

Gray rancher tries to keep water districts intact

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer
WHITE DEER -- A Gray County
rancher is trying to hold the Panhandle's groundwater community together. In an effort to get neighboring groundwater conservation districts to work together, the Texas Legislature created Groundwater Management growth of warring districts that were newly formed downstate, but more recently Groundwater Management
Area No. 1, which includes the three

Another work day begins


Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER
Farm machinery is silhouetted in the morning sun at Hansford Implement.
Gas utility companies ordered to replace faulty pipe couplings
AUSTIN - Michael Williams, Chairman
of the Railroad Commission of Texas, has of the Railroad Commission of Texas, has
proposed new stringent mandatory direcproposed new stringent mandatory direc-
tives to increase the frequency of natural gas tives to increase the frequency of natural gas
leak inspections and to shorten natural gas leak inspections
leak repair times.
A third mandatory directive would require gas utility companies to seek out all known compression couplings and replace them immediately at known service riser installations if the couplings are not manufactured and installed with second
not resistant to pull outs.
Williams made these proposals during
oldest groundwater districts in the newly formed district. state, has started to splinter GMA 1 includes the Lubbockbased High Plains Underground Water District, the oldest such district in Texas; the Dumas-based North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, the second
oldest, and White oldest, and White $\begin{aligned} & \text { Deer-based } \\ & \text { Panhandle }\end{aligned}$
Groundwater Panhandle Groundwater
Conservation District, the third oldest. The fourth member of the GMA 1 is Canadian-based Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, a relatively

High Plains is asking to be removed from the GMA. Only part
of its district, portions of Armstrong and Randall
and Counties, including South Amarillo, are in GMA 1. The majority of the High Plains district is in GMA 2, which stretches south
across the South Plains. The other across the South Plains. The other members of GMA 2 join High Plains
on the south, below Lubbock. "As a board of directors represen$\begin{array}{ll}\text { tative for the Groundwater } \\ \text { Management } & \text { Area," John R. }\end{array}$ Management Area," John R.
Spearman Jr. said during this week's

Panhandle $\left.\begin{array}{r}\text { Groundwater } \\ \text { Conservation } \\ \text { District's }\end{array}\right)$ meeting "I Conservation District's meeting, "I
would like to see High Plains remain in there. They provide balance to Groundwater Management Area No. 1. I'm afraid that if it's just three districts in it, it would become polarized and would have trouble coming to a consensus on down the road. Spearman, who farms and ranches
east of Pampa, said there are several east of Pampa, said there are several
other counties in other parts of the state that lie in more than one GMA. See WATER, Page 3



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## Pampa engineer honored by state organization

By JOHN WARNER Special to The News Gene Barber of Pampa was recently honored with a plaque from the Texas
Board of Professional Engineers for Board of Professional Engineers for
more than 50 years of service to the public as a Professional Engineer. "As governor, I understand how vital it is that we have professional engineers with integrity, expertise and commitment in order for our engineer-
ing industry and our state to prosper," ing industry and our state to prosper,"
wrote Texas Gov. Rick Perry in a letter of congratulations. Barber graduated from Pampa High

School in 1945 and returned to Pampa the building of a bridge across Lake
in 1956 to join the firm of Roberts and in 1956 to join the firm of Roberts and Pontchartrain in Louisiana Merriman. The firms later became Merriman and Barber Consulting
Engineers, Inc. He has worked here since that time. After graduating from Texas A\&M University in 1951, Barber worked for Brown \& Root for seven years. He was the cost engineer when Brown \& Root built the Celanese Plant west of Pampa
for two years. He worked as a design for two years. He worked as a design
engineer in the home office of Brown engineer in the home office of Brown
\& Root in Houston for two years. He \& Root in Houston for two years. He
served as cost and office engineer for Pontchartrain in Louisiana
"It is 24 miles long It is 24 miles long and the
longest over-water bridge in the world," Barber said. Barber has been involved with paving and utility projects in Pampa, White Deer, Skellytown, Gruver, Sunray, Follett, Darrouzett, Booker, Higgins, McLean, Memphis, Lefors, Wheeler, Canadian and other commu-
nities. He has worked on more than 50 nities. He has worked on more than See BARBER, Page 3

Washing hands helps keep staph controlled

By KERRI SMITH
future outbreaks and the pub-
lic can also make a differStaff Writer
Recently, MRSA $\begin{aligned} & \text { lic can also make a differ- } \\ & \text { ence by practicing good per }\end{aligned}$ (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) has been in the news due to
apparent outbreaks at apparent outbreaks
schools and athletic depa ments. Many parents in the area are concerned about their children and how safe they are in Pampa schools.
Local athletic trainers and Local athletic trainers and
physicians want to physicians want to get the
word out that MRSA has been reported on a few occasions, but many precautions whal hygiene. What exactly is MRSA? According to multiple sources, it is an antibiotic-
resistant staph infection resistant staph infection
caused by a type of bacteria This type of bacteria is resistant to many common antibiotics such as penicillin and amoxicillin due to the overuse
tions. Pampa Nurse Practitioner

No smoking


Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH Today is the official start of the Tobacco Free campus at Pampa Regional Medical Center. Mike Gennison, left, and James Smith start to disassemble the smoke hut at the hospital since there will now be no smoking areas around the hospital.



Friday: Sunny, with a high near 70 . West wind 5 to 15 mph becoming gouth.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46
Saturday: M
ind becoming east between 5 and 10 mph . 69 . Calm Saturday Night: Partly cloudy with 10 mph Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 65. South-southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph .
Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47
O This information brought to you by.

|  |
| :---: |
|  |  |

## Bama Oliver, 83

Bama Oliver, 83, a life- the direction
time area resident and past time area resident and past King
assessor/collector died Nov 14, 2007, at a care center in Clyde.
Funeral
Funeral services are
scheduled scheduled at 2 p.m.
Saturday Saturday, at First United
Methodist Paducah.

Funeral Home
Survivors
Survivors include Mrs.
Oliver's husband of 62 years, Hermon Oliver; a son, Terry Oliver of Linda Barton two daughters, Linda Barton of Clyde and
Beth Watson of Pampa; six Beth Watson of Pampa; six
grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## Emergency Services



## Celebration of Lights

at Pampa Recreation Park November 17th thru December 31st Sunday thru Thursday 6:00pm to 10:00pm Friday and Saturday 6:00pm to 11:00pm
"TRALEE TREE OF blessings" November 27th thru December 15th sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center THE NUTCRACKER presented by The Pampa Civic Ballet December 1st at $7: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ the MK Brown Auditorium FESTIVAL OF TREES December 1st and 2nd t MK Brown Auditorium

## Pitemory Emeterp $\mathcal{X}$ Hausoleum of pampa

 665-8921 … wasinubitimicem
## Obituaries

## Services tomorrow

BURTON, Ollie 'Pete' -2 p.m., Country Chapel Church, Wheeler
LOCKETT, James Francis "Jim" - 11 a.m.; Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

## Dorothy Adams, 84

SKELLYTOWN
Dorothy Adams, 84, died Worothy Adams, 84 , died Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. Graveside services are scheduled at 11 a.m. Saturday in White Deer Cemetery at White Deer with Rob Lackey, an interim pastor, officiating. direction of Brown Funeral
 Directors of Borger. She was preceded in death Colo.; a daughter, Apri

## James Francis (Jim) Lockett Sr., 92

| OKLAHOMA CITY |
| :---: |
| Okla. - James Fr |
| (Jim) Lockett, Sr., 92, died |
| Nov. 12, 2007, at Oklahoma |
| City. |
| Services will |
| Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at |
| Carmichael-Whatley |
| Colonial Chapel in Par |
| Texas, with the Rev. Carl |
| Novian, associate past |
| First Baptist Church |
| Pampa, officiating. |
| Burial will be in Memory |
| ardens Cemetery in Pampa |
|  |
| Carmichael-Whatley |
| Funeral Directors. |
| Mr. Lockett was born |
| ept. 23, 1915, in Palisade, |
| fus And |
| ockett and Nora Winchell |

reported in the 300 block of North Christy where an arrest Was made, the 100 block of tion of Foster and Ballard. Accidents were reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart, in the police department lobby and at the intersection of 19th and Faulkner. provided in the 1100 block of Frederic and the intersection of Tignor and Frederic. Criminal mischief was
reported in the 1200 block of reported in the 1200 block of
North Wells, where a vehicle North Wells, where a vehicle
sustained $\$ 200$ in damages from a scratch; in the 1400 block of North Russell; and in the police department in the
lobby.
Telephone harassment was Noporth Faulkner.
An offense against family and children was reported in the police departrent Jobby.
Assauttwas reported in the 1400 block of East Kingsmill and the
30th.
One alarm was reported. Two open doors were
Theft was reported in the 400 block of West Bucklet and on three occasions in the police department lobby
motor vehicle was reported in the 1900 block of North Faul
Departmampa Police Department reported the fol-
lowing incidents for the lowing incidents for the 24 hour period ending at 7 a.m.

## Ten traffic stops were

## made.

Theft over $\$ 50$ and und $\$ 500$ was reported at the intersection of Foster and gasoline drive-off occurred; in the 100 q , black of East
Francis, where less than $\$ 50$ worth of gasoline was
siphoned from siphoned from a vehicle; and
in the police department in the police department Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of
South Gray, the 500 block of South Gray, the 500 block of North Wells and the 600
block of North Dwight. A silent/abusive 911 was received from the 1500 block of North Hobart.
Suspicious persons were
reported in the 1100 block of reported in the 1100 block of East Darby, the 900 block of
Denver and the 1200 block of Denver and the
North Hobart.
Criminal trespass was reported in the 2300 block of North Primrose.
Fraud was reported in the police department lobby.
Burglary of a motor Burglary of a motor vehi-
cle was reported in the polic department lobby.
Disorderly conduct calls came in from the 600 block of North Nelson, the intersec tion of Neel and Varnon, and the intersection of Wilks and Faulkner.
Found
Found
reported in the police depart ment lobby.
Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of South Hobart.
A missing person was
reported in the 1100 block of South Dwight.
South Dwight
Warrant
attempted at one location, resulting in an arrest.

## City Briefs



BORGER DOWNTOWN Merchants Christmas Open House Sun. November 18th $1-4 \mathrm{pm}$ at Participating mer-
chants. Santa arrives at 2:00.

CUSTOM PICTURE FramCUSTOM PICTURE Framing at Pampa Glass \& Supply,
1432 N. Banks. Order now for Christmas!!

Domestic disturbance was reported in
South Wells
Alarms were reported in
the 1500 block and in the 900 hlock, gf Norkh Hobobart 9
Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests Wednesday and today.
Tuesday, Nov. 13 Jelani R. McNeal, 29, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for two Texas Departments of Criminal Justice sentences for posses-
sion of a controlled substance. sion of a controlled substance. Pampa wh was arrested by GCSO for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance.
Kenneth
Kenneth Dale Putman, 25,
of Pampa was arrested by of Pampa was arrested by
GCSO on warrants for no running water and failure to
appear.
David Alan Thomas, 28 , of Canton was arrested by GCSO for no driver's license and no insurance.
David Perez David Perez, 22,
Amarillo was arrested GCSO on a warrant for failure to appear and capias pro fines for consumption of alcohol, open container, failure to appear and no driver's

Wednesday, Nov. 14 Nicholas Lee Brookshire, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of North Christy by Pampa Police Department for no driver's license and no insurance.
Amy Jo Brassfield Pampa was arrested by the Gray County constable on five counts of issuance of a bad check.

Chistian Bruce, 27, of Pampa was arrested by PPD
in the 800 block of Nelson for criminal trespass, Nelson for criminal trespass,
tampering with evidence and ${ }^{\text {possession }}$ of marijuana. possession of marjuana, 19 of Pampa was arrested by intoxication.

Thursday, Nov. 15 Timothy Clemmons, 30, of Pampa was arrested by PPD injury, failure cousing bodily tive, violation of as a fugg nance for no running water and failure to appear.

Pampa Fire Departmen reported the following call for the 48 -hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Nov.
reported calls.
No reported calls.
Wednesday, Nov
5:25 p.m. - One unit and three personnel responded to
the 2200 block of Mary Ellen the 2200 block
on a lock in.
Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following call reported the following call
between $7 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$. Tuesday and a.m. today.

Tuesday, Nov. 13
7:57 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of
South Russell and transported South Russell and transported a patient to Pam
Medical Center.
9:30 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block o West and transported a patient(s) to BSA Hospital in
12:05 p.m. - A mobile ICU
responded to the 2500 block of Mary Ellen and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.
$9: 44 \mathrm{p.m}$. -A mobile ICU 9:44 p.m. - A mobile ICU
responded to the 2500 block responded to the 2500 block
of Fir and transported of Fir and tran
patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, Nov. 14 responded to the 1500 block of Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.
11:07 a.m. - A mobile ICU
responded to the 1300 block responded to the 1300 block
of West Kentucky and transof West Kentucky and trans-
ported a patient to Pampa ported a patient to Pamp
Regional Medical Center. 12:58 p.m. - A mobile ICU

1. responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Perry LeFors Airport for transport to Houston.
4 $: 559$ p.m. - A mobile ICU
responded to the 700 block North Gray and transported a patient to PRMC.

The Pampa News - Thursday, November 15, 2007-3


Pampa Concert Choir members gave a free performance of their play Pampa Concert Choir members gave a free performance of their play Cindereila to Pampa and Lefors elementary school students Wednesday. Thi gave the cast and crew an opportunity to practice on stage before the actual 2:30 p.m. Sunday at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Pictured from left are Diana Mechelay and JaCee Villarreal, who play Cinderella's stepsisters, and Brenna Albracht, who plays the wicked stepmother. Tickets can be purchased at the door and are $\$ 7$ for adults and $\$ 5$ for students and children

## Gas

Continued from Page 1
possible when they are found," Williams said. Frequent and thorough way to ensure our citizens are safe and for gas distribution companies to make certain their infrastructure is sound and able to safely deliver natural gas to their customers
The Commission classifies gas leaks on a grading scale. The current scale classifies leaks into three categories depending on location and magnitude of the leak. cally sy shörtens repaii tames. cally shoritens repaik,temes. would require Grade 1 leaks to be repaired immediately, as they are consid-
ered hazardous to people ered hazardous to people
or property nearby. Grade 2 leaks must be reevaluated monthly and repaired within 6 months. Grade 3 leaks must be reevaluated within 15 months and

repaired within 3 years. | repaired within 3 | years. |
| :--- | :--- |
| Grades 2 and | 3 |
| leaks |  | receive a lower level grade only if the gas leak is con-

sidered non-hazardous due sidered non-hazardous due to its location and magnitude of the leak. Non-hazardous leaks pose
ger of explosion. ger of explosion. require immediate repair require immediate repair.
Grade 2 leaks are scheduled for repair some time in the future. Grade 3 leaks have an open-en
time frame for repair. time frame for repair.
In October of 2006 In October of 2006 and
March of 2007 , certain types of compression couplings were involved in two explosions. Consistent with the and practice, and practice, the
Commission began an investigation immediately after each incident to determine the cause of each incident.
In addition, in March 2007, the Commission, rence of two incidents, both involving certain types of compression cou-
plings, began a targeted plings, began a targeted
inquiry into the continued inquiry into the continued
suitability of these types of suitability of couplings.
compression col The Commission anticipates fully completing
targeted review soon.
In the meantime, on
Oct. 9, the Railroad Oct. 9, the Railroad Commission issued an
interim directive to all gas interim directive to all gas
utilities to replace and utilities to replace and
repair leaks of compresrepair couplings that the
sion come sion couplings that the
utilities come across during their regular business. Williams' proposals are the latest step
review process.

## NYC goes from DC to AC

NEW YORK (AP) - The Westinghouse over which city that Thomas Edison transmission method to
electrified 125 years ago has adopt - even going so far electrified
completed the transition
to publicly electrocute anifrom direct to alternating mals in the hopes of showing from, direct to alternating vestiges of a feud between giants of invention.
The Consolidated Edison utility on Wednesday pulled the plug on direct current service with electric operations manager Fred Simms, a years, cutting a ceremonial cable on a Manhattan street. The change means that Con Ed now exclusively uses the alternating current system invented by Nikola
Tesla. The utility is named for Edison, whose Pearl Street 'Station in Manhatan was the nation's first central electrical power plant, serving 59 customers with direct urrent beginning in 1882. currents," Edison feuded with Tesla and George

## Barber

Continued from Page 1
Airport in Amarillo and Perry Lefors Field north of Pampa.
Other projects include treatment plants and water towers in Pampa and various other communities. He has done projects for Westgate Mall in Amarillo. In addition to being an
engineer, Barber is $\begin{array}{ll}\text { engineer, } & \text { Barber is a } \\ \text { Registered } & \text { Professional }\end{array}$ Land Surveyor, completing many house and lot surveys, ranch surveys, well and pipeline surveys and
city maps. city maps. to Erma Lee Barber married years. They Barber for 58 years. They have two chil-
dren, two grandchildren and two great-grandchil$\underset{\text { dren. }}{\text { Ac }}$
Active in the community,
Barber was president Barber was president of the Men's Fellowship Sunday School Class of the First
United Methodist Church for many years. He is a past president of the Pampa Noon Lions Club and a for-
mer member of the mer mem.
Jaycees.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:
Celanese Ltd. has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for issuance of Air Quality Permit No. 83322, which would authorize construction of an Ethanol Plant located at the Celanese Chemicals Pampa Plant in Pampa, Gray County, Texas. The applicant has provided the following directions to the site: from Pampa, proceed west on Highway 60 and go 5 miles to the plant which is on the south side of Highway 60. Additional information concerning this application is contained in the public notice section of this newspaper.

## Staph

Continued from Page 1
Derrell DeLoach said this condition is more common in people with chronic health problems, those who are bed
fast and people in institu fast and people in institu-
tional settings such as hospitals, nursing homes and jails. "Pampa has had a few reported cases of MRSA in
the past, but there hasn't the past, but there hasn't been an increased number of
cases recently," DeLoach cases recently," DeLoach
said. "This is not a new said. "This is not a new
health problem, but it has just received a lot of press recently because of a few
deaths. Young kids are at deaths. Young kids are at
risk because this disease is spread by skin-to-skin contact, in crowded environ
ments, the sharing of toys or equipment and bad hygiene. Children don't wash their
hands very often, but this is hands very often, but this is
one way to decrease the spread of the disease." According to local televi pers, a seventh grade student from Borger recently died
from MRSA. Although the hospital and Borger ISD have not confirmed this is
the cause of the boy's death the cause of the boy's death,
parents are concerned about parents are concerned about
sending their children to school and athletics. Kristin Tucker icensed and certified athletic trainer for Pampa High School. She said that the ath
letic department in has been taking precautions hor a while to prevent MRSA for a while to prevent MRSA
incidents and the spread of incidents and
"Every time an athlete gets up from a training table or is finished using a piece
of equipment, we clean the of equipment, we clean the
area with a special solution to kill any bacteria that might be on the surface," Tucker said. "We also spray a diluted solution in the air a
few times a week in few times a week in the

## Water

Continued from Page 1
He also said that the one time that the Texas
Water Developmen Board agreed to change GMA boundaries, al the groundwater dis-
tricts involved were unanimous in their support of the change. In this case, the High Plains and North Plains districts support the change. Hemphill County district said it is
still studying the issue but has not opposed it. Only the Panhandle Groundwat er
Conservation District is opposing the boundary change, and that may be enough. "The only thing that stands in the way of High Plains getting out us," said Charles Bowers, PGWCD board member and farmer and rancher from sou
ern Gray County.
and this starts the spread of
the germs," DeLoach said. the germs," DeLoach said
"There are medications that can be prescribed for use in the nose to help knock out the bacteria. The best recom mendation that the medical community can give though is for people to wash thei
hands regularly. Also, if any hands regularly. Also, if any
one has a wound that starts to change in appearance they should seek medical attention immediately. If the wound gets red, raised, ed, the person should see a ed, the
For more information For more information prevent the disease, go to ite www.cdc.gov


EdwardJones

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## Viewpoints

## November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month

According to the ence days in which I rise
American Health Assistance from my chair only to disre Foundation, November is National Alzheimer's am thankful Alzheimer' apparently does not run in my family. That fact, howev er, does not prevent my mother from worrying about
her chances of developing her chances of developing
AD. She is an avid crossword,
puzzlebook and computer game fan and has been for many, many years. This fact I feel quite thankful for since SHE tells me people who do puzzles and/or games ar
less likely to develop this dreadful disease.
1 get my forgetfulness
from her. I frequently
Today in History

## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 15, the 319th day of 2007. There are 46 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History
On Nov. 15, 1806, explorer Zebulon Pike sighted the mountaintop now known as Pikes Peak in present-day Colorado.
On this date:
In 1777, the Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation, a precursor to the Constitution of the United States.
Dom Pedro II, was overthrown
C

## 'To oppose

something is to
maintain it.

## - Ursula K.

LeGuin

In 1926, the Nationa
Broadcasting Co
debuted as a radio net work.
In 1939, President Roosevelt laid the corMemorial Memor Washington, D.C.
In 1948, William Lyon Mackenzie King retired as prime minister
of Canada after 21 years; he was succeeded by Louis St. Laurent.

In 1966, the flight Gemini 12 ended successfully as astronauts James A. Lovel and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Junior splashed down safely in the
Atlantic. Atlantic.
In 1979, the British government publicly identified Sir Anthony Blunt as the "Fourth Man" of a soviet spy ring that In 1987, 28 of 82 people aboard a Continental Airlines D 9 , including the pilot and co-pilot, were killed when the jetliner crashed seconds after taking off from Denver's Stapleton International Airport
Ten years ago: A day after moving to halt the import of modified assault weapons, President Clinton defended the
action in his weekly radio address, saying such weapons did nothing but "inspire fear and wreck deadly havoc on our streets."
Five years ago: Palestinian militants raked Israeli troops
and settlers with gunfire in an ambush, killing 12 Israelis in and settlers with gunfire in an ambush, killing 12 Israelis in Hebron. Hu Jintao replaced Jiang Zemin as China's
Communist Party leader: One year ago: O.J. Simpson caused an uproar with plans for a TV interview and book titled "If I Did It," in which slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman. One of four U.S. soldiers accused of raping a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and killing her and her family
pleaded guilty at Fort Campbell, Ky. (Spec. James P. Barker, who agreed to testify against the others, was later sentenced to 90 years in prison.)

The Pâtota News
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© 2005 The Pampa News nursing nursin
home? $\begin{array}{cc}\text { A: This is } & \text { Skyla } \\ \text { Bryant }\end{array}$ $\left.\begin{array}{ll}\text { A: This is } & \text { Skyla } \\ \text { never } & \text { an } \\ \text { easy } & \text { Bryant } \\ \text { sion. } & \text { Most }\end{array}\right)$ News Editor sion. Most
people prefer to live
on their own or in a family home as long as possible. However,
when a loved one has Alzheimer's, a long-term care facility may be necessary. In my experience, some
caregivers wait too caregivers wait too long to
make a decision. Often make a decision. Often person has a serious fall or wanders and gets lost, and
this necessitates quick
e person with
action. For others, the stress
disease (AD) in
of caregiving and the strain
on family disease (AD) in of caregiving and the strain

possible in order to choose
the best facility for the individual.
Q: What are the most important things to lo
in the nursing home? A: I encourage? people assessing nursing homes to use their keenest senses of observation during both
planned appointments and planned appointments and
unannounced visits. First and foremost, look closely at the residents. Do they appear engaged and content? Positive interaction between the staff and residents is crit-
ical. The staff should be happy and genuinely focused on and interested in the residents, not simply performing tasks. Check to see
what types of activities are
available. Is the staff competent and trained to deal
specifically with $A D$ ? Note specifically with AD ? Note the color schemes of beds, chairs, walls and floors. This oes beyond aesthetics, because many AD patients are unable to discern colors very well. There should be a clear contrast between the floors and bedcovers, for example, to prevent confuing and falls. Also, the nursing home should be free of vidual is odors. If the indiit is essential wandering, secured facility to find a insight, talk to families of residents. Locate and read the posted state survey of the
facility and use the Internet facility and use the Internet
to find more information.


## Getting a heads-up on mail-merging

Last week, I finished my as my data source. Word was the fields. For instance, in "Step 3 of 6 " and choose $\begin{array}{llll}\begin{array}{lll}\text { simple tutorial on basic } & \text { still used for the main docu- } & \text { Excel, Row } 1 \text { would contain } \\ \text { Microsoft Word mail-merge } & \text { "Edit Recipient List." } \\ \text { ment and for the merging }\end{array} \text { the field names and Row } 2 & \text { Filtering Records }\end{array}$ Microsoft Word mail-merge show you some tips and tricks that will make mailmerging much more useful. - Uource In
In In my simple example, we
used Micro ate a form letter. The tatamere four records, was also saved as a Word document. When Microsoft Word is chosen for the data source, a document with a single table structure will work fine for most SMALL merging projects. However, when faced with larger, say 100-plus records, Microsoft Word's speed and reliability begin to
wane.
In the past, I've had to do
rather large mail-merges, some in the 8,000 record
range. I chose to use Excel
still used for the main docu-
ment and for the merging
process, but the data source process, but the data source the hard way, that Excel is much more efficient at handling large
data lists.
At thi
At this
point, some Eric $\begin{array}{ll}\text { of you may } \\ \text { be wonder- } & \text { Columnist }\end{array}$ ing why
Access (an actual database application) for my data
source. In my opinion, it is overkill for most mail-merge projects. Access should only be used when linking multiple tables for one merge operation. O
To use an Excel spreadTo use an Excel spread-
sheet as your data source, make sure you use rows for the records and columns for
would contain record 1 . Column A might be "first name," column B might be "last name," and so on. Try
 it; I think
you will find Excel
much better much better
at handling at handing
large mailing lists.

Understand Your Options Once you have your main document and data source all push out, all that is left is to push the MERGE button, right? Wait just a minute. Open your original "Donor
Main" letter and pull down Main" letter and pult down the "Tools" menu. Choose theters "Mail Merge Wizard." The Mail Merge Task Pane The Mail Merge Task Pane
will open on the left. Skip to

What if you don't want ALL of the records to print? For instance, you may want particule letters ONLY for a particular zip code. Notice next to the "zip code" field next to the "zip code" field
heading? Click it and choose one of the displayed entries. The list immediately shortens to only the zip code you chose! Of course, you can manually filter records by unchecking them in the list,
but the drop-down method is much faster.
For more advanced filterng, hit the drop-down buton on any of the fields and choose "Advanced." The "Filter Records" tab on this window allows you to
choose which records will "make the cut" based on See MERCE, Page 6

## Texas Thoughts

## By The Associated Press

## sample of editorial opinion around

exas:
El Paso Times Staff on election day:
El Paso Times Staff on election day
Tuesday is Election Day and should get out and vote. The ballot is loaded with 16 proposed constitutional amendments. Most of them will have some kind of impact - probably financial ${ }^{-}$- on all Texans.
Here are the propositions and
Paso Times' recommendations: Paso Times' recommendations:
Proposition 1: "The constitutional amendment providing for the continuation of the constitutional appropriation for facilities and other capital items at Angelo State University on a change in the governance of the university."

Recommendation: No recommendation. Proposition is provincial and doesn't affect El Paso.
Proposition 2: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of $\$ 500$ million in general obligation students and authorizing bond enhancement agreements with respect to general obligation bonds issued for that purpose."
Recommendation: Vote YES. Loan money could benefit EI Paso students and money will not come from taxes.
Proposition 3: "The constitutional Proposition 3: "The constitutional to provide that the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation is limited to the lesser
of the most recent market value of the
residence homestead as determined by the appraisal entity or 110 percent, or a greater percentage, of the appraised value of the residence homestead for the preceding tax year." Recommendation: Vote YES. This restricted, though not as much as many would like.
Proposition 4: "The constitutional mendment authorizing the issuance of up to $\$ 1$ billion in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for maintenance, improvement, repair, and chase of needed equipment." Recommendation: Vote YES nfrastructure requires upkeep, and See VOTING, rage 6

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Fecela 6 MONTHS NO INTEREST
 Mary Hartley, left, was the winner drawn to win this scarecrow from Heard Jones Healthmart. Ada Westbrook presented the item to Hartley recently.

## Merge

## Continued from Page 4

 their values. In the previous columns' example, we might choose to send out letters only to donors that gave over ten thousand dollars. I would simply choosethe amount field, then click on "Greater the amount fielo, then click on "Greater
then" under Comparison, and then enter " 10,000 " in the "Compare to" field.

- Sorting Records

The other tab on this window is labeled, "Sort Records." You could use this area to sort your list by zip code (giv-
ing you some significant postage dising you some significant postage dis-
counts). Or, you could sort a nametag mail merge by last name. You get the point.

- Where to Merge to?

Once you're done playing with filtering, close those windows and skip to "Step 6 of 6 " in the Mail Merge Task
Pane. Here, you have a choice on where Pane. Rere, you have a choice on where
to "merge to." Your choices are "Print

## Voting

## Continued from Page 4

upkeep costs money. Delayed repairs and will cost even more down the line.
Proposition 5: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit the voters of a municipality having a population of
less than 10,000 to authorize the governing body of the municipality to enter into an agreement with an owner of real property in or adjacent to an area in the municipality that has been approved for funding under certain programs administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture under which the parties agree that
all ad valorem taxes imposed on the owner's property may not be increased for the first five tax years after the tax year in which the agreement is entered into.'
Recommendation: Vote YES. While this is generally aimed at small towns, improving their economies is in the interests of the entire state.
Pro
Proposition 6: "The constitutional amend
ment authorizing the legislature to exemp ment authorizing the legislature to exempt
from ad valorem taxation one motor vehicle owned by an individual and used in the course of the owner's occupation or profession and also for personal activities of the owner." Recommendation: Vote YES. This would
benefit people who use personal vehicles for benefit people who use personal vehicles for
business purposes, particularly small-business owners, who make up the backbone of El Paso business.
Proposition 7: "The constitutional amendment to allow govermmental entities to sell property acquired through eminent domain back to the previous owners at the price the
entities paid to acquire the property". Recommendation: Vote YES. Although this
ared rarely, it could still probably would be used rarely, it could still
rein in governmental entities from employing eminent domain excessively.
Proposition 8: "The constitutional amendment to clarify certain provisions relating to
the making of a home equity loan and use the making of a home equity loan and use of
home equity loan proceeds." Recommendation: Vote Y
confusing language and legalese surrounding the loan process would be a help.
Proposition 9: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt all or part of the residence homesteads of certain
totally disabled veterans from ad valorem taxwtaily ansabied veterans from ad valorem tax-
ation a change in the manner of determining the amount of the existing exemption from ad valorem taxation to which a disabled veteran is entitled."
Recommendation: Vote YES. This amend-
ment would help totally ment would help totally disabled veterans with
their taxes and help clear up exemptions avaitheir taxes and help clear up exemptions available to other disabled veterans. ment to abolish the constitutional authority for
.." and "Edit individual letters ..." The second option is usually what people
choose. However, with large main docuchoose. However, with large main docu-
ments or large data sources, this option can add HOURS to the actual merging process. Remember, choosing "Edit individual letters ..." actually has Word create a brand new document full of your
finished letters. If you have a one-page letter going to 500 people, Word will create a 500 page document! Ouch!
For mailings over 100 records, I rec-
ommend choosing the "Print "option Word will merge the first record, send it to the printer, merge the second record, send it to the printer, etc. Your computer will finish the merge much quicker,
allowing you to work on other things while your printer handles the job. As you've probably seen, Microsoft
Word has some incredibly powerful Word has some incredibly powerful merge capabilities. The key, of course, is to practice these steps. In no time, you'll e a mail-merge pro!
I'll see you in Cyberspace!

- He office of Repector of hides and animals" Recommendation: Vote YES. This would abolish an unnecessary office, Proposition 11: "The constitutional amend-
ment to require that a record vote be taken by ment to require that a record vote be taken by
a house of the legislature on final passage of any bill, other than certain local bills, of a resolution proposing or ratifying a constitutional amendment, or of any other nonceremonial esolution, and to provide for public access on he Internet to those record votes." Recommendation: Vote YES. This provides
for transparency in government and allows the public more and easier access to votes in the Texas House and Senate.
Proposition 12: "The constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general Commission in an amount not to exceed $\$ 5$ bil lion to provide funding for highway improve ment projects." Recommened since 2001, and Texas' trans portation growing needs can't wait to be inanced on a pay-as-you-go basis.
Proposition 13: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail to a person
who violates certain court orders or conditions of release in a felony or family violence case." Recommendation: Vote YES. Family violence is a serious problem in Texas; this amendment could help prevent continuing family violence.
Proposition 14: "The constitutional amend-
ment permitting a justice or judge who reaches ment permitting a justice or judge who reaches
the mandatory retirement age while in office to the mandatory retirement age while in office to
serve the remainder of the justice's or judge's curcent term."
Recommendation: Vote YES. Allowing judges to finish their terms would prevent the disruption of one judge leaving and putting
another in office. Also, the judicia experience another in oftice. Also, the judici.
of the judge wouldn't be wasted.
Proposition 15: "The constitutional amendment requiring the creation of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas and authorizing the issuance of up to $\$ 3$ billion in bonds payable from the general revenues of the state for research in Texas to find the causes of and cures for cancer.'
Recommendation: Vote YES. Texas has and El Paso's growing medical research pres ence would be a logical place to use some o hat money).
Propositio
Proposition 16: "The constitutional amend-
ment providing for the issuance of additiona ment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water
Development Board in an emount not to exceed $\$ 250$ million to provide assistance to economically distressed areas,"
Recommendation: Vote YES. El Pasoans
are all too familiar with the colonis are all too familiar with the colonias that have people to live in subhuman, unsafe conditions people to live in subhuman, unsafe conditions.
These bonds would help clear up those problems. URL: http://www.elpasotimes.com


Boy Scout Troop 404 will collect food for local food banks from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. If you would like to donate, leave a plastic bag filled with canned or non-perishable food on your porch and the scouts will pick it up. Back row from left are Assistant Scout Master Dan Carter, Committee Member Ricardo Maciel, Patrol Leader Cody Hudson, Patrol Leader Hunter Shay, Dustin Neef, Junior Assistant Scout Master Russell Carter, Dale Montgomery, Senior Patrol Leader Jacob Maciel and Scout Master Bill Schroeder, Middle row from left are Joshua Owen, Ryan Clancy, Chris Garvin, Matthew Porter, James Tabor, Keenan Hughes and Tyler Montgomery. Front row from left are Hunter Hughes, Nicki Clancy, Robert Norris, Dalton Hudson and Bobby Anderson. Not pictured are Johnny Price and Jonathan Cook.

## Scouts to collect food Saturday

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer 4:30 p.m. Saturday. The annual Scouting for
Food Drive will take place Food Drive will take place dents are encouraged to donate canned or non-perishable food to benefit local food banks.
Pampa Boy Scout Troop 404 will go by homes Saturday to pick up any bags filled with food that are left on the porches of Pampa homes. Representatives from the boy scouts said that all of the food collected in Pampa stays in Pampa.
Cub Scout Pack 423 will also collect food from 1 to

## Most school districts opt out of pay plan

AUSTIN (AP) - Less not part of the original 2006 than half of Texas school districts agreed to participate in the state's new merit pay
plan for teachers, according to a final count released by the Texas Education Agency. The agency said 442 of 43 percent, opted to take part
in the $\$ 148$ million District in the $\$ 148$ million District Awards for $\quad$ Te
Excellence program.
The participating school Tistricts, which include most districts, which include most
of the state's largest, will share the merit pay money beginning in the 2008-09
school year. school year.
The state plan recommends a $\$ 3,000$ bonus per
teacher for achievement in improving test scores and other signs of. student progress.
State officials said they were surprised that so many
districts opted out districts opted out
opted not to apply because they have another merit pay plan already in place, or they may have decided they are unable to put up the local matching funds required to participate," said Debbie
Ratcliffe, spokeswoman for the education agency. ${ }^{\text {Partictricts }}$ must put up a 15 percent match in either local funds or in-kind contributions. The match is scheduled
increase in future years.
Some local educators icized the matching requirement, partly because it was

## Burn ban may halt A\&M bonfire

COLLEGE STATION, then students have continued Texas (AP) - A burn ban the tradition off-campus and may stop Texas A\&M a bonfire is nearing comple-
University students from tion at a ranch near Hearne. lighting an off-campus bon- This week though, lighting an off-campus bon-
fire on Saturday. fire on Saturday. The bonfire has been
banned from campus since 12 Aggies were killed when a 59 -foot-high wedding cake-like stack of more than
5,000 logs collapsed as students were building it on Nov. 18, 1999. But since

For those who do not want o leave food out on the local supermarkets. Frank's and United have drop off receptacles in their stores and they will make sure the food gets to the boy scouts so they can distribute the
food where it is needed most. where it is needed
m. This boy scout troop is also gearing up to sell
Christmas trees again this year and is looking for a good location to set up the trees somewhere near
Hobart
Street around the first part of December. This year they plan to sell the Cindy Clegg of the Texas
Association of School Association of School
$\begin{aligned} & \text { Boards said many local } \\ & \text { school officials were not }\end{aligned}$ school officials were not expecting the matchicg
funds requirement. Districts
are also concerned about are also concerned about
state rules calling for them to state rules calling for them to
eventually find a way to fund eventually find a way to fund
the program on their own, the progra
she said.
"It takes a lot of time and effort to put a plan like this
together" there is a clear commitment and some funding stability,
you are going to see district, you are going to see districts
approach this tentatively", approach this tentatively."
The hundreds of particiThe hundreds of participating districts should pro-
vide a good test of the merit pay program in Texas, said
Rob Eissler, chairman of the Rob Eissler, chairman of the
House Publio Education House Publio Education
Committee. He believes dis Committee. He believes dis-
tricts will come up with tricts will come up with locally designed merit pay
plans that will produce results in the classroom. Eissler said education officials are "trying to spread
out the funds a little better and put in more local con-
"Anytime you have to put your own resources into the little more attention to what you're doing," said Eissler, R-The Woodlands
Teacher groups have criticized the program as a way bigger pay increases for all bigger pay
teachers. Robertson County commis-
sioners voted to impose a surn ban.
"It is not really about the student bonfire, it is about the drought conditions that
necessitated issuing a burn ban," said Robertson County Judge Jan Anderson Roe.
rees for about wwo weeks food drive, pecan sales or the nd hope to have approxi- Christmas trees, contact mately five different types of Scout Master Bill Schroeder
trees available. For information about the

FARM AND RANCH SHOW
Management symposium held with farm, ranch show

BY KERRI SMITH The ${ }^{23 \mathrm{rd} \text { Ster annual }}$ Panhandle Farm and Ranch Management Symposium has been scheduled for Nov. 29 and will be held in conjunction with the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, which is Nov, 27 and 28 . Exhibits for the Amarillo Farm and Ranch
Show will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 27 and 28 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 29. A $\$ 2$ admission fee will be charged for the first time this year with all
proceeds going to benefit proceeds going to benefit
area FFA organizations. According to Leon Church, Potter County Extension Agent and moderator for the event, registration for the farm will begin at 8 a.m. Nov, 29. The program will start at $8: 30 \mathrm{a}$ a.m. with Dr. Brent Bean, extension agronomist from Amarillo, speaking on
options for ao-aill or mini mum-till wheat and sorghum production. There will also be other topics discussed at the
symposium. Jack Lyon, symposium. Jack Lyon, DuPont, will talk about chemical modes of action. Dr. Steve Amosson, extension agricultural economist from Amarillo,
will discuss the future of wil discuss the future of
the bioenergy industry in the Texas High Plains. Pesticide laws and regulations will be discussed by Levon Harmon from the
Texas Department of Texas Dep
Agriculture.

Church said that three pesticide license continuing education credits and three certified crop advisor credits will be offered,
one in integrated one in integrated pest
management, one in laws management, one in laws general.
For more information on the symposium, contact Church at 806-373-
0713 . 0713.

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## Dear Abby...

By Pauline \& Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This will be the fourth hol- the necessary "legwork" in meeting their iday season my boyfriend and I have children's friends and their friends' parents, shared together. We usually split checking to see if an adult will be on the Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations premises and observing the general home between our two families, although not situation that their child will be visiting. I equally. I come from a large family that am amazed at parents who drop off their understands the need to "share" me with teens to spend the night and never bother to my boyfriend's family. My boyfriend come to the door. I also see this tendency in comes from a small family; he is the only the young people themselves. A young man child. Last Christmas, he was allowed to came to pick up our teenage daughter for a visit with my family for only 20 minutes. date and called her from the car to say he This Thanksgiving all six of my mother's was out front. Am I old-fashioned, or is this siblings will be here with their families for an issue that should be addressed? - CONthe first time in five years. My uncle, who SCIENTIOUS PARENT IN DENVER
is in the Air Force and is being sent to the
Middle East in December, will also be DEAR CONSCIENTIOUS: No, you are here. It is important to me that my not old-fashioned. The message you are boyfriend spend time with my family this sending makes common sense. As to the Thanksgiving, but he always knuckles young man who came to pick up your under to the guilt trip from his mother. He daughter, I hope she informed him that she says that until he graduates from college, wasn't going anywhere until he came to the he has to live by their rules, but I think door and met her parents. That's not "oldtheir rules are unreasonable. We want only fashioned"; it's respectful and a display of two or three hours with him. I don't think good manners. And good manners never go this is unreasonable. What do you think? WANTS TO SHARE

DEAR WANTS TO SHARE: I think your boyfriend's parents are in for a rude awakening once he graduates from college. But for now they have their son under their thumb, so accept it. A way around this might be for your parents to invite your boyfriend AND his parents to join you for Thanksgiving. For now, they are a package deal.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing about a new trend I have been seeing. It has become commonplace for parents to call their teenage children from the car at the curb when picking them up from a friend's house. I realize this saves tirre, but I am teacher may be in need of brincipal. Your band concerned that today's parents do not do

DEAR ABBY: I am in eighth grade and take band. My band teacher is very aggressive toward me and often yells at me in class. It's very embarrassing. He makes me so upset that sometimes I start to cry. I to make him even angrier at me, but I don't think I can take his aggressiveness anymore. How can I stop this without quitting band? -- UPSET TRUMPET PLAYER IN NEW YORK

DEAR UPSET: Because your teacher appears to be losing his composure, you should tell your parents, and they should inform the, school principal. Your band
teacher may be in need of both professional and psychological counseling.

## For Better Or For Worse



Zits


Garfield


Beetle Bailey


Marvin

B.C.


Haggar The Horrible

,



Marmaduke


## Sports

Signing on


Pampa graduate Tyson Hickman (bottom right) signed on Wednesday to play another year of baseball at Frank Phillips College. Hickman played for the Plainsmen last spring as a freshman and will be returning again this coming season. Pictured here with Hickman are (top, L-R) coaches Guy Simmons and
David Gomez. Also sitting is Hickman's teammate, Elliot Burrow, who also signed on for another year.

## Stay-Rod? Alex

 Rodriguez says he wants to stayNEW YORK (AP) Turns out A-Rod migh be leaving the Bronx. he intended on and weren't

handled properly or whatevIn a startling turn of events, Alex Rodriguez and
his wife met with New York his wife met with New York
Yankees executives Hal and Hank Steinbrenner of Wednesday in Tampa, Fla and the star third baseman stay in pinstripes.
His longtime agent, Scott Boras, wasn't involved in the meeting Wednesday, but said he's trying to work out a deal
with the Yankees. New York with the Yankees. New York officials sounded confiden
the negotiations could lead to an agreement.
"The past is the past. I don't know what brough about him approaching us, Yankess senior vice presi-
dent Hank Steinbrenner said dent Hank Steinbrenner sa
in a telephone interview guess you could say things
didn't go the way before that
hand
er. "But the bottom line, the only thing that really maters, is he wants to stay a Yankee. And it could be very well that he's always wante oo stay a Yankee and we jus Row Rodriguez, likely to win next week, had not made any public statements since becoming a free agent fol-
lowing the Yankees' first lowing the Yankees' first the playoffs. After consulting with his wife and family, Rodriguez reached out to Hank and his brother, Hal through a third party. "It became clear to me that I needed to make an
attempt to engage the attempt to engage the with the organization," See A-ROD, Page 10

## Null selected as LSC South Academic Player of the Year


#### Abstract

CANYON, Texas - In addition to major from Lampasas, Texas, has leading the Buffalo football team to put up All-American type numbers leading he Buffaco football team to put up All-American type numbers its third consecutive Lone Star in his first season as the Buffs' Conference Championship with his starting signal caller, leading the talented efforts on the gridiron, LSC in passing yards at 3,276 and Went Texas A\&M West Texas A\&M junior quarter- back Keith Null has been honored back Keith Null has been honored for his achievements in the classroom as Wednesday he was selected as Lone Star Conference South joins a league-high contingency of ive Buff players to be recognized as LSC South All-Academic per- formers. Null, achievement The All-Academic teams are oted upon by the league's sports ble for LSC academic To be eligi-dent-athletes need at least a stugrade point average and must be at least a sophomore. All qualifying student-athletes not voted to the All-Academic team are then placed $\stackrel{\text { on }}{\text { Roil }}$ Rōll. Altogether 56 al por Altogether, 56 football players were honored through the ieague's were honored through the league's academic awards program, includ- ing representative from 10 of the


LSC's 13 football-playing member institutions.
Also ga Also garnering LSC AllAcademic accolades for the Buffs were sophomore receiver Kolt Kittley (sports \& exercise science),
junior linebacker Jared Brock junior linebacker Jared Brock
(accounting), junior receiver Charly Martin (sports \& exercise science) and sophomore linebacker Mark Ford (sports \& exercise science). Junior defensive back
Mathew Manley was also honored Mathew Manley was also honored
by the league as he was selected to by the league as he was selected to
the LSC South Commissioner's the LSC So
Honor Rolll.

## O.J. Simpson faces new criminal trial in Las Vegas over memorabilia confrontation

LAS VEGAS (AP) - More than a fied for the prosecution during the 3
decade after his acquittal on murder
$1 / 2$-day preliminary hearing. decade after his acquittal on murder trial in a case certain to capture the national spotlight.
The former football star said he wasn't surprised when a justice of the peace
ordered him on Wednesday to defend ordered him on Wednesday to defend
himself against charges including kidtimself against charges incluading kid-
napping and armed robbery in a suspected sports memorabilia heist. He also said he trusted jurors to do what's right.
"If I have any disappointment it's
that I wish a jury was here," Simpson that I wish a jury was here," Simpson
told The Associated Press before he left told The Associated Press before he left
the courtroom. "As always, I rely on the jury system."
Jury system.
Justice of the Peace Joe $M$.
Bonaventure refused to dismiss any charges in a 12 -count complaint against Simpson and co-defendants Clarence C.J." Stewart and Charles "Charlie" ehrlich, which stem from a Sept. 13
confrontation in a casino hotel room. Prosecutors accuse Simpson of leading the suspected armed robbery of two -sports memorabilia dealers.
The defendants are to enter their -pleas on Nov. 28.
Simpson, including two accompanied simpson, including two who said they
carried guns, took plea deals and testi-

Defense attorneys characterized the
witnesses as con artists and crooks out witnesses
for a buck.
Bonaventure said the testimony was an issue to be weighed by the court and "bought" testimony. He said there were a number of motive and credibility issues, but that they were "not so incredible or implausible" to keep the case from a jury. A kidnapping conviction could result in a life sentence with possibility of
parole. An armed robbery conviction parole. An armed robbery convict
would require some time in prison. Simpson will spend the next weeks in Miami golfing and spending time with his family before returning to Las Vegas to be arraigned, attorney Yale Galanter said.
The trial could begin within 60 days, Put Chief Las Vegas Justice of the court and lawyers' calendars could push it back six months or longer. Galanter, who rejected the idea of a plea agreement, estimated it would take
a year to bring the case to trial a year to bring the case to trial. Stewart's lawyer, Robert Lucherini,
said he may seek to have his client's trial separated from Simpson's.
"We're disappointed, but we under-
stand the judge's decision," Lucherini said. ment.
Outside the courthouse, Galanter argued that Simpson was trying only to
reclaim family heirlooms and that he believed no crime was committed. "I have never been in a case where every witness had a financial motive, where every witness had a credibility problem," he said. Another Simpson lawyer, Gabriel Grasso, said it was unclear whether prosecutors considered it kidnapping to
lure two sports memorabilia dealers to lure two sports memorabilia dealers to
a hotel room - or whether the charge was based on the confrontation that followed.
"This "This is clearly overcharging," he
said. said. Simpson, 60, has maintained that no guns were displayed, that he never
asked anyonie to bring guns and that he did not know anyone had guns. He has said he intended only to retrieve items that had been stolen from him by a former agent, including the suit he wore the day he was acquitted of murder in 1995 in the slayings of his wife, Nicole
Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Brown Sim
Goldman.

NCAA playoff participants WTAMU and Abilene Christian n had a leauge-high five players Academic team.
The LSC Academic Player of the Year is the third in the last year for West Texas A\&M as both Emily Brister of Lady Buff basketball, and Tyler Cooper, from the WT the honor following the 2005-06 season.

> Bryant scores 30, McGrady hurt in Lakers' $93-90$ win over Houston HOUSTON
Tracy McGrady is injured $\quad \begin{gathered}\text { The Rockets struggled } \\ \text { with their shooting all }\end{gathered}$ again, but the Houston night, finishing 30 -of- 85 Rockets star says it's not ( 35 percent). Yao Ming had
that serious this time. that serious this time. 26 points, 13 rebounds and The seven-time All-Star
strained his right elbow late
the stats were deceptive. strained his right elbow late the stats were deceptive.
in the first half of the Harassed all night by Rockets' $93-90$ loss to the Lamar Odom and Kwame Los Angeles Lakers on Brown, Yao shot only 6-ofWednesday night. He was 18 . He also went 14 -for-20 taken to a hospital for tests from the free throw line and a doctor said McGrady after coming into the game
should be healed in a week shooting over 90 percent "IIt's definitely good
news," McGrady said "I actually thought it could have been a lot worse than what it was." Kobe Bryant scored 30 points and the Lakers took advantage of McGrady's
absence to snap a threegame losing streak to game lo
Houston.
shooting over 90 percent. "We wanted to put Yao in a lot of screen and rolls and make him work," Brown
said. "We wanted to get him tired."
Still. Still, Houston had a chance to tie at the end. Yao missed a free throw on purpose, grabbed the rebound
and passed to Rafer Alston and passed to Rafer Alston,
See HOUSTON, Page 10

## Carter, No. 15 Texas A\&M hold off UTEP for 81-76 win

7 COLLEGE STATION, Texas said. (AP) - When Josh Carter got the ball and saw a pair of UTEP play-
ers down on the court, he figured it ers down on the court, he figured it was as good a time as any to take his shot.
He did and hit the go-ahead 3pointer, the last of his 23 points,
and No. 15 Texas A\&M held off a plucky UTEP team for a $81-76$ win -Wednesday night in the preseason NIT.
"I looked back and saw people on the ground and was pretty wide
open so I just took the shot," Carter
caid.
Cut A\&M 3-pointer with 2:15 left Jackson got tangled up with a teammate and the two fell before Carter's shot.
"I got back up, but by that time it was too late," Jackson said. "He Coach Mark Turgeon impressed with Carter's performance. "I know the kid tripped, but the was a heck of a shot Josh, but that said. "He had to have the guts to
take it."
UTEP got a pair of free throws from Marvin Kilgore before 70. . Bryan Davis got a steal to set up Dominique Kirk's jumper to push
A\&M's lead to $75-70$ with 50 secA\&M's lead to $75-70$ with 50 sec -
onds left. Roland forced a UTEP onds let. Roland forced a UTEP hit a free throw and Donald Sloan added a free throw to make it 77 70 . unst like they had all Just like they had all night, the
Miners didn't give up and Stefon

Jackson's 3 with 13 seconds
remaining cut the lead to $77-73$. Kirk made two free throws before Randy Culpepper's 3 with five seconds left made it 79-76. The Miners were finally put
away for good with a dunk by away for good with a dunk by Jones had 15 points and Kirk had Jones ha
14.
"We
"We broke down defensively and compromised our defense," UTEP coach Tony Barbee said. "This is a tough, tested team. They
made the plays down the stretch


## Facio gets back in the mix with seven wins

| Week 12 $\square$ minm |  |  |  |  |  |
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#### Abstract

A-Rod

\section*{Continued from Page 9} Rodriguez said in a state ment. ner oo entering int serious negotiations with other clubs, I wanted the opportunity to share my thoughts, directly with Yankees' ownership. We Yankees' ownership. We know there are other opporknow there are other oppor- tunities for us, but Cynthia and 1 have a foundation with the club that has brought us comfort, stability and happiness. When first con When first contacted, the the message was serious Before Rodriguez terminat ed his record $\$ 252$ million, 10 -year contract 10-year contract on Oct. 28 - forfeiting $\$ 72$ million - forfeiting $\$ 72$ million - Botas told the Yarkée hey would have to make $\$ 350$ million offer just to get a meeting with the third baseman. Boras $\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { spent time in } \\ \text { Miami } \\ \text { meeting , with }\end{array}\right)$ $\begin{array}{cl}\begin{array}{c}\text { Rodriguez in recent days. } \\ \text { "Alex and Cynthia have }\end{array} & \begin{array}{l}\text { During these healthy dis- } \\ \text { cussions, both sides were }\end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { Wednesday evening at a } \\ \text { charity event in New York }\end{array}\end{array}$ visited with the able to share honest feel- after learning about A Steinbrenners and Yankee ings and hopes with one Rod's chat with the officials, and following that another, and we expect to Yankees. "The McCourts meeting Alex has instructed continue this dialogue with are committed to helping me to discuss contract the Yankees over the next this ballclub in any way terms with Brian Cashman few days." and Randy Levine," Boras $\begin{gathered}\text { Said Steinbrenner: "He's } \\ \text { and } \\ \text { said, referring to the gener- } \\ \text { willing to make certain sac- they want to be, win } \\ \text { championships." }\end{gathered}$ al manager and the general manager president. After the After the opt out decision, Hank Steinbrenner were Cashman said talks Yankees lost the $\$ 21$ the fion subsidy the Texas Rangers agreed to at the sent New to New York. know that giving A-Rod million was pretty much precondition for any talks. "I also understand that had to respond to certai Yankees concerns, and I was receptive and under- standing of that situation," Rodriguez said. "Cynthia and I have since spoken directly with Steinbrenner $\begin{array}{r}\text { the } \\ \text { family. }\end{array}$

\section*{willing to make certain sac- championships."}

\section*{ifices. It certainly appears Torre, who managed} that way," "The Rodriguez in New York the me, and it's no secret with two haven't spoken since all of us, is the money $\overline{\mathrm{we}}$ the end of the season. $\begin{array}{ll}\text { would have had from Texas } & \text { Before Rodriguez opted } \\ \text { that we don't now," he went } \\ \text { out, the Yankees were pre- }\end{array}$ that we don't now," he went out, the Yankees were preon. "But he's willing to do pared to make an initial something about that, extension offer of four or which shows his dedica- five years with an average tion. And also, the other yearly salary of $\$ 25$ million hing was, me being con- to $\$ 30$ million. A logical vinced he really wanted to endpoint for a deal could be be Yankee, and it kind of to take the $\$ 72$ million the be a Yankee, and it kind of to take the $\$ 72$ million the looks to me like he does." Yankees owed, subtract the One other! team, that $\$ 21$ million New York lost might have been an option from Texas, add $\$ 10$ milfor Rodriguez was the Los lion in escalators A-Rod Angeles Dodgers, owned would have earned in 2009 Angeles Dodgers, owned would have earned in 2009 by Frank and Jamie and 2010, and then add My Frank and Jamie $\begin{aligned} & \text { and 2010, and then add } \\ & \text { seven seasons at } \$ 30 \text { mil- }\end{aligned}$ "I think definitely we lion annually. That would would have beenininvolved,"" lion annually. That would total $\$ 2711$ million for the new manager Joe Torre said next 10 years.


## Houston

Continued from Page 9
who missed a last-second -pointer. "He almost surprised Alston with the ball, he made such an incredibly good pass
to him," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson. "If he (Alston) had time to settle into his rhythm on that shot, it might've gone in."
Derek Fisher had Derek Fisher had 13
points and Odom added 10 points and seven rebounds
for the Lakers for the Lakers. point lead in the first half without much help from Bryant, the league's secondleading scorer.
Bryant missed six of his Houston, missed nine of its first 10 shots in the second quarter, five of them layups. The Jockets trailed '41-29 after Jordan Farmar's bank
shot with 6:58 left before halftime.
Later in the second quarter, Bryant hit three consecu-
tive shots from
and found Fisher open for a 3-pointer that put Los Angeles up 52-35. McGrady sank a 3-pointer, but Bryant
answered with a smooth fadeaway. Out of a time out, an alley-oop dunk for a $5 \overline{6}$ an alley-
38
lead.
"We wanted to kick it up a little bit and start taking advantage of some opportu-
nities that we kind of saw developing," Bryant said. "We were able to do that and that helped us gain a little bit
of confidence." of confidence." And that's when
Houston's night really took a turn for the worse. With 50 seconds left in the half, McGrady reached to
swat the ball away from swat the ball away from
Walton. He hit Walton's arm Walton. He hit Walton's arm instead and McGrad Brown fouled McGrady
on the play and on the play and McGrady shot two free throws left-
handed, making the first and handed, making the first and
badly missing the second. He went to the locker room before the half ended and was on his way to the hospi-
tal by the time the third tal by the time the third quartal by the
ter began.

## Pampa News Classifieds




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Pampa Junior High School students Monty Ware, sixth grader, Brandon Carroll, eighth grader, and Tyler Turner, seventh grader, learned about pet care during a recent class project.

## Economy: Consumer prices rise in October

WASHINGTON (AP) - Consumer inflation posted another elevated reading in October as energy prices shot up by the fastest pace in five months. reported today that its reported today that rose by 0.3 percent last month, the second straight month with inflation at that level. The acceleration was occurring
because of another jump because of another jump
in energy prices and continued increases in food costs.
costs.
Meanwhile, the govern-
ment said that the number ment said that the number of laid off workers filing claims for unemploymen
benefits rose by 20,000 benefits rose by 20,000
last week to 339,000 , the highest level in four weeks. Labor Department analysts said the California wildfires boosted the number of jobless
claims by about 2,000 and the writer's claims by about 2,000 and the writer's strike, which has shut down production
on many television programs, was also on many television
having an impact.
Core inflation, which excludes energy and food, continued to rise at a more moderate rate, rising by 0.2 percent in October, the fifth straight month at that fevel.
Before the back-to-back 0.3 percent gains in overall prices, consumer inflaAugust and risen by just 0.1 percent in Jugus.

So far this year, consumer prices are rising at an annual rate of 3.6 percent, up by more than a full percentage point from
the 2.5 percent increase for all the 2.5 percent increase for all of 2006.
 which excludes energy and food, continued to rise at a more moderate rate, rising by 0.2 percent in October,
the fifth straight month at that level. buffeted by a steep downbuffeted by a steep down-
turn in housing, turbuturn in housing, turbu-
lence in financial markets and falling consumer confidence, raising fears that the country could dip into a recession in coming
months. months.
Wall $S$ that the Federal Reserve which has already cut interest rates twice, will reduce rates further to keep the economy's problems from triggering a wnturn. Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Joint Economic Committee last week that he central bank believes that risks are roughly balanced at the current time between inflation and weaker growth, a markets not to count on further rate cuts. For October, energy prices shot up by 1.4 percent, the biggest jump since a 5.4 percent rise in May. Consumers got a break in the summer with three straight monthly declines in energy costs. However, analysts said that further price increases are likely in coming months,
reflecting the fact that crude oil prices last week surged to record levels, trading at one point above $\$ 98$ per barrel.

## Events calendar

- Pampa Fine Arts Association's mum. Participants wishing to apply for a Artist of the Year, Dona Cornutt, will be November in an exhibit at White Deer Land Museum in Pampa.
- The next "Third Thursday" at Amarillo Museum of Art will be from 6-9 p.m. today. The event will include the Artist," a coffee tasting, art activities for children and adults and music with Amarillo Woodwind Quintet. For more information, contact the museum at
(806) 371-5050.
- A free Loan Expo on the SBA Community Express Loan Program will
be conducted from 6-8 p.m. Monday at Panhandle Regional. Planning Commission in Amarillo. The loan program offers loans up to $\$ 25,000$ maxi-
mum. Participants wishing to apply for a
loan should have the following information: Social Security number; evidence tax ID of driver's license or official ID. Participants must RSVP by Friday by calling or e-mailing, (806) 37?-3381, eesparza@theprpc.org
- The 2008 High Plains Irrigation Conference \& Trade Show will be Jan. Amarillo Amarillo Convention Center in Amarillo. The event will be presented by Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Agriculture Irrigation Association. CEUs
for pesticide applicators, certified crop for pesticide applicators, certified crop
consultants and certified irrigation designers will be available. For more information, call (806) 677-5600.


## Judge fed up with Kid Rock for no-show

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) - A judge is fed
up with Kid Rock for failing to show up for a ccurt-ordered deposition.
Oallad Com Cin. Cout Shalina Kumar on Wednesit Court Judge Shalina Kumar on Wednesday threw out a
lawsuit the 36-year-old rocker filed this year lawsuit the 36 -year-old rocker filed this year
against Kelly Ann Kozlowski, a Novi woman he said embarrassed and defamed him in a police report.
"What's special about him? Why does he get to violate a court's order?' Kumar asked Kid Rock's attorney, William Horton, after
learning Kid Rock failed to show up for a learning Kid Rock failed to show up for a by the end of October.
Horton said the singer had schedule conflicts and noted he had proposed alternative

Kovember dates.
Kozlowski has sued Kid Rock, whose real name is Robert James Ritchie, claiming he roughed her up outside his Clarkston recording studio March 8. Her claims were investigated by authorities, but no charges were The judge also entered a default against Kid Rock in Kozlowski's complaint, which seeks more than $\$ 25,000$ in damages. The ruling means Kid Rock will be unable to contest Kozlowski's lawsuit at a Feb. 5 trial. Kozlowski's attorneys, brothers Drew
Norton and Scott Norton; told The Detroit Norton and Scott Norton, told The Detroit
News the decision means liability is not an issue in the case.


