

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 81  
LOW 57

See expanded weather on Page 2

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# THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, October 1, 2007

Volume 103 • No. 154

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## Chisum to announce homebuyer initiative

Pampa State Rep. Warren Chisum was in Amarillo today to announce a \$160 million homebuyer initiative.

Rep. Chisum and Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs Executive Director Michael Gerber were to announce the release of \$160 million for 30-year fixed rate low-interest rate mortgage loans for first-time homebuyers.

The program requirements will be waived for qualifying Texas veterans. The program will provide down payments and closing cost assistance for income eligible homebuyers.

The announcement was to be made this afternoon at the Amarillo Association of Realtors, 5601 Enterprise Circle, in Amarillo.

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs is the state's lead agency responsible for affordable housing, community and energy assistance programs, and colonia activities.

The department annually administers more than \$400 million through for-profit, non-profit, and local government partnerships to deliver local housing and community-based opportunities and assistance to Texans in need.

## Riding high



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Molly, Maggie and Big Bear, owned by Danny and Angie Degner of Pampa, enjoy a ride with Danny along Pampa streets. The trio goes everywhere with Danny, he said. Molly and Maggie are a mix of basset hound and German shepherd, while Big Bear is of unknown ancestry.

## Meetings Tuesday Pampa school board

BY KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Board members will consider and possibly approve heating and air conditioning for the temporary library, a site work package and a scope of work reductions for Pampa High School at a special board meeting to be held for Pampa Independent School District at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Pampa Junior High School Library, 2401

Charles. Also on the agenda is the possible approval of trade bids, discussion of construction issues within PISD and a report from architects and builders regarding the current status of PHS and PJHS projects.

A meeting between the board and parents will be held to discuss possible

See MEETINGS, Page 3

## Library offers online services

BY KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Lovett Memorial Library not only has a wide variety of books, periodicals, audiovisual and reference materials, but they also offer online services for students and teachers such as live homework help for children in grades 4-12, more than 300 online practice tests for all ages, animated talking picture books and games for young children and more than 61 databases that can be used either from home or the library.

Homework Help is in its second year and last year it helped hundreds of students when

parents were not available or could not help with the subjects. This is available to students who have a library card and they are able to access real tutors online from home or the library from 1 to 11 p.m. each day in the subjects of math, science, English and social studies in both English and Spanish.

The students log on and select the subject and grade level and are connected with a certified tutor who is available for a live chat. Typically the tutors are teachers or grad students. The tutors will not give the answers to

See LIBRARY, Page 3

## Woman finds peace, comfort in woodworking



Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

Sharon Virden carves a wooden star in her home workshop.

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

Sharon Virden works at the Gray County Court House, but it's the small woodworking shop in her backyard where she finds peace and comfort.

"I was born Nov. 2, 1944, in the old Pampa Hospital," Virden said. "Over behind the library. It's not there anymore. I go way back."

She's lived most of her life here in Pampa, except for the 13 years that she lived in Houston.

She married after graduating from Pampa High in 1963 where she had been in the high school band. She played a baritone saxophone.

"It was a big honker," Virden said.

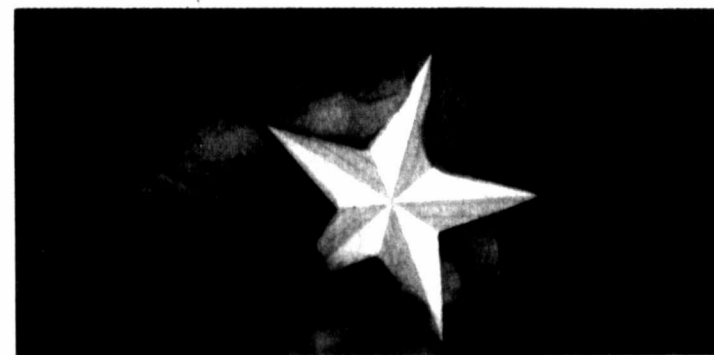
She and her husband moved to Houston where he got a computer job with an oil company in Houston. They had two boys and when the boys were still in their pre-teens, the couple decided they wanted to come back to Pampa.

"We decided we wanted them to live the life we'd grown up with in a small town," Virden said. "Houston was kind of crazy. We never looked back."

She said moving back to Pampa was a good decision. "Now, I have four grandchildren," Virden said.

Virden said her interest in woodworking came from her father, Ira "Scatterbolts" Virden.

See WOOD, Page 3



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**Country Fair Tickets Are Now On Sale**  
Join Us October 20th For The 23rd Annual Pampa Chamber Of Commerce Country Fair  
Admission Tickets • \$25 (includes catered meal, silent & live auction, and dance starting at 9PM featuring "Straight Shooter") Bingo starts at 9PM. Tickets are available at Chamber, Firstbank Southwest, National Bank of Commerce, Bob Clements, Culbertson-Stowers, Wayne's Western Wear, Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union & Bank of America

NEXT DAY FORECAST

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

**Tuesday:** A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. South wind 10 to 20 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Northeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. East southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer

Wheat	8.44	XCEL	21.86	+0.32
Milo	5.95	Anadarko	53.85	+0.10
Corn	6.41	XOM	92.58	+0.02
Soybeans	8.48	Nat'l Oilwell	72.19	-0.06
		Limited	22.73	-0.16
		Williams	34.25	+0.19
		MCD	54.86	-0.39
		Atmos	28.56	+0.24
		Pioneer Nat	45.35	+0.37

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa

OXY	64.31	+0.23	Tenneco	30.50	-0.51
BP PLC ADR	69.18	-0.17	CVX	93.69	+0.11
Cabot Corp	35.99	+0.46	Wal Mart	43.89	+0.24
Celanese	39.00	+0.02	OKE	47.93	+0.53
Cabot Oil Gas	35.42	+0.26			
Coca Cola	57.77	+0.30	New York Gold	750.00	
VLO	66.84	-0.34	Silver	13.92	
HAL	38.23	-0.17	West Texas Crude	81.66	

Correction



Courtesy Photo  
**Dustin Whinery, left and Courtney Ward were recently elected mayor and vice mayor at Pampa Junior High School. Ward was misidentified in Sunday's Pampa News.**

CITY BRIEFS

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

**CALIFORNIA GIRLS** Hot Oil Wrestling, OCB, Oct. 1st, 7pm. Tickets avail. now!

**MARY ELLEN &** Harvester Clothing Room now in Church Building. Middle double doors on front of the church, watch for signs. Open Tues., Oct. 2, 9-1pm.

**NOW HIRING** for all positions. No phone calls please. Apply in person at the all new Dixie Cafe, 1pm-5pm.

**PORCH SWING** w/ pads \$75, 2 Adirondack chairs w/ foot stools \$150. 665-6781 or 665-2999.

Big porker picked up by animal control

Pampa animal control officers have a 250-300 pound pig in their possession. If anyone is missing a pig, they should call the shelter at 669-5775 to identify and claim their animal. If the pig is not claimed by the owner soon, a public auction will be scheduled to sell the animal.

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

**ENNIS, Stanley "Wayne" —** 2 p.m., Howardwick First Baptist Church, Howardwick.  
**PITTS, Harold Lloyd —** 10 a.m. First Baptist Church, Yantis, Texas.

Harold Lloyd Pitts, 83

YANTIS, Texas — Harold Lloyd Pitts, 83, died Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007, in Yantis. Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, in First Baptist Church of Yantis with the Rev. Shannon Hassell officiating. Burial will be in Holdenville, Okla., Cemetery by Beaty Funeral Home of Winnsboro, Texas. Mr. Pitts was born in Dardanelle, Ark., Sept. 25, 1924 to the late Lonnie H. and Bessie Scott Pityts. He was a retired supervisor for Celanese Chemical Co. in Pampa. He was a member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Yantis. He was married to Gloria Cantrell Pitts on Oct. 9, 1943, in Holdenville. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Gloria Cantrell Pitts on Aug. 7, 2002; a daughter, Janine Pitts in 1994; a son, Jon Pitts in 1995; a brother, Harlan Pitts; and an infant grandson, Donald Brandon Pitts. He is survived by his daughter, Gerec Thompson of Dallas. Memorials may be to First Baptist Church of Yantis building fund.

Emergency Services

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

**Friday, Sept. 28**  
 Five traffic stops were made. Accidents occurred at the intersection of Hobart and Alcock, the 400 block of North Ballard, two in the 1000 block of East Frederic, the intersection of Highways 60 and 70 and the 1400 block of North Williston. A stolen vehicle was reported in the 500 block of Carr. Suspicious vehicles were reported in the 500 block of North Roberta and the 1100 block of South Prairie. Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of North Jupiter, the 100 block of North Lindberg, the 1000 block of East Foster, the 900 block of Brunon, the 400 block of North Roberta, the 1100 block of Cinderella, the 800 block of South Hobart, the 1100 block of North Charles, the 2100 block of North Hamilton, the 100 block of North Sumner and the 1700 block of North Evergreen. Found property was reported in the 2300 block of North Fir. Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby. Burglary was reported in the 900 block of North Hobart. Suspicious persons were reported in the 1400 block of North Hamilton and the intersection of Gwendolen and Nelson. Fraud was reported in the police department lobby. Criminal mischief reports came in from the 1800 block of North Wells, the 2000 block of Duncan, the 1000 block of South Christy and the 1100 block of South Dwight. Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of East Craven. An assault was reported in the 300 block of South Tignor. Domestic disturbances were noted twice in the 300 block of South Tignor, the 1200 block of North Duncan, the 500 block of North Perry and the 300 block of South Canadian. 911 hang-up calls were noted from the 800 block of North Somerville and the 2400 block of North Cherokee. A welfare check was made in the 1900 block of North Sumner. A civil matter was reported at the intersection of Gwendolen and Zimmers.

North Gray and the 1900 block of North Coffee. Alarms were reported in the 1000 block of North Hobart and the 1000 block of North Christine. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1700 block of North Evergreen, the intersection of Browning and Naida, the 500 block of North Faulkner, the intersection of Lefors and Magnolia, the 300 block of Tignor, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 2300 block of North Primrose, the 800 block of East Francis, the 1100 block of Willow, the 500 block of North Davis, the 2100 block of North Wells, the 2200 block of Lea, the intersection of 25th and Perryton Parkway and the 1000 block of South Love. Disorderly conduct calls came in from the 300 block of North Davis, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 2600 block of Navajo, the 400 block of North Yeager and the 100 block of East Harvester. One suicide attempt was reported. A civil matter was reported in the 900 block of South Varnon.

was arrested by Pampa Police Department for speeding, driving 55 mph in a 40 mph zone, and failure to appear bail jumping. Christy Clancy, 28, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear bail jumping and unsafe backing. Andrew Alonso, 33, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for no valid Texas driver's license, no insurance and running a stop sign. Bernardo Recendis, 60, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for no driver's license, failure to provide proof of financial responsibility and impeding the flow or traffic. James Twigg, 29, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for capias pro fines for no valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and displaying expired registration. Dara Lynn Daniels, 42, of White Deer was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for capias pro fines for no insurance, speeding, expired registration and no valid driver's license.

Sunday, Sept. 30

Three traffic stops were made which resulted in one arrest. Traffic complaints were made from the 100 block of South Starkweather and the 1300 block of North Hobart. Disorderly conduct calls came in from the 700 block of East Scott, the 700 block of Deane, the 700 block of East Scott, the 800 block of East Scott, the 400 block of North Wells and the 2800 block of North Charles. Suspicious persons were reported in the 1000 block of South Varnon, the intersection of Starkweather and Foster, the 1900 block of North Banks and twice in the 500 block of North Starkweather where an arrest was made. A building check was made in the 1200 block of North Wells. A 911 hang-up call was received from the 1000 block of North Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 600 block of Malone. An assault occurred in the 100 block of West 30th. Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1900 block of North Duncan and the 2200 block of North Dogwood. Motorist assistance was provided in the 800 block of South Hobart. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of South Houston, the intersection of Craven and Starkweather, the 1300 block of North Russell, the 800 block of North Dwight, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill, the 700 block of East Frederic, the 2300 block of North Comanche, the intersection of Dogwood and 23rd, the 500 block of Lowry, the 100 block of North Nelson, the 100 block of South Naida, the 800 block of West Crawford and at One Medical Plaza. An alarm was reported in the 2300 block of Navajo. Criminal mischief occurred in the 100 block of South Nelson. An assault was reported in the police department lobby. Agency assistance was provided in the 900 block of North Nelson. A stolen vehicle was reported in the 600 block of North Faulkner. Theft was reported in the police department lobby.

**Monday, Oct. 1**  
 George Jackson, 38, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for violation of probation for theft more than \$50 and less than \$500.

Saturday, Sept. 29

12:20 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of Francis on a medical assist. 12:28 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 11000 block of West Highway 60 on a natural gas leak. 1:05 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 800 block of North Frost on a cooking fire. 4:55 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of 23rd and Crescent on a vehicle accident. 7:13 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1300 block of Hamilton on a natural gas leak. **Sunday, Sept. 30**  
 12:36 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 900 block of Malone on an arcing power line. **Monday, Oct. 1**  
 12:53 a.m. — Four units and nine personnel responded to the 700 block of Murphy on a structure fire.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Saturday, Sept. 29**  
 12:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Charles and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 12:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of East Francis and transported a patient to PRMC. 4:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the intersection of Crescent and 23rd and transported a patient to PRMC. 6:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported a patient to PRMC. 8:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Coronado Health Care and transported a patient to PRMC. **Sunday, Sept. 30**  
 5:46 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of North Hobart. No transport. **Monday, Oct. 1**  
 6:06 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to CHC and transported a patient to PRMC.

Man breaks world record for stone-skipping on water

FRANKLIN, Pa. (AP) — A Pennsylvania man cast a stone that skipped on water a whopping 51 times, shattering the old world record of 40. Russell "Rock Bottom" Byars' feat happened July 19, where the Allegheny River meets French Creek in Franklin, about 70 miles north of Pittsburgh. He estimated his stone traveled about 250 feet. Before declaring him a record-

holder, Guinness World Records experts analyzed film of Byars' toss, checking the concentric circles in the water by each skip. "I actually threw 40 stones that day, but that was the first skip that I

threw," Byars told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which confirmed the record with Guinness officials. The old record, set in 2002, was held by Kurt Steiner, 42, of Emporium.

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# Oilman Wyatt pleads guilty to paying Iraqis

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas oilman Oscar Wyatt Jr. pleaded guilty today to charges that he paid millions of dollars to Iraqi officials to illegally win contracts connected to the United Nations oil-for-food program.

Wyatt told the federal judge in Manhattan that he agreed in December 2001 to advise others to pay a surcharge into an Iraqi account in Jordan in violation of a program rule calling for no direct payments to Iraq.

"I didn't want to waste any more time at 83 years old fooling with this operation," Wyatt said outside court. "The quicker I get it over with the better."

The plea deal calls for Wyatt to be sentenced on Nov. 27 to 18 to 24 months in prison, unless the judge decides otherwise. He also has agreed to forfeit \$11 million.

The U.N. oil-for-food program, set up to finance Iraqi imports of necessities, became corrupted in 2000 when Iraqi officials began

demanding illegal surcharges in return for contracts to buy Iraqi oil. The program ran from 1996 to 2003.

During the trial, prosecutors demonstrated that Wyatt had such a close relationship with Iraq that he was able to meet personally with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in December 1990 to argue for the release of Americans being held as potential shields in the event of a U.S.-Iraq war.

Prosecutors played a tape for the jury of the conversation in which Hussein promised Wyatt that Americans would be released as Wyatt and former Texas Gov. John Connally spoke sympathetically about Iraq's plight.

The government insisted that Wyatt later took advantage of that relationship to secure the first contract under the oil-for-food program and to continue to receive oil deals after other American companies were shut off prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003.

## Bishop's visit



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Bishop Wallis Ohl from Lubbock was in town today to visit St. Matthew's Episcopal School and show the children what his clothing, which are called vestments, and hat, which is a miter, look like when worn. Back row from left are Pre-K teacher Suzanne Wagner, Ohl, Rev. Linda Kelly and Pre-K aide Sharn Langley. Middle row from left are Ky Parnell, Jake Thomas, Jack Hendricks, Jackson Thomas, Austen Irlbeck, Britt Summers, Kyler Cook and Kooper Smith. Front row from left are Karla Nanez, Madison Parks, Maciee Voss, Ruth Andrews and Emiley Porter.

# Duck hunter has surprise

FARMINGTON, Wis. (AP) — Ed Long thought he was shooting at a snapping turtle, but got a surprise when he pulled his trophy from the Milwaukee River: a 4-foot-long alligator.

Long had been in the river Saturday hunting for ducks.

"At first, I thought it was a turtle tail," he said. "The it turned and came back at me. I seen the eyes come out of the water, but my brain didn't click. This is Wisconsin. There's not supposed to beigators in Wisconsin."

When the reptile submerged, again, Long fired and stunned it. He called to his cousin, who prodded the 25-pound animal with a stick and then ran when it moved.

"We both thought nobody is going to believe us," Long said.

# Wood

Continued from Page 1

"He got that nickname out at Cabot when he was young," Virden said. "He retired from Cabot. He was a machinist all my life. He had big old machinist's hands and did the most gorgeous detail work making furniture. I always liked watching him."

She said her two sisters and her brother never seemed interested in woodworking.

"They didn't lean toward that like I did," Virden said.

She said because of her father's hobby, she's worked with wood on and off for the past 30 years.

Virden said, however, that the last 10 years, she's been working at it steadily.

"I've just got to have something to do with my hands," she said.

She has a small shop outside her home with a variety of power tools.

Virden said she started out making

birdhouses, and then made small windmills. Eventually, she turned to making boxing and using patterns that she had used quilting.

Virden also makes crosses, but she doesn't sell those. She gives them away. It's almost like a ministry, she said.

Last Christmas, Virden made a dollhouse and all the furniture for it.

She said she gets the wood from various places. The cedar comes from the lumberyard. The aspen are scraps she's gotten from friends in the Colorado mountains where she goes every summer.

"I have hardly any overhead," Virden said.

While she has sold some of her creations, a lot of them are just made for friends and family.

Her most public work is the State of Texas in the Gray County tag office. The one on the counter in the shape of the state and painted a bright red, white and blue with the Lone Star over the Panhandle is made of strips of wood held together with copper ties. She said she used leather strips to hold

the first one together.

"I used to sell those," she said.

Then she admitted that she was making so many of them, it was beginning to turn into work, so she officially retired those last summer. At that point it ceased to be fun.

"I made so many of them that two years ago I made two car payments," Virden laughed.

Now, she's trying to perfect inlaid tops to some of her boxes and tabletops.

Her woodworking, she said, is seasonal.

"In the spring and summer, I work in wood," Virden said. "In the fall and winter, I quilt."

The two play off of each other.

"I've incorporated a lot of my quilting patterns into my woodworking," Virden said. "They've turned out really good."

She doesn't lack for something to do with her hands.

"There's always a work in progress," Virden said. "I'm always doing something."

# Meetings

Continued from Page 1

action concerning dress code violations.

One other item board members will consider and possibly approve is a proposal to install cable TV services at PHS.

# PEDC

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

A proposed meeting with building contractors is on the agenda for the Pampa Economic Development Corp. Tuesday.

The EDC board will also discuss the purchase of a portable booth for job fairs and is expected to come up with a list of potential appointments to openings on the board.

The terms of four board members will expire at the end of the year. Kathy Cota, Dennis Stowers and Gary Sutherland all indicated that they would like to be reappointed, but Bill Berry said he would have to decline because of other commitments.

EDC Executive Director Dwight Fiveash said he would like to have a short list for the Pampa City Commission to select from.

Fiveash will also report on the status of EDC projects.

The board will also go into closed session to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate and economic development negotiations.

The board will meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Nona Payne Room of the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

# Library

Continued from Page 1

the questions, but will help the student work through the process so they can get the answer.

Learning Express is also available online and provides more than 300 online practice tests for all ages from grade school to adults. Math, reading and writing skills improvement tests are available for elementary, junior high and high school students. For adults, there are tests for corrections officer, firefighter and law enforcement, nursing, resume and interviewing success skills and many others. College entrance exams are also available.

TumbleBooks is available for young children, which offers animated talking picture books and games that teach

children the joys of reading in a format they can enjoy and understand. This site offers story books, tumble readables, puzzles and games, language learning and audio books. Works can be searched by title or author and the reading level of each book is given for parents.

Through TexShare Databases, students and adults can access 61 databases that provide a wide variety of information. Homework and education categories are broken down by grade levels so it is easier to decide which database to choose. Newspapers from around the globe can be searched and full-text articles found. Other categories include health and medical, business resources, books and literature and science and technology.

If you are just looking for a specific book to check out, you can search the online catalog for Lovett Library or surrounding libraries. For most of these services, all you need is a library

card and PIN number, which can be obtained free at the library.

Children age 15 and younger need a parent or guardian to accompany them when getting a library card. Children 16 and older can get a card by themselves as long as they have a picture ID with their current address printed on it. Adults need something with their name and current address printed on it like a driver's license, checkbook or bill.

Anyone can use the computers at the library to access the Internet, but teenagers age 16-18 must have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston St., is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m. For more information about any of the services listed or general information about the library, call 669-5780.

**SCHEDULE A RETIREMENT REVIEW**

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# Viewpoints

## Cow chips provided pioneers with much needed fuel in winter

When the meteorologists start forecasting the first real fall norther, sellers of corded firewood appear on the roadsides to cash in on city-dwelling homeowners either without hardwood trees to cut or chainsaws to cut them with.

Someone has always made a little money selling firewood in Texas. If you are handy with a saw and have a lot of trees on your property, harvesting oak on a commercial basis makes perfect sense. And with increasing urbanization, the enterprise has grown in popularity.

For much of Texas' history, though, getting firewood posed no particular problem — at least across the right half of the state. Campers could find plenty of wood along creek and river banks or under the oak motts that dotted the prairie before juniper and mesquite proliferated.

On the High Plains, where trees were scarcer than sinners at a

revival, finding fire fuel took more effort. While folks traveling in a wagon might haul an emergency supply of split wood, travelers, scouts, and cowboys soon realized that a ready source of fuel surrounded them — buffalo chips.

Before commercial hunters killed them off, hundreds of thousands of buffalo grazed the native grasses covering the seemingly endless Panhandle landscape. After getting the nutrition their huge bodies needed from the grass they ate, the bison disposed of the end product in plenitude.

In time, buffalo dung dissolved into the soil, keeping the ground fertile for the next growing season. But before that happened, the product hardened in the sun, becoming something that could easily be picked up. Early on, Indians figured out that this natural fertilizer made good fuel. Buffalo hunters quickly adapted the technique.

"Sometime before sunset we

began to look for a place suitable to camp," former buffalo hunter George Andrew Gordon later recalled. "The place being selected, and the horses picketed, the young men set to work to collect fuel. If wood was not convenient, buffalo chips were generally plentiful."

### Texas Tales

Mike Cox



When cattle replaced buffalo on the plains, cow chips in turn replaced buffalo chips as a ready source of British Thermal Units. Of course, cowboys didn't know BTUs from balky mules, but they knew what it was like to be hungry or cold without a fire.

Fortunately a thousand-pound cow can produce from 60 to 90

pounds of manure a day. Once the moisture content drops below 20 percent, it makes fine fuel. Just don't expect the same sort of pleasing aroma that comes from an oak or mesquite fire.

Well into his old age, Harold B. Campbell wrote about cow chip cooking in a family history he self-published in 1992, "Spotted Stripes."

"There is a considerable difference in the quality of cow chips," Campbell wrote. "During the spring when the grass was watery and green the chips were splattery and no good. They were called spring dimples."

Cow chips improved in the summer, but still ran pretty thin. Panhandle settlers called those "summer flats."

Ah, but come fall and into winter, the time of greatest need, cow patties reached their prime. The grass had cured and the moisture level was low. "Tall, thick and

solid," Campbell wrote, "these were called fall browns."

Everyone in his family chipped in, so to speak, in collecting fall browns. The family headed to the prairie in a wagon with sideboards and "all who was big enough helped load the wagons."

Though usually in ample supply, getting cow patties to burn could be tricky on windy days.

Dick and Ada Tisdale bought four sections of land in Hartley County near Channing in 1901. One day Ada gathered chips preparatory to cooking lunch for her husband, out working cattle. No novice at building camp fires in Central Texas where she grew up, she lit the fire but the wind blew it out. She lit it again and the same thing happened.

When Dick arrived for his mid-day meal, he found his wife crying. Wiping away her tears, he dug a

See COX, Page 10

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 1, the 274th day of 2007. There are 91 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 1, 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile to the market.

On this date:

In 1507, Italian architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola was born.

In 1800, Spain ceded Louisiana to France in a secret treaty.

In 1907, New York's Plaza Hotel opened to the public.

In 1936, Gen. Francisco Franco was proclaimed the head of an insurgent Spanish state.

In 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China during a ceremony in Beijing.

In 1957, the motto "In God We Trust" began appearing on U.S. paper currency.

In 1961, Roger Maris of the New York Yankees hit his 61st home run to set a new record for homers in a season.

In 1964, the Free

Speech Movement was launched at the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1971, Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Fla.

In 1987, eight people were killed when an earthquake measuring magnitude 5.9 struck the Los Angeles area.

Ten years ago: In Pearl, Miss., 16-year-old Luke Woodham stabbed his mother to death, then went to school with a rifle and opened fire, killing his former girlfriend and another student and wounding seven others. (Woodham is serving three life sentences plus 140 years in prison.) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu freed Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin. (Yassin was freed to secure the release of two Mossad agents arrested in Jordan following a botched assassination attempt against Hamas political leader Khalid Mashaal.)

Five years ago: Iraq agreed to a plan for the return of U.N. weapons inspectors for the first time in nearly four years, but ignored U.S. demands for access to Saddam Hussein's palaces and other contested sites. New Jersey Democrats chose former Sen. Frank Lautenberg to be on the November ballot in place of scandal-tainted Sen. Robert Torricelli. Publisher, philanthropist and diplomat Walter H. Annenberg died in Wynnewood, Pa., at age 94.

*'Everybody favors free speech in the slack moments when no axes are being ground.'*

— Heywood C. Broun  
American journalist (1888-1939)



## Media focus dumbs-down American minds

Gee, I thought the world was facing some rather serious problems until I turned on the TV. Apparently, paradise arrived and I missed it, because the only important things the "major" cable news networks had to report were the troubles of Britney Spears and O.J. Simpson.

Oh, I forgot. An unruly student got zapped by campus cops using a Taser at the University of Florida. They had video on that minor incident, so we got to see the whole thing.

The war, the presidential campaign, the real-estate crisis, global warming, the battles in Congress and immigration all vanished from sight. If you ever wondered how the American people can be so ill-informed in the midst of a communication revolution, this is a hint.

It's not how much or how fast something is communi-

cated; what matters is what is communicated. More and more news organizations seem to prefer to be in the entertainment business. More and more Americans might not be able to find their own country on a map, but don't worry, they are all becoming experts in entertainment trivia.

We would all be better off if the news organizations gave us more reports and less advice and opinions. Compared with the new Time magazine, the old Time seems almost objective, and it was always famous for slanting the news. If I were a conspiracy buff, I'd think the corporate news media have joined

together to make sure Americans never understand the world they live in.

Given the unethical, sometimes unpatriotic and often irresponsible manner in which many top corporate executives operate, one can understand why they would prefer to keep the public in the dark. Mattel executives, for example, are trying to blame their Chinese suppliers for all the recalled toys, but the blame lies with Mattel for moving its manufacturing overseas. You can't tell me Americans don't know how to make toys or that these are jobs "Americans won't do."

So Mattel not only unemployed a lot of Americans; now it wants to sell their

children and grandchildren tainted toys made in unsafe factories by the closest thing you can find to slave labor outside of Africa.

I don't know what my grandkids will want for Christmas, but whatever they get from me will be made in America or Western Europe, even if I have to make it myself. American manufacturers have so thoroughly betrayed the American middle class that it's difficult to find stuff not made in China. Well, at least in Western Europe they pay living wages and allow unions. So buy American, and if that's impossible, buy Western European.

Americans (or "consumers," as the elite prefer to think of us) should remember that when we buy stuff made in cheap-labor sweat-

See REESE, Page 10

### Charley Reese

Columnist



## THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Changing horse's gait takes practice

I was giving a riding lesson the other day when a student asked me a question I hadn't considered or thought about. "How do I get my horse to change gaits?" she queried. Well, that caught me somewhat flat footed. So here's my suggestion if you have the same quandary.

Starting at a walk, give your horse more slack in the reins and kiss to him. If he doesn't speed up, repeat the procedure and bump him lightly on both sides with your legs while urging him/her forward verbally.

Communication with your horse is crucial. Ask for a trot. Once you have obtained the trot, try to maintain the trot for a minute or so and then ask for

the lope/canter. Do the same procedure as you did for the trot from the trot.

When you are able to achieve all

### Ray G. Spence

Horse Tips



three gaits, walk, trot and canter, slow down from the canter to the trot and then from the trot to the walk.

A good way to get your horse to maintain whichever gait you desire is to "rate" your horse in figure eight con-

figurations. As you do these figure eights, slow down, speed up to a trot, speed up to a lope and then slow back down through the lope, trot and down to the walk.

Then speed back up, all the while doing figure eights. After practice, your horse will learn to stay in whatever gait you choose for as long as you desire. But be practical and above all be patient and consistent. Some horses may take longer to teach than others. But practice and being consistent will definitely pay off.

Ray G. Spence of Pampa has been a professional horse trainer for more than 40 years.

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I am recently married, and every night my husband "tells" me when it's time for us to retire for the night. This can be anytime from 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. If I tell him -- which is not often -- that I am ready for bed before he is, he gets upset. However, if he is ready to go to bed, and I tell him I'd like to finish a book I'm reading or watch a little more TV, he gets upset. When I try to talk to him about this, he says that married men and women should go to bed "together," period! But Abby, it is always on his timetable. What about mine? Needless to say, we have both gone to bed angry. How do we deal with this without both of us getting angry and resenting each other? — **TIRED OF BEING TIRED, DES MOINES, IOWA**

**DEAR TIRED OF BEING TIRED:** It appears you have married a man with control issues. Being married does not mean being joined at the hip. People have different biorhythms, and a trip down the aisle does not magically transform a night person into a day person or vice versa. I'm all for young married love and the spirit of togetherness, but only if it's voluntary. Your husband needs to learn the art of compromise because it appears he is being extremely heavy-handed.

**DEAR ABBY:** My girlfriend, "Lauren," and I are both 16. She has a 12-year-old sister I'll call "Crystal" who makes no secret of the fact that she has a crush on me. When I'm at their house, Crystal is all over me and won't leave me alone. I don't want to be mean to Crystal and hurt her feelings, but being nice to her just makes things worse. Lauren has tried to tell her sister that I'm not interested in her, but she won't listen and claims that Lauren is jealous. How can I deal with this and not hurt the girl's feelings? — **LARRY IN CICERO, ILL.**

**DEAR LARRY:** Because Lauren has spoken to her sister and tried to discourage her without success, the next person to have a talk with Crystal would be her mother. The girl's behavior is inappropriate. First love can be an overwhelming emotion -- especially when the object is unattainable -- but she has no right to be "all over you" to the point of embarrassment, and Crystal's mother needs to explain that to her. After that, if the behavior continues, then you will have to be the one to set her straight.

**DEAR ABBY:** My dad owns a restaurant, and he doesn't want to hire any more employees because he thinks my mom can do all the jobs. She rarely gets a day off. Yesterday was her first day off after working 14-hour days for an entire month. Mom keeps telling Dad she wants a few more days off because she needs to do other things -- like laundry or cleaning the house. Is there anything I can say to him to make him understand that she gets tired and needs a break? — **WORRIED ABOUT MOM IN IRVING, TEXAS**

**DEAR WORRIED ABOUT MOM:** Not knowing the economic constraints your father is under in running his restaurant, I'm not sure there is. His reason for needing your mother in the place may have less to do with greed than necessity. Of course, the person who should impress upon your father that she's tired and needs a break is your mother. If she is unwilling or unable to do that, then rather than interceding with your father, it would be more helpful if YOU took over some of the cleaning and laundry chores. Do that, and I'm sure both your parents will be grateful.

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



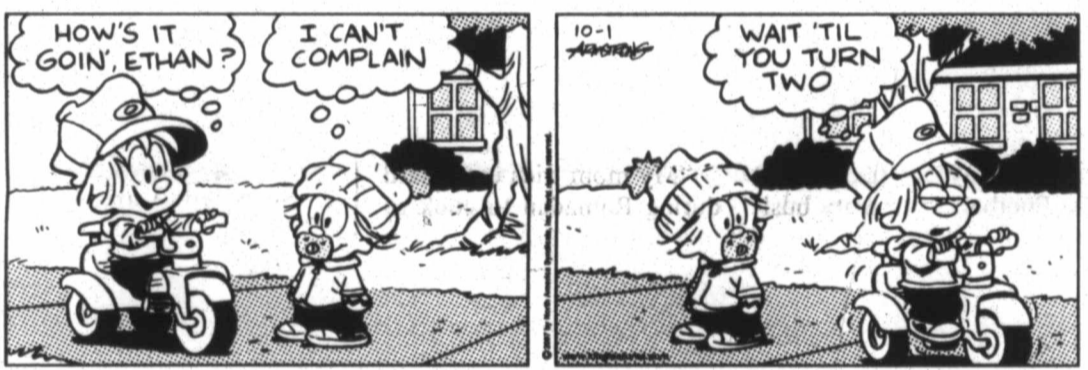
## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

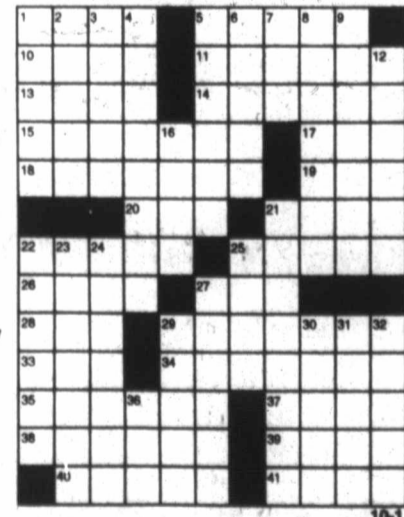
#### ACROSS

- 1 Dick Tracy's love
- 5 Plant pest
- 10 Notion
- 11 Fan
- 13 Obligation
- 14 Change genetically
- 15 Influence
- 17 Golf's Trevino
- 18 Boxer Sugar Ray
- 19 Printer's need
- 20 Weep
- 21 Velocity
- 22 Dark fur
- 25 Muscularly fit
- 26 Leg bend
- 27 Foot the bill
- 28 "Give -- rest!"
- 29 Fact book
- 33 Word, in France
- 34 Address ending
- 35 Sea rover
- 37 Previously owned
- 38 Hidden shooter
- 39 Do clerical work

#### DOWN

- 1 Kind of wave
- 2 Draw out
- 3 Brawl
- 4 Surrender
- 5 Weapons store
- 6 Weight unit
- 7 Spicy
- 8 Dressing choice
- 9 Relaxation of tensions
- 12 Smelled really bad
- 16 Trim
- 21 "King of Music"
- 22 is
- 23 Writer de Saint-Exupéry
- 24 Writer of Pottery
- 25 Pack down
- 27 Tool kit
- 29 Early Mexican
- 30 Private's denial
- 31 Designer Simpson
- 32 Handed over
- 36 Clumsy person

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## Marmaduke



"Sometimes we give him a ride home... after we check for priors."

## The Family Circus

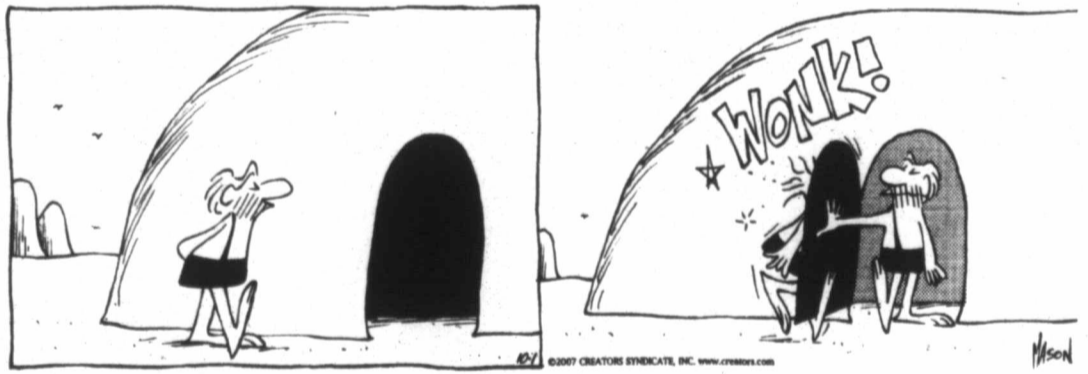
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Did Noah have to wait long for the two turtles before the ark sailed?"

## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Sports Day

## Cross country girls take 13th place in Lubbock

The PHS cross country team traveled to Lubbock on Saturday, and the varsity girls placed took 13th place out of 20 teams.

"The good news this week, we beat Caprock and Dumas from our district so we are still in the hunt for a regional spot," head coach Mark Elms said.

This coming weekend, the team will run at West Texas A&M University.

Individual results from Lubbock are as follows:

Faby Soria-11	12:34
Hailley Nies-65	14:07
Kaci Reyes-86	14:41
Whitney Webster-111	15:25
Cecilia Garcia-113	15:32
Audri Leal-124	16:36
Teysa Parker-128	17:26
<b>Varsity Boys</b>	
Miguel Tapia-59	18:22
Cesar Marruffo-63	18:27
Michael Fisher-120	20:57
Steven Botello-130	22:06

## Lefors CC places 2nd behind Wheeler at Shamrock meet

The Lefors Pirates took 2nd place with 82 points, behind Wheeler, who had only 45 at Saturday's cross country meet in Shamrock.

Valerie Miller led the girls with a 4th place finish and a time of 13:13, and Gabriel Miller finished 7th in the boys division with a time of 21:52.

The team will practice this week in preparation for this coming weekend's meet in Canadian.

Individual results from Shamrock are as follows:

Valerie Miller-4	13:13
Emily Jackson-5	13:25
Taylor Overstreet-513	26
Lacie Johnston-17	14:40
Misty Pairsh-58	Time
unavailable	
Gabriel Miller-7	21:52
<b>Team standings are as follows:</b>	
Wheeler	45
Lefors	82
Shamrock	108
Wellington	110
Spearman	113
Follett	125
Groom	152
Hedley	157

## Baytown player balances Ramadan and football

**BAYTOWN, Texas (AP)** — Football's a sweaty business and that's not a good thing for Karam Hadidi this time of year.

The Sterling High senior is a starting defensive end for the Rangers' football team. He also is a Muslim and this is Ramadan.

A religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Ramadan, which runs through Oct. 11, requires that Muslims fast from dawn to sunset.

That means no food — or drink from about 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. each day.

"That makes it tough on him during practice," says Sterling defensive coordinator Chad Haynes, "because he can't drink water. For a whole month.

"We've got to be careful with him. He's the kind of kid that he's going to try to go every play in practice. We can't do that. It's so hot down here, we've got to keep an eye on it.

"We tell him to eat a lot and drink a lot of water at night."

Hadidi, a 6-foot, 195-pounder whose parents came to the U.S. from Syria before he was born, is all right with that.

"My mom tries extra hard during Ramadan to cook as much as she can, and whatever the kids like," says Karam, one of Fayeze and Najla Hadidi's six children.

"At the end, we have Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Breaking the Fast). It's like Christmas or Thanksgiving — we have a big feast."

Hadidi was a backup linebacker last year for a Sterling defense that finished No. 2 in District 21-5A in fewest yards allowed. He moved to defensive end for the season and started there.

"He's a very athletic kid for the position at which he's playing," Sterling head coach Herb Minyard says. "He's got good speed and agility and has a passion to get to the football.

"He plays hard on the football field and he's an excellent student."

But going hard all the time in the sun during Ramadan could put Hadidi at serious risk of dehydration and heat illness.

"Practice is a lot harder than the games actually, because at games usually I'll be able to drink, at least, in the second half," the 17-year-old says, referring to night games.

## No. 11 Buffs remain unbeaten with 36-3 win over Javelinas

**CANYON, Texas** — Spearheaded by junior linebacker Jared Brock's game-high 13 tackles, the Buffalo defense turned in another solid performance on Saturday night as the No. 11 West Texas A&M football team defeated Texas A&M-Kingsville, 36-3.

The victory improves the Buffs, overall record to 5-0 and their overall Lone Star Conference mark to 3-0, with a 1-0 record in LSC South play. The Javelinas, meanwhile, fall to 1-4 overall and 1-3 in LSC action.

With the winds at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium surging in excess of 25 miles per hour, it was the punters who dominated the action during the game's early goings, with each of the game's first five possessions ending on a punt. Junior Cort Johnson kicked five punts for 211 yards — his longest reaching 55 yards — including one inside the 20-yard line.

The deadlock was finally ended at the 11:22 mark of the second quarter as the Buffs converted on a two-yard touchdown from Null to senior tight end Kolo Kapanui. The scoring drive, which was set up by a 36-yard reception by junior receiver Carl Johnson, appeared to stall on the doorstep of the end zone, but head coach Don Carthel elected to go for it on fourth down and the gamble paid off. Kapanui added an exclamation point to the score as he reached the end zone on the extra point attempt when the Buffs executed the swinging gate, putting them up 8-0.

Johnson was one of several WTAMU receivers to step up in the absences of All-American wideout Charly Martin, who is day-to-day with an injury. Johnson, a native of Houston, Texas, finished with a team-high 89 receiving yards on six catches.

Following a Javelinas punt, the Buffs took back possession deep in their own territory and again an unconventional play got the Buffs going. After failing to get a first down and bringing punter Johnson onto the field, the Buffs pulled another surprise out of their bag of tricks. Senior Dale Davis took the snap on the fake punt and raced 14 yards to get WTAMU a new set of downs. The drive continued and the Buffalo offense cashed in on the 10-play, 81-yard drive on a 14-yard pass from Null to sophomore running back Keithon Flemming.

Davis would play a crucial part in the Buffs next possession as Null drove the offense 79 yards in eight plays and found Davis in the flats for a seven-yard touchdown catch, his first score of the season. The drive took 3:09 off the clock and left the Buffs up 22-0 with just over one minute before the intermission.

The Javelinas would get on the scoreboard with the final play of the half as Scott Schleich connected on a 24-yard field goal, sending the teams to the break with the Buffs holding a 22-3 lead.

The scoring cooled off again after

halftime as the third quarter came and went with neither team able to put points on the scoreboard; the Javelinas came close but a 44-yard Schleich field goal attempt sailed wide.

Flemming got the WTAMU offense back on track as he made his second visit to the end zone by hauling in a 18-yard touchdown pass from Null. The Mesquite, Texas, native finished the contest with a team-high nine receptions for 74 yards. On the ground, Flemming collected 31 rushing yards on eight carries.

Junior Seth Hayden collected his first touchdown as a Buffalo with just under five minutes remaining in the contest as he took a short pass from Null and made several shifty moves to race 33 yards to put the Buffs up 36-3.

Null's numbers were again solid for the Buffs as the Lampasas, Texas, native connected on 36-of-52 passes for 390 yards and five touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Steve Allen was solid, contributing nine tackles, including two for a loss, while junior Arseel Shakoor collected six stops and two pass break-ups.

The Buffs return to action next weekend as they hit the road to face No. 13 Midwestern State in a 7 p.m. match-up at MSU's Memorial Stadium. The game will be nationally webcast and be seen on both [www.gobuffsgo.com](http://www.gobuffsgo.com) and [www.cstv.com/ncaa/diviii](http://www.cstv.com/ncaa/diviii).

## Optimist girls basketball meeting to follow tonight's Texas Legislature presentation by Warren Chisum

State Rep. Warren Chisum will present a program about the Texas Legislature to the Pampa Optimist Club at 6:30 p.m. today, according to Calvin Lacy, Optimist Program Chair.

The public is invited to attend. Following the meeting coaches, officials, parents and others interested in Optimist Girls' Basketball for third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders will

meet with Optimist Girls' Basketball Commissioner Roy Lott for an organizational meeting.

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

## University of Memphis student fatally shot, police say, classes canceled today

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)** — A University of Memphis football player was fatally shot on campus in what was believed to be a targeted attack, and classes were canceled today as a precaution, officials said.

Taylor Bradford, 21, was shot near a university housing complex about 9:45 p.m. Sunday and then got into a car, driving a short distance before it crashed into a tree, officials said.

University officials said they believed the gunman left campus immediately after the shooting. No arrests had been made today.

"We found him with a bullet wound to the body and the ambulance took him to the hospital where he was pronounced (dead)," said Roger Prewitt, a Memphis

Police inspector. Bradford, a 5-foot-11, 300-pound defensive lineman from Nashville, was a junior who transferred to Memphis after two seasons at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

"Our entire football team is deeply saddened by the loss of Taylor," head coach Tommy West said in a statement. "He was well respected and a popular member of our team. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family."

University officials closed residence halls on campus temporarily before police learned that the shooting was likely personal, spokesman Curt Gunther said.

In an e-mail alert sent to faculty, staff and students at 3:40 a.m. Monday, officials

wrote that "the initial investigation indicates this was an act directed specifically toward the victim and was not a random act of violence."

The university decided to cancel classes today, although police believe the person or persons involved in the shooting left the campus immediately.

"We feel like the campus is safe, but we'd rather err on the side of safety than not," Gunther said.

The school's administrative and athletic officials were meeting this morning to discuss the shooting.

The Memphis Tigers host Marshall University's Thundering Herd Tuesday night. A moment of silence was planned before the game.

Bradford transferred to the school in 2006 and was on the roster this season, but had not made any plays to be listed in the team's statistics.

Bradford lettered in three sports at Nashville's Antioch High School, and held school records in shot-put and discus.

The university had 20,562 students enrolled for last fall, according to its Web site.

The school was founded in 1912 as West Tennessee State Normal School and was renamed Memphis State College in 1941. It became Memphis State University in 1957, two years before it admitted its first black students. It was renamed the University of Memphis in 1994.

## Tony Romo's amazing scramble, TD passes lead Cowboys past Rams

**IRVING, Texas (AP)** — While Tony Romo was chasing the ball the wrong way, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones considered the tremendous likelihood that something was going to go wrong.

"When he tried to grab it the first time and didn't get it, I said this could be a huge play against us," Jones said. "That ball going over your head, 99 chances out of 100, that's not good."

Unless it's Romo, whose wild scramble just before halftime sparked the undefeated Cowboys in their 35-7 victory over the frustrated and winless St. Louis Rams on Sunday.

Romo was 33 yards behind the line of scrimmage when he finally gathered the errant third-down

shotgun snap that went over his head. Instead of falling on the ball or throwing it away, he ran and recovered all the yards he lost — plus got the four needed for a first down.

"You have a sense that people are around you or you don't," Romo said. "And no one was around me."

Five snaps later, on another third down, Romo ran up the middle 15 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 11 seconds left in the first half.

"I'm thinking he's just going to fall on the ball, but he's got an unbelievable motor," tight end Jason Witten said. "The team kind of rallied behind that play."

The Cowboys are 4-0 for the

first time since 1995, the season of their last Super Bowl title. The Rams were last 0-4 in 2002, when they opened with five straight losses coming off a Super Bowl loss.

Dallas ran only 11 offensive plays in the third quarter, and that was plenty. Romo threw three TDs in that stretch, 59 and 37 yards to Patrick Crayton, and 17 yards to Witten.

Since a TD on their opening drive of the season, the Rams' offense has gotten into the end zone only once more in 43 possessions. They had 187 total yards against Dallas, their score coming on Dante Hall's 85-yard punt return right before Romo's scrambling series.

"If you guys have about five

hours, I'll give you a whole list of excuses," coach Scott Linehan said. "We're looking for solutions. What do you want me to say?"

The Rams were without six injured starters and two more are suspended, then lost several others to injuries, including Isaac Bruce, who had guaranteed a victory.

Quarterback Marc Bulger played despite two broken ribs and his patchwork line wasn't able to protect him. He was sacked twice and under lots of pressure, going 11-of-24 for 114 yards with an interception on his final play in the third quarter.

"You look over there and see those guys putting up points and the crowd is going nuts," Bulger said. "I hate watching other people

celebrate at our expense."

Cowboys fans were in an ecstatic frenzy watching Romo's escape act on a third-and-3 play from mid-field.

When Romo first caught up to the ball, he kicked it farther away. He finally got control around the 17, turned around and started running. Several blockers came to help when the cheers prompted them that the play was still alive, then Romo juke a defender around the 30 and kept going until stepping out of bounds at the Rams 46.

"We pursued and the next thing you know, in a blink of an eye, he's running down the sideline," defensive tackle La'Roi Glover said.

# Atlanta Falcons get best of former backup QB Schaub

ATLANTA (AP) — Going against his old team, Matt Schaub had the most prolific passing game of his career. Still, he was moaning about 2 yards his new team couldn't get.

Two times, the Houston Texans got to the Atlanta 1.

Both times, they failed to reach the end zone.

Joey Harrington passed for two touchdowns, 47-year-old Morten Andersen kicked four field goals and the Falcons won for the first time this season, a 26-16 triumph Sunday that ruined Schaub's return to Atlanta.

Michael Vick's former backup passed for a career-best 317 yards, but it wasn't enough because the

Texans kept bogging down near the Falcons end zone.

"It's very frustrating when you can't convert 2 yards," Schaub said.

Down by 10, Houston started the fourth quarter with third-and-goal at the 1. Schaub tried to roll out for a pass, but Lawyer Milloy broke through and grabbed at the quarterback's shoulder pads, forcing him to throw the ball away. The Texans settled for Kris Brown's 19-yard field goal.

After Andersen's fourth field goal restored the 10-point margin, Schaub drove Houston deep into Atlanta territory. He actually bounced into the end zone on a run up the middle and was credited

with a 13-yard touchdown, but the Falcons challenged.

Referee Gerald Austin reviewed the replay and found that Schaub went down a yard short. Facing another third-and-goal, the Texans tried a quick pitch to Ron Dayne, but the ball bounced off his hands and rolled out of bounds at the 7.

Brown went in for another chip shot with just over 2 minutes remaining, but yanked it wide left. Game over.

"I thought I was in," Schaub said of his 13-yard touchdown. "But looking at the replay, I guess I was a little short."

Schaub spent the last three seasons as Vick's backup, then was traded to Houston a month before

the Falcons learned of No. 7's ties to a gruesome dogfighting ring, which led to a guilty plea, indefinite suspension and likely prison sentence.

In the meantime, Schaub got off to a strong start with the Texans, who won their first two games and put up a good showing against the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts. But Houston (2-2) couldn't keep it going against the winless Falcons.

Harrington had another effective day for Atlanta (1-3), competing 23-of-29 for 223 yards. A week earlier, he passed for 361 yards in a loss to Carolina.

"We've got a little flow going," Harrington said. "We feel like

we're starting to dictate what the other team has to do."

Michael Jenkins hauled in both scoring passes, covering 5 and 7 yards, for the first two-touchdown game of his up-and-down career. Atlanta went up 20-7 in the first half and guarded its lead the rest of the game.

Bobby Petrino, the Falcons' first-year coach, picked up his first NFL win. He wore a white cap — after going without anything on his head the previous week — in hopes of changing the team's fortunes.

"I'm not superstitious or anything," he said. "But I was changing it up until we got a win. You'll probably see the white hat for a while."

## What now for Astros after Biggio's departure?

HOUSTON (AP) — The only thing Houston Astros fans got to celebrate this season was Craig Biggio's quest for 3,000 hits and his emotional march toward retirement.

The rest of the year was pretty forgettable, as the Astros sank to their second losing record since 1991 just two years removed from their first World Series. The nosedive culminated in the firings of manager Phil Garner and general manager Tim Lincecum on Aug. 27.

Cecil Cooper became the first black manager in team history, Ed Wade replaced Lincecum, and Cooper shook up his coaching staff on the final day of the season.

So where does the franchise go from here? Wade, the former Philadelphia GM who had a hand in building the team that won the NL East on Sunday, said there's no easy answer.

"Work has to be done," Wade said. "You don't have the type of disappointing season we had this year and not have things that need to be done."

The biggest questions start with the pitching rotation.

Ace Roy Oswalt, signed through 2011, finished 14-7 with a 3.18 ERA this season. The order behind him is anyone's guess.

Big-money signees Jason Jennings and Woody Williams flopped in 2007, going a combined 10-24. Jennings dealt with elbow problems all season and is a free agent, unlikely to return. Williams, 41, is signed through next season.

Left-hander Wandy Rodriguez showed flashes of potential, leading the Astros with 158 strikeouts. He won only two of his last 11 starts and finished 9-13, but he's still the most experienced, dependable left-hander the team has coming back.

Rookies Chris Sampson and Matt Albers looked good at times, combining for 11 wins. Brandon Backe approached his old form late this season after coming off Tommy John surgery, winning his last three starts in September.

Cooper also got to look at several young pitchers in the final month, including Juan Gutierrez and Felipe Paulino, who pitched six scoreless innings in the season finale. Left-hander Troy Patton will also vie for a spot next year, though he missed the last three weeks with a sore shoulder.

"These guys have a chance to make an impact at this level," Cooper said. "Whether it's 2008, the beginning, the middle, the end, I do think they have a chance to make an impact."

The Astros' bullpen was a weakness in 2007, blowing 25 saves, the third-most in the NL. Houston traded away set-up reliever Dan Wheeler, but hung on to Chad Qualls and Brad Lidge, who both looked shaky at times and overpowering in others.

Dennis Sarfate, acquired in a late-season trade with Milwaukee, gave the bullpen a late boost, allowing only five hits in 8 1-3 innings.

"With what the veterans on this team have accom-

plished and what the young guys can accomplish, there's no way we're that far away," said Lidge, who's having offseason knee surgery. "We think we're better than we played this year and next year could be tremendous for us."

The Astros averaged 4.4 runs per game, ranking 22nd in the majors. Now without Biggio, the franchise's all-time hits leader, the offense still has a potentially powerful nucleus.

Carlos Lee, signed to a team-record \$100 million contract last offseason, produced a career-high 119 RBIs and hit 32 home runs and Lance Berkman shook off a sluggish first half to add 34 homers.

Hunter Pence shined in center field, setting rookie records for extra-base hits and doubles. A fractured wrist late in the season cost him a shot at the NL rookie of the year award, but the 24-year-old led the team with a .322 average and became a fan favorite with his infectious enthusiasm and hustle.

## With OU next, Texas desperate for a win

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Longhorns head into October in desperate need of a win.

That's because if they lose to Oklahoma in Dallas next week, the Holiday or Alamo bowls are looking like the best they can do this year.

Saturday's 41-21 loss to unranked Kansas State stunned Texas on many levels. It was the Longhorns' worst home loss in 10 seasons under coach Mack Brown and dropped them from No. 7 to No. 19. It also sends them into Dallas with a Big 12 loss for the first time since 1999.

It's not unprecedented to win the Big 12 South with two league losses (Texas did it in '96 and '99), but it would seem unlikely. After setting a Big 12 record with 21 consecutive conference victories from the middle of 2004 to late last season, Texas (4-1) has now lost its last three league games.

"We just have to come back and win all of our

games now. We lost one so now it's time to wake up and play the rest of them," running back Jamaal Charles said.

In fact, Texas may consider itself lucky to get to the Oklahoma game with only one loss. Close wins over Arkansas State and Central Florida had raised questions about whether the Longhorns really could challenge for the Big 12 title this season.

"Now we need to regroup," said quarterback Colt McCoy, who suffered a mild concussion and threw four interceptions against Kansas State. "Keep working hard and get ready for Oklahoma. That's always a huge game and with both of us losing this week, we're both going to want to want to get back on track."

McCoy's backup is true freshman John Chiles, who got in the game for several plays against the Wildcats. He's a dangerous runner but has completed just one pass.

# New look Texas Rangers have familiar finish

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**  
AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — For all the noticeable changes the Texas Rangers made in manager Ron Washington's first season, from the altered roster to a drastic switch in philosophy, the end result was all too familiar.

The season finished like it started: being swept in a three-game series on the road.

The losses this weekend in Seattle left the Rangers alone at the bottom of the AL West, where they spent all but a few days. Texas (75-87) has been third or fourth every year since its last division title in 1999.

Michael Young, who in the spring got a new contract through 2013, overcame his own miserable start to earn his fourth All-Star nod and reach 200 hits for the fifth consecutive season. Still, the shortstop called it the toughest year of his career.

The Rangers were out of playoff contention by the end of May, after a 20-loss month. They dropped to a season-worst 19 games under .500 by mid-June.

"We stunk for a while and guys kept battling, guys kept working hard and kept trying to get better,"

starter Kevin Millwood said. "We pretty much knew we were out of it even before the All-Star break, but nobody quit. That says a lot for the guys."

After hitting the low point, Texas went unbeaten in seven consecutive series for the first time since 2001, winning six of them and splitting a four-game set at Boston. Including that streak before the All-Star break, the Rangers were 52-45 the rest of the way.

There was even a 22-15 run after switch-hitting slugger Mark Teixeira, closer Eric Gagne and outfielder Kenny Lofton were traded at the end of July.

"That's important. At least we showed that we could play a month or more and play well," Frank Catalanotto said. "It was important that we know that every one can kind of put it together."

While disappointed in the record, Washington confidently gave himself an "A" when asked last week how he'd grade his first season as a manager.

"Through adversity we learned something," Washington said. "If we had played up to our capabilities, I think the numbers in the win and lose columns would be different. ... Maybe we didn't know what

our capabilities were."

Washington's enthusiasm and work ethic may deserve a high grade, but the final result certainly didn't.

There is a lot of improvement needed and some holes to fill. Washington said the priorities are a center fielder, right fielder, first baseman and closer.

Minnesota Twins All-Star center fielder Torii Hunter, who lives with his family less than an hour from Rangers Ballpark, is eligible for free agency.

"They know I can play all three outfield positions," said Marlon Byrd, the primary center fielder after Lofton left. "I've said from day one, if you can get Torii Hunter, an Aaron Rowand, a top of the line center fielder, you don't shy away, you go get them."

Byrd was left off the roster out of spring training, but hit .307 with 10 homers and 70 RBIs in 109 games after being recalled May 26. Another in-house outfield option is David Murphy, who hit .343 in 46 games after coming from Boston in the Gagne deal.

Jason Botts (.240 with two homers in 48 games) and Nelson Cruz (.235 in 96 games) weren't overly impressive when they got

extended playing time.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia, the 22-year-old switch-hitter the Rangers got in the Teixeira deal, split some time at first after coming from Atlanta. But Saltalamacchia is primarily a catcher.

With Gagne gone and Akinori Otsuka out the last 2 1/2 months because of an elbow problem, left-hander C.J. Wilson (12 of 14 saves) and Joaquin Benoit (six saves) shared the closing role. But Washington would rather not use them full-time.

Gagne and Lofton came to Texas on one-year deals in hopes of contending. Teixeira was eligible for salary arbitration after this season and free agency next year, though he wasn't really missed — Texas was 30-48 when he was in the lineup, 45-39 when he wasn't.

Sammy Sosa, who became a part-time player after joining the 600-homer club, hit .252 with a team-high 21 homers and 92 RBIs in 114 games. The 38-year-old slugger, who plans to play another season and would like to do so in Texas, started only 19 of the last 56 games.

Sosa made a \$600,000 base salary and \$1.35 million in performance bonuses from his original

team after a year out of baseball. Washington would like him back, but the Rangers are likely to let the former NL MVP test free agency before making that decision.

Young, hitting .192 the first week of May, finished at .315 with 94 RBIs — the most for a player with less than 10 home runs in 11 seasons.

The Rangers hit 179 home runs, their lowest total since 2000. With Washington's emphasis on fundamentals, they led the AL with 57 sacrifice bunts, two years after a majors-low nine.

All five starting pitchers out of spring training spent time on the disabled list, including extended absences by Millwood (10-14, 5.16 ERA) and Vicente Padilla (6-10, 5.76), the only two Washington said are guaranteed spots next year.

An elbow problem even cut short the team's look at left-hander Kason Gabbard (2-1, 5.58), who was part of the Gagne deal.

That all led to an overworked bullpen, which had a majors-high 592 relief innings.

"I don't think the stuff that we had to go through could happen with the severity that it happened again next year," Washington said. "It's just an impossibility."

# Greg Biffle wins at Kansas on day that Chase field implodes

By **JENNA FRYER**  
AP Auto Racing Writer

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — The race started with six of the Chase for the championship drivers separated by just 28 points in the standings.

When it finally ended — under caution and cut short because of darkness — the Chase field had imploded and Greg Biffle was the only driver certain he won Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

"Let me tell you what, he didn't win the race," said fifth-place finisher Jeff Gordon. "Clint Bowyer is the winner of this race in my opinion, no offense to Greg Biffle."

It was that kind of day at Kansas

Speedway, where Biffle scored his first win of the season by winning a race that was stopped twice for rain delays, was shortened 85 miles because of darkness, ended under caution and had six Chase drivers finish 29th or worse.

And when Biffle's sputtering car slowed before the finish line, title contenders Clint Bowyer and Jimmie Johnson passed him and both believed they finished ahead of him.

"I don't know what happened, (he) didn't cross it the way I thought you were supposed to," said Kansas native Bowyer, who had to settle for second place on his homestate track.

"I know they're not going to pull

him out of Victory Lane."

Johnson, who finished third to reclaim the points lead, said Biffle wasn't the winner.

"The biggest question mark right now is what goes on with (Biffle)," he said. "He clearly ran out of gas and I feel terrible for those guys. But if you can't maintain pace car speed, then the guys that can finish ahead of you."

But Biffle, who ended a 28-race winless streak with the victory, angrily dismissed their criticism.

"Their opinion really doesn't count, as far as I'm concerned," he said. "They're probably thinking, 'Oh, it ran out of gas, I coasted across the line, everybody went by me, I went into the grass and then

they pushed it to Victory Lane."

"That's not the case. The car runs right now ... you can go and start it. (NASCAR) told me not to start it. I was unbuckling, and trying to save my gas, because I knew the race is over. The field's frozen. The caution's out. And I didn't know they were going to go by me. So should I have bumped the clutch again, gave it a little more juice, so nobody would roll past me coming to the stripe?"

NASCAR spokesman Ramsey Poston said Biffle was the winner because the race ended under caution, the field was frozen and passing is not allowed under caution.

It made for a confusing finish that was par for the course on this

crazy Sunday.

Rain caused two delays totaling almost three hours, Kyle Busch was wrecked early by the driver who got him fired from Hendrick Motorsports, and two-time series champion Tony Stewart gambled twice — the first one put him in position to win, and the second one took him out of contention.

It put Johnson back in the lead with a six-point lead over teammate Gordon, and Bowyer is in third, 14 points out.

Stewart, who started the day just two points out of the lead, finished 39th and dropped to fourth — 117 points out.

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## 50 years



Austin Elementary recently had a 50-year celebration and some of the students who attended school the first year it was open, 1957, came back to be special guests. Back row from left are Danny Fain, Doug Carmichael, Dr. Jay Johnson, Larry Franklin and Jan Stroad. Middle row from left are Kenneth Hall, Mike Ward, Tanya Ward, Jeanie McComas and Mike McComas. (Jeanie and Mike were standing next to each other in their first grade picture at Austin and were later married) Front row from left are Steve Heare and Bob Marx.

Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

## Dismantling warheads ahead of schedule

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is dismantling unneeded nuclear warheads at a faster pace than forecast as it substantially reduces its atomic arsenal under terms of an arms control treaty with Russia, government officials said Sunday.

The Bush administration planned to announce today that it has taken apart three times as many reserve warheads in the just-completed budget year than it had projected and expects the rapid pace of dismantlement to continue.

At the same time, a report by an independent science advisory group has concluded that "substantial work remains" before a new generation of warheads will be fit for certification without underground nuclear testing.

The findings are expected

to provide congressional opponents of the warhead program with additional reasons to hold back money for the project. The administration views development of the replacement warhead as essential for keeping a secure and more easily maintained nuclear stockpile as warheads age.

The National Nuclear Security Administration, part of the Energy Department, reports a 146 percent increase in dismantled nuclear warheads during the 2007 budget year, which ended Sunday. That is triple the agency's original goal.

The agency is believed to be dismantling thousands of warheads, taking out their plutonium, uranium and non-nuclear high explosive components. The agency did not say how many warheads

it had taken apart, nor how many remain to be worked on because the numbers are classified.

The progress "sends a clear message to the world that this administration remains committed to reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the U.S. nuclear stockpile," said the agency's administrator, Thomas D'Agostino.

The government will not provide any numbers on the overall size of the nuclear stockpile, but there are believed to be nearly 6,000 warheads that either are deployed or in active reserve.

Under the 2002 treaty with Russia, the U.S. is committed to reducing the number of deployed warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012.

Three years ago, President Bush said he wanted the overall stockpile reduced to half of what it was in the 1950s, or to a level of about one-quarter of its size at the end of the Cold War.

The group of scientists who regularly advise the government on nuclear weapons matters has told Congress that the proposed replacement warhead will require further development and experiments to assure against possible failure.

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## Cox

Continued from Page 4

trench and kicked in the cow chips. Soon they had a nice fire followed by a hot lunch.

If a steak grilled over cow patties doesn't sound appetizing, dried pasture plops are good places to look beneath for fishing worms. Obviously, cow patties make good fertilizer. Too, cow patties sprayed with gold paint make inexpensive gifts for people who seem to have one of everything.

Also, cow chip tossing is considered a sporting event in some circles. All you need is spray paint to mark some circles on the ground (or use a Hula Hoop) and a supply of dried cow patties. Establish a starting line 20 or so feet from the target and let the fun begin. The winner is the person who can chuck a chip and land it in or near the target. Each contestant gets three tries.

(Author's note: My daughter Hallie, when younger, placed first in her age group in a cow chip tossing competition at a ranch on the rim of Palo Duro Canyon. Her ability to sling bovine by-product proves without doubt that the apple does not fall far from the tree.)

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

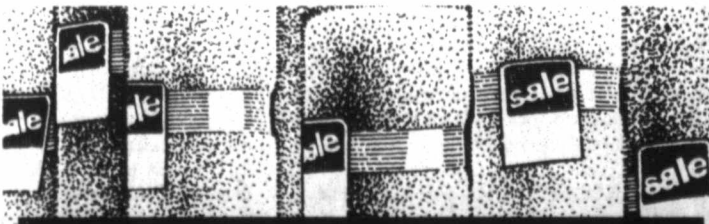
shops, we are succumbing to the same thing that made slavery so hard to get rid of — a desire for cheap labor, something that can be as seductive and addictive as cocaine.

There is no room in a prosperous country for cheap labor. A country can never maintain its prosperity on cheap labor and a service economy. In a properly run economy, the only cheap labor would be school kids in the summer-

time and after school. Every adult would have a job paying a living wage.

And there is no room in a prosperous country for an ignorant population. The complexities of the modern state require that the public make an effort to understand those complexities. The greatest burden for helping them to do that falls on the news media. Right now, too many news organizations are falling down on the job and making a mockery of their First Amendment freedom.

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



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\*Qualified testers will be paid for their participation.