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See expanded weather on Page 2

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County takes first step toward reinvestment zone

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer Gray County commissioners this morning took the first step toward creating a reinvestment zone in the county by agreeing to establish guidelines for such a zone. The idea of creating a reinvestment zone was prompted by interest expressed in creating a wind energy farm in Donley and Gray counties by Competitive Power Ventures of Massachusetts. A company representative addressed commissioners at their Nov. 15, 2006, meeting on the possibility of establishing the wind

farm. "Donley County approved their reinvestment zone yesterday," said County Judge Richard Peet at this morning's meeting in the second-floor courtroom of the courthouse. Peet said Wednesday that Gray County had not progressed as far as Donley County in establishing a reinvestment zone because the county had been waiting on information from the company concerning their proposed wind energy farm. A reinvestment zone is an area in which businesses could apply for potential tax abatements if they

establish a facility within the zone. Abatements could range from 0 to 100 percent over a time span of up to 10 years. A company receiving an abatement may be required to pay, for example, 85 percent of the value of the company property for the first five years. After the abatement agreement has expired, the company would pay regular property tax amounts annually. The next step in creating a reinvestment zone is to hold a public hearing. Commissioners agreed this morning to have a public hearing on

the topic at their March 1 meeting. The final steps in creating the zone would be to adopt a resolution concerning the zone and establishing exact abatements that would be available. The resignation of Don Fletcher as Precinct 4 constable was accepted. Fletcher will be paid for the month of January since his resignation is effective Feb. 1. A call to Fletcher by Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby revealed that Fletcher expected to be paid for January in See COUNTY, Page 3

Phyllis Jeffers to step down as city secretary

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer After more than 22 years and working with seven mayors and 10 city managers, Pampa City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers has announced her retirement at the end of this month. "The secret to working for that many heads of the city is to be flexible," she said. In some states' municipalities, the position occupied by Jeffers is called a municipal clerk. She feels that in some ways the word "secretary" is misleading concerning her office. "The city secretary is at the forefront of the legislative process of the city," Jeffers said. "They are the custodian of every record created and maintained by

the city. They do all the open records requests. They handle all ordinances and resolutions, and make sure they're attested to, filed, and published if necessary. They are responsible for notices for public meetings and agendas for city commission meetings." The city secretary is also required to attend all city commission meetings whenever a quorum is available and to take the minutes of those meetings. Jeffers is responsible for conducting all city elections, and has done 31 during her years as city secretary. "It's one of the oldest positions in any city government," Jeffers said of the city secretary position. Jeffers fills the roles of

city human resources director, community services director, safety and risk manager, and payroll officer. The accomplishments she is most proud of are scattered among those functions. "I had 911 dispatch under my direction when we bought and developed the computerized dispatch system in the late 1990s," she said. "I developed and implemented the city action center. Government had gotten so bureaucratic that people who'd have a concern didn't know who to call," Jeffers said. "This was one-stop shopping. They could call one number and tell their complaint or need. We'd get the information to the right

See JEFFERS, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers is retiring after 22 years.

Pampa police seeking burglary information

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer Information on a suspect and vehicle connected to a burglary which occurred Feb. 6 at Frank's True Value Hardware, 401 N. Ballard, is being sought by Pampa Police Department. The burglary was reported to police at 10:54 p.m. The front doors of the store had been damaged, and six Echo chain saws and one Echo backpack leaf blower were taken, according to PPD Det. Casey Ingersoll. The estimated value of the items taken and cost of damage is over \$3,000. "We're looking for a small, primer-gray SUV, possibly a Ford Bronco," Ingersoll said. "It has a chrome bumper, See INFO, Page 3

Secret flight restrictions point to visit by Cheney

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer The FAA issued a news release Wednesday alerting pilots to temporary flight restrictions in the Pampa area for several hours on Friday through Sunday. According to information from the FAA Web site, the restrictions are for VIP movement. A briefer at the Flight Service Station would not confirm, but said it may be due to Vice President Dick Cheney being in the area. The restrictions are north of Pampa and include a 3 nautical mile radius from 3,000

feet and below. There are several times this in is effect this weekend, the first being from 12:45 to 2:25 p.m. Friday and the last restriction is from 2:15 to 3:05 p.m. Sunday. A representative at the Hutchinson County Airport said this is probably in the area of T. Boone Pickens' ranch and the vice president may be flying in and landing on the new air strip that was built there recently. He could not confirm this information though. See CHENEY, Page 3

BBB warns of e-mail Internet phishing scam

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer The Better Business Bureau issued a warning Tuesday for all businesses and consumers of a scam using the BBB name and a false e-mail address to entice recipients to access potentially damaging hyperlinks. The e-mails sent out have a false

return address of operations@bbb.org and a phishing hyperlink citing a BBB complaint case number. The BBB encourages recipients of such messages to delete the e-mail immediately without clicking on the "documents for case" links. The links listed in the fake e-mails ask users to download documents

and these are actually executable files that are believed to be some form of a computer virus. "These e-mails can be convincing," BBB CEO Janna Kiehl said. "Don't open them until you know they are safe. If you have a question about an e-mail, call the BBB. We're here to help you." The BBB does send mails to com-

panies advising of a complaint and directing them to a Web site to respond to their customer. The legitimate e-mails are a copy of a letter with the complaint attached and will be easily identified as from the BBB in Amarillo. The office in Amarillo has a service area of 26 counties in the See SCAM, Page 3

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Friday **Saturday** **Sunday**



Mostly sunny **Mostly sunny** **Mostly sunny**

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 20 and 25. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north-northwest.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 31. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. South-southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. South-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

DARSEY, Lyda Jo — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Darsey Ranch, Alanreed.

James Samuel Silcott, 83

James Samuel Silcott of Lubbock departed this life on Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, at the age of 83. He was born on March 24, 1923, in Panhandle, Texas, to the late James and Susan Bruce Silcott.

He served in the Company A, 533rd Engineer, Boat and Shore Regiment in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was married on June 15, 1946, to

Bobbie Ruth Killian.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bobbie; and a son, Robert Bruce Silcott.

He is survived by one son, James Silcott of Mesquite, Texas; daughters, Lizbeth Privitt of Albuquerque, N.M., and Pat Cox of Granbury, Texas; grandchildren, Kyle Silcott, Mara Privitt, Clint Cox and Lori Cox; and

great-granddaughters, Kameryn Cox and Carolina Rose Hull.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to the American Diabetes Association, 8008 Slide Road, Lubbock, TX 79424.

Graveside services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at 10 a.m. in the cemetery in Panhandle, Texas.
We love you, Daddy.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Three traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from the 2400 block of North Charles and the 800 block of South Hobart.

Accidents were reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky, the intersection of Harvester and Hamilton, the intersection of Harvester and Russell, the 2200 block of North Hobart, the intersection of 25th and Duncan, the 300 block of West 21st, the 300 block of North Gray, the 1200 block of South Nelson, the 500 block of North Faulkner, the intersection of 22nd and Russell and the 1300 block of North Russell.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1000 block of South Prairie, the 700 block of East Locust, the 300 block of South Jean, the 1200 block of North Russell, the 1400 block of North Russell, the 1100 block of North Duncan, the 700 block of Deane, the 600 block of Deane, the 1900 block of North Duncan, the 2500 block of North Christine, the 1200 block of East Darby and the 2200 block of North Evergreen.

Domestic assault/family violence was reported in the 1500 block of North Russell where minor injuries occurred.

Robbery was reported in the 1000 block of North Duncan where \$40 in cash was stolen. The victim sustained minor injuries.

Burglary was reported in the 2600 block of Comanche where a dryer was stolen and a front door damaged. Estimated loss is \$740.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1700 block of North Holly.

Lost property was reported in the police department lobby.

Agency assistance was rendered in the police department lobby.

Escort service was provided in the 900 block of East 23rd.

Theft was reported in the 500 block of North Cuyler.

An alarm was reported in the 2000 block of North Hobart.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 400 block of North Wells.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby.

Public intoxication was reported in the 500 block of North Dwight.

A 911 hang-up call was received from an undisclosed location.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 900 block of South Wells.

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
6:03 a.m. — A 1994 Dodge Shadow driven by Nancy Lopez, 25, 1024 Gordon, and a 2005 Dodge Neon driven by Valeria Isidora Johnston, 31, 1117 W. Ripley, collided in the 100 block of South Hobart. No injuries were reported. Lopez was cited for failure to control speed and no proof of financial responsibility.
12:53 p.m. — A 1997 GMC Z-71 pickup driven by R.L. Riggle, 23, of Skellytown and a 2002 Chevrolet Impala driven by Janet Jo Watts, 45, 2631 Cherokee, collided at the intersection of the 2400 block of Duncan and the 200 block of East 25th. No injuries were reported. Carpenter was cited for failure to control speed and no proof of insurance.

3:35 p.m. — A 2005 Dodge Neon driven by Michele Susanne Dabbs, 41, 601 Doucette, and a 1996 Ford F250 pickup driven by Thomas Joseph Carpenter, 41, 728 N. Lefors, collided at the intersection of the 300 block of North Faulkner and the 1000 block of West Crocker. No injuries were reported. Carpenter was cited for no valid driver's license and failure to comply after striking a motor vehicle.
5:39 p.m. — A 1991 Ford Explorer driven by Julianna Rebecca

Schuneman, 16, 1816 N. Russell, slid into a tree in the 1300 block of North Russell after sliding on the ice. No injuries were reported. Schuneman was cited with failure to control speed.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Terry Wayne Hoskins, 50, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for DWI, third or more offense, and sentenced to 10 days in jail.
Jacob Rowsey, 30, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for public intoxication.
Mardel Dishaun Stebbins, 30, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for assault causing bodily injury - family violence.

Albert Tambunga, 57, of Pampa was arrested by PPD on capias pro fines for no seat belt, no driver's license and no insurance.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 14
7:55 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Hughes on a medical assist.
2:42 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of Farley on a medical assist.

3:50 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 600 block of North Dwight on an odor investigation.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 14
1:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of North Faulkner. No recorded transport.

Thursday, Feb. 15
12:12 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of East Francis. No recorded transport.

CITY BRIEFS

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Marines getting Osprey back in flight

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP)— Marine Corps crews are getting some MV-22

Ospreys back in the air this week after the fleet of 46 tiltrotor aircraft was ground-

ed because of concern over computer chips. Since the aircraft were grounded last week, maintenance crews have checked flight control computers in each aircraft.

"As good flight control computers are identified, the Ospreys will return to flight," said spokesman Lt. Col. Scott Fazekas said Wednesday. "When we get flight control computers that work, we can put them out and get them flying again."

Some Ospreys resumed flights Tuesday at Marine Corps Air Station New River.

A faulty chip was discovered in a new Osprey that was being tested at the Bell-Boeing plant in Amarillo, Texas. The fault was in a circuit that lets three flight control computers back up each other.

Fazekas said the problem wasn't expected to delay the first deployment of the Osprey later this year.

The \$71 million aircraft was designed to replace Vietnam-era CH-46 helicopters. Its engines rotate so it takes off and lands like a helicopter but flies like an airplane. The aircraft can fly faster and farther than current helicopters.

Development of the aircraft was set back by two fatal crashes in 2000, one in Arizona that killed all 19 Marines aboard and another in Jacksonville that killed four.

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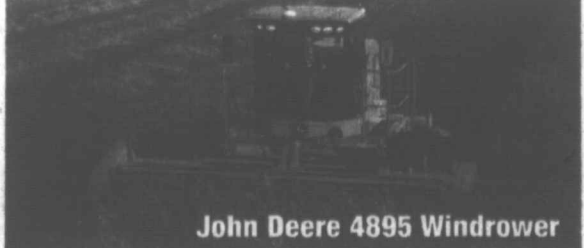
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Jeffers

Continued from Page 1

department within four hours." Another achievement Jeffers is proud of is the nearly-one-million-dollar renovation to M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium. The renovations include a new air conditioning system and new light and sound system.

"It was the first major renovation since it was built," said Jeffers, who was director of the renovation. "Shane Stokes and Jackie Harper did a tremendous job."

She also worked on the Skate Park which has been installed in Central Park.

One of Jeffers' recent efforts on the city's behalf was to look into the possibility of the city buying its own electronic voting machines, rather than leasing machines from Gray County each time an election is held.

She found out that it would be wiser to wait for the dust to settle on some current proposed changes to the machines, before paying out any money to buy machines that might be rendered obsolete if the

changes are implemented.

"There is a big push right now to require the electronic voting machines to produce a hard copy of each vote, to provide a paper trail," Jeffers said. "Right now is not a good time to purchase machines until that's settled."

Another stumbling block to buying voting machines is that no funds are allocated to do so at the present time, she said.

One thing Jeffers has not had a chance to see accomplished is a comprehensive master plan for the city and a charter revision.

"The last revision was in 1982," she said.

That 1982 revision did not eliminate all of the ordinances which are no longer applicable in the modern world.

One ordinance which still stands prohibits "the driving of herds of horses, mules, cattle, hobs, sheep, goats and all herds of domestic animals along or upon the streets, avenues, alleys, parks, or public grounds of said City."

Another portion of the charter which Jeffers thinks might need work concerns how the city is divided up for the election of commissioners and other purposes.

"Ward lines are defined in the charter. The city has had growth in

the north and east, resulting in an increase in Wards 1 and 2, and a decrease in Wards 3 and 4," Jeffers said.

She suggested that the city might need to go to place voting, like Pampa Independent School System's elections, or some other voting system for city commissioners and the mayor in order to ensure equal representation for city residents. The current system requires that each city commissioner live in the area he or she represents, even though all eligible voters in the city can vote on each commissioner.

"We are only now on our second female commissioner," Jeffers said. "Faustina Curry was the first."

Jeffers herself holds a "first". She was the first female director of a city department, and held that record for 15 years. She also hired the first female firefighter and swore in the first female city commissioner.

Other achievements Jeffers takes pride in are development of the city's comprehensive safety and risk management program and developing and implementing the city's self-insured health and dental insurance programs.

Jeffers' career began when

Calvin Whatley was mayor and continued with Sherman Cowan, David McDaniel, Richard Peet, Ray Hupp, Bob Neslage and Lonnie Robbins.

Her career also spans 10 city managers: Allen Moore, Bob Hart, Jack Chaney, Frank Smith, Glen Hackler, Nathan Hopson, Bob Eskridge, John Hatchel, Mitch Grant and John Horst.

"Of all the city managers, Bob Hart made the most difference visually in the city," Jeffers said. "He was responsible for the green and gold crosswalks and signs around the high school, uniforms for city employees, and a paint and body shop at the city service center. He was very innovative."

Another city manager who stands out in Jeffers' mind is Bob Eskridge.

"He had a financial mind. He did financial forecasting and was a strong financial resource for the city," she said.

Some mayors also impressed Jeffers.

"Sherman Cowan was probably the mayor who knew most about the city employees and their jobs. He was very employee-oriented, and he recognized the importance of the city's work force," she said. "He recognized that every depart-

ment was just as important as every other department."

The city's attorney gets top marks from Jeffers.

"The person I most admire that I have worked with for my entire career with the city has been Don Lane," she said. "It's a rare privilege to work closely with a person of such character, integrity, and love for this community as Don."

Jeffers may be retiring from her job as city secretary, but that does not mean she's going to sit idle.

"Right now, I'm going to chill out. I have agreed to do some interim work with a company that provides interim employees to cities," she said, "but not until I've spent some time at home."

Jeffers and her husband, Bob, have four children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They are members of the First Assembly of God Church, and Jeffers is on the board of directors of the Pampa Salvation Army.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of this community," she said. "I have loved every minute of it, and if I had to do it all over again, I would. There is no more rewarding career than public service."

Scam

Continued from Page 1

Panhandle, which includes Pampa.

According to the alert issued, "phishing is a term

coined by computer hackers, who use e-mail to fish the Internet to hook recipients into giving them sensitive information." The phisher instructs recipients to click on a link to receive or provide information that can help them, but the link

actually gives the phisher access to the person's sensitive personal or business information.

For more information on this and other scams, visit www.bbb.org or call the BBB in Amarillo at 806-379-6222.

County

Continued from Page 1

order to recoup expenses of running as a candidate.

It was not known whether Fletcher's being paid for January would negate his stated purpose in running for the position. Fletcher had promised to resign if elected to save the county money and to begin the process of keeping the office vacant for the number of consecutive years required by the state to enable the county to eliminate the position.

Christie Redding, chief deputy tax assessor - collec-

tor, presented a report on property tax collections. Payment of 95.59 percent of levied taxes have been collected as of Wednesday, Redding said. The percentage represents \$5,360,531.66 of a total \$5,607,536.96 levied.

One explanation for increased collection rates may be the acceptance of credit cards online and by telephone as a method of payment.

"Since we began collecting via credit cards on Sept. 7, we've gotten 86 credit card payments," Redding said. The 86 payments represent \$70,461.94 in taxes.

Commissioners approved transfer of ownership of an automated fingerprint iden-

tification system from Panhandle Regional Planning Commission to the county. The item was listed on a supplemental notice posted Feb. 13. PRPC had provided the AFIS computerized systems in 2005 to all 26 Panhandle counties, and is now offering ownership of the systems to each county.

A request by the county tax assessor - collector to replace an employee who was retiring was approved, as was the treasurer's report, the 2006 annual racial profiling report submitted by Precinct 2 Constable Chris Lockridge, and payment of \$154,144.92 in bills and \$224,697.69 in salaries.

Cheney

Continued from Page 1

A call was placed to Cheney's press office in Washington, but the representative on the phone would not confirm or deny that the vice president would be in the area this weekend.

Info

Continued from Page 1

no spare on back, and a silver antenna with a black base mounted on the roof."

Anyone with information concerning the bur-

glary is asked to call Pampa/Gray County Crimestoppers at 669-2222. Callers do not have to leave their names. Persons who provide information which leads to the arrest and conviction of a suspect are eligible for cash rewards.

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Viewpoints

Is your favorite eatery enviro-friendly?

OK, who out there has been fretting that your favorite pizza joint isn't enviro-friendly enough?

Who out there has been wringing your hands at all the pizza-makers merrily cracking out their tasty product with nary a single concern for nature?

Mmm-hmm. OK, who among you never — let's be honest, now — ever stopped to consider whether or not the pizza place you most frequent is or is not ecologically-aware?

Er, who besides me is raising their hand?

Um, all right, I admit it. I never before considered the ecological impact that my choice of pizza parlor could make on the planet. I never before considered it until ... well, until I got word about a pizza chain all about pizza AND the environment.

Yup, until I received an electronic press release titled "Saving the Earth, One Pizza at a Time," it never occurred to me what an extraordinary difference pizza eateries can

effect on the ecological schematic.

Wow. Think about THAT.

By the way, the franchise is called "Pizza Fusion."

Pizza Fusion "gives back" to our planet, according to the e-release, in a variety of ways.

First, all its food items are natural and organic. My,

doesn't that just make you want to smack your taste-buds? Second, the chain has

a fleet of hybrid vehicles to make all its pizza deliveries.

Next, Pizza Fusion only cleans its stores with enviro-friendly cleaners; employees wear organic cotton uniforms; and recycled goods are purchased and used

whenever possible.

The franchise Web site is even powered by "Green Web Hosting," which, the e-release says, "uses renewable energy wind power to offset the energy usage of their servers."

Oh, I can practically hear Mother Earth pounding her ample bosom with joy and gratitude. Or, wait, could that simply be the Texas Panhandle wind I hear?

I'm beginning to wonder ... how much do you reckon one Pizza Fusion pizza

costs? Because I reeally want to be earth-conscious, but (oh, sweet, fragile planet, please forgive me) I'm kind of on a budget.

Of course, unless and until Pampa gets a Pizza Fusion of its own, I'll have no choice but to continue to frequent pizza parlors that use or encourage gas-guzzling, non-organic cotton clothing and harsh-cleansers in their stores. Darn.

I don't know how much longer Earth can bear it.

Skyla Bryant

News Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 15, the 46th day of 2007. There are 319 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 15, 1898, the U.S. battleship Maine mysteriously blew up in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 crew members and bringing the United States closer to war with Spain.

On this date:

In 1564, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa.

In 1764, the city of St. Louis was established by Pierre Laclède and Auguste Chouteau.

In 1820, American suffragist Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, Mass.

In 1879, President Hayes signed a bill allowing female attorneys to argue cases before the Supreme Court.

In 1933, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt escaped an assassination attempt in Miami that mortally wounded Chicago Mayor

Anton J. Cermak; gunman Giuseppe Zangara was executed more than four weeks later, on March 20.

In 1942, the British colony Singapore surrendered to the Japanese during World War II.

In 1961, 73 people, including an 18-member U.S. figure skating team en route to Czechoslovakia, were killed in the crash of a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707 in Belgium.

In 1965, Canada's new maple-leaf flag was unfurled in ceremonies in Ottawa.

In 1986, the Philippines National Assembly proclaimed Ferdinand E. Marcos president for another six years, following an election marked by allegations of fraud. (Marcos ended up being ousted from power.)

In 1989, the Soviet Union announced that the last of its troops had left Afghanistan, after more than nine years of military intervention.

Ten years ago: North Korean defector Lee Han-young was shot and mortally wounded in South Korea, three days after another North Korean defected in Beijing. Fourteen-year-old Tara Lipinski upset Michelle Kwan at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Nashville, Tenn., becoming the youngest gold medalist at nationals.

Five years ago: President Bush approved Nevada's Yucca Mountain as the site for long-term disposal of thousands of tons of highly radioactive nuclear waste. Skating and Olympics officials awarded Canadian pairs figure skaters Jamie Sale and David Pelletier a gold medal, while letting the Russian pair, Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze, keep their gold medal, as a way to resolve a judging controversy that had dominated the Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Broadcast journalist Howard K. Smith died in Bethesda, Md., at age 87.

One year ago: Vice President Dick Cheney accepted blame for accidentally shooting a hunting companion, calling it "one of the worst days of my life," but was defiantly unapologetic in a Fox News Channel interview about not publicly disclosing the accident until the next day. Testifying before the Senate, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff acknowledged delayed aid and fumbled coordination in the federal response to Hurricane Katrina.



What you need to know about viruses

You're working on your computer one night, when all of a sudden a picture of the "Cookie Monster" appears on your monitor.

Text below reads, "Feed me a cookie." You don't know what to do so you just hit the enter key and he disappears. Ten minutes later, he reappears, once again asking for that cookie. "What is going on?" you ask. You hit enter again, but every 10 minutes you are interrupted with the blue, furry guy asking for sweets.

Here's what you don't know: Your computer is infected with the "Cookie Monster" virus. If you don't type in "Happy Birthday Yoshi" (and how would you know to do that?) whenever he asks for a cookie, the virus goes out, randomly selects one file on your hard drive, and deletes it! In other words, every 10 minutes,

this virus plays Russian roulette with your computer files. By the way, "Yoshi" is the codename of the teenager that wrote the virus.

So, what is a virus, and how did you get one? Let's start with the basics.

A virus is a program. It is not a mistake or accident. You cannot "hit the wrong key" and cause a virus. They don't just come out of nowhere. Viruses are not alive. They are programs created by people to "do something" (many times, malicious) to your computer. Viruses are not the same things as "computer bugs." Computer bugs ARE unintentional mistakes made by programmers when developing software. Viruses are

VERY intentional.

Five types of viruses exist: File Infectors, Trojan Horses, Stealth Viruses, Worms, and Polymorphic Viruses. Many of the newest viruses, though, fall into multiple categories.

File Infectors

No one in their right mind would ever double-click on a virus. So, how do viruses get around? Well, many viruses attach themselves to "good" programs. Whenever you double-click on the "good" program, the virus also executes or "runs." For instance, if a virus infected Microsoft Word, every time you ran Microsoft Word, the virus would come out and do its mischief.

Trojan Horses

Much like their name implies, trojan horse viruses are simply "programs that claim to do one thing when, in fact, they do something else." As an example, let's say that I gave you a CD to take home. I told you that it contained a program called, "MakeMoneyFast.exe" and that by clicking on it, you would be well on your way to prosperity and happiness! Sounds great, right? Well, you get home, insert the diskette, and double-click on the "program." It immediately begins to erase your hard drive.

Trojan horses don't replicate. They don't spread like file infectors. They are single-use "mail bomb" types of programs. Typically, they are created by a "soon-to-be-fired disgruntled employee." Many times, this angry

See **VIRUSES**, Page 5

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **Feb. 4**
 San Antonio Express-News on the U.S. budget:

Whenever Congress works on the budget, a certain level of acrimony is guaranteed. When the horse-trading ends and the money is divvied up, politicians with competing interests naturally point fingers at one another.

Such is the case today as a Congress controlled by Democrats works on the budget.

Not next year's budget, which ideally it should be addressing. The 110th Congress is only now getting around to making budgetary decisions for the current fiscal year already 4 months old

that the Republican-led 109th Congress should have made.

Democrats inherited a budget mess from the former Republican majority. Its parting gift in December was the failure to complete work on nine of the 11 appropriations bills that fund the operations of the federal government.

To avoid getting even further behind in the fiscal year 2008 budget process and, at the same time, stay within the spending limits set by the White House Democrats have committed to hold 2007 spending to the same level as the previous year.

Because of inflation and population growth, that means government programs will effectively have less money to deal with the same or bigger problems. And the change in partisan leadership naturally entails a shifting of

dollars to programs that reflect the priorities of the new majority.

That's bad news for San Antonio. Millions of federal dollars that had been expected are now in limbo. The biggest chunk \$126 million for military construction was probably lost in a shift of \$3 billion from base closing and realignment efforts to veterans health care.

Republicans are criticizing Democrats for locking them out of the appropriations process and for passing a bad spending bill.

On the first issue, they have a point. Democrats did pledge to do things differently from Republicans by including the minority in the legislative process. On the second one, Republicans have no one to blame but themselves.

Events calendar

• **Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live On Stage" has released its current concert schedule. The schedule is as follows: "Puttin' on the Hitz, A Salute to Irving Berlin," 7:30 p.m., today, Borger High School Auditorium; Bronn and Katherine Journey, harpist and vocalist, 7:30 p.m., March 19, M.K. Brown Auditorium. Membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families; and \$15 for students. For more information, call 665-0343 or 665-2631.

• **The Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle Genealogical Society** will meet from 6-8 p.m. Monday in Perry Memorial Library in Perryton. Joe Janeway of Borger will present a pro-

gram called "Before the Twin Towers." The meeting is open to the public.

• **Clarendon College-Pampa Center**, 1601 W. Kentucky, will offer Workplace Spanish and English courses February through May. The 30-hour workshops will begin Tuesday and end May 3. Enrollment is limited to 30 students. The course fee(s) is \$75 plus the cost of the textbook. For more information, call or come by CCPC, 665-8801.

• **West Texas A&M University's Small Business Development Center** will present "Developing a Mini-Marketing Plan (Let Your Business be Seen and Heard)" from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday inside the

Bank of America building in downtown Amarillo. Cost of the seminar will be \$55. To register or for more information, call

(806) 372-5151.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. The TDH will charge to help keep the clinic open. The

following clinic(s) will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Ford award

Dr. Mark W. Ford, Jr. of Ford Family Chiropractic in Pampa, was recently honored with the 2006 "Chiropractor of the Year" Award by a national chiropractic organization endorsed by the American Chiropractic Association. Dr. Ford is beginning his 25th year in practice, the last 18 of which have been in Pampa.

Viruses

Continued from Page 4

to discover his corporate information has disappeared!

Stealth Viruses

Imagine a virus that can hide from "anti-virus software." In the old days, anti-virus software only checked hard drives for viruses. A stealth virus could "sense" that anti-virus software was coming. It would then move itself from the hard drive and hide in RAM until the anti-virus program left. Then, it would re-deposit itself back onto the hard drive. Pretty sneaky!

Today's anti-virus software can find stealth viruses by checking RAM at the same time as it checks the hard drive. Because of that, you don't see many stealth viruses "in the wild" anymore.

Worms

Chances are, you will never see a computer "worm." Worms primarily live on the Internet. They go after "servers." If you remember from earlier columns, a server is a computer that is on the Internet 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. Your computer is not a server; therefore, you are not at risk of being "bitten" by a worm. When a worm finds a server, it will probe its defenses, looking for security holes. If it finds one, the worm wriggles its way in and begins to replicate like mad.

After a while, the millions of replicating worms eventually overload the server, causing it to crash. Worm attacks are rare, but they do occur. The largest worm attack occurred in the late 1980's. Dubbed "The Internet Worm," this program affected nearly one third of the servers on the Internet! (Not that big a deal if you consider that only colleges and NASA used the Net during that time ...) However, it did make the newspapers. Network administrators scurried to make sure that their servers were protected.

Well, I'm quickly running out of room. Next week, I'll discuss the most insidious of viruses: the polymorphic virus. I'll also discuss how anti-virus software works and how to choose a good one. Until then, I'll see you in Cyberspace!

worker will set the "bomb" to explode long after he's gone, maybe even months later! An unsuspecting employer wakes up one morning



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Amarillo to be site of cotton conference

AMARILLO — The Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Amarillo will be the site of the second yearly Panhandle Cotton Conference Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Registration for the conference will begin at 7:30 a.m. followed by the actual conference at 8 a.m. Five continuing education units will be awarded to licensed pesticide applicators and certified crop advisors.

The following topics will be covered: Budget analysis for 2007 crop year; water use efficiency and irrigation timing; variety trials, Transgenic Technologies; industry laws; federal and state legislative updates; farm bill developments; cotton disease identification and management; weed control; cotton plant mapping and cutout; and harvest aid tools and growth regulators.

The conference is sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension in several area counties including Gray and Carson. The conference is free and open to all cotton growers or individuals interested in cotton production.

Science fair



COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of Travis Elementary School's recent science fair included fourth graders Daniel Winton, first place; Echo Barnett, second place; and Emilee Frost, third place.

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Winners of Travis Elementary School's recent science fair included fifth graders Caitlyn Tracy, first place; Savannah Mertz, second place; and Trey Miller, third place.

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Storms moves out to sea leaving cold, mounds of snow behind

NORTHFIELD, Ohio (AP) — The monster storm that hit the Midwest and Northeast had blown out to sea today, leaving behind huge snow piles, frigid temperatures and frustrated retailers who hoped to cash in on Valentine's Day.

Utilities reported more than 66,000 customers without power early today in Maryland, northern Virginia, the District of Columbia and Delaware because of high winds and iced-up power lines.

At Burlington International Airport, 25.7 inches fell Wednesday, the second-highest snowfall ever. That led the founder of Burton Snowboards in Burlington to give employees the day off today to enjoy the snow.

"Nothing makes me happier than giving the people who work here the opportunity to experience the essence of a sport that they are making accessible and fun for so many others,"

Jake Burton said.

Many school districts that canceled classes Wednesday extended the unplanned vacation for students an extra day. Districts in update New York, including Rochester, Syracuse and Utica and scores of schools north of Albany, remained closed for a second straight day today.

Federal and local government offices were expected to open at their regularly scheduled times, but some employees were offered unscheduled leave.

Motorists on today faced the prospects of a slippery commute on treacherous black ice. That is, if they could free their ice-entombed cars.

"You can't even shovel it," said Wes Velker, an electrician who had to dig out from a foot of snow so he could go to work fixing busted water pipes and furnaces in Toledo, Ohio. "You have to take it off in layers."

At least 13 deaths were blamed on the huge storm system: three in Nebraska; two each in Indiana, New Jersey and Delaware; and one each in Missouri, Ohio and Virginia. A tornado on the southern side of the weather system killed one person in Louisiana.

Upstate New Yorkers woke up today to sunny but frigid conditions a day after the storm dumped varying amounts of snow across the region, from 16 inches north of Buffalo to 42 inches in the southern Adirondacks.

National Guard troops helped carry blankets and fuel to motorists stranded overnight on an icy, hilly stretch of Interstate 78 in eastern Pennsylvania.

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BUSINESS REVIEW

ROCK SOLID INDUSTRY EXPERTISE & PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE



Diversified Lenders

Diversified Lenders can turn your accounts into cash

Smart business owners throughout West Texas are finding that Smart Money, one of the many services available from Diversified Lenders, Inc., enables them to convert their accounts receivable into immediate cash through a process known as "factoring".

"Many people don't know what factoring is," says Don Roberts, President, in the company's Lubbock offices at 6625 W. 19th St., Suite 114. "Companies simply don't realize that they can sell us their accounts receivable on a monthly basis and get immediate working capital."

Just as important, Smart Money gives businesses access to complete "backroom" services. Backroom services include:

- Billing
- Collections
- eFactor Technology
- Accounts receivable management
- Management reports
- Customer credit evaluations
- Next day funding

"Selling us their accounts receivable enables companies to grow their businesses not only by making capital readily available, but by solving the cash flow problems created by customers who don't always pay immediately," says Account Manager Cole Roberts. "They can now afford to go after that potential new customer who's delayed payment history had before made them unavailable."

Often, Cole adds, the increased availability of capital enables Diversified's clients to make even more money by taking advantage of substantial "early-pay" discounts available from their vendors.

Funds can be directly deposited to customers' designated bank accounts. Smart Money clients can also take advantage of eFactor, an online service that gives clients access to their accounts, view transaction status, submit invoices, manage reports and much more.

"eFactor allows our clients to bring our 'backroom' into their office," says Operations Manager Glendon Paulk. "Clients can log on and access their accounts anytime, anywhere."

Diversified Lenders also receives client referrals from many banks throughout the West Texas area.

"We work hand-in-hand with the banks," Don explains. "Our factoring services enable us to consider a company's accounts receivable and fund based on that."

If you've been turned down by a bank, Diversified Lenders encourages you to call them for more information.

"We get a lot of referrals from banks when additional funding is needed, or they are not able to service a client," he explains.


Smart Money from Diversified Lenders, Inc. is obviously much more than just another business loan program. It's a way to grow the business in ways previously unavailable to many businesses. When coupled with the factoring division's complete "backroom" services menu, Diversified Lenders, Inc. provides complete cash flow management.

"We provide people with peace-of-mind," Don says. "Many small business owners find that with us, they can eliminate the need to work the business by day and handle invoicing, billing, collections, etc. at night."

In its 19th year in business, Diversified Lenders has the management skill, financial resources, industry expertise and product knowledge to serve the needs of their clients. Whether a business, municipality, or bank, you will find that Diversified Lenders has a product to fit your needs.

For more information, please contact Cole Roberts or any of the professionals at Diversified Lenders, Inc at (806) 795-7782 or toll free (800) 288-3024, or visit their Web site at www.diversifiedlenders.com. You can also e-mail cole@diversifiedlenders.com or croberts@diversifiedlenders.com.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Regarding the letter from "Plain Jane in Texas" (Jan. 5), who complained about male co-workers being "too friendly" on her new job -- she didn't say she was being subjected to sexual advances. She merely said that many of the men she works with are always stopping by "to say 'Hi'" and that she's treated like a celebrity. She also said she has "never been the center of attention." That, in my opinion, is the center of the problem. I think she is very insecure -- after all, she signed herself "Plain Jane" -- and she doesn't know how to handle her new popularity. On most jobs, you have to contend with office cliques, jealousy and generally not being accepted completely for a while. I think "Jane" is very fortunate to have lucked into a work environment with open arms. -- **LUCIA IN CHICAGO**

DEAR LUCIA: I find it fascinating the way my readers view the letters I print through the "filter" of their own experiences. Many people commented on "Plain Jane's" predicament -- and all of them offered interesting perspectives on interpersonal relations in the workplace. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I went to work in a building with 13 men. All day, every day, men would come by my desk to talk, invite me out for lunch, dinner, trips to hockey games, weekends, etc. These men would bring me gifts, offer to fix my car, etc. Thankfully, I was never interested in any of them. Six months after I left that job, I found out that seven of them had put \$50 each into a pool to see who could take me out first. One guy bet his \$50 that I wouldn't go with anyone, and he won the bet! Once I heard about the bet, all the attention made sense. Beware of men bearing gifts! -- **JUDI IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR ABBY: Before complaining to the management about sexual harassment as

you suggested, "Plain Jane" might take a careful look at herself. Is she dressing inappropriately for the workplace (low neckline, exposed midriff, short skirts)? Does she smile too much? Is there candy on her desk, encouraging co-workers to stop and chat? "Jane" might ask a trusted older working woman friend or relative to look over her wardrobe or share other hints. In my 20s, I had a very negative self-image. I was unaware of the effect I made in 1960s mini-skirts. Looking back at old photos, I realize my husband was right -- I was a dish! -- **FORMER PLAIN JANE IN INDIANA**

DEAR ABBY: As a former worker in human resources, I know "Plain Jane's" situation can be volatile for everyone. However, before making any formal reports, Plain Jane must make her dislike of the attention known to her "suitors"; otherwise they may conclude that she is enjoying it. She can do this in a polite and factual way, simply by saying, "Please don't come and talk to me while I'm working. It inhibits my ability to get my work done. Thank you." Then, if the attention continues, she should definitely talk to management or human resources staff. -- **SHARON IN EAU CLAIRE, WIS.**

DEAR ABBY: I worked the graveyard shift at a large law enforcement facility where I was one of only two women among 400 men. I found a way to discourage unwanted attention without complaining. I simply told the first one that tried to get too friendly that I didn't date men I worked with. Reason: No one wants complications in the workplace. Working with those men was one of the best times of my career. I sincerely hope Plain Janes everywhere in that position will try this tactic. It worked for me. -- **BEEN THERE IN NEVADA**

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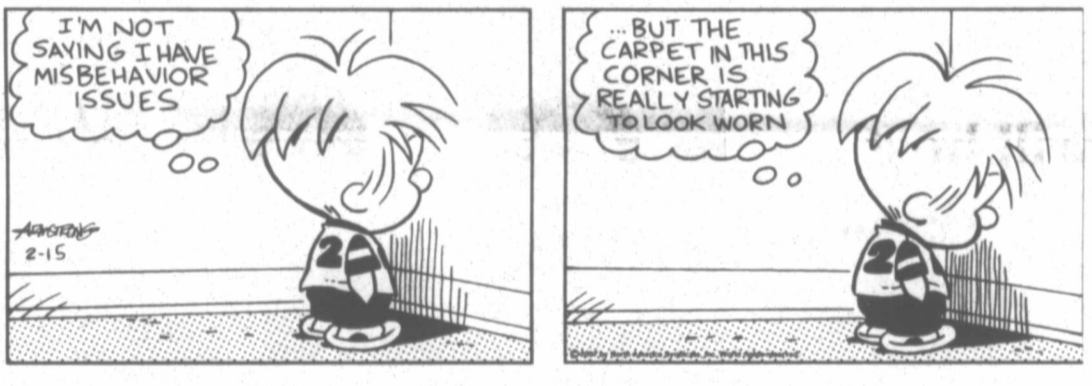
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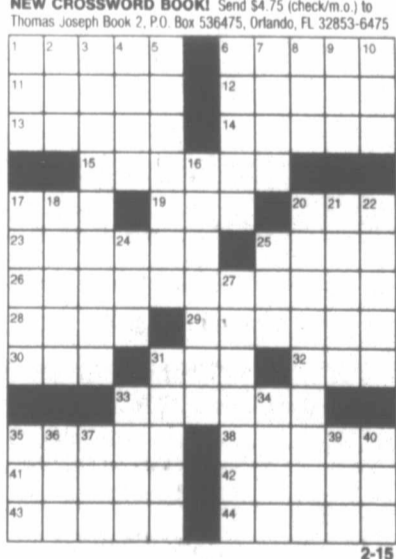
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 "Some-thing's — Give"
- 6 Swagger
- 11 Camera creator
- 12 Land
- 12 Came up
- 13 Fiat
- 14 Blase
- 15 Winter topper
- 17 Be
- 19 Fine, to NASAs
- 20 Beige
- 23 Seal user
- 25 Wrong
- 26 Drink garnish
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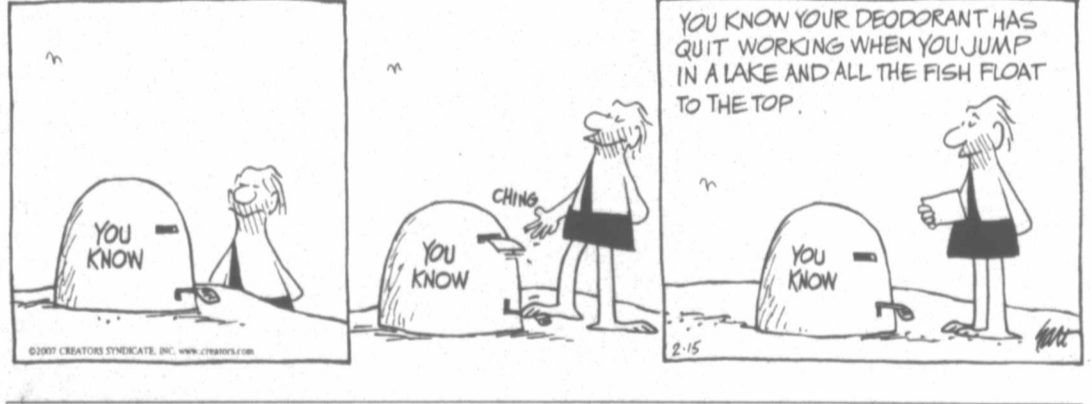


The Family Circus



"Guess how long it took this pen to run out of ink?"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

A look back on a spectacular season

The Pampa Harvester basketball season came to a close Tuesday night, marking the end of a phenomenal high school career for several seniors, as well as the end of an exciting chapter for the underclassmen.

Jordan Reagan
Sports Editor

I wasn't here for the entire season, but I was here long enough to see the heart and soul of this program, and how they handle the good and bad with unparalleled grace, all with the undying support of parents and fans.

I would like to use my weekly soapbox to do some much deserved bragging on these particular athletes and this particular program that has shown to me what Pampa Pride is all about.

The first game I covered was the home game against the Tascosa Rebels on Dec. 5, which ended up being a perfect game to write about for my first article with the Pampa News.

The Harvesters struggled through the first three quarters, falling short at every buzzer.

In the end, the boys came together and played as a team, spread the offense and defeated Tascosa 64-61.

From my perspective, this game served as an example of what the whole season was for the Pampa Harvesters this year.

With a win-loss record that would bring many teams to surrender, Coach Miller's boys stuck it out and ended the season on a good note.



The incredible wins over Hereford, Dumas and Caprock. The program will say farewell to seniors Andrew Winton, Bradley Johnson, Trent Harris and Tyler Hall after this year, so perhaps it was their drive that brought the team to their final few victories at the close of the season.

The underclassmen on the team also did a good job of carrying their weight, with freshman Alex Clendenning and sophomore Matt Smith often scoring in double figures.

The people in this community have been fortunate enough to have watched these young men develop as athletes over the years, and I feel lucky to have gotten here in time to watch them develop through this season.

I've had a lot of fun spending time getting to know many of the parents and fans, and covering these games and taking photos from the floor while visiting with Terry Hall.

This team has done a great job of making my job more fun than I ever would have expected, and has

shown the community that Pampa Pride isn't about just winning games, but rather overcoming setbacks and facing adversity with full force.

The Lady Harvesters also put on a stellar performance this season with many exciting games.

Ending with a 14-16 record this week, these girls gave sports fans all over the area something to talk about, from their numerous unexpected victories to their scoring machine, Britteni Rice.

While covering the Plainview game Tuesday night, I was visiting with a KAMR cameraman about Britteni, around the time that she was taken out after her 4th foul.

Agreeing that she was an incredible asset to the team, we also agreed that she had a great bunch of reliable ladies to back her up, from fellow senior McKinsie East who was almost unstoppable under the goal to junior Jasmine Moore who was always there to steal the ball right out from underneath the opponent's nose.

The girls fought hard for every win, and died hard in every loss, exemplifying Pampa Pride in every aspect of their game.

It was an exciting and memorable season for everyone involved, and I couldn't have asked for anything better.

Leal advances to state

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

After facing a huge let-down upon their arrival to the regional meet this past weekend, the Harvester wrestling team walked away with a state qualifier.

At the district meet earlier this month, freshman Steven Botello and senior Richard Leal advanced to the regional meet held at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

Prior to regionals, Botello saw the doctor about a skin irritation that was treated by a Pampa doctor and said to not be contagious, but the on site physician at the meet voided the doctor's note, disqualifying Botello.

"I was very impressed

with the way Steven handled the entire situation," coach Josh Cadenhead said, "Though he was deservingly upset, he kindly wished his fellow teammate good luck."

"I'm only a freshman," Botello said, "I'll be back next year ready to go. It's all about Richard now, he's a senior and this is his last shot at going to state and I'm going to root him on."

Botello finished the season with a 28-8 record and finished on a District Championship in his weight class of 130, a first by a Pampa freshman.

Leal competed in the 119 weight class, and pinned Anselmo Garcia of El Paso Fabens in his first round.

After defeating Jorge Solis from El Paso Hanks in the third round, Leal defeated Mark Molina, the number one seed from El Paso Burgess 5-4 to advance to the championship, clinching Pampa a trip to Austin.

Leal faced Randall's Brandon McDonald in the final match, losing 8-1 to last year's state placer.

"I am very excited for Richard," Cadenhead said, "He is very capable of placing at state, and I would not be surprised if it were he and McDonald again for the State Championship."

The State Wrestling Championships are in Austin on Feb. 23 - 24.

Red Wings stop Dallas' streak

DALLAS (AP) — The Detroit Red Wings didn't let the embarrassment from their previous loss linger.

Henrik Zetterberg notched the go-ahead goal with 4:36 left, after setting up the tying score a little over four minutes earlier, and the Red Wings rallied for a 3-1 victory over the Dallas Stars on Wednesday night.

Detroit was routed by the Philadelphia Flyers — the NHL's worst team — 6-1 on Monday night, and trailed the Stars 1-0 midway through the third period. The Red Wings had trouble solving rookie goalie Mike

Smith, who was trying for his second shutout in three games.

Pavel Datsyuk tied the game 1-1 at 11:14 with his 18th goal off a setup by Zetterberg, who then gave the Red Wings the lead at 15:24 with his 27th goal on a shot from the high slot.

Mathieu Schneider added an empty-netter with 33 seconds left, assisted by Zetterberg, to ice the victory and snap Dallas' three-game winning streak.

"When we embarrass ourselves, which doesn't happen very often, we respond," Detroit coach Mike Babcock

said. "The other night in Philly was a humbling experience, to say the least."

Mike Ribeiro had a second-period, power-play goal for the Stars.

The Red Wings got 17 saves from Chris Osgood, who started despite a broken right index finger. Detroit has won seven of nine.

"We've done that a few times this year," Osgood said of the comeback. "Being down 1-0, you're only a shot away. I thought we stuck to our game plan. We didn't take any unnecessary gambles. We just kept putting the puck on net."

Boxing club will host tournament here Friday

The Pampa Texas Boxing Club will host the West Texas Senior Open Box Offs Friday and Saturday at the MPAC building at Pampa High School.

The winner of this weekend's tournament will determine the West Texas Champions and winners will advance to the state tournament in El Paso, Texas.

Teams from all over the West Texas region will compete, including Lubbock, Plainview, Amarillo, Slaton and many more.

Coach LupeLarrazolo said an auction was held in order to figure out which team would host the tournament.

"Any team that wanted to host it could have placed a bid, Larraxolo said. "In the end, it was Pampa who had the highest bid."

The tournament will begin



Pictured here are some of the current Pampa Texas Boxing Club members.

at 7 p.m. Friday, and admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

For more information call

Lorrazolo at 806 664-4152 or secretary Lorraine Larrazolo at 806 664-4187.

This tournament is being

held in memory of Ramona Portillo.

Optimist Club summer ball meeting to be held Monday

Although snow is on the ground, Pampa Optimist Baseball/Softball 2007 is heating up. An organizational meeting for all leagues will be held at the Optimist building at 7:30 p.m. Monday.

"We need coaches from all leagues to be present," said Kevin Davis, Optimist Baseball Commissioner.

"We will set times for registration and tryouts, the drafts, practice and games," Davis emphasized,

coaches for the 11-12 Cal Ripken League particularly need to be present.

"The Babe Ruth organization is offering us the option to have this age play on 70-foot bases and a mound 50 feet from home plate with leadoffs for stealing permitted," Davis said.

"Plainview, Canyon, North Randall and other communities have already adopted the concept."

The Optimist board of directors voted Monday to be guided by a vote of the

coaches in the 11-12 Cal Ripken League about their preference.

"I think it will help our kids develop faster," said Dr. Kevin Sieck, whose son Blake has been playing under this type of system since he was eight years old.

"It will be harder to teach kids to pitch," said John W. Warner, a long time coach in this division, "And it will reduce the number of kids you can have pitch because it will involve spending a great deal more time teaching them how to hold runners on base, how to make pickoff throws, when to wind up, when to pitch from the stretch, etc. It will also increase the length of the games because of pick-off attempts. However, if this old dog can learn new tricks, I am certain that the kids can."

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Pierce leads Celtics over Milwaukee

BOSTON (AP) — Al Jefferson was happily watching the final seconds of garbage time from the Boston bench when Delonte West gave him a piece of advice.

"We've got nothing to celebrate," Jefferson recalled after Boston ended its franchise-record losing streak at 18 games by beating the Milwaukee Bucks 117-97. "We should feel good about it. But don't run off the court like we won the championship."

Paul Pierce scored 32 points and Gerald Green had 21 in 20 minutes on Wednesday night to lead the Celtics to their first victory since Jan. 5 and send them into the All-Star break with a

sigh of relief. After the break, Boston embarks on a five-game road trip — four of them against teams in playoff position.

"I thought that if we could win this game, it gives us a fighting chance out there. That's all we want," coach Doc Rivers said. "The guys are in there taking monkeys off each others' backs and all that stuff. It's just a relief to get it done."

The half-filled house, winnowed by the first major snowstorm of the winter, gave the Celtics a standing ovation for the final minute as they picked up their first victory since Jan. 5. The Celtics won just two of 24 games when Pierce was out with foot and elbow injuries.

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Costume Ball: Sophomore Brenna Albracht shows off her outfit during January's costume ball. Brenna was awarded first place for the best costume. See pg. 3.



Sign me up: Britteni Rice talks on the radio with Donny Hooper after becoming the Lady Harvester's all time leading scorer. Britteni has signed with the University of Denver for a full ride scholarship to play basketball. See Pg. 7.

littleharvester. VOL 58

Issue Four 2010

Changes for next year: Fact or fiction?

lorraine.garcia
news.editor

Although several rumors were circulating that the school day of next year would include eight class periods a day to accommodate the new graduation requirements, the normal school day will not be altered.

FICTION

Extending the day ten minutes

The regular school day will not be lengthened at all, contrary to several rumors. "The regular school day will not change, but flex scheduling will be incorporated, allowing students to attend school from 4-8 P.M.," curriculum specialist Dale Ammons said. "Since we're unacceptable, we have to examine the tradition that we've always upheld. We're going to do what we need to help everyone graduate."

FACT

Flex scheduling will now be offered

Through flex scheduling, classes before and after school will begin to aid students who are in multiple extracurricular activities. "We're still not sure that eight class periods is the appropriate answer to the new credit requirements," principal Danny Seabourn said. "We're going to research what will work best to meet the state's new policy."

Clubs news

FCCLA

FCCLA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, are currently preparing to go to competition. Some of the opposing teams, like those in El Paso, train in actual restaurants with professional chefs.

"They have a lot more actual experience," advisor Karen Irons said.

The current FCCLA competitors compete against a wide variety of opponents from places near and far from Pampa.

"We have a really large competition field," Irons said.

UIL ACADEMICS

With only one invitation before district, the UIL Academic team is preparing to ensure more victories for the team and school. With less members than last year, returning members are having to compete in more events. The team is training more underclassmen to ensure the team has substance for the years to come.

"Our main team captains this year are Landon McNeely and Aaron Pepper," UIL Academic team advisor Tonya Lewis said.

-Lorraine Garcia

TEA grants school Money to go to alternative improvement programs

lorraine.garcia
news.editor

After being found academically unacceptable due to completion rate one percentages, TEA, Texas Education Agency, has granted the school the Texas High School Redesign and Restructuring Grant, Cycle 3, which is going to help the teachers and faculty of the school better educate and provide guidance to students who need help.

"It will help us fund some programs that we want to implement at the high school," principal Danny Seabourn said.

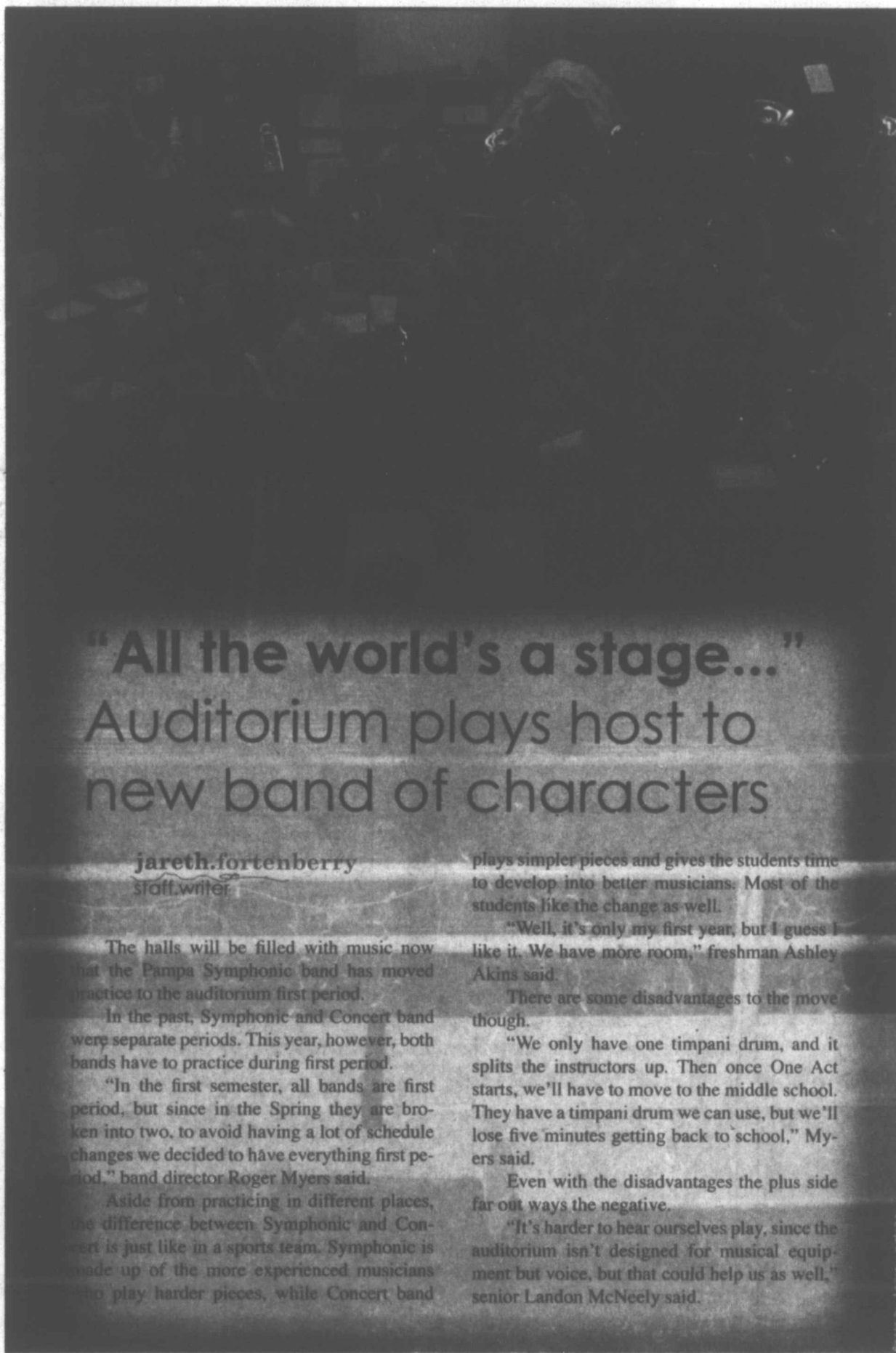
The grant will fund major project activities, such as various teacher workshops that will help teachers and faculty better assess the current curriculum. Some of the major projects include common assessment training, development of a support personnel and regional formative assessment training.

"The programs to be implemented have to do with intervention strategies for students' success," Seabourn said.

The grant will be funded in March with the hope that it will begin helping with the summer school program. It will also go towards more zero hour classes and evening tutorials starting next fall. The program renovations are being made to better ensure that the dropout rate decreases.

"I think it's wonderful," assistant principal Patti Macumber said. "Any time you can get grant money to help your school is wonderful."

Symphonic practice



"All the world's a stage..."
Auditorium plays host to new band of characters

jareth.fortenberry
staff.writer

The halls will be filled with music now that the Pampa Symphonic band has moved practice to the auditorium first period.

In the past, Symphonic and Concert band were separate periods. This year, however, both bands have to practice during first period.

"In the first semester, all bands are first period, but since in the Spring they are broken into two, to avoid having a lot of schedule changes we decided to have everything first period," band director Roger Myers said.

Aside from practicing in different places, the difference between Symphonic and Concert is just like in a sports team. Symphonic is made up of the more experienced musicians who play harder pieces, while Concert band

plays simpler pieces and gives the students time to develop into better musicians. Most of the students like the change as well.

"Well, it's only my first year, but I guess I like it. We have more room," freshman Ashley Akins said.

There are some disadvantages to the move though.

"We only have one timpani drum, and it splits the instructors up. Then once One Act starts, we'll have to move to the middle school. They have a timpani drum we can use, but we'll lose five minutes getting back to school," Myers said.

Even with the disadvantages the plus side far out ways the negative.

"It's harder to hear ourselves play, since the auditorium isn't designed for musical equipment but voice, but that could help us as well," senior Landon McNeely said.

Love me do

One town with little attraction. One holiday for couples. But what does it mean without a date?

andrew.roy
sports.edifor

Once a year, come Feb. 14, Valentine's Day comes and goes, and for a brief second thoughts are turned to love, anonymous valentines and of course lots of candy.

Is it just the second biggest card giving holiday after Christmas, or is it much more?

"If you have someone to spend it with it's good, but if you don't it sucks," senior Lensey Mixon said. "Its about feeling included and loved."

Ryan Olson and Lensey Mixon have been dating nearly four months, and are looking to the upcoming holidays with excitement.

"Valentine's Day is a special day," senior Olson said.

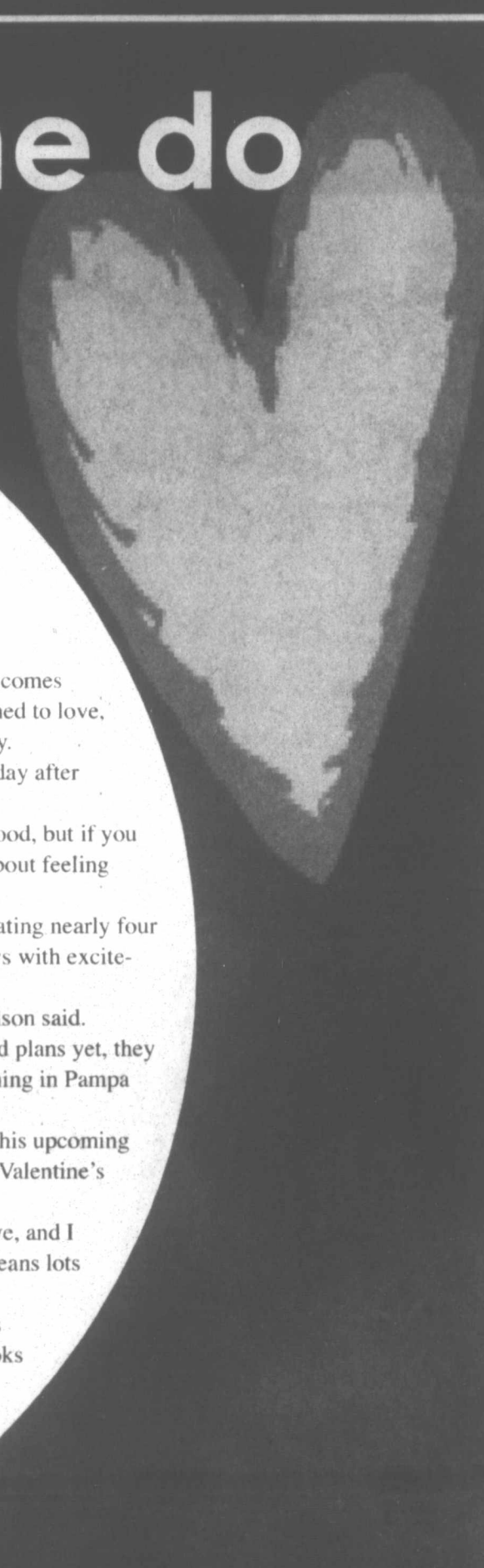
While Olson and Mixon have not formulated plans yet, they are still certain that they'll be able to find something in Pampa that will be fun.

However, not everyone is as confident that this upcoming Valentine's Day will be a good one, or even that Valentine's Day is that good of a holiday.

"I'm not married, and I've never been in love, and I tend to get crappy Valentine's Day gifts, but it means lots of chocolate," sophomore Brenna Albracht said.

Even if some are not looking forward to this Valentine's Day, for those who are, the future looks bright. They feel it is the one day of the year where the most romantic thing that can possibly be done is to spend time with another.

"It'll be a special day, because I'm sharing it with a special person," Olson said.



Which is better: Chocolate or Flowers?

<p>"I prefer flowers. I don't like chocolate."</p> <p>-Alyssa Seitz, 10</p>	<p>"I like flowers better. I just don't do chocolate."</p> <p>-Natalie Parker, 9</p>	<p>"Neither: jewelry doesn't die and you don't get fat from eating it."</p> <p>-Marli Street, 11</p>
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News in Brief • News in Brief • News in Brief • News in Brief

Organization news updates

Members of NHS, National Honor Society, are desperately trying to get their 20 hours of required community service in by dead-line.

"It's a lot easier to get community service in during the first semester because of all the holidays than it is during the second semester," NHS advisor, Janice Porter said.

With that in mind, some members have resulted to cleaning various parks for hours at a time.

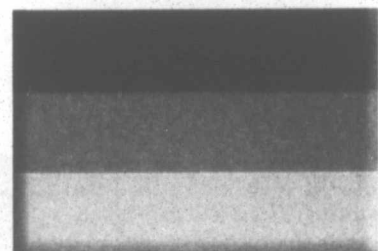
"I picked up alot of trash at the Super Playground a couple weekends ago," junior Claire Boyd said.



Headed by the school's new German teacher, Dr. Tom Lapacka, the German club meets every Tuesday after school for accelerated learning. The club is completely new to the school and averages about four students a session.

During the meeting Dr. Lapacka teaches mainly in German, speaking English only when necessary. Teaching out of a college text book and reading cartoons written only in German, the German club members are learning how to converse in German mainly by ear.

GERMAN CLUB

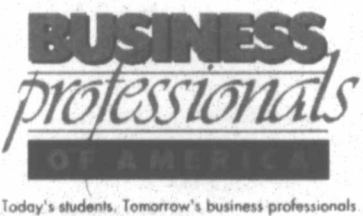


The BPA club, Business Professionals of America, is currently getting ready to go to contest. The club is a part of Ms. Beverly Jordans' zero hour class. BPA will compete in several regional tournaments with 10 members. The club will compete against all schools in the panhandle regardless of class. In her six years as BPA advisor, Ms. Jordan has seen three members go to nationals.

"I have really high goals and high expectations, but I will not be crushed if we fail to have any winners," Jordan said.

Members compete in catogories such as: banking and finance, database, and advanced office procedures.

"My expectations are that my students will do their best and give their best effort," Jordan said.



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Choir is currently getting ready to go to UIL Solo and Ensemble contest as well as Concert and Sight-Reading contest. The choir is taking six ensembles and 52 soloists. One of the ensembles being prepared contains the members Brenna Albraight, Chandler Talley, Diana Mechalay, and Keisha Crowell. Choir director Fred Mays is also taking six different choirs to contest.

"We expect to do well," Mr. Mays said.

CHOIR



Stories by: Lorraine Garcia

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'Defying all odds' Kuehne makes all-state

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Senior Erwin Kuehne made second chair tenor at All-State tryouts this year, defying all odds.

"I tried out because I believe that anyone can accomplish their dreams with God's help," Kuehne said.

Kuehne began singing in choir as a freshman.

"Erwin is an extremely talented man," choir director

Fred Mays said. "What he has accomplished is absolutely amazing; he has defied all odds."

Since joining choir, Kuehne has taught himself how to play the piano and the fundamentals of music. This year, the All-State concert will be in San Antonio in February.

"I believe Erwin has a career in music," Mays said. "He's very hardworking and self-disciplined and I'm excited to see what he'll do next."



Senior Erwin Kuehne sings a tune. Kuehne made second chair tenor at All-State Choir this year.



Senior Adam Hagerman poses with his bassoon. Hagerman made All-State Band for the fourth consecutive year.

Hagerman makes band history

courtney.linn
entertainment.editor

Senior Adam Hagerman has made All-State Band for the fourth consecutive year, an accomplishment never achieved in Pampa High School Band's history. This year, he is first chair bassoon.

"I suppose it's great," Hagerman said. "In reality, I'm just as equal as the other seniors who made it, even if it

is for the first time."

When Hagerman arrives in San Antonio, he'll sit through a four hour audition for the actual ranking at All-State.

"This means I have to learn more music, which consists of excerpts from the music to be played at the concerts," Hagerman said. "Furthermore, this just means a lot of practicing, which I'm used to."

MPAC masquerade

Costume Ball creates color, controversy, culture

The winner of the Best Girl Costume, sophomore Brenna Albracht, shows off her dress at the Costume Ball. The costume ball took place January 13.



Senior Austin Prichett wearing a Spider-man costume dangles off of a basketball goal at the Costume Ball.



Senior Stephanie McVay and freshman Rylan Clark dressed as a cute couple of Crayola crayons for the Costume Ball.



All Photos by Andrew Hatcher

courtney.linn
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The Costume Ball, a fantastic night of dancing and detailed costumes, surprised many with its exceptional attendance.

Many students attending made very elaborate costumes, such as sophomore Brenna Albracht, winner of the Best Girl Costume award. Other winners were the Crayola Couple freshman Rylan Clark and senior Stephanie McVay for the Best Couple Award. De-

van Shults won the Best Boy Costume Award for his Storm Trooper costume.

"I gave my costume a lot of thought before the Costume Ball, but I put it all together pretty last minute," Albracht said. "I taught myself how to make a parasol and Sharon Andrews made the actual dress. It was interesting to try and get in the car with my huge hoop skirt."

The Costume Ball, a night for everyone to dress up, surprised most attendees with its exceptional turn-out.

"It's an awesome event to

look forward to," junior Stephanie Polaseck said, a member of the Super Troopers, who donned a mock sheriff's uniform. "There's no other night like this."

Along with the Super Troopers, other students went to the ball in thematic groups, such as the Super Heroes, Disney Princesses, and the controversial Chippendale, whose wardrobes were deemed inappropriate because the male members were topless.

"I'm here to be a part of Chippendale, but Mrs. Seabourn won't let me," junior

Michael Fernuik said.

Several students felt the ball had definite pros and cons.

"I hate these lights," junior Joshua Humphery said. "But I like the costumes quite a bit. Chippendale are the best."

Other attendees felt that there was an overall lack of spirit throughout the course of the evening.

"No one is really getting into it," sophomore Keisha Crowell, a Go-Go Girl, said. "Everyone needs to lighten up and have fun."

Large families create campus diversity

Big families overcome obstacles, instill unique relationships

andrew.roy
sports.editor

Sometimes it is hard to get along with a brother, sister, mother or father. Many people could not handle having six immediate family members, let alone eight.

The halls of the school hold several kids who are members of big families, their lives and their viewpoints altered due to their family's size.

"I like having someone to talk to all the time, and it never gets boring around the house," senior Angela Mechelay said.

Mechelay is the eldest of her siblings, and is getting ready to graduate this year. As a member of a large family, she has had to make several sacrifices while going through school.

"We don't go out to eat a lot because it's so expensive," Mechelay said.

Of course, things are not bad for the Mechelays.

"I wouldn't be the same person if I was the only child," sophomore Diana Mechelay said. "I mean, my sister is my best friend."

The Mechelay family is two members smaller than another large family that is on campus, the Schepp's.

"It's like a small society and from it you can learn about society and human flaws," senior Kevin Schepp said, in relation to his family. "And it's a safe environment, too."

Of course, with all of those people under one roof, one has to wonder how they manage to maintain privacy.

"We're close, but we have our space," Schepp said.

When asked how he would feel after leaving his twin sisters Erica and Monica behind, Schepp revealed an eagerness to go off to college, but also a hint of sadness at the prospect of leaving his family behind.

"It'll be something new," Schepp said.

Of nearly equal size is the Leal family, with senior member Hector on campus.

"Right now I have six sisters and a brother," Leal said. "My mom's pregnant again."

And clearly, there exist some disadvantages to having a large family.

But what is certain about these large families is the end result; the differences, the hard times and annoyances that are created through everyday interaction mask deeper, more potent feelings: family love.

"All of us don't eat dinner at the same time. I don't think we do a lot of the same things at all," Leal said.

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staff editorial

Next year's extra hours of work time proves effective

According to floating rumors and 'discussion schedule' that was passed out to all teachers, an eight period schedule was initially intended to be enacted next year. The new schedule was going to go into effect to accommodate the new TEA, Texas Education Agency, requirement of students taking four years of math and science instead of just three.

However, the plans have been scrapped, as has the option of the eight period schedule; keeping the seven period schedule and giving students the option of coming to school at 7 a.m. to as late as 8 p.m. The new plan was made to accommodate students' various schedules, which will include adding more zero hours and extra-curricular activities. The main goal of this plan is to give students a realistic chance of meeting graduation requirements without having to give up extra-curricular activities such as band, choir, or any other of the various clubs and organizations the school offers.

This new option of taking classes after the regular school day gives students the chance of taking more classes while not having to drop any extra-curricular activities. Many of the students who participate in various extra-curricular activities often have a hard time staying in every extra-curricular activity they participate in without having to test out of various classes required to graduate. With the option of coming to classes after the regular school day, an active student can still participate in the extra-curricular activities he or she commits to, without the stress of testing out of core classes. The option isn't only for the active students in the school though, the new option also accommodates the upcoming freshmen, giving them a chance to participate in the various clubs and organizations offered at the school while fulfilling the new four by four graduation requirement.

In essence, this new option gives students the chance to be as active as he or she chooses without the stress of wondering how he or she will graduate while still participating in the things that he or she loves to do, as well as giving the upcoming freshmen a realistic chance of graduating.

WHERE BANDS ARE GETTING SIGNED

Musicians no longer dependent on record companies

RYAN, co-editor-in-chief

As a result, record companies are seeing less and less action. While, in essence, many record companies still make available mp3 versions of albums, this small task is one that could be achieved by any musician with a URI. Prior to the rise of mp3, unsigned bands had to use the "word of mouth" in it's literal sense. But with media streaming, as well as MySpace, "word of mouth" has turned into "click of button."

Ten years ago, a band could not have easily popularized themselves without some form of a record company. Though the procedure is not easy, the ability for bands to make a name for themselves without help has greatly increased.

All of this can be credited to advancements in technology, along with the impatience of young listeners. Music listeners are much more demanding than those who grew up with their ears glued to the headphones coming from the turntable. While, 50 years ago, teens could not wait to get the new Elvis 45, the modern teen listener either pirates a new single, or, if artists are lucky, spends 99 cents and downloads the mp3 from iTunes.

I am not saying that downloading is bad. Actually, I am saying the exact opposite. Personally, I prefer to have the hard copy, but that's only because I prefer to have the artwork right in front of me as I listen through an album in my headphones. But, if one were to look at statistics, they could find that, though CD sales are down, mp3 sales are very high, and when the two are combined, one could assess that more music is being sold now than in the past 10 years, which ties into my first point. Not only do bands have a larger chance of making a living out of making music without a record company, they have a larger chance of making it at all.

Photo Illustrations by Ryan Hansen

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Balance between freedom and discipline
 Teachers fail to provide basic classroom fundamentals



andrew.roy sports.editor

I would have an A average, if not for one class that I was in. In that class I received a C grade. I guess an argument could be made that it was a hard class, and I just failed to step up to the challenge. I can accept that, for if this is in any way my fault, I don't want to be pushing the blame off to someone else.

But everyone who I know, dazzlingly intelligent or unintelligent as they may be, has also received a lower grade in this class. It makes me think that perchance there walks among the halls a poor teacher.

What is it that makes a teacher a bad one, or a good one for that matter? What qualities could persons possess that would make them such an exception to the rule, with ardent students' grades dropping nearly 20 points from their normal grade in their classrooms?

If you are thinking these things, then just sit back and enjoy, for I am going to try to teach you about the important qualities teachers must possess.

The first thing that any good teacher needs is to know how to teach. There is no getting around this first necessity; if a teacher cannot teach, a student cannot learn from that teacher. Some people are just not meant to be teachers.

Unless it is for kindergarten, it is of the utmost importance that the teacher possesses extensive knowledge of his subject. The best English teacher in the world most likely wouldn't be able to teach a single thing about chemistry or mathematics. If the teacher knows not what he teaches, he will teach naught.

In order to learn, there must be a balance between freedom and discipline. Since the prevalent theory today views knowledge as a metaphysical block that must be forcibly pounded into the students head, causing great suffering for the student, then let us adhere to said theory. It is clear to see that students are vile, evil creatures that have no intelligence, useless manisms, and outspoken, incorrect ways, and as it is so, it is the duty of the instructor to bring them (and if necessary beat them) back to the righteous way of the passive student. A teacher who fails to utilize discipline will be unable to teach his students, for he will be unable to force the knowledge in.

If a teacher does not have the students' respect, most of the time his or her lessons will be ineffective. Likewise, if the teacher does not show any respect for the student, then the lesson will be twice ineffective. Respect is the medium by which information is transferred in the

student-teacher relationship; without it, there can be very little learning.

I could go on, but I have already covered the basics. Without these, there can be very little teaching done. Without these qualities present in the learning environment, it is the students who suffer.

Oh well, I guess after a while someone can get used to anything, even suffering.

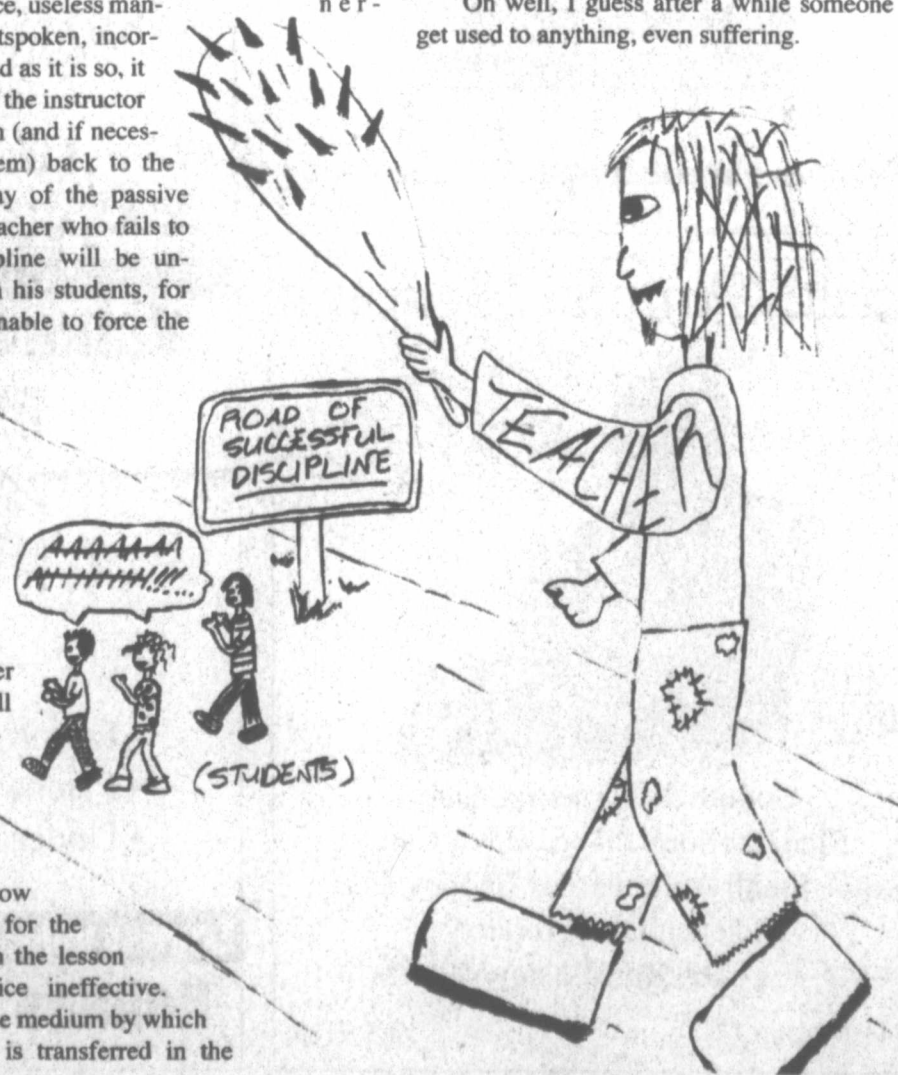
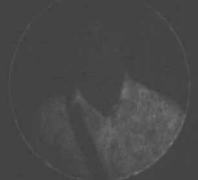


Illustration by Andrew Hatcher



PIRATES AGAINST NINJAS

The age-old combat question answered



jareth.
staff writer

There is a debate raging online. In all my years of viewing online debates, never have I seen one as bad as this. The greatest debate of all time is this: Who would win, a pirate or a ninja?

In this writer's view, the ninja, though aptly skilled, is the underdog. Pirates not only have celebrity backing, but they also work in numbers. Where as the ninja is a solitary figure striking from the shadow and disappearing just as fast.

The ninja however is a master of stealth. Where it would take a crew of pirates to capture a ship with damage, a lone ninja would be able to do the same and leave the ship completely intact. One might argue that the pirate would have access to guns and can easily turn any black clad assassin into Swiss cheese. Guns would also be a part of the ninja's arsenal. From the crow's nest he would be able to pick off targets with no more than a pop from his potato gun. Yes that's right, Mr. Ninja would be able to use the laugh-inducing stock of the vegetable world to take over a ship before anyone knew what was happening. For years people have unceremoniously sliced, diced, baked, fried and boiled these brown tubers and taken them

for granted. The ninja is a key role in showing the world the power of the potato. I like to think that after pulling the trigger of his potato gun, the ninja would spout some fantastic one liner such as "This spud's for you," but ninjas are revered for their near muteness when on the job.

If you make a decision based on appearance, many might like the rock 'n roll type flair associated with the pirate, but I prefer the clean-cut matching outfit of the ninja. If a pirate attacked, you would easily be able to see his face, but in a ninja attack one only sees what the ninja wants them to see. Pirates are also known for having the bad habit of not really fitting in with decent society. When you sail the seas pillaging and burning towns, not many people will greet you with a smile when you step onshore. No one ever runs from the sight of a ninja, because no one ever really knows who is a ninja.

In the end, the ninja would wipe the floor with the pirate. Trust me, I'm an expert at being a pretend ninja.

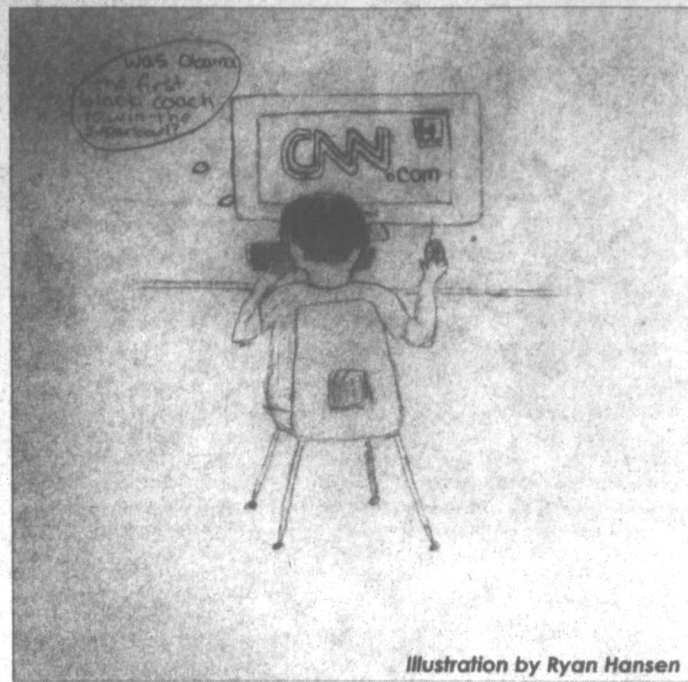


Illustration by Ryan Hansen

Being media's mouthpiece

Nation fails to search for truth: 'Ignorance is bliss'



aaron.pepper
co-editor.in.chief

It's an information revolution, folks. Earth flies down the information superhighway, the Internet, at the speed of light. All the talk on the television seems to stem back to CNN or Fox News. We can't even check our email without the day's top five stories popping up. Americans are surrounded by this knowledge, but the growing number of web and TV channel choices allows too much opportunity to ignore the news that affects daily life. As Reuben Blades said, "I think we risk becoming the best informed society that ever died of ignorance."

Television and computer. Basically that summarizes where downtime is spent. The two technologies couldn't be any more advanced, either. Scores of websites are founded every minute, and satellite providers offer in the neighborhood of 500 digital channels. How does a flood of ignorance correspond? Too many choices. I know...I know. It is a free country, and you do have liberties and free enterprise. But, ultimately choice leads to separation and ignorance.

I could read both Fox News and CNN's account of an issue online so as to understand both the liberal and conservative ground, and from there, I could make an informed decision. But I just heard about a hilarious YouTube video trailer for "Brokeback to the Future." Sure enough, choice leads to ignorance. The information is out there, but most people don't seem willing to seek it out. It's awful tough for a story on U.S.-Iran relations to beat out "Brokeback to the Future."

Likewise, an increase of television channel options has led to the same refusal of knowledge. "Before these young whipper-snappers and their fancy technology, there were only three channels to watch on the television, and

we had to walk to school five miles in the snow." While I've heard this speech about "the good old days" time and again, I always key in on the part about TV stations. When the only choices were ABC, NBC, and CBS, the entire nation watched the same news at the same time. If the President gave a speech, all three networks showed it, and America watched. Now a decent percentage of high school students are likely unaware of the existence of the State of the Union. Our tendency is to check the nearest news feed the next day and pass a few facts off as "knowledge." But again, we are breeding ignorance.

The problem is that we only get one side of the story that way. In politics, different networks are biased towards different viewpoints. The same can be said for most any arguments. The key is to take the personal initiative to hear both points.

In ancient Greece, Socrates, known as the gadfly of Athens, was ever-questioning his students. No matter what the subject, Socrates had hundreds of questions that stirred thought and debate. Because of his methods, Socrates' students also became renowned scholars and philosophers. They gained knowledge and impeded ignorance by making a stern effort to find truth.

Americans lack that desire. True knowledge would mean hearing as many accounts of the world's happenings as possible. CNN, Fox, MSNBC, that guy who hangs around Allsup's. But our philosophy has become more "ignorance is bliss." There is more information than ever out there if you are willing to use it. Otherwise, we risk becoming the best informed nation that ever died of ignorance.

What is your opinion pertaining to next year's scheduling?



"I didn't like it because we would have had to stay at school longer, and I think we stay at school long enough as it is."

-Landon Long, 9



"I certainly would enjoy the extra periods for extra curricular activities. It's too bad that they spent all that time just to go back to seven periods."

-Matt Smith, 10



"I think it was a ludicrous idea, and the fact that they got people in an uproar and then backed out is annoying."

-Garrett Eggleston, 11



"It's basically ridiculous. Even though it doesn't apply to me, I still think it's silly to talk about it for so long and then do nothing."

-Kasey Tindol, 12

NEW RELEASES



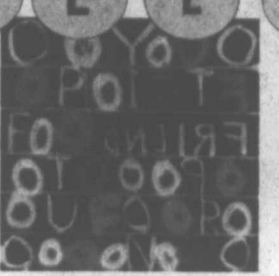
The Shins
Winning the Night Away
James Mercer started The Shins in order to create three minute pop songs. After two albums, he clearly grew tired of this and created WANA, which, while wonderfully experimental in moments, is quite dull and repetitive in others.
-Ryan Hansen



The Good, The Bad, The Queen
Self titled
Part Blur! Gorillaz, part Clash, and part Danger Mouse, T.G.T.B.T.Q aren't a case of equaling parts. They equal something completely new. With the deepest bass imaginable, the album is depressing, and yet still danceable.
-Ryan Hansen



Fergie
The Dutchess
She keeps the tone light and playful, but her shopaholic-hottie raps seem written for someone with less emotional baggage. Overall, much less catchy than Black Eyed Peas.
-Ryan Hansen



Deerhoof
Dating Opportunity
Dating back to *Apple O* and *Reville*, Deerhoof has been producing discombobulated indie rock. With 2005's *Runners Four* and *FO*, though, they focused their Japanese pop and produced very solid, floor-stomping records.
-Ryan Hansen



Lilly Allen
Alright, Still
The story has become all but cliché: young girl becomes popular because of the Internet and is already famous before her record comes out. However, Allen backed her pop with a wonderfully skaed out pop record that provides the necessary hooks.
-Ryan Hansen



Bloc Party
A Weekend in the City
Bloc Party have officially become better at taking themselves so serious, that the fun to be had actually become a challenge to find. Good hooks, good production, not much fun.
-Ryan Hansen



Jack Ingram
This Is It
This is something that rhymes with "it." For the serious Nashville fan, sample this record. For anyone who knew Jack Ingram as a Texas musician, the cover of Hinder's "Lips of an Angel" will make you want to die. I did.
-Aaron Pepper

Mardi Gras Texas Style
A survival guide for the festival
aaron.pepper
co-editor.in.chief

Replace Bourbon Street with Dallas's Fair Park automotive building. Red, white, and blue dominate the usual purple, green, and gold. Same party. Same beads. Same manner of earning beads.

It's not New Orleans, but Mardi Gras Texas Style continues to grow as an alternative for Fat Tuesday celebrations. Saturday, Feb. 17, brings the concert festival back for its sixth year, but few have had the chance to go for previous festivals. Here are some (hopefully) helpful tips to getting through the weekend.

Mapquest.com: Get directions! Once in Dallas, there are two theories to finding Fair Park. The first is the safe play: have a map handy to guide you to your downtown destination. The second is for the daring: take a major interstate, look for signs for downtown Dallas, and look for signs to Fair Park. While a bit more exciting, the latter method may land you in some unfortunate parts of the city where excitement thrives.

Rooming hookup: If you don't know someone with spare room in the metroplex, you will probably have to look for hotel space in outer Dallas or Fort Worth. All rooms around downtown will be packed. The drive from Fort Worth is not bad at all though. Definitely worth making the concert for. If nothing else, park the car and enjoy the Parking Lot Inn & Suites.

Strategy: The festival plays bands on four stages with alternating shows. If you plan to see every group, consider leaving one show a few minutes early to snag a better spot at the next band's stage.

Cash: Nothing in life is free, and Mardi Gras Texas Style definitely isn't either. Tickets are \$35 plus gas, food, and rooming. Don't forget awesome band merchandise from a dozen groups plus beads and other "essential extras."



Clapping their hands to a new beat

ryan.hansen
co-editor.in.chief

Hype has been proven to be a difficult thing, especially when it came hand in hand with Clap Your Hands Say Yeah's self titled debut. When *CYHSY* made the announcement of their new album, *Some Loud Thunder*, they kept it pretty low key. And for a reason. As a whole, *Thunder* has nearly nothing on their 2005 debut. If the magic of a handful of great songs had encompassed this entire disc, the album would far surpass their first. But there are also another handful that could have made this one of the worst records of the year.

Exit home recordings, enter acclaimed Mogwai, Mercury Rev, Flaming Lips producer Dave Fridmann. Speaking in terms of the sound, *Thunder* is nearly immaculate. I say

'nearly' because, of the 11 songs, the opening title track and "Arm and Hammer" suffer some of the poorest production of anything I've heard. The latter suffers an overall randomness that could not have worked with any form of production, but the former is a different story. When live clips "Some Loud Thunder" were leaked months before the album's release, I was thrilled with the new rocker. As it appears here, in mono I might add, it becomes evident that this is a band that doesn't care a whole lot about what their fans think. It sounds like a cassette tape made by a high school band was thrown into an aluminum bucket and then mic'd 'just because.'

Upon surviving the first track, listeners might find themselves liking what they hear. "Emily Jean

Stock" follows, and with more versatility than any other song the band has written, old or new. The horribly named, "Mama, Won't You Keep Them Castles In The Air and Burning?" trumps everything the band has done except maybe "The Skin of my Yellow Country Teeth," but with more melancholy than anything singer/songwriter Alec Ounsworth has proved capable of. "Love Song No. 7" comes next, with the same amount of darkness, and McCartneyesque fifths comprising the bass line.

As a whole, *Some Loud Thunder* seems to be a challenge. Some fans won't be up for it. Others will find it interesting, if anything else. But never have I found a band who is so comfortable with dancing that they dedicated over five minutes to a song about hell being the place

where Satan commands a dance. "Satan Said Dance," as it turns out, is one of the only moments on the disc that is danceable, and though it is a very slick song, it's overall structure and weird sound effects make it stick out like a sore.

The album closes with "Underwater (You and Me)" and "Five Easy Pieces." The former floats along with such an utter tranquility that I am forced to forgive the band of all of their sins prior to this track. "Five Easy Pieces" caps the album off with a better Smiths finish than even Johnny Marr could have given. I wholeheartedly hope that, next time, Clap Your Hands Say Yeah can just take their ADD pills, because when they do calm down long enough to focus, they are unbelievably outstanding.

Arthur and the Invisibles' animation proves fantastic, seamless



Protagonist Arthur (played by Freddie Highmore) stars in *Arthur and the Invisibles*.

jareth.fortenberry
staff.writer

Arthur and the Invisibles looks at first like any other live action movie. However, sit long enough and it will soon become an animated wonder.

The plot follows 10-year-old Arthur (Freddie Highmore) who is living with his grandmother in a quiet country house. His grandmother entertains him by reading stories to him. One of these stories is about the fabled Minimoys, tiny fantastical beings living in harmony with nature in

the very garden of his grandparents' house. When a greedy boy (played by Adam LeFevre) gives Arthur's grandmother a time to come up with a large sum of money, Arthur is transported to the land of the Minimoys, not only to save his grandmother from eviction, but also to stop Malazar (voiced by David Bowie) and his army of mosquito riding warriors.

Other celebrities lending their voices to the film are Jimmy Fallon, Robert De Niro, Madonna, Emilio Estevez, and Snoop Dogg.

The live action scenes of the

movie are filmed well, and lighting sets the mood of the scene perfectly and in one scene even gives a nice contrast. It's not until the movie turns into animation where it truly shines. The transition is seamless and quick, leaving the moviegoer to wonder if it was animated from the beginning.

Arthur and the Invisibles does have a few flaws, however, and some scenes of the movie closely resemble *The Ant Bully* and *The Dark Crystal*.

In summary, *Arthur and the Invisibles* delivers a spectacle that kids and adults can all enjoy.

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Baseball season swings into action

bart.bullard
staff.writer

The dust of the mound fogs up the air as the pitch is thrown and the umpire cries out, "Strike three." The Harvester baseball and softball seasons will start up soon and both teams are looking to go far this season.

"I expect this year's team to be very competitive," coach Wilson said.

Because of the past successes of the team, hopes run high for this year's outcome.

"We wish to use this competitiveness and run our third consecutive district title," Wilson said.

"We are highly anticipated on this year's season," coach Gill said.

The strengths and weaknesses of the team will be the deciding factor in the team's performance this season.

"Experience and determination will give us an edge in this year's season," Gill said.

The experience comes from the seniors that will be squaring off against their rivals.

"With our returning members and underclassmen, we will be district champions," Brett Ferrell, who is a pitcher and first basemen for the baseball team, said.

Optimism is matched equally with rationality and an understanding of the challenges ahead.

"Randall will be our toughest opponent this year, but with determination, we will beat them," Ferrell said.

Kasey Tindol, utility fielder, also stated Randall would be their toughest opponent.

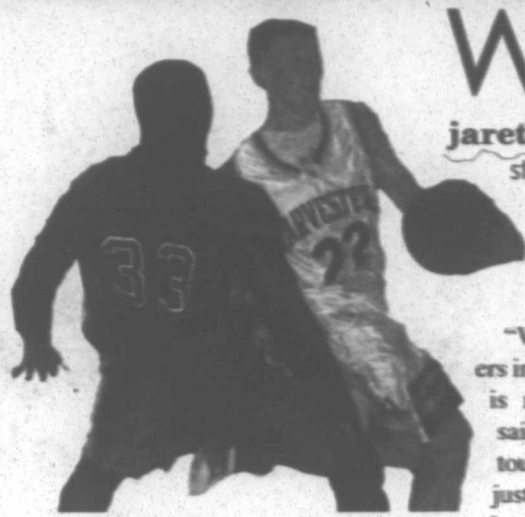
"My expectations are high for our team and myself," Tindol said.

For some, this year will be will be the year determining what college they may attend, or even if they get to attend college.

"If I want to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State for college and play softball, I will need to do better than I have ever thought of accomplishing," Tindol said.

Three coaches are involved with softball and baseball this year. coach Jeff Quisenberry, coach Ches Tucker, and coach Kaleb Snelgroose. Quisenberry will be with softball this year and Snelgroose and Tucker will be with the sub-varsity baseball teams.

The first Baseball game is in Pampa on Feb. 22 and the first softball game is away at Lubbock against Coronado and Andrews.



Senior Tyler Hall prepares for layup. Photo by Aaron Pepper

With heads held high

jareth.fortenberry
staff.writer

Coach Dustin Miller looks over the Harvester basketball schedule, with playoffs still in sight.

"We have one of the best players in the Panhandle and the team is really competitive," Miller said. "Palo Duro is by far our toughest opponents, they're just head and shoulder's above the rest."

The varsity team stands at a

district record of 0-2, a record mostly credited to a young team, with only four returning seniors.

"It's a work in progress. We have fairly young team and everyone is still trying to figure out what works," senior and varsity guard Andrew Winton said.

District play began on January 12 with Palo Duro. Other district teams are Hereford, Randall, Dumas, and Caprock.

This year however, the Junior Varsity has had a considerable

amount of success, with a record of 12-4, thanks, ironically, due to experience.

"We have a lot of juniors and a good number of sophomores," junior power forward Adam Anguiano said.

Despite the varsity's previous setbacks, Miller remains optimistic.

"They still have a chance to make playoffs, if we can hold our home games we have a shot. We have to work on defense, we can score a lot of points, but we have to

Signed on: Seniors sign dotted line, get into college on their athletic strengths



Hard work's reward: Senior Britteni Rice signs a scholarship for the University of Denver, representing her reward for years of hard work and dedication that she has given the school's basketball team. Rice currently holds the record for highest scoring girl basketball player in Pampa's history.

aaron.pepper
co-editor.in.chief

The sports world no longer relies strictly on the hard work of a player. Coaches are not known as perennial losers with any certain team. No, today's sportsman must also be a businessman. When the pros do not perform well, contracts are terminated.

College and high school athletes are not subjected to contracts, but the bargaining chip is still in play. Scholarships. Student have to pay for college somehow, and colleges use scholarship payments to entice a player to their school. In the case of a few fortunate athletes, several schools compete with one another to get a student's enrollment.

"I had a bunch of schools that I was supposed to see," senior Britteni Rice said. "University of Denver was the first school I went to, but I knew that's where I was going. When it's right, it's right. I never went on any other visits."

Denver offered Rice a full-ride scholarship as incentive to join the Pioneer's basketball program. Of course, money plays an integral part in any scholarship negotiation, but a certain chemistry and connection are necessary.

"I signed with them for two big reasons: the education I'll get and the atmosphere with the girls on the team," Rice said. "I will fit in well."

Needless to say, a guaranteed spot in college with a full-ride has

changed Rice's outlook toward her responsibilities for the rest of her year.

"Without the offer from Denver, I'd probably be working my butt off about now on scholarships and financial aid applications," Rice said. "Of course, now I'm going to be working out more to get ready."

Those like senior baseball player Brett Ferrell make the best of both worlds when it comes to standard applications vs. sports scholarships. Ferrell has put in his applications to Lubbock Christian University and Texas Tech, but this spring's baseball season may bring him an offer to play at the collegiate level.

"I've already applied for school in case I don't get an offer," Ferrell said. "I'd like to go to a good base-

ball school, but I just want to play. I don't care where."

Still, like Rice, he will have to up the work ethic on the field.

"I need to get my name out there, have a good year, and keep working," Ferrell said.

Even some fall sports athletes are awaiting a chance to sign a scholarship letter.

Senior James Coffee, linebacker, has received attention from West Texas A&M and Eastern New Mexico. Coffee's decision whether to take a scholarship at a smaller school or try to walk on at Texas Tech.

"If you need money, the scholarship is a better choice," Coffee said. "But if you really just want to play, the money doesn't matter."

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"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black and confident; my name, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."

— Muhammad Ali

Taking the 'good fight' into a new generation

aaron.pepper
co-editor in chief

Certain dates stand out in the history of America. Declaration of Independence—1776. Pearl Harbor—1941. World Trade Centers—2001. And of course, Feb. 10, 1976. Not that date in American history marks the founding of February as Black History Month.

Thirty-one years later, Black History Month has become a household term. At the same time, today's youth grow farther and farther from African-American historical figures. Last February, Kevin Costley, then head of Pampa's African-American Community Cultural Society, relayed the need for such figures dur-

ing a Black History march.

"There is still a need for great heroes," Costley said. "Today's children need to know the heroes that came before them."

But history and values of predecessors cannot be taught by television or the internet.

"That can come only from the community," he said.

Despite some opinions, young people do recognize the sacrifices made on their behalf for freedom.

"Black history is very important," junior Darrell Willis said. "We should keep a month for it. It gives us time to celebrate our fathers. Our African-American fathers."

Citizens alive when former President Ford commis-

sioned Black History Month were probably either directly influenced by civil rights activists like Martin Luther King or knew people who were affected.

"Rosa Parks set a way for us to make a stand by saying 'I'm not going to be moved,'" Willis said. "Martin Luther King showed us all a dream of a people united as one. A true United States."

Of course, heroes do not always stand out in history. Some may impact only the immediate few around them.

"My father is my inspiration," Willis said. "He's a pastor and a wise man. He shows me how to be responsible because I'm looked on differently."

Willis referenced the varying viewpoints on Black History Month between his generation and those who came before.

"To (young people) it means we are noticed," he said. "People back then were dying to get freedom and fight segregation. We should rejoice for that. They fell on hard times to show us a better way than a stereotype."

Many high school students have influences from pop culture that do not always reflect the struggles for liberty.

"Freedom is not a gift from another, but it comes from what others have fought and died for," Costley said.

Again, community and family were stressed as a

means of improving the current situation of African-Americans, and Americans in general.

But the burden cannot fall to one person. Though Frederick Douglass cried the calls for abolition of slavery, and King led the legions to Washington for equality, an entire nation of people backed their mission.

"The community can become stronger and better only if the members of that community participate," Costley said.

All in all, Costley noted the importance of self-respect and pride for personal heritage.

"Stand up and take ownership of who you are," he said.

Significant events in black history

- **1909** NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) established by W.E.B. DuBois
- **1947** Jackie Robinson breaks Major League Baseball's color barrier when he is signed to the Brooklyn Dodgers by Branch Rickey
- **1948** President Harry S. Truman issues an executive order integrating the U.S. armed forces
- **1954** Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka: Supreme Court declares racial segregation in schools unconstitutional
- **1955** Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat at the front of a bus to a white passenger and sparks a boycott of Montgomery Bus Lines
- **1963** March on Washington; Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech
- **1964** Lyndon B. Johnson signs Civil Rights Act
- **1968** Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis. In 1983, Congress deems January's third Monday "Martin Luther King Day"
- **1978** Supreme Court upholds affirmative action, but ensures minority opportunity is not at majority expense

Frederick Douglass
Writer/Abolitionist

