1) the local offices of Atmos in its West Texas Division; 2) Atmos' Lubbock office, located at 5110 80th Street; or 3) the Railroad Commission.

Customers affected by the proposed Environs rate changes may file written comments or protests with:

Docket Services Section  
Legal Division (Re: Docket No. 9573)  
Railroad Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967

**THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS**

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Our son, Ricky, always had a smile for everyone he met. He gave his whole heart whenever he could, especially to his sister, his family and those he loved. You could see his happy, smiling face and hear his laughter wherever he was.

On March 6, 2000, we lost our 19-year-old special son due to tragic circumstances. True to his giving, loving nature, Ricky was an organ and tissue donor. His final gift was to help more than 80 people live healthy, happy lives -- from the young father who can now see his children grow up due to the gift of Ricky's corneas, to the athlete whose heart is now healthy because of one of Ricky's heart valves.

We were able to grant our son his last wish because he let us know this is what he wanted. Ricky's gifts have also helped us, because we have the comfort of knowing that he is not truly gone, but lives on in others, now and forever.

Abby, because April is National Donate Life Month, won't you please encourage your readers to consider becoming organ donors? Thank you. -- RICHARD, ELLEN AND KRISTEN MULLANE

**DEAR RICHARD, ELLEN AND KRISTEN:** I'm pleased to print your poignant letter as a reminder to everyone about what a precious gift that each of us can give if we wish -- and our families agree. That is why it is so important to let our loved ones know what our wishes are well in advance. Have that discussion. Get the subject out on the table.

Readers, for more information about organ donation, or a free organ donor card, contact the National Kidney Foundation at Box DA, 30 E. 33rd St., New York, NY 10016, or call toll-free 800-622-9010, or visit [www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been happily married to "Lenny" for five

years. I have three children from a former marriage who live with us; Lenny has two who live with his ex three hours away. They stay with us every other weekend.

Lenny's mother will drive 3 1/2 hours just to see her grandchildren in a school concert for one hour. My children have invited my in-laws repeatedly to come and watch them at sporting events. However, my mother-in-law will come only if it takes no more than 15 minutes to get there.

This is very disappointing because my parents are not into being grandparents. I had hoped that my in-laws would love my children as they love their other grandchildren.

I have spoken to Lenny about this. He says, "I can't make them go." Because of this, I no longer feel my children should have to visit his parents on holidays if they don't want to. I find this situation even more upsetting because I have explained to my in-laws that my children's father does not visit them, nor do my parents. Do you know what Lenny's mother's response was? She said, "It will make them stronger."

Should I continue to let this bother me, or should I have Lenny say something to them again about it? -- HURT IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR HURT:** Let it go. It would be wonderful if your children had caring older people in their lives, but your parents are too preoccupied with themselves, and Lenny's parents are unwilling to open their hearts. The more you dwell on this, the more your hurt and anger will grow.

Since neither you nor your husband can change your parents, why not "adopt" grandparents for your children? A way to do it would be for all of you to spend some time volunteering at a nursing home. Many nursing home patients have no one. They would love the company and appreciate the attention, and your children would be rewarded with love and gratitude. Please consider it.

**For Better Or Worse**



**Zits**



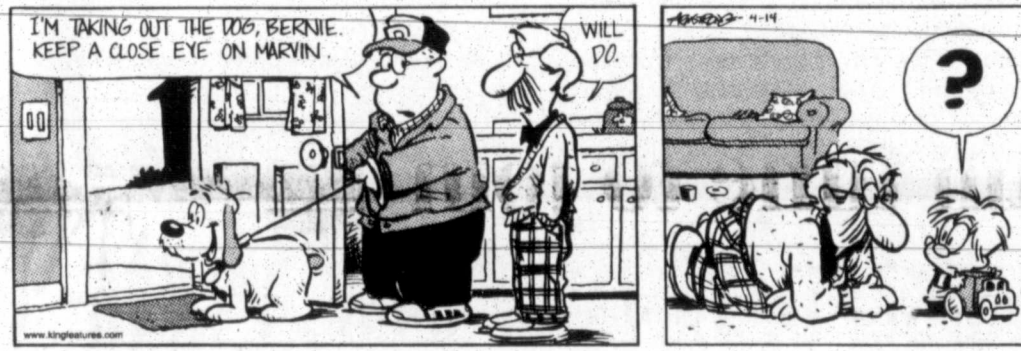
**Garfield**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Marvin**

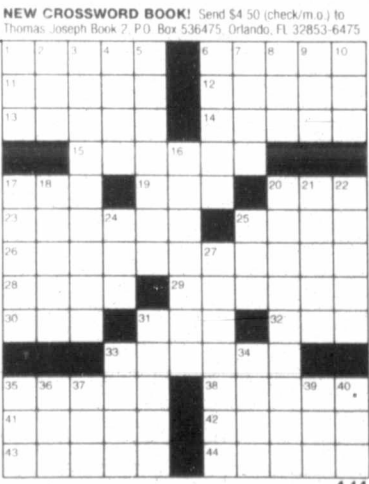


**Crossword Puzzle**

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 More man's knowing concern
  - 6 Malluc non
  - 11 Wear
  - 12 Annoying sound
  - 13 Made hay
  - 14 Power provider
  - 15 Painter Wyeth
  - 17 Timetable abor
  - 19 Actor McShane
  - 20 Gum mass
  - 23 Advice to a young man
  - 25 "Dear me!"
  - 26 2003 mocku montary
  - 28 District flavor
  - 29 Looked lewdly
  - 30 Close
  - 31 Boss to Alice and Flo
  - 32 French article
  - 33 Proceed with caution
  - 35 Map book
  - 38 Forge expert
  - 41 Hard stuff
  - 42 Cartoon-based musical
  - 43 Gets by
- DOWN**
- 1 Fly
  - 2 Bank offering
  - 3 Aurora's cause
  - 4 Perfect place
  - 5 Ruddy
  - 6 Jingle writers
  - 7 Boast
  - 8 Young one
  - 9 Numero
  - 10 Apiece
  - 16 Discon-certs
  - 17 Banded rock
  - 18 Forum figure
  - 20 Dust devil
  - 21 Year in Paris
  - 22 Senator Chris and family
  - 24 Easter find
  - 25 Need to pay
  - 27 Harangues Rebel!
  - 31 Command-ments recipient
  - 33 Look
  - 34 Onetime Atlanta arena
  - 35 First letters
  - 36 Overly
  - 37 Sever
  - 39 Bind
  - 40 -- a



**Marmaduke**



**The Family Circus**



**B.C.**



**Haggar The Horrible**



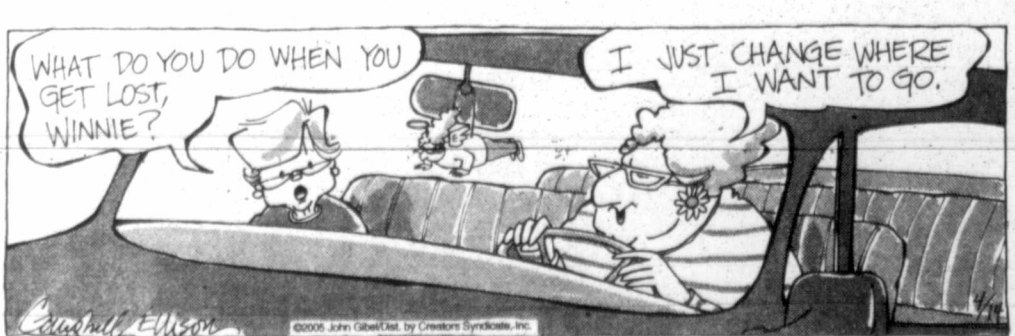
**Peanuts**



**Blondie**



**Flo & Friends**





# Sports Day

## BELEAGUERED BUFF

### Jones has seen tough times as WT head coach

Innocent until proven guilty. When it comes to accusations of criminal mischief, this simple statement is the backbone of the laws that govern our land. Seems some, including members of the press, are always quick to forget this when the accused is someone they just don't care for.

Rarely is a coach made to feel more unwanted than WT football coach Ronnie Jones. Just as his teams have, Jones, a Sunray native, has struggled since his arrival in 2002.

It was believed last year would be his last, but he was invited back for a third turn at the helm of the Buffs program. Now comes word that Jones has been placed on paid administrative leave pending an investigation into allegations he used state and university funds for personal gain.

Read between the lines and it sounds like Jones has

been accused of stealing, embezzling or the trusty old 'misappropriation of funds'.

There may or may not be something to this. I cannot believe the university - or

someone with an ax to grind - would simply offer up bogus information in the hope of

securing a trumped-up charge that would see Jones ridden out of town on a rail.

Still, if it turns out the charges were false or unsubstantiated, why would Jones even want to come back? In the end, some one will have gained what they wanted. I only hope they will then finally do something to instill a little pride in a football program that deserves more support from its own community than it has received in many years.

It certainly deserves it. Better yet, the players who signed on to play deserve it.

**Michael J. Stevens**  
Sports Editor



## WT Buffs head coach placed on paid administrative leave

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

Shocking news from Canyon as officials at West Texas A&M University announced yesterday morning Buffs head football coach Ronnie Jones had been placed on paid administrative leave. This, while university police conduct an investigation into allegations Jones used state and university resources for personal gain. The university police will offer its findings to the Randall County District Attorney.

WT president, Dr. Russell C. Long, told Sports Day this morning it is his hope the investigation, "Moves with as much speed as possible." Dr. Long added, "I hope the major phase of the investigation is completed by this afternoon or tomorrow. We should be able to offer more detailed information at that time."

What is not clear are the specifics of what wrong Jones, a native of Sunray, is accused of committing. When asked how he or the school learned of the

allegations, Dr. Long said, "We began to hear some hint of them this past Tuesday, but I didn't really take them seriously."

Calls made to Jones' residence were not returned.

Following the end of last season, it was widely anticipated Jones would not be invited back for a third year at the helm of the Buff's football program. WT went 3-8 in Lone Star Conference play year.

When asked about the possibility more serious charges might be brought against Jones following the initial investigation, Dr. Long said, "It is possible, if the evidence warrants."

Dr. Long was also careful to point out, "It is also possible this investigation will clear Coach Jones, at which point, a public statement will be issued. In either event, the investigation will clear the air one way or another."

Asked if he has spoken with Coach Jones since the investigation began, Dr. Long said, "No, I have not."

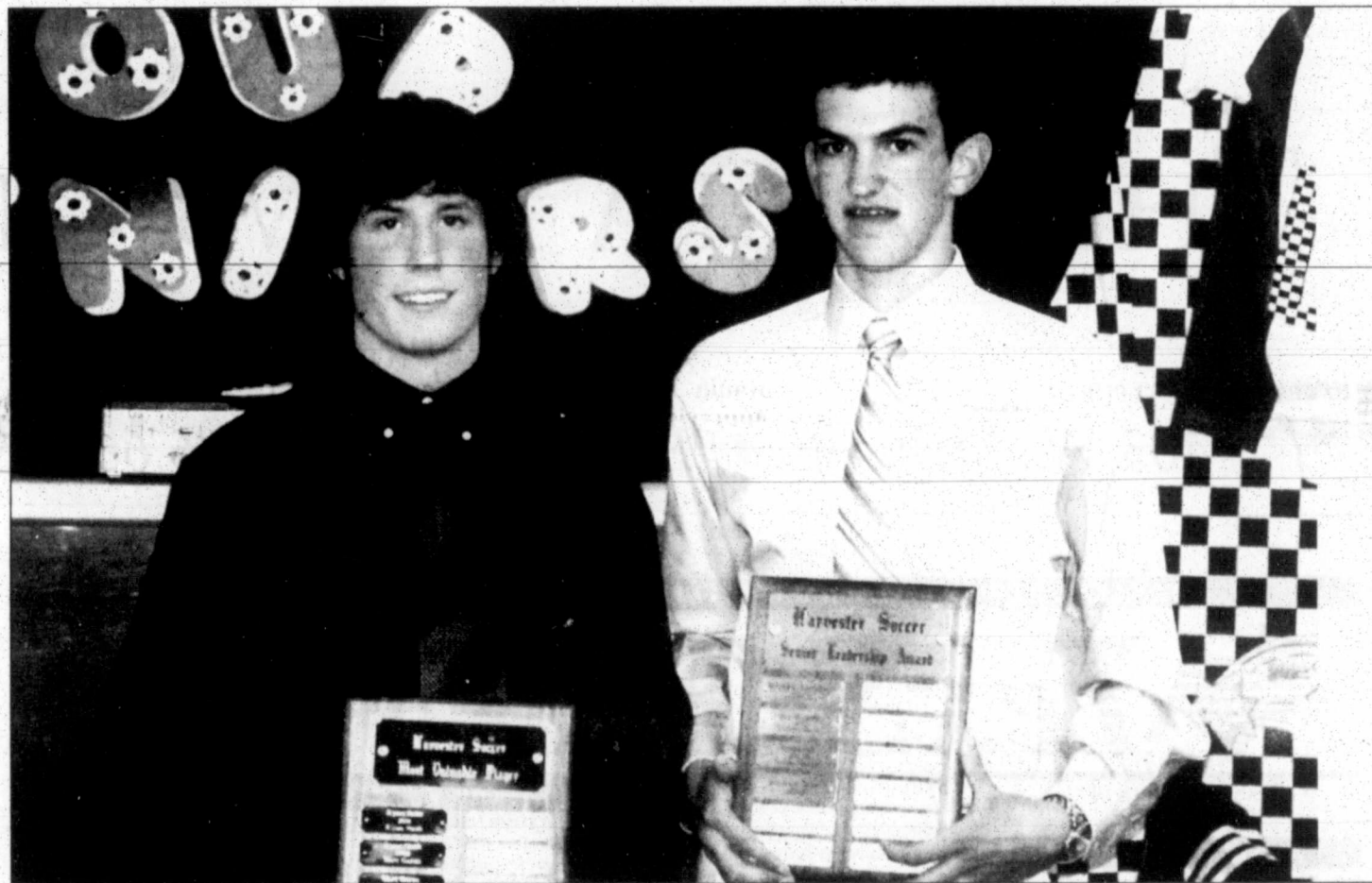
The WT football program will continue with its spring training. According to the [www.gobuffs.go.com](http://www.gobuffs.go.com) web site, the team has a scrimmage scheduled for tomorrow.

*'I hope the major phase of the investigation is completed by this afternoon or tomorrow. We should be able to offer more detailed information at that time.'*

— **Dr. Russell C. Long**  
President, WTAMU

He continued, "However, as more evidence began to surface, we obviously began taking things much more serious."

## Soccer stars



The 2004-2005 Pampa High School soccer banquet was held last Thursday, April 7. Coach Byron May made a number of award presentations, including Most Valuable Player to Andrew Fraser (left). Drew Morrisson was presented the Senior Leadership Award.

## Still time to join Hidden Hills Ladies League

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

The Hidden Hills Monday Morning Ladies Golf League is about to tee off. Members and non-members are welcome and encouraged to join. Play will begin this Monday and sign-ups will be taken up to 9:30 a.m.

If you are interested in taking part in this year's league, you are asked to call Linda Olson at 665-4698. The Ladies Monday Evening League will get underway at 5:30 p.m.

## Pampa teams competing in District 3-4A tournaments

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

### Track & Field

The Pampa Harvester Track and Field team will be in Hereford today and tomorrow to take part in the District 3-4A meet.

A number of Harvesters are expected to do well, including Matt Jimenez on the boys' side, Kendall Stokes and Matchico Taniguchi are expected to lead the girls.

Robyn Bell could also be one to keep an eye on.

At the Amarillo Relays, Stokes was first in the Triple Jump with a personal and area best of 36'3".

Matchico won the Shot Put and was third in the Discus.

Bell cleared 5' for a third place finish in

### the High Jump.

Running events got under way at 10 a.m. this morning.

### Tennis

Members of the Pampa tennis team will be in Dumas today to take part in the District 3-4A Tournament. The seedings are as follows:

- Girls Doubles
- Tanna Stowers/Ashlee Lucas.(3)
- Boys Doubles
- Michael Foreman/Mitchell Crow (3)
- Boys Singles
- Nick Robbins (3)
- Girls Singles
- N/A

Matches were scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. this morning and will conclude tomorrow.

## Hall, Ammons among 80 seniors in Golden Spread games at WT

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**  
Sports Editor

The 2005 Golden Spread All-Star basketball games will get under way at the WT Events Center tonight.

The three day event will last through Saturday and feature 80 of the area's top senior players.

Among them, Pampa's Clayton Hall and

### Lindsey Ammons.

Eight boys and girls teams will compete for the championship.

Hall and Ammons be playing for the east. The semi-final games will start at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. tonight and Friday.

The girls championship game will tip off at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The boys will start at 8 p.m. that night.

## Presidential first pitch restores decades-old tradition as MLB returns to Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tradition began on April 14, 1910, when William Howard Taft threw a ceremonial first pitch at a Washington baseball game between the Senators and Athletics.

Exactly 95 years to the day — and after a drought of more than three decades — the president will again launch a season of the national pastime in the nation's capital Thursday night when the Washington Nationals host the Arizona Diamondbacks in the city's first home opener since 1971.

The honor this time around goes to George W. Bush — with the "W" written in curly script on the scoreboard, mimicking the design on the Nationals' hats. It's a seemingly appropriate role for a chief executive who was once a part-owner of the Texas Rangers.

"He's loosening up and getting ready," White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Wednesday.

That's promising news for Nationals catcher Brian Schneider, who doesn't want to bobble the presidential pitch amid the excitement and nerves of a historic night expected to pack some 46,000 people into RFK Stadium.

"I'm looking for that thing to come right down the middle," Schneider said. "I know he can do it."

Bush becomes the 12th president to throw out a first pitch in Washington and the first since Richard Nixon in 1969. After the Senators left, presidents performed the ceremony in other cities; Bush did the hon-

ors in St. Louis last year.

There have already been numerous milestone dates to celebrate baseball's return to Washington, which had been without a team since the expansion Senators departed for Texas 34 years ago. There was the announcement on Sept. 29 that the Montreal Expos were relocating here, followed by the opening of spring training and the first spring training game in February, an exhibition game at RFK on April 3, and then the season opener at Philadelphia a day later.

This is the last of the welcome-back parties, but it's also the biggest.

Tickets have been hard to come by, even for some well-heeled Washingtonians. The day starts with a Welcome Home luncheon for the team, and there are 95 minutes of pregame ceremonies scheduled before the 7:05 p.m. start time. Ten former Senators will be on hand, including Joe Grzenda, who threw the last pitch at the last game in 1971 and will hand the ball from that game to Bush for the presidential first pitch.

"We know it's going to be a long day," pitcher Zach Day said. "But everybody's excited for the day to come."

The Nationals are the last team to play a home game this season, which is probably for the best given the compressed schedule for renovating the stadium. Hundreds of extra chairs were being set up on the field in front of the stands late Wednesday, the sort of additional seating used for World Series games.

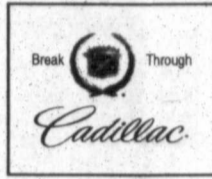
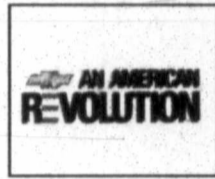






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