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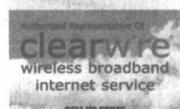
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Tralee Crisis Center seeks Honorable Man nominations

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Nominees for Tralee Crisis Center's annual Honorable Man event are currently being sought by the center, and the nominee who is judged to best exemplify the qualities of an honorable man will be recognized Oct. 23 during the center's annual Honorable Man March.

Persons wishing to nominate a local man for the honor may send a one-page letter describing the nominee, including how he has made a difference by employing non-violent leadership and why he deserves to be recognized.

Nominations must include a name and telephone number by which to contact the nominee, as well as the name and telephone number of the person submitting the nomination.

Deadline for submitting nominations is Oct. 10. Nominations may be mailed to Tralee Crisis Center, P.O. Box 2880, Pampa, TX 79066-2880; faxed to 806-669-1137; or e-mailed to tralee@amaonline.com.

The Honorable Man March will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include nominees and community members who support ending domestic violence, said Dee Dee Laramore, executive director of the center.

This year's march will be different from that of previous years. The march will begin on the steps of City Hall with Mayor Lonny Robbins reading a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Pampa.

The march will proceed from City Hall to the Knights of Columbus Hall at 318 N. Cuyler, where the Honorable Man recipient will be announced and all the nominees will be honored with a reception.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the center has sponsored the Honorable Man March in Pampa.

"Each year, a man is chosen from

the many nominations submitted by family and friends," Laramore said. "The winner will be someone who has chosen a violence-free life and embodies the qualities of an 'honorable man."

Some of the characteristics named recently by Tralee Crisis Center staff which might be included in a description of an honorable man are respectful, humble, a giver, patience, family-oriented, supportive, compassionate, gentle spirit and beyond reproach.

"Tralee Crisis Center, along with

See TRALEE, Page 3

City approves bids for tax properties

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

Gary Willoughby is the new owner of four tax delinquent properties today.

Pampa The City Commission approved the sale of six tax delinquent properties, approved the minutes of past meetings, excused the absence of Mayor Lonny Robbins from meeting and paid bills at a meeting Tuesday afternoon.

lots at 1210 Barnes for \$1,200. In a letter to the taxing authorities, the city of Pampa, Gray County and Pampa Independent School District, Willoughby promised that the properties Corp. topped a million.

would be cleared and that all trees would be cut and Gray County Commission trimmed within 30 days after the awarding of the bid.

Pamela D. Dacus bought tax delinquent properties at 541 Harlem for \$101 and lots at 524 and 526 Elm for

In other business, the commission approved the payment of \$1,575,986.78 for August, leaving the commission's Sept. 7 \$1,033,132.89 in the income account.

Robin Bailey, the city's Willoughby bought four finance director, reported to the commission that the city of Pampa received more than \$3.6 million in sales taxes for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The Pampa Economic Development

Tell me a story -



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

These children listen to Jo Sikes, children's librarian at Lovett Library, read a story about monkeys during story time this morning. For arts and crafts, the kids made monkey food. From left are Drew Davis, Kellie Mae Davis, Rhett Hill and Morgan Joyce. Sitting behind them are Rachel and Jackson Pooley. Story time is every Monday at 6 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. Call Lovett Library at 669-5780 for more information.

Appraisal district to discuss agricultural land

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Two items involving agricultural land are included on the agenda for the Gray County Appraisal District's board of directors meeting, which begins at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the conference room of the appraisal office at 815 N. Sumner.

Appointments to the agriculture advisory board will be made. The board consists of three members and was created as a result of state legislative action approximately 12 years ago, said Chief Appraiser Pat

Bagley.

"We're going to look at replacing the entire board," he said.

A plan for qualifying land as agricultural use for appraisal purposes will be presented. A plan is not already in place, Bagley said, because the subject is covered by various sections of the Texas Government Code which pertain to appraisals.

Board members will consider whether to move the meeting location for the appraisal review board, which currently meets in the appraisal district office.

The issue first arose earlier this year after a meeting attended by county property owners in response to increases in the appraised value of their property. Connie Rose, an employee in the property tax information services department of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts office in Austin, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the Tae Kwon Do studio concerning appraisals and procedures for disputing them.

Bagley plans to recommend that

the site of the review board's meetings not be changed.

"We just bought a Power Point system which cost about \$2,000 for use by the review board and others

who meet here," he said. The appraisal district's 2008 budget will be voted upon after a public hearing. An executive session is scheduled to consider an evaluation of the chief appraiser.

Other items on Thursday's agenda include an investment report and the chief appraiser's report.

United Way kicks off new campaign with luncheon

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

The kick-off luncheon for the United Way 2007 campaign on Tuesday had almost 70 in attendance. Those in the audience were United Way board members, volunteers and representatives from the 19 agencies that will benefit from United Way funding this year.

Kimber Bruns, director of community services for United Way, spoke to those in attendance about 211 Texas, a free and confidential hotline available for information on health and human

"We are trying to get the word out about this service so more people know who to contact if they need information about a variety of health and human services," Bruns said. "These issues can be about financial assistance, elderly resources, housing, support groups, transportation, child care or other similar issues.

"In Gray County in 2005, we answered 67 calls. In 2006, that number went up to 364. And from January through Aug. 31 of this year, we've already answered 1,116 calls and gave out 5,138 referrals, so we are very

excited about the increase in callers."

Bruns explained that a trained information and referral specialist answers the phone when someone dials 211 on their home phone or cell phone. They do an assessment of what the person is looking for and then try to give them at least three to five referrals of people or places they can contact for help with a specific problem.

These information specialists have 391 programs they can pull from to help callers. They always offer refer-

See UW, Page 3



Bruns





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, Culberson-Stowers, Wayne's Western Wear, Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union & Bank of America

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday

Friday

Saturday







Partly cloudy

Partly cloudy

Partly cloudy Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thun-

derstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. South-southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph. Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. South wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west 5 to 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

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Services tomorrow

BARNETT, Dorothy - 2 p.m., Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, Pampa.

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provided by Attebury Grain of White	Anadarko 53.58 +0.35
Wheat	Not'l Oilwell 143 73 41 53
Wheat	Limited 43.02 +0.17
Milo	12 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
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Soybeans 8.30	MCD 54.64 +0.49
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nished by Edward Jones & Co. of	COP 87.75 +0.46
Pampa	SLB 104.57 -0.05
OXY	Tenneco 31.29 +0.31
BP PLC ADR69.18 -0.15	CVX 93.02 +1.14
Cabot Corp 36.50 -0.09	Wal-Mart 42.98 -0.18
Celanese 38.07 +1.48	OKE46.17 +0.45
Cabot Oil Gas 35.26 +0.28	
Coca Cola 57.28 +0.26	New York Gold738.80
VLO	Silver13.62
HAL38.33 +0.33	West Texas Crude79.53

Texas Today ...

Convicted killer executed for woman's death 21 years

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A U.S. Supreme Court decision to review whether lethal injection procedures are unconstitutionally cruel failed to stop the execution of a Texas man as the high court allowed his punishment to be carried out.

Michael Richard, 49, was put to death Tuesday evening by Texas corrections officials

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with a toxic combination of drugs that justices hours earlier decided they would examine after a challenge from two condemned inmates Kentucky.

Lawyers for Richard had gone to the court asking the lethal injection in Texas be halted and cited the Kentucky case in their appeal. The justices, however, rejected the

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office had challenged Richard's appeals while Gov. Rick Perry's office insisted the execution - the 26th this year in Texas, by far the highest number in the nation among states with the death penalty - would go forward as planned.

Perry announces Texas-Israel Chamber

Commerce RICHARDSON (AP) Gov. Rick Perry announced the establishment of the Texas-Israel Chamber of HOME INTERIORS Holi- Commerce on Tuesday as an (Clint & Sons), Thurs., 4-8pm. nomic exchange and academic collaboration between the two.

Perry also said he's asked the directors of the Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System to divest their funds from companies doing business with Iran. The governor said Texans won't condone Iran's

support of terrorism. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has previously called for the destruction of Israel - an American ally in the Middle East.

Obituaries

Dorothy Barnett, 83, of World War II. Pampa, Texas, died Monday, Sept. 24, 2007, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007, at Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ with Glen Walton, minister of the Bell Avenue Church of Christ in Amarillo, and Arvia Willingham, a Church of Christ minister of Pampa, officiating.

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

Mrs. Barnett was born July 28, 1924, in Dawson, Texas, to Leroy and Vera Matthews.

She attended Tarleton State University and moved to Denison where she worked for Western Union. It was her job to deliver death notices to families who had a son killed during **Dorothy Barnett, 83**

One day, the cab driver who came to pick her up was Ernest Barnett. They later married on Feb. 29, 1945. They moved to the Rio Grande Valley where they lived for years before Barnett moving to Pampa

in 1980. Dorothy will be remembered for enjoying golf and playing Forty-Two with her husband and friends; the trips she took with her sisters; for all the years she taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School; and for the many, many delicious meals and pies she lovingly made for others.

Most of all, Dorothy will be remembered for her love of the Lord, which is the

greatest gift she ever gave her husband and children. Though a stroke may have taken her physically, He has taken her spirit, which is now rejoicing. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

The family is ever grateful to the staff of Coronado Healthcare Center and Odyssey Hospice who took such loving care of their

> wife and mother. She is survived by her loving husband, Ernest Barnett, of the home; two sons, Jerry Barnett and wife Kim of Little Rock, Ark., and David Barnett and wife Carla of Portland; a daughter, Jana Barnhill and husband Robert of Lubbock; daughter-inlaw, Kathy Barnett of

Houston; three sisters, Jo O'Donnell of Spring, Edith Tountas and husband James of Waco, and Sally Richardson of Beaumont; six grandchildren, Jennifer, Michael, Holly, Amy, Angela and Taylor; seven greatgrandchildren, Haley, Matthew, Nathan, Emma, Tyler, Kyla and Kaleigh; and many other family members. and friends.

MEMORIALS: Glenn Children's Home, P.O. Box 1373, San Benito TX 79586.

SPECIAL NOTICE: The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007.

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Sign the on-line regisbook www.carmichaela whatley.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vonda Higgins, Country Fair Solicitations Committee chair, displays a Hair Care Gift Basket recently donated by A Cut Above and a model tractor donated by Hansford Implement Co. The annual event is planned for Oct. 20 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call Pampa Chamber of Commerce at 669-3241. The fair will include a silent auction at 5 p.m., a live auction at 8 p.m., bingo at 9 p.m., and a dance with "Straight Shooter." Tickets are available at the Chamber, Firstbank Southwest, National Bank of Commerce, Bob Clements Cleaners, Culberson-Stowers, Wayne's Western Wear, Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union and Bank of America.

Emergency Services

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

Six traffic stops were made, resulting in at least one arrest.

Starkweather.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1500 block of North Zimmers. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of North

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 900 block of South Hobart, the intersection of Kentucky and Banks streets, and the intersection of Hobart

and Kentucky streets. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of South Cuyler, the intersection of Christy and Gwendolen streets, the 500 block of North Davis, the 1900 block of North Nelson, the 500 block of North Naida, twice in the 1100 block of Willow, once in the intersection of 23rd and Crescent streets, the 1600 block of West Kentucky, the 2800 block of Rosewood, the 1500 block of Duncan, twice in the 200 block of North Sumner, once in the 2300 block of Chestnut, the 1300 block of North Zimmers, the 1000 block of North Wells, the 2100 block of North Zimmers, the 200 block of North Wells, the 1100 block of Varnon Drive, the 1000 block of South Dwight, the 900 block of Brunow and the 900 block of

North Frost. A civil matter was reported in the 1900 block of North Faulkner.

one occasion.

Hobart. Suspicious vehicle calls were

received from the 1600 block of North

Nelson and from Recreation Park, 1600

with the straight of the strai

E. Highway 60.

Hobart and the 800 block of South

Warrant service was attempted on Suspicious person calls were received from the 1200 block of North

A prowler was reported in the 1800 block of Holly

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of West 30th. Criminal mischief was reported in

the 2100 block of North Christy. The driver's side window of a white 2000 Toyota Tundra was broken, resulting in damage estimated at \$100.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of Holly. The driver's side window of a 2000 Pontiac Grand Prix was broken. Estimated cost of damage is \$250.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Tignor. The driver's side window of a 1996 Chevrolet pickup was broken out. Estimated cost of damage is \$100.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of Fir. The driver's side window of a 1995 Chevrolet pickup was broken out. Estimated cost of dam-

age is \$300. Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Evergreen and the 500 block of Schneider.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1700 block of Alcock and the 600 block of West Francis, where the incident was verbal only.

One alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of Wilcox. A mountain bike was taken. Theft was reported in the 200 block of Thut. A lawnmower valued at \$200 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester and the 1300 block of West Crawford.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 800 block of Talley. Two collectible swords with total estimated value of \$400 were taken.

Burglary was reported in the 500 block of North Doyle.

Gray County Sheriff's Office report-

ed the following arrest today. Tuesday, Sept. 25

John Christopher Locke, 33, of Amarillo was arrested by GCSO for, stalking.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 25 12:26 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of...

Texas on arcing power lines. 2:29 p.m. - One unit and four personnel responded to the 1300 block of. West Kentucky on a call for medical, assistance.

9:05 p.m. - One unit and two personnel responded to the 100 block of Randy Matson on a rubbish fire.

10:12 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of Christine on a hazardous material clean

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

Tuesday, Sept. 25 8:58 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 300 block of East Brown and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:03 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in

1:06 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Wynne. No

2:28 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky. No transport.

4:32 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Harlem and transported a patient to PRMC.

Italian visit

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Courtesy photo

Claire Boyd, center, a 2007-08 Senior at Pampa High School, recently participated in a summer youth exchange through Rotary International. She spent seven weeks in Reggio Emilia, Italy, living with Rotarian Alberto Lasagni and family serving as a Goodwill Ambassador from Texas and Rotary District 5730. Their son, Riccardo, then traveled back to the United States with Claire to spend seven weeks living with the Boyd family. Travel throughout Texas and New Mexico was coupled with local events such as the Pampa Rodeo, Harvester football, and enrollment at PHS for Riccardo. Pictured are the Lasagni family and Claire while visiting the Coliseum in Rome, Italy.

Alibates Flint Quarries offering rare tours for Archeology Month

held every

Saturday

during October.

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

In October, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument at Lake Meredith with other parks and communities through- are only available during Texas Archeology out the state of Texas to cele-

brate Texas Archeology Month. This special month is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and the mission is to "Promote the appreciation of scientific archeology, prehistory, Native American cultures and the stewardship of Texas' irrearcheological placeable

resources." Texas Archeology Month pro-

vides an opportunity for Texans to understand and appreciate the depth and richness of their heritage, the historical significance of the state's archeological sites, the importance of proper archeological practices and the contributions of archeologists.

During October, Texans will have the opportunity to experience several special

events throughout the state.

Alibates Flint Quarries will participate by offering special tours of the village ruins and petroglyphs, from A.D. 1150-1450, which National Recreation Area in Fritch will join are usually closed to the public. These tours

Month and reservations are

Tours will be required. The tours will be held at 2 p.m. every Saturday during the month of October and each tour is limited to 25 participants. The tour will involve a short hike up a steep bluff with no established trail.

> Those who go on the tour are asked to wear sturdy shoes and to bring drinking water, sunscreen,

insect repellent, a hat and light jacket. When making a reservation for the tour, inform park staff if you have a high clearance vehicle because the road to the trailhead is rough.

For more information of to make a reservation, contact park headquarters at 806-857-3151.

Episcopalians promise restraint in approving gay bishops

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Even the fiercest critics of the Episcopal Church's liberal drift say it's too soon to know whether the bishops' latest pledge to "exercise restraint" in approving another gay bishop will go far enough to help prevent an Anglican schism.

"It will take months and years to really see," said Bishop Martyn Minns, who leads a conservative network of breakaway Episcopal

Overseas, people on both sides of the debate registered their unhappiness Wednesday. Some supporters of gay clergy accused Episcopal leaders of caving in to conservatives led by African archbishops, while traditionalists criticized what they saw as a cleverly worded declaration of defiance.

The 77-million-member fellowship has been splintering since 2003, when Episcopalians consecrated the first openly gay bishop, V: Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. The Episcopal Church is the Anglican body in the U.S.

pledge to "exercise restraint"

Tuesday in the final moments of a six-day meeting — and as the decades-long debate over interpreting the Bible threatens to shatter the world Anglican Communion.

Anglican leaders had set a Sunday deadline for the Americans to pledge unequivocally not to consecrate another gay bishop or approve an official prayer service for same-sex couples.

On Wednesday, the Rev. Colin Coward, director of Changing Attitude England, said he believed the bishops had met the Anglican request.

"If conservatives continue to press for the exclusion of the Episcopal Church, transgress provincial boundaries and decide not to attend the Lambeth Conference in 2008, they will take responsibility for provoking a tear in the Anglican Communion and will have withdrawn from the our fellowship," Coward said.

Martyn Minns, a former Episcopal priest who was consecrated as a bishop in the Church of Episcopal bishops released their Nigeria to serve Episcopalians alienated from their own bishops,

said on Tuesday that the American individual priests offer blessings bishops' statement was "the totally wrong response."

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the Anglican spiritual leader, took the unusual step of attending the meeting for the first two days, pushing bishops to make concessions for the sake of unity. Anglican lay and clergy representatives from overseas also participated, chastising Episcopal leaders for the turmoil they've caused.

Episcopal bishops responded by affirming a resolution passed last year by the Episcopal General Convention that urged bishops to "exercise restraint" by not consenting to a candidate for bishop "whose manner of life presents a challenge" to Anglicans and the church. The promise falls short of an outright ban.

Episcopal leaders also promised they wouldn't approve official prayers to bless same-gender couples and insisted that most Episcopal bishops do not authorize widely acknowledged that many

informally in their own parishes and will continue to do so despite Tuesday's pledge.

Williams and other Anglican leaders will evaluate the bishops' statement in the coming weeks. But before he left New Orleans, the archbishop of Canterbury played down the significance of the Anglican demands, saying "there is no ultimatum involved."

Canon Jim Naughton, a spokesman for the Diocese of Washington, said the statement "reassures our partners in the Anglican Communion that we have taken their concerns seriously." However, Minns said the bishops' statement was "the totally wrong response," and said many Episcopalians are already "voting with their feet."

Four of the 110 Episcopal dioceses - Fort Worth, Texas; Pittsburgh; Quincy, Ill.; and San Joaquin, Calif. — are taking steps to split off from the national church and align with an overseas the ceremonies. However, it is Anglican church. And about 60 of the more than 7,000 Episcopal

parishes have left or have lost a significant number of clergy and members, according to the national

Anglican leaders from Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and elsewhere have violated Anglican tradition that they minister only within their own provinces and have consecrated bishops to oversee breakaway Episcopal congregations in the United States. In their statement Tuesday, bishops said they "deplore" the incursions and "call for them to end."

Conservative Bishop John Howe of the Diocese of Central Florida said the statement wouldn't satisfy all Anglican leaders, but predicted "most will find it acceptable." Howe is staying in the Episcopal Church, even though his diocese, based in Orlando, has rejected Episcopal Presiding Katharine Jefferts Schori as a leader because she is liberal.

The next crucial event for the communion will be the Lambeth Conference, in July in England.

Polygamist leader convicted on sex charges

ST. GEORGE, Utah (AP) — Jurors rejected a defense attorney's argument that the prosecution of a polygamous sect leader was religious persecution, convicting him as an accomplice to rape for forcing a 14-year-old follower to marry her 19-year-old cousin.

The victim in the case didn't accept it either, telling reporters the case was about child abuse.

"This trial has not been about religion or a vendetta. It was simply about child abuse and preventing abuse," the woman, now 21, said in prepared remarks after the verdict.

Warren Jeffs, head of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, could get life in prison after a trial that threw a spotlight on an insular community along the Arizona-Utah line where followers practice polygamy and revere him as a prophet with dominion over their salvatión.

Jeffs stood with a stoic look on his face as the verdict was read.

Prosecutors said Jeffs, who performed the ceremony, forced the girl into marriage and sex despite her objections. Jurors said they agreed that Jeffs

rejected the girl's pleas and later refused to release her from the marriage when she complained about relations with her husband.

"He was pretty much her only ticket out of the relationship," said juror Jerry Munk, 36.

Defense attorney Wally Bugden, who had told jurors that Jeffs was a victim of religious persecution, declined to com-

"Religion was definitely involved, but I don't think it was about that," said juror Heather Newkirk, 32.

The jury deliberated for about 16 hours over three days. On Tuesday morning, the judge replaced a juror with an alternate for undisclosed rea-

Jeffs' attorneys haven't said if they plan to appeal. His sentencing is set for Nov. 20, and he faces five years to life in prison for each of the two counts of rape by accomplice.

At the trial, widely different versions of the relationship — and Jeffs' influence — were presented by the woman and her former husband, Allen Steed,

At their wedding in 2001 at a Nevada

motel, the woman said, she cried in despair when pressed by Jeffs to say "I do" and had to be coaxed to kiss her new husband. The woman testified that FLDS girls receive no information about their bodies or reproduction. She said she didn't even know sex was the means by which women conceived.

The woman said the couple were married for at least a month before they had intercourse, and that her husband told her it was "time for you to be a wife and do your duty."

"My entire body was shaking. I was so scared," she testified. "He just laid me on the bed and had sex."

Afterward, she slipped into the bathroom, where she downed two bottles of over-the-counter pain reliever and curled up on the floor, she said. "The only thing I wanted to do was die," she

The Associated Press generally does not name those who allege sexual abuse.

Steed testified that his teenage bride initiated their first sexual encounter, approaching him after he fell asleep in his clothes after a 12-hour day at work.

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The applicable rates, terms and conditions of service are contained in a Service Agreement and any Addendums.



tic violence shelters Continued from Page 1 throughout the nation, will observe October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month by emphasizing the important roles of

domes-

rals that

men and the community as a whole in ending abuse within the family," Laramore said.

The center offers intervention and shelter for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crimes in Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Gray, Hemphill, Roberts and Wheeler counties.

Tralee's victims' services also include accompaniment to hospital, police, shelter and court; advocacy; transportation for legal, medical, work and school; and assistance in obtaining housing, employment, clothing and

For more information, contact the center at 669-1131.

are closest in distance Continued from Page 1 callers and

these can be from the top 26 counties in the Texas Panhandle. The 211 program in the top 26 counties has answered 30,000 calls and passed on more than

100,000 referrals. Another use for 211 is for people to

call and find out which agencies in their community are in need of volun-

"If someone is new to the area or just has some free time on their hands and would like to volunteer, they can call 211 and find out who to contact to offer their services," Bruns said.

All phones should be able to access 211 except those phones normally at businesses that have 411 information block on them. Bruns said that some

companies block employees from being able to call 411 unlimited times and that is normally the only time 211 can not be reached.

"Many people who need help with a problem do not know who to call," Bruns said. "On the other end of 211, hope answers and gives them the information they need. United Way funded agencies are wonderful because together, we matter."



Viewpoints

It's not Hillarycare, it's Hillarycon

Sometimes Clinton leaves me breathless with the sheer arrogance of her assumption that the American people are like a bunch of straw-chewing rubes eager to buy her latest brand of snake oil.

She introduced her latest excursion into the field of health care in America by assuring us that under her national health care plan people will no longer be denied needed emergency medical services because they lack health insurance.

Hillary knows that the law provides that nobody can be turned away because of their inability to pay for needed medical services — she just hopes the voters don't know that. She wants them to think that some cruel tyrant stands barring entrance to the poor and needy.

Illegal immigrants, for example, know what a phony claim that is. They know the law better than most American citizens. The illegals get all the health care they want, because they know the law guarantees those services without them doesn't having to pay one red cent for it.

Hillary goes on to assure not enough Americans that health care is a right and not a privilege. Ignoring the fact that rights have no price tag attached you don't have to pay to exercise the right of free speech, for example - yet she puts a price tag on the right to have health care at \$110 billion a year. That's

the alleged right to health

She says that the annual cost of \$110 billion will be paid by increasing taxes on those Americans whose tax-

Michael

Reagan

Columnist

a b l e income is \$250,000 a year. She explain that there are

taxpayers making that kind of money to come up with enough tax dollars to finance that \$110

billion annual price tag. As one of my listeners pointed out, in 1948 the States Supreme United that no Court ruled American citizens can be

at the emergency room door what she wants us to pay for charged for their rights. the only right of choice they Hillary is now ruling that Americans can now be billed \$110 billion a year for the right to have health care.

> Whenever left-wing Democrats make a proposal, they always

make least a part of their plan mandatory. They can't help it - it's their blood

want to force people to do what they want them to do.

So Hillarycon would force every man, woman and child in the United States to have health insurance, whether they want it or not. They get no choice in the matter. To Democrats such as Hillary,

recognize is a woman's right to choose to kill the baby in her womb. All other rights of choice are up for grabs.

Hillary and her fellow Marxists keep peddling the line that there are 47 million Americans who have no health insurance - implying that they are too poor to be able to pay for it. That's tommyrot, and they know it.

According to Investor's Business Daily, about 38 percent of the estimated 47 percent of the American people who lack health insurance have incomes in excess of \$50,000 a year. Moreover, about 20 percent of all uninsured Americans have incomes over \$75,000 a

These people can afford

coverage, but for whatever reason choose not to buy it. You have to ask yourself why Hillary and John Edwards and Obama want to take away the right of these people to choose to remain uninsured.

If they insist on talking about our rights as Americans, why can't they recognize our right to say, "No, we don't want health insurance?"

If I'm willing to take the chance that I won't have health care problems this year, and am not willing to buy insurance to pay for an illness or accident I don't anticipate, that's my choice not Hillary's.

The new version of See REAGAN, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 26, the 269th day of 2007. There are 96 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on Sept. 26, 1957, the musical play "West Side Story," a retelling of "Romeo and Juliet" set in modernday New York and featuring a score by Leonard Bernstein and choreography by Jerome Robbins, opened on Broadway.

On this date: In 1777, British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution.

In 1789, Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's first secretary of state.

Pity the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.'

> — Don Marquis American Journalist-author (1878-1937)

In 1892, John Philip Sousa and his newly formed band performed publicly for the first time, at the Stillman Music Hall in Plainfield,

Zealand went from being a colony to a dominion within the

tne Federal Commission

In 1907, New

British Empire.

established.

In 1955, following word that President Eisenhower had suffered a heart attack, the New York Stock Exchange saw its worst price decline since 1929.

In 1960, the first debate between presidential candidates took place as John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon faced off in Chicago before a national TV audience.

In 1981, the twin-engine Boeing 767 made its official debut

In 1986, William H. Rehnquist was sworn in as the 16th chief justice of the United States, while Antonin Scalia joined the Supreme Court as its 103rd member.

In 1991, four men and four women began a two-year stay inside a sealed-off structure in Oracle, Ariz., called Biosphere 2. (They emerged from Biosphere on this date in 1993.)

Ten years ago: An Indonesian Airbus A-300 crashed while approaching Medan Airport in north Sumatra, killing all 234 people aboard.

Five years ago: WorldCom former controller David Myers pleaded guilty to securities fraud, saying he was told by "senior management" to falsify records in what became the largest corporate accounting scandal in U.S. history. (Myers was later sentenced to one year and one day in prison.) Four employees and a customer were shot to death at a bank in Norfolk, Neb. (four suspects were later arrested; three were convicted of first-degree murder while a fourth pleaded guilty).



Sooner or later payback always comes

Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida. These people are killers who will murder women and children and not

bat an eye. I predicted we'd be hit by terrorism in a column I wrote in August 2001. I had no idea, of course, that the attack would come so soon afterward. Nor did I have any inside knowledge or any psychic feelings. It was just plain logic. We had been messing in the Middle East's wars and feuds for too long, and I knew that sooner or later there would be pay-

back. There might be some parts of this old world where you can push people around and hurt them and they won't fight back, but the Middle East is not one of them.

Now I do have an uneasy feeling. While there were no overt threats in the latest bin

It's sensible to be afraid of Laden video, there was an indirect threat. I don't recall that he has ever, in his earlier communications, suggested that Americans convert to Islam. He did this time, and I've heard a couple of people

that

somewhere in Islam one Charley is instructed Reese to offer the enemy one Columnist last chance to convert before

attacking. So maybe that was a warning of an imminent attack. If so, don't expect the attack to bear any similarity to the attacks on Sept. 11. One of the advantages a terrorist has is that he is completely free to choose the time, place and method of attack. Al-Qaida will be looking to create shock and

worldwide attention.

Frankly, there is not much an individual can do except to be alert to one's surroundings, something we should do anyway to avoid domestic crime. Naturally, if you

see an unattended package or backpack, you should alert authorities. But don't

count recognizing a terrorist by his appearance. There are a billion or more Muslims in the world, and Arabs are only a minority Furthermore, not all Arabs look alike. Terrorists comprise a tiny fraction of the Muslim population. It's both unfair and misleading to refer to "Islamic terrorists" or "Muslim terrorists." You horror sufficient to capture will recall that nobody ever

referred to the Republican Army "Catholic terrorists" or their opponents as "Christian terrorists." Al-Qaida is an ideological organization and has been roundly condemned by ordinary Muslims.

It's important to understand that the cause of terrorism is political, and therefore there is no military solution. If killing terrorists were the solution, the Israelis wouldn't be enclosing themselves inside a wall and carrying guns all the time. Unless you solve the political problems that cause terrorism, you will never elimi-

nate it. The U.S. government always discourages publication of the full text of bin Laden's messages. That's because what bin Laden says does not match the lies

See RECSE, Page 5

THE PANDA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around

Texas: Sept. 17

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the beating the U.S. Constitution is taking nowadays:

The Constitution is one of the most revered secular documents in the United States. It is the mechanism that ensures Americans' ability to openly worship from the pages of the sacred texts of their chosen faith.

The English statesman Lord James Bryce commented in his classic work liberty, The American Commonwealth:

"The Constitution of 1789 deserves veneration with which the

Americans have been accustomed to regard it. ... After all deductions, it ranks above every other written constitution for the intrinsic excellence of its scheme, its adaptation to the circumstances of the people, the simplicity, brevity, and precision of its language, its judicious mixture of definiteness in principle with elasticity in details."

The Founders performed a governing miracle when they crafted a constitution that did not represent a grant of power from monarchs who ruled by divine right, whose subjects had only the privileges that the throne saw fit to grant them. Rather, their constitution represented a grant of power by the people to the government that the Founders created.

No national government had ever

operated in that manner. Nor had any national government adopted the system of checks and balances and the separation of powers that the Framers

Yet it must be noted this Constitution Day, which marks the 220th anniversary of the signing of that document, that the venerated work has taken a beating throughout the years. The protections of citizen rights that at the time of its writing were heralded as revolutionary come under threat during troubling times.

War can bring out the worst in the executive and legislative branches.

"The letter and spirit of the law have been distorted beyond recognition, by

See LAW, rage 5

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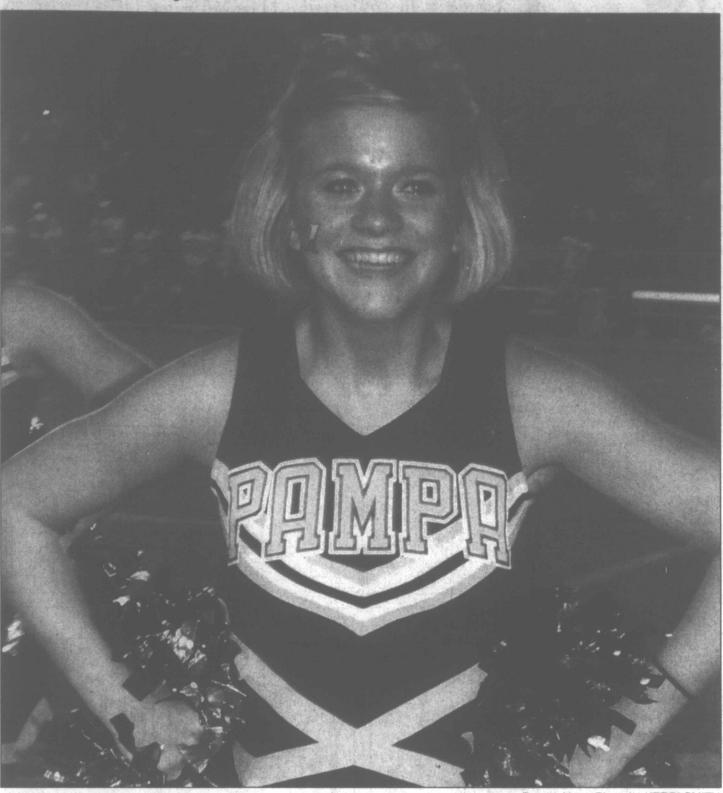
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Page 5



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Pampa High School cheerleader Marli Street gets ready for a cheer at one of the recent football games.

Events calendar

 Pampa Community Association Concert "Presents Live on Stage" is conducting its annual membership drive for three September. Scheduled concerts in Pampa are Edgar Cruz, guitarist, Nov. 5; Saxophobia with Rob Verdi, March 31, 2008; and "Revolution, A Tribute to the Beatles," May 6, 2008. All local concerts will kick-off at 7:30 p.m. at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Concerts scheduled in Borger are The Juggemaut Jug Band, Sept. 20; The Celtic Tenors, Nov. 4; and Angela Jia Kim, pianist, Feb. 12, 2008. For more

information, Ruth Riehart at Texas. Members hail from 665-3362 or Glennette area towns including Goode at 665-9432. Quanah and Childress.

• The postmark deadline to enter Hi-Plains Poetry Chapter's student "Poem in Your Pocket Contest" will be Sept. 28. Students pay no entry fee. For more information, log onto

www.PoetMarianneLogan.c om on the Internet or call (806) 355-1986.

• The non-profit Pease River Productions will present its next show at 7 p.m. Saturday at Pease River Playhouse at Goodlett. The show will feature the Swing Band of area towns including Quanah and Childress. Other performers will include Marissa Sparkman, Don Barnes, Maria Shultz and Patti Oakley. Admission will be \$12 for adults and \$7 for individuals 17 and under. For more information, call (940) 674-2477. The Pease River Opry will be held the first month of each quarter.

• Ten free trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation throughout the month. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The

trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Oct. 15 and Dec. 10 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members receive "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Sept. 30. For more information, check out the foundation's Web site at www.arborday.org.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

Hillarycare is just another Clintonian con game – a neatly wrapped bottle of snake oil. She doesn't want you to read the price tag and the label on

the bottle that warns that the contents may taste good but are utterly devoid of anything good for your health.

—Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

American politicians utter – to wit, al-Qaida hates us because we are rich or free. Bin Laden's complaints are quite specific.

Al-Qaida hates us because we are occupying Muslim lands and are killing Muslims. That's true. Al-Qaida hates us because we support the Israeli brutalization of the Palestinians 100 percent. That is true. Al-Qaida hates us because the Muslim governments we support are dictatorships. That is true. Al-Qaida hates us because we are in the Middle East not to spread democracy, but to support Israel and to control Islamic resources, namely oil. That is true.

What is needed is an open re-examination of American foreign policy in the Middle East. That is unlikely to happen. Since it is unlikely, best you keep your eyes open, your head down and your children close. The U.S. government has chosen to make an enemy of a group that is without mercy and has a long memory and infinite patience.

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

Law

Continued from Page 4

presidential signing statements brazenly crafted to circumvent the will of the Congress, domestic spying programs that collect innocent Americans'

communications without a warrant, denials of foundational due process rights like habeas corpus, and assertions of the 'state secrets' privilege to prevent the courts from hearing valid claims against the government," wrote Corey Owens for the Constitution Project, a bipartisan committee of academics, lawyers and business leaders who work to make constitutional issues a part of political debate.

As well-meaning as our elected leaders might be, it does little to promote their stated dedication to bringing democracy and liberty to the rest of the world if this nation's citizens are experiencing the heavy hand of an arbitrary government.

It is the job of every American – not just politicians and the military troops who have taken oaths to do so – to preserve and defend this magnificent and enduring document in the form that the Founders envisioned.

It is during times of uncertainty, when our nation is being threatened, that the guarantees and protections are most needed.

"The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it," said Albert Einstein. "Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional

rights secure."

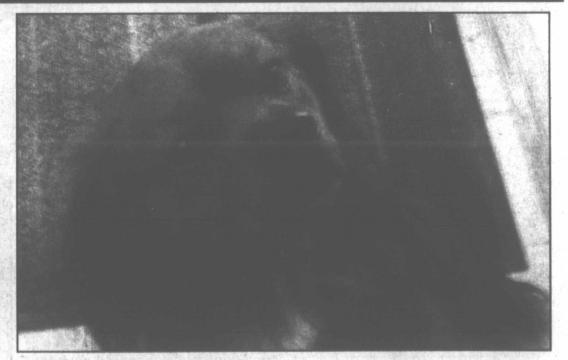
To read the U.S. Constitution and to learn more about its creation, go to www.archives.gov, the Web site of the National Archives. URL: http://www.dfw.com

Pets of the Week... sponsored by The Pampa News

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day



MISSY...... is a mature female Corgi. This sweet girl is a little shy but with loving care will make someone a wonderful companion. Visit us today and give her a loving home.



WAX.....is a 15 year old neutered Terrier cross. He is very well mannered and full of energy. He will make a perfect pet for any family. Visit us today and give her a loving home.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 12 NOON - 6 PM · SATURDAY - SUNDAY 3 PM - 5 PM

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PETS OR ANY OTHER
CONTACT THE ANIMAL SHELTER AT 669-5775 OR COME BY THE SHELTER AT HOBART STREET PARK

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I find myself in a situation I am not sure how to handle. My mother has adopted my 10-year-old nephew. The boy has severe mental and emotional problems because of the home environment he was in with my sister. Mom and I often talk about what we want to happen if something should happen to us. We know we need to get wills and living wills made. My problem is, if something should happen to Mom and my stepdad, I will be the logical choice to get my nephew. I have two young children to consider if I take him in. The boy has already shown predatory tendencies. He has spent six months in a mental hospital because of his problems. I do not want to bring him into my home if I cannot trust him with my children. At this point, I don't like leaving him alone in the house with them even if I am outside. Abby, I don't want my nephew to leave the family, but I cannot risk my children's safety and bring him into my home. Should I tell Mom that I'll take him in if something happens to her, or tell her I can't risk having him in my home? - NEEDS HELP IN **ARKANSAS**

DEAR NEEDS HELP: Because you feel your nephew would be a danger to your children, the answer to your question is no. You should tell you mother as soon as possible that in the event that anything happens to her and your stepfather, she should have other arrangements in place regarding the child.

DEAR ABBY: Can you help me understand a weird quirk I have noticed with a friend of mine? I'll call him "Jerome." Jerome is a middle-aged professional man with a college degree. However, he has this habit of seeking out free food. Jerome shows up at store grand openings, automobile dealer promotions, new home commu nities -- you name it. If there's free food

being served, he will find it and be the first in line. It makes no difference that he doesn't shop at the place, need a new car, or has no plans to buy in the subdivision. Can you explain why someone like Jerome would go to such lengths for a free plate of food? -- MYSTIFIED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MYSTIFIED: It may be that your friend can't resist trying to get something for nothing. Or it may not be food he's after at all. He may like to mingle in a crowd because he's lonely.

DEAR ABBY: I started high school this year. It's the second day of school, and I'm already feeling overwhelmed. There is just too much work, and I can't keep up with it all. What should I do? - PANICKED IN **MICHIGAN**

DEAR PANICKED: Your feelings are normal for anyone in a new environment, so calm yourself. Recognize that high school is different from grammar school and/or middle school because more responsibility for learning is placed on the shoulder; of the student. That's a good thing, because it will teach you how to prioritize and budget your study time wisely. Try to pinpoint exactly what it is that's making you feel overwhelmed. If it's the volume of work, then you will have to sacrifice something else in your schedule in order to keep up with it. If it's the nature of the work, you should talk to your teachers now about possibly getting extra help so you won't fall behind.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother. Pauline Phillips Write Dear Abby www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey







SO, LITTLE BUBBLES ARE ROMANTIC BUT

BIG BUBBLES ARENT

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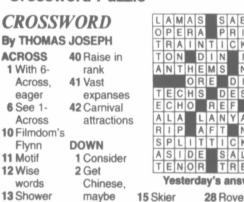
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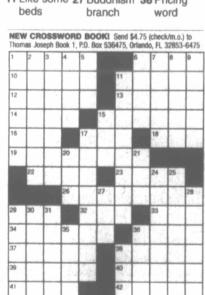
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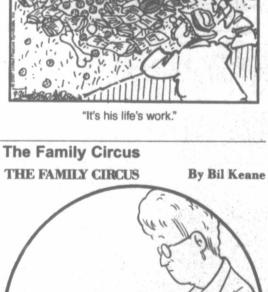


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Sports Da

Pampa tennis pounds PD Tuesday

By JORDAN REAGAN Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvesters tennis team traveled to Amarillo Tuesday to take on the Palo Duro Dons, and came home with another district win.

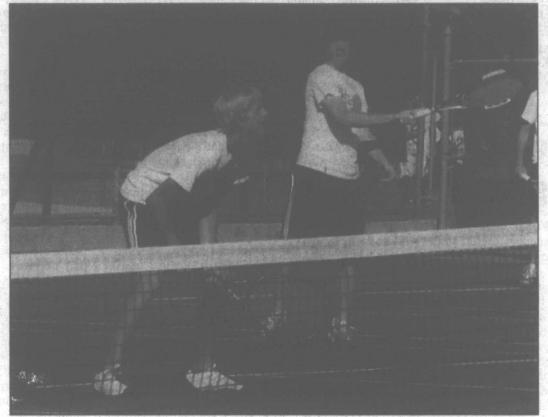
Pampa defeated Palo Duro 15-4, losing only two matches in boys singles, one in girls singles and one in boys doubles.

In girls singles, Rachel Lee, Megan Barnett and Ashley Hernandez all won their matches without giving up a single game.

With the boys, Palo Duro's Ramiro Trevizo served up some competition, winning both his match against Pampa's James Vaid in singles and against Vaid partner Bryce Hendricks in doubles.

The Harvesters will take on Hereford in Pampa Saturday morning.

Individual results are as See TENNIS, Page 8



Courtesy photo by SUSAN CHASE

The team of Garrett Couts (left) and Myles Foreman take on Palo Duro's #2 doubles team. Couts and Foreman won the match 8-6, 6-4.

Hidden Hills results

End of the Year Tournament Hidden Hills Golf Course Sept. 19-20, 2007

A Flight

1st - Bill Hammer - 137 2nd - Whitey White - 147 3rd - R.D. Stephens - 149 4th - Jim Brashears - 149

1st - Nofan Lemaire - 124 2nd - Harley Knutson - 129 3rd - Pat Montova - 130 4th - Ron Parnell - 132

B Flight

Gross 1st - Eldon Maxwell - 145 2nd - Roy Harper - 153 3rd - Fred Courtney - 154 4th - D.D. Lofton - 155

1st - Jim Bridges - 123 2nd - O.K. Lee - 127 3rd - Carl Johnson - 128

4th - Jerry Davis - 129

C Flight

1st - Bob Henderson - 170 2nd - Carroll Pettit - 170 3rd - Buddy Epperson - 173 4th - Joe Mabry - 176

1st - Bob Young - 132 2nd - Dick Dunham - 132 3rd - Billie MacMillican - 134 4th - Doug Reeves - 138

D Flight

Gross 1st - Nathan Lancaster - 178 2nd - Calvin Lacy - 185 3rd - James Lee - 186 4th - Oscar Sargent - 188

1st - Buddy Briley - 125 2nd - Jim Osborne - 132 3rd - Bob Lyle - 135

4th - James Richardson - 137 **Closest to Pin**

Wednesday D.D. Lofton (#6) Buddy Epperson (#15)

Thursday R.D. Stephens (#8) Nathan Lancaster (#12)

Basketball boosters

The Pampa High School Basketball Booster Club will have a meeting at 7 tonight in the Ready Room at the PHS Athletic Building.

Tonight's meeting will be a short discussion over fund-raising reports and a vote on the girls' locker room improvements.

JoePa looks to regroup No. 21 Penn State and their sputtering offense

(AP) — Joe Paterno blames himself for Penn State's loss to Michigan. The coach also bles too, such as allowing 10 said he'll make sure his 21st- third-down conversions by Nittany Lions ranked regroup in time for a potentially tricky trip to Illinois this weekend.

"It's got to come from me first," Paterno said Tuesday when asked who he's relying on to rally the team after the Wolverines handed Penn State (3-1, 0-1 Big Ten) its first loss of the season.

"When you lose a game like that, you can only point the finger at one person. You've got to point at the head coach," Paterno said. "It starts with me. I have to get across to the kids that we're going to get better, and we are going to get better."

Fumbles, a middling ground game and spotty play by quarterback Anthony Morelli contributed to a struggling offense in the 14-9 loss to Michigan, after Penn State had outscored its first three opponents 135-34.

"You'd like to have about six more points Saturday,' Paterno said when asked to grade the offense. "I think overall, we're about where we thought we'd be. ... Sure, you want to be better."

That began in earnest after the team watched lowlights from the Michigan loss

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. Sunday, linebacker Sean Lee said. The defense, while solid overall, had some trouthe Wolverines.

"Yesterday, we put it behind us,' Lee said Tuesday.

For tailback Austin Scott, that means taking extra practice holding onto the ball after another fumble last week — his fourth in three games. Paterno said that while the fifth-year senior is working hard to correct his problem, he will wait and watch practice this week before determining whether Scott or Rodney Kinlaw will start against the Illini.

Ouarterback Anthony Morelli had a less-than-stelshowing against Michigan. He was 15-of-31 for 169 yards and fumbled deep in his own territory at the Big House.

"One big mistake he made obviously was when he fumbled in our own territory," Paterno said. "I think other. than that he did a good job."

Asked about assistants Galen Hall and Jay Paterno, who call offensive plays, the coach said he thought they did "really well." JoePa said he sets the tempo of the game plan and makes suggestions to the coach's box when needed.

Volleyball serves up By JORDAN REAGAN [Tuesday] night," head coach Tandi Hudson said, Sports Editor

After being defeated by Dumas and Caprock in their first two district matches, the volleyball girls took their A-

game to Palo Duro on Tuesday, picking up their first district win this season. The Lady Harvesters won 25-21, 25-17, 25-27, 25-15

to improve their record to 1-2 in district.

"They really wanted this win, so they worked hard for it, and they got it and I am very proud of them."

As a team, the Lady Harvesters completed 98 serves with 3 service aces, had 45 kills, 81 digs and 36

Leading indivually in kills were Chandler Talley with "They did very good 30 attempts and 12 kills,

Jessica Miner with 23 attempts and 11 kills and Kara Stephens with 29 attempts and 8 kills.

Miner and Taryn Eubanks led with 17 digs, and Krishna Henderson had 16. Leading in blocks were

Stephens with 10, Talley with nine and Chelsea Douglas with six.

Miner, Eubanks and Stephens each had one serv-

"These girls fought hard the whole match," Hudson said, "When Palo Duro won the third game, they didn't just lay down and die, they came back and finished it in the fourth game."

The Lady Harvesters will welcome Hereford Saturday at McNeely Field House in hopes of picking up their second district win.

ub elects new o

John W. Warner was elected Monday to lead the Pampa Optimist Club and the Pampa Optimist Youth Club for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

He and the other new officers will be installed at 7 p.m. Saturday at an installation banquet at the Optimist building.

Warner has served two other terms as Optimist President. He is a life member of Optimist International and has been Optimist of the Year twice. Warner has coached Optimist baseball for 34 years. He received a special award from the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame for his work in youth baseball.

He has been a member of the steering committee for the Children's Shopping Tour for more than 40 years and a Sunday School teacher in the youth department of the First United Methodist Church for 45 years.

He was inducted into the Pampa the Pampa Jaycees as Pampa's Outstanding Young Man and was selected as the Adult Leader of the Year by the Pampa High School Key Club and Tru-teen Service Club.

He has served twice as president of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and has been President of the Pampa United Way Board. He incorporated the PHS Scholarship Foundation and has been the treasurer for 20 years. Warner is Board Certified by the

Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Civil Trial Law. He has practiced law in Pampa for more than 45 years.

Dr. Blake Sieck was elected first vice-president and will move up to

president for the 2008-2009 year. High School Hall of Fame in 2005 and Shane Stokes is the new second vicewas the Chamber of Commerce Man of president. He will move up to first the Year in 1999. He was honored by vice-president next year and president for the 2009-2010 year.

Secretary-treasurer for the new year is Nikki Shelton.

Directors for the coming year include Harley Knutson, Kevin Davis, David Lee, Bill Simon, Bill Kidwell, Melvin Davis and Ronnie Haynes.

"We are excited about the cooperation we have already received from volunteers," Warner said. "We look forward to expanding the Optimist programs to include jr. tennis, jr. golf and hope to have volunteers help us expand our scholarship program."

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

If there's any justice, the Padres will keep winning

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

We know how this thing started, with Milton Bradley striking out in the fifth inning of a tightening playoff race, lingering at the plate, and then tossing his bat in disgust.

We know how it ended, Disastrously, with too. Bradley lost to the Padres for the rest of the season because of a knee injury, made all the more disastrous because he suffered it while wrestling with a manager desperate to keep him from

mixing it up with an umpire. And get this: now it's up to commissioner Bud Selig to get to the bottom of what happened in between — and fast. Enough damage has already been done.

San Diego's 6-4 win at San Francisco on Tuesday night, coupled with losses by Arizona and Philadelphia, left the Padres trailing the NL West-leading Diamondbacks by two

games and one ahead of Phillies in the wild-card race. With five games left, and without Bradley and teammate Mike Cameron who injured his hand in a separate incident Sunday available for full duty the rest of the way, the Padres' playoff chances are hanging by a thread every bit as slim as the ligament holding Bradley's shredded knee together.

"No doubt Sunday hurt a lot — not the loss but the

people we lost," said San Diego's Brian Giles, who delivered the go-ahead threerun homer with two outs in the ninth. "We picked away. This team has a track record of doing that."

If there's any justice in baseball, the Padres will keep doing it, too.

It's easy to say that regardless of what words Bradley and first-base Mike Winters umpire exchanged, a player can't

See LITKE, Page 8

Falcons' Michael Vick, 3 co-defendants indicted on Va. state charges related to dogfighting

SUSSEX, Va. (AP) -Michael Vick, already looking at a federal prison term for bankrolling a dogfighting operation in rural Virginia, now faces two state charges that could get him more prison time if he's convicted.

After a Surry County grand jury indicted the 3. Atlanta Falcons quarterback and three co-defendants Tuesday, Vick's lawyers indicated they will fight the state charges on the grounds that he can't be convicted twice of the same crime.

The NFL star, scheduled for sentencing Dec. 10 after pleading guilty to federal ed.

dogfighting charges, faces state charges of beating or killing or causing dogs to fight other dogs and engaging in or promoting dogfighting. Each felony is punishable by up to five in prison. vears Arraignments are set for Oct.

The grand jury declined to indict the 27-year-old Vick and two co-defendants on eight additional counts of killing or causing to be killed a companion animal, felonies that would have exposed them to as many as 40 years in prison if convict- Benjamin, a Richmond

Vick defense attorney Billy Martin said in a statement that the state counts concern "the same conduct covered by the federal indictment for which Mr. Vick has already accepted full responsibility."

Martin said he will 'aggressively protect his rights to ensure that he is not held accountable for the same conduct twice."

Vick was convicted of a federal conspiracy count while the state indictment deals with the act of dog fighting, said Steven

involved in the case. The prosecution will argue that's enough of a difference to allow the charges to proceed, he said.

Surry County Commonwealth's Attorney Gerald G. Poindexter had told The Associated Press on Monday night that he would seek indictments on different crimes than the ones Vick admitted to in federal court. He did not elaborate to reporters outside court Tuesday.

The charges are the first leveled against Vick in the county where he built a defense lawyer who is not home that became the base

of the dogfighting operation, where local investigators first uncovered evidence of the enterprise.

None of the defendants nor their lawyers were at the Sussex County courthouse, where the grand jury met because the courthouse in neighboring Surry County is closed for renovations.

Poindexter told reporters he was not disappointed the grand jury passed on the eight additional dog killing

"I'm just glad to get this to the position where it is now and, one day in the not too distant future, we will be rid

of these cases," he said.

In a written statement, Poindexter and Sheriff Harold Brown attempted to diffuse in advance any suggestion that race influenced the grand jury. Brown, Poindexter and the four defendants are black, as are four of the six grand jurors.

"These are serious charges, and we can assure you that this grand jury was not driven by racial prejudice, their affection or lack of affection for professional athletes, or the influence of animal rights activists and the attendant publicity," the statement said.

Bryce Hendricks def. by

Boonsong 6-4, 6-2

Wilkens 6-4, 3-6, 6-10
Girls Singles
Katie O'Neal def. by
Cabello 3-6, 4-6
Rachel Lee def. Huang 6-0,

Ashley Hernandez def. Vongphrachanh 6-0, 6-0 Sammi Finney def. Huang 6-1, 6-0 Megan Barnett def. Guajardo 6-0, 6-0 Alyssa Hoelting def.

Alyssa Hoelting Muntes 6-2, 6-0

Boys Doubles
Ware/Frels def

Campos/Boonsong 6-1, 6-1

Couts/Foreman

Alexander/Wilkens 8-6, 6-4 Hendricks/Vaid def. by Trevizo/Pham 4-6, 2-6

Girls Doubles
Lee/Hernandez def.
Cabello/Huang 6-4, 6-2
O'Neal/Barnett def.
Vongphrachanh/Huang 6-0,
6-2
Gage/Couts def.
Guajardo/Sengsourira 6-1,

Mixed Doubles Kelley/Hoelting def. Montes/Armendariz 6-2, 7-

Ramirez and Schilling return and Red Sox move closer to clinching AL East

By The Associated Press

Manny Ramirez returned after missing 24 games. Curt Schilling was back after nine days off. Things were back to normal in Boston.

Ramirez went 1-for-2 with a walk, Schilling won for the first time in more than a month and the Red Sox reduced their magic number for winning the AL East to three Tuesday night.

Their 7-3 victory over the Oakland Athletics coupled with Tampa Bay's 7-6 win in 10 innings over New York made it a good night all around for the Red Sox, who lead the Yankees by three games, but had lost six out of nine before Tuesday.

"I am sure it was an emotional lift for them

to have players that were injured return," Athletics manager Bob Geren said. "And to return the same day sure was a boost for them."

Ramirez missed almost a month with a strained muscle in his left side. Schilling was rested as manager Terry Francona set up his postseason rotation. The Red Sox got even more good news on the injury front as Kevin Youkilis returned after missing seven games because of a bruised right wrist.

But it all started with Ramirez, who was serenaded by the sellout crowd at Fenway Park with "Manny, Manny." He lined a single to right his first time up then scored on Mike Lowell's double, tying the score at 1 in the first inning.

Nicklaus trying to set up Woods-Weir finale in Presidents Cup

MONTREAL (AP) — Tiger Woods vs. Mike Weir.

U.S. captain Jack Nicklaus is all for it. International captain Gary Player wasn't quite as forthcoming, but the top-ranked Woods likely will find himself opposite the Canadian star on the first tee Sunday in the Presidents Cup.

"I think it will be great if Mike Weir played Tiger," Nicklaus said Tuesday. "I think that would be a great match. I think it's the logical thing to try to do. But Mike might not want to play him. I have no idea if Gary wants to do that or not and I have no idea if Tiger wants to do that. But that's my thought to say to you today."

Player didn't mention Weir by name, perhaps to leave a little suspense for the Saturday night singles selections.

"If I said to the guys, 'Would you like to play Tiger?' I'm sure a lot of guys will stand up and I'm quite confident of that," Player said. "We realize Tiger is an incredible golfer and we have a monumental task. And I think this is a golf course that will really suit Tiger, extremely so. So they have got a big task on their hands.

"I must say if I was a young guy, I'd be volunteering to play him."

Unlike in the Ryder Cup where each captain submits the entire lineup each day, the Presidents Cup matches are determined one at a time. Nicklaus will pick a player and Player will choose an opponent, then Player will select a player and Nicklaus will pick an opponent until all the matches are set.

"Whatever happens there, happens there," Woods said. "But as far as playing Mike, I've played with Mike quite a bit over the years. I know he's gone through a pretty significant swing change and he's starting to put it together and starting to put a little better now. ... Mike has been a world-class player for years."

Weir, whose 2003 Masters victory and lobbying effort played a big role in Canada getting the event, was added to the International lineup as a captain's pick after finishing 20th in the points race for the 10 automatic spots.

"Sunday is a long ways away," said Weir, 2-1 in Presidents Cup singles play.

Woods won his last two tournaments to take the FedEx Cup title, has four victories in five starts and seven overall this year.

"We obviously know what he can do. I definitely look forward to the challenge if that comes to be true," Weir said. "Gary wants to make sure that we do the right thing, not just for myself to put me against Tiger, but for everybody.

"I don't even want to think about that now, and if it does happen, I'll deal with it Saturday night when it comes."

The other big topic was Nicklaus' choice of playing partners for Woods the first three days. The competition will begin Thursday with six alternate-shot matches, followed Friday by six best-ball matches. On Saturday, they will play five morning alternate-shot matches and five afternoon best-ball matches.

Litke

Continued from Page 7

afford to lose his cool, especially at this time of year. It's even easier to look at Bradley's rap sheet and assume he's the only guilty party.

He's had run-ins with umpires and fans going back to his minor league days, with cops during traffic stops, and then there were the three visits they made to his house on domestic violence calls while Bradley was with the Dodgers. Despite obvious talent, he's had four employers in six big-league seasons and been on the disabled list a dozen times.

Coaches and teammates have labeled him difficult, disruptive and questioned his hustle. He's got troublemaker written all over him.

For all that, this latest dispute smells suspiciously like a setup.

When Bradley struck out Sunday against the Rockies and flipped his bat afterward, he left plate umpire Brian Runge wondering whether the gesture was directed at him. The two cleared the air during Bradley's at-bat three innings later. But after he singled, Bradley's started jawing with Winters over what Winters told Runge about the incident.

Then a fan heckled Winters, Bradley seconded that emotion and before you

can say "bleeping piece of bleep" — which is roughly what Bradley says Winters called him — everything was up for grabs. Padres first-base coach Bobby Meacham then took up Bradley's case and manager Bud Black came flying out of the dugout to help

restrain him.

Strangely enough, Black reacted so fast and so forcibly because he hoped to keep Bradley from getting suspended. Instead, he spun Bradley around and caused his right knee to buckle. The rest, as they say, is surgery.

Winters hasn't told his side of the story publicly, but crew chief Bruce Froemming defended him this way: "Winters told him to knock it off and he continued it. There is no covering up what he did. He had to be physically restrained."

Bradley's version was just as cut-and-dried, "the most unprofessional and most ridiculous thing I've ever seen."

Meacham had a stake in the fight, but given his levelheaded reputation, there seems to be little doubt about who provoked whom:
"He wanted to get Milton boiling for some reason. ...
The name that Winters called Milton, had he said it to me, I would have rushed him. No one is going to take

The Padre been wron because Bi tion preced haps also CEO Sandy some enem ing corps with the corps with the control of the corps with th

The only impartial observer, Colorado first baseman Todd Helton, said simply, "It was very inter-

esting." If Selig is actually investigating the matter, as his spokesmen claim, then he can pick up the phone and order Helton to explain exactly how interesting.

Both the tenor and timing of Selig's ruling will tell us something about his spine. The Padres feel they've been wronged, not just because Bradley's reputation preceded him, but perhaps also because team CEO Sandy Alderson made some enemies in the umpiring corps when he handled umpire relations for baseball's central office from 1998-2005.

Either way, the last thing the commissioner needs at the moment is a fight with the umpires and their union. But he doesn't have the lux-

ury of waiting. The Padres have one more game Wednesday in San Francisco, then close out the season with four in Milwaukee. That's when things could turn nastier still.

Before Monday night's game, Cameron looked at the schedule and turned to teammate Chris Young in the Padres' clubhouse at AT&T Park.

"CV we've got to call

"C.Y., we've got to call somebody," Cameron said. "That same crew has our last series."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

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.

9-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

ZIDIV WJR W AWDYV

Y A W L W Z Q Z M T K

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— U Q Z P C
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FROM THE FAULTS
OF ANOTHER, A WISE MAN WILL CORRECT HIS
OWN. — LABER

Blalock keys rally as Rangers defeat AL West champion LA Angels 3-1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — For Mike Scioscia, having his top players healthy for the postseason is more important than finishing with the American League's best record.

"It's an advantage to play on your home field when you're comfortable there," the Los Angeles Angels manager said. "but not at the cost of not having your whole team ready to compete."

Hank Blalock singled in the goahead run in the sixth inning as the Texas Rangers beat Los Angeles 3-1 Tuesday night.

The Angels (92-66) are tightly bunched with AL East-leading Boston (93-64) and AL Central champion Cleveland (92-63), which played later at Seattle.

Vladimir Guerrero rested a right triceps injury, and also gave Garret Anderson the night off. Kelvim Escobar was supposed to pitch Tuesday night but rested his sore right shoulder. The 17-game winner is expected to start this weekend.

xpected to start this weekend.

Scioscia said after the game that

Guerrero will be the designated hitter

for Wednesday's series finale.

Texas, coming off an 8-7 win over the Angels on Monday, trailed 1-0 when Ian Kinsler led off the sixth with his third single of the game. Kinsler advanced on a fielder's choice, took third on Marlon Byrd's infield hit and scored on a balk by Darren Oliver (3-

Blalock then lined a fastball to right that scored Byrd for a 2-1 lead. David Murphy added another run-scoring single in the sixth.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007:

Others challenge you this year. As a result, you find new ways of relating and processing in your life. Though you might not always be in a positive frame of mind or perfectly sure as to your liabilities in hassles, you support yourself on the chosen path. Investigate different styles of communication with an eye to growth and positive change. Communication proves to be incisive and could evolve into a very positive asset. If you are single, the world according to you might be dotted with choices. Who, what and where might be your questions. Nestling in seems to be an inordinately strong drive. If you are attached, an addition or change to your home life might be likely. ARIES often instigates a lot of reactions out of you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** Investigate and open up. You will finally find someone much more willing to come up with solutions and ideas. Your creativity and ability to get through problems earmark your thoughts. Tonight: Finally, that's more

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

** Know when to pull back and take a deep breath. You know way more than others realize. Understand and read between the lines. Listen to insight. You could find that you are eyeing a different perspective. Tonight: Get some extra R

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** You might wonder if you can accomplish what you want. Understand what you want and then take the next step. You can do whatever you want, but why not gear it to greater and better moments? Tonight: Aim high.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*★★★★ You might want to try something different and settle a problem. Through deciding to take responsibility, you move situations forward and create new possibilities. Don't worry so much about what you create. Tonight: A must

appearance. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** You might want to try something very different. If you feel that you cannot pave the path that you want, stop. There is a way. You simply might not be seeing it. Your sensitivity makes a difference in how you deal with others. Tonight: Add in more good times.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Know when to defer to others
and say that enough is enough. You
might wonder what you need to do in
order to get a situation to work. Worry
less and defer to others who might
believe they have better ideas. Time will
tell. Tonight: Be a duo.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Let others rock and roll. You
might want to try something very different and a lot more fun. Say little, but try
a different approach or add more fun to a
situation. Loosen up and feel what is
going on with the moment. Tonight: Say
ves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Focus on accomplishment and getting the job done. You are more even and mellow than you realize. An even, steady pace might be helpful. Be careful

with how much you are spending. You easily could go overboard. Tonight; Stay consistent and even.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** You might want to rethink a
personal matter. Children and creativity
pop up as attention-grabbers. On the
other hand, romance could be a prime
interest if you are in the right frame of
mind. Tonight: Fun and games.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** You might be more serious and driven than you realize. Your perspective could change once you gather more facts. How you deal with someone could change if you stop and center yourself.

Tonight: Anchor in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Have you held back? Will you hold back? It is an unlikely scenario just now, especially as you find someone to be incredibly critical, touchy or difficult: Your ability to move a problem and get to the bottom of it emerges. Tonight:

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

**You might want to discuss a situation involving finances. Pulling someone, into the present for a discussion might be important. Assume more control and direction if you are vested in the end results. Tonight: Follow your instincts.

Speak your mind.

BORN TODAY Actor Shawn Cassidy (1958), singer Meat Loaf (1947), baseball player Mike Schmidt (1949)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Fielder reaches 50 HRs, but wants 2 more in quest to top father

By The Associated Press

Don't get him wrong. Prince Fielder is plenty pleased with becoming the youngest player to hit 50 homers in a season.

But he really wants to hit 52—especially if it helps Milwaukee reach the playoffs.

Fielder connected twice Tuesday night to help the Brewers beat St. Louis 9-1, bringing Milwaukee within two games of the Chicago Cubs in the NL Central. It also allowed the typically jovial slugger to surpass Willie Mays as the youngest to reach that single-season milestone.

But Fielder was serious when he talked about hitting two more. His estranged father, former major leaguer Cecil Fielder, hit 51 home runs with Detroit in 1990 — and surpassing that total would be especially sweet.

"That's why I'm so passionate about playing," the younger Fielder said. "Hopefully one day, whenever they mention my name, they won't have to mention his."

Fielder hit a two-run homer to right field in the first inning and a two-run shot to left in the seventh,

giving him 50 at 23 years, 139 days old. Mays was 24 years, 137 days old when he hit his 50th in 1955, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"It was a great thrill," said Brewers manager Ned Yost, who this week was given a vote of confidence by team owner Mark Attanasio. "I told the boys, 'We're watching a little history here. Remember it."

Fielder's feats overshadowed the fact that Milwaukee drew ever closer to the Cubs, who were hamstrung by Dontrelle Willis and lost 4-2 at Florida

"We're in the middle of a pennant race right now and that's all I care

about," Yost said.
In other NL games, it was Washington 10, the New York Mets 9; Atlanta 10, Philadelphia 6; Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 5; San Diego 6, San Francisco 4; Colorado 9, the Los Angeles Dodgers 7; and Houston 8,

Cincinnati 5.

Prince Fielder is guarded about the reasons behind the split with his father. According to a 2004 story by The Detroit News, Cecil Fielder frittered away his baseball earnings through gambling and bad business

decisions.

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Bell ringers



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

The official bell ringers for the Pampa High School football games Matthew Hathcoat, left, and Jacob Maciel recently participated in the PHS homecoming parade.

UNITED NATIONS

Iranian leader defiant on nukes

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told world leaders his country will defy any further U.N. Security Council resolutions imposed by "arrogant powers" seeking to curb its nuclear program, accusing them of lying and imposing illegal sanctions against Tehran.

He said it is "high time for these powers to return from the path of arrogance and obedience to Satan to the path of faith in God."

Undeterred, France and Germany increased pressure on the Islamic republic at the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting on Tuesday, saying they would not accept a nuclear-armed Iran.

"Let's not fool ourselves. If Iran were to acquire the nuclear bomb, the consequences would be disastrous," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the session.

The high-level General Assembly session on Wednesday features speeches by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had been slotted to speak in the afternoon, but he pulled out at the last minute, leaving his foreign minister to take his place.

Ahmadinejad on Tuesday also indirectly accused the United States and Israel of violating human rights by setting up secret prisons, abducting people, holding trials and enacting secret

'Let's not fool ourselves. If Iran were to acquire the nuclear bomb, the consequences would be disastrous.'

— Angela Merkel German chancellor

"They use various pretexts to occupy sovereign states and cause insecurity and division and then use the prevailing situation as an excuse to continue their occupation. For more than 60 years, Palestine, as compensation for the loss they incurred during the war in Europe, has been under the occupation

of the illegal Zionist regime," he said. Referring to the U.S. government's policy on Iraq, he said: "They even oppose the constitution, National Assembly and the government established by the vote of the people, while they do not even have the courage to declare their defeat and exit Iraq."

Ahmadinejad told leaders that the world powers on the Security Council had politicized Tehran's nuclear program, making military threats and

punishments without any regard to due imposing sanctions against the country process, and tapping phone conversa- as they demanded it suspend uranium

He announced to the assembly that the nuclear issue was now "closed" as a political issue and Iran would pursue the monitoring of its nuclear program "through its appropriate legal path," the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei and Iranian officials agreed in July that Tehran would answer questions from agency experts by December on more. than two decades of nuclear activity most of it secret until revealed more than four years ago. IAEA technical officials returned to Tehran this week to start probing outstanding questions, some with possible weapons applica-

The U.S. delegation walked out of the General Assembly chamber when Ahmadinejad went to the podium, leaving only a low-ranking note-taker to listen to his speech, which also indirectly accused the U.S. and Israel of human rights violations. Gonzalo Gallegos, a State Department spokesman, said the U.S. wanted "to send him a powerful message."

Ahmadinejad remained in the General Assembly for Bush's speech, but a U.N. diplomat in the chamber said he pulled out his translation earpiece before Bush started to talk.

House votes to expand health insurance for children

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House voted Tuesday to expand health insurance for children, but the Democratic-led victory may prove short-lived because the margin was too small to override President Bush's promised

Embarking on a health care debate likely to animate the 2008 elections, the House voted 265-159 to expand the State Health Children's Insurance Program, or SCHIP, by \$35 billion over five years. Bush says he will veto the bill due to its cost, its reliance on a tobacco tax increase and its potential for replacing private insurance with government grants.

SCHIP is a state-federal program that provides coverage for 6.6 million children from families that live above the poverty level but have trouble affording private health insurance. The proposed expansion, backed by most governors and many health-advocacy groups, would add 4 million children to the rolls.

The bill drew support 45 House Republicans, many of them moderates who do not want to be depicted as indifferent to low-income children's health needs when they seek re-election next year. But 151 Republicans sided with Bush, a move that Democrats see as a political blunder.

It hardly matters that the expansion would be expensive or a step toward

socialized health care, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., said during the House debate. When lawmakers go home, he said, "the question is, Were you with the kids or were you

To overturn a presidential veto, both chambers of Congress must produce two-thirds majorities. The 265 yes votes in the House are two dozen fewer than Democrats would need to override Bush's veto, and House leaders expect few members to switch positions.

The Senate appears poised to pass the SCHIP expansion by a large margin later this week, but a Senate bid to override a veto would be pointless if the House override effort falls short.

Despite the expected veto, many congressional Democrats welcomed the SCHIP debate as a way to open a second political front - in addition to Iraq - on which they feel Bush and his allies are out of step with voters. Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., said the president willingly pours billions of dollars into the war but resists a significant expansion of a health program for modest-income children.

"It's no surprise the president finds himself isolated," Emanuel said at a Democratic event that included a Maryland mother who relied on SCHIP coverage when two of her children were badly injured in a car wreck.

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Justices to decide Kentucky death row cases

WASHINGTON (AP) — a humane alternative to elec-The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to take a hard look at the method of lethal injection most states use to put inmates to death in a case that could further slow the pace of execu-

The high court will hear a challenge early next year from two inmates on death row in Kentucky — Ralph Baze and Thomas Clyde Bowling Jr. who claim that lethal injection as practiced by the state amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

The last time the court considered a challenge to a method of execution was in 1879, when it upheld the use of a firing squad in Utah.

trocution and the gas chamber, have come under attack in recent years amid reports that the three-drug cocktail doesn't always work as quickly as intended and that inmates are subjected to excruciating pain before they die.

The Supreme Court has previously made it easier for death row inmates to contest the lethal injections used across the country for execu-

But until Tuesday, the justices had passed up cases that posed the question of whether the mix of drugs and the way they are administered in three dozen states violate the Constitution. The court will hear arguments in the case on

prisoners' lawyer.

The inmates' appeal was among 17 new cases the court accepted for its term that begins Monday. The other high-profile

appeal granted Tuesday is a challenge to the constitutionality of a voter photo identification law in Indiana, a partisan issue with ramifications for the 2008 elections. Democrats and civil rights groups say the law unfairly keeps the poor and minorities from voting, while its backers contend it is intended to reduce voter fraud.

Courts have upheld voter ID laws in Arizona, Georgia and Michigan and struck one down in Missouri.

There have been 1,099 executions, 928 by lethal injec-Lethal injections, devised as Jan. 7, said David Barron, the tion, since the Supreme Court

halted executions in 1972 and allowed them to resume in 1976. The annual number of executions peaked at 98 in 1999 and fell to 53 last year. So far in 2007, 42 people have been executed.

No state other than Texas has put to death more than three people this year. Texas has executed 26 inmates by lethal injection.

Undeterred by the Supreme Court review, Texas on Tuesday night executed 49year-old Michael Richard, convicted of a 1986 shooting. The high court had rejected Richard's request for a stay until it ruled on the Kentucky case. Another execution was scheduled in the state for Thursday.

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