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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER Caisha LaShae Darthard, 20, holds her 4-day-old daughter Mychael Darthard-Dawodu during press conference Monday at Covenant Lakeside Hospital. The baby was abducted early Saturday morning and rescued by police about 3 a.m. Sunday in Clovis, N.M.

Kidnap suspect faces charges

By BETSY BLANEY Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A suspected kidnapper was back in Texas to face federal charges that she snatched a newborn girl from her mother's hospital room.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Koenig was scheduled to arraign Rayshaun Parson today on a kidnapping charge. The 21-year-old was being held late Monday at the Lubbock County Jail for the U.S. Marshals Service, a jail official said.

As the criminal case moves forward, tiny Mychael Darthard-Dawodu was back in her mother's arms, two days after being found in New Mexico.

Federal authorities alleged that Parson returned to her Clovis, N.M., home Saturday "in possession of a baby," court records show. She had previously told people there she was pregnant, "but never really was," according to an FBI affidavit stating what a woman who tipped police told them.

Parson agreed Monday to be extradited to Texas after her arrest Sunday on suspicion of

kidnapping, a Texas charge. She could face fugitive from justice charges in New Mexico.

Will Larson, who moved to Clovis recently and lives near Parson's home, said he told police that he had seen her before without a baby but noticed her with a stroller Saturday and thought that was unusual.

Phone numbers at Parson's Clovis address were disconnected Monday.

As the charges were being filed Monday, the baby girl's parents asked for privacy in the aftermath of their ordeal.

"We're just happy to have her back," the little girl's grandfather, Darrell Darthard, said at a hospital news conference, thanking police and supporters while the baby's mother quietly held her in a purple blanket.

Mychael was kidnapped early Saturday by a woman posing as a medical worker who walked out of Covenant Lakeside Hospital with the baby hidden in her purse, police

See KIDNAP, Page 3

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for photo contest nearing

The deadline for entries into the annual Pampa Portraits photo contest is 5 p.m. Thursday.

The contest is part of the publication of the annual Pride Progress edition, scheduled to be delivered on March 30.

The winner of the contest will have their photo published on the cover of the section and will win \$50 in Pampa Bucks. The best of the rest of the photos will be published in the section.

Briefly, here are the rules: Entries should be photos of Pampa people in Pampa.

· Photos of animals or scenery will be no considered, nor will any photos that are copyrighted.

· Entries can be prints or See PHOTOS, Page 3

Deadline Harvesting the wind



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

The White Deer wind farm gets ready for another day of producing energy as dawn breaks in the Texas Panhandle.

Shriners continue to offer medical care to children

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ent

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

The Pampa Shrine Club recently received a generous donation of an ice machine and storage bin from M&H Leasing Co. in memory of R.B. "Jiggers" Cooke who was a lifetime member and past president of the Pampa Shrine Club.

Mary Ann Richards, who is Cooke's granddaughter, works at M&H Leasing. She said that Ben Watson from the local Shrine center came in and asked for a proposal on how much it would be to purchase a new ice machine.

"We just decided to donate the ice machine to them in memory of

my grandfather instead of giving them a proposal," Richards said. "My grandfather, who became a lifetime member after 50 years, was very involved with the local Shriners. He used to be the timekeeper for the wrestling matches they held. He was also president of the club in 1960. Donating the ice machine to the Shriners was just one way of giving back to the community and we were glad to help."

Watson, who is on the Khiva Shriners board of directors, said it was a generous donation from the company and they really appreciated the gesture.

"Since we didn't have to pur-

chase the ice machine, we were able to give a \$500 donation in Cooke's name directly to the Houston-Shriner orthopedic hospital," Watson said. "The children's hospitals are our main focus so it's always nice to give them extra donations."

According to Watson, the next fund-raiser for the Pampa Shrine Center will be on May 5 when they have their "paper drive." The shriners will be out in the community, probably near Wal-Mart and the post office, to accept donations as they give out paper information about Shriners and the hospitals they fund. Watson said that 100 percent of these donations go directly to the hospitals and none is used for administrative fees or overhead.

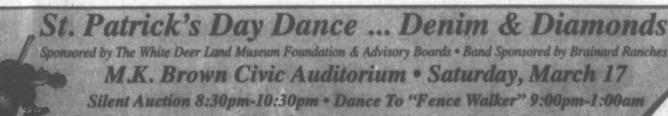
To offset local administrative fees, Pampa Shriners are currently offering catering services.

"We will cook steaks, hamburgers or chicken fried steak either at an event for someone or at the Sportsman's Club," Watson said. "This is one way we raise money just for our center to use for office fees and other items that are needed on the local level."

The Shriners of North America is a fraternal organization that was

See SHRINERS, Page 3

Still Time To Plant Trees! Come by for a great selection!



Silent Auction 8:30pm-10:30pm • Dance To "Fence Walker" 9:00pm-1:00am For Ticket Information Call The Museum At 669-8041 Or Stop By Bob Clements Cleaners Tickets That Were Bought For The Cancelled New Year's Dance Will Be Honored







Mostly sunny

Partly cloudy Partly cloudy

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Southwest wind around 5 mph becoming northwest. Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around

49. Calm wind becoming south-southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 67. Northnorthwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. East-northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 59. Eastsoutheast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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

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Rangers looking into fatal shooting

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — Authorities are investigating the fatal shooting of a man after he was pulled over by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper in Eastland. After a trooper stopped

Briefs

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PORTRAITS PAMPA Photo Contest in the Pride Edition of the Pampa News: Deadline Mar. 15th, 5pm.

PUPPY PARLOR Affordable Dog Grooming, 662-7352

REMEMBRANCE- THIS March marks the 1 year anniversary of the largest wildfires in Texas History. Copies of the Wildfire Magazines are available at The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, 669-2525. (\$10 or can be mailed to you for \$11.50.)

SERIOUS FINANCIAL Investors wanted for indoor Mini-Golf Business. Inquire at MIX3DUPS@yahoo.com.

Michael Lawrence Steggall, 35, of Cisco for an alleged traffic violation early Monday in Eastland, a drugsniffing dog handled by a Cisco police officer was called, according to DPS. The dog found illegal drugs, including 68 grams of methamphetamines, Steggall's vehicle, according

Steggall then ran, and the two lawmen chased him and struggled with him as they tried to arrest him, according to DPS.

PUBLIC NOTICE CONSTITUTIONAL **AMENDMENT** SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 12, 2007

PROPOSITION 1 (SJR 13)

SJR 13 would amend the Constitution to authorize the legislature to adjust the public school ad valorem tax or tax rates for taxpayers who are aged 65 or older, or are disabled, and who are owners of an exempted homestead. The amendment would thereby allow the legislature to provide tax relief to such elderly or disabled taxpayers who did not receive tax relief as a result of the school tax rate reduction passed in the 79th Legislature, 3rd called session.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years.'

Published by Secretary of State Roger Williams

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow.

MITCHELL, Ola — 10 a.m., Central Baptist Church, Pampa.

Ola Mitchell, 85

Ola Mitchell, 85, of Pampa, Texas, died March 9, 2007, at Oklahoma City, Okla.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at Central Baptist Church with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Mitchell was born July 3, 1921, in Glenmore, La. She married Wayne Mitchell on Nov. 8, 1939, in

Wellington. He preceded her Fogle and husband Rick of in death in 2004.

She moved to Pampa in 1966. She was a longtime member of Baptist Central She Church. enjoyed knitting, sewing and espeenjoyed cially cooking.

include one son, Troy Mitchell and wife Jewell of Oklahoma City, Okla.; one daughter, Joyce

Survivors Mitchell

Fredericksburg;

one brother, Gene Winegeart wife Ann Pampa; two sisters, Opal Cochran of Pampa and Evelyn Parker of Dalhart; three grandchildren; nine great-grandthree children; stepgrandchildren;

four stepgreat-grandchildren; three stepgreat-greatgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

Memorials may be made to the Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065 or Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday.

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

Linda Gail Shultz, 63 selection. She also was a these areas.

BEDFORD — Linda Gail Shultz, 63, a retired educator and loving wife, mother, sister, daughter and friend, was taken from us unexpectedly Saturday, March 10, 2007, surrounded by her family.

Celebration of life: A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Martin United Methodist Church in Bedford.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, donations to Circle of Friends are welcome in loving memory of Gail Shultz.

Gail was born Dec. 6, 1943, in Amarillo, but was raised in Pampa by her parents, James and Rubye was a contestant in the Miss Culpepper, who preceded her in death.

The Lord endowed Gail with special gifts. She was gifted with unusual beauty that was enhanced by her perpetual sunny disposition, her sparkling smile and her genuine loving and caring personality. She was voted as one of the most beautiful girls at Pampa High School and was selected as All School Favorite at Pampa High School her senior year. This latter honor most

majorette for the Pampa In her professional life, High School Band for three years, and it was there that she found the

love of her life, Gary Shultz. They had their first date when she was 15 and have had a storybook romance from that time forward.

After graduation, Gail joined Gary at the University of North Texas, where she was selected as one of the eight most beautiful women on campus and America pageant. Gail and Gary married upon her receiving her master's degrees in education in 1965. The marriage resulted in three wonderful children, Ryan, Taylor and Lauren. Luckily they inherited the wonderful characteristics of their mother, which they have exhibited in their personal lives and professional

Gail's life was most exemplified by the enjoyment and love she brought to others. She was a lady of class who Gail in that her inner beauty enjoyed fashion, dancing played bridge together twice cousins; and a wide and and natural friendliness with and travel. Happily, she had all students made her an easy an abundant life in all of past 40 years. She was the



Shultz

Euless. She was quite active in the Texas Classroom Teachers Association for the HEB district, serving as president. Among her many duties as president was the attendance at all school board meetings to give input to the process on behalf of the teachers.

Hurst

taught at Treetops,

inspired school in

Montessori-

professional These accomplishments were secondary to the love and teaching that she showered on her students. This was evidenced by the many letters and personal visits from her former students she received during her teaching years and those following her retirement.

It was in her professional career that she met many of her closest friends who have a month continuously for the

first to pass from this group of 11.

Gails' unique capacity and desire to better the lives of other's found expression even in her passing as she was and organ donor; at least two lives already have been saved.

Gail was a member of Martin United Methodist Church and participated actively in several charities, including Circle of Friends and Meals on Wheels. She was preceded in death by her father-in-law, Elbert E. "Pinky" Shultz.

Survivors: Her husband, Gary of Bedford; her son, Ryan Shultz and daughterin-law, Connie of Dallas; son, Taylor Shultz and daughter-in-law, Melissa of Washington, D.C.; daughter, Lauren Smeds and son-inlaw, Gary, of North Richland Hills; her brother and sisterin-law, Bill and Audrey Culpepper of Warrensburg, Mo.; sister-in-law, Joy and husband, Billy Williams, of North Richland Hills; mother-in-law, Loree Shultz of Pampa; grandchildren, Sophia, Jacqueline, Harper and Tennyson; many loving growing body of friends.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period

ending at 7 a.m. today. Ten traffic stops were citation for tampering with a government record on an altered driver's license.

A traffic complaint was reported at the intersection of 23rd and Duncan.

Traffic accidents were investigated in the 100 block of North Hobart and the intersection of Cuyler and

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 900 block of Cinderella, the 1600 block of North Evergreen, the 1100 block of South Christy, the 800 block of East Kingsmill, made. One stop resulted in a the 300 block of South Miami, the 400 block of North Wynne, the 800 block of East Scott, the 1200 block of South Farley, the 900 block of East Frederic, the 700 block of Locust, two calls in the 1000 block of North Somerville, the 2000 block of North Coffee, the 900 block of South Sumner, the 800 block of East Albert, the 800 block of South Barnes, and at three undisclosed locations.

Warrant service was attempted at one location which resulted in an arrest.

Fraud was reported in the police department lobby and in the 900 block of North Faulkner where a counterfeit check for \$5,278 was issued.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of South Tignor where a vehicle window valued at \$300 was broken, the 100 block of North Starkweather where a vehicle window valued at \$215 was broken, and in the 800 block of West Francis.

Escort service was provided in the 200 block of North West.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 900 block of South Reid, the 1200 block of North Hobart, and the intersection of Somerville and Browning.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 300 block of

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of South

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 800 block of West Francis where a CD player, a radar detector, and a panel around a steering wheel, all valued at \$600, were taken.

Found property, a bicycle of unknown value, was reported in the 300 block of Sunset.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the police department lobby and in the 1800 block of North Hamilton.

A gas drive off was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather. Criminal trespass was

reported in the 1400 block of North Christy. An assault was reported at

the intersection of Barnes

and Starkweather. An assault with bodily injury to a family member was reported in the police

department lobby. The incident took place in the 1200 block of North Hobart. There were minor injuries that did not require medical attention. Welfare checks were

made in the 1500 block of North Williston and the 1900 block of North Banks. Agency assistance was

rendered in the 200 block of North Russell.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 13 Evaristo Jimenez, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the

1000 block of South Hobart by the Pampa Police Department for violation of probation and capias pro fines for failure to appear and failure to drive in a single lane.

Peter Garcia, 41, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for violation of probation, driving with invalid license, theft under \$50, failure to appear, no insurance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Kenneth Putman, 24, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of West Browning by the PPD for criminal mischief.

Fire

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

Monday, March 12 7:55 a.m. – One unit and two personnel responded to the 200 block of West

Browning on a vehicle fire. 8:50 a.m. - Two units and six personnel responded to the 400 block of North Ward on a fire alarm activation, which turned out to be a false alarm.

9:14 a.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Loop 171 and Highway 60 on a vehicle accident.

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Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

James and Jenny Davis of Borger enjoy eating lunch at the Coney Island Monday. They had "4 on 2 with everything," chips and sodas.

Kidnap

Continued from Page 1

Surveillance footage showed a woman wearing blue and flower-print hospital scrubs and a gray, puffy jacket with a hood walking out of the hospital.

Police found the girl Sunday in Clovis, about 100 miles to the northwest.

At the news conferthe ence. family appeared tired after many anxious hours wondering about Mychael's safety and health. The baby and her parents, Caisha Darthard and Michael A. Dawodu, have been inseparable since being reunited Sunday morning, said Gwen Stafford, senior president of vice Health Covenant System.

"Closeness given," she said.

Five-day-old Mychael didn't utter a peep Monday as her mother gently stroked her cheek

with her finger during the news conference. The family took no ques-

"It's not that we're not grateful," Darrell Darthard said. "We just want some privacy with the family and to spend some time with her.

Authorities had several tips that the 5-pound, 7-ounce baby was in Clovis, and police found the girl in a home with an adult female early Sunday, Lubbock police Lt. Scott Hudgens said. The suspect was found at another residence in Clovis, he said.

Parson has had dealings with the law before. In May 2004, a protective order was issued against her in a domestic violence incident involving a boyfriend, according to New Mexico online court documents.

In January 2005, she was charged with fraud, according to the court documents. A call seeking information about the case was not immediately returned Monday.

Continued from Page 1

established in 1872. The current international membership is approximately 412,000 with 191 Shrine centers. The members support the 22 Shriners hospitals for throughout children North America, two of which are in Texas. A crippled children's hospital is located in Houston and a children's burn hospital is in Galveston.

According to reports furnished by Shriners headquarters, their hospitals have treated more than 800,000 children free of charge since 1922. Their budget for 2007 is \$721 million, of which \$618 million is targeted for operating expenses, \$37 million for research and \$66 million for buildings and equipment.

Watson said that three times a year, BSA in Amarillo lets the local Shriners use one of their facilities to bring together doctors and children needing medical care.

"We fly in doctors from some of the Shrine hospitals and they see kids by appointment," Watson said. "In two days, the doctors normally see around 100 children.'

To become a Shriner, members must first be a Mason and earn the title of Master Mason. These organizations are men's fraternities, although women are beginning to work behind the scenes and participate with the daily activities, according to Watson.

"To become a Mason, you have to ask one how to become one," Watson said. "Our beliefs are based on the King Solomon teachings in the bible. This information is

shared mouth to ear and nothing is written down. It is a lot of memory work that is shared orally. When a man has gone through the three different levels of being a Mason, they can then become a Shriner."

There are 13 temples, or shrine centers as they are now being called, in Texas. The local chapter, Khiva Shrine, is then divided up into different units. These units help group people together with similar interests. A few units locally are the mini-vehicles, which people see in parades, different bands, those who like horses or mules, bagpipes and any other type of activity that people enjoy and like to share with oth-

"A big deal for us this year is that the Texas state convention is going to be held in Amarillo," Watson said. "These are so much fun for us to attend and also the public is invited to come free of charge and watch the many competitions and exhibits."

The convention will be held May 30 through June 2 with most of the events being planned at the Civic Center.

"Shriners are known to be fun-loving and have a good time," Watson said. "But our main objective is to raise money for the children's hospitals. We also want to be great examples around the community by living our lives with high moral values and strive to be the best husband, father and neighbor that we can."

For more information about the catering services they provide or to make a donation to one of the children's hospitals, contact Watson at 665-3359 or write Pampa Shrine Club, P.O. Box 2685, Pampa, Texas 79066-2685.

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

This hymn was written by Matthew Bridges, an Anglican clergyman, who at age 48, converted to Roman Catholicism before writing this hymn at age 51. Although the lyrics were written in 1851, the music "Diademata" (the Greek word for crowns) was written by George Job Elvey, a church organist at St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in England. Bridge's original version had six stanzas, but Godfrey Thring, an Anglican clergyman, thought the hymn needed a verse about the resurrection, so in 1874, he wrote the one that begins, "Crown Him the Lord of Life, who triumphed o'er the grave.'

Ref: Center for Church Music

This hymn history brought to you by



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rocky relationship with a consulting firm hired to privatize its social services eligibility system after failed attempts to renegotiate the contract, Sen. Bob Deuell said today.

The announcement follows more than a year of complaints from lawmakers, gubernatorial candidates and advocates for poor families and marks a major change in an experiment that was being closely watched by other states.

The commission signed an \$899 million contract with Accenture last year to run a new computer system designed to let people apply for benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps and Temporary Assistance to Needy

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas is ending its Families over the phone, online or in person. Problems quickly emerged when the project was tested in Travis and Hays counties

early this year, and executive commissioner Albert Hawkins indefinitely delayed its implementation. Hawkins announced plans in December to

slash the Accenture contract by more than \$350 million and limit the role of the contractor's employees. But efforts to renegotiate the contract failed, Deuell said.

Critics have blamed a consortium of companies put together by Accenture for big enrollment declines in the state's low-cost health insurance program for the children of the working poor.

Welcome to the Pampa Country Club

The members of The Pampa Country Club would like to extend you an invitation to join the country club and begin taking advantage of the many amenities offered to members.

Clubhouse Facilities

Restaurant Full Bar **Meeting Rooms** **Full Banquet Facilities** Men's Card Room Swimming Pool With Snack Bar

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or digital images in jpg format burned on a CD. Submitted CDs Relax in your own home while receiving quality health care from Skilled Nurses,

should contain the contest entries only. · Information should include the identification

and what they are doing. • If a person other than the entrant is in the photos a signed release to have their likeness published is

of the people in the photos

Photos

Continued from Page 1

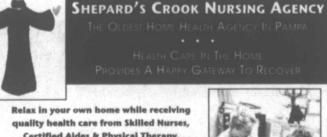
· Entries can be prints

needed. · Photos that do not include identification of subjects and an explanation of the event will not be considered.

· Entries should include the entrant's name, address, e-mail address and telephone number. Photos that do not include this information will not be considered.

• The Pampa News will not be responsible for any photos that are lost or damaged. Irreplaceable photos should not be submitted.

· Entries may be brought by the newspaper office at 403 W. Atchison.





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Pampa Senior Citizen Center 500 W. Francis · Pampa Texas \$10.00 Per Person ... Includes Both Days **Class Is Limited To 25 People** To Enroll Please Call 663-5577

Viewpoints

Become an informed consumer this tax season

ing deadlines approach, consumers who do not have the time or experience to prepare tax forms rely on trusted tax professionals to file returns for them. Unfortunately, some unscrupulous operators exploit the tax season with deceptive practices that could cost you money and cause serious problems with the Internal Revenue Service

Becoming an informed consumer this tax season can help you protect your income and avoid common

Quick refund and immediate return offers typically begin to surface in early February after consumers begin receiving their W-2 forms. A tax preparer may

As federal income tax fil- offer to advance money to the taxpayer, which is paid back when the refund check is received. Generally, this kind of "instant refund" is simply a loan.

> Carefully read the fine print in any ad for this kind of service. The fees and interest for instant refund loans can be quite high, so you should consider whether it would be better filling out the tax refund paperwork yourself.

Additionally, if your refund is denied or less than you expected, you must still repay the loan in full, as well as any fees. It may be better to wait a little longer to receive a refund directly from the IRS, free of charge.

Be extremely careful if a tax preparation service assures you they can obtain a larger refund. Some bogus tax return businesses promise larger "refunds" and deliver them only by adding phony deductions and making false claims on tax returns.

Before signing a return, review it carefully to con-

Greg

Abbott

Texas AG

firm the truthfulness of its contents, especially income and deductions. Any errors or fabrica-

tions are your responsibility. You will have to return any refund money obtained after filing false information, along with any interest and penalties.

Also, beware of a tax preparer who urges you to sign yourself by contacting your

your return without carefully reading it, or who refuses to provide you with copies of your return.

All homeowners, particularly senior Texans, should question any solicitation that charges application or registration fees for tax reduc-

> tions, freezes, ceilings deferments. Most often, the "reduction" offered is nothing

more than the homestead exemption that is already available to Texas homeowners. There is no need to pay anyone to secure a homestead tax exemption. You can easily claim it or other tax benefits collector.

Remember that taxes are NOT voluntary. Do not fall for pitches that promise to exempt you from taxes. U.S. courts have repeatedly rejected the argument that taxes are voluntary or optional.

Finally, beware of people going door-to-door posing at IRS agents. These con artists may claim you owe back taxes and pressure you to write a check on the spot. Don't pay them anything. Verify the identification and documentation of anyone claiming to be an IRS agent. If you believe an imposter has shown up at your door, call your local police department immediately.

Become an informed consumer this tax season. Pay

local county tax assessor your taxes and enjoy your refunds.

Points to Remember: - If you have your taxes prepared for you, read the returns carefully before you

sign them. - You will be held responsible for your return even if it is prepared by someone

- Taxes are NOT volun-

- You can file a homestead exemption application free of charge.

IRS Hotline for tax assistance: 1(800) 829-1040

IRS Hotline to report tax fraud: 1(800) 829-0433

Information on this and other topics is available on the Attorney General's Web site at www.oag.state.tx.us.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2007. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 13, 1925, a law went into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of the theory of evolution. On this date:

In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William In 1884, Congress adopted Eastern Standard Time for the

District of Columbia. In 1901, the 23rd president of the United States, Benjamin

Harrison, died in Indianapolis.

The history of the world is the verdict of the world."

Friedrich von Schiller German author (1759-1805)

In 1933, banks began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Roosevelt.

In 1947, the Lerner and musical Loewe "Brigadoon" opened on Broadway

In 1964, bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, was stabbed to death near her New York City home; the case generated controversy over charges that

Genovese's neighbors had failed to respond to her cries for

In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar

In 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down.

In 1980, a jury in Winamac, Ind., found Ford Motor Co. innocent of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women riding in a Ford Pinto.

In 1996, a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire on a class of kindergartners, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing him-Ten years ago: A Jordanian soldier fired on Israeli junior high school girls on a field trip, killing seven of them. (The

soldier, Cpl. Ahmed Dagamseh, was later sentenced by a military court to life in prison.) In a southern Egyptian village, four masked militants shot and killed 14 people before Five years ago: President Bush declared at a news conference that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was a menace "and we're going to deal with him," and said Osama bin

Laden had been reduced to a marginal figure in the war on One year ago: Deadly tornadoes raked the Midwest while wildfires scorched the Texas Panhandle.

KNOW? THE PENGUINS ARE LEAVING PITTSBURGH ...

Regrets for slavery nothing but lip service

Both chambers of the Commonwealth of

Virginia's General Assembly passed a resolution saying government-sanctioned slavery "ranks as the most horrendous of all depredations of human rights and violations of our founding ideals in our nation's history; and ... the abolition of slavery was followed by ... sysdiscrimination, enforced segregation, and other insidious institutions practices toward Americans of African descent that were rooted in racism, racial bias, and racial misunderstanding.'

The General Assembly also expressed regret for the "exploitation of Native Americans."

Isn't that nice? I agree that slavery was an abomination, but I'm going to be even more generous than Virginia's

Assembly. I regret the mur- U.S. But after all the regrets der of an estimated 61 million people whom the former USSR executed, slaughtered, starved, beat or tortured to death. I also regret the Chinese government's

Walter

slaughter of 45 million Chinese; Hitler's Williams slaughter of million Columnist Jews; the Khmer

Rouge's murder of 2 million Cambodians; the half a million Ugandans murdered by Idi Amin's death squads; the million Hutus and Tutsis murdered in Rwanda's genocidal bloodbath; and slavery that still exists in the Sudan and Mauritania.

All of these, and many more, are horrible injustices at least as horrible as the General slavery that existed in the

and apologies for injustices, what comes next? Let's examine Virginia's statement of regret with an eye toward what it might mean.

I can personally relate to the Virginia

Assembly's declaration. greatgrandparents were slaves in the Virginia

cities of Chase City and Newport News. The General Assembly's statement of regret for slavery means absolutely nothing to me. If anything, it's nothing less than a cheap insult and capitulation of white delegates to black hustlers. Possibly, the whites who voted in support of the declaration were maumaued into it or they felt guilt over our history of

slavery. In any case, they should know that their actions mean little in dealing with the day-to-day plight of many black Virginians which has nothing to do with slavery.

The U.S. murder rate is General 5.6 people per 100,000 of the population. In the Commonwealth Virginia's capital, Richmond, where General Assembly meets, the murder rate is 43 people per 100,000 of the population, making Richmond the city with the third-highest murder rate in the nation, according to a 2005 FBI report.

What about black education in Virginia? According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), black education is a disgrace. In 2003, 51 per-

See WILLIAMS, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts.

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around

Texas: March 4

Houston Chronicle on Mexican trucks returning to U.S. highways:

The news that Mexican trucks will be rolling down U.S. highways again, after a 25-year moratorium, draws mixed reactions. Business, trade groups and proponents of NAFTA expansion applaud the move, while some members of Congress, safety advocates, environmentalists and labor leaders

express opposition. Mexico's truck fleet, critics say, is poorly maintained and therefore dangerous to other motorists. But the most compelling reason they should not yet

return to U.S. highways is that the U.S. trucking industry and the agencies that oversee it have such worrisome inadequacies of their own. The first order of business should be to get their respective houses in order.

Truckers from each country are restricted to a 25-mile commercial zone on the other side of the border. Under a one-year pilot program announced last month, 100 Mexican trucking companies, overseen by U.S. inspectors, will be able to send their vehicles from Mexico throughout the United States and back, and 100 U.S. companies will be able to operate in Mexico. No hazardous material shipments will be permitted. Teams of U.S. inspectors already are in Mexico inspecting trucking firms. Transportation Secretary

Mary Peters promised that safety would be the program's "top priority."

John Hill, administrator of the federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the agency that regulates large trucks and buses, said that in 2006 large vehicles made 4.8 million border crossings. Only 210,000 vehicles, or less than 5 percent, were inspected. Of these, about 23 percent of U.S. trucks were taken out of service and 21 percent of Mexican trucks.

"Our data show that Mexican trucks are no less safe than U.S. trucks," Hill

His reassurance is not that comforting, however, since so few U.S. trucks are inspected and federal safety investi-

See TRUCKS, Page 7

806. cell 8

AAA

SHEPARD'S CROOK NURSING AGENCY

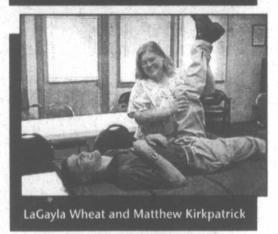
THE OLDEST HOME HEALTH AGENCY IN PAMPA



Jackie Davis and Linda Ellison



Barbara Kidd and Ronna Smith





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Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest Road, has its heart in Pampa, but strives to provide quality in-home health care to the entire locality. The agency is symbolic of the care of a shepherd's staff (crook) guiding those in his care to a better path and safety. So are the goals of the Shepard's staff in assisting our clients to a healthier life.

Owners Ernie and Suzie Wilkinson, both Pampa natives, have been in business for 19 years. They are members and ministers of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa.

Suzie and Ernie have a BA in business and a Masters in Health Management. They both have extensive background and training in federal and state regulations, and have served on many state and national boards and committees representing Home Health.

"Our nurses are board certified in home health, pediatrics and wound care," Suzie said.

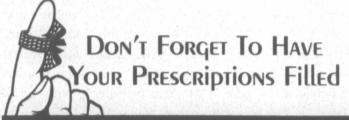
The agency currently employs 75 skilled workers including licensed RNs and LVNs, a Licensed Physical Therapist, a Physical Therapy Assistant, and a number of Texas Certified Home Health Aides.

Michael Kirkpatrick acts as administrator and director of nursing. Teresa Henson is office operations manager. Both have been with Shepard's Crook since its inception.

Shepard's Crook currently serves all counties in the Texas Panhandle and has offices in Pampa, Amarillo, Borger, Clarendon and Shamrock.

Dedicated to meeting the needs of their individual clients, the Wilkinsons believe a successful business should give back to the community.

Don't trust your in-home health care to just any agency. Give Shepard's Crook a try. The number for the Pampa office is 806-665-0356.



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Hurting in New York" (Jan. 17), I ran to my computer. Unless she breaks off her relationship with "Pan," you'll be hearing from her again in about 10 years. I married a Greek man whose family never accepted me. Being young and naive, I tried everything to fit in, converting from Catholicism to the Greek Orthodox faith, attending all family functions, including them in our lives. It was never enough. My husband and I traveled to Crete with his family to visit his relatives there, and some extended family members refused to share the dinner table with me because I was not Greek. One of those family members was a priest! Our daughter, "Athena," was born four years later. What broke the camel's back for me was a Christmas dinner when she was 6. My father-in-law gave cards with \$100 to all the grandchildren of Greek heritage. Athena received nothing and cried for hours wanting to know why her grandfather didn't love her. My husband just tried to stay neutral. Please tell "Hurting" that Pan's actions speak louder than words. If at 35 he is celebrating holidays without her and hiding her from his family, it won't stop. She will never be accepted into the family, nor will any children they have together. She'll be better off without him. - IRISH AGAIN IN NEW **HAMPSHIRE**

DEAR IRISH AGAIN: I hope "Hurting" will take your (and my) advice to heart. And thank you for sharing your experience, which I am sure was painful. However, the kind of cliquishness you have described can happen in any group that tends to be "clannish," as my readers pointed out. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You were right on the money with your advice to "move on." I was married to a "Brit" for more than a decade, and experienced the same treat

ment from my former in-laws that she is facing. I thought things would improve after our wedding, then once we had been married "awhile," etc. Needless to say, it never improved. Literally until the day I left, I was treated like an outsider, and my husband never once took a stance to protect me or even acknowledge the problem. I know many other couples of differing nationalities, and I know this is the exception, not the rule. But I sure hope she takes your good advice, because she'll have years of disappointment and heartbreak ahead if she doesn't. -- BEEN THERE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: I met my Armenian-American husband when I was 22 and he was 32. I thought, "What a nice guy; why isn't he married?" I soon found out why. He had very strong ties to his parents and siblings. They did not take to me at all. I have been snubbed and insulted repeatedly. I married him anyway, and it was been 25 long years. He is still tied to "Mommy," and it's sickening. My advice to "Hurting" is to run and keep on running. Don't marry someone because you pity him. I did, and my compassion has gotten me nothing but verbal abuse from my husband and stoniness from his family. - STILL HERE, WISH I WASN'T

DEAR ABBY: I'm a Greek woman, and your advice about "Pan" was right on. Pan is hiding her because she's not good enough for his family and never will be because she's not Greek. Shallow? Perhaps, but it's normal behavior for a traditional Greek family. My mother was three-fourths Greek and was treated horribly her entire married life by my father's family. The movie "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" was not a romantic comedy; it was a documentary! Pan's family will always come first. - KNOWS ONLY TOO WELL IN CALIFORNIA

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

| CROSSWORD | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| By THOMAS JOSEPH | | |
| ACROSS | | 40 Comic |
| 1 | Some | Kovacs |
| | carpets | 41 Washer |
| 6 | Wise | cycle |
| | ones | 42 Goblet |
| 11 | Apartment | parts |
| | sian | 43 Rocker |

43 Rocker 12 Role Bob getter DOWN perhaps 1 Pricey

13 "Wuther-2 "Iliad" Heights author writer 3 Similar 15 "It's a 4 Hair mouse! holder 16 Saloon 5 Thwarts vessel 6 Beetle's 17 Flock boss female 7 Before 18 Exact now 20 General 8 Bible start address 9 Become twisted

21 Spanish king 22 Fan publication 23 Trick 26 Watered the garden 27 Banded stone 28 Old auto 29 Buddy 30 Chef's

specialty 34 Greedy desire 35 Politico Landon 36 Swindle 37 "Silas Marner'

writer



10 Took the 28 Occupy wheel 14 Hard at throne 30 Hamster work 19 Turning homes point 31 Cake 22 Menacover geries 32 Gallows 23 Tributes sight 24 Ready for 33 Door action 25 Twister 38 Crater 26 Young feature

cows 39 Untruth **NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!** Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-647

Marmaduke



"I said, 'Say AH'." The Family Circus THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

By the time I got them dressed to go out, the snow had melted."

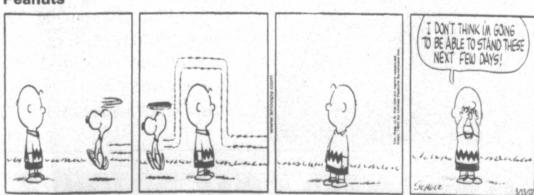
B.C.



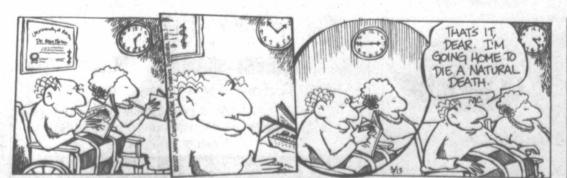
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



cent of black eighth-

graders scored below basic; 49 percent at or above basic; of these, Continued from Page 4 only 11 percent scored proficient. For black fourth-graders, the scores were 34, 66 and 13 percent,

respectively. In 2002 in reading, 38 percent of black eighth-

graders scored below basic, with 62 percent at or above basic and 15 percent scoring proficient. For fourth-graders, the scores were 53, 47 and 15 percent,

respectively.

Below basic is the category the NAEP uses for students unable to display even partial mastery of knowledge and skills fundamental for proficient work at their grade level. Given this extreme academic incompetence, one shouldn't be surprised by the 2002 Virginia State Education Profile showing that the median combined SAT score for black students is a disgraceful 848 out of 1600, 210 points below the white median, and the white median is nothing to write home about.

The next time the Virginia General Assembly gets into an apologetic mood and wants to pass another resolution aimed at its black citizens, here are my suggestions: The Commonwealth of Virginia apologizes to its black citizens for not protecting them from criminals who prey upon them and make their lives a daily nightmare. The Commonwealth also apologizes for our government-sanctioned school system that delivers fraudulent education, thereby consigning many of its black citizens to the bottom rungs of the economic ladder.

-Dr. Williams serves on the faculty of George Mason University as John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics.

Trucks

Continued from Page 4

gators review only about 1 percent of U.S. interstate motor carrier companies annually. About 5,000 Americans a year die in

accidents involving commercial vehicles, which account for 4 percent of this country's registered vehicles, 8 percent of the miles traveled and 12 percent of

highway fatalities.

While taking no stand on the issue of opening the border to Mexican trucks, the National Transportation Safety Board takes a strong interest in the safety of domestic trucks. Board member Debbie Hersman pointed out that the first item on its Most Wanted List of Safety Improvements is a 1999 recommendation to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Its primary mission is to prevent commercial motor vehiclerelated fatalities and injuries and to downgrade the ratings of companies that operate unsafe vehicles or employ dangerous drivers. The recommendation is classified "open-unacceptable" because of lack of action by the safety administration.

Said Hersman, "We continue to investigate fatal accidents involving companies that operate on the margins of safety, like the recent tragedy in Wilmer" the scene of the bus fire that claimed the lives of 23 Bellaire nursing home residents as they fled Hurricane Rita. The brakes of the bus were judged defective and the bus company had a federal driver safety rating of 97, worse than all but 3 percent of the companies operating.

All things being equal, Houston and Texas should welcome this cooperative trucking policy that promotes free trade. But with such abysmal figures both for companies and the federal agencies charged with regulating them, it would seem prudent to put the brakes on any expansion of truck traffic until the safety of this nation's domestic truck fleet shows a marked improvement.

Events calendar

Cultural Interchange, a foreign exchange service, is currently seeking host families for exchange students. Host families are required to provide a room and two meals a day to the guest student. For more information, call 1-800-605-2341.

 Pampa Book Club will has scheduled to dis-"Widow in the South" by Robert Hicks, Wednesday; "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger, April 11; and "The Last Promise" by Richard Evans, May 9. The group meets at 10 a.m. in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library.

Carson County

Square House Museum in Panhandle will host a reception between 2:30-4 p.m. Ssunday for artists Georgetta Tempel and Mary Lynn Pruett. Deborah Summers, author of "The Canadian River: A Visual Journey," will also be on hand to sign copies of her book. An exhibit with Tempel

· The Center for and Pruett is currently on display in the museum's Hazlewood Gallery. The reception was initially scheduled in January but was canceled due to inclement weather. For more information, call (806) 537-3524.

 Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live On Stage" has released its current cuss the following books: concert schedule. The next scheduled show will be with Bronn and Katherine Journey, harpist and vocalist, at 7:30 p.m., Monday at 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.

· S.T.A.R. will sponsor "Make Parenting Pleasure" parent training for parents of children 6 and under on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m.March 19-May 21 at 1500 S. Taylor in Amarillo. For more information or to register for the free training, call (806) 359-2005.

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Il animals need three things to survive:

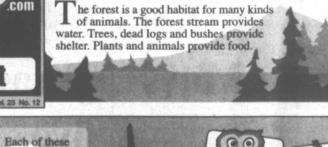
food, water and shelter. Animals live

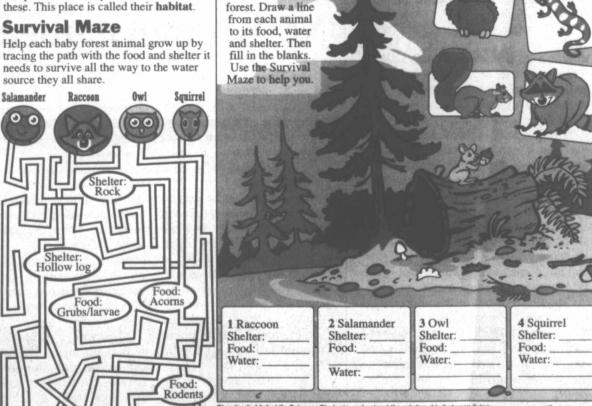
in a place where they can find all three of

A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People CELEBRATE THE HABITATS OF OUR PLANET THE KILL SCOON PUZZIET

The Forest Habitat

The forest is a good habitat for many kinds of animals. The forest stream provides water. Trees, dead logs and bushes provide shelter. Plants and animals provide food.





animals lives in the

forest. Draw a line

andarde Link: Life Science: Students understand the relationship beings and their physical environment. Extra! Extra! **Classified Habitats** Write a classified ad for a habitat for a squirrel or other forest animal. Read the Homes for Sale Water in the Classified Ad section of the ewspaper for ideas. Make a survival puzzle for an animal you like. Use the Be sure to use Hole in tree frog survival puzzle above as an example. bbreviations where possible. Shelter Waterside Living Charming rock w/ stream view. Pebble walkway, lrg ferns in yard.

nce: Students understand that all living things need food, water and habit

then, the number of squirrels he has spotted has doubled. In which week and on what day of the week will Sam spot more than 1,000 squirrels? WED THU FRI SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI Stumped? Solution: www.kidscoop.com/kids/index.html **Word Search** nouble Find the words in the puzzle, **SALAMANDER** then in this week's Kid Scoop **FOREST** stories and activities. **SURVIVAL**

Squirrel Spotting

he spotted 3 squirrels. Each day since

SSVSAPATHM **SQUIRRELS** QELOHCSRKA **SHELTER** UIWAVEOWLE LARVAE RODENT ICRGRDLRGR **ACORNS** RNQOEVQTNT **AGENCIES** REFNCOARES **STREAM** EGTNSKEEWR ROCK LAVIVRUSQK OWL PATH SALAMANDER WEEK HOLE Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identica words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

ww.kidscoop.com

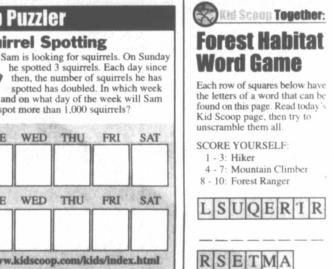
Water Journal

Collect articles about creeks, rivers and all kinds of water. Make a chart listing the names, agencies and places that appear in the articles. Which names appear again and again? Why are these individuals or groups concerned about water?

Standards Link: Earth Science: Know how available resources affect

Dream Habitat

Your habitat is the kind of environment you need to survive. What would be your ideal habitat? Be creative!



HUBSSE

AIBTHTA

RATEW

RUVSEIV

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HSCRFAYI

tandards Link: Spelling: Spell grade le

id Scoop VOCABULARY

BUILDERS This week's word: **FOREST**

The noun forest means a large area of land supporting many trees and the nts and animals that live

alongside the trees. Smokey Bear says, "Only ou can prevent forest fires.

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

Sports Day

Jody Conradt resigning as Texas coach

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas women's basketball coach Jody Conradt resigned Monday after her team failed to reach the NCAA tournament for the second straight

The 65-year-old Conradt is the second on the Division I college basketball victory list, behind only Tennessee women's coach Pat

Summit.

"The easiest thing to change is the leadership," Conradt said as she addressed the media with her team immediately after the NCAA tournament selections were announced and her team was not among those in the field for the second year in a

Conradt had the nation's top

recruiting class this season, but injuries, inexperience and immaturity hurt the Longhorns. Texas (18-14) entered the Big 12 tournament having lost six of its last seven conference games. The Longhorns won their first tournament game but then lost to No. 9 Oklahoma on Wednesday.

is not acceptable," she said.

Conradt fought back tears several times during the emotional news conference. Her players stood off to the side, many of them sobbing and hugging.

"What she's done for the game is so important. She's a legend, a pioneer," player Tiffany Jackson said. "It's a winning business. Losing "I don't think anyone saw it com-

Brittainey Raven said Conradt told the team before the NCAA selections were announced. "I wasn't expecting that at all. Everybody's faces just dropped," Raven said.

Conradt said she started thinking about retiring earlier in the season.

4-H shooting sports workshop set in Lubbock

Cooperative Extension will offer a regional workshop for 4-H shooting sports leaders and coaches April 27-28 at the National Guard Armory at 301 East Regis St. in Lubbock.

The workshop will cover archery, pistol, rifle, reloading, shotgun, black powder and coordinators training. It is designed to help leaders and volunteers coordinate a local shooting sports club.

address teaching and coaching techniques, the fundamentals of safety and firearms nomenclature, and strategies for success in youth program leadership," said Dr. Brad Davis, Extension 4-H youth specialist based at Lubbock.

"We will also offer hand loading and reloading classes if there is sufficient interest," he said. "Reloading classes will require a minimum of five participants, but we would prefer at least 10. We use hands-on instruction in all sessions to teach marksmanship in each disci-

Volunteers who complete this training and demonstrate

 Texas experience with a local club can qualify as state 4-H shooting sports instructors and coordinators, he said. Those who complete the archery training can qualify National Archery Development Association instructor certification.

The registration deadline is April 6. Registration forms are available at county Extension offices, the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Web i "Our instructors will (http://shootingsports.tamu.e du) or by calling Davis at

806-746-6101.

"This is an excellent opportunity for volunteers to get started in 4-H shooting sports, which emphasize shooting, hunting and marksmanship skills," Davis said. "4-H'ers in shooting sports can compete in county, regional, state and national competitions. Some even advance to Olympic compe-

4-H is open to all youths at least 8 years old and in the third grade, up to age 18. More than 300,000 youngsters nationwide participate in 4-H shooting sports each year, Davis said.

No doubt who No. 1 seeds were

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Sports Writer

There was little mystery who the top

seeds in the women's NCAA tournament were going to be.

Duke, Tennessee, North Carolina and Connecticut were four of the top teams all season and were selected as No. 1 seeds Monday night.

Travel won't be a problem for Duke. The Blue Devils, who went 29-0 in the regular season and then lost to N.C. State in the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament semifinals, play Sunday against No. 16 Holy Cross in Raleigh. With a regional in Greensboro, Duke would stay in North Carolina until the Final Four in Cleveland.

"We're really excited. We're playing all year long, hoping to get a chance to stay in Raleigh, and stay in Greensboro which is about an hour

and 15 minutes down the road," Duke coach Gail Goestenkors said. "I think it's a huge advantage. When you're in the tournament you want to be as comfortable as possible because there's so much excitement and pressure."

Duke, ranked atop the AP poll for the final nine weeks, hopes for better results than the last time the Blue Devils finished No. 1 — the 2003-04 final poll. They lost to Minnesota in the regional finals that season.

Rival North Carolina, which won the ACC conference tournament, earned a No. 1 seed for the third straight season and will open Sunday against Prairie View. The Tar Heels are the top seed in the Dallas region.

"We expected to be (a No. 1). We're excited to be playing," North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "We got a good draw, a whole lot better than last one Final Four spot.

"Hopefully we can keep our momentum going from winning the ACC tournament.'

Tennessee most definitely has the toughest draw in the Dayton regional.

The defending champion Maryland Terrapins are No. 2 in Dayton, while Big 12 champ Oklahoma is No. 3 and Big 10 power Ohio State is the fourth seed.

"This region is very, very stacked, but am I surprised? Absolutely not," Tennessee coach Pat Summitt said. "I'd have been surprised if it hadn't been. There's a lot of great teams obviously in our bracket, and yet there's no easy bracket in women's basketball these days.'

Now those four teams, all national title contenders, are competing for that

Gagne faces hitters for first time, Maddux misses start

By The Associated Press

Never mind the results. All Eric Gagne cared about was how he felt on the mound.

The oft-injured reliever faced hitters for the first time this year when he threw 11 pitches for the Texas Rangers in a "B" game Monday against Milwaukee minor leaguers.

After pitching in a nearly empty stadium in Phoenix, the former Los Angeles Dodgers closer said he felt no pain — and that was the most important thing.

"It's just good to be out

there, be free and not have to worry about anything but making your pitches. It's been a while since I felt that way," Gagne said. "It's the best I've felt in two years. It's pretty positive."

The 2003 NL Cy Young Award winner has had three operations (two elbow, one back) since his 2002-04 stretch with the Dodgers, when he converted a record 84 straight save chances. The right-hander was limited to 15 1-3 innings the last two seasons.

Gagne pitched to three Brewers minor leaguers, throwing five strikes and six balls with his fastball in the range of 88-91 mph. There were two groundouts before a four-pitch walk on which Gagne was trying to get his curveball over the plate.

He described himself as "totally out of whack" with his mechanics and said it felt weird throwing to batters again.

"A lot of stuff wasn't right, but overall I felt make it to the mound. He good," Gagne said. "Right now, it's pretty much my health I'm worried about. I'm not worried about the results. ... The arm felt good, the elbow felt good and the back felt good. I'm petty

excited, pretty encouraged." Gagne said it was the first time since late in the 2004

season that he pitched in a game without pain. He didn't even feel stiff afterward. He will pitch again Thursday or Friday, likely in a minor league game, and hopes to complete a full

Greg Maddux didn't even was scratched from his scheduled start for San Diego against the Chicago White Sox in Tucson, Ariz., because of a a mild lower abdominal strain.

Suns defeat Houston, close in on Mavs

blur" keeps making his case for the NBA's sixth man of the year award. He'll get no argument from the Houston Rockets.

Leandro Barbosa matched his career best with his second 32-point performance in three games and the Phoenix Suns improved to 10-1 since the All-Star break with a 103-82 rout of Houston on Monday night. "I've never seen anybody as fast as

this kid," the Rockets' Tracy McGrady said. "He's unbelievable. He's really Speedy Gonzalez out there. He's playing out of his mind right now."

Shawn Marion had 14 points, 15 rebounds, three blocked shots and two steals for the Suns, who beat Houston for the sixth time in a row, third this season

With Dallas losing at Golden State on Monday, Phoenix is 3 1/2 games behind the Mavericks for best record in the NBA. The Suns, who completed a 5-0 homestand, play at Dallas on Wednesday night.

Phoenix had been winning ugly, but not in this one, taking control early, then turning the game into a blowout in the fourth quarter. Boris Diaw added 15 points for the Suns, who had six players in double figures.

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni wasn't

PHOENIX (AP) — The "Brazilian around to see the end of his 200th NBA career victory. He drew two quick technicals from referee Ron Olesiak with 5:28 left in the third quarter for his first ejection in two seasons.

> "We were friends at halftime," D'Antoni joked. "I don't know what happened. The relationship just went downhill in the second half. I just said a couple of things I shouldn't have said. He should have tossed me. It happens. We're all kids out there.'

McGrady, defended by Marion most of the night, scored 19 on just 8-for-28

"I was trying to be in his face as much as possible," Marion said, "contest every shot he got and try not to give him any easy baskets, and I did a good job of that.'

Yao Ming, who scored 37 in a home victory over Orlando on Sunday, had his usual difficult night against the Suns' fast-paced style. The big center scored 10 points but made only 1-of-9 shots in 30 frustrating minutes.

In a 2-minute, 37-second stretch of the fourth quarter, Yao had consecutive shots blocked by Kurt Thomas, was called for a three-second violation twice and was whistled for two offensive fouls. He dejectedly went to the bench for good with 7 minutes to play. "They made it very hard on Yao,"

Houston coach Jeff Van Gundy said.

The Suns, McGrady said, are not a team to play on the second night of consecutive games.

"It's tough, man, especially when you've got to play a team as fast as they are on a back-to-back," he said. "You've got to be fresh mentally and physically strong to face them."

Barbosa made 12-of-18 shots and missed his last two.

"I'm just having fun and trying to do the best I can every time, trying to make plays," he said. "I learned a lot of things from (Steve) Nash, and the coaches have a lot of confidence in me. I think that's a big key for me."

Juwan Howard made all seven of his shots and finished with 14 points for

The Suns were impressed with D'Antoni's emotional exit.

"He stomped out of there like a raging animal," Marion said.

Amare Stoudemire, who has 14 technicals this season, laughed when reminded that D'Antoni had talked to him about controlling himself on the

"Hey, sometimes it's the heat of the moment," Stoudemire said. "I'm pretty sure he understands my pain now. He was hot."

Texas A&M among five state teams in NCAA tournament

By The Associated **Press**

Texas A&M will face an in-state foe in California to begin the NCAA tournament — with a chance to play close to home if the Aggies keep winning.

The Aggies, who shared the Big 12 regular season title, earned an at-large NCAA berth Monday night and were awarded a No. 4 seed in the Dallas Regional. A&M (24-6) plays its firstround game Saturday in Los Angeles against Southland Conference tournament champion Texas-Arlington (24-8).

Five Texas teams made the 64-team NCAA tournament. Baylor (25-7) and TCU (21-10) earned at-large berths in different regionals. Baylor is in the Fresno Regional and TCU is in the

Dayton regional. Prairie View (19-13) earned an automatic bid to represent the Southwestern Athletic Conference in the Dallas Regional.

Texas (18-14) missed out for the second straight year, the first time the Longhorns failed in consecutive seasons to get in. After the pairings were announced, Texas coach Jody Conradt, second on the Division I college basketball victory list with 900, announced her resigna-

Meanwhile, Texas A&M is playing in the NCAA for the second straight year after breaking a 10-year drought last year under coach Gary Blair. The Aggies' 24 victories were one more than last year, when they had won their most games since 1994.

Dallas Mavericks' 17-game winning streak ends at Golden State

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) The Dallas Mavericks' 17-game winning streak ended with a thud.

Make that a series of thuds, from every one of their missed shots and turnovers.

Dirk Nowitzki even got embarrassed enough to draw a technical foul while sitting on the bench — yet when his head finally cooled, he realized the Mays can draw motivation and maturity from this loss.

After all, it's only their third in three months.

Mickael Pietrus scored 20 points as the Warriors emphatically snapped the seventh-longest streak in NBA history, dominating the league leaders throughout a 117-100 victory Monday night.

For at least one night, the Warriors were far better than the NBA's best team. The blowout win was a stunner for both Golden State and the Mavericks (52-10), who hadn't lost since Jan. 25 at

Chicago. "They came out swinging, and we were never ready for the attack," said Nowitzki, who scored just 13 points on 3-of-11 shooting, made

seven turnovers. "We were backpedaling all game long. We were just never really ready to play. That's something we've got to learn from if we want to do anything this year in the postseason."

Dallas beat the Los Angeles Lakers by 36 points Sunday night to improve to 38-2 since Dec. 11, but that team never showed up in Oakland. The Mavs floun-

dered offensively and played awful defense against the Warriors' up-tempo offense, falling behind by 17 in the first half and 29 in the third quarter.

Jason Terry scored 16 points, but the defending Western Conference champions never were competitive in their fourth straight loss to the Warriors. Nowitzki was furious when he left the

game, but had a little perspective afterward.

The Mavericks are the first club in NBA history with three winning streaks of 12 games or longer in the same season, but they'll have to start another one Wednesday night in a showdown with Phoenix, which also won 17 straight earlier this year.

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The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll 4-Positive; 5-Dynamic; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) *** Take a deep breath and a moment to think before you accept an invitation or new responsibility. Excess marks your life and actions. Think positively, yet fully understand your limits. You might be surprised at the outcome. Tonight: Find your pals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Reach out for others. Listen to what you are hearing around you. Follow through on a hunch to back it up with hard facts. You might want to find an expert or two on your way. What is sure is that you are breaking into a brave, new world. Tonight: Break a pattern.

**** Working with one person has clear advantages. Step forward and make

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

what you want happen. Consider options that others present. If you are willing to veer and walk the untraditional path, you will like the end results. Tonight: Dance away to a new idea provided by your imagination. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Touch base with many others and examine what might be a recurring theme. Perhaps you might not see it. Try, because understanding a trend could help you deal with events. An intimate talk opens doors. Tonight: Let another's seduction get results, as long as the request is reasonable!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Get the job done quickly and efficiently, because you might be a little taken aback by the sudden flow of activity. Yes, you will want to join in. Listen to your instincts. You will fare very well. Trust. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ Use that innate resourcefulness that Virgo is known for. You, as a sign, reflect not only the fertility of crops but of the mind, if you so choose. Emphasize productivity and getting the job done. Remain confident. Tonight: Chill.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Coming from a basic, fundamental spot helps you discern what is viable in different situations. Review a matter with an eye to solutions. A brainstorming situation draws multiple results. Let your energy flourish. Tonight: Ever playful. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

**** Examine what you can do as

opposed to what is not possible. Be real-

istic and don't get your ego involved.

You might be quite challenged to see life

from a different perspective. Enjoy the

moment, especially in a fun, verbal

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Use a strong hand when dealing with your finances. You can and will say "no" if you need to. Know that you sim-

ply need to accept circumstances as they are. Go with the flow as the day gets later. Don't fight ringing phones. Talk! Tonight: Say what you need. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Use the morning and early hours to maximize a goal and long-term decision. You could discover your interfer-

ence functions like magic for many. You

are getting somewhere fast. Stay on

course. Tonight: How about treating yourself? AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ** Take your time until you feel the moment is right, and it will be if you give it time. As dusk appears, you are in full bloom ready to handle it all. Let everything happen as it should. Show greater

trust. Tonight: The world is your oyster. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Remember to use your energy well. Deal with the public in the early hours. Hold up a mirror and examine your motives in the later hours. This process will help you make solid deci-

sions. Tonight: Take some personal time.

BORN TODAY Genius, physicist Albert Einstein (1879), cartoonist Hank Ketcham (1920), comedian Billy Crystal (1947)

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10am-4pm.) or fax resume to 806-665-4376. exchange. Tonight: Say what you think.



Counselor. BS required in education, business, com nunications, public relations, or a closely related field. Master's degree a plus. For applications: 'http://www.clarendoncollege.edu" "Employment Opportunities." Mail application & transcripts to Box 968, Clarendon, TX Asst to the Preside 79226. Clarendon College is an equal opportunity employer

rent. 669-6841. AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

CREE FMWQ

FO CFL XSREUG MDDLYURTN

OWOYA JMT'G MUWRDQ

FLSGQ. - UMTRGF ZYLWQYX Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE TWO TIMES IN A MAN'S LIFE WHEN HE SHOULD NOT SPECULATE: WHEN HE CAN'T AFFORD IT AND WHEN HE CAN. — MARK TWAIN

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Sweetheart of the month



Kyle Parnell pinned Whitney Morris as the Lions Club April Sweetheart of the Month recently.

Calderon sends Bush tough message

MERIDA, Mexico (AP) Mexican President Felipe Calderon has a tough mes- a case of too little, too late. sage for President Bush: The United States must do more "much more" — to solve thorny issues of drug-trafficking and immigration.

When he first became president, Bush promised that Latin American would vault to the top of his agenda. But after the Sept. 11. 2001. attacks. the administration's focus was riveted on South Asia and the Middle East. That left many Mexicans feeling neglected ...

At the last stop on his Latin American tour, Bush must convince Calderon today that he's committed to soothing strained U.S.-Mexico relations, which only got worse when Bush signed a law calling for construction of more than 700 miles of new fencing along the long border the two countries share.

Many Latin Americans see the fence as evidence that America is ripping up its welcome mat.

The welcome mat here for Bush's talks with Mexico's newly elected leader is muddied with anti-American sentiment, particularly over the war in Iraq.

Security is extremely tight in Merida, a city on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Schools are closed. The area around the hotels where Bush and Calderon are staying is guarded by police and surrounded by metal barriers. Before Bush's arrival Monday evening, about 200 people marched through the streets, carrying Mexican flags and chanting "Bush is a murderer and he's not wel-

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by their northern neighbor, and some view Bush's trip as

Bush and Calderon's two days of talks are meant to better the U.S.-Mexico relationship, not yield dramatic announcements. The two have some things in common. Both went to Harvard

University. Both are conservative and pro-business. Each wants to stem illegal immigration. Yet Calderon has a more wonkish and less charismatic personality than his predecessor Vincente Fox, who like Bush, owned a ranch.



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Stardust now just a memory

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Stardust is years. now just a memory.

The casino-hotel on the Las Vegas Strip was imploded early today in a hail of fireworks to make way for Boyd Gaming Corp.'s \$4.4 billion megaresort Echelon.

Hundreds of people partied beneath tents and on makeshift patios before Boyd chairman Bill Boyd's four grandsons pushed a plunger to detonate the building. The blast generated a massive dust cloud that chased the revelers into cars, buses and nearby casinos.

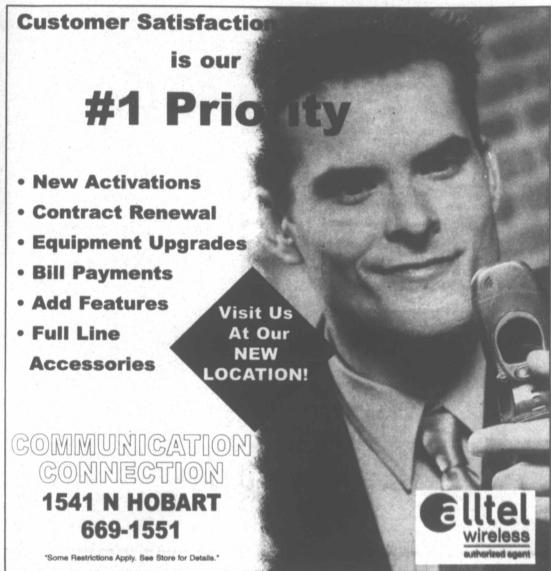
"It hurts. We cried," said Sheila Navarro, 51, a school supplies buyer from Oxnard, Calif., who took shelter in the nearby Frontier casino-hotel. She came with three sisters, her mother, an aunt and a brother-in-law to say farewell to the casino she's gambled at for more than 30

"It's very hard for me to find another casino to go to," she said. "Maybe in two years, three years, I'll have different feelings, but right now, my heart is broken."

The casino opened July 2, 1958, billing itself as the world's largest resort hotel with 1,032 rooms. It was credited with being Las Vegas' first mass-market casino, thanks to cheap rates and loss-leading food and drinks.

Bob Boughner, Echelon Resorts' chief executive, said while the Stardust was a favorite of the nostalgia crowd, it was missing out on younger patrons and those who come to Las Vegas for conventions.

For many, the Stardust represented the most accessible place to stay in a city that gives VIP treatment to the biggest gam-





Wednesday, March 21, 2007 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

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