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Cabot, 17-12.
SEE PAGE 9.



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Thursday, April 21, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1241

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Pampa Center celebrates 30th

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A bronze sculpture of geese landing on a lake was dedicated at Clarendon College - Pampa Center's 30th anniversary celebration yesterday.

"Flight to Excellence" was named by Chuck White and paid for with donations, said Don Lane, one of the speakers during the day's events at the center, which began at 11 a.m.

The sculpture, which consists of several pieces, was not finished in time to display the entire scene yesterday, but "will probably be completed this weekend," Lane said.

"There are two more geese, with six-foot wingspans, each weighing about 250 pounds, plus a smaller group of geese coming in to land on the water portion of the sculpture," he said.

Clarendon College began holding classes in Pampa in 1974, and Lane and others who have been involved in the college's Pampa Center

spoke in the center's foyer. "It exceeds many of our expectations that 30 years ago would lead to our being here today," said Loyd Waters, the center's first dean.

Waters outlined the center's history, beginning with evening classes held at Pampa High School in 1974.

In 1978, classes were moved to Sam Houston Elementary School at the corner of Frost and Cook streets. The school had been closed and was being used for storage, Waters said.



Waters

"It exceeds many of our expectations that 30 years ago would lead to our being here today."

—Loyd Waters
CC-PC's first dean

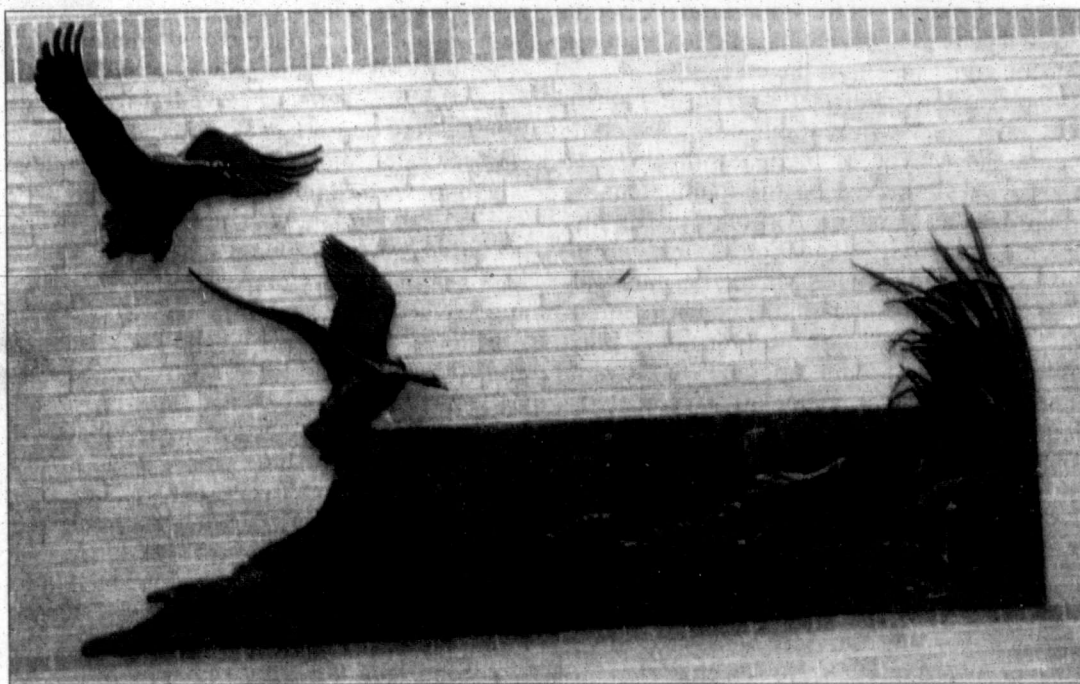
"We outgrew Sam Houston, and it was getting old and wearing out.

"We created a steering committee to raise funds. This community came together and said, 'We want to build

a college,'" Waters said. The Pampa Center Foundation was formed in 1995 to plan and raise funds for a new campus.

Groundbreaking for the center's M.K. Brown Academic Building, at 1601

See CC-PC, Page 3



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS



"Flight to Excellence," above, a bronze sculpture of geese landing on a body of water, was dedicated Wednesday at Clarendon College - Pampa Center's 30th anniversary celebration. The sculpture hangs in the foyer of the center, opposite to the main entrance. Levi Nunn, left, and Lyndsey Dyer were among Pampa High School band members who provided outdoor music during Wednesday's celebration.

Local dean's contract will end Aug. 31, official says

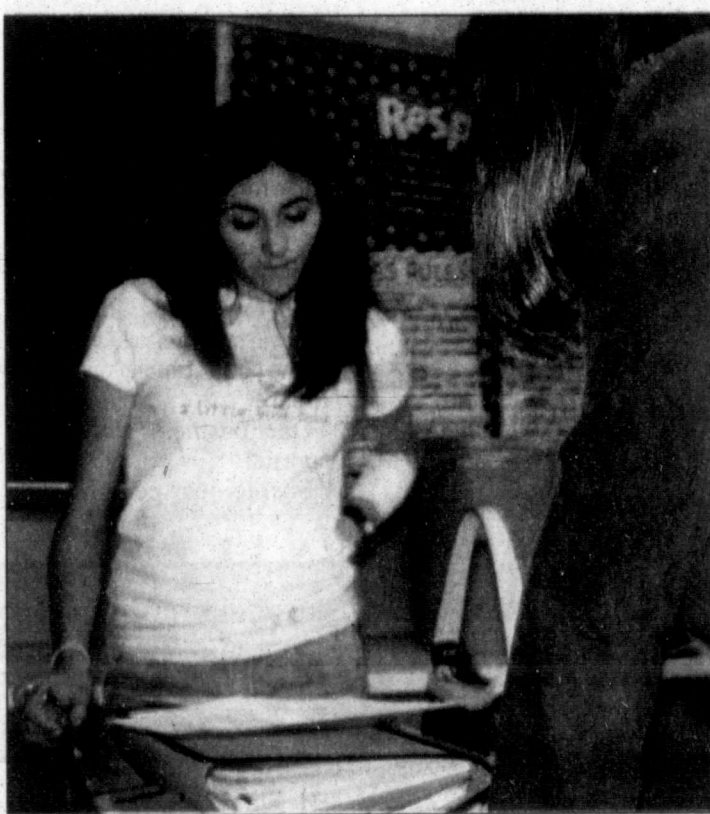
By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The contract of Joe Kyle Reeve, dean of Clarendon College - Pampa Center, will not be renewed by Clarendon College regents, according to Jaylene Watkins, public information officer for the college, in a telephone interview this morning.

Reeve's current contract expires Aug. 31 of this year, she said. He has been dean at the Pampa Center for the past 15 years.

"We are searching for applications for an associate dean for the Pampa Center," Watkins said.

Telephone calls to Reeve at the Pampa Center and his home were not answered or returned as of press time today.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISQOE

Subscription sales

Harvester yearbook staff member Megan Barnett sells Pampa News subscriptions as a fundraiser for her organization. Pampa High School publications students are selling six-month and one-year subscriptions to the newspaper as a way to raise money for school projects.

House gets second go at tax-relief bill

AUSTIN (AP)—A measure meant to safeguard property tax cuts by limiting the amount of revenue local governments can take in without voter approval is

say it would hamstring the ability of local officials to generate income for necessary services like police and fire protection.

Lawmakers are working getting a second round on the House floor.

A technical error last week sent the bill, a major part of Republican Gov. Rick Perry's tax reform plan, back to

Lawmakers are working to provide taxpayer relief while revamping the system that pays for Texas schools.

to provide taxpayer relief while revamping the system that pays for Texas schools. Both House and Senate school finance plans reduce school property taxes by a third. Supporters of the legislation say they want

committee. Rep. Carl Isett, R-Lubbock, said the extra time has helped him tweak the proposal he calls "truth in taxation" and recruit the 76 votes he needs to pass the bill. It was to be reconsidered Thursday.

to protect that tax cut by making local officials more accountable for tax increases that could eat away at the cut.

Originally, the bill capped at 3 percent the amount of

Opponents of the measure

See BILL, Page 3

Pampa Partnership Golf Tournament

May 14th & May 15th

Sign Ups At Hidden Hills & Pampa Country Club

For More Information Call The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce At 669-3241

Obituaries

Milo Edwin Carlson, 86

Milo Edwin Carlson, 86, died April 20, 2005, in Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, 2005, at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Born July 9, 1918, in Neosho County, Kansas, Milo was the only child of J.E. and Elsie Carlson, who preceded him in death. His family first came to Skellytown in 1927 and he graduated from Pampa High School in 1935. He worked afterwards in his father's construction company named J.E. Carlson, Inc. with headquarters in Pampa. He married Mary Pauline Leverett on April 2, 1939, and they recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary together.

Milo was a successful businessman and retired in 1986. His oldest son Jerry now owns the original construction company, now in its 68th year of continuous operation. Milo was also a faithful member and a Deacon Emeritus of the First Baptist Church, and served as Building Committee Chairman for the construction of the current sanctuary. He was also a dedicated citizen of Pampa. His civic service accomplishments include being the Mayor of Pampa from 1969 to 1972, and he served on the Pampa Zoning Board, Gray County Airport Board, and Pampa Industrial Foundation Board. During his two elected terms as Mayor, his outstanding leadership resulted in the construction of the M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium, Pampa Water Treatment Plant, upgrades to the park system, as well as many improvements in Pampa's governmental practices. Other personal accomplishments were highlighted by his 23 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America. He served as President of the Adobe Walls Council from 1970 to 1971, during which he was instrumental in the construction of Camp M.K. Brown. He was recognized for his service with the Silver Beaver Award in 1968. He is a charter member of the Senior Citizens Board of Directors, and helped start the Senior

Citizens Center. He was president of the Pampa Rotary Club in 1971-1972, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. He was honored as Man of the Year in Pampa by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce in 1982.

On the personal side, Milo was an accomplished horticulturist and master of many artistic skills. As a young man, he was an avid amateur archaeologist, and a collector of plains Indian artifacts. In his middle age, he was an amateur gemologist and turned out beautiful fine jewelry work using precious stone faceting, silver- and goldsmithing, and investment casting techniques. Later in life, his artistic interests were focused on woodturning, and he created numerous art-quality pieces which won him first place awards at the Texas State Fair in 1989, and the honor of Pampa Fine Arts Association Artist of the Year for 1994-5. He was an avid outdoor sportsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing of all kinds, particularly on his family farm in Neosho County, Kansas. His love of flying, as an instrument-rated private pilot, complimented his business pursuits and recreational interests for more than 40 years. Milo was proud that all four of his sons received Mechanical Engineering degrees and achieved their own success in business. To his sons and many others he was a Mentor, Coach, Encourager, and Friend. He taught by example in living his life: Integrity, Honesty, Work Ethic, Kindheartedness, Compassion, Generosity and Love.

Milo is survived by his wife Pauline; sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Sherry Carlson of Pampa, John and Sue Carlson of Lindale, Texas, Jack and Karen Carlson of Houston, Texas, and Gene and Cindy Carlson of Aledo, Texas, as well as nine Grand-children, and 14 great grand-children. Memorials may be to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, Texas 79066, or Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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



Carlson

Sarah Edna Darnell, 87

Sarah Edna Darnell, 87, of Pampa, died Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at Pampa.

Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Jim Rich, pastor of Old Path Mission Church of Ashland City, Tenn., and Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Darnell was born Oct. 5, 1917, in Glasgow, Ky. She married Chester A. Darnell on July 20, 1945, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on Nov. 22, 1991.

Mrs. Darnell was a member of First Baptist Church and belonged to Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Ornetta Jean Darnell; and a sister, Maymia Watson.

Survivors include a sister, Elizabeth Borden of Indianapolis, Ind.; and a brother, Bill Rich of Hollow Rock, Tenn.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621.

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

Barbara Alene Pfeil Ring, 66

Barbara Alene Pfeil Ring, 66, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 4 p.m., Friday, April 22, 2005, at Central Baptist Church with Brother Dean Young, a Baptist Minister, the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor at Central Baptist Church, and the Rev. Ricky Pfeil, a cousin, officiating.

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

Mrs. Ring was born Nov. 5, 1938, in Pampa. She was injured in a car accident in 1960, and though paralyzed, she never failed to show faith and compassion to those surrounding her.

She lived a life of faithfulness to Christ and to her family.

She was a longtime resident of Lefors, moving to Pampa in 1986. She was a member of the Central Baptist Church.

Survivors include one daughter, LaWausa McCurley and husband Bryan of White Deer; one son, Steven Ring of Tuttle, Okla.;

two sisters, Billie James of Decatur and Delena Young of Fort Towson, Okla.; three grandsons, Chad Box and wife Sherry, and Evan McCurley, all of White Deer, and Micheal Box and wife Pami of Pampa; seven great-grandchildren; an numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Buddy Ring in 1972 and Dennis Ring in 1960; and her parents, D.T. and Teba Pfeil.

Barbara will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

The family requests memorials be to Odyssey Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo, TX 79101; or to Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. tonight.

The body will lie in state at Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors until 11 a.m., Friday, and from 11 a.m. until service time, Friday, at Central Baptist Church.

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

Theola Thompson, 80

Theola Thompson, 80, of Pampa, died Tuesday, April 19, 2005, at Pampa.

Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born March 30, 1925, at Davidson, Okla., Mrs. Thompson had been a Pampa resident since 1946, marrying William L. Thompson in 1949 at Clovis, N.M.; he died in 1986.

Mrs. Thompson was a telephone operator

for Southwestern Bell Telephone for 18 years, and worked for Santa Fe Railway, Plains Division, in varied operations and clerical positions for six years.

Survivors include two sons, William C. Thompson of Bourne and Alan R. Thompson of Pampa; and three grandchildren.

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

Services tomorrow

AIRINGTON, Stella Ellen — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

RING, Barbara Alene Pfeil — 4 p.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

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Myrtle Laflin
Susanne Lane
Billie Levick
Ruth Lunsford
Albert Maggard

Estelle Malone
Paul Mayo
Esther McAdoo
Rebecca McGivern
Wilma Mollett
Sonny Moore
Shirley Moore
Sue Owens
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Mary Pletcher
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LeAlta Smith
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Barbara Trimble
Mary Lee VanBuskirk
Ronnie VanBuskirk
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Joe Wheeley
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H PAMPA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.		Cabot Corp ... 31.30 +0.49	Pioneer Nat ... 42.45 +0.25
Wheat ... 2.98	Milo ... 3.21	Cabot Oil Gas ... 32.87 +0.52	JCP ... 45.79 +0.91
Corn ... 3.94	Soybeans ... 5.50	Coca Cola ... 42.11 +0.23	COP ... 103.29 +0.02
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		VLO ... 72.15 +1.34	SLB ... 68.41 +0.81
OXY ... 69.76 +1.03	BP PLC ADR ... 60.02 +0.02	HAL ... 42.36 +0.56	Tenneco ... 12.28 +0.13
		TRI ... 49.14 -0.11	CVX ... 52.66 +0.61
		KMI ... 76.42 +1.42	Wal-Mart ... 47.65 +0.30
		XCEL ... 17.34 +0.13	OKE ... 28.98 +0.12
		Kerr McGee ... 78.72 +0.99	NS Grp ... 32.45 +0.83
		XOM ... 57.67 +0.53	New York Gold ... 434.86
		Limited ... 22.03 +0.03	Silver ... 7.30
		Williams ... 17.75 +0.43	West Texas Crude ... 52.44
		MCD ... 29.76 -0.18	
		Atmos ... 26.95 +0.19	

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Wednesday, April 20

Four traffic stops were made. A traffic complaint was received from the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Telephone harassment was reported from the 1100 block of Duncan and in the police department lobby.

Harassment was reported in the 600 block of North Hobart.

One business alarm was reported.

Suspicious person calls

were received from the 900 block of North Frost and the 100 block of North Cuyler.

Emergency medical services assistance was rendered in the 800 block of Barnes and the 500 block of Montague.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered at the intersection of Crawford and Hobart streets, and the 800 block of East Craven.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway and the 400 block of East 17th.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported at Pampa

Junior High School, 2401 Charles, and in the police department lobby.

Assault was reported at Pampa Junior High School and in the 600 block of North Dwight, where minor injuries were reported.

Welfare checks were conducted in the 600 block of North West and the 600 block of North Frost.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby.

Forgery was reported in the 300 block of East Brown. The incident involved a money order.

See RECORD, Page 3

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

4-H FLOWER Sale, Coronado Center, Thur. 28th, Fri. 29th, Sat. 30th.

DONNA PLAYS live music, WW Sports Bar, tonight, 8:30 p.m. No cover.

NEW HEAVY duty (Stanley) 22 in. lawnmower. Elec. start, self-propelled, 6.5 hp., 3 yr. warranty. 665-7659.

ALTRUSA STYLE Show, Sat., Apr. 23rd, 10:30 a.m., M.K. Brown Auditorium-Heritage Room. Tickets \$12.

FISHING DILLS Catfish Ranch, open Saturdays, 12-7 p.m., 4 mi. west of Lefors, on Hwy. 2375, south on Rd. 12 1/2. 665-7500.

ROTARY GOLF Scramble. 8am Shotgun starts \$60 per person. Team handicap 40. Sat, April 30th. Pampa Country Club. 665-8431.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION Day Fri. Apr. 22, 11:30-1:30 Burgers & hotdogs. Big Country Tire, Hwy 152

GARAGE SALE Thurs & Fri. 8-7 First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock.

SALE, 1236 E. Darby. Books, yarn, misc. Fri., Sat.

DID YOU know we have a greenhouse located at Freemans Flowers? 410 E. Foster, 669-3334. Large variety of blooming & hanging plants. Mon.-Fri. 8-5, Sat. 9-2.

GARAGE SALE. Kentucky Acres 898-0185. Go cart, dishwasher, clothes, furn. Fri 8-?

SR. ALL Night Party meeting. 7pm, Thurs. 4/21, PHS library. Parents interested in working games please come. Questions? call Renee' 662-9040 or Christy 440-1769.

STEAM CLEAN 3 rooms plus hall, \$24.95. 665-4124

CC-PC

Continued from Page 1

W. Kentucky, was held on Dec. 11, 1998. The \$2.4 million building was completed in January

2000, in time for the spring semester, "to serve this community and the surrounding area," Waters said.

Building tours were conducted Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outdoor music was provided by an ensemble of

Pampa High School band members. Refreshments were served outside during the lunch hour.

The Pampa Center's choir, which is in its second academic year, sang indoors during the program.

Other recent additions at

the Pampa Center include organized student government and expanded courses in math, fine arts, workforce programs, science and short courses in continuing education.

A new computer and networking technology pro-

gram has been added to the center's curriculum, along with new instructors.

Associate of arts and associate of science degrees may be earned at the center.

The center's class schedule includes day, evening and weekend courses. Last

year's enrollment was 230.

"We believe higher education in any community is a great, great asset," Lane said.

"I see nothing but continued growth (for the Pampa Center), preparing people for the future," Waters said.

Bill

Continued from Page 1

and counties could take in annually without an election. If revenue were to grow more than 3 percent, local officials would be required to hold an election allowing voters to choose to roll back the increase.

Under current law, voters can petition for a roll-back election after an 8 percent increase in tax revenue.

Isett has made major concessions in the legislation to gain support of those who said the cap on increases was too tight and the automatic election would be onerous for local governments.

He said he has agreed to increase the cap to 4 percent and require a voter petition with signatures from 10 percent of those who cast ballots in the previous gubernatorial election.

"Government should be open," Isett said. "All the power we have comes from

the people, so why shouldn't they have the right to know what their government is doing and be dealt with honestly by elected officials."

The Texas Municipal League and the Texas Association of Counties have called state lawmakers who support the measure disingenuous for not holding themselves to a similar

standard.

The current state budget is 19 percent larger than the one passed in 2003. Under the logic behind "truth in taxation", they say voters ought to be able to roll-back that increase, too.

Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, said the measure does not give local officials enough breathing room to account for growing costs of building infrastructure and providing needed services.

"It puts them in a plastic bag with no oxygen," Villarreal said. "I don't believe that is good for my constituents or Texans across the state."

'Government should be open. All the power we have comes from the people ...'

—Rep. Carl Isett
R-Lubbock

Record

Continued from Page 2

A civil matter was reported in the 900 block of Varnon Drive.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported in the 200 block of Tignor.

Identity theft was reported in the 2200 block of Chestnut.

Burglary was reported in the 600 block of North Dwight.

Offenses against family was reported in the 600 block of North Gray.

Destruction of property was reported in the 600 block of West. Estimated value of damage is unknown.

Robert Franklin Srader, 62, 605 Deane Drive, was arrested at the intersection of Kingsmill and Russell streets on a capias pro fine for public intoxication.

Deborah Kirklun, 25, 926 Campbell, was arrested in the 500 block of Naida for open container, speeding, no insurance, and two counts of failure to appear.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, April 20

Stacy Norman, 37, Lubbock, was arrested by Texas Department of Public

Safety on Lubbock warrants for speeding, failure to appear, and driving while intoxicated.

Donald Ray Hunt, 31, 510 Dwight, was arrested on a Deaf Smith County warrant for theft by check less than \$20.

Abraham DeJesus, 18, 844 Craven, was arrested for speeding, no driver's license, failure to attend school, and failure to appear for no driver's license.

Fire

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

Wednesday, April 20

6:54 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a natural gas leak in the 1700 block of North Hamilton. Firefighters found a leaking regulator on a heating unit.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, April 20

1:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient(s) to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high around 78. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 69. Windy, with a north wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 45. North northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 70. East northeast wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. South wind around 10 mph.

Sunday: A 20 percent

chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 75. South wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. South wind around 20 mph.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 75. West southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 48.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 71.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 70.



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FREE DELIVERY

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POSTUREPEDIC DEVOTION PILLOW TOP

\$799 QUEEN SET

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POSTURE PREMIER PLUSH SUPPORT

\$449 QUEEN SET

\$349 TWIN SET **\$399** FULL SET **\$699** KING SET

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Viewpoints

NDP theme: 'God shed his grace on thee'

Ever think about the power of prayer? Ever marvel at the peace and authority even the basest human being can claim simply by cupping hands together and dropping to two knees? With shame, I confess I often do not.

Prayer is a freedom I completely take for granted though I devoutly believe mountains can move and oceans can part when we bow our heads and humble our hearts.

Poor advertising indeed am I for the One who so lovingly engineered us from out of the dust, still I am excited

about an event that takes place in May each year.

Mark your calendars and make ready to start your prayer engines. The date is fast approaching when we once again can come together as a nation to celebrate this most hallowed of privileges. At exactly 12:20 p.m. on Thursday, May 5th, National Day of Prayer will get under way at city halls in our town and towns all across America.

National Day of Prayer (NDP) urges you, me and all believers to take this opportunity to "celebrate" prayer. What an awesome concept.

NDP wants us to pray for our nation, for our communities, for each other.

Spearheading NDP 2005 is Shirley Dobson, NDP national president. Dobson is the wife of Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family.

Skyla Bryant
News Editor

2005 "because it so clearly applies to our nation at this pivotal moment in history. I can't think of a time when our need for God's healing intervention has been more acute than it is right now. Whether it be the ongoing threat of terrorism or the continued erosion of the moral and biblical principles upon which our country was founded, the challenges facing us are monumental." Dobson wrote that grace



"refers to all that God has given us in Christ; nothing of which we have earned or can repay."

"Throughout our history," a state proclamation signed by Gov. Rick Perry states, "Americans have turned to prayer and reflection, during times of strength and weakness and in moments of joy and despair, seeking comfort, giving thanks and asking for guidance and grace when we need it most."

"God has blessed us and shed His grace on this great land, but each of us has the responsibility to treasure, protect and strengthen its

foundation for the generations to come.

"As our nation comes together, let us all pray for a unity of hearts and righteousness for this great state, this great nation and all mankind."

According to National Day of Prayer, NDP was amended and signed into law in 1988 by President Ronald Reagan after first being enacted in 1952 by a joint resolution of Congress with the helpful signature of then-President Harry S. Truman.

To find out more, log onto NationalDayOfPrayer.org.

Our readers write

Soar with the angels, friend

Mary Jane Johnson's singing of "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" was mesmerizing and befitted your memorandum. I'm so grateful Mary Jane was steadfast in her refusal to sing "Boomer Sooner." Thanks, Mary Jane! In your honor, David, I'm initiating a "Taste of Pampa." First, I'll sate myself with fried eggs and coffee at Heard and Jones. Secondly, I'll swill more joe at The Coffee Shop with a few disparaging words directed toward some Democrats. And thirdly, I'll savor that dog at the Coney Island. For Bill Hite, Joe Cree, and Wesley Green—your chairmanship will be greatly missed. Pampa fared well with your volunteerism and philanthropy, for like family and father before you—you too, David, will be remembered as a pillar of our community. Soar with the angels, David, Father!

Dennis Palmitier
Pampa

Behavior not so Christian

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep disgust in regard to the behavior of some of my "fellow Christians." I was eating dinner at a local restaurant in Borger when a bus for (a Pampa church) arrived. They had about 20 people in their party.

When they arrived they were seated quickly. Apparently, these individuals expected their places to be set and their dinner to be served all within 15-20 minutes of their arrival on a busy Friday evening. All this

when they ordered off the menu and did not order in advance. (I found this out by asking one of the employees.)

After a few minutes, when the group was not satisfied with the speed of service, they nearly all complained in such a way that appalled me.

At one point, there was a large man with a cane that appeared to be harassing one of the waitresses saying that they were going to miss a movie that they wanted to see. He even followed her behind the front counter where customers have no business being, in my opinion.

After that, they stood in a line by the register and very loudly and repeatedly voiced their problems so that many people could hear. They were speaking loud enough for me to hear that they were charged a regular price for steaks instead of the senior discount and so on, which was fixed immediately by the owners.

Some also nearly shouted reasons why they weren't leaving a tip. I do not know exactly why they were not satisfied because my family and I always have great, prompt and accurate service when eating there.

My main concern as a Christian is that even if some mistakes are made, a church group should act like a church group. Is this the way your particular church teaches you to act in public or anywhere for that matter? These people are supposed to be witnessing God's word in the world, and this is the way that they act. I must say it almost made me embarrassed to be a Christian.

Also, I must add that I am not a representative or employee of this restaurant.

See LETTER, Page 5



Is threat possible or probable?

Several airport security screeners have sent me polite letters criticizing some of my comments in my last two columns, prompting this question to you: In managing our personal security, should we guard against possible or probable threats? Consider the measures and the resource expenditures I might take to guard Mrs. Williams and me against all possible threats to our security.

Even though I live in Pennsylvania, well outside of tornado alley, I'd construct a tornado shelter because it's possible for a tornado to strike anywhere. I'd no longer get into my car and drive off without doing a thorough check of my car's hydraulic brake system for

leakage. I'd build an iron-reinforced roof to guard against the possibility of a meteor. I'd also purchase a metal detector to do sweeps of my property, to guard against the possibility someone might have buried a land mine. I'd hire a detective and forensic accountant. Even though Mrs. Williams and I have been married 45 years, it is possible that she might be stashing some of my money into a Swiss bank account.

Were I to take those measures, I'm sure the average person would label me as

either paranoid or stupid. Why? It would take resources away from guarding against more probable threats to our security, such as burglary.

While my focusing on all possible threats wouldn't be smart, it would make me a prime candidate to become a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) official. Their vision of airport security is to focus on the possible as well as the probable.

It is indeed possible for an 88-year-old man crippled with debilitating arthritis to be a terrorist. It's possible

that one of our Marines returning from Iraq for state-side reassignment, carrying ID and official reassignment orders, is also a member of al Qaeda ready to take out an airplane. It's possible for a mother accompanied by her four children, or a 92-year-old woman, to be "mules" paid by terrorists to bring something on board to blow up the plane. It is also possible that a pilot plans to blow his plane up with a shoe bomb. That's reason for making him take his shoes off. It's possible that a blind person carrying a cigarette lighter will give it to a terrorist accomplice to light a shoe bomb in flight. There are other possible security

See THREATS, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



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Let Patriot Act fade into the sunset

Troubling sections of Patriot Act should be allowed to vanish. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales wants the USA Patriot Act renewed, including the 16 provisions that in the original act are scheduled to expire, or "sunset" at the end of this year. He has said he is willing to engage critics in dialogue and has already endorsed a couple of technical tweaks in Section 215, which seems to give the government virtually unlimited power to demand records and "any tangible things" from institutions including libraries.

The Patriot Act would be less dangerous to citizens

liberties if Gonzales modifications were included, but they are hardly enough to allay justifiable fears.

Congress should continue to hold hearings that include responsible critics of the act (Congress has scheduled as many as 11 over the next several months). At the end of that process we feel confident that popular opinion will have coalesced around the conviction that the provisions of the act scheduled to expire should be allowed to do so. The Patriot Act, rushed

through Congress with little debate in the weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, is long and convoluted.

A few sections all scheduled to expire are especially troublesome. Section 202 makes computer hacking a "predicate offense" allowing police to seek certain types of wiretaps; 203 allows federal law enforcement to share information from wide-net surveillance programs, like one dubbed "Carnivore" by the FBI, with spy agencies; 212 over-

Texas Thoughts

Odessa American

See SUNSET, Page 5

Suspect arrested nearly 19 years after child's slaying

FORT WORTH (AP) — Nearly 19 years after an 11-year-old girl was raped and strangled in her home, police have arrested a former friend of the family who investigators say attended the girl's wake.

Investigators say DNA taken from Vanessa Villa's body matched that of 42-year-old Juan Segundo, a convicted felon who previously served time in prison for burglary and driving while intoxicated.

Homicide investigators and Johnson County sheriff's officers arrested Segundo on a capital murder warrant at his Johnson County home early Wednesday morning.

Segundo was being held in Mansfield Jail on Thursday morning with bail set at \$300,000.

On the day she was attacked in 1986, Vanessa had stayed home instead of going with her mother, Rosa Maria Clarke, brother and little sister to run an errand. When they returned 30 minutes later, they found her raped and strangled. She was rushed to a local hospital but was pronounced dead within an hour.

"When we came back, I went straight to my room and my mom opened her door and then started screaming," recalled Vanessa's brother, Enrique Balderas. "I went to the

room and then I saw my sister lying in the bed."

Police believe Segundo entered Vanessa's home through her bedroom window late Aug. 3, 1986. Some belongings were in disarray as if Vanessa had struggled with her attacker.

Police say the attack holds striking similarities to two crimes Segundo was convicted of in the years after Vanessa's slaying.

In June 1988, Segundo pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary of a habitation and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The 40-year-old victim told police that she had awoke to feeling someone touching her and turned on

the light to find a man kneeling beside her bed with his pants and underwear pulled down.

The woman told police the man covered her mouth with his hand and began hitting her in the mouth and face. The victim's daughter, who ran into the room during the attack, recognized the fleeing suspect as a man she had previously worked with, according to a police report.

Segundo was paroled from prison in July 1989 but returned again in 1991 following a conviction of misdemeanor burglary for a similar attack in 1990.

Threats

Continued from Page 4

threats. Women's stockings and underwear, as well as men's ties and belts, can be used as garrotes for strangulation. Soda straws can be used to blow poison darts.

While these are all possible threats, the question is, how probable are they? Resource expenditure on security threats just because they are possible means that those same resources cannot be spent on those far more

probable.

Moreover, if there were full implementation of the program to permit pilots to be armed, the more probable threats would become less so. In other words, arming pilots and some crew

members would lessen a whole class of security threats.

The TSA's determined opposition to passenger profiling is in itself a threat to airport security. Take their additional screening. They have every incentive to be politically correct. But sup-

pose the TSA had to pay \$1,000 to each passenger they selected for additional screening who was found to be no security threat. You can bet they'd develop a screening method that made more sense, and it would include some sort of passenger profiling, including racial profiling.

And, by the way, liberals shouldn't fret, because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in several affirmative action cases that provided there's a compelling state interest, race can be used in decision making.

It's my opinion that sensible TSA security measures would allow us to reallocate resources away from policing against possible but improbable threats to

policing the far more probable source of threats — one being our border with Mexico.

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

Sensible TSA security measures would allow us to reallocate resources away from policing against possible but improbable threats ...



Community clean-up

Citizens of Lefors eat lunch in Timmons Park after participating in the 19th Annual Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off on April 2. Approximately 30 citizens gathered that morning to pick up litter on Main Spur 398 through town. The Lefors Action Group provided a picnic lunch in Timmons Park for all volunteers. Friends of the Pick-n-Shack picked up litter in the afternoon, on the two mile stretch of Texas Highway 273 that they adopted, north of Lefors. This event is organized through a partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation. It is the state's single largest one-day cleanup with nearly 200,000 volunteers offering their time.

Sunset

Continued from Page 4

back position if Congress does not want to let all the "sunset" provisions of the act expire. It would tighten the definition of terrorism, make it more difficult to get Sec. 215 search

authority, and narrow the use of "sneak and peek" search warrants.

The SAFE Act would restore some traditional checks and balances to the governments efforts to fight terrorism and other crimes. The best bet, however, would be simply to let the "sunset" provisions expire at the end of this year.

Letter

Continued from Page 4

I recommend them and will continue to eat there. My purpose in this letter is

solely to remind Christians of the way they should act according to the faith and teaching these people claim to abide by.

Jeremy & Kayla Casida Borger

Community happenings

ACCORD. Gray County Chapter of Active Citizens Concerned Over Resource Development in Agriculture, Inc. (ACCORD INC.), meet the first and third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at the Lovett Memorial Library. For information, call 665-8516 or 665-7659.

Boy Scouts. Boy Scout leaders meet at 6:30 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at First Presbyterian Church of Pampa. The Golden Spread Council of Boy Scouts of America is open to boys between the ages of 6 and 18 and includes a 27-county area in the Texas Panhandle. The BSA program includes Club Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturing, a new program for 14- to 20-year-old boys and girls. For more information, call (806) 358-6500.

Celebration of Lights. The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at 822 E. Foster. Anyone wishing to help with the project is invited to attend any work session.

Church of the Brethren. Church of the Brethren hosts a country gospel program at 7 p.m., every Monday at its location at 600 N. Frost.

Clean Pampa, Inc. Clean Pampa, Inc., holds its monthly membership meeting at 12 noon on the second Tuesday of each month at Clint and Sons, 1421 N. Hobart. The public is welcome. No fee to join. For more information, call 665-2514. Office hours are 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Eastern Star. Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

Fellowship of Christian Cowboys. The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Kathryn Greene at 665-8067 or Bill Kidwell at 669-6347. For memorials or donations write Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, P.O. Box 91, Pampa, TX 79065.



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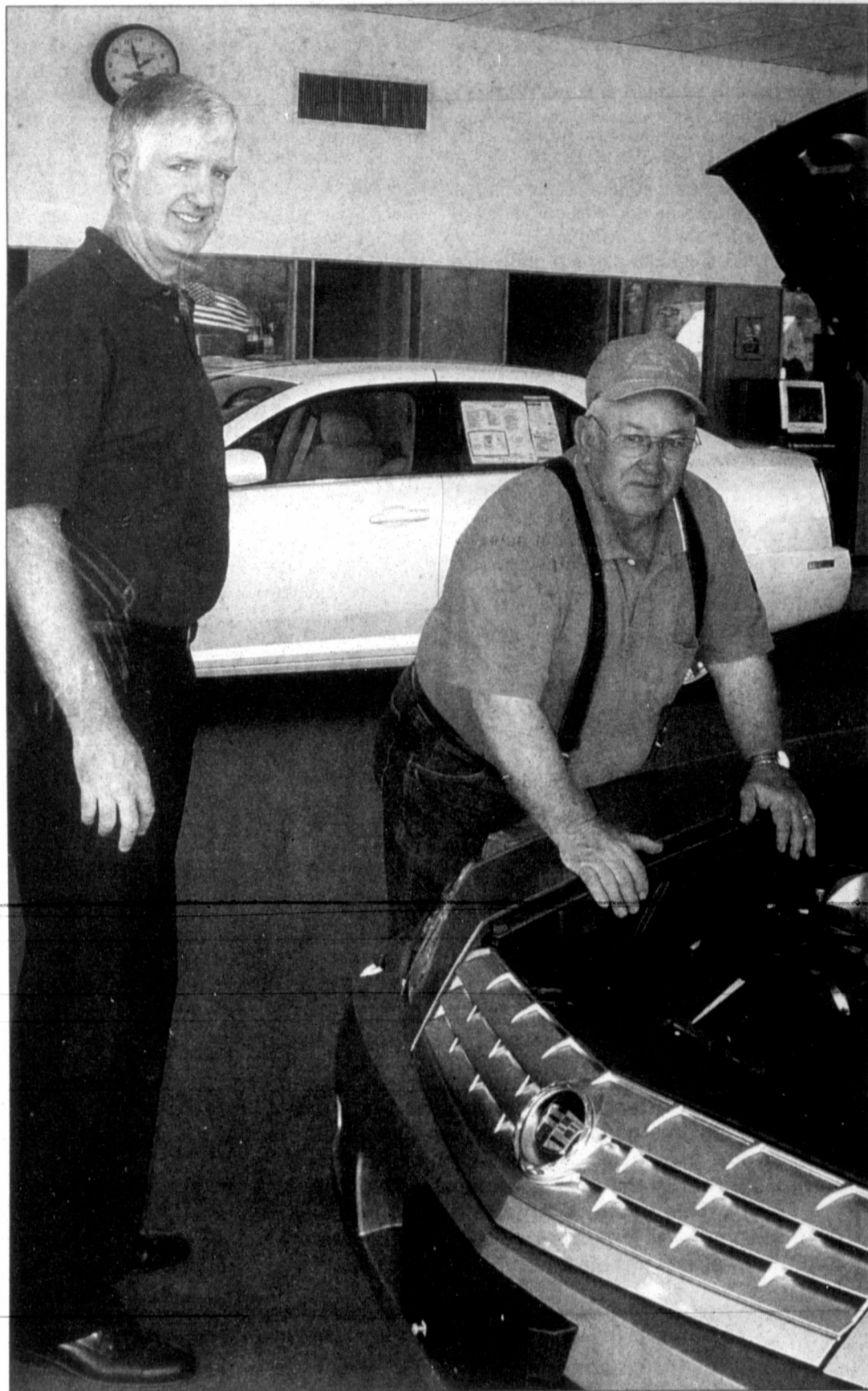
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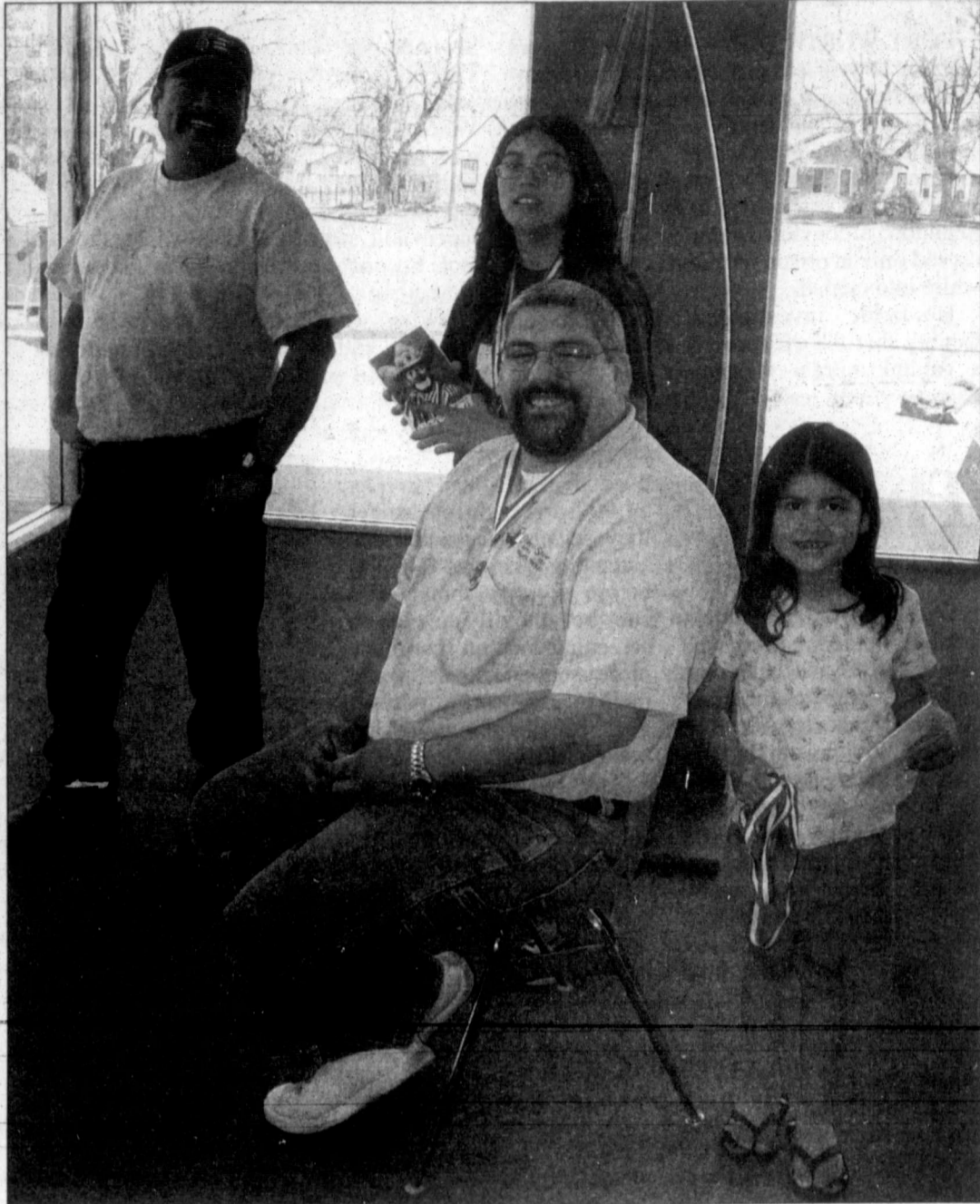
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78th anniversary celebration



Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS
Richard Stowers and Neil Fulton check out the new Cadillac XLR, one of several new cars from GM, during Culberson-Stowers 78th anniversary celebration held recently at the dealership in Pampa.



Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS
Hector Leal, Melissa Leal and Serenity Leal talk to Robert Murrilo recently during the 78th anniversary celebration of Culberson-Stowers in Pampa.

International affairs

New pope keeps old guard

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Benedict XVI confirmed Cardinal Angelo Sodano in the Vatican's No. 2 post Thursday and kept all other top officials, avoiding any immediate shakeup in the late John Paul II's administration.

It was a sign that the new pope, a doctrinal hard-liner, wants to show continuity with the popular John Paul.

Later Thursday, Benedict made another stop at his apartment across the street from the Vatican walls. He arrived in a car and waved at several hundred people waiting outside for a glimpse of him before he entered the building.

Benedict has not yet moved into the papal apartments overlooking St. Peter's Square, staying instead at the Vatican hotel where cardinals slept and dined during the conclave that elected him Tuesday.

Sodano, the Vatican's secretary of state, is 77, already two years past the normal retirement age for Vatican officials. The new pope is 78.

One appointment Benedict will have to make is his successor as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's guardian of orthodoxy.

Among names that have surfaced as possible suc-

sors are Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn of Austria and Cardinal Francis George of Chicago.

The Vatican also said the pope confirmed the Holy See's foreign minister,

'I seem to feel his strong hand holding mine, I feel I can see his smiling eyes and hear his words, at this moment particularly directed at me: 'Be not afraid.'

— Pope Benedict XVI

Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo of Italy, as well as the undersecretary of state, Archbishop Leonardo Sandri of Argentina, who had become John Paul's official voice when the late pontiff could no longer speak.

The confirmation of Sodano came a day after Benedict gave his first Mass as pope, pledging to keep reaching out to other reli-

gions and leaving no doubt that he senses the large shadow of his predecessor.

"I seem to feel his strong hand holding mine, I feel I can see his smiling eyes and hear his words, at this moment particularly directed at me: 'Be not afraid,'" said Benedict, who until Tuesday was simply Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

While signaling that he wants to tread in John Paul's ideological footsteps, the pope is a contrast in style to his predecessor, who was 20 years younger when he became pontiff and kept up a grueling global travel schedule even as his health ebbed.

John Paul II, who died April 2, acted, played soccer, went canoeing in mountain streams as a young man in Poland. Benedict is mostly an indoor man, though he is a big walker because of his youth in the Bavarian Alps. He finds relaxation in classical music and likes to play the piano, not take to the stage.

The Vatican also showed that Benedict intends to follow in the footsteps of John Paul's multimedia ministry. It modified its Web site so that users who click on an icon on the home page automatically activate an e-mail composer with Benedict's address. In English, the address is

UN panel declines to investigate Guantanamo

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission rejected Cuba's attempt Thursday to force an investigation into the treatment of detainees at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay.

The vote on Cuba's resolution was 22-8, with 23 other nations abstaining. The other nations supporting the failed effort by Cuba were China, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sudan, Malaysia, Guatemala and Mexico.

The resolution, which noted the "serious concern" expressed by U.N. experts about the conditions for terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo, would have asked the United States "to authorize an impartial and independent fact-finding mission" to the center.

Cuba introduced the resolution after the commission approved a resolution to continue reporting on the human rights situation in the communist island nation.

The European Union already said it planned to oppose the Cuban bid, which effectively would have been a reprimand to the United States.

Juan Antonio Fernandez, the Cuban dele-

gate who presented the resolution, expressed disappointment in the EU members.

"Not even one of them dared to challenge the threat of the hegemonic superpower," Fernandez said.

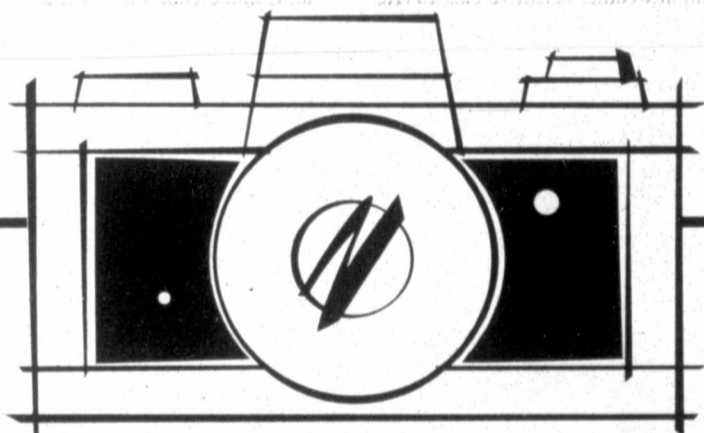
Former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, head of the U.S. delegation, welcomed the vote.

"Many of our friends here recognized that the United States is a leader in human rights," Boschwitz said. "We were very satisfied that those who supported our position talked about our judiciary and the independence of our judiciary."

Peruvian Ambassador Elizabeth Astete Rodriguez said she thought the resolution was not needed because actions by the U.S. courts and others had led to "measures to improve the situation."

"The case is already being addressed," she said, adding that the improvements were not reflected in the Cuban proposal.

Supporters of the United States also noted it has been regularly permitting visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross to check on the condition of the detainees.



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Parenting workshop



"Parenting: The Underdeveloped Skill" was held recently at the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. An annual workshop in its 18th year, "Parenting" was presented by Amarillo and Canyon ISDs and Amarillo and Canyon ISD Councils of Parent Teacher Associations. Among the recent workshop attendees were (above) Elida Martinez, Esther Quezada, Dawn Willis, Mary Bennett, Linda Carlton and Woodrow Wilson Elementary Parent Liaison Debbie Doss. Not pictured: Mary Hartley and Cheryl Weeden.



Several from Pampa recently attended "Parenting: The Underdeveloped Skill," a workshop sponsored by Amarillo and Canyon ISDs and Amarillo and Canyon ISD Councils of Parent Teacher Associations. Above: Gerardo Soria, Maria Olveda, Paulin Soria, Janet Harris, Sylvia Garcia, Victoria Perez, Sylvia Flores, Dolores Arreola, Lamar Elementary Parent Liaison Anna Saiz and Melanie Carter. Not pictured: Greg Epperson.

Defendant's mental state issue as Ohio highway shooting trial gets under way

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The man who has admitted to a string of highway shootings that terrorized Ohioans planned them in advance and showed rational thought, a prosecutor told jurors Thursday.

"Life is about choices," Assistant Prosecutor Ed Morgan said in his opening statement in Franklin County Common Pleas Court.

Charles McCoy Jr., 29, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to 12 shootings at moving vehicles on Columbus-area highways and nearby houses and a school. One woman riding in a car was killed. The shootings happened over five months in 2003 and 2004.

His attorneys must prove that untreated paranoid schizophrenia kept McCoy from knowing right from wrong. If the jury agrees, he would be hospitalized until a judge frees him.

Morgan detailed the 12 shootings, trying to show how close the shots came to passengers, pointing out that bullets hit cars' hoods and shattered driver-side windows.

The defense opening statement was to be presented later in the trial, after the prosecution case has been completed. Earlier this week, his attorneys had acknowledged for the first time that McCoy was responsible for the shootings.

On Wednesday, the jurors and alternates on Wednesday

toured the 12 sites. Both the prosecution and defense had asked that jurors be taken to see them before testimony began.

Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien has said McCoy

avoided detection for five months because of the way he chose shooting sites, moving them as scrutiny intensified along Interstate 270, which circles Columbus.

Going the Extra Mile

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Dan Powell for going the extra mile for our family in time of need. As parents it seems like you never know what's coming up next, we are sure there are many out there that can relate.

At 10:00 pm on Friday night 4-8-2005 we received a frightful phone call from our daughter that she had been involved in a minor vehicle accident. When we arrived at the emergency room, we quickly determined that the situation was not a minor ordeal.

The emergency room physician's examination of our daughter's injury concluded that the wound to her forehead would require stitches, and the on-call physician concurred. As parents, we are now in a position to make a difficult decision since this injury will leave a life lasting reminder — not knowing if plastic surgery would be necessary we decided that it would be best to get a second opinion.

We requested the emergency staff to contact Dr. Powell, they did with little hesitation and respected our right to do so.

Throughout our short time in Pampa as a family (5-years) we have developed a relationship with Dan and his family, they are great people. After talking on the phone with Dan about our daughter's condition, he quickly agreed to come to the ER, even though he was not the on call physician. After his arrival he provided us with solid direction, solutions, comfort, offered to perform the procedure and we gladly approved. To top that off, Dr. Powell made a personal home visit without our request, to ensure that our daughter was healing and in good condition. Now that is WOW Service!

We just want to make the public aware of a valuable resource in our community, Dr. Dan Powell. Thanks Dan for your caring attitude, and your willingness to truly help and care for people. You are an excellent Doctor, a Great Friend, and a major part of our community, keep on — keeping on. We would also like to recognize the ER Staff Members for their patience, professionalism, and willingness to meet our expectations.

Sincerely

John and Suzanne Wagner

John and Suzanne Wagner

Ex-execs facing long prison terms

HOUSTON (AP) — Two former Merrill Lynch & Co. executives convicted of participating in Enron's bogus sale of power barges to the brokerage could serve more time in prison than the former Enron finance chief credited with masterminding schemes that rotted his company.

Federal probation officers have recommended double-digit prison terms for Daniel Bayly, former head of investment banking for Merrill Lynch, and James A. Brown, former head of the brokerage's asset lease group. Bayly was to be sentenced Thursday morning, followed by Brown mid-afternoon.

They and two other former Merrill executives convicted by a jury last year demonstrated a chunk of Wall Street's role in the Enron scandal through the brokerage's choice to participate in a sham deal to make a lucrative client happy. The company avoided prosecution by implementing reforms to prevent suspicious deals.

The recommended prison terms for Bayly and Brown — about 14 years for Bayly and up to 33 for Brown — exceed the decade awaiting Andrew Fastow as part of a plea deal in which he admitted to engineering varied schemes to make Enron appear financially healthy while

pocketing millions of dollars for himself on the side. Fastow could shave a year and a half off his term with good time credit.

The recommended sentences for Bayly and Brown both include enhancements under federal sentencing guidelines for such factors as the government's contention that the bogus deal helped inflate Enron stock by more than \$43 million and both men were involved in organizing the crime.

Both defense teams dispute the \$43 million figure, which the government says amounts to a loss because investors overpaid for Enron shares. The defense says the figure stems from flawed data.

Bayly and Brown went to trial in September alongside Robert Furst and William Fuhs, two lower ex-Merrill executives, former midlevel Enron finance executive Dan Boyle and former in-house Enron accountant Sheila Kahanek.

The five men were convicted of conspiracy and fraud for helping push through a rushed year-end loan disguised as a sale so Enron could book a profit critical to meeting earnings targets. Kahanek was acquitted. Furst, Fuhs and Boyle are to be sentenced May 12.



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 willing to 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
DURING BUSINESS HOURS:			
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
DURING BUSINESS HOURS (cont'd):			
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
AFTER BUSINESS HOURS:			
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: I am a safety engineer with the Federal Highway Administration. Because our nation is committed to maintaining its roads and highways, there is an enormous amount of continued road maintenance and reconstruction going on in every state. Much of the work is done at night in order to reduce traffic congestion, which means that our workers are harder to see, and driving through a work zone can be more difficult.

During the period from 1998 to 2002, the number of people killed on foot and in motor vehicle accidents in work zones went from 722 to a high of 1,181 — with more than 52,000 seriously injured in 2002. The good news is, in 2003, with more emphasis on work zones, the number of fatalities dropped to 1,028 and serious injuries to 41,239. We would like to continue that downward trend.

Please remind everyone who is traveling through a work zone to be extra-attentive to his or her speed, the current road conditions, changing traffic patterns and our highway workers. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Lives can be saved if motorists do their part. — KENNETH-J. KOCHVAR, SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

DEAR KENNETH: I'm glad to do my part. The deaths and injuries you described are preventable. Remember, folks, these workers are on the job to make your travel safe, efficient and smooth. They may be just a few feet on the other side of those orange cones or barriers. Some safety tips for driving in work zones:

- (1) Slow down! Speeding is one of the major causes of work-zone accidents.
- (2) Expect the unexpected, including altered traffic lanes.
- (3) Don't tailgate. The most common crash in a highway work zone is a rear-end collision because someone was driving too close to the car in

front.

(4) Keep your vehicle a safe distance from the construction workers and their equipment.

(5) Obey road-crew flaggers, and pay attention to the signs.

(6) Stay alert and minimize distractions. (This means talking on cell phones or changing radio stations.)

(7) Plan ahead. The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, <http://wzsafety.tamu.edu>, posts links to information on work-zone delays throughout the country. If you know road work is being done in your area, allow enough time to drive safely to your destination, and check radio, TV and Web sites for traffic updates before you hit the road.

DEAR ABBY: I am a single male in my 50s, and I have met a lady I'm getting along with very well. We both agree that a relationship must be built on honesty, among other things.

When is the proper time to make a complete health disclosure? I am on medication for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. All these are under control because of the medications. I certainly plan to tell her about these things, but I don't want to scare her off by telling her too soon, or appear deceptive by waiting too long. What's your advice on this matter? — HONEST IN MILWAUKEE

DEAR HONEST: When your relationship progresses to the point that you are spending extended periods of time together, it will become apparent that you are taking certain medications. If she asks you about them, answer her questions honestly. If she does not ask, discuss your medical history with her before you propose marriage, because at that time it could affect her decision.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

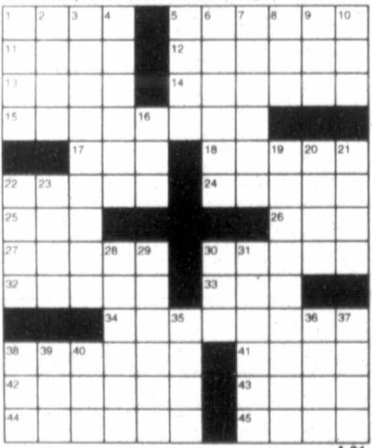
- ACROSS
- 44 Picks an entrée
 - 45 Bud holder
 - 5 Became depleted
 - 11 Language test
 - 12 Relaxed highlight
 - 13 Do secretarial work
 - 14 Was generous
 - 15 Cry during a duel
 - 17 St. Kin
 - 18 More recent
 - 22 "Seascape" playwright
 - 24 Let fall loosely
 - 25 Corp. VIP
 - 26 Went ahead
 - 27 Bea Arthur series
 - 30 Flat-nosed dogs
 - 32 Door sign
 - 33 Pig-poke link
 - 34 Premium channels
 - 38 Sullen
 - 41 Capote
 - 42 Out of bed
 - 43 Albacore
- DOWN
- 1 Hay setting
 - 2 La Scala
 - 3 Discuss
 - 4 Coat part
 - 5 Foolhardy
 - 6 Convent
 - 7 Less messy
 - 8 Crew item
 - 9 Purpose
 - 10 Cartoonist
 - 11 Key
 - 12 Course start
 - 13 Loosely
 - 14 Corp. VIP
 - 15 Went ahead
 - 16 Bea Arthur series
 - 17 Flat-nosed dogs
 - 18 Door sign
 - 19 Pig-poke link
 - 20 Premium channels
 - 21 Sullen
 - 22 Capote
 - 23 Out of bed
 - 24 Albacore



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Aborigine's excursion
- 20 Fencer's sword
- 21 Ohio team
- 22 Pinnacle
- 23 Not too fatty
- 28 Kick off the throne
- 29 Pencil great
- 30 Snap
- 31 Makes law
- 35 Longings
- 36 Bowling spot
- 37 Final, e.g.
- 38 Chair-man of note
- 39 Hockey great
- 40 Free

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 336475, Orlando, FL 32833-6475



Marmaduke



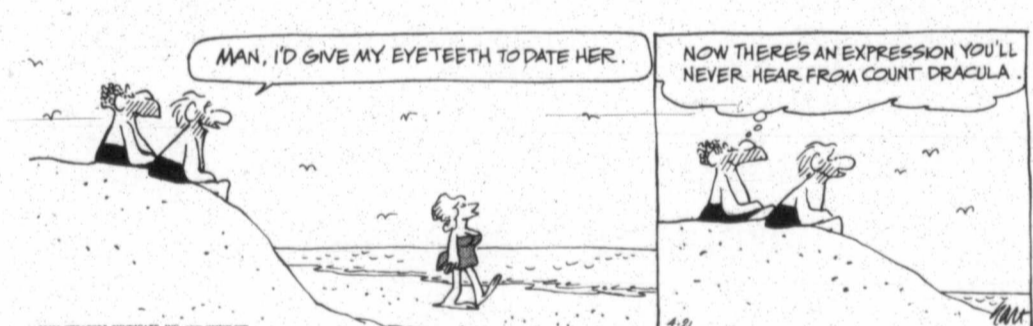
"Must you hover?"

The Family Circus



"The adventures of Billy will be continued tomorrow. Good night, folks."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

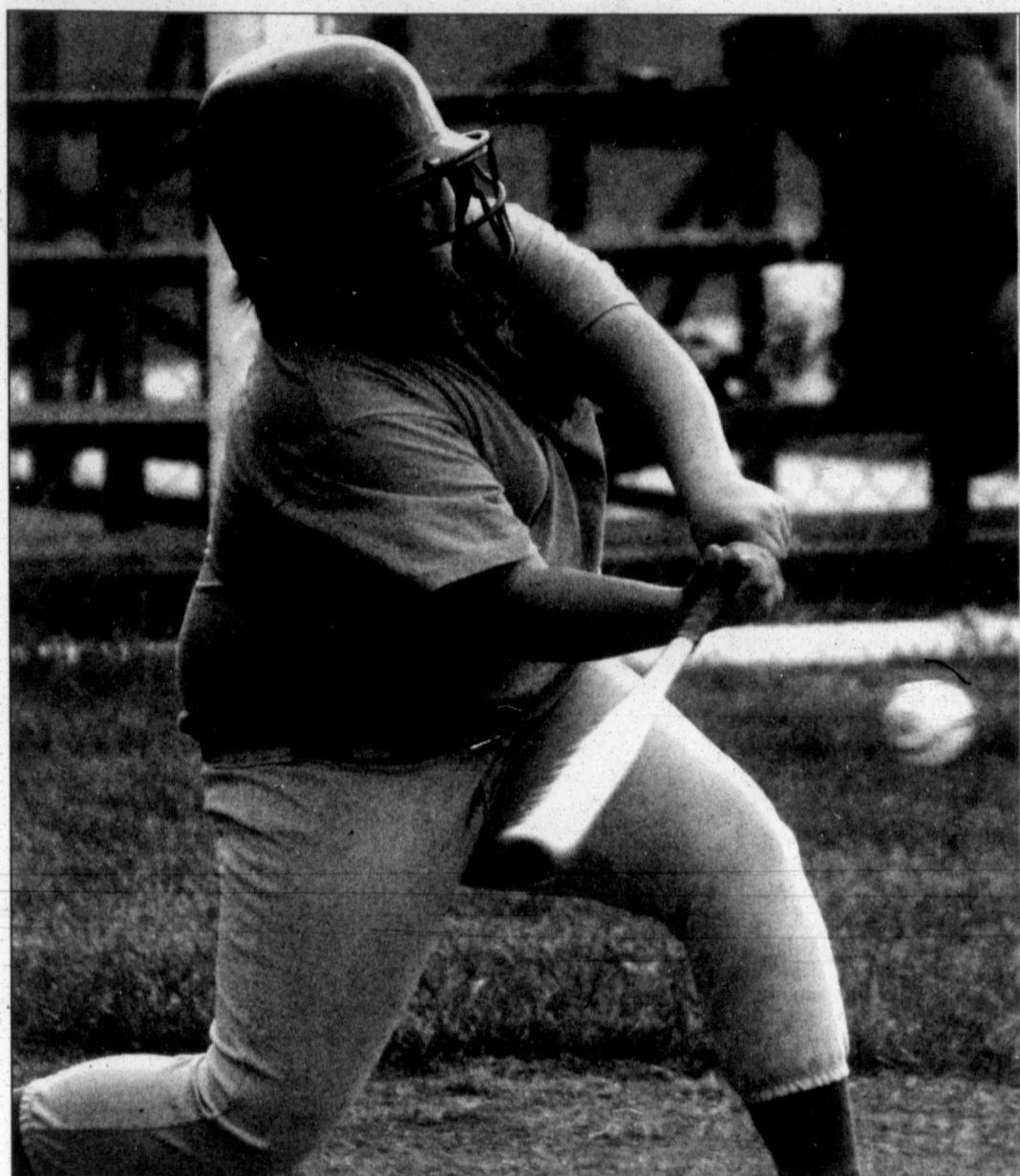


Flo & Friends



Sports Day

A day at the ballpark

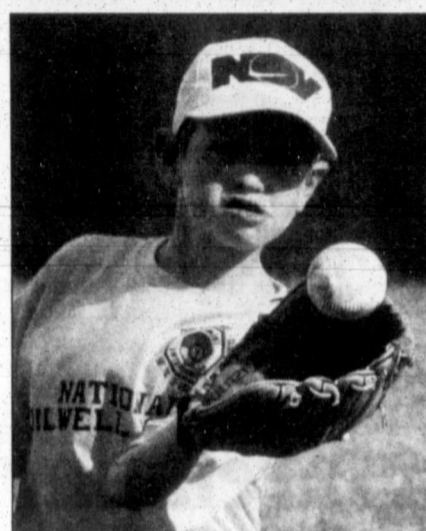


Pampa News photos by BEN BRISCOE

▲ Celanese player Zack Ruth scampers across home plate, the end result of a home run during yesterday's Cabot Corporation, Celanese 11-12 year old Pampa Optimist Youth Club baseball game. Celanese won the game, 17-12.

◀ Celanese' Ramone Jimenez takes a mighty swing at a Cabot Corporation pitch during yesterday's game.

▶ Cabot Corporation player Nathan Furgason gathers up the ball in yesterday's game.



Lee, Ferguson take pin honors at red, white and blue scramble

Here are the results from Wednesday's Red, White and Blue scramble at Hidden Hills golf course.

1st Place (64)
Jim Brashears
Ray Covalt
Joe Mabry
Jim Osborne

2nd Place (64)
Whitey White
Ralph Baker
Bob Henderson
Gene Winegeart
3rd Place (65)
Bill Hammer
Travis Taylor
Ron Crump

Duane Cash
4th Place (66)
Ron Parnell
Oscar Sargent
Callens George
Bill Brown
Closest to Pin:
OK Lee, (#8)
Dwayne Ferguson (#15)

AMERICAN WHY-DOL

Savol, Maroulis need to go; Abdul simply embarrassing

There is a matter of great national importance that I feel needs to be brought to the forefront. A situation that has gone unchecked and is causing many, myself included, great anguish. It has absolutely nothing to do with sport, but everything to do with integrity, decisiveness and proper conduct.

This albatross of public opinion has been allowed to flap its wings for too long now. It is time to reach for our best game-bagging weapon and pluck this bird from the sky before more poor souls are driven to the brink of an irreversible conniption fit.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor

The issue at hand? Why, why...WHY is it Scott Savol and Constantine Maroulis are still in the hunt for the American Idol title? Equally, why hasn't Simon Cowell slipped something into Paula Abdul's Coke that would cause her to go to sleep during the show? Oh Paula, where I once wished I was a cartoon cat dancing in one of your videos, I now imagine you as a Twinkie tossed into a room of hungry dieters with tall glasses of cold milk.

Savol and Maroulis have no talent. They can't sing. Think of almost any song among the top 40 in any music style today. Now, picture one of these comedic crooners singing it. How does it sound? Like fingernails on a really long blackboard, huh?

This Anthony Federov kid isn't much better. He ain't no Clay Aiken. Still, I would rather put up with him for the next few weeks than Savol or Maroulis.

We've already had one girth-challenged American Idol. But the thing about Ruben Studdard is, the man can sing.

Savol simply waddles around, butchering low notes while he depends on hitting those warbling highs at the end of the tune he just destroyed to carry him for another week.

By contrast, the Elvis tune I sang in the shower this morning should net me a wicked-cool and lucrative recording con-

tract. I was on, dog.

Maroulis is even worse. He has no range. But man, he knows where that camera is at all times, doesn't he? That 'come hither' stare. The ill-timed squint and tongue thing.

This is the guy that got beat-up a lot as a kid. The stares aren't for the ladies, it is for those ghosts of bullies past. It is his way of sticking it to them, but good. Might also explain the tongue. In his mind, he is probably mumbling, "Na, na, na, na, na."

On the flip side, my wife is convinced Bo Bice and Carrie Underwood should hook up. I didn't pay much attention to her observation until last night when Bice and Underwood, along with the latest cast-off, Anwar



Robinson, appeared to be playing instruments during some sappy feel-good tune at the start of the show.

I expected them to go solve a groovy mystery afterward.

But mama was right, Bice and Underwood are sort of cute together.

So in my perfect world, Abdul would spontaneously combust. She wouldn't feel any pain because I am not convinced she actually exists. Savol and Maroulis would be called into the American Idol producer's office, where it would be explained to them that, "You two seem to really be bothering some guy in Pampa, and we just can't have that." In lieu of just letting them both go back to whatever it is they did prior to American Idol, the producer could creatively expose their weaknesses by simply having Dwight Yokum night.

Sure, I think all the remaining contestants would struggle. But I would take great pleasure in watching two in particular.

Okay, it is a sports page and I am the Sports Editor. American Idol isn't really a sport. So, let me bring this back into frame here.

CUBS WIN. CUBS WIN. (They really did. See page 10 for details).

Draft 2005: Parcels seeks big impact

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Bill Parcels has spent the entire offseason getting ready for this weekend.

That's how important this draft is to the Dallas Cowboys and, perhaps, the final chapter in his coaching career.

The Cowboys own the 11th and 20th picks and are desperately seeking what Parcels likes to call "catalytic" players, the kind of game-breakers opposing coordinators spend all week trying to stifle yet still end up making big plays.

While that includes receivers, expect Parcels to pluck someone who can pressure quarterbacks as a defensive end, linebacker or, preferably, both.

Parcels has spent much of his time since ending a 6-10 season trying to decide whether to change from a 4-3 to the 3-4 defense. A DE-LB hybrid who could be effective in either formation would give him flexibility to make a wholesale change or just mix things up now and then.

"To me, you've got to find guys who fit both schemes," said Jeff Ireland, Dallas' new scouting director. "The more things you can do the more opportuni-

ties you have to make plays."

Parcels began studying the lack of plays his team made right after a season-ending loss to the New York Giants on Jan. 2. He attended Senior Bowl week in Mobile, Ala., and went to the scouting combine in Indianapolis. He didn't go to either last year or the previous one — when just taking over in Dallas consumed much of his time.

"I'm very impressed with the amount of his focus and the amount of resolve that I see," team owner Jerry Jones said. "It's more than what I saw last year."

Studying hard has paid off for Parcels before, especially for these types of players. He took Willie McGinest fourth overall for the Patriots in 1994 and John Abraham at No. 14 for the Jets in 2000. He'd love to come away with anyone that productive again.

So, who might it be this time?

Shawne Merriman of Maryland seems like a perfect fit, as does speedy Demarcus Ware of Troy. A possible tiebreaker for Merriman is that he excelled against better competition in college, some-

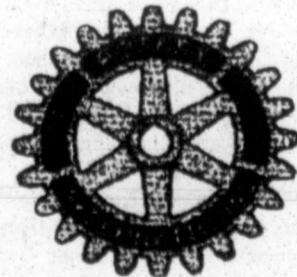
thing Parcels values in the early rounds.

Marcus Spears of LSU is another name to watch, although he's a different kind of hybrid. He'd be a down lineman in either system and might be best suited to be a block-eating end in the 3-4. Dallas already has added one widebody to the front in free agent Jason Ferguson, but another Parcels principle is that you can't have enough big guys.

Oklahoma's Dan Cody and Wisconsin's Erasmus James also are possible targets, especially if Dallas moves down or tries to swing up with its second pick. It's worth noting that the Cowboys have used their own No. 1 pick only once in the last five drafts.

Another reminder is that Jones and Parcels went into last year's draft looking for a running back. When they had their pick of them all, they instead moved into the second round and got Julius Jones, whom they ranked almost on par with the players everyone else had rated as first-rounders. Jones exceeded expectations on the field and that deal is how Dallas got this year's extra first-rounder.

ROTARY Charity Golf Scramble



SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH, 2005
8:00 A.M. SHOTGUN START

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\$60/player • team hdcp > 40
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Pro Shop at 665-8431
Make checks out to
Pampa Rotary Club



Pampa Country Club
665-8431

Wednesday's MLB Linescores He's out

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Chicago 300 033 000 — 9 12 1
Detroit 001 000 000 — 1 5 1

Garland, Cotts (9) and Widger; Ledezma, Good (6) and I Rodriguez. W—Garland 3-0. L—Ledezma 1-1. HRs—Chicago, Dye (3), Crede (2).

New York 030 403 100 — 11 14 1
Toronto 001 001 000 — 2 7 0

Pavano, Karsay (9) and Posada; Lilly, Walker (4), Whiteside (6), Frasor (8), Speier (9) and Zaun, GMyers (7). W—Pavano 1-2. L—Lilly 0-2. HR—New York, Posada (1).

Boston 000 013 130 — 8 9 0
Baltimore 000 000 000 — 0 3 0

DWells, Neal (9) and Varitek, Mirabelli (9); BChen, SReed (7), Parrish (8), Bauer (9) and GGil. W—DWells 2-2. L—BChen 1-1. HR—Boston, Varitek (4).

Texas 001 540 200 — 12 11 0
Tampa Bay 100 105 030 — 10 15 2

Drese, Mahay (6), Brocail (7), BShouse (8), Regilio (8), FCordero (9) and Barajas; JWebb, Fossum (5), McClung (7), Waechter (9) and CJohnson. W—Drese 2-1. L—Webb 0-1. Sv—FCordero (7). HR—Texas, Barajas (2).

Kansas City 004 000 000 — 4 6 1
Minnesota 120 001 01x — 5 9 0

Lima, Camp (6), Cerda (8), Field (8) and ACastillo; Santana, JRincon (8), Nathan (9) and Maurer. W—JRincon 2-0. L—Cerda 1-2. Sv—Nathan (5). HRs—Kansas City, MSweeney (2), Minnesota, Maurer (2), JJones (3).

Cleveland 000 000 000 — 0 4 0
Los Angeles 001 000 01x — 2 5 0

Westbrook and VMartinez; Colon, FRodriguez (9) and JMolina. W—Colon 3-1. L—Westbrook 0-4. Sv—FRodriguez (3). HR—Los Angeles, Figgins (2).

Oakland 030 001 011 — 6 12 0
Seattle 400 000 30x — 7 13 0

Wright, JoAcevedo (7), Fuentes (7), BKim (8), Tsao (9) and Closser; Lidie, Madson (7), Cormier (8), Worrell (9) and Lieberthal. W—Wright 1-1. L—Lidle 0-2. HRs—Colorado, Hawpe (2), Philadelphia, Rollins (2), Lieberthal (1).

Milwaukee 001 000 000 — 1 4 2
Houston 200 001 30x — 6 9 1

BSheets, Wise (7), Phelps (8) and Moeller; Oswalt and RChavez. W—Oswalt 3-1. L—BSheets 1-3. HRs—Houston, AEverett (1), Biggio (2).

Chicago 110 010 000 — 3 12 1
St. Louis 000 001 000 — 1 5 1

Zambrano, Hawkins (9) and Barrett; Suppan, Flores (7), Tavarez (9), King (9) and EDiaz. W—Zambrano 2-0. L—Suppan 1-2. Sv—Hawkins (3). HR—St. Louis, Pujols (4).

Los Angeles 000 000 010 2 — 3 9 2
San Diego 100 000 000 0 — 1 7 1

DLowe, Sanchez (9), Brazoban (10) and JPhillips; WWilliams, Otsuka (8), Linebrink (9), DReyes (10) and RaHernandez. W—Sanchez 1-1. L—Linebrink 0-1. Sv—Brazoban (4). HR—Los Angeles, JDrew (2), (10 innings)

DLowe, Sanchez (9), Brazoban (10) and JPhillips; WWilliams, Otsuka (8), Linebrink (9), DReyes (10) and RaHernandez. W—Sanchez 1-1. L—Linebrink 0-1. Sv—Brazoban (4). HR—Los Angeles, JDrew (2).

Arizona 002 000 000 — 2 3 0
San Francisco 000 000 001 — 1 11 1

JVazquez, Bruney (8), Lyon (8) and CSnyder; Lowry, Christiansen (7), Eyre (8), Brower (9) and Matheny. W—JVazquez 1-2. L—Lowry 1-1. Sv—Lyon (6).

Zito, Street (7), Duchscherer (8) and Kendall; Pineiro, JeNelson (8), Villone (8), Guardado (9) and Olivo, DWilson (8). W—Pineiro 1-1. L—Street 1-1. Sv—Guardado (5). HRs—Oakland, Durazo (1), Seattle, BBoone (2).

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Pittsburgh 012 000 010 — 4 12 0
Cincinnati 000 300 30x — 6 11 0

OIPerez, RiWhite (5), STorres (7) and Cota; PWilson, Mercker (8), RWagner (8), Graves (9) and LaRue. W—PWilson 1-1. L—STorres 1-1. Sv—Graves (6). HRs—Cincinnati, WPenaz (2), Aurilia (2).

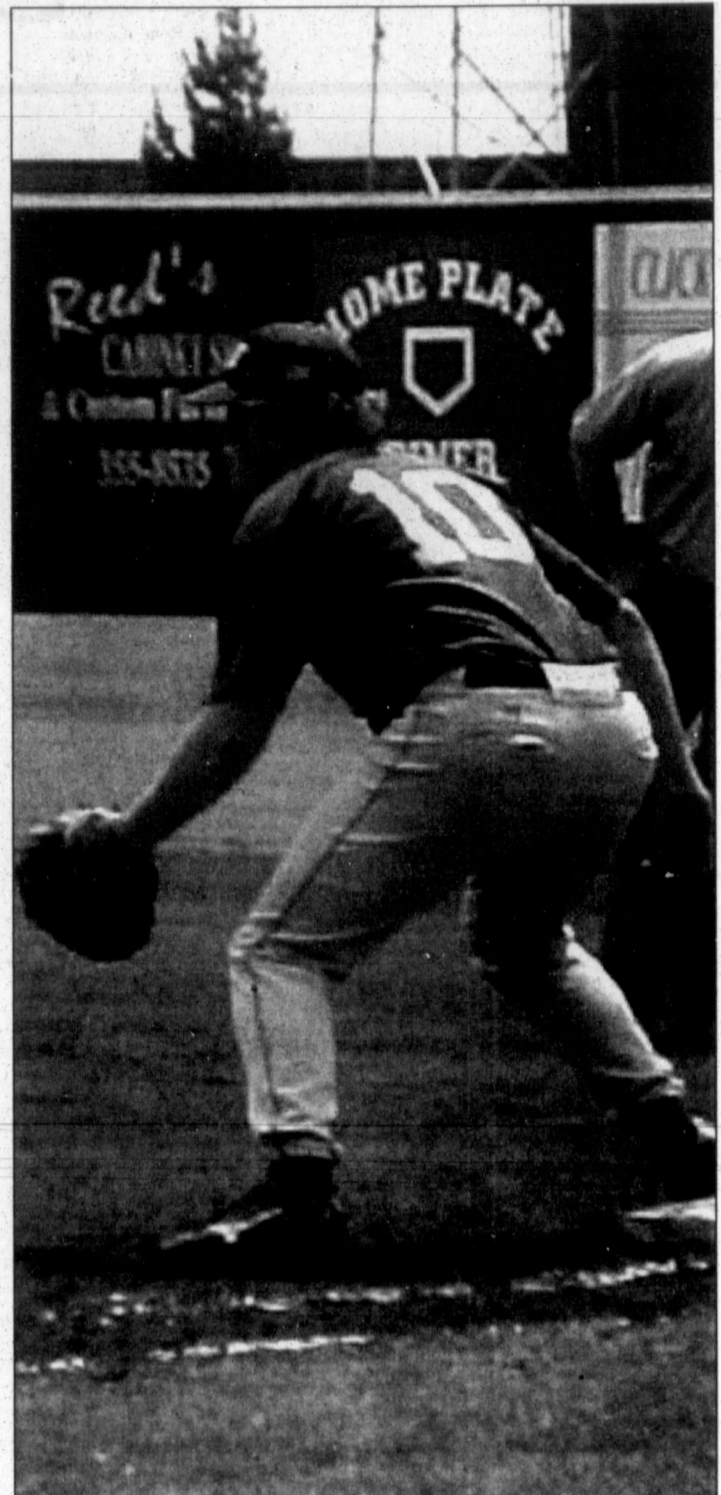
Atlanta 000 000 000 — 0 5 1
Washington 002 000 00x — 2 6 0

HRamirez, Gryboski (7), Bernero (8) and JEstrada; Day, Ayala (8), CCordero (9) and Schneider. W—Day 1-1. L—HRamirez 1-1. Sv—CCordero (3). HR—Washington, Vidro (4).

New York 000 020 000 — 2 4 0
Florida 104 202 00x — 9 15 0

Heilman, Aybar (5), MMatthews (6), RHernandez (7), Looper (8) and Piazza; Beckett, Alfonseca (8), TJones (9) and Treanor. W—Beckett 3-1. L—Heilman 1-2. HR—Florida, JEncarnacion (3).

Colorado 110 000 410 — 7 16 0
Philadelphia 100 000 201 — 4 9 2



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa Harvester varsity first baseman Jake Craig waits for a throw from a teammate during last week's meeting with the Randall Raiders. Craig snagged the toss to get the runner out at first. He would later crank a power shot out of the park in the Harvester's 8-1 win. Pampa faces a Hereford team here tomorrow afternoon. That game time will get started at 4:30 p.m.

Garciaparra goes down with injury

Nomar Garciaparra had barely made it out of the batter's box when he stumbled to the ground wincing in pain and clutching his groin.

The sight of the All-Star shortstop throwing his helmet in frustration as he was being carried off the field overshadowed an impressive outing by teammate Carlos Zambrano in the Chicago Cubs' 3-1 victory Wednesday night over the host St. Louis Cardinals. "I've strained my groin before but

I've never felt anything like this before," said Garciaparra, who will have an MRI on Thursday. "It's kind of a freak thing."

The injury to Garciaparra appears to be serious. He missed 81 games last season for Boston and Chicago.

"It's not good, it's a bad groin," manager Dusty Baker said. "Hopefully it's not as bad as anticipated, but we know it's not good — especially for a shortstop."

Garciaparra signed a one-year deal with the Cubs in the offseason that could be worth as much as \$11 million and he thrived during spring training.

But he slumped early this season, hitting just .157 and was dropped from third to sixth in the batting order for the game.

Garciaparra was injured while grounding into a double play in the third.

THE PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIED

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

FOUND in S.W part of town. Female Dachshund 669-3770 or 663-0663.

13 Bus. Opp.

START a second income stream for \$99. Call 817-481-4736.

13 Bus. Opp.

ABSOLUTE Goldmine! 60 vending machines/ excellent locations. all for \$10,995. 800-234-6982

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement windows, steel siding & trim Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

14d Carpentry

NEW Const., remodeling, replacement windows. Shawn Deaver Constr. 662-2977, 665-0354.

14d Carpentry

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347. ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost. It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

West Fence & Deck Sealing weather seal your fence or deck. Wash & seal your old fence or deck. Free estimates! 440-1581 or 665-7594

14h Gen. Serv.

HANDYMAN Carpentry, Painting Fencing & Dry Wall Hauling, Appliance Removal. More! 665-2017

14r Plowing/Yard

MOWING by Britteni & John Luke. Mowing, scalping & edging. Call 669-3615 or 440-6504, lv. msg.

TRACTOR Mowing Service Vacant lots Small Acreage 440-6243

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Berger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

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

21 Help Wanted

NOW hiring Management Trainee for the Pampa Office. Come join our dynamic team! National Consumer Finance Co. with over 425 locations. Full benefits package, vacation-paid holidays-medical & life ins., 401K retirement-excellent training program. No finance exp. required. We're looking for qualified candidates with a desire to succeed & advance. Professional appearance. Automobile. For more info, or to schedule an interview call 806-273-6399. World Acceptance Corp. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NEEDED: LVN part-time for 11-7 shift & full-time 3-11 w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

SEM Crude has an opening for a full time driver in the Pampa area. Must have a Class A CDL with X endorsement. Meet DOT qualifications. Excellent benefits package. Please call Joe Critchlow at 806-681-2405, or 806-934-7505 for an application.

COOK Needed 35 hrs. week. Apply @ Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center.

UNION Tank Car is taking applications for car repair person / welder. For more info. 806-663-4677.

JANITOR- full & part-time job. No experience needed, will train. To apply call 665-2667.

HOSTESSES & Waitresses needed. Waitresses must be 18. Apply in person, Dyer's BBQ.

NEED CNA's for all shifts, \$8 hr. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home, Claude. (806)226-5121.

21 Help Wanted

DAYCARE SUPERVISOR needed Full-time to supervise care-givers and prepare age appropriate lesson plans and activities. Excellent communication skill and childcare experience needed. Apply at: St. Matthew's Day School 727 W. Browning 665-0703

21 Help Wanted

CNAs ASK ABOUT OUR NEW SIGN-ON BONUS! IMMEDIATE OPENINGS on all shifts. Must be TEXAS State Certified! Competitive rates & benefits for full time employees. EOE. For more info., call (806)665-5746 or apply in person at CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER, 1504 W. Kentucky, Pampa.

HIRING Wait Staff & Cooks, all shifts. Must be able to work any shift. Apply in person at Texas Rose Steakhouse, Pampa.

HOUSEKEEPER needed, part-time, 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Mon. thru Fri. Call 806-669-6823 10 a.m.-12 noon, Mon. thru Fri.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 22, 2005:

Lady Luck greets you this birthday year, especially in your daily life. You could be overwhelmed by all the opportunities that drop on you. Watch your weight and blood pressure. "Expansion" is your theme this year. Listen to your sixth sense concerning your career and/or public commitments. You'll achieve what you thought was impossible. Use your imagination and creativity. Brainstorm with others; don't hold back. If you are single, you could meet that special someone as soon tomorrow or as late as the winter holidays. You actually might have two choice suitors. If you are attached, your relationship will grow because of your nurturing and caring. You find a new type of warmth bonding the two of you. LIBRA pitches in. 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)

***** Positive energy surrounds you, especially when dealing with others. Your ability to zero in on what is important might tumble to the wayside when eyeing a dream that's about to come true. You understand a lot more than you realize. Tonight: Go along with others' plans. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** What can be pleasurable could also have an element of demand. You might feel totally overwhelmed by all that you have to do. Worry less about pleasing others and simply complete what you need to do. Tonight: Relax -- finally. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** You are full high energy and

ready to grab hold of a longtime desire. Think positively about your options. Many doors will open up to you, if you allow it. Creativity merges with humor. Laughter easily could surround the Twin. Tonight: Ever playful. CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** You greet basics with a smile. What might be important to you could easily be irrelevant to others. Indulge family and friends. You might want to buy a new grill or do some landscaping to make your place more homey. Tonight: Set the atmosphere. Let everything else happen. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** You finally hear what you want, allowing you to proceed as you would like. Others pitch in, excited to join. They know you will make a difference. If you need to close your door to get some privacy, do just that. Tonight: Wherever you are, smiles abound. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Spending might go overboard. Be sure you are spending your money in a meaningful way. At the same time, eye new ways to make money. You have a lot of talent that you might not have used yet. Address your potential. Tonight: Your treat. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You are all smiles wherever you are. You might feel like you have a special secret. Laugh and enjoy yourself with others. Express your creativity and imagination. Someone might care about you as more than a friend. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** What someone shares must be kept hush-hush for now. Your secretive style and ways come into play. Make

sure you are not deluding yourself about someone close, a roommate or family member. Dump the rose-colored shades. Tonight: Take a break. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Friends and associates greet you with smiles and applause. Working together, you might create a reason for celebration. Your sixth sense comes into play. You know what to do and when. Tonight: Any reason is a good reason to celebrate. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Work with others. You have a unique way of commanding. Use your unusual leadership abilities to enhance your public image. Though you ace money situations, use extra care right now. Tonight: A force to be dealt with. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** Information comes back in favor of a decision or key message. You might not want to be where you are. Let your imagination lead you when making plans. How you see someone could change if you detach. Tonight: Follow the music. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Your instincts lead you in the right direction. Remain sure of yourself. Others might appear to have a lot going for them. Someone in particular comes through for you like you cannot believe. Reveal more of what is on your mind. Tonight: Fulfill another's request. BORN TODAY Actor George Cole (1925), actor, singer Glenn Campbell (1936), actor Jack Nicholson (1937) Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. (c) 2005 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



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Altrusa Style Show

Lacie Long, left, and McKinsie East model formal wear for V.J.'s Fashions for the Altrusa Style Show to be held at 10:30 a.m. April 23 at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Popular sand dunes draw for drug smugglers

IMPERIAL SAND DUNES, Calif. (AP) — The man at the wheel of a roaring dune buggy rips a swirling trail over the desolate landscape on a morning ride. He veers to the south, and then whips back.

That prompts U.S. Border Patrol agent Danielle Suarez to pull him over and give him a warning. The dune rider doesn't know it, but he just crossed into Mexico and back.

Here, along a five-mile stretch of constantly shifting sands, the border is invisible. It's an opportunity for drug smugglers to slip over the line and mix with the off-roading crowd — and a challenge for the agents trying to spot them.

At one point, the international line sits just a half-mile south of Interstate 8, the main link between San Diego and Phoenix.

The Imperial Sand Dunes, a desolate desert expanse, is a giant playground for all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts. On busy weekends between fall and spring, when the temperatures are tolerable, ATV riders, dune buggy fans and campers in motor homes swarm over the sands. A holiday weekend can draw close to 200,000 people.

"It's so easy for them (smugglers) to blend in, looking for a way to get onto I-8," Suarez says as she meanders the hills in a pick-up truck. "There's really nothing separating the two countries."

The southern edge of the dunes, the Buttercup Dunes, is remote enough to have served as a film location for parts of "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi."

The only marking for the international border: a couple of concrete obelisks about 15 feet high.

'It's so easy for them (smugglers) to blend in, looking for a way to get onto I-8. There's really nothing separating the two countries.'

— Danielle Suarez
Border Patrol agent

Since late February, there have been seven drug busts along the dunes, and a string of others before that. Federal agents have yet to uncover any elaborate criminal enterprise, but the arrests show how the dunes are being used to funnel dope into the United States.

Marijuana smugglers appear to have used Buttercup since about 1999, said Ricardo Sandoval, spe-

cial agent in charge of the Homeland Security Department's Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau in El Centro, about 35 miles west of the dunes. He declined to elaborate.

In one typical bust last month, a Border Patrol agent spotted seven all-terrain vehicles streaking across the border at sunset — five of them with large duffel bags strapped to the seats. At the

main campground, two men loaded the bags on a trailer.

Agents stopped the trailer on I-8 and found 558 pounds of marijuana in a secret compartment, according to charges filed in federal court. The driver said a woman in nearby Mexicali, Mexico, promised him \$500 for each duffel bag. He admitted delivering four bags to a truck stop in El Centro a few days earlier.

If they don't mix with large crowds in daylight, smugglers sneak in under the cover of darkness.

Last May, Border Patrol agents spotted two abandoned ATVs about 150 yards from the border, shortly before midnight. They followed tracks and saw several ATVs cruising through the dunes without lights, heading for a campground.

Ex-Neverland guard recalls written order to not let boy leave

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — Defense attorneys in Michael Jackson's child molestation trial presented visitor's logs from the singer's Neverland ranch that showed a different timeline of arrivals and departures for the accuser and his family than those described by the boy's mother.

One entry seemed to indicate the accuser's family was at Neverland on a night when the boy's mother has said the family was in Miami with Jackson.

Jackson's attorneys did not explain the apparent discrepancy as they presented the logs while cross-examining a former Neverland security guard. Prosecutors called the guard to testify that he once had orders not to let the accuser leave Neverland.

Jackson, 46, is accused of molesting the boy, a 13-year-old cancer patient, in February or March 2003. He also is accused of conspiring to hold the boy's family captive to get them to make a rebuttal video following the airing of a TV documentary in which the boy appeared with

Jackson, who said he let children sleep in his bed but that it was non-sexual.

Brian Barron, a police officer who moonlighted at Neverland, testified Wednesday that in January or February 2003 he saw a message written on a greaseboard that "simply stated (the boy) is not allowed off-property."

But Barron also acknowledged under defense questioning that a general policy was to keep child guests on the estate if their parents weren't present and that guards probably would not let any children leave if they were unsupervised.

Barron, a police officer for the town of Guadalupe, moonlighted at Neverland for about three years until leaving after the ranch was raided by sheriff's investigators on Nov. 18, 2003. He said his superiors in Guadalupe suggested he leave the estate because of the criminal investigation.

He said he refused a request by the sheriff's department that he go back to work at Neverland as a law enforcement informant.

Under cross-examination, defense attorney Robert Sanger asked whether the general policy at the ranch was that children visiting without parents would not be allowed to leave by themselves.

"We would not let them go off the ranch without supervision," Barron said.

Barron acknowledged that if he had seen anything amiss he would have been obligated as a police officer to report it.

The defense also questioned Barron about the Neverland visitor's logs. The mother and others have said the family flew to Florida to be with Jackson just before the documentary was broadcast on Feb. 6, 2003. The mother said Jackson did not allow them to view the program there.

Yahoo! provides family with slain U.S. Marine's e-mail account

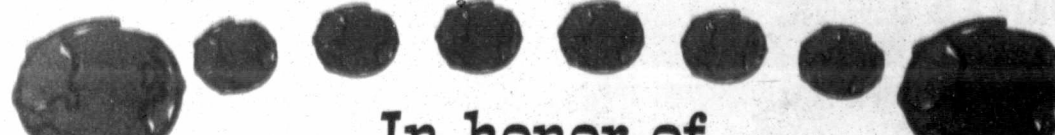
WIXOM, Mich. (AP) — E-mail provider Yahoo! has pledged to give the family of a Marine killed in Iraq full access to their son's e-mail account, ending a court battle that began after his parents sought messages he wrote before his death.

An Oakland County probate judge signed an order Wednesday directing Yahoo! Inc. to provide the contents of the e-mail account used by Lance Cpl. Justin M. Ellsworth, 20, who was killed Nov. 13 while inspecting a bomb in Al Anbar province.

Yahoo!, which originally refused the family's request to hand over the account, did not fight the order and gave the family a CD containing more than 10,000 pages of material.

But John Ellsworth, Justin's father, said he found only e-mails his son received and nothing he had written, even e-mails the younger Ellsworth had sent home.

"Maybe that's all he had ... Maybe that's all he did," John Ellsworth said. "I'm not sure what I've got in front of me."



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toner cartridges for recycling!
After all...
we only have one Earth!

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