



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
47
LOW
28

See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, March 4, 2008

Volume 103 • No. 285

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Election official: Voter turnout 'heavy'

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Voting began at 7 a.m. today in seven locations across Gray County for the primary election, and the polls will close at 7 p.m.

The number of votes cast by 9:30 a.m. in four of the seven precincts totaled 72 Democratic ballots and 122 Republican ballots, according to Election Administrator Linda Lewis. "Turnout has been really heavy," she said.

After the polls close, votes will be tallied electronically by a secure computer in Gray County Courthouse. The computer used to count the votes is used only for that purpose and has never been connected to an online service, Lewis said.

A printer connected to the computer prints out results as they are amassed.

Votes are tallied from computer cards in electronic calculation machines which monitor each polling place.

"Each precinct judge will bring their machines in at the end of the day," Lewis said. The computer cards are sealed within the machines with tamper-proof seals and tape,

and the machines arrive in a secure lock box.

"We break the seals and remove

See **VOTERS**, Page 3

Two Pampans in jail, one with 2 felony warrants

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Two Pampa residents remain in Gray County Jail as of press time today in lieu of bond after they were stopped Monday evening by sheriff's deputies while traveling along Malone Avenue.

Deputies conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle driven by Bryan Christopher Humphrey, 19, and arrested Humphrey on two felony Gray County warrants, said Lt. Joe B. Hoard, with Gray County Sheriff's Office.

Humphrey was wanted on bond surrenders for credit or debit card abuse and burglary of a building. As a result of Monday evening's traffic stop, he was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, Hoard said.

"During an inventory of the vehicle, deputies discovered drug paraphernalia," he said.

Also arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia was Humphrey's passenger, Nicole Sharee Ramey, 25.

Humphrey was booked into jail at 8:50 p.m. on the charges, according to jail records.

Ramey refused to consent to a complete search at the jail, so a search warrant was obtained and she was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center, where medical personnel conducted a body cavity search, Hoard said.

"They found two baggies containing a substance believed to be methamphetamine," he said.

Ramey was booked into jail at

See **JAIL**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Election Administrator Linda Lewis checks an electronic tabulation machine this morning as voting got underway for today's primary election. The machine's computer card contains all votes cast at its location.

DPS

Troopers seize meth on I-40 in two separate traffic stops

GROOM — Two recent traffic stops along I-40 near Groom resulted in three arrests and the seizure of more than \$700,000 worth of methamphetamine, a news release from Texas

Department of Public Safety reports.

Troopers found 4,710-grams of meth, worth an estimated \$381,510, hidden in the fire wall of a 1999 Mercury Grand Marquis

they stopped at 11:30 a.m. Friday just west of Groom.

Jesus Antonio Villasenoramirez, 28, and Mariana Lopez-Olives, 20, both of Phoenix, Ariz., were arrested in the stop

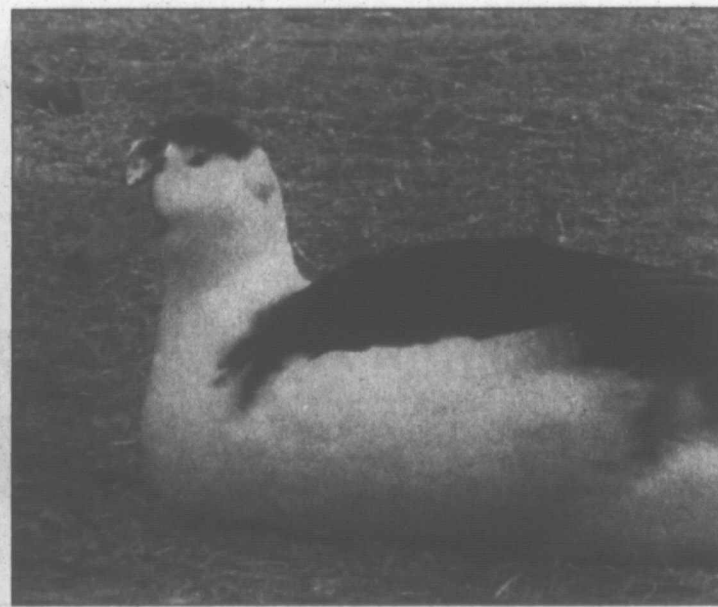
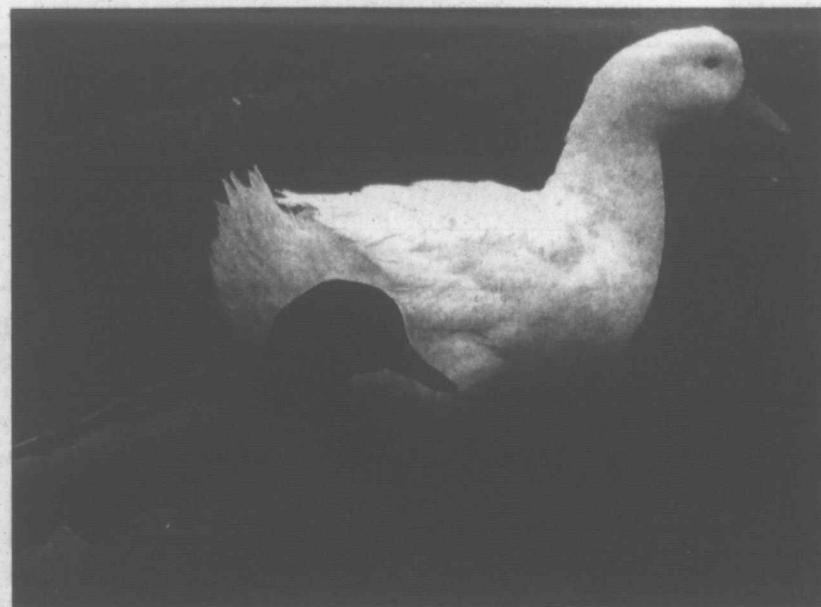
and booked into Carson County Jail in Panhandle. Investigators believe the load originated in Phoenix and was headed for Tulsa, Okla.

Troopers seized another

4,281-grams of meth, worth an estimated \$342,480, from a 2004 Hyundai Elantra during a traffic stop that occurred at 6 p.m. Sunday, 5-miles

See **STOPS**, Page 3

Feathered friends



Ducks in a rainbow of colors populate the lake at Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60. At left, a multicolored duck marches alongside a white duck. At right, a white duck with green feathers on its head and black feathers on its back settles down on the grass for a rest.

◀ ▶ Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday Partly cloudy	Thursday Sunny	Friday Partly cloudy
---------------------------------------	------------------------------	------------------------------------

Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 47. Wind chill values between 22 and 32 early.
 Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. North-northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.
 Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
 Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north-northeast.
 Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 55. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.
 Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

McCURLEY, R.C. Jr. — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memorial Heights Cemetery, Lefors.
THOMPSON, George "Rocky" — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

R.C. McCurley, Jr., 94

CANADIAN — R.C. McCurley, Jr., 94, died Sunday, March 2, 2008, in Canadian.
 Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2008, at Memorial Heights Cemetery in Lefors with the Rev. Chris Webb,

pastor of First Baptist Church of Lefors, officiating.
 Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. McCurley was born Dec. 19, 1913, in Blue, Okla. He was a retired Baptist minister. He

was an avid fisherman.
 Survivors include one daughter, Reta Alley of Bartlesville, Okla.; one son, Gary McCurley of Mesquite; two grandchildren, Gina Cook and Jeff Alley, both of Fort Collins, Colo.; and by numerous

great-grandchildren.
 He was preceded in death by his parents; by a brother, Amos McCurley; and by eight sisters.
 —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

George "Rocky" Thompson, 82

George "Rocky" Thompson, 82, of Pampa, Texas, died March 1, 2008, at Amarillo, Texas.
 Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 5, 2008, at Memory Gardens

Cemetery with the Rev. Norman Rushing, pastor of Central Baptist Church, officiating. Military honors are courtesy of the U.S. Army from Fort Hood, Texas.



Thompson

Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.
 Mr. Thompson was born Jan. 4, 1926, in Loraine. He married Dorothy Rogers on Aug. 10, 1943, in Shamrock. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1951 and worked for Cabot for 35 years.

George was a member of Central Baptist Church and the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving from 1944 until 1946. He enjoyed building things. George was a devoted family man. He had values, principles and morals which he lived by and stood up for every day.
 Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Thompson, of the home; one son, Darrell Thompson and wife Chris of Amarillo; two daughters, Sandra Middleton and Judy

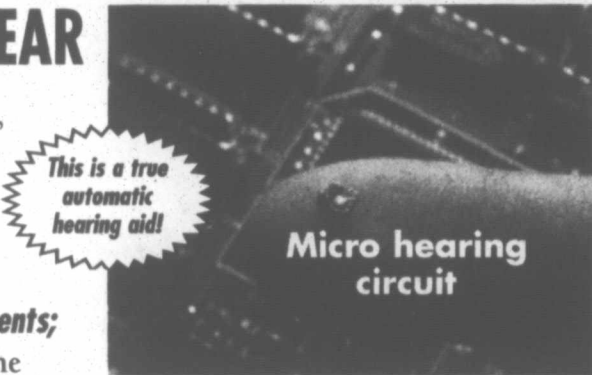
Clemmer and husband Don, all of Amarillo; one sister, Naomi Lamb of Lubbock; four brothers, Jess Thompson of Midland, Doug Thompson and Dwight Thompson, both of Groom, and Jerry Thompson of Houston; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.
 He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Imogene Finley in July of 2007; and one brother, Wayne Thompson in 1973.
MEMORIALS: Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065.
 —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

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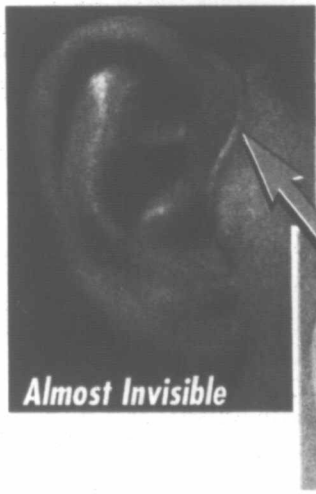
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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Friday, Feb. 29

Thirty-one traffic stops were made. A stop in the 600 block of East Foster resulted in at least one arrest.

Traffic complaints were received from the 800 block of South Hobart, Highway 60 and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Motorist assistance was rendered in the 800 block of Ruth and the 1200 block of East Kingsmill.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1200 block of North Russell, the 700 block of West Wilks, the 400 block of Hazel, the 600 block of North Roberta, three times in the 1900 block of North Nelson, once in the 2100 block of North Wells, the 700 block of Bradley Drive, the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the 300 block of North Doyle, the 900 block of Somerville and the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Frasier and Foster streets, and the intersection of Henry and Campbell streets.
 Lost property was reported

in the police department lobby.

Welfare checks were made in the 700 block of North Hobart and the 1200 block of North Wells.

A civil matter was reported in the 2500 block of Evergreen.

A suspicious person call was received from the intersection of Tyng and Gillespie streets.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 900 block of East Fisher and the 900 block of Osborn.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of Canadian and the police department lobby.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1500 block of North Hobart, the 2800 block of Rosewood and the 200 block of Tignor.

A narcotics violation was reported at the intersection of Crawford and Love streets.

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

Two alarms were reported.

Four building checks were made.
 Theft was reported in the 1700 block of North Hobart, twice in the police department lobby, once in the 800 block of West 25th and the

900 block of Varnon Drive.

Sheriff

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

Monday, March 3

Jerry Lynn Williams, 49, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a warrant out of Potter County.

Bryan Christopher Humphrey, 19, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of drug paraphernalia and bond surrenders for credit or debit card abuse and burglary of a building.

Nicole Sharee Ramey, 25, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of one gram or more but less than four grams of a controlled substance and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair an investigation.

Tuesday, March 4

Josue Ramon Vargas, 28, of Pampa was arrested in the 200 block of West Brown by Pampa Police Department on a capias pro fine for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire

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

Monday, March 3

10:24 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2000 block of Mary Ellen on a call for lifting assistance.

6:07 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of North Banks on a call for lifting assistance.

Ambulance

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

Monday, March 3

9:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

See RECORD, Page 5

CITY BRIEFS

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

FOR SALE restaurant equipment, whirlpool washer for \$150, & a large upright freezer \$100. 669-2921 or 440-3577.

COMM. CHRISTIAN Sch. Fajita Lunch & Bake Sale, Fri. Mar. 7, 11am-2pm, incl. 2 fajitas, rice, beans, chips, salsa, dessert & drink, \$10 per person. Pick up at Wayne's Western Wear, 1504 N. Hobart, or delivery avail. to Businesses with 4 or more orders. Tickets, 665-3393.

BARTLETT'S HARDWARE, Full-Time Employment. Excellent benefits! 500 W. Brown, Pampa.

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HOT HEADZ welcomes Jennifer Hill to our professional team. She has 7 yrs. exp. & specializes in hair cuts & color, wet sets w/backcombing. 665-2233, or stop by.

SUBWAY SANDWICHES now hiring Lunch Help. Apply in person, 2141 N. Hobart or inside Wal-Mart.

PJHS



COURTESY PHOTO

Erin Parr and Mackenzie Smith, both sixth graders at Pampa Junior High School, during the recent school-sponsored "Rockin' Around the TAKS" day. Participants dressed up in styles from the 1950s.

ENVIRONMENT

New technologies being developed to help protect natural resources

By JAN SUSZKIW
ARS News

New tools created by scientists with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will help keep the environment healthy by streamlining the process of developing computer models and decision-support tools used by agricultural producers and others in natural resource analysis and conservation planning.

ARS is the chief scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). NRCS — also part of USDA — leads national conservation of soil, water, air and other natural resources on private land.

One of the new technologies is the Object-Modeling System (OMS), which serves as a framework for streamlining the development, integration, use and maintenance of disparate computer simulation modules and tools built around hydrological, erosion, climate, crop-growth and other agricultural research data.

OMS was developed by scientists with ARS' Agricultural Systems Research Unit in Fort Collins, Colo., in collaboration with the NRCS

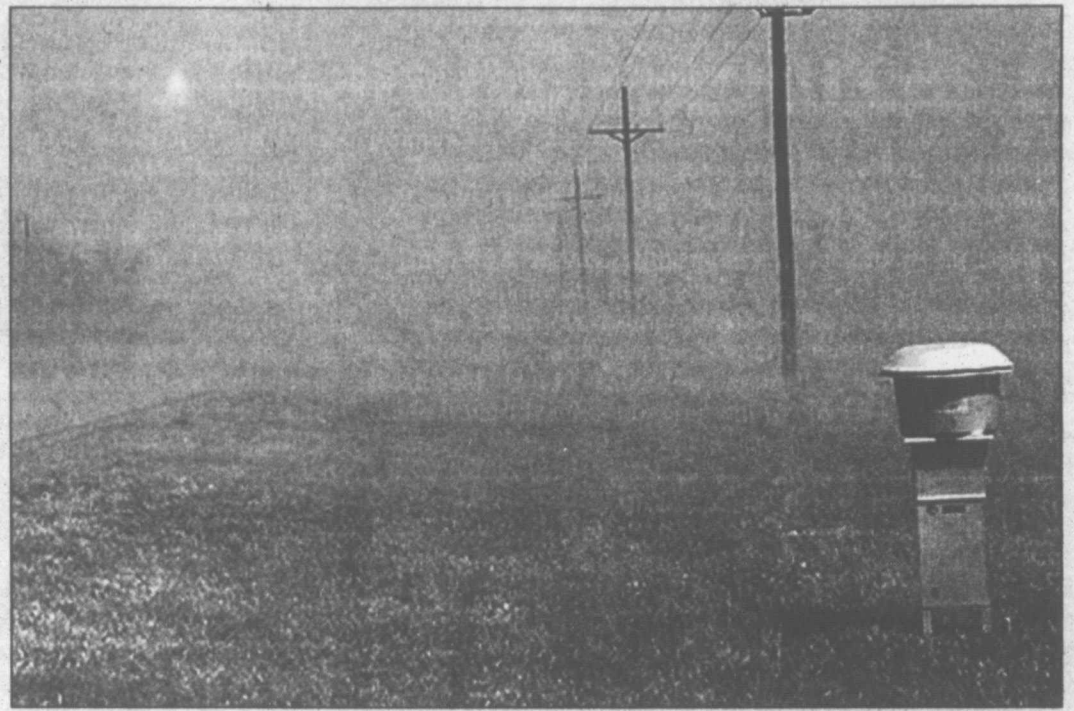


Photo by STEPHEN AUSMUS

An ambient PM10 sampler in a West Texas dust storm. A storm like this exposes samplers to dust particles greater than 10 micrometers, and larger dust particles increase the overall error associated with ambient air samples.

Information Technology Center and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The second new tool is an updated and field-tested version of the Wind Erosion Prediction System (WEPS). This computer program will equip NRCS field personnel with a cutting-edge tool for calculating topsoil losses caused by wind erosion, especially in drought-prone regions of the country such as the Great Plains, where some 5 million acres are at risk.

WEPS will also allow users to model how such losses could be avoided or reduced by implementing a given erosion-control measure, such as planting cover crops, using conservation tillage or establishing wind buffers.

WEPS is the result of 16 years of collaboration between ARS and NRCS software engineers and scientists. The updated version includes changes incorporated after three years of field testing,

NRCS feedback, and fine-tuning to make WEPS even more user-friendly.

Since its inception in the 1930s, NRCS' conservation delivery system continues a unique partnership, delivering conservation that respects local needs, while accommodating state and national interests. For more information about NRCS, visit their Web site at www.nrcs.usda.gov/.

For more information about ARS, visit www.ars.usda.gov/AboutUs/.

Bush says there's 'plenty of time' for Mideast peace deal before he leaves office

By BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With only 10 months left in his term and Israeli-Palestinian talks collapsed over renewed violence, President Bush said Tuesday there is "plenty of time" to get a Mideast peace deal before he leaves.

"This is a process that always has two steps forward and

one step back," Bush said after meeting at the White House with Jordan's King Abdullah II. "We just need to make sure that it's just one step back."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is in the region this week trying to rescue peace negotiations from a low point.

Open warfare has engulfed the Gaza Strip in the last week. After Palestinian militants fired rockets into southern Israel, the Jewish state launched a major offensive in the Gaza territory that is controlled by the militant Hamas movement and used as a base for the rocket launches. The offensive prompted the moderate Palestinian leadership in control of the West Bank territory to walk out of peace talks.

But, said Bush, "Ten months is a long time. It's plenty of time to get a deal done." He noted that Rice was pushing the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to resume talks.

"I am optimistic that they can conclude tough negotiations," he said. "I'm still as optimistic as I was after Annapolis," the site of a U.S.-backed international Mideast peace conference in Maryland late last year.

Bush, noting his typical opposition to timetables, said he remains firm on getting a peace deal done: "There happens to be a timetable, as far as I'm concerned, and that is I am leaving office." The president's term ends on January 20, 2009.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has suspended peace talks in protest of an Israeli military offensive that killed more than 100 Palestinians in Gaza.

Abbas on Tuesday called on the Israeli government "to halt its aggression so the necessary environment can be created to make negotiations succeed, for us and for them, to reach the shores of peace in 2008."

His public comments were a disappointment for the United States, which had hoped for a firmer commitment to renew negotiations launched by the Bush administration at a the Annapolis conference. Rice looked on, lips pursed, as Abbas called Israel's action unjustified "under any pretext."

Rice is also planning to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

"She's making our views known that we expect these leaders to step up and make hard decisions," Bush said. The United States blames Hamas for inciting violence. Hamas took over the Gaza Strip last July and is deemed by the U.S. to be a terrorist organization.

Bush lauded Abdullah, saying "The United States has no stronger friend in the Middle East than Jordan." In turn, Abdullah hailed Bush's commitment to the peace process.

"The words and discussions that we've had this morning will have, I think, a very great response back in our part of the world," Abdullah said.

Bush also addressed the political uncertainty in Lebanon, where his administration blames Syria for violent interference.

"I am extremely disappointed that the Syrian leader continues to make it harder for the Saniora government to succeed," Bush said. "And I really don't appreciate the fact that they've made it hard for this government to elect a president."

Record

Continued from Page 2

11:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

12:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a call from the community of Lefors. The call was disregarded by EMS on the scene.

1:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to an undisclosed location west on Highway 60 and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of Williston. No transport.

5:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to NWTB.

10:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2300 block of North Christine. No transport.

Voters

Continued from Page 1

the computer cards, then plug them into the stand-alone computer," Lewis said.

There are only two contested races in today's elec-

tion. Sheriff Don Copeland is being challenged by Vincent M. "Sonny" Marasco, and Don Fletcher and Curtis Broadus are vying for Precinct 4 constable.

All four are Pampa residents, and all local candidates are on the Republican ballot.

Jail

Continued from Page 1

12:16 a.m. on the drug paraphernalia charge as well as charges of possession of one or more but less than four grams of a controlled substance and tampering with or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair

an investigation. The provisions of the tampering/fabricating charge include situations in which evidence is concealed, Hoard said.

Humphrey's total bond is \$13,000, and Ramey's is \$10,000, according to jail records.

Deputies Rhett Rollins and Steven White made the arrests, Hoard said.

Stops

Continued from Page 1

west of Groom. Alonzo Limon Rodriguez, 30, of Parson, Tenn., was arrested during the stop and booked

into Carson County Jail. Authorities believe this load originated in Phoenix and was bound for Lexington, Tenn.

Troopers searched both vehicles, the press release said, after consent to search was given.

'I am optimistic that they can conclude tough negotiations. I'm still as optimistic as I was after Annapolis.'
— President Bush

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Viewpoints

Web site offers view of campaign funding

Today's elections will decide who faces whom in the November general election for President of the United States. That means we have several more months of campaigning ahead of us before the telephone calls, radio and TV commercials, printed advertisements and public appearances stop.

I was listening to an advertisement on television by Barack Obama a few days ago and decided to follow up on it.

More than one of Obama's ads claimed he refused contributions from political action committees, or PACs. Out of curiosity, I looked up Presidential campaign contributions and their sources on a Web site for the Center

for Responsive Politics, www.opensecrets.org.

It turns out that, according to the Web site, 99 percent of Obama's funding is from individual contributions. But he apparently accepted \$25 from a PAC.

Not much, you say. True, but don't claim that zero is the same as \$25.

Obama also received \$799,632 in funding from "other" sources, which were not further identified on the Web site.

Next was Mike Huckabee. He accepted \$51,024 from PACs and \$28,476 from "others." Individual contributions accounted for 99 percent of Huckabee's funding, the same as Obama.

John McCain took in \$579,424 in PAC contribu-

tions, plus another \$5,019,390 from "others." Individual contributions have made up 90 percent of his funding.

Hillary Clinton got the most PAC and other funding of the four candidates I researched.

She accepted \$1,045,419 in PAC contributions and

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer

\$11,177,284 in "other" contributions.

Plus, she was the only one of the four candidates I've mentioned who contributed to her own campaign, to the tune of \$5 million. Individual contributions to Hillary's campaign represent

87 percent of her funding. All totals reported on the Center for Responsive Politics' Web site was dated Jan. 31.

I then fished around further on the site, and found some interesting data on campaign contributors in general.

The site lists the 100 biggest givers in American politics since 1989. The top 10 donors, in order, are the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; AT&T Inc.; the National Association of Realtors; the American Association for Justice; Goldman Sachs (an invest-

ment bank); the National Education Association; the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; the Laborers Union; the Service Employees International Union; and the Carpenters and Joiners Union.

Here are the top PACs for 2007-2008, in order beginning with the largest contribution: Operating Engineers Union, National Association of Realtors, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AT&T Inc., American Association for Justice, American Bankers Association, Machinists/Aerospace Workers Union, National Beer Wholesalers Association, Laborers Union and Sheet Metal Workers Union.

It makes me a little concerned when a telephone company and beer companies pay out lots of money for political contributions. For example, it doesn't take a big stretch of the imagination to connect the fact that AT&T's reabsorption of the Bell Telephone system, plus its other growth spurts after having been forced to split up with Bell in earlier years, might just be due in part to influence it wielded as a result of throwing money at the problem.

I can't compete with the big spenders, but I'd like to think that my vote counts, anyway.

I'm Marilyn Powers, and I approve this message.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 4, the 64th day of 2008. There are 302 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 4, 1789, the Constitution of the United States went into effect as the first Federal Congress met in New York. (The lawmakers then adjourned for lack of a quorum.)

On this date:

In 1681, England's King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn for an area of land that later became Pennsylvania.

In 1791, Vermont became the 14th state.

In 1858, Sen. James Henry Hammond, D-S.C., declared, "Cotton is king" in a speech to the U.S. Senate.

In 1858, Matthew Calbraith Perry, the American naval officer who'd opened trade relations between the U.S. and Japan, died in New York at age 63.

In 1861, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated president.

In 1908, a fire at Lake View School in Collinwood, Ohio, claimed the lives of 172 children and three adults.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge's inauguration was broadcast live on 21 radio stations coast to coast.

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated president, pledging to lead the country out of the Great Depression.

In 1952, actors Ronald Reagan and Nancy Davis were married in San Fernando Valley, Calif.

In 1977, some 1,500 people were killed in an earthquake that shook southern and eastern Europe.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment at work can be illegal even when the offender and victim are of the same gender.

Five years ago: The Army's oldest armored division, "Old Ironsides," got orders to head for the Persian Gulf as the total of U.S. land, sea and air forces arrayed against Iraq or preparing to go neared 300,000. A bomb in a backpack killed more than 20 people at an airport terminal in the southern Philippines.

One year ago: NAACP President Bruce S. Gordon announced he was quitting the civil rights organization after just 19 months at the helm, citing growing strain with board members over the group's management style and future operations. Former Sen. Thomas Eagleton, who resigned as George McGovern's running mate in 1972 after it was revealed he'd been hospitalized for depression, died in St. Louis, Mo., at age 77.

'The world fears a new experience more than it fears anything. Because a new experience displaces so many old experiences.'

— D.H. Lawrence
English author
(1885-1930)



Africa continues to be tragic continent

President Bush's trip to Africa and promise of increased foreign aid will do little or nothing to solve the ongoing tragedy in most places on the south-of-Sahara African continent. Kenya is on the brink of a civil war. Over 1,000 people have been killed and another 300,000 made homeless. Rebels have invaded Chad. In the Darfur region of the Sudan, millions of people have been displaced in a genocidal war. Ethiopia and Eritrea threaten war again. Somali warlords are in a pitched battle. Zimbabwe, once an independent, thriving jewel on the continent, now ruled by a tyrant, is on the brink of disaster, experiencing a 66,000 percent rate of inflation, expected to be over 100,000 percent by year's end. To put that infla-

tion in perspective, the government has recently started printing 10 million Zimbabwe dollar notes. A hamburger sells for 15 million Zimbabwe dollars.

The recent African carnage is by no means new. During a 100-day period in 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans, mostly Tutsis, were killed. There were an estimated 100,000 to 500,000 Ugandans murdered under the brutal rule of Idi Amin. Liberia, Ivory Coast and the Congo have been racked by war, and slavery exists to this day in Mauritania and Sudan. Added to this carnage is

gross corruption, AIDS, famine and repression.

African leaders, and many people on the left, blame Africa's problems on the evils of colonialism. They sometimes blame the violence on the borders colonialists created that ignored ethnicity.

Many African nations have been independent for four decades. If colonial borders were a major problem, how come they haven't changed them? And, by the way, colonialism cannot explain Third World poverty. Some of today's richest countries are former colonies, such as United States, Canada, Australia,

New Zealand and Hong Kong. Some of today's poorest countries were never colonies, such as Ethiopia, Liberia, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. The colonialism argument is simply a cover up for African dictators.

The worst thing the West can do to Africa is to give more foreign aid. For the most part, foreign aid is government to government. As such, it provides the financial resources that enable Africa's grossly corrupt and incompetent regimes to buy military equipment, pay off cronies and continue to oppress their people. It also provides resources for the leaders to live lavishly and set up "retirement" accounts in foreign banks.

Africa is the world's most See WILLIAMS, Page 5

Walter Williams

Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
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Publisher: Randy Pribble
Managing Editor: Kerri Smith
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage, paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Feb. 24

San Antonio Express-News on Sen. Larry Craig's punishment:

The Senate Select Committee on Ethics sprang into action this month. It issued a bipartisan letter of admonition to Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho.

Sure, it's been six months since the media broke the news that Craig had been arrested for lewd conduct in a men's restroom at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, almost seven months since he pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of disorderly conduct. But passing ethical judgment on your colleagues is tough business on Capitol Hill.

The committee made four determinations:

The obvious, of course Craig engaged in and pleaded guilty to misconduct.

He handed the arresting officer his Senate business card and told him, "What do you think about that?" which could reasonably be construed as seeking favorable treatment.

He attempted to evade the legal consequences of his actions by trying to withdraw his guilty plea.

And he used \$213,000 in campaign funds to pay legal expenses related to his appeal. The ethics committee must approve such payments in advance. Craig never sought such approval. And the expenses incurred must be related to duties official ones, that is, which seem highly unlikely in an airport rest-

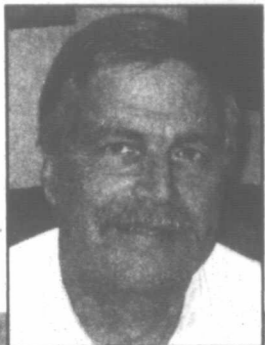
room.

And Craig's punishment? The six senators who serve on the committee, including John Cornyn of Texas, determined that the letter itself was sufficient punishment. That's what counts as ethics enforcement in Washington.

If the Senate ethics machinery turns agonizingly slowly and doesn't seem to produce much, however, it is at least better than the House ethics contraption, which hardly functions at all.

All this provides more evidence that members of Congress are simply incapable of policing their own ethics. No matter how tough the rules are, congressional ethics will continue to be an oxymoron until an independent office exists to investigate ethics complaints and punish offenders. URL: <http://www.mysa.com>

BUSINESS REVIEW



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INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

Ashmore & Associates Insurance Agency, LLC Selected as One of The Ten Most Dependable™ Insurance Brokers of Texas.

Ashmore & Associates Insurance Agency, LLC Has Been selected by Goldline Research as one of the Most Dependable™ Insurance Brokers of Texas. The list of the Most Dependable™ Insurance Brokers of Texas was published in the November 26th issue of Forbes Magazine.

"We are pleased to have Ashmore & Associates Insurance Agency, LLC on this list" said Gabe Rapisardo, Publisher of Goldline Research. He also said, "They exceeded all of our industry criteria and had outstanding client references." Over 4,200 Insurance Brokers were contacted regarding the list and the response was overwhelming.

Ashmore & Associates Insurance Agency, LLC is a multi-line, full service agency with a home office in Lubbock, as well as locations in Pampa, Levelland, Lockney, Spring Lake, Midland-Odessa, Morton, Dallas and Houston. They are Zywave Partners, a trusted Choice agency and members of TAA and SIAA. All of these coalitions expand agency services, markets, and customer options. Products and services include all commercial casualty, commercial property, bonds, employee benefits, personal lines, individual life, health, disability, long term care as well as consulting services. They are also licensed in many states.

Goldline Research is a list research and publishing company specializing in investigating the credibility and performance of companies in a variety of professional services industries for selective inclusion in their published The Most Dependable™ lists. Goldline Research works closely with leading professionals in professional services industries to develop criterion for each industry, which forms the basis for its selection process. Goldline Research's lists have appeared nationwide for over 4 years in a wide variety of print publications such as Southwest Airlines SPIRIT Magazine, Texas Monthly, San Diego Magazine, United Hemispheres Magazine, Delta Sky Magazine, Forbes, Fortune, LA Magazine and Phoenix Magazine. In order to be selected to a Most Dependable™ list, firms must meet all of Goldline Research's criteria, have no consumer complaints, lawsuits or disciplinary actions and provide client references that are checked and scored based on a proprietary scoring system.

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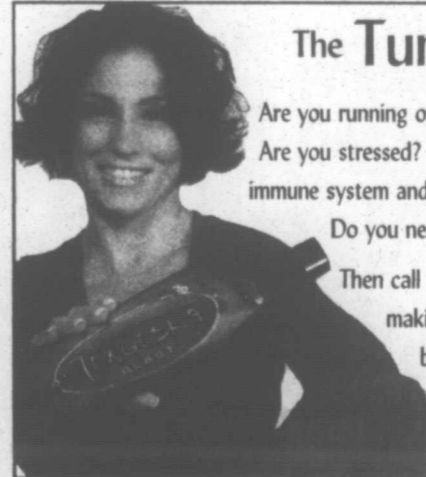
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to draw your readers' attention to the importance of keeping track of their online log-in information. We all know it's smart to keep photocopies of our driver's license, credit cards, etc. With as much time as some of us spend online, in addition to the billions of dollars we spend there as a nation, it's wise to keep track of sundry log-in details as well. I keep track of the various Web sites from which I make purchases -- the Web site name, user name and my password -- because various Web sites require different information. Please suggest that your readers compile this information in a single document and print it out from time to time. Keep a hard copy in a safe place with other important papers. That way, if anything should happen to them, family members will be able to access these Web sites, delete saved credit card information and close the accounts. -- **KATHERINE V., EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO**

DEAR KATHERINE V.: You have offered an excellent suggestion, and I'm pleased to pass it along. Readers, because none of us know when an emergency such as incapacitation (or death) should strike, this "insurance policy" could be invaluable to those left to handle our affairs. (This does not apply to those of you who plan to live forever.) To secure log-in/password information, print out the document you have created and put it in a safe-deposit box or under lock and key in a file cabinet. If you keep the document in your computer, be sure to secure it with a strong password or use commercially available privacy software.

DEAR ABBY: At what age do you discontinue using the term "Master" before a young boy's name when addressing an envelope? I have searched books without success. I hope you can help. -- **MS. D. IN**

PORT CHARLOTTE, FLA.

DEAR MS. D.: Good question. According to my 16th Edition of "Emily Post's Etiquette" by Peggy Post: "Boys may be addressed as 'Master' on envelopes and formal correspondence until they are about 7 years old, and 'Mr.' when they become 18. In between, no title is used."

DEAR ABBY: Most people complain about their jobs because they feel they don't make enough money. My problem is the opposite. I love my job, but I think I make too much money. My job is mostly simple work that could be done by anybody -- yet I earn almost as much as my husband, who is a supervisor in a technical field. My boss always gives me excellent reviews and doesn't seem concerned. It's nice to have the kind of job that isn't stressful. But I feel guilty that a lot of people with more difficult jobs make less than I do. Should I tell my boss to give me a pay cut, or take the money and run? -- **CUT OR RUN IN WISCONSIN**

DEAR CUT OR RUN: I won't reveal your exact location because many people would kill to have your job. The answer to your question is you should neither ask for a pay cut nor take the money and run. Feeling as you do, you should donate every cent you feel you are overpaid to a charity (or to a therapist who can help you overcome your sense of guilt).

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



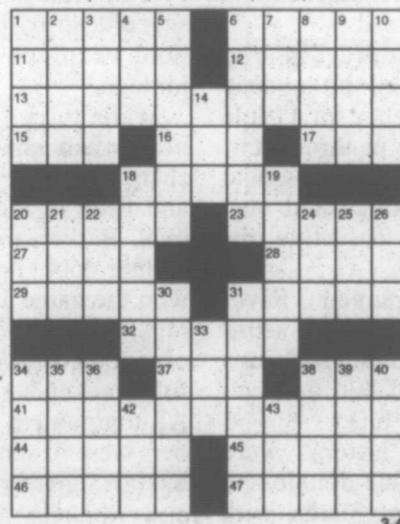
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Figure out
 - 6 Swiftly
 - 11 In the lead
 - 12 Colorado resort
 - 13 It'll get you the pot
 - 15 Lawn makeup
 - 16 Total
 - 17 Hwys.
 - 18 Salk of vaccine fame
 - 20 Singer John
 - 23 "Forget it!"
 - 27 Skating spot
 - 28 Dull fellow
 - 29 Early Mexican
 - 31 Two-wheelers
 - 32 Sign of indifference
 - 34 Place for a mud bath
 - 37 Flower's need
 - 38 Not to mention
 - 41 Aid
 - 44 Showy flower
 - 45 Jousting weapon
 - 46 Ruffians
 - 47 Borders
- DOWN**
- 1 Carpentry tools
 - 2 Pennsylvania neighbor
 - 3 Give temporarily
 - 4 Moving day sight
 - 5 Prolific inventor
 - 6 "Dallas" star
 - 7 Cigar bit
 - 8 Ship pole
 - 9 Manage
 - 10 Finishes
 - 14 Convent occupant
 - 18 Gags
 - 19 Edna Ferber book
 - 20 Historic period
 - 21 Designer
 - 22 Blasting stuff
 - 24 Stir-frying vessel
 - 25 "Right you --!"
 - 26 "You said it"
 - 30 Hymn singers
 - 31 Rob need
 - 33 Operated
 - 34 Carpet type
 - 35 Cuban coin
 - 36 Singing voice
 - 38 Distinct flavor
 - 39 In the past
 - 40 Keats creations
 - 42 Writing need
 - 43 Possessed

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Sports

Traveling basketball team wins tournament undefeated

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

The 7-H Cattle Traveling Basketball team recently competed in the Shamrock Little Dribblers Basketball Tournament Feb. 14-16. The boys went undefeated beating Wheeler, Shamrock, and finally Wellington in the championship game.

Colton Thompson played defense to help hold Wellington to six points. With a dead locked game, Travis Zeek scored late in the third period to open up the game for 7-H.

Adam Zuniga and Bryson Burrell contributed scoring key baskets while Kyndan Lott and Jared Lake forced big defensive turnovers throughout the game.

Rhett Harden contributed with a rebounding exhibition and Jacob Gething helped hold the post position secure. 7-H goes 6-0 for their season, winning the Lefors Tournament two weeks ago.

They will be playing in Wheeler and Miami in the future.



Tournament winners

Courtesy Photo

The 7-H Cattle Traveling Basketball team recently were undefeated in the Shamrock Little Dribblers tournament. Back row from left are Travis Zeek, Jacob Gething, Kyndan Lott, Colton Thompson and Coach Roy Lott. Front row from left are Bryson Burrell, Jared Lake, Adam Zuniga and Rhett Harden.

Optimist Club explains changes to baseball rules

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club has expanded its rules to provide more playing time for more players, according to Optimist Baseball Commissioner Kevin Davis.

"In all leagues but the Babe Ruth League, we will bat our entire lineup instead of just having the nine players on the field bat," Davis explained. "This means that any player who has already played two or more innings in the field will still be involved in the game because he will continue to bat."

"The Optimist Board

also is going to allow free substitutions, which will allow a substitute to go into the game more than one time and will allow a starter to come out for an inning and go right back on the field."

Davis explained that the Optimist Club will try to reduce the number of players in each league to 11 so that there will be more playing time per player.

"We will obviously need more coaches in order to be able to do this," Davis said. "The Optimist Board also voted to allow teams to play with eight players in the event of illness or other reasons why a team cannot field nine

players."

Davis continued, "North Randall County tried this system last year and really liked it. I have talked to several coaches about it. All the feedback I am getting is positive."

Registration for Pampa Optimist Baseball/Softball 2008 will take place Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist building. Playing fees are \$50 for T-ball and pitching machine leagues, \$75 for the Babe Ruth League and \$60 for all other leagues. Scholarships are available.

Pampa JV boys have mixed results in Hereford tournament

After defeating Plainview in the first round of the Hereford baseball tournament, the Pampa JV lost to Hereford and Randall to end the tournament with a 1-2 record.

On Friday, Pampa lost to Hereford by a score of 6-5. With Pampa leading by a score of 5-3 in the bottom of the seventh inning, Hereford scored three runs, thanks in part to four Pampa errors to win the game.

Garret Ericson pitched a complete game for Pampa giving up only two unearned runs.

Ericson struck out eight, walked three and gave up six hits.

Getting hits for Pampa was Cody McIntyre with a double, Anthony Allen had a single, Braden Hunt added a triple, Reid Bradley had a single, Johnny Anguiano added a single and Ty Powell had a double and a single.

On Saturday, Pampa faced Randall and lost by a score of 16-7. Pampa jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead in the top of the first, but Randall answered with seven runs in the bottom of the

first. Reid Bradley pitched one inning giving up nine runs on five hits, striking out two and walking five. Chase Ferguson pitched the rest of the way giving up seven runs on four hits, striking out two and walking four.

The leading-hitter for Pampa was Braden Hunt who went 3-3 with two singles and a double. Johnny Anguiano added a triple and Reid Bradley had a single.

The JV's record stands now at 2-3 on the year.

CITY OF PAMPA

City offers softball leagues

The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be offering the following leagues for spring softball: Men's Open, Mixed Open, Women's Open, Men's Church and Mixed Church. All leagues are open to players age 16 and older.

The entry fees or sponsor's fees for teams are \$375 per team, per league. Registration week will be from March 3 - 7. Late registration week will be from March 10 - 14. An additional \$25 will be added for late registration.

There will be no teams added after March 14. Play will begin the week

of March 24.

Roster forms, fact sheets and bylaws are available at the Recreation Office at M.K. Brown Auditorium between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or may be downloaded from the city's website at www.cityofpampa.org.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Spring Softball Leagues, please contact the Recreation Office at 669-5790 during business hours, or e-mail mkbrown@centramedia.net.

Pampa JV softball wins tournament

Pampa JV softball team ended up winning the Dumas tournament over the weekend.

They started off Friday afternoon by defeating Dalhart varsity 7-3. Katelin Wall picked up the win with four strike-outs, two walks on balls and three hits. Leading hitters were Michaela Flores with a triple and Wall with a double.

Pampa defeated Caprock JV 7-6 later in the afternoon on Friday. Jordan Mayhew pitched and had

seven strike-outs, four walks and three hits. Leading hitters for this game were Devin Valentine, who had a double and a single, and Rachel Heuston with two singles.

Pampa also defeated Tascosa 22-2 on Friday evening. Wall picked up the win to improve to 2 and 1 on the season. Leading hitters were Amanda Harkins with a triple and two singles. Heuston had two singles and Madi Shults got a single and a double.

On Saturday play, Pampa JV won the Dumas tournament for the second year in a row. Pampa went 6-0 in the 24 team field. There were six small school varsity teams and 18 large school JV teams.

Pampa played home town favorite, Dumas, Saturday at 11 a.m. and came away with a 14-6 win. Pampa came out crushing the ball in the first inning, aided by four Dumas errors.

Kenzie Carter a hit triple that brought in two runs, followed by Brooklyn Barker, who had a triple that just missed a homerun by inches. Rachel Heuston hit a triple that cleared the bases for three runs brought in for a 9-1 lead.

In the third inning, Emilie Troxell hit a deep ball off the fence for a triple that brought in three runs. Wall picked up the win to improve to three and one. She allowed only five hits and no walks.

Pampa played River Road Varsity in the semifinals and won 12-8. Pampa continued to hit the ball well with 14 hits.

Leading hitters were Floret with one double and three singles, Shults with three singles and Jordan Mayhew, who picked up the win on the mound with nine strike-outs and four walks on balls.

Pampa advanced to play Caprock JV in the finals. Caprock defeated Bushland varsity to advance to the finals.

Pampa again got off to a big first inning with Wall, Heuston, Carter all hitting

singles and Troxell hitting a double, for a 6-3 lead after one inning. In the second inning, Heuston had a single and Barker a double for two more runs.

Pampa did not score in the third inning, but held a 8-5 lead. In the fourth, Devin Valentine lead off with a double followed by singles by Wall and Carter. Pampa picked up four more runs in the fifth and sixth innings with Amanda Harkins hitting two doubles.

Wall was able to pitch a complete game while striking out three and just giving up three walks. Pampa's three outfielders, Valentine, Harkins and Flores, were able to catch seven deep fly balls to help hold Caprock from big innings.

Wall turned a double play when she snagged a sharp line up the middle and fired to the first baseman, Barker, for an inning ending double play. Pampa won the game 13-10.

All 13 team members contributed to the successful weekend tournament. All tournament team members were Amanda Harkins, Kenzie Carter, Katelin Wall and Michaela Flores. The MVP of the tournament was Rachel Heuston, who had 11 base hits and an on base average of .750.

Pampa JV was scheduled to play Monday at home against Canyon. They are entered in the Borger tournament this Friday and Saturday, where the first scheduled game is at 2 p.m.

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.

3-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

AB ERJSLG WZ KLBOAKDS.
GJRBX DACS R LWOC: AB
ERJSLG WZ JRGJS, GVAE VAJI
JIS ONLLSBJ. — JIWERG
F S Z Z S L G W B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TRUE SUCCESS IS OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF BEING UNSUCCESSFUL. — PAUL SWEENEY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 5, 2008:

This year you exude an aura of mystery and feel much better about yourself than you have in years. You relax more easily with people and enjoy them on a whole new level. Just the same, be wise and keep your own counsel. You also love your downtime when you are not accountable. If you are single, someone quite alluring could enter your life this year. As enticing as this person is, you do need to check him or her out more carefully. If you are attached, you make a profound difference in your sweetie's life. You might want to share much more than you have in the past. AQUARIUS makes a great healer for 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)

★★★★ Finally you've got the tiger by the tail, or do you? You actually might not care in your present euphoric mood. A friend might assist you in making a dream a reality. Enjoy what's happening around you. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You are inspired in an unprecedented manner. How you deal with someone and the way you proceed reveal much more than you think. You are dealing with someone supremely idealistic. Tonight: Add a touch of music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Creativity comes out when you detach and just listen. There are many opportunities around you. Making

them realities could take a fair share of talent, which you have. Go past the obvious to find the right answers. Tonight: Experiment with a new type of cuisine.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ A partner suddenly seems dreamy, or an associated problem does an about-face. You could be stunned. Right now, don't buck the trend. Experience the moment, and forget worrying about the future. Be in the here and now. Tonight: Say yes to an offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ What you wished for with a key person in your life actually does take place. Defer right now, and don't insist on putting in your normal two cents. Let others express their feelings. You will like the end results. Tonight: Say yes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Recognize what you love in your daily life. Much changes rather quickly. Your ability to tolerate others and pioneer in a new direction at the same time is new. Use this gift to the max. Don't be surprised at another's response. Tonight: Relax in a hot tub or soak in a warm, bubbly bath.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You can be one of the most romantic signs of the zodiac. Right now is no exception; in fact, your ability to allure others is enhanced. Allow your feelings to come forward; you don't have to minimize them. Tonight: Enjoy the magic.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your foundations are more important than you realize. When you feel secure, nothing will bother you. If you are upset, everything could. You are inspired by those close to you.

Understanding comes easily. Tonight: Happiest at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Speak your mind. Others seem to echo your sentiments. Relating in any form simply feels good. You are putting out extraordinary vibes, which is why you are getting the responses that you are. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ If you are getting such a strong sense about an expenditure, then follow your feelings. Good luck follows you wherever you go. Stay ahead of the game by knowing which way you want to turn. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Lady Luck knocks on your door. You might not quite believe what is going on around you. Careful, as there could be an element of deception, or you simply cannot buy what is going on. Tonight: All smiles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your mind or subconscious is working overtime. Just the same, someone you meet today needs to be taken with a grain of salt. He or she might not be everything you think. Be smart: Take your time getting to know this person. Tonight: Vanish; you don't need to give any explanation.

BORN TODAY

Actor Rex Harrison (1908), singer Andy Gibb (1958), actor James Wainwright (1938)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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BELTWAY NEWS

Lawmakers step up scrutiny of US missile shield plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats are taking a closer look at the U.S. missile defense program, partly in an effort to pare down its high price tag.

The Democrats are rais-

'We should explore the idea of slowing the funding on this thing until we know it is going in the right direction.'

— Rep. John Tierney
D-Mass.

ing questions about the effectiveness of the anti-missile program and investigating whether its testing regimen is realistic enough to demonstrate its capabilities against real attacks. Critics have long contended that the program's tests are too predictable.

The scrutiny comes as the United States is at a sensitive moment in negotiations with Poland and the Czech Republic to build part of its shield on their territory. Lawmakers are questioning the security value of those plans against stark opposition from Russia.

Rep. John Tierney said he intends, during hearings beginning Wednesday, to raise the question of whether Congress should continue present funding levels for what congressional auditors call the most expensive U.S.

defense program. "We should explore the idea of slowing the funding on this thing until we know it is going in the right direction," said Tierney, D-Mass., a long-time skeptic of missile defense. He chairs a subcommittee of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that is planning to hold three to five hearings on the subject.

A spokesman for the Defense Department's Missile Defense Agency, Rick Lehner, said that scrutiny is nothing new and the agency welcomes the opportunity to provide testimony by top officials, including its chief, Lt. Gen. Henry Obering III.

"We meet with lawmakers and staff almost every week," Lehner says. "This is probably the most scrutinized program within the Department of Defense."

Advocates of missile defense argue that the shield is necessary to counter the power that countries like Iran and North Korea would have to threaten the United States and its allies should they develop long-range missiles capable of carrying nuclear, biological or chemical warheads.

Some have pointed to the recent use of modified missile defense interceptors to destroy a damaged U.S. satellite as a sign of the program's progress, although U.S. officials denied the interception was a test and critics say the satellite was a far easier target than a warhead would be.

Art club



COURTESY PHOTO

Pampa Art Club recently inducted Linda Johnson, from top left, Karen Sutherland, Sara Crim and Marilyn Lee. They and other members will be participating in the club's annual Tea and Art Exhibit from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. May 6 at Lovett Memorial Library. This year is the club's 60th anniversary. All members are working towards making the annual exhibit a special event.

Events calendar

- **The Amarillo Art Institute** is offering a variety of classes for children and adults this spring. Classes include Clay for Kids, Basics of Drawing and Painting, Silvery Jewelry Design and Fabrication, and more. For further details or to register, call (806) 354-8802.
- **The Peace Farm in Amarillo** has announced an "International Women's Day" event at 6:30 p.m. March 6 at the Black Historical Cultural Center in Amarillo. A complimentary dinner will be served at 6 p.m. For more information, call (806) 341-4801 or (806) 379-8247.
- **Rushing Wind Emmaus** will meet at 6 p.m. March 8 at Waka Christian Center in Waka for a potluck supper, sponsor training, and praise and worship service. A nursery will be provided. Log onto www.rushingwindemmaus.com on the Internet for more information.
- **March 10 is the deadline to enter Sacramento Rainbow Poets** free religious poetry contest.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 2935 Clay St., Sacramento, CA 95815.

• **Pampa Book Club** will review the following books in the coming months: "Night" by Elie Wiesel, March 12; "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, April 9; and "Walking Drum" by Louis L'Amour, May 14. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa.

• **Memory Gardens Cemetery** in Pampa will host a family Easter egg hunt starting at 11 a.m. March 15. Activities include egg hunt, bouncer for kids 10 and under, prizes and more. In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be postponed until 2 p.m. March 16. For more information, call Memory Gardens.

• **Tickets are currently available** now through March 14 for the Area Friends of the NRA banquet set to kick-off at 5:30 p.m. March 15 in the

Heritage Room of the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Prime rib with all the trimmings will be served at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for participants 18 and under or \$50 per couple if purchased in advance. The deadline for advance ticket sales is the day prior to the banquet. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are available in Amarillo at Pro Shooters, Panhandle Gunslingers and A&K Shooters Supply. For more information, contact Connie at (806) 683-9079 or Bill at (806) 231-0771.

• **Scholarships are currently available** for grant-writing workshops March 25-26 in Dallas and March 27-28 in Houston. The partial scholarships are available to non-profit and faith-based organizations, government agencies, schools and students. For more information, call 1-800-371-5703 or visit www.zockgrant.com on the Internet.

Authorities find bodies of six people in Memphis home

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Police who forced their way into a small brick house discovered the bodies of four adults and two children, as well as three children found clinging to life.

Police said they were investigating the case as a multiple homicide but otherwise released little information early Tuesday, including whether they believed the killer was at large.

Children ages 7 and 4 and a 10-month-old baby were taken to Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center, Memphis Fire Department spokeswoman Melanie Young told The Associated Press. She did not know the ages or sexes of the other victims, but police told The Commercial Appeal newspaper all the children were under the age of 12.

"We just don't know the motive or cause of death, but we do have four adults and two children (dead)," Memphis police Lt. Jerry Guin told the newspaper.

Young said the victims had been shot. At least one of the children had been stabbed, police said.

The Commercial Appeal reported on Monday night that one of the children had been upgraded to stable condition and another upgraded to critical while the third remained in extremely critical condition.

Hospital spokeswoman Jennilyn Utkov told The Associated Press the family has requested that no information be released on the

children's conditions.

Authorities were called to the house by a relative who knocked on the door around 6 p.m. Monday but did not get an answer.

Detectives and crime scene specialists were still at the scene late Monday night and authorities cordoned off a block in either direction.

Dark, narrow streets in the low-income working class neighborhood, still wet from heavy rains, showed little signs of life late Monday except for the flashing lights of police cars.

Wayne Bolden, who lives across the street from the scene of the shooting, told The Associated Press that the adult male occupant of the house periodically fired shots in his yard.

"He'd shoot on the 4th of July and New Year's Eve," Bolden said. "He'd have company over and I'd hear the shots."

He said the family there kept to themselves, but he would see four or five children from the house riding bicycles occasionally.

"It's a pretty quiet neighborhood; nothing of this magnitude has ever happened here," Bolden said.

Rob Robinson, who owns the brick, single-family home where the shootings occurred, told The Commercial Appeal the house was rented, and that a man, his girlfriend, a baby, and at least one other child lived there.

Dr. Brent Michener General Surgeon

Residency- St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital

Internship- St. John Detroit Riverview Hospital

Medical School- University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Fort Worth, TX

Undergraduate- Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science, Cum Laude Graduate, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX



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