

Cop Corner

I hope no one has received a promise to appear. If you have, then read on and learn the third way to appear before the Municipal Court.

The judge of the Court is the Honorable Kurt Curfman. Judge Curfman is appointed by the city commissioners. Judge Curfman is also a justice of the peace. The judge sits on the Municipal Court bench on Mondays. Generally, this is every Monday, but there are always exceptions.

Court starts at 2 p.m. The courtroom is the city commission chamber on the third floor of City Hall. I generally serve as the bailiff for the court. If you choose to appear in court, you will need to check in with the court clerk before coming upstairs. (The judge will need to have your paperwork for court.) Check in with the clerk by 1:45 p.m. There are a few rules to



LT. FRED COURTNEY

follow when you come into the courtroom. Men will remove their hats. Mothers with small children will need to have someone there to look after them. Cell phones will need to be on silent mode or better yet, turned off. The judge has been known to hold a person in contempt of court when a cell phone starts ringing.

Everyone should try to leave the front two rows of seats vacant. This is a security issue, but it also affords

the persons talking to the judge a bit of privacy. When talking to the judge, be polite and courteous.

Many of the persons appearing before the judge are juvenile offenders. Parents need to keep in mind that a person under the age of 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Big brother or sister will not do.

Usually everything goes according to plan in the courtroom. As the court bailiff, I am charged with keeping order in the court and taking any action directed by the judge.

Appearing in court is serious, even if it is Municipal Court, but by following a few simple rules, you will get through it.

Remember: Don't fall victim to phone fraud, hang up!

Cop Corner is supplied by the Pampa Police Department.

PISD

Continued from Page 1

Deloach said. "It is in better shape than many of our other buildings."

A major concern expressed for the school, as with Austin and Lamar elementaries, was the need for a computer lab and/or science lab. However, Wilson's band hall, which was deemed too small, is expected to be turned into a computer lab. Deloach said that was a step in the right direction.

"The future is in technology and science," he said. "We are laying the groundwork for these kids to be successful in life."

Other issues with the campus are building security, settling throughout the building and congestion of traffic between parents and buses.

Concerning the committee as a whole, plans are being studied on ways to remove the asbestos in dis-

trict buildings excluding the elementary-level schools (abated in a 1998 renovation). Soon discussions will be held in order to determine methods, amount of money and time frames for the project.

The committee will take a week for anyone who missed a meeting to see what they have missed. Those needing a makeup tour should arrange it with

Karen Lunder at central administration.

Once a master goal is determined for the entire district, interest groups will form in order to get planning for each campus under way and to see how each group can help the district as a whole.

One more tour of Wilson will be held at 6 tonight in the school's library.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 and VFW Ladies Auxiliary will host the annual

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The Veterans of Foreign Wars invites all Veterans and their families to join in this day of remembrance for the sacrifices of all those who fought or are fighting so gallantly for peace and freedom. Families that have servicemen and women currently serving overseas are warmly encouraged to join us this year. The dinner is free of charge.

City

Continued from Page 1

provide radio equipment, but the city would need to build a new 400-foot communications tower at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

Horst said the PRPC had also agreed to pay for a building, generator and associated equipment if the city built the tower.

The tower would serve city, county and state agencies and the city might be able to lease space on the tower to other groups to offset some of the costs.

The city presently leases tower space for \$7,000 a month.

A landowner near the city's water plant, he said, has agreed to donate land for the tower, which would be about four miles south of Perry Lefors Airport.

Ken Hall, the city's emergency preparedness director, said the estimated payout of the tower would be 10 years, although if the city could lease space to others on the tower, it could be less. Hall said the life expectancy of such a tower is 30 to 40 years.

Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said the tower is a badly need link in the community's communication chain.

Commissioners agreed to sell three lots on the east side of Hobart north of the underpass to West Texas Landscape for \$300. The city gained the land in 1957, when the underpass was built.

Following their meeting, commissioners gathered for a planning session concerning repairs to city hall, a complaint tracking system, additional water rights for the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority of which Pampa is a mem-



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER

Dr. Louis Haydon speaks to the Pampa City Commission concerning an economic development corporation.

ber, creating a charter study group and updating the city's master plan.

Horst said the planning session was to bring to the table issues that the commission will probably need to deal with in the future.

Richard Morris, the city's public works director, told commissioners that city hall had deteriorated over the years from neglect. The windows need to be replaced, the steps had settled, the limestone portals had pulled away from the building and the roof leaked.

Because the building in on the Texas Historical Registry, he said he wasn't sure what would be involved in repairs. He recommended a feasibility study by architects familiar with historical buildings. Morris estimated that the study would cost about \$10,000.

Because of a shortage in funds in the past, he said many city properties had been allowed to deteriorate.

Despite some updating, City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers said M.K. Brown Auditorium needs more repairs. Commissioner Faustina Curry complained about the crumbling steps

and sidewalks in front of M.K. Brown Auditorium.

Jeffers said she is working on a grant request in an effort to get some money to fix some of the problems at the auditorium and civic center.

Horst told commissioners that some of the complaints received through the city's Action Center were being overlooked.

Jeffers said that one of the problems now faced in the Action Center is that because of past budget cuts, the person fielding the complaint calls now has additional duties.

Jeffers admitted that the city did not have the manpower to handle the calls.

Concerning water, Horst said that Plainview, Amarillo and Lubbock have committed to \$20 million for more water rights in addition to the \$55 million that the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority members

approved this year. He said Pampa and Borger had suggested paying an additional seven to 22 cents per 1,000 gallons used into a fund that could be used to purchase more water rights in the future. Horst said no action has been taken by CRMWA on the issue yet.

City Attorney Don Lane suggested to the commission that a committee be established to study a new charter for the city.

Jeffers said the charter under which the city operates now was drawn up in 1927. It has been revised three times. Once in 1963, one in 1965 and again in 1982.

"Our charter is so antiquated," Jeffers said, "we need a new charter."

"I think we need to look at it," Robbins agreed.

A new charter would require voters' approval, Jeffers said.

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Viewpoints

Astros give Lone Star State another first

Throughout the history of our great state, Texans have enjoyed many firsts. This year marks another such occasion as we proudly pay tribute to the Houston Astros, the first baseball team from Texas to make it to the Major League World Series.

I have many fond memories of cheering for the Astros in Texas as a student, reporter and senator. I remember when the Astros — then the Colt .45s — beat the Chicago Cubs in 1962 in their first Major League game and when Nolan Ryan became the first Major League pitcher to reach 4,000 strikeouts in a career

at the Astrodome in 1985. This year the Astros reached a new milestone in their history by winning the National League Championship.

I know the 2005 season will be among my most cherished. I called Drayton McLane — the owner of the Astros — after most of the playoff games to let him know I was cheering from Washington for my home state team.

The Astros have enjoyed a great season, which has been characterized by overcoming tough obstacles on their rise to the top. As a team, they have risen above many challenges including injuries, slumps and personal family

matters. Coming into the regular season we were missing four of our key players from last year's playoff run against the Cardinals. Carlos Beltran, our center fielder, went to the Mets; Jeff Kent, our second baseman, to the LA Dodgers; Lance Berkman, our left fielder, was injured and out for the first part of the season; and Jeff Bagwell, our first baseman, was also injured and on the sidelines for the majority of the year.

Kay Bailey Hutchison

U.S. Senator

Late in the regular season, tragedy struck the family of one of the players. On Sept. 14, Bess Clemens, Roger's mother, passed away, ending a long battle with emphysema. Despite his profound loss, and being sleep deprived from staying up with her, Roger Clemens



took the mound, dedicated the season to her and brought home a win for the Astros that night against the Marlins.

The Astros began this season with an infield and an

outfield that had many holes. The team filled those holes with a free agent and rookies. They rose to the challenge and the season ended with one of those newcomers a candidate for Rookie of the Year.

Though many were skeptical about the Astros' chances this season, the team stayed true to the "never say die" Texas attitude. Before long, things began to turn around for the Astros, and the fans that never stopped believing.

With so many challenges to Houston this year, including opening our doors to thousands of Hurricane Katrina victims and

Hurricane Rita that struck our area, the Astros' success was a welcome celebration. These Astros embody the good character and moral decency of all Texans. Astros players contribute much to the community.

Throughout the peaks and pitfalls of this season, the Astros exemplified the spirit of Texas. Texas' first baseball team won its first pennant race and will forever hold its place in history as the first team in Texas to make it to the World Series. Thank you Houston Astros. I look forward to next season and accomplishing another first — bringing home the title.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 9, the 313th day of 2005. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

"I think charm is the ability to be truly interested in other people."

— Richard Avedon
American fashion photographer (1923-2004)

Forty years ago, on Nov. 9, 1965, the great Northeast blackout occurred as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours left 30 million people in seven states and two Canadian provinces without electricity.

On this date: In 1872, fire destroyed nearly a thousand buildings in Boston.

In 1918, Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II announced he would abdicate. He then fled to the Netherlands.

Our readers write

Correctional officers have potential to make an impact in inmates lives

"If you treat prisoners well, they will be less angry, less inclined to violence inside prison, less likely to provoke violent actions by guards, less likely to have reason to file brutality lawsuits that cost taxpayers a bundle and waste administrators' time. And most important, well-treated prisoners will be less likely to leave prison angrier, more vicious and more inclined to criminal behavior than when they went in." — Frank Wood, former commissioner of Corrections in Minnesota

Whether this is the official position of the Rufe Jordan Unit or not is unknown. It should be considered noteworthy, however, that many of the newly-hired officers on the unit seem to perform their duties in accordance with these words.

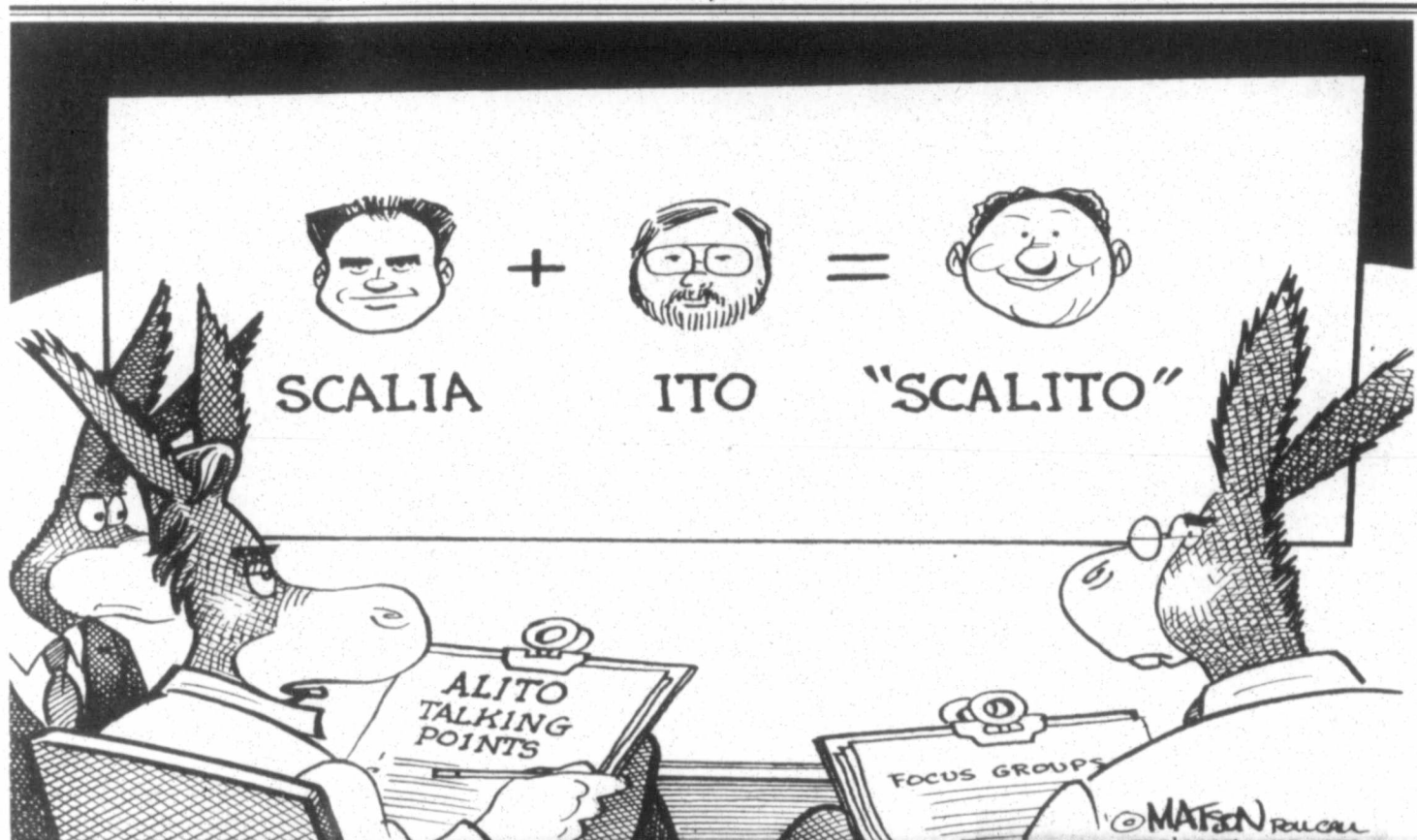
It's almost as if Mr.

Wood's statement was the mission statement of the current generation of correctional officers. What should be wondered, therefore, is whether or not this is a good thing.

When a correctional officer treats an offender with dignity, that offender comes to prefer such an officer over the type who does not. This cannot be considered a valid argument for acting in accordance with the former commissioner's words. After all, an offender's preference should not be a determining factor in how an officer performs his or her duties. If the courteous officer is simply trying to appease those placed in their charge, their degree of professionalism is suspect.

If, on the other hand, he

See **LETTERS**, Page 9



"HIS HIGHEST NEGATIVES ARE AMONG THE 52% OF ALL AMERICANS WHO THINK HE LET O.J. SIMPSON GO FREE"

PC attitudes deserves zero tolerance

Here's another example of (1) how stupid some people are and (2) how the media can turn an anthill into a Himalayan mountain.

Fisher DeBerry, the long-time football coach at the Air Force Academy, remarked after losing a game recently that they (the Academy) needed to recruit more minorities. This was in the context of discussing a game with Texas Christian University in which he remarked at how fast the TCU players were.

Asked the next day to elaborate, DeBerry said the following: "It just seems ... that Afro-American kids can run — very, very well. That doesn't mean that Caucasian kids and other descents can't run, but it's very obvious to me they run extremely well."

"Racist, racist, pants on fire" went the cry, and the news media treated it as if it were important.

Since when is it racist to remark on a demonstrable fact? I'm not an avid sports fan, but casual observation seems to verify the truth of his remark. We can assume that track-and-field events, the National Basketball Association and the National Football League do not impose any racial quotas, yet African-Americans are prominent in those sports far beyond their proportion of the population.

Offhand, I can't think of an outstanding running back or receiver who isn't black. I'm sure there are some. I can't recall any outstanding performers in track and field who aren't African-American. Again, there might be some, but African-Americans seem to dominate those sports. If you watch

Southeastern Conference football, you will notice that even many of the teams in the Old South are predominantly made up of African-American athletes.

There are some physiological differences among the different races. We can dismiss them all as superficial, and certainly

none of them would justify any kind of discrimination, but why is it considered a sin to even mention them? I don't know why they exist and don't care. Why are there so many blondes in Norway? Why do so many African-American kids seem to be able to run very, very well? Who knows and who cares? They just do.

I suppose if you gathered all of the African-American

18-year-olds and all of the Caucasian 18-year-olds and had them run in a timed race, you might discover that on the whole the differences in speed were measured in seconds. In sports, seconds can make the difference between winning and losing.

By all accounts, the Air Force Academy coach is a decent man without a racist bone in his body. Since when, by the way, is it racist for a man to say his university needs to recruit more minorities? A decent man should not be subjected to the media grinder over a perfectly innocent remark. This was a nonevent, a non-news story made into one only because of the stupidity of the reporters who thought what he was saying was racist.

Besides lawyers, we have way too many radio and TV talk-show hosts who will seize on any piece of trivia

See **CORRECT**, Page 9

Charley Reese
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **Oct. 31**

El Paso Times on scam artists:

They get you — your money to be more exact — because of their sinister talent to deceive. And there are as many names describing their kind as there are ways they can attempt to gain your trust and steal your money.

Your defense against the common, bunkum and land pirates is to always remember, "... If it's too good to be true, it probably is." That's the advice of FBI spokesman Art Werge after an El Paso man was recently conned out of \$4,950 in an Internet car swindle.

The Federal Trade Commission offers some common-sense things to remember whenever an exchange of money is involved: Deal with reputable

people or businesses. Con artists are not called "artists" for nothing. They are quite adept at salesmanship. People can fall into traps over the phone, via the Internet and through the mail.

And, for goodness' sake, if someone comes to your door wanting money, that should instantly arouse your suspicions. Just as there are a myriad of names for these con artists — these jack-legs and chevalier d'industrie — there are names for innocents who fall prey because they put up their money before they see the promised return.

Don't be a pigeon, a chump. Here's a list of things that need to be thoroughly checked out before you put your money where their mouth is:

Beware of "business opportunities" with unbelievable earnings claims. Do you really think you can earn "\$1,000 a day" because a phone solicitor says he or she holds the secret to such a suc-

cess? And, no, chances are you cannot make a lot of money with a "work-at-home" envelope-stuffing job. Guaranteed loans or easy credit?

Here's what the FTC says: "The home loans turn out to be useless lists of lenders who will turn you down if you don't meet their qualifications. The promised credit cards never come through, and the pyramid money-making schemes always collapse."

And the vacation prize promotions ... well, if you think you're heading for a cruise ship — with your money already put down — you may be headed for a rust bucket that looks more like a tug boat, says the FTC. Although these bunko "salespersons" can describe a pretty path you'll follow to your financial dreams, remember that common sense says you're just dreaming if you think there's any money at path's end.



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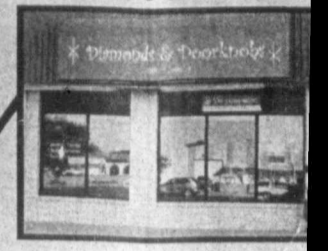
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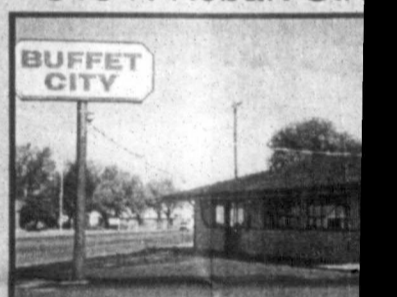
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241 Western Street

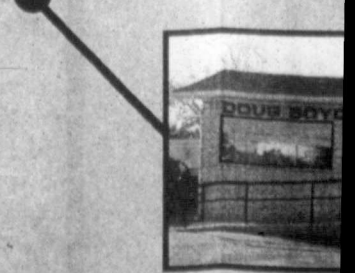


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Intersection of H

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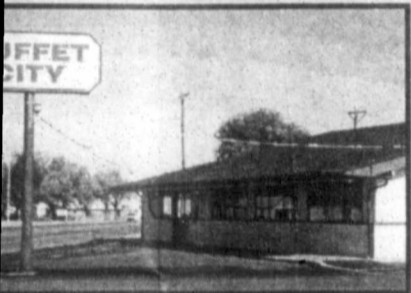
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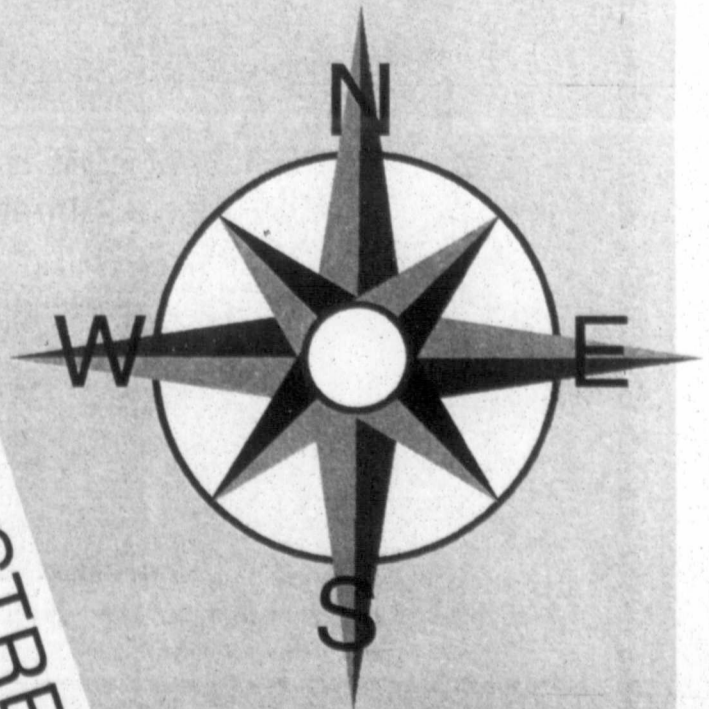
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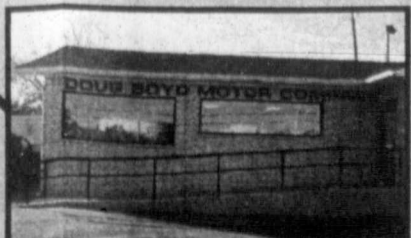
Salvation Army Family Store
409 W Brown Street

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Intersection of Hwy 60 & Hwy 70



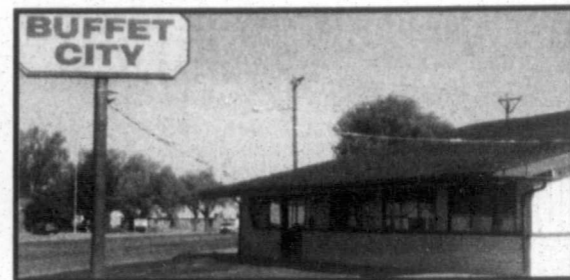
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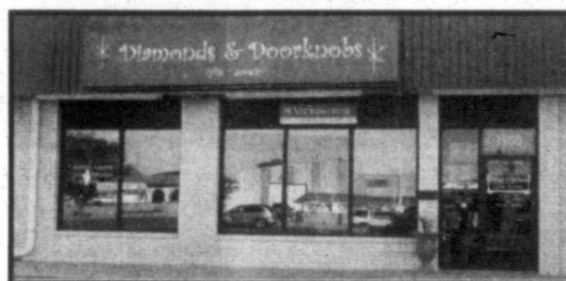
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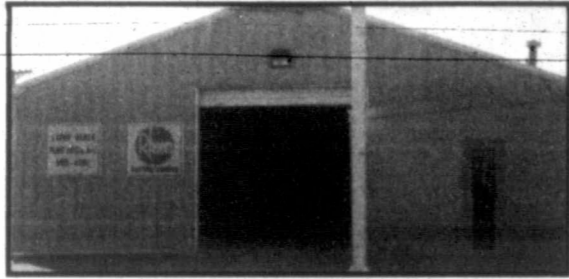
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U.S., North Korea meet separately during nuke talks

BEIJING (AP) — Negotiators trying to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear ambitions focused Wednesday on the contentious details of how the North will disarm and what it will get in exchange, with the U.S. and North Korean delegations holding a separate meeting.

Host China said little progress had been made by day's end in the new round of six-nation talks.

Before the talks opened Wednesday morning at a Chinese government guest-house, Washington affirmed its refusal even to discuss the North's demand for a civilian nuclear reactor until after Pyongyang disarms.

The last round of talks ended in September with North Korea's pledge to give up nuclear development in

exchange for aid and a security guarantee. But the North accepts safeguards from the U.N.'s International Atomic

'First they have got to disarm, create a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, and once they are back in the NPT with IAEA safeguards, at an appropriate time we'll have a discussion about the subject of the provision of a light-water reactor.'

— Christopher Hill
Assistant secretary of state

raised doubts about its willingness to proceed by demanding a civilian nuclear reactor before it disarms.

The U.S. envoy warned that Washington will not discuss giving the North a reactor until it returns to the international Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and

Energy Agency.

"First they have got to disarm, create a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, and once they are back in the NPT with IAEA safeguards, at an appropriate time we'll have a discussion about the subject of the provision of a light-water reactor," said

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill.

The Chinese delegate, Wu Dawei, whose government appealed in advance for participants to be ready to make progress in the slow-moving talks, called on negotiators to be flexible and pragmatic. In his opening statement, he asked negotiators to "put forward proposals and ideas so that we will be able to work out an implementation plan that is acceptable to all sides at an early date."

By day's end, little progress had been made, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang.

"We still can see that various parties have a difference of views on how to implement the joint statement and on the way it should be implemented," Qin said at a

briefing.

But, "all the six parties are working earnestly," he said.

The talks involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

The North's envoy, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Gye Gwan, said Pyongyang

would insist on verifying there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea and demand a guarantee from the United States that it has no plans to attack North Korea, Russia's Interfax news agency reported.

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Letters

Continued from Page 4

officer is thinking ultimately of the safety of their family, their neighbors, and society at-large, then courtesy and professionalism would almost seem to be synonymous. In an institution where the overwhelming majority of those being held will one day be released, a legitimate concern over what sort of person that institution is loosing upon society is perhaps the most important thing a correctional officer can have. And the current generation seems to be setting an excellent standard.

Should those who treat offenders with courtesy and respect feel guilty about it? After all, the people they have been placed in charge of are convicted criminals and have been sent to prison to pay a debt to society. It can probably be safely concluded that most in that society would scoff at respectful treatment of criminals.

As Mr. Wood so eloquently points out, however, it is in the best interests of that society that soon-to-be-released offenders be treated in the same way that they are expected to treat others. So anyone who believes that offenders should be treated with the same degree of disregard that they used on their victims should hope that they do not personally become the victim of some newly-released offender who has spent the past several years being treated poorly.

Those who treat offenders with dignity and respect — whether new hires or old veterans — can take comfort in one thing. Very seldom are books written, awards given, or documents made about prison employees who go out of their way to make the lives of others miserable.

More often than not, such individuals are the subjects of news-magazine pieces condemning their actions. And perhaps that's the answer to the question of "to treat well or not to treat well?"

Correctional officers are placed in a position in which they can make a difference. This cannot be said about some jobs. Correctional officers have a great responsibility to the very taxpayers who pay their salaries. Shirking that responsibility by bringing their personal problems to

work and taking them out on anyone who crosses their path serves no purpose whatsoever.

Accepting that responsibility, on the other hand, by acting in a professional manner at all times — even if that means being courteous and respectful to convicted felons — is a testimonial to the character of the individual officer. So to those who truly serve society's best interests, I salute you. Perhaps more importantly though, society needs you — whether it realizes it or not.

William Chaplar
Rufe Jordan Unit

VFW post 1657, auxiliary planning local Veterans Day Dinner

In the 11th month, 11th day and 11th hour, 1918, the Armistice was signed ending World War I after four years of conflict. In November of 1919, President Wilson issued his Armistice proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

In 1954, the name of the observance was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 and VFW Ladies Auxiliary will host the annual Veterans Day Dinner, Nov. 11, 2005, from 5-7 p.m. The post is located at 105 S. Cuyler. The dinner is free.

The VFW invites all veterans and their families to join in this day of remembrance for the sacrifices of all those who fought or are fighting so gallantly for peace and freedom. Families that have servicemen and women currently serving overseas are warmly encouraged to join us this year.

Danny Martin, commander
VFW Post 1657
Pampa

Correct

Continued from Page 4

to give themselves an excuse to flap their jaws. Too many of them have diarrhea of the mouth and constipation of the brain. It was apparently the host of some dumb sports show who started this flap. Political correctness,

as practiced in this country, is akin to insanity, a flat-out denial of reality. It deserves zero tolerance.

I was born and reared in the Deep South, and I know what a racist is. This poor coach doesn't even come close. He is as innocent as a baby angel. As a man involved in sports all of his life, he remarked on what seems to him (and to most people, I would guess) an obvious fact. There was no malice, no put-down, no

ridicule — nothing except an observation on what he perceived as an athletic virtue among African-American kids. Even if he were wrong, it wouldn't be racist.

Perhaps the people in Colorado, which doesn't have many African-Americans living there, are just too inexperienced to recognize real racism. Their racist experience seems to be confined to American Indians and Hispanics.

Events calendar

• **Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following programs: Edgar Cruz, guitarist, Oct. 23; Susan Egan, Broadway vocalist, Feb. 18, 2006; St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006; and The Coats, vocal harmonic band, April 30, 2006. Additional concerts, featuring with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631. PCCA memberships are available.

• **Gray County Community Network** is again offering computer classes to the public. These classes are offered for a nominal fee of \$20 per six hour class to cover expenses. Each class is offered from 6-9 p.m. on two evenings for a total of six hours. Interested per-

sons are urged to register at www.graycounty.net. For more information, call 669-4707.

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Pet of the Week

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Our family has a serious problem with one sibling. Whenever we disagree with this sister, something "happens" to us. Some examples: I told her she was wrong to have started a fight with another sister. Within one week, Child Protective Services was knocking on my door. My other sister had a quarrel with her, and the very next day that sister went to drive to work and found that "someone" had smashed the windows in her car. My brother said something she didn't like one day. She visited him a few days later, and the next day his parrots (he breeds parrots) were dead. (She actually bragged to other family members about the parrots and Child Protective Services.) All three of us get prank calls, and we have spotted her repeatedly driving by our homes. Our parents think these are just "coincidences" and we're making a big deal out of nothing. Now this sister needs to go in for surgery, and our parents think we should rally around her. The three of us want nothing more to do with her. I have even instructed my children to call the police if she ever comes to our home again. Please print this letter, Abby. We are hoping it will help our parents see through her and open their eyes. But in the meantime, we don't know what to do next. Any ideas? -- **SLEEPING WITH ONE EYE OPEN IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR SLEEPING: Only this: Your sister appears to be seriously unbalanced. Do not allow yourselves to be guilted into "rallying" around her. You and the two siblings who have been victims of her vandalism should visit your local police department and file a report about what happened, who you think did it, and why. You cannot force your parents out of their state of denial. Only she can do that when, inevitably, one day she finally goes too far. You are safer at a distance.

DEAR ABBY: I am 25 years old, the mother of two beautiful daughters, "Lisa" and "Lily," who are 3 1/2 years and 19 months old. Lily suffered a stroke two weeks ago and is now partially paralyzed. She had a prolonged seizure that lasted 2 1/2 hours that I know of, but possibly five hours in all. She can no longer crawl or sit up by herself. She must now have heavy and intensive rehabilitation to regain the use of her left side. I was told that if I had gotten Lily to the ER even 30 minutes later, she'd have died. My father-in-law and I drove her to the ER ourselves. I was holding her in my arms while she convulsed with the seizure. Each mile we got closer to the hospital, the weaker she became. What kept Lily fighting was hearing my voice as I prayed aloud and feeling my love for her. I thank God that my daughter is alive today. Please stress to your readers how important it is to call an ambulance when something like this happens. The ambulance workers can do miracles. If I had called 911, my daughter might not have suffered the stroke. -- **LOVING MOTHER, WALTERS, OKLA.**

DEAR LOVING MOTHER: Thank you for reminding other parents that in a medical emergency, the smart thing to do is call 911. The last time the subject was mentioned in this column it was in the context of middle-aged women having heart attacks. Although the first impulse is to rush a loved one to the hospital ourselves, family members should realize that emergency medical technicians are trained, and have the equipment on hand, to perform lifesaving interventions. Not only do they know exactly how to get to the hospital, their vehicles have sirens that can reduce the driving time and save precious minutes.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 35 River of 1 "Pygma- Pakistan lion" 36 Comic playwright Kovacs
 - 5 Nudnik 38 Pull on 9 Jobs for a 39 Rider's gumshoe straps
 - 11 Resident 40 Rushed ment 41 Jonson works
 - 12 Early Mexican
 - 13 Driver's reversal
 - 14 Body of eau
 - 15 Before the audience
 - 17 Awards hung on the wall
 - 19 Charter
 - 20 Drink noisily
 - 21 Nincom- coop
 - 22 "Is Born"
 - 24 Gift from Santa
 - 26 "I give up!"
 - 29 Close star
 - 30 Secretly
 - 32 "The Phantom Menace," e.g.
 - 34 Owned by us

PROBER BETA
REFUGER AMOS
OXFORD BLUES
YESSES
GLUT GASP
LEAP HAMPER
ITS RAN ALA
PISCES MITT
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Marmaduke



"What kind of character building is this? Next time, get them out of bed earlier."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"Thanks, Grandma, but we had lunch a few whiles ago."

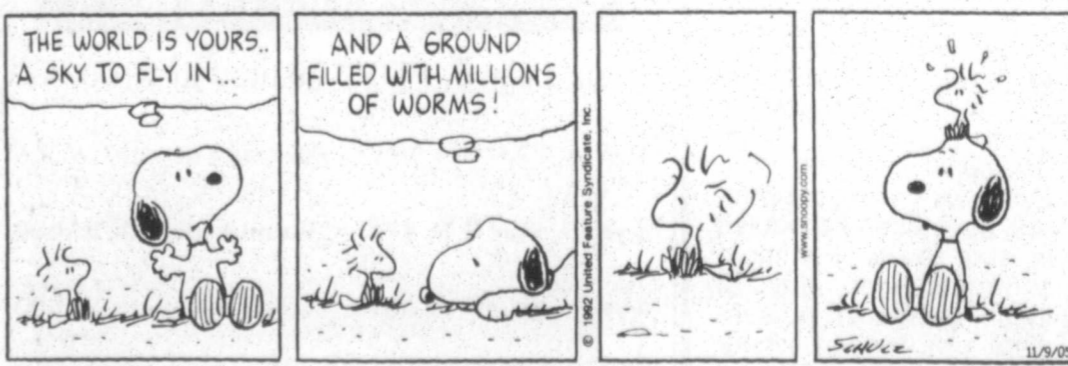
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Opening night: Pampa falls to AHS Lady Sandies, 64-38

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The 2005-2006 Lady Harvesters basketball season tipped-off at McNeely Field House Tuesday night as Pampa hosted the Amarillo High Lady Sandies.

Varsity
The Lady Harvesters managed just four points in the opening period Tuesday night, while holding a tough Amarillo High team to nine. And though Pampa outscored the Lady Sandies 17-10 in the fourth, it was the periods in between that cost them.

Amarillo High lit up the new scoreboard in McNeely Field House with 45 points in the third and fourth periods (24, 21), while holding Pampa to just 17 (11, 6).

At the end, Amarillo High came away with a 64-38 win over Pampa.

Leading the way for the Lady Harvesters was Britteni Rice with 13 points. Jackie Gerber had 12 for the night.

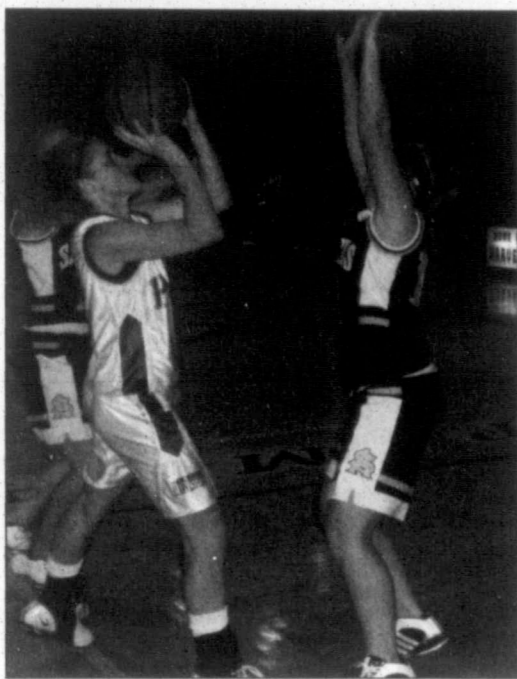
Amarillo is 1-0. Pampa is 0-1.

Head Coach Troy Fry and his Lady Harvesters will travel to Frenship for a tournament scheduled to begin Thursday and last through Saturday. They will then face Amarillo High again Tuesday in Amarillo.

Junior Varsity
The junior varsity teams got the night started at 6 p.m. with what turned out to be a hard-fought bout that saw Pampa fight back from what seemed to be an insurmountable double-digit deficit most of the game to climb within nine points in the fourth period.

Sophomore Jasmine Moore led the late charge with great hustle and her ability to drive the lane, coming away with points or a Lady Sandie foul. Sophomore Haili Kotara was also strong at the end, playing tough in the paint.

Pampa forced the Lady Sandies to play out of character late with great pressure at both ends of the floor. Both teams also left points at the charity stripe in the closing minutes. By the final buzzer, Amarillo High had held on to take the win, 48-39.



◀ While Amarillo High defenders try to stop her, Lady Harvesters senior Jackie Gerber takes aim toward the goal Tuesday night. Gerber ended the night with 12 points.

▶ Sophomore Amber Brown looks to inbound the ball during the Lady Harvesters JV game against Amarillo High Tuesday night.



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Harvesters scrimmage moved to Thursday

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School varsity and junior varsity basketball teams will scrimmage Woodward, Okla., at The Pit Thursday night.

The scrimmage will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The varsity team will be guided by first year head coach and former Harvesters player Dustin Miller this season.

He will be assisted by Coach Jason Farmer, also in his first year at Pampa.

Coach Farmer will lead the junior varsity team.

Pampa will open the regular season Tuesday with a road trip to Amarillo to take on the Sandies.

GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL Other scores of interest

Palo Duro 60, Lubbock Coronado 68	White Deer 54, Borger 49
Panhandle 61, Caprock 36	West Texas High 32, Miami 28
Randall 55, Lubbock Estacado 50	Spearman 64, Wheeler 42
Sunray 35, Sanford-Fritch 28	Claude 48, Lockney 39
Canadian 33, Stratford 26	Frenship 53, Muleshoe 37

Angels' Colon wins AL Cy Young Award

NEW YORK (AP) — Bartolo Colon's AL Cy Young Award was big news back home in the Dominican Republic.

"You don't even imagine what the scenery is around here. People stopping by and honking their horns," Colon said, through a translator, from Altamira — his hometown of about 3,000.

"It's been really, really crazy, crazy, crazy," he said. "It's the first time ever that we are celebrating something like this."

Colon won a surprisingly one-sided vote Tuesday, beating out reliever Mariano Rivera and becoming the first Angels pitcher in 41 years to take home the honor.

After leading the league with 21 wins, Colon was listed first on 17 ballots and second on the other 11 for 118 points in voting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. He was the only pitcher named on every ballot, easily topping Rivera, who received 68 points.

The New York Yankees' closer got eight first-place votes for the highest finish of his career, while 2004 winner Johan Santana of the Minnesota Twins received three and came in third.

"After the season, yeah, I've been thinking about it a lot," Colon said during a

conference call. "And one of the prevailing thoughts was the fact that maybe I won't get it. Maybe it was going to go to somebody else. A lot of crazy things came into my head."

Dean Chance was the only other Cy Young Award winner in the Angels' 45-season history, winning in 1964.

Colon always had a blazing fastball, snappy sinker and the natural look of a No. 1 starter. Still, something was missing until recently: consistency.

So he learned to pull back a bit, focus on throwing strikes and getting grounders. Now, he's the dominant ace everyone envisioned — with the coveted pitching prize to prove it.

"If I can get an out with one or two pitches and use my sinker or my cutter, I'm better off," Colon said. "I stopped being a village boy, thinking that I can throw any stone, any rock through a wall, and started thinking about being a guy that could last longer, to take some off my fastball and not to depend only on throwing hard."

Though Colon (21-8) was the league's lone 20-game winner, this year's Cy Young race was thought to be close. His 3.48 ERA and 157 strikeouts ranked

eighth, while Rivera racked up 43 saves and a career-best 1.38 ERA. Santana went 16-7 with a 2.87 ERA and led the majors with 238 strikeouts.

A shoulder injury sidelined Colon in the playoffs, but voting for all BBWAA awards takes place at the end of the regular season and excludes postseason performance.

"Mariano had a great

year," Colon said, thanking Rivera for teaching him how to throw his cut fastball. "I did think about the fact that maybe he was going to come away and be the winner."

Both pitched for division champions, but the voters ultimately gave more weight to the starter: Colon threw 222 2-3 innings to Rivera's 78 1-3.

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Panel says Corps of Engineers, Louisiana lack wetland plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Louisiana lack an overall plan for restoring coastal wetlands, a National Academy of Sciences panel said Wednesday.

"Federal, state and local officials, with the public's involvement, need to take a broader look," said Robert Dean, a University of

Florida engineering professor in Gainesville who chaired a panel on the restoration efforts.

Dean said those efforts must examine "where land in coastal Louisiana should and can be restored and ... how some of the sediment-rich water of the Mississippi River should flow to achieve that."

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed about 100 square miles of environmentally significant marshes in southeastern Louisiana, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. That includes about 60 square miles of marsh torn up and submerged around New Orleans.

Before the storms, Louisiana had lost about 1,900 square miles of

coastal wetlands since the 1930s. Natural causes, oil and natural gas drilling, and dams, levees and other artificial barriers in the Mississippi River have deprived the river's delta of land-forming sediment.

Federal geologists had previously estimated the coastal wetlands, which harbor fish and protect against potential storm surges,

would lose about 650 square miles of marsh by 2050.

In contrast to the Geological Survey's findings, the National Academy's panel said that it's too early to gauge accurately how much wetlands loss in Louisiana is directly due to damage from Katrina and Rita.

Birthday girl

Iva Lee Overstreet Thomas will soon celebrate her 100th birthday. She was born Nov. 11, 1905, in Indian Territory, in present-day Oklahoma. Her family moved to a farm near White Deer when she was a toddler. Mrs. Thomas has spent the majority of her 100 years in the area. She is still an active member of First United Methodist Church in Pampa and enjoys gardening, yard work and her cat "Honey."



Houston Exploration sets sights offshore

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Exploration Co. will focus its operations on all-onshore natural gas production after profits took a hit when hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the Gulf Coast.

"We are transforming Houston Exploration into an onshore business with a longer reserve life, a stable and more predictable production profile with an ample drilling inventory for future growth," chairman

and CEO William Hargett said Tuesday.

When Houston Exploration announced its third quarter report recently, earnings had fallen 80 percent from the same period in 2004 to \$8.1 million.

Operations in the Gulf of Mexico accounted for 40 percent of the company's production. It could have earned an additional \$12.9 million if the hurricanes hadn't stopped production and disabled pipelines.

French rioters still defiant though action taken

PARIS (AP) — France's storm of rioting lost strength Wednesday, with car burnings falling nearly by half, police said. But looters and vandals still defied a state of emergency with attacks on superstores, a newspaper warehouse and a subway station.

The extraordinary 12-day state of emergency, which went into effect Tuesday at midnight, covered Paris, its suburbs and more than 30 other French cities from the Mediterranean to the border with Germany and to Rouen in the north — an indication of how widespread arson, riots and other unrest have become in nearly two weeks of violence.

The emergency decree invoked a 50-year-old security law that dates to France's colonial war in Algeria. It empowers officials to put troublemak-

ers under house arrest, ban or limit the movement of people and vehicles, confiscate weapons and close public spaces where gangs gather. It also paved the way for curfews in areas where officials feel they are needed.

Seventy-three percent of respondents in a poll published Wednesday in daily Le Parisien said they agreed with the curfew.

The unrest started Oct. 27 as a localized riot in a northeast Paris suburb angry over the accidental deaths of two teenagers, of Mauritanian and Tunisian descent, who were electrocuted while hiding from police in a power substation.

It has grown into a nationwide insurrection by disillusioned suburban youths, many of them French-born children of immigrants from France's

former territories like Algeria. France's suburbs have long been neglected, and their youth complain of a lack of jobs and widespread discrimination. Many of the French-born children of Arab and black African immigrants are Muslim, but police say the violence is not being driven by Islamic groups.

Overnight Tuesday-Wednesday, youths torched 617 vehicles, down from 1,173 a night earlier, national police spokesman Patrick Hamon said. Incidents were reported in 116 towns, down from 226.

Police made 280 arrests, raising the total to 1,830 since the violence erupted 13 nights ago. An estimated 11,500 police officers were deployed overnight to maintain order, up 1,000 from the previous night.

Principal praised as hero in wake of school shooting in Tennessee

JACKSBORO, Tenn. (AP) — Principal Gary Seale was shot while wrestling with a student who had opened fire in school and killed an administrator, then managed to get to the intercom and order a lockdown, helping to end the rampage, authorities say.

Seale was shot in the lower abdomen and Assistant Principal Jim Pierce was hit in the chest Tuesday, authorities said.

Both were in serious condition in intensive care at University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville, spokeswoman Lisa McNeal said.

The administrators and a teacher helped wrestle the gun away from the 15-year-old student, deputies said. Assistant Principal Ken Bruce was shot in the chest and died at a LaFollette hospital, authorities said.

"This situation could have gotten much worse," said Mark Wells, vice chairman of the Campbell County Board of Education. "It did not because our staff followed the (emergency) plan in place."

No students were hurt in Tuesday's shooting at

Campbell County Comprehensive High School. The 1,400-student school about 35 miles northwest of Knoxville was closed for the rest of the week, officials said.

'This situation could have gotten much worse. It did not because our staff followed the (emergency) plan in place.'

— Mark Wells
School board official

The suspect, Ken Bartley Jr., was taken to a juvenile detention facility, Sheriff Ron McClellan said. The boy's family declined comment.

"He has been in trouble before, but I just wouldn't expect something like this out of him," said classmate Courtney Ward, 17. "He is a big jokester. He is rowdy. But I just couldn't see him doing this."

Authorities didn't know

whether Bartley would be charged as an adult.

They said he was grazed in the hand by a bullet fired from his own .22-caliber handgun when he was subdued.

"I don't know what he was thinking or what his motives were," McClellan said. "Investigators are piecing together ... what exactly transpired."

Parents rushed to the school to pick up their children, causing a massive traffic jam when police closed the campus.

"It is scary, it is terrifying," said Darren Davidson, waiting for his son, Justin.

Davidson's wife, Kizzie, added: "I thought I would have a heart attack before I got here."

Seale and Pierce have been educators more than 30 years, said former assistant principal Clifford Kohlmeier. Bruce had been a lieutenant colonel in the Army and came back to teaching about eight years ago, Kohlmeier said.

Tuesday's shooting marked the second time this year that a school employee was fatally shot.

San Franciscans approve gun, military recruiting bans

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Voters approved ballot measures to ban handguns in San Francisco and urge the city's public high schools and college campuses to keep out military recruiters.

The gun ban prohibits the manufacture and sale of all firearms and ammunition in the city, and makes it illegal for residents to keep handguns in their homes or businesses.

Only two other major U.S. cities — Washington and Chicago — have implemented such sweeping handgun

bans. With all precincts reporting early Wednesday, 58 percent of voters backed the proposed gun ban while 42 percent opposed it.

Although law enforcement, security guards and others who require weapons for work are exempt from the measure, current handgun owners would have to surrender their firearms by April.

A coalition led by the National Rifle Association has said it plans to challenge the initiative in court, argu-

ing that cities do not have the authority to regulate firearms under California law.

The military recruitment initiative won with 60 percent in favor and 40 percent against.

The measure, dubbed "College Not Combat," opposes the presence of military recruiters at public high schools and colleges. However, it would not ban the armed forces from seeking enlistees at city campuses, since that would put schools at risk of losing federal funding.

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