

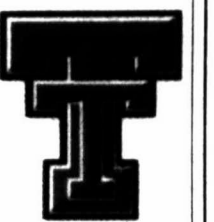
### Today's Weather

HIGH  
50  
LOW  
28

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### Jackson Dismissed

Academics  
forces Knight's  
decision.  
SEE PAGE 6



# THE PAMPA NEWS

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## County buys pickup, police video cameras

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Gray County commissioners approved purchase of a new pickup and video cameras and questioned training for the county treasurer at their 9 a.m. meeting today. Culberson-Stowers, Inc. was the only company to submit bids on a new pickup for Precinct 3. The Pampa dealership offered a "classic" style 2007 Chevrolet 3/4 ton extended cab four-wheel-drive pickup for \$22,968.95, or a new style model for \$25,746.48.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright moved and commissioners accepted the bid on the "classic" style pickup.

Sheriff Don Copeland opened two bids received for mobile video cameras for sheriff's department patrol vehicles. Watch Guard submitted a bid of \$57,620 for 11 cameras with a one-year

warranty, while Digital Ally's bid was \$44,110 for 11 cameras with a two-year warranty. Commissioners accepted Digital Ally's bid.

County Treasurer Lee Cornelison was summoned from his office to answer questions about training he had scheduled. The questions arose because Cornelison will be leaving office Dec. 31.

"Lee just has two more months anyway, and then we will have a new treasurer. I don't want to deplete his training budget, but if this is necessary, OK," said County Judge Richard Peet. "Also, his secretary is leaving at the end of the month." Cornelison's deputy treasurer was also to attend the training.

"What advantage is there to the taxpayers of extending training to these employees

See COUNTY, Page 3

## Helping hand



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class BRENDA BENNER

Texas Army National Guard Staff Sgt. William White of Pampa prepares a weapon for British Trooper Matt Stride during an October exchange visit to Fort Hood. White, a blender operator for Halliburton and a member of Wellington-based Company D, 2nd Battalion, 142nd Infantry (Mechanized), served as an ambassador for both the National Guard and Texans in general. The exchange program pairs 56th Brigade troops of the 36th Infantry Division with their counterparts in the United Kingdom's Royal Wessex Yeomanry, British Territorial Army (TA) Regiment. The Britons familiarized themselves with U.S. military equipment.

## Festival of Trees entries accepted

Entries for the annual Festival of Trees are now being accepted by Pampa Fine Arts Association, event sponsor.

Individuals and groups wishing to have an exhibit at the festival are asked to contact the PFAA office at 665-0343.

The festival will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 2, and from 1 to 5 p.m. Dec. 3, in the foyer of M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium.

Christmas trees of all kinds, gingerbread houses, nativity scenes and wreaths will be included in the festival.

Trees may be constructed of wood, pine cones, paper or other materials, in addition to the standard artificial as well as genuine tree. Handmade decorations are encouraged.

Show entry fees are \$10 for table trees and \$20 for tall trees. Table decor is free.



Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS

Kathy Topper and Ken Rheams untangle strings of lights that will illuminate the downtown business area.

## Downtown businesses to light up area again

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

For the past 15 years, the Pampa Downtown Business Association has been lighting up downtown trees for a festive Christmas atmosphere. The hope is to draw more holiday shoppers to downtown merchants and to provide a fun and pleasant shopping environment.

The trees are decorated in early November and stay lit until after Christmas. Along with the enjoyment comes expense. The 42 members of the DBA spend at least \$1,700 to light up the area, which includes paying for the electricity, the labor of putting up and taking down, and buying additional lights. Pampa residents can help with this expense in a few different ways, said Ken Rheams of Rheams Diamond Shop on Cuyler Street.

One way is to not only help with the expense to the DBA, but to also help out the Pampa High School Band. Band members sell raffle tickets to the public. The downtown merchants donate merchandise that will be raffled off on Dec. 19. The DBA keeps half of the money collected to pay for the decorations and the band keeps the other half.

The raffle drawing on Dec. 19 is held downtown in conjunction with "Shop Downtown Pampa" festivities in which \$1,000 in Pampa Bucks will also be given away. Kathy Topper of Joys Unlimited on Cuyler Street said that she has been participating in the Downtown Christmas Wonderland for the past four years and it is a great way for the residents to see what

See LIGHTS, Page 3

## Early voting turnout good, 1,355 cast ballots

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Early voting for the Nov. 7 general election and school bond proposal ends at 5 p.m. Friday.

As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, 1,355 voters had cast their ballots in Gray County, according to County Clerk Susan Winborne.

"That's a good turnout," Winborne said.

Early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the non-jury courtroom on

the first floor of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Voters are asked to bring their yellow voter registration cards with them. A driver's license may be used instead of the card, but slows down the voting process for all those present, according to election volunteer Barbara Smith.

Pampa Independent School District's proposition to issue \$47 million in bonds for renovation and construction involving the junior

high and high schools is included on the ballots. Voters wishing to vote in the school district election are able to do so at the same location and on the same ballot, said Winborne.

Voters eligible to vote in the school bond election have that election included on their electronic ballots, she said. Those not eligible to vote in the school election will vote on ballots that do not include the bond election.

Precincts 4 and 6 may vote on one

of two write-in candidates for the unexpired term of Precinct 4 county constable. Curtis Broadus filed as a write-in candidate for the unexpired term of Don Fletcher, who vacated the office upon winning the 2004 election and being sworn in. Fletcher's promise to voters was that, if elected, he would resign and thus save county taxpayers the cost of having a constable for that

See VOTING, Page 3

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**THANK YOU**  
TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS YEARS COUNTRY FAIR A SUCCESS

Obituaries

**Mildred Pierce, 85**, of Pampa, Texas, died Oct. 30, 2006, at Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006, at the Briarwood Full Gospel Church with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor, Chancey Williamson, and John Hazle, Jr., officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Pierce was born Aug. 27, 1921, in Burkburnett. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1946. She married 1st Lt. John Henry Hazle on Oct. 4, 1942, in Houston. He preceded her in death in 1943. She later married E. N. "Pete" Pierce on Dec. 4, 1946, in Pampa. He preceded her in death in 1984. She worked at Alco as an

office manager for 16 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church for over 50 years, and was a member of the Faith Sunday School class. She was a member of the Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star for many years, serving as past matron twice. She was a volunteer at Pampa Regional Medical Center. She was a treasurer of the Pampa Army Air Field Reunion.

Survivors include three daughters, Mary Jean Pierce of Winthrop Harbor, Ill., Carol Pierce of Pampa, and Lynn Dawson and husband Tim of Hereford; two sisters,

Ruth Sims of Pampa, and Dorothy Jones of San Antonio; one daughter-in-law, Johnnie Hazle of Fort Worth; 11 grandchildren, John Hazle, Jr., and wife Ginger, Chris Hazle and wife Jennifer, Sherylyn Garth and husband Toad, Brian Snapp and wife Alisha, Chancey Williamson, Matthew Cox, Sabrina Dawson, Aaron Dawson, Shawn Holt, Dawn Holt and Damon Holt; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, John Hazle, Sr., in March of 2001.



Pierce

**Aaron M. 'A' Fry, 94**

AMARILLO — Aaron M. "A" Fry, 94, died Oct. 30, 2006.

Services will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2006, at Southwest Church of Christ with Mr. Brent Adams and Mr. Glenn Walton officiating. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2006, at Schooler Funeral Home.

Mr. Fry was born in Spicewood, Texas, near Austin in 1912. He moved with his parents to Levelland in 1924. He graduated from Levelland High School in 1930 and attended Abilene Christian College. While at Abilene Christian, he met Leola Logsdon, whom he later married at Cordell, Okla., on Feb. 7, 1935. They had no children. His wife, Leola, known to all as "Lil," preceded him in death Oct. 15, 1996.

He and Lil operated a feed and mill business in Erick, Okla., for several years before he had to enlist in the Navy during World War II. He served as a radio gunner, flying in dive bombers and torpedo planes.

He was attached to Carrier Aircraft Service No. 2 in the Pacific for almost two years before being sent aboard the Aircraft Carrier Independence with Air Group VFN 76, a night fighter group and spent time at Pearl Harbor. He was later attached to



Fry

Carrier Aircraft Unit No. 50, Pasco, WN. After his discharge from the Navy at the end of WWII, he and Lil owned and operated a drug store in Shamrock, Texas, for over 10 years. They sold the store in 1956 and moved to Amarillo where he was employed as a salesman for paper products.

He worked for Braudt, Burkett, and Roberts paper companies, retiring in 1983 after 22 years on the road. He and Lil enjoyed over 14 years of retirement together. He was a member of Southwest Church of Christ. "A" was a pilot and flew light airplanes for over 30 years. He was a charter member of the Amarillo Hangar of Quiet Birdmen, a national flying fraternity. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Roy Fry.

Survivors include one sister, Jeannie Ma Morgan of Conroe, Texas; one brother, Doug Fry of Abilene, Texas; three nieces, Sandra Morici of Newtown, Conn., Barbara Loggia of Long Island, N.Y., and Gay Nell Frasher; three nephews, Kurt Curfman & wife, Teresa of Pampa, Texas, Roland Fry and Eddie Fry; numerous great-nieces and great-nephews; and many, many loved friends at the Clairmont.

CITY BRIEFS

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

**ARTS AND Crafts Show**, White Deer Community Center, Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5. Opens at 10 a.m. both days.

**HAPPY HOUR** 2-5pm., 1/2 Price Drinks every day at Pak-A-Burger! 10am-10pm., Mon.-Sat. 1608 N. Hobart.

**BEAUTIFUL BURGUNDY** sofa in excellent condition for sale. 665-2447.

**PART TIME** help thru Jan. 1st. Working w/ public, must be able to multi-task. Fax resume to 665-6021.

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**PARTY & Meeting** rooms at Pampa Hardware building. 665-3943 or 662-9007.

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**Herman Topper, 80**

BORGER — Herman Topper, 80, died Monday, Oct. 30, 2006, at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Friday in First Baptist Church of Borger with James Baker, pastor of Primitive Baptist Church, and Don Watson officiating. Burial will be at 2 p.m. at Wheeler Cemetery in Wheeler. Arrangements are under the direction of Brown Funeral Directors of Borger.

Mr. Topper was born Feb. 9, 1926, in Wheeler County. He attended school first in Myrtle, Okla., then in Allison after the two schools consolidated.

Prior to joining the military in 1944, he worked on the A. Finsterwald Ranch from 1941-1944. He went to basic training in Fort Riley, Kan., before being stationed in Burma for two years.

He married Estelle Aderholt on July 20, 1946, at Wheeler.

In 1986, Mr. Topper retired from Southwestern Public Service as general foreman after many years of service.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Kathy Snelson on June 19, 2003; his parents, George and Nancy Topper; three brothers; and one sister, Katie Finsterwald.

Survivors include his wife, Estelle; two sons, Jimmy Topper of Borger and Phil Topper of Amarillo; two sisters, Mary Ann Maxwell of Wheeler and Wanda Mitchell of Pampa; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to the American Lung Association of Texas, P.O. Box 26460, Austin, TX 78755-0460.

**Emergency Services**

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, Oct. 30**

Ten traffic stops were made.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 2600 block of Seminole.

Found property was reported in the police department lobby. A set of keys was found at the rodeo grounds.

Lost property was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion.

Agency assistance was rendered on Highway 60.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 1900 block Williston, the intersection of Twiford and Rose streets, and the 400 block of Rose.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway and the 800 block of East Murphy.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2600 block of Seminole. A vehicle mirror was broken, resulting in an estimated \$1,000 damage.

Narcotics violations were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart and the police department lobby.

Disturbances were reported at One Medical Plaza and the 2100 block of Mary Ellen.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1000 block of South Christy and the 1100 block of Juniper, where the incident was verbal only.

Assault, burglary and criminal mischief were reported in the 800 block of Murphy. A front passenger window of a vehicle was broken, a front screen door was kicked in, and a bedroom door was damaged. Total estimated cost of damage is \$270.

Two burglar alarms were reported.

Forgery was reported in the 1000 block of South Wells and in the police department lobby, where a check for \$100 was forged at an unknown location.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. A cell phone valued at \$250 was taken from the 700 block of Magnolia.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of East Frederic.

Burglary was reported at the Woody Guthrie Inn, 400 S. Cuyler. The front door frame was damaged and a television set was taken. Total estimated loss and damage is valued at \$610.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of East Foster.

**Tuesday, Oct. 31**

Twelve traffic stops were made.

Vehicle pursuits were reported at Tyng and Cuyler and an undisclosed location.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of South Hobart.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 200 block of Kingsmill and the corner of 23rd Street and Hobart.

Welfare checks were made in the 1600 block of North Nelson and the 900 block of South Wells.

Phone harassment was reported in the 500 block of West Foster.

Runaways and a missing person were reported in the police department lobby.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2400 block of North Charles for disruption of class.

Prowlers were reported in the 1200 block of North Wells and 100 block of South Nelson.

An assault was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester.

Civil matters were reported in the 100 block of South Faulkner and the 700 block of North Christy.

One burglar alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of West Foster.

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

**Saturday, Oct. 28**

Jose Joe Rodriguez, 36, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of North Faulkner by Pampa Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Jesus Rodriguez, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of North Faulkner by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, running a stop sign, no valid driver's license, and no insurance.

Ronnie Chase, 62, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of Graham by PPD for no insurance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**Monday, Oct. 30**

Sarah Elizabeth Baston, 19, of Lubbock was arrested in the 400 block of Magnolia by PPD on capias pro fines for minor in possession of alcohol, no valid driver's license, and open container.

Jennifer Renee Winegeart, 27, of Mobeetie was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety on a motion to revoke probation for resisting arrest.

Michael Ralph McGee, 43, of Wheeler was arrested by DPS on a motion to revoke probation for driving while intoxicated.

**Tuesday, Oct. 31**

Don Wayne Johnson, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 1800 block of Duncan by PPD for criminal trespass.

Thomas Farthing, 27, of Henrietta, Okla. was arrested by GCSO for disorderly conduct language.

Zachary Cordova, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Foster by PPD for theft under \$50.

Paydon Ramirez, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a warrant out of Scurry county for burglary of a habitation and theft under \$500.

Steven Rivera, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for disregarding a traffic control device.

James McKinney, 41, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Cook by PPD for delivery of a controlled substance.

**Pet of the Week**

**Billy** is a two year old male black pomeranian. Cute! Cute! Cute! Come by the shelter to see him today!

If You Would Like To Help The Animals Donations Can Be Sent To... City Of Pampa Fund 12 PO Box 2499 • Pampa, Texas 79066 sponsored by... The Pampa News

For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775, or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm, Closed Sundays & Holidays

FOUND A PET? If you know you might be able to help them find their home, PLEASE bring them to the shelter every 2-3 days to check for your animal. We will have animal care 24 hours only. No PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

# County

Continued from Page 1

at this stage?" Peet asked. "I dropped all travel and stopped going to seminars. However, this is a specific skill -- Excel spreadsheets," Cornelison said upon appearing at the meeting. "I think it is particularly important to know how to do this correctly at the end of my term."

Cornelison said the seminar, scheduled for two days in Amarillo, would be "very inexpensive".

"I wouldn't have been

going at all, except that I want to be sure that as I close out my books, I do so correctly," he said.

"The cost is a little over \$300," Peet said.

"I think it's just another opportunity for you to pounce on me," Cornelison said.

"Lee, that's out of line," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

The training cost is included in the bills to be approved for payment. Commissioners approved payment of bills and salaries after discussion.

"I would love to vote

against it, because of that element, but there's a whole lot more here than the one element," Peet said of the training cost.

Bills totaled \$260,089.36, and salaries were \$231,884.84.

During a break after the vote on bill and salary payment, Cornelison said that he and his deputy had decided not to attend the seminar because of Peet's remarks about voting against it.

Speed limit signs will be placed on County Road B between Highway 60 and FM 748, dropping the speed

limit on that stretch of road to 45 mph at the request of Precinct 1 Commissioner Joe Wheeley.

"It's highly traveled. We're having difficulty controlling speed. It's actually tearing up the road," Wheeley said. "There have been three wrecks. There's a lot of semi truck traffic."

A request by County Tax Assessor-Collector Gaye Whitehead to replace an employee who resigned last week was approved.

Willoughby was re-elected to the Gray County Appraisal District Board of

Directors for a two-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2007.

A statement of financial position and last quarterly report for fiscal year 2006 by the Adult Probation department was accepted.

A support services contract was renewed between the county and Vision Computer Services, contingent on certain changes being acceptable to the company.

Virginia Greer, Nancy Ware and Wilbur Killebrew were approved as central count election workers for the Nov. 7 general election.

Bids accepted on tax-

delinquent properties were: Kevin Robinson, \$50 each on two vacant lots and \$25 each on two other vacant lots, all in the City of Lefors; Milton and Terrie Thompson, \$125 each, 421 Elm, 423 Elm, and 426 Harlem; Jimmy Burks, \$100 each, 1320 Browning and Lot 2, Block 2, Gordon Addition on Browning Street; Steven Longron, \$100 each for 907 Brunow and 911 Brunow; and R.B. Rogers, \$104 for the south 120 feet of Lot 3, Block 7, Wilcox Addition on Frederic Street.

# Lights

Continued from Page 1

shops are downtown and what they have to offer. Another way individuals

or businesses can help is by making a donation or sponsoring a tree. These donations can be sent to Downtown Business Association, Tree Lighting Fund, c/o Ken Rheams, 111 N. Cuyler, Pampa, Texas 79065.

# Voting

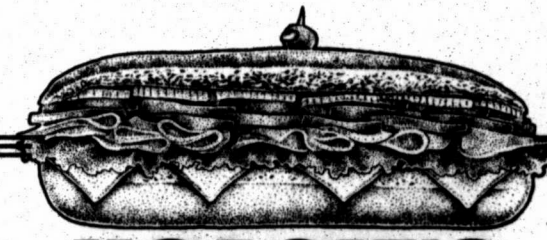
Continued from Page 1

precinct. Fletcher filed as a write-in candidate in response to Broaddus' filing, and said he would once again vacate the office if elected in order

to continue the cost savings to the county.

Statewide races include those for the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, commissioner of the general land office, commissioner of agriculture, railroad commissioner, and assorted judges.

# Be sure to vote!



# HOAGIE'S

**NEW** **Steak & Garlic**

Layers of grilled steak topped with grilled peppers and onions & melted swiss cheese. Served on grilled garlic toast.

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ORIGINAL Justin WORK WEAR

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

# Kid Scoop.com

**This Week: "Monsters"**

© 2006 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schindler, Graphics Vol. 22, No. 48

Perhaps real-world monsters scare people the most. Spiders, snakes and cute little bats can cause some to shake with fear and loathing!

Yet, these "monsters" are also enormously helpful. Use my special code to find out how. Perhaps then you will learn to feel a bit more tender toward my special monster pals.

## Vampires

Not all vampires are imaginary. The tiny (three-inch long) vampire bat in Mexico and Central America lives on blood. It uses its sharp teeth to make a small cut in its victim and then laps up the blood. It feeds on the blood of cattle, horses and other animals. Rarely does it attack people.

**HELPFUL MONSTER FACT:**  
Th\_ v\_ m\_ p\_ r\_ b\_ t\_ h\_ s  
\_ s\_ p\_ c\_ l\_ s\_ l\_ v\_ th\_ t  
h\_ l\_ p\_ s\_ t\_ p\_ r\_ v\_ n\_ t\_ b\_ l\_ d\_ c\_ l\_ s\_.

Sp\_ d\_ r\_ s\_ l\_ r\_ g\_ \_ n\_ d\_ s\_ m\_ l\_ l\_ h\_ l\_ p  
p\_ \_ p\_ l\_ \_ b\_ y\_ \_ t\_ i\_ n\_ g\_ \_ n\_ s\_ \_ c\_ t\_ s\_.

**HELPFUL MONSTER FACT:**  
Th\_ v\_ n\_ m  
fr\_ m\_ s\_ n\_ k\_ s\_ h\_ s  
v\_ l\_ \_ b\_ l\_ \_ c\_ h\_ m\_ c\_ l\_ s  
th\_ t\_ d\_ c\_ t\_ r\_ s\_ \_ s\_ \_ n  
s\_ m\_ \_ s\_ r\_ g\_ \_ r\_ \_ s\_.

Extra! Extra!  
**Monster ABCs**  
Look through today's newspaper for words that start with the letters of monsters and words that describe monsters. Try to find one word for each letter of the alphabet and write a Monster ABC.

## Pumpkin Puzzler

Which of these pumpkins is made from all of these letters?

● ■ ▲ ▼

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify patterns in words.

## Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

M	O	N	S	T	E	R	S												
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	S												
B	L	O	O	D															
T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A											
E	M	R	P	E	V	A	S	A											
B	P	Y	A	C	T	N	T	R	V										
E	I	C	U	N	A	S	E	R	E										
K	R	T	A	K	T	D	N	W	N										
A	E	L	E	I	U	E	O	O											
H	S	S	P	A	L	L	S	M											
S	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	A	O										

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

## Fill in The Blanks!

Ask a friend to come up with five nouns (person, place or thing), a plural noun, three adjectives (words that describe things like big and hairy) and an interjection (Hey! Wow!). Use them to fill in the blanks in this story. Read it aloud to share some zany humor!

Slugster was a monster that looked like a cross between a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_\_.

One day, Slugster visited the Muddtown Museum. He wanted to check out the \_\_\_\_\_ exhibit.

On the way, when they saw Slugster, people closed their windows to keep all of their \_\_\_\_\_ safe.

Inside the museum, Slugster started the \_\_\_\_\_ security guard. The guard began yelling "\_\_\_\_\_!" at the top of his lungs. Slugster decided he'd better leave.

"Wait!" said the guard. "You just startled me, that's all. Please, stay and enjoy the exhibit."

After that day, everyone saw Slugster in a new way. They would make his favorite snack at the Muddtown Diner: \_\_\_\_\_ stew.

Standards Link: Grammar: Recognize and use nouns and verbs in writing.

## Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

This week's word: **UNDERSTAND**  
The verb understand means to get the meaning of something or to know all about it.

Lily read a book about spiders to better understand them.

Try to use the word understand in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

# Viewpoints

## Election: Republican fortunes looking up

By **DICK MORRIS & EILEEN MCGANN**

Recent polls show something very strange and quite encouraging is happening: The Republican base seems to be coming back home. This trend, only vaguely and dimly emerging from a variety of polls, suggests that a trend may be afoot that would deny the Democrats control of the House and the Senate.

With the election so close, anything can happen, but it is beginning to look possible that the Democratic surge in the midterm elections may fall short of control in either House.

Here's the evidence:

\* Pollsters Scott

Rasmussen and John Zogby both show Republican Bob Corker gaining on Democratic Rep. Harold Ford Jr. in Tennessee, a must-win Senate seat for the Democrats. Zogby has Corker ahead by seven, while Rasmussen still shows a Ford edge of two points.

\* Zogby reports a "turn-around" in New Jersey's Senate race with the GOP candidate Tom Kean taking the lead, a conclusion shared by some other public polls.

\* Even though Sen. Jim Talent in Missouri is still under the magic 50 percent threshold for an incumbent, Rasmussen has him one point ahead and Zogby puts him three up. But unless he

crests 50 percent, he'll probably still lose.

\* Even though he is a lost cause, both Rasmussen and Zogby show Montana's Republican Sen. Conrad Burns cutting the gap and moving up.

**Dick Morris**  
Columnist



In Virginia, Republican embattled incumbent Sen. George Allen has now moved over the 50 percent threshold in his internal polls. (He'd been at 48 percent.)

Nationally, Zogby reports that the generic Democratic edge is down to four points, having been as high as nine

two weeks ago.

None of these data indicates that the Republicans are out of trouble yet, but Democrats must win one of these three races: Ford in Tennessee, Menendez in New Jersey or

Webb in Virginia. If not, they'll fall at least one seat short of controlling the Senate even if they succeed in knocking off all five vulnerable GOP incumbents in Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Missouri.

Why are Republican fortunes brightening?

The GOP base, alienated by the Foley scandal and the generally dismal record of this Congress, may have fast forwarded to the prospect of a Democratic victory and recoiled. They may have pondered the impact of a repeal of the Patriot Act, a ban on NSA wiretapping and a requirement of having an attorney present in terrorist questioning — and decided not to punish the country for the sins of the Republican leaders.

Bush's success in dealing with North Korea and his willingness to reassess tactics in Iraq could also play a part in the slight shift now underway.

Then, too, some in the Democratic Party must be finally realizing what a disastrous decision it was to put Howard Dean in as party chairman. The Democratic National Committee is broke and borrowing, while the GOP can afford to fund fully its key races.

Right now, we would have to say that control of Congress has gone from "lean Democrat" to a "toss-up." And that's progress for the Republicans.

—Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years. Eileen McGann, an attorney and consultant, is a CEO of VOTE.com and LegislativeVote.com.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 1, the 305th day of 2006. There are 60 days left in the year. This is All Saints Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 1, 1765, the Stamp Act went into effect, prompting stiff resistance from American colonists.

On this date:

In 1512, Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel were first exhibited to the public.

In 1861, Gen. George B. McClellan was made General-in-Chief of the Union armies, succeeding Winfield Scott.

In 1870, the United States Weather Bureau made its first meteorological observations.

In 1936, in a speech in Milan, Italy, Benito Mussolini described the alliance between his country and Nazi Germany as an "axis" running between Rome and Berlin.

In 1944, "Harvey," a comedy by Mary Chase about a man and his friend, an invisible 6-foot-tall rabbit, opened on Broadway.

## Our readers write

### Vote against a 'concept'; send board a clear message ...

As election day comes closer we need to ask, "Does the school board really have a solid plan or just a concept?"

Ask "Does PISD have a location for the proposed new middle school?" No. Two sites have been selected as possible locations. One is partially in the city limits and the other site is outside the city limits. Why is the school building outside the city limits when the majority of students live in town? If the bond passes, all middle school students will have to be bused. Can our aging buses handle it?

Ask "Does PISD have plans for demolishing Baker or Sam Houston and if the bond passes, Carver and Horace Mann? No. They have formed another committee to research what to do with the four hazards. What happens when the committee determines the school

district can't afford demolition of the schools? We will be stuck with additional eyeglasses.

Ask "Does PISD have a plan how it will cover the \$1,635,000 it will cost to replace the roofs on the elementary schools? No. The district has allotted the maintenance funds of \$6,300,000 for \$4,000,000 renovations to the athletic buildings at the high school and the remaining \$2,300,000 for more renovations at the high school not covered under the bond. So does the school intend on letting the elementary schools' roofs decay like they did at Horace Mann until they too collapse?"

Vote no for the proposed bond and let the school board know we will not accept a concept. We want a firm plan for now and in the future.

**Diana Bruner Pampa**



## Americans are indeed lucky by birth ...

There is an old saying in the real-estate business: The three most important qualities of a property are location, location, location.

That's also true of human beings. Except for immigrants, none of us chose to be born in the United States. By an accident of nature or by the will of God, the United States just happened to be our birthplace.

Had we been born in other places, such as Palestine, Iraq, Angola, South Africa, Russia or China, our lives would have been radically different and a good deal shorter than they are.

You would never know from just looking around that we are at war in two countries. Business and recreation go along as usual. Our children go to school, play and come home to full tables and comfortable beds. There are no death squads or bombs to threaten their peaceful sleep.

I know many immigrants who have come here not speaking the language and not having a penny to spend, yet have, by hard labor, built a good life for themselves and their family. Therefore, I have limited sympathy for our native-born poor, most of whom live lives that would seem luxurious to some people

in places like Somalia and Bangladesh. A Hindu friend of mine could barely contain his rage when he heard politicians talk about fighting poverty. To him, poverty meant dead, emaciated bodies lying in the streets. It didn't mean overweight people watching television while complaining that other people weren't doing enough for them.

So even if we are not equal in com-

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



fort levels and people in other countries aren't either, we are fortunate to be Americans. About a year in the Congo, Eritrea or a Palestinian refugee camp should cure most anyone of the sin of seeing only America's faults.

That goes for our ancestors, too. I wouldn't go so far as to advocate ancestor worship, but we should be grateful that they survived long enough to maintain the genetic chain that produced us.

We must never forget that it was those ancestors, not us, who built this country. They took it away from the French, the Spanish, the British and the American Indian.

I've always said that whites who want to moan about the poor treatment of the American Indian — and it was terrible — should hand over the deeds to any property they own to the nearest tribe, or else shut up. What the white settlers did to the Indians was what the Indians did to the people who were here when they migrated into the country. There is an endless chain in human history of stronger groups taking land away from weaker groups.

One should remember, too, that the Indians inflicted death and suffering on the white settlers as well. There just weren't enough of them to stop the flood of immigrants.

Anytime you wake up above ground is a good day, and when that ground is in the United States of America, it is a wondrously good day. People blessed with good fortune have an obligation, I believe, to try hard to deserve it; to do otherwise is to tempt fate.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

**Oct. 22**  
Houston Chronicle on Texas' need to increase all opportunities for the growing Hispanic population:

The U.S. Census Bureau has marked the birth of the 300 millionth American, statistically predicted to be a baby born of immigrant parents in Los Angeles. The occasion should be a wake-up call for Texans to begin preparing for a doubled population three decades hence, with a surging Hispanic majority that will confront the state with new challenges.

While Texas in the near future might resemble present day California in its demographics and politics, the future Lone Star economy might not keep

pace with national competitors if its population is disproportionately mired in poverty, inadequate education and poor health.

In Texas, 29 percent of Hispanic children lack medical insurance, three times the uninsured rate for whites. More than two-thirds of those children live in households earning far below the poverty level. In Houston, 30 percent of Hispanics and blacks are economically deprived, which the government defines as a family of four subsisting on less than \$19,971 annually.

On the education front, Hispanic dropout rates far exceed other groups'. Latino community leaders complain that too little is being done to boost English skills among their students and keep them in class until graduation.

Unless Texas lawmakers set new pri-

orities and follow up with adequate funding, the profile of the state's Hispanic population will become reality for most Texans.

Instead of attracting new businesses and technologies, Texas could become a backwater state at the bottom of national rankings in the quality of life categories that attract young professionals. The fact that we already have the highest percentage of citizens without health insurance and the next to lowest graduation rate of students in the nation indicates that dismal future is not far away.

If ever there was a time in Texas history when leaders of vision were needed, it is now. When voters cast their ballots, they should choose candidates who are committed to shaping our future before it shapes us.

**THE PAMPA NEWS**

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Years ago, I remember reading about some Please Call Police banners you mentioned in your column. Do you know if they are still available? I am 90 years old, live alone and I can't walk very well. I live in a house on a city block with quite a few vacant lots. My phone went out, and I had no way to call for help. I turned my U.S. flag upside down because I had read that it's a distress signal that everyone can understand -- but nobody stopped. Finally, I saw two girls walking by. I called out to them and asked them to please go to the police and call about my telephone. Abby, I was alone without a phone for 30 days! I would like to order a set of those banners for my window in case of another emergency, and I'd also like a set for my daughter who travels alone. Do you know how I can order them? -- **CLOSE CALL IN VIRGINIA**

**DEAR CLOSE CALL:** Thirty days isolated in a house with no means of communication? Your letter gave me chills. Yes, the Please Call Police banners are still available. Other readers have written me to say they have been a literal lifesaver in case of an emergency. I keep two banners in the glove compartment of my car -- one for the windshield and another for the rear window. Although most people have cell phones these days, invariably there are "dead spots" where the phone doesn't work, and it's better to be safe than sorry. The Please Call Police banners make ideal stocking stuffers and provide a safety measure for people to give their loved ones, but they also assist the Westside Center for Independent Living (WCIL), a nonprofit organization that helps people with disabilities to live more independent lives. They make thoughtful, caring gifts for very little money for Thanksgiving and other holidays, providing security and safety to commuters who travel in good or bad

weather. This year, in addition to the banners, WCIL is offering emergency blankets made of silver-colored Mylar. They weigh 2 ounces, and also fit easily into a glove compartment, backpack -- even a purse. Events over the last few years have repeatedly emphasized the need for emergency preparedness, and the blankets -- in addition to the banners -- would be attention-getting reflective devices if someone is lost or trapped and unable to call out. The banners and the blankets can be purchased by writing to WCIL. To order, send check or money order (U.S. funds only, please) to: WCIL Banners or Blankets, P.O. Box 92501, Los Angeles, CA 90009. You will receive one banner or one blanket for a \$5 contribution and each additional blanket or banner for a \$4 contribution. (Please include \$1 per total order for postage and handling.) For more information and secure ordering online, visit [www.wcil.org](http://www.wcil.org) and click on the "Police Banners" or "Emergency Blankets" link. Allow four to six weeks for delivery.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have lived, so far, through eight years of hell with my husband. The one year of heaven was the year before we were married. I won't go into the hell I have been put through, I just want your definition of a real man. If you put this in the paper, please don't reveal my name. -- **NEEDS TO KNOW IN SACRAMENTO**

**DEAR NEEDS TO KNOW:** I'm willing to bet that if you asked 10 people for their definition of a "real man," you'd get a different answer from each one. However, to me, a "real man" is a person of the male gender who lives his life with integrity, puts his responsibility toward his family before his own selfish interests, and doesn't have to prove to himself or others that he is a "real man."

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



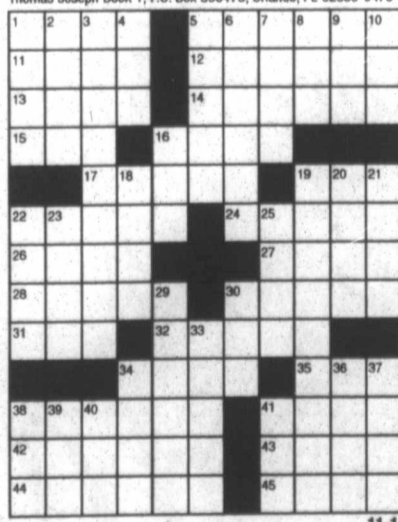
## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**  
 1 Skiing mecca  
 5 Like some wire  
 11 Authentic  
 12 Old cold time  
 13 Relaxed  
 14 Knight's opponent  
 15 Inclined  
 16 Tear along  
 17 Most new drivers  
 19 Stole stuff  
 22 Trombone part  
 24 Word separator  
 26 Silent performer  
 27 Map dot  
 28 Signs  
 30 Music genre  
 31 Empty talk  
 32 Swirly posters  
 34 Bend  
 35 Auditing org.  
 38 Warning  
 41 Put out  
 42 Without delay  
 43 Butte's kin  
 44 Toot  
 45 Manipulative sort
- DOWN**  
 2 Spring  
 3 Days gone by  
 4 Shrewd  
 5 Try to get, at an auction  
 6 Unlike this answer  
 7 Paper purchase  
 8 Chips buy  
 9 Freud  
 10 Animal's lair  
 16 Last letter  
 18 Perfect place  
 19 1986 sitcom based on a 1982 movie  
 20 Home of the Bruins  
 21 Stagger  
 22 Urban woe  
 23 Capital founded by Pizarro  
 25 Docking spot  
 29 Comfort part  
 30 Upper limit, briefly  
 33 Writer Benchley  
 34 Ward off  
 36 Get up  
 37 Headliner  
 38 Truck part  
 39 Ignored a diet  
 40 Otto — Bismarck  
 41 Rhea's cousin

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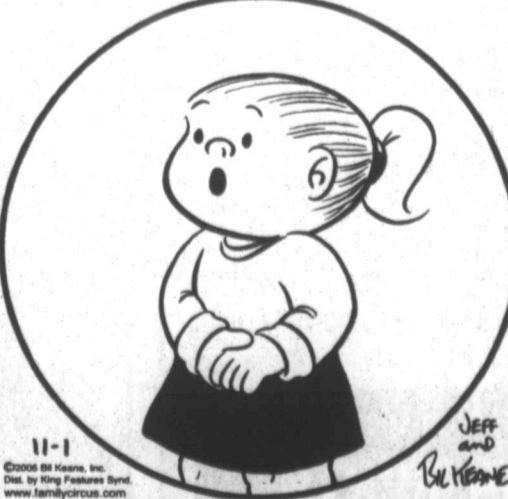


## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie

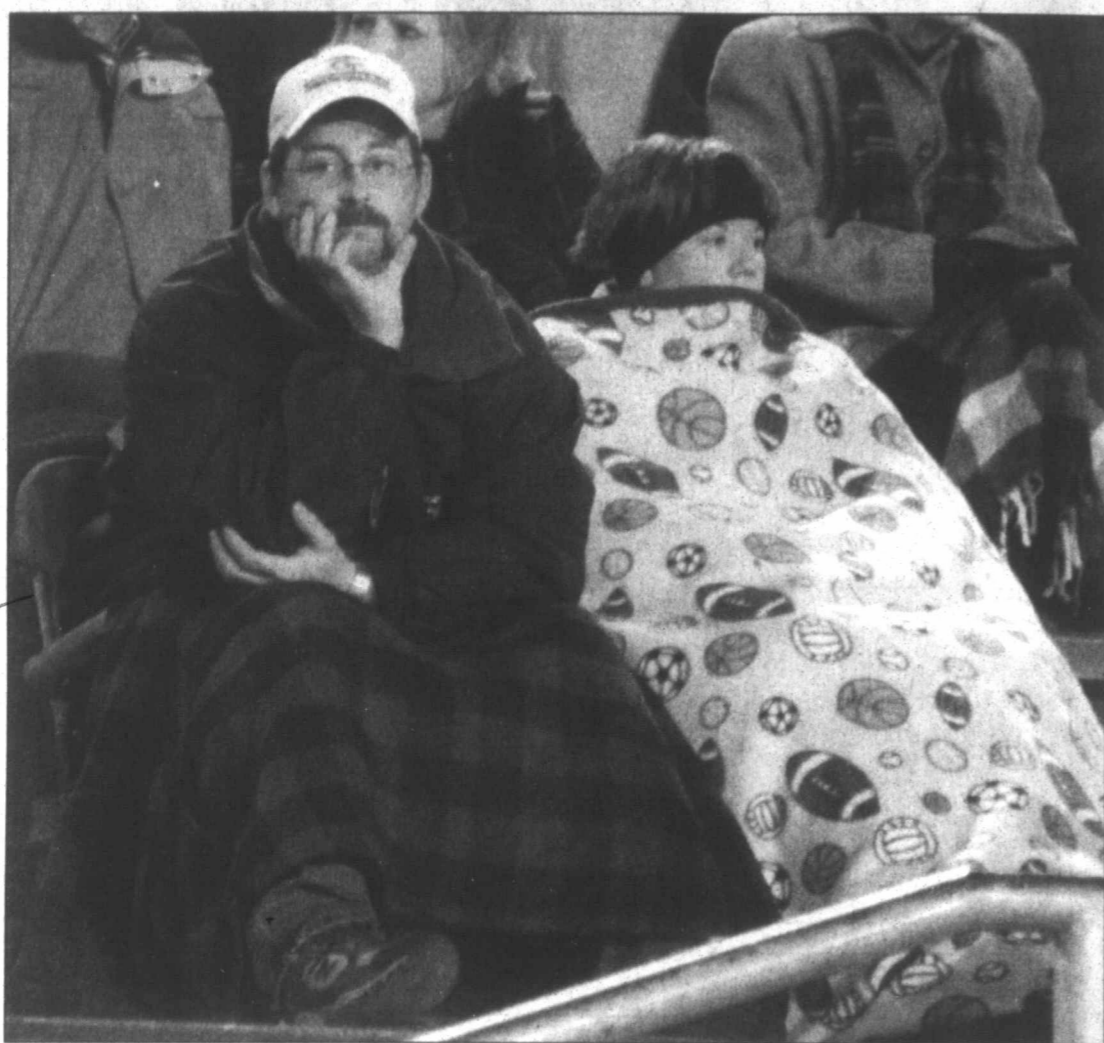


## Flo & Friends



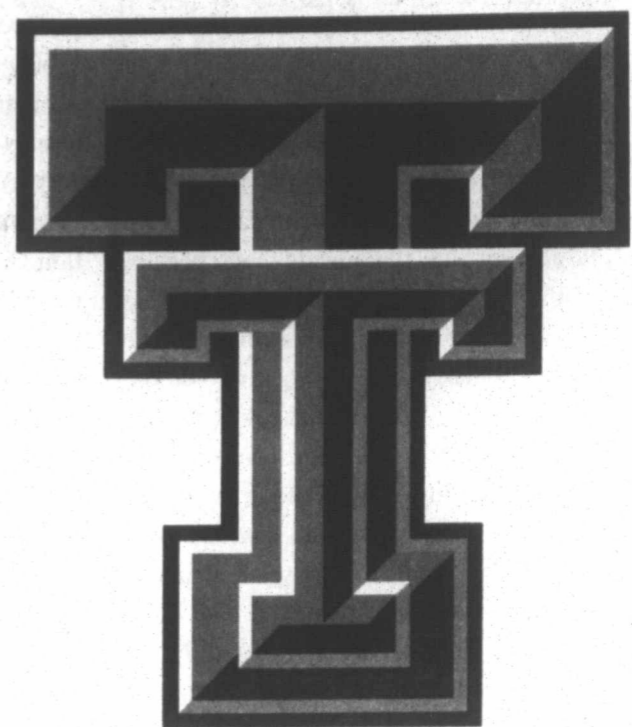
# Sports Day

*Baby it's cold outside*



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

This couple was among the many fans who came prepared for the cold at Friday's football game between Pampa and Randall at Harvester Field. This is the time of the season when gridiron faithful need to be prepared for instant temperature changes. Though it was mild when the game started, once the sun began to set, the mercury fell. The same will hold true Friday night when Pampa travels to Dumas to face the Demons.



## Jackson dismissed by coach Knight; football players arrested following home burglary

**Basketball**  
LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Texas Tech has dismissed leading scorer Jarrius Jackson from the team for academic reasons, coach Bob Knight said Tuesday.

Knight said in a story in the online edition of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal that Jackson, who led the Big 12 Conference in scoring last season with 20.5 points per game, was dismissed "for failure to fulfill academic requirements that we have for our men's basketball team."

Knight left open the possibility that Jackson could return to the team later.

"If Jackson is able to do what is required of him that we have discussed, when he has satisfactorily done what is required of him, then maybe, at that time, we might discuss the possibility of him returning," Knight said.

The 6-foot-1 guard from Monroe, La., is featured on the cover of the team's basketball media guide.

He led the league in 3-point shooting at 45 percent last year.

**Football**  
LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Three Texas Tech football players face burglary charges after being

accused of breaking into a house and leaving with a laptop computer and an iPod, police said Tuesday.

Defensive end Rashad Hunt, offensive lineman Dimitri Lott and linebacker Julius Howard, all redshirt freshmen, were arrested about 3 a.m. Friday.

Efforts to reach attorneys representing the players were unsuccessful Tuesday.

None of the players has been dismissed or suspended, and Tech coach Mike Leach said he wasn't aware of the allegations until Monday.

"We wait until a guy's guilty," Leach said. "But if we're certain somebody's guilty, we may act sooner."

A man at the home called police after he saw two men leaving the front door then noticed the electronics gear missing. Officers arrested the three after stopping a car matching the man at the home, then found items believed to be from the home, police said.

Hunt, Dimitri and Howard were arraigned Saturday on charges of burglary of a habitation and released on \$3,500 bond.

## Spurs' Parker question mark

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Spurs guard Tony Parker didn't practice Tuesday and remains questionable to play in San Antonio's season opener this week after spraining his right ankle during drills a day earlier.

X-rays showed his ankle wasn't broken, a team spokesman said.

San Antonio opens its season Thursday against the Dallas Mavericks.

The Spurs will face Cleveland on Friday in

their home opener.

The 6-foot-2, 180-pound Parker was doing drills Monday when he took a shot and landed on someone's foot.

Parker averaged 18.9 points, 3.3 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game last season.

In San Antonio's final preseason game Friday against Dallas, Parker scored 20 points in the Spurs' 100-79 victory.

## Mavs' George suffering illness; Mbenga to miss early season games

DALLAS (AP) - New Mavericks swingman Devean George was hospitalized early Tuesday with a stomach ailment that could knock him out of the opener.

George, a free agent signee from the Los Angeles Lakers, was still hospitalized as of Tuesday evening while the team awaited test results. Coach Avery Johnson said the problem was some type of intestinal virus.

"We think it's a food deal, but he's had this problem before," Johnson said. "Now it's kind of come back again, and this time it's even worse than the first time. So we'll have to evaluate it."

Dallas opens Thursday night at home against San Antonio.

The Mavericks also announced they'll play at least the first two weeks without third-string center D.J. Mbenga, who strained a tendon in his left foot Monday.

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## NBA standings

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New Jersey	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	1	.000	1/2

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	1	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	1/2
Detroit	0	0	.000	1/2
Indiana	0	0	.000	1/2
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	1/2

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
Portland	0	0	.000	—
Seattle	0	0	.000	—
Utah	0	0	.000	—

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	1	0	1.000	—
Golden State	0	0	.000	1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	1/2
Sacramento	0	0	.000	1/2
Phoenix	0	1	.000	1

#### Tuesday's Games

Chicago 108, Miami 66  
L.A. Lakers 114, Phoenix 106

#### Wednesday's Games

All times EST  
Chicago at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
New Orleans at Boston, 7:30 p.m.  
Toronto at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.  
New York at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Sacramento at Minnesota, 8 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Detroit, 8 p.m.  
Washington at Cleveland, 8 p.m.  
Houston at Utah, 9 p.m.  
Portland at Seattle, 10 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at Golden State, 10:30

## NHL standings

### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	6	4	1	13	28	32
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	12	33	24
N.Y. Islanders	5	4	2	12	31	34
N.Y. Rangers	5	6	0	10	40	43
Philadelphia	3	7	1	7	23	43

#### Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	10	0	1	21	53	28
Montreal	6	2	3	15	38	35
Toronto	6	4	3	15	44	49
Ottawa	5	6	0	10	35	27
Boston	3	5	1	7	19	33

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Atlanta	8	2	3	19	47	35
Carolina	5	5	2	12	40	45
Florida	5	7	2	12	37	47
Washington	4	3	4	12	35	38
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	10	33	31

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division						
	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	7	3	1	15	38	33
Detroit	6	4	1	13	29	27
St. Louis	3	4	3	9	27	36
Chicago	4	8	0	8	34	45
Columbus	3	5	1	7	19	26

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	9	2	0	18	33	21
Vancouver	7	5	1	15	34	29
Edmonton	7	4	0	14	33	28
Colorado	5	4	2	12	37	34
Calgary	3	6	1	7	25	29

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	9	0	3	21	41	27
Dallas	9	2	0	18	35	21
San Jose	9	4	0	18	42	29
Los Angeles	4	8	2	10	29	38
Phoenix	3	9	0	6	28	53

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

#### Tuesday's Games

Montreal 4, Ottawa 2  
San Jose 2, Florida 1  
N.Y. Islanders 5, Chicago 2  
Nashville 3, Vancouver 2  
Wednesday's Games  
Carolina at Atlanta, 7 p.m.  
Colorado at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
Calgary at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.  
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Louis at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim, 10 p.m.  
Nashville at Edmonton, 10 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

## Stern refuses to give up any more ground

By JIM LITKE  
Associated Press

The NBA tipped off Tuesday night with plenty of new rules and one less fan. The first didn't lead directly to the second, though that's not to say they're unrelated.

Not to commissioner David Stern, anyway.

An Orlando season-ticket holder named Hooman Hamzehlou was banished from attending games at any of the league's arenas after allegedly calling Houston's Dikembe Mutombo a "monkey" last week at a preseason game between the Rockets and the Magic.

There is no such thing as a good time or place to fire off racial epithets at a man who stands 7-foot-2. But doing it a few days before the NBA paused to pay tribute to Red Auerbach, whose pioneering integration efforts burnished his legacy more than all those championship banners combined, reminds us that Hamzehlou wasn't just stupid, but unlucky to boot.

He can apologize until he's blue in the face. But the ink was still drying on the refund check the Magic made out to Hamzehlou by the time Stern declared him persona non grata in the NBA's 29 other buildings. Call it a dangerous precedent if you want. In Stern's mind, this is a test case.

He may be a lawyer by training, but he's a judge by instinct. His approach to discipline has always been no-nonsense and sometimes downright imperial. He makes decisions swiftly and often unilaterally, which explains the "King David" nickname occasionally applied behind his back.

People who thought Stern would be too distracted, or too busy squashing dissent about the controversial new basketball, counting the players' wristbands and measuring the length of their shorts surely forgot who they were dealing with. To him, this is all cut from the same cloth.

Think back to the "Malice at the Palace," the basketball brawl in Detroit not quite two years ago and remember what he did at the time. Stern didn't take a vote, didn't worry about how the players' union would respond or appoint a commission and wait for the findings. He went right after the troublemakers he could identify, sitting them down for a combined 128 games and \$12 million in salary.

No sooner had Stern finished reading the sentences than he added, "This about something more profound."

Because the brawl was both spectacular and captured on video, what

Stern said during the rest of the news conference got wrapped into a few paragraphs and buried at the bottom of most stories.

He talked about how the gulf between the players and paying customers was growing in every sport, how too many fans believe too many athletes with too little devotion to their craft are making way too much money. And how, way too often, the athletes live down to those expectations.

Stern said his league "didn't ask to be at the epicenter of this discussion," but he acknowledged it was the one where the gulf was the widest at that moment.

Understanding that fans are likely to give as much respect as they get, he came up with a dress code covering both the court and the bench that gets more restrictive by the day. Because his powers of persuasion over the paying customers is much more limited, Stern mentioned the "social contracts" and "covenants" that fans make when they buy a ticket to watch a sporting event.

He knows better than most how those were crumpled up long ago and thrown on the floors in stadiums and arenas, alongside the spilled beers, and won't be retrieved without some serious effort.

"I completely support the Magic's actions and, personally, I think the NBA office has the best handle on these types of issues," Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said in an e-mail Tuesday, "and we should just let them decide."

Cuban would rather empty his wallet than agree with the NBA office on most issues, and he's got the check stubs from a dozen or so charitable deductions to prove it. And he'll almost certainly collect a few more soon after Stern's rumored code of conduct for owners becomes the law of the league.

But Cuban has sat in the maelstrom of most arenas and been insulted enough to know that what Stern is doing is right. The NBA has a problem controlling fans and so does every other sports league and anybody else who thinks the only people who've lost their grip on the importance of these games are the ones who play them.

The provocative few in every crowd are more inventive, more abusive and more menacing. Sticks and stones - not to mention beer bottles and whatever else fans can get their hands - still break bones, but those don't begin flying until the name-calling stops. What Stern intends to do is make sure that never starts. Best of luck on that one, commissioner.

## Auerbach laid to rest

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) - Red Auerbach was buried in a simple graveside ceremony, with Hall of Famers Bill Russell and John Thompson and commissioner David Stern among those paying last respects.

About 150 family, friends and special guests attended the private burial for the NBA great at the King David Memorial Gardens in suburban Washington.

Auerbach, who won nine NBA titles with the Celtics as a coach and seven more as a general manager, died after a heart attack near his Washington home Saturday at age 89.

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Kobe Bryant sat out the Los Angeles Lakers' season opener against the

Phoenix Suns because of soreness in his surgically repaired right knee.

Bryant underwent arthroscopic surgery in mid-July, and missed the Lakers' eight exhibition games.

He said he wouldn't travel for tonight's game at Golden State, either, but hoped to return either Friday or Sunday.

Before the game, the Lakers signed Brian Cook to a two-year contract extension.

MIAMI (AP) - Guard Kirk Hinrich and the Chicago Bulls agreed on a five-year contract extension believed to be worth about \$47.5 million.

TORONTO (AP) - Guard T.J. Ford and the Raptors agreed on a contract extension.

## Golfer sues over hole-in-one prize

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A golfer who made a hole-in-one last month at a charity golf tournament in Kerrville and won \$50,000 is being sued by a teammate over how the money should be spent.

Brit Martin was recruited by Mike Neutze to play on a four-man team in a September tournament at Comanche Trace Golf Course. Neutze, who sponsored the team, picked Martin to try his swing at the hole-in-one competition.

Before the ball dropped in, the two hadn't discussed what would become of the prize.

Martin sank it and said he wants

to use the money to jump-start his dream of becoming a pro golfer.

Neutze said in court filings he wants the team to split the prize with the Kerrville Professional Firefighters Association, the event's organizer. Neutze's lawyer said Neutze should decide who gets the money since as one of four major sponsors of the 9-11 Golf Tournament, his status made Martin eligible to take the shot.

A judge is keeping Martin from spending the check, which he hasn't yet received. A hearing is set for Friday.

## Bagwell's option declined by Astros

HOUSTON (AP) - Jeff Bagwell's \$18 million option was declined Tuesday by the Houston Astros, who will give their career home run and RBIs leader a \$7 million buyout to complete an \$85 million, five-year contract.

The 38-year-old Bagwell missed last season because of an arthritic right shoulder, and the Astros tried to recoup about \$15.6 million in insurance.

"It doesn't mean anything at all," Bagwell told KRIV-TV in Houston. "Everyone knew this was going to happen. It is part of the business. I'm OK with it. This is not a sad day."

Bagwell's agent, Barry Axelrod, said in a telephone

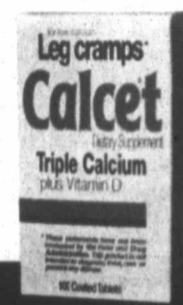
interview with The Associated Press that Bagwell is "a long shot" to ever play again. But Axelrod said Bagwell isn't ready to officially retire.

"That's going to be up to Jeff to decide and announce finally," Axelrod said. "His health has not allowed him to compete the way he'd like to compete. I would think that would be a real long shot for him to even think about trying to do it anymore."

Houston general manager Tim Purpura hinted that Bagwell could remain with the team in another capacity, saying Bagwell would discuss with his wife what level of involvement he wants with the Astros.

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