



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH 70  
LOW 36

See expanded weather on Page 2

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## Law enforcement involved in 'Operation Lifesaver'

BY KERRI SMITH  
Managing Editor

Area residents might have noticed a lot of commotion around railroad crossings in and around Pampa Tuesday. According to Donny Brown, public information officer with Pampa Police Department, officers with the PPD, Gray County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Police took part in BNSF's program "Operation Lifesaver" Tuesday.

BNSF and local law enforcement are working together to make the railways around Pampa a safer place. Through the efforts of BNSF Field Safety Support Coordinator, Jerry Rector from Amarillo, officers took turns switching out from watching the railroad crossing in their patrol vehicles and riding on a locomotive. "Officers riding on the train were able to actually see what the engineer and conductors see on the train as they come through the Pampa



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

**Pampa Police Department, Gray County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad safety personnel train conductors and special agents all collaborated Tuesday on "Operation Lifesaver." The objective was to ticket those who did not obey railway signs and warnings.**

area," Brown said. "They were able to see a large number of traffic violations regarding the railroad crossings. Officers in the cars made around seventeen traffic stops within

approximately a six hour enforcement period." According to Rector, approximately 50 trains come through Pampa each day.

"Over the last six months, we have had several accidents at railroad crossings in the Pampa area."

See BNSF, Page 3

### TRIAL

## Aggravated robbery, assault trial under way

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Testimony continued Tuesday in 223rd District Court in the trial of Carlos Jose Cordova of Pampa. Cordova is charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of aggravated assault in connection with a 2006 incident at a Pampa home.

After a late start Monday, the jury was seated at about 3 p.m. that day for Cordova's trial. Opening arguments were then heard, and 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer called her first witness.

Court was recessed at 4:30 p.m. Monday. Switzer recalled her first witness when the trial resumed at 9 a.m. Tuesday, and followed up with testimony by victims of the crimes.

"The trial is expected to last through Friday," said Evelyn

Rutherford, a paralegal in Switzer's office.

Judge Lee Waters is presiding over the trial. Defense attorney is James Wooldridge.

Cordova is one of three men indicted by a Gray County grand jury on Oct. 3, 2006 in 223rd District Court in Pampa concerning the charges, which arose from a home invasion. Bond was set at \$300,000.

At about 9 a.m. May 21, 2006, two armed men broke into the home of Layne and Mae Conner in the 1100 block of East Francis and took a blue Citibank bag with \$100 and \$50 bills totaling \$4,000. A third man was believed to be the driver for the group.

One of the two armed men fired a shot at Layne Conner in the course of the robbery. Conner was not injured as a

See TRIAL, Page 3

## City commission appoints Pitner as interim manager

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner will take over management of Pampa April 1, after City Manager John Horst retires.

Following a closed session during their regular meeting Tuesday afternoon to discuss personnel, the Pampa City Commission named Pitner interim city manager effective April 1. Horst retires on March 31.

"We're going to make this transition," said Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins in announcing Pitner's new position, "and we're going to make it as smoothly as possible."

In other business, the commission approved on second and final reading an ordinance that would provide for a fee to defray the costs of collecting fines, fees and other debts due the city. The fee would cover the payment to an Amarillo law firm that has contracted with Pampa to collect overdue debts.

The city commission also approved on second and final reading an ordinance changing the zoning of 5.08 acres in God's Plateau Subdivision at Price Road and 23rd Ave. from single family residences to commercial. Ian and Martha Mackay had requested the



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER  
**Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner, left, receives congratulations from Pampa Emergency Coordinator Fred Courtney after Pitner was named interim city manager at Tuesday's city commission meeting.**

change in order to build storage units at the intersection.

The commission also approved city disbursements of \$1,802,876.10 for the month of January.

## Horst retires after 20 years of working for Pampa

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

John Horst said it's the end of the trail. It's time to put out the campfire and call in the dogs. Pampa's City Manager for the past four years is retiring.

"I've saddled my horse for the last time," Horst said. Horst said he's proud of the city's accomplishments in the 20 plus years that he's been with the city.

"We've seen a municipal golf course developed," he said. "That and Recreation Park were accomplished in conjunction with citizen

groups and the County of Gray."

He said he thinks both of those projects gave the community a boost.

"We've now got a new communications tower," Horst said.

City Hall has a new back-up generator that will power the building's city services in case of emergency.

Perhaps the thing he is most pleased about is the replacement and repair of a long neglected infrastructure. The new revenues that are flowing into the city have enabled Pampa to deal

with long neglected water and sewer problems.

"The Mayor and City Commission have had the foresight to issue certificates of obligation to upgrade our aging infrastructure. We've accomplished some of that work and the citizens will be seeing more of that this summer and in coming years."

He said that some of the water and sewage systems date back to the 1930s.

Born in 1945 in Emporia, Kan., Horst's grew up in Kansas. His father worked

See HORST, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER

**City Manager John Horst, pictured here in the Pampa City Commission chambers at City Hall, will retire March 31.**



**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

**Thursday**



**Sunny**

**Friday**



**Sunny**

**Saturday**



**Sunny**

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70. Wind chill values between 26 and 36 early. South-southeast wind around 15 mph becoming west.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 36. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. North-northwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40. South wind around 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 73.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.

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*Emergency Services*

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, Feb. 25**

Nineteen traffic stops were made, resulting in one arrest.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 1000 block of Somerville.

An accident was reported at

the intersection of Hobart and Randy Matson.

Animal control officers made calls concerning animals in the 400 block of Carr, the 1200 block of North Wells, the 1100 block of East Kingsmill, the 2100 block of North Hobart, the 2100 block of North Sumner, the 500 block of Magnolia, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill, the 700 block of 25th and the 1800 block of North Nelson.

Agency assistance was provided in the 1800 block of North Banks and the 700 block of West.

Motorist assistance was provided at the intersection of Foster and Gillespie.

A welfare check was made in the 1100 block of Gwendolen.

Civil matters were reported in the 1000 block of Somerville, the 300 block of Anne and in the police department lobby.

Warrant service was attempted at nine locations.

An open door was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 100 block of 23rd.

A silent/abusive 911 call was reported in the 1000 block of Gordon.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of West Foster and the 1600 block of Somerville.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of Crest.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 1300 block of West Kentucky, where a lock was damaged and unpaid storage

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*Obituaries*

**Alma Charleen Farmer**



Farmer

FRITCH — Alma Charleen Farmer left her earthly home Feb. 26, 2008, to join her family and friends that have gone on before her.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Westlawn Memorial Park in Borger with the Rev. Berry Loving, Senior Minister of Pampa First Christian Church. Interment will be in "The Garden of Devotion" at Westlawn Memorial Park under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Fritch.

Charleen was born in Shallowater, Texas, on April 30, 1923, to Charles and Lillian Kesler. She was the last surviving member of six children. She was predeceased by sisters Wilder, Thelma, Owatha and brothers Charles, Hewell and Frank.

After graduating from Abernathy High School, she left the family farm to go to work at Childress Air Force Base where she met her future husband, Fred Smith Farmer. They were wed on Nov. 4, 1944, after Fred returned from serving as a bombardier in the Army Air Corp in the European Theater.

They moved to Shamrock, Texas, where their three children were born. They moved to Fritch, Texas, in 1963 where he worked for Phillips and she went to work as a utility clerk for the City of Fritch. She later became the city bookkeeper, a position that she held for 20 years. She also served as interim

City Manager on two different occasions until the city could hire a manager. After retiring, she served on the Fritch city council for one term.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Fred in 2001; a daughter, Lillian Beverly Johnson of Midland, Texas, in 1988; and a son-in-law, Ronnie Smith.

She is survived by her daughters, Fredda Smith, of the home, and Mayda King and husband Terry of Pampa; her grandchildren, D'Awn Swartwood and husband Brian and their children Cody, Kynlee, Cale and Kylee of Amarillo, Shaunda Patterson and husband Dick and children Shey and Trace

of Fritch; Craig Smith and wife, Monti and their children Madelyn and Raedon of Lubbock; Greg King and wife Shannon and their children Morgan and Ryan of Great Bend, Kan.; and Chalan Galloway and husband Robert and their children Dathan and Cori of Fritch.

Charleen was the true center of her family. She was always there to provide a steady hand, a listening heart, and help in any time of need. She loved her family above all else and was an inspiration to them. She often said that if everyone would just take care of their family, there wouldn't be any problems in this world.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the ASPCA or to a favorite charity.

rent totaled an estimated \$180; and in the 700 block of East Frederic, where a lamp and TV were broken and unpaid rent was reported in the amount of \$710.

Fraud was reported in the police department lobby.

Assault was reported in the police department lobby.

**One alarm was reported.**

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**

Thirty-five traffic stops were made.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Highways 60 and 70, and the 1400 block of North Russell.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive, the 2100 block of Williston, the 2100 block of West Kentucky, the 700 block of West Wilks, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill, the 2100 block of Lynn, the intersection of Henry and Campbell streets, the 1500 block of North Hobart, twice in the 700 block of Magnolia, once in the 1800 block of Lynn, and the intersection of Buckler and West streets.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 400 block of North West, the 800 block of Municipal Drive, the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60, and the 500 block of Lefors.

A welfare check was made in the 500 block of North Frost. Warrant service was attempted on two occasions and resulted in at least two arrests.

A civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of East Francis.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1900 block of North Banks.

**Disorderly conduct was**

reported in the 300 block of Miami. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1400 block of Charles.

A threat was reported in the 200 block of Miami. The threat was reportedly made in retaliation for an assault which took place earlier in the day.

Aggravated assault was reported in the emergency room of Pampa Regional Medical Center. The incident occurred in the 300 block of Miami. The victim's injuries included two cuts behind an ear, a swollen eye and a possible broken arm.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27**

Seven traffic stops were made.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 100 block of North Hobart, and the intersection of Hobart and Wilks streets.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 300 block of West Foster.

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

**Monday, Feb. 25**

David Bryan Passmore, 42, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for capias pro fines and a warrant out of Randall County for attempted murder.

Jack Gould Criswell, 85, of Alvarado was arrested by GCSO for four counts of aggravated sexual assault with a child.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**

Bana Michelle Carnes, 29, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for possession of more than one gram and less than four grams of a controlled substance.

Billy James Vansickle, 30, of Lefors was arrested by PPD for issuance of bad check and possession of more than one gram and less than four grams of a controlled substance.

Jamie Lee Aleman, 21, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for animal at large, animal nuisance, speeding and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Diane Lee Dampier, 55, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for theft under \$50.

Daniel Mark Ambriz Jr., 18, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on capias pro fines for driving under the influence - minor, displaying expired registration and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Eric Daniel Gene Davis, 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of Miami by PPD for disorderly conduct/loud music and violation of a city ordinance - no running water.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, Feb. 25**

5:35 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Randy Matson on a motor vehicle accident.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**

12:35 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Highways 60 and 70 on a motor vehicle accident.

2:56 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60 for police department assistance.

9:40 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1300 block of Russell on a call for lifting assistance.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls between 7 a.m. Monday and 7 a.m. today.

**Monday, Feb. 25**

9:37 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of Dogwood and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:25 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

2:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:41 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Lubbock.

9:19 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Dwight and transported a patient to PRMC.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26**

2:44 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.

9:58 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Russell. No transport.

3:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:04 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2900 block of Perryton Parkway and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Hobart. No transport.

**Wednesday, Feb. 27**

1:59 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient to PRMC.

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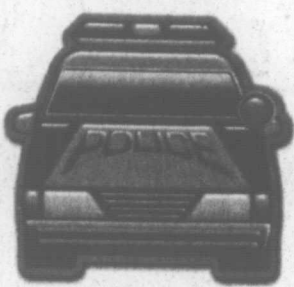
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### COP CORNER

## What should you do if your purse of wallet is stolen?

By Asst. Chief Logan Stout

Cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep those where you can find them easily and do not keep them in your wallet or purse.

Contact your bank if your checkbook or ATM card was also stolen along with your wallet or purse. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and it is a first step toward an investigation.

The most important step you can take to protect yourself is this: Call the three national credit reporting organizations

immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. Most people don't even know about this. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

The numbers are: Equifax 1-800-525-6285, Experian (formerly TRW) 1-800-301-7195, and Trans Union 1-800-680-7289.

The Social Security Administration also has a fraud line, which is 1-800-269-0271.

The Pampa Police Department will assist you in the criminal investigation, however much of the responsibility to work through the notification process will be yours.



Stout

## CDC panel recommends virtually all children get annual flu shots

ATLANTA (AP) — A federal advisory panel is recommending that all children get flu shots.

The panel voted Wednesday to expand annual flu shots to virtually all children except infants younger than 6 months and those with serious egg allergies.

That means about 30 million more children could be getting vaccinated. If heeded, it would be one of the largest expansions in flu vaccination coverage in U.S. history.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices said the vaccinations should be given as soon as feasible, acknowledging that many doctors have already ordered their vaccine for the 2008-2009 season and some may not be able to give the shots until the 2009-2010 season.

The panel's advice is routinely adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which issues vaccination guidelines to doctors and hospitals

Flu shots were already recommended for people considered to be at highest risk of death or serious illness from the flu, including children ages 6 months to 5 years, adults 50 and older, and people with weakened immune systems

The panel said that should be expanded to include children up to age 18.

Children ages 5 to 18 get flu at higher rates than other age groups, but they don't tend to get as sick. Of the 36,000 estimated annual deaths attributed to the flu, only 25 to 50 occur in children in that age bracket, CDC officials said.

But children who stay home sick from school cause parents to stay home, so reducing the illness in this group should cut down days of lost work, some experts said.

Experts believe giving flu shots to more children may also prevent the illness in adults and the elderly, although studies haven't clearly established that will happen.

## Teachers reprimanded after 3rd grade students searched

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A class of third-grade students got a lesson in civil liberties when an envelope containing \$5 disappeared from their teacher's desk.

The students at Martin Luther King Elementary in Hopkinsville were asked to remove their shoes and socks during a search. Some were patted down and had

their pockets checked.

Some parents were angered by the Feb. 15 searches, which did not turn up the missing money at the western Kentucky school.

"The way they treat our students is ridiculous," said Zlatko Skuljan, the father of a 9-year-old girl in the class.

The school's principal gave written reprimands to four instructors who had

physical contact with the students. The principal, Sarah Newman, declined to comment and phone numbers for the four teachers could not be located Wednesday.

Christian County Schools spokeswoman Regan Huneycutt said the search violated the school district's policy. School employees can touch students only

when the student poses a threat to another student or to themselves.

School officials said the search was prompted by the disappearance of an envelope containing \$5 for a school function that was on the teacher's desk.

The students' regular teacher was absent that day.

### BOYCOTT

## Hispanic group calls for boycott of rodeo

HOUSTON (AP) — A group of Hispanic leaders said Tuesday that Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo officials haven't done enough to include Hispanics, so they are calling for a boycott of the three-week show that starts Monday.

"We request our friends across the whole state of Texas not to attend the Houston Livestock Show," said former state Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos.

Among complaints from the newly-formed group VIVE Tejano-Houston — made up of representatives from the Tejano music industry, Houston-area politicians and members of other professional organizations — is the type of performers at the show's main venue on Go Tejano Day.

Ruben Cubillos, co-founder of the group, said that they object to the hiring

of non-Tejano performers to play at the show's main venue that day.

Leroy Shafer, the show's chief operating officer, said Go Tejano Day is about Hispanic culture, not just one type of music. This year's Go Tejano Day on March 16 will feature Duelo, a norteno band from Roma, and Los Horoscopos de Durango, a duranguense act from Chicago.

He said that a Tejano act won't take center stage because the genre's popularity has been waning. Tejano bands are scheduled to play on smaller stages.

Show organizers say this isn't the first time Go Tejano Day lacked a traditional Tejano artist on the main stage.

"If, in fact, they're asking people to stay away because they're trying to keep this genre of music on a big

stage, then they're asking people to go against the very essence of what this day is," Shafer said. "They're asking them not to come out and celebrate being Hispanic."

Cubillos also says that not enough of the show's scholarships go to Hispanic students and that the show doesn't have enough Hispanics at the executive level.

Show organizers said that nearly a third of the 927 students who attended Texas universities on show scholarships last year are Hispanic.

The executive committee, the show's highest level of volunteer leadership, includes 11 active members and six lifetime members, but no Hispanics. Those members are elected based on years of service and leadership, as well as economic contributions to the show.

### Police work



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH  
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway police officer Rick Stalder and his police dog Ziego participated in "Operation Lifesaver" Tuesday in the Pampa area.

## BNSF

Continued from Page 1

Rector said. "This safety program was designed to let law enforcement see what may be going on around our rail lines."

According to Brown, it is a violation of law to disregard any railroad traffic signal. Some of those signals include the red flashing lights and the barrier arms even if a train is not present. The only people who can "wave" a motorist or pedestrian through a crossing, once the lights and/or gates are down, is railroad personnel or a law

enforcement officer. It is also a violation to trespass on railroad property and place objects on the tracks.

"Area law enforcement will continue their enforcement efforts to keep Pampa and Gray County a great and safe community to live," Brown said. "Please help us out by doing your part."

## Trial

Continued from Page 1

result of the shot. Also present in the home at the time of the robbery were Mae Conner and an 8-year-old grandson of the Conners, neither of whom were injured during the inci-

dent. Also indicted in connection with the robbery were Davey Enriquez and Adam Refugio Aguilar, both of Amarillo. Both were charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of aggravated assault. Enriquez' charges were enhanced because on Oct. 18, 1991, in 222nd District Court of Deaf Smith County, he was convicted of the felony offense of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He

was also convicted Jan. 9, 2002 in 251st District Court in Potter County of the felony offense of burglary of a habitation.

Enriquez was convicted in January and sentenced to four 99-year prison terms at the end of his second trial. The first trial ended in a hung jury July 25, 2007 with the jury deadlocked at 10 to two.

Aggravated robbery is a first-degree felony, and aggravated assault is a second-degree felony.

## Horst

Continued from Page 1

for Sun Oil Company. It was a job that brought John Horst to Pampa. With a degree in accounting, he went to work for Cabot Corporation here in the early 1970s as a cost accountant.

That was followed by a stint with Pupco as comptroller and treasurer for the company that manufactured the Cabot line of pumping units. As the oil boom turned to bust and Pupco closed down, the City of Pampa

was looking for an assistant financial director.

Starting on June 2, 1986, Horst began his career in municipal service. From assistant, Horst moved up a few months later to take over as the city's financial director. In July, 2004, the city commission appointed him interim city manager. Later that fall, his position was made permanent. Horst has been with the city when times have been good and when times have been bad.

"We've had some very lean times," Horst said.

When he first started working for the city, Pampa had a little over 200 employees.

"We have pared back

through attrition," he said, "to about 148 right now."

He said the city was forced to lower its workforce due to a drop in revenues. As oil and gas jobs dried up in the late 1980s and 1990s, Pampa's economy suffered.

There were fewer jobs in Pampa. The population declined. Sales tax revenue was down. Property tax revenue was down. Water sales were down.

"Fortunately, we're seeing a comeback right now," Horst said.

Sales tax numbers and property tax collections are up, which is good for the city's coffers. Water sales are at the budgeted amount.

"We can't ask for much more than that," Horst said.

Horst plans on staying in Pampa. He bought a small woodworking shop a year ago. Woodworking has always been a hobby, he said, but now he hopes to be able to spend more time there.

"I'm going to use that to stay busy," he said. "It's an enjoyable craft. Very relaxing."

Horst and his wife, Terrie, plan on doing some traveling, too. He said that the dogs, Snuggles and Harvey, will go with them.

"They both love to travel," Horst said of his dogs. "They are seasoned travelers."

## PAMPA'S NUMBER 1 USED CAR DEALER

- 2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE.....\$13,587
- 2005 FORD F150 SUPER CAB.....\$16,297
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- 2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA.....\$15,390
- 2006 PONTIAC MONTANA.....\$13,971
- 2006 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX.....\$12,287
- 2007 PONTIAC G-6 2DR.....\$13,639
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- 2005 JEEP LIBERTY.....\$15,210
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- 2007 FORD EDGE.....\$21,762
- 2007 FORD TAURUS.....\$12,297
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# Viewpoints

## Making sense: Time executes well-timed ambush

If John McCain weren't such a trusting soul, he would have wondered why The New York Times endorsed him — a member of the hated Republican Party — as their (slightly) preferred candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, especially when he knew they were preparing a slanderous, largely anonymously sourced, story bound to damage his candidacy and his reputation.

The very wording of their endorsement should have been sufficient warning that eventually they'd be out to get him. He was merely the lesser of several evils facing GOP primary voters and they had at hand a weapon they believed they could use to scuttle his candidacy once

he had snared the nomination and thus prevent a hated conservative from winning.

On Jan. 25, when the bucket of sleaze was already filled and the story lying in wait, the Times editorialized: "We have strong disagreements with all the Republicans running for president. The leading candidates have no plan for getting American troops out of Iraq. They are too wedded to discredited [meaning non-socialist] economic theories and unwilling even now to break with the legacy of President Bush. We disagree with them strongly on what makes a good Supreme Court justice."

"Still, there is a choice to be made, and it is an easy one. Sen. John McCain of

Arizona is the only Republican who promises to end the George Bush style of governing from and on behalf of a small, angry fringe."

In other words, having any other Republican such as Mitt Romney (then the strongest of the contenders) as the GOP candidate was simply unthinkable to the ultra-liberal — ah, let's say it outright — the Marxist New York Times.

To their corrupt way of thinking, McCain, a maverick in their eyes with his ability to attract independ-

ents and even Democrats to his cause, was the perfect weapon to be used against conservatives such as Romney and Mike Huckabee.

Once they were out of the way, and McCain was the all-but-certain GOP candidate, they could spring the trap and hit him with the story they had waiting

in Times Editor Bill Keller's bottom drawer, where presumably he also keeps the cross he burns in front of his former Roman Catholic Church and his holy Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez relics.

Did it not occur to the Arizona senator that an endorsement by this virulently anti-American house organ for every enemy of the United States, a newspaper that routinely betrays vital national security secrets by publishing them on its front pages, and makes no secret of their undying hatred for Republicans and patriots, was an endorsement to be viewed, with at the very least, the utmost skepticism?

Sen. McCain, fully aware of the story the Times was holding in their arsenal of sleaze, should have instantly rejected their endorsement as being akin to an endorsement by the likes of Osama bin Laden or the Boston Strangler.

He didn't then, but now

that the Times' trap has sprung he should avoid having anything to do with The New York Times or any of its reporters, editors, employees or advertisers in recognition of the fact that the newspaper is toxic and dangerous to his health and the health and welfare of the American people.

He should refuse all of their requests for interviews, and make the Times and its minions persona non grata for the duration of the campaign and forever thereafter. And he should urge all of his fellow Republican office holders to do the same. Who needs the Times, especially since we already have al Jazeera?

See REAGAN, Page 7

**Michael Reagan**

Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2008. There are 308 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 27, 1933, Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, was gutted by fire. Chancellor Adolf Hitler, blaming the Communists, used the fire as justification for suspending civil liberties.

On this date:

In 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

In 1807, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine.

In 1861, in Warsaw, Russian troops fired on a crowd protesting Russian rule over Poland; five marchers were killed.

In 1922, the Supreme Court, in *Leser v. Garnett*, unanimously upheld the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed the right of women to vote.

In 1939, the Supreme Court, in *National Labor Relations Board v. Fansteel Metallurgical Corp.*, outlawed sit-down strikes.

In 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms of office, was ratified.

In 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. (The occupation lasted until May.)

In 1979, Jane M. Byrne cofounded Chicago's Democratic political machine as she upset Mayor Michael A. Bilandic to win their party's mayoral primary. (Byrne went on to win the election.)

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush declared that "Kuwait is liberated, Iraq's army is defeated," and announced that the allies would suspend combat operations at midnight, Eastern time.

Ten years ago: With the approval of Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's House of Lords agreed to end 1,000 years of male preference by giving a monarch's first-born daughter the same claim to the throne as any first-born son.

Five years ago: The Bush administration lowered the national terror alert from orange to yellow. Iraq agreed in principle to destroy its Al Samoud II missiles, two days before a U.N. deadline.

*'All that is human must be retrograde if it does not advance.'*

— Edward Gibbon  
English historian  
(1737-1794)



## Congress overreaching, incompetent ...

The Congress of the United States is without a doubt, to use one of the vice president's favorite phrases, the most incompetent, inept, cowardly and corrupt legislative body on the world stage.

The members of Congress do not do their duty. One reason they don't is because they are the biggest time-wasters on the planet. Flipping around C-SPAN the other night, I saw a congressman take the floor to lament the fact that there was a shooting in a small Missouri town. Dearly beloved, there have been shootings in small Missouri towns long before Missouri's most famous son, Jesse James, roamed the state. And lest anyone take this as a slam against Missouri, there have been shootings in small towns in every state of the union.

Such affairs are not worthy of Congress' time.

Then another congressman took the floor to eulogize a colleague who just died. Heck-fire, man, go to his funeral or send his family a sympathy card. Don't waste time spreading heifer dust on the floor of the House.

Those who knew him will either lament or smile, depending on their opinion of him, and the vast majority of Americans who never heard of him don't give a flip. Americans die every day, and death is a matter of private grief, not official congressional bloviating.

You see, Congress, which takes more time off than most malingers, doesn't do

its job even when it does show up for work. The members have a budget to pass, and they almost never pass it on time. They have oversight duties to perform, which they rarely perform because

they are too busy grandstanding about matters that are none of their business, such as the health habits of baseball players or cigarette smokers.

Generally speaking, Congress doesn't show up on Mondays or Fridays, which leaves its members only three days a week to get their work done. Of course, they claim to be working even when they are not present, but what they mean is they are out campaigning and raising money for their

re-election. If they really were working, then the legislative process would move faster, instead of like a molasses-coated ox trudging along in mud up to its belly.

The spectacle of the members of Congress jumping to their feet to applaud President George W. Bush at his State of the Union speech tells you all you want to know about their intelligence and courage, both of which are virtually absent. Bush's speech should have been called the state of his ego and delusions.

At the most recent congressional election, the American people gave the Democrats a majority in both Houses and learned rather quickly that a majority of Democrats are just as cowardly and worthless as a majority of Republicans.

See REESE, Page 7

**Charley Reese**

Columnist



## THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065

806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

email: editor1@thepampanews.com

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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Feb. 14

Odessa American on the prevailing presence of big government:

Sen. Hillary Clinton and her PR machine could not possibly put a positive spin on her devastating Potomac primary losses Tuesday, as she was bested almost 2-1 by Sen. Barack Obama in Virginia, a state where the Clinton team was hoping for an upset victory. Obama also won in Maryland, with 60 percent of the vote, and in the District of Columbia, with 75 percent of the vote. He has a clear, albeit small, delegate lead, and is heading toward the final primaries with a great deal of

momentum.

That's not all. Last weekend, the Illinois senator won strong victories in Louisiana, Nebraska, Washington State and Maine. He's favored in progressive Wisconsin and ethnically diverse Hawaii, although Clinton is favored in the delegate-rich states of Texas and Ohio. Those leads could be softening under positive publicity from Obama's winning streak.

The bad news was deep for Clinton. As the Washington Post reported, Obama won among black voters, white voters, among the affluent and the less-affluent. He won among the young, and he split older voters. He won independents and Democrats. Plus, Obama has shown that he can win in states in all geographic regions of the country.

Clinton has fired her campaign manager, and that's a sure sign of a campaign that is struggling. But the race is still close, with superdelegates probably holding the nomination in their hands.

Given that those delegates are elected officials whose votes are not tied to election results, this has long been viewed as something that will favor Clinton.

Yet Ron Fournier of the Associated Press argues that the Clintons might not hold an advantage with the superdelegates. "For years, Bill and Hillary Clinton treated the Democratic National Committee and party activists as extensions of their White House

See GOVT, Page 7



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	<b>SHURFINE ASSORTED FLAVORS Ice Cream</b> 1/2 GAL. SQR. <b>2\$4</b> FOR
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	<b>SELECT GROUP SPAGHETTI OR MACARONI Skinner Pasta</b> 24 OZ. <b>2\$3</b>		<b>PICK-A-SIZE PAPER TOWELS Brawny</b> 3 ROLL <b>2\$6</b>		<b>FAMILY SIZE Luzianne Tea Bags</b> 24 CT. <b>2\$3</b>
	<b>HONEY BOY Pink Salmon</b> 14.75 OZ. <b>2\$3</b>		<b>SELECT GROUP M&amp;M's Candy</b> KING SIZE <b>10\$10</b>		<b>SELECT GROUP La Moderna Cookies</b> 14.4-22.9 OZ. <b>2\$4</b>
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	<b>LA COSTEÑA Whole Jalapeños</b> 24 OZ. <b>\$1</b>		<b>SELECT GROUP El Pato Sauce or Salsa</b> 7.75 OZ. <b>2\$1</b>		

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	<b>CELLO PACK Tomatoes</b> 4 CT. <b>\$1</b>		<b>BAGGED Navel Oranges</b> 4 LB. <b>\$3</b>
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	<b>PREFERRED TRIM BONELESS CENTER CUT Pork Chops</b> LB. <b>\$3</b>		<b>PEYTON'S REGULAR OR THICK SLICED Smoked Bacon</b> 12 OZ. <b>2\$4</b>		<b>TEJANO Chub Chorizo</b> 12 OZ. <b>2\$3</b>
	<b>BONELESS Pork Tenderloin</b> LB. <b>\$4</b>		<b>PEYTON'S REGULAR OR POLISH Smoked Sausage</b> 14 OZ. <b>4\$5</b>		<b>WHERE AVAILABLE: TEJANO Red Hot Links</b> 1 LB. <b>2\$3</b>
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Find the words in the ads to fill in the blank to complete the bible verse and put it in the correct space plus the name of the advertiser. Entries must be mailed to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa Texas 79065 or delivered to the Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison by 5 p.m. on the Monday after the issue date. A winner will be chosen from the forms with the correct entries. Copies of this form are not accepted. Note: To be eligible to win, you must write in the advertiser's name on each line.

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1 is the 2 that 3 4 in the 5 of the 6 , 7 standeth 8 the 9 of 10 , nor 11 in the 12 of the 13 . But his 14 is in the 15 of the 16 ; and in 17 law 18 he 19 20 and 21 .

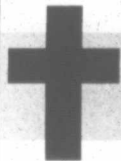
*Psalms 1:1 & 2*

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 Wednesday Bible Study ♦ 7:00 pm  
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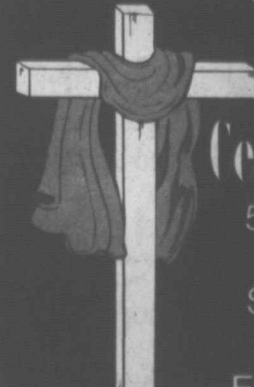
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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My son's girlfriend, "Liza," had her breasts enlarged several years ago. Her entire wardrobe now consists of clothing with plunging necklines that expose most of her "assets." Don't get me wrong. I don't expect Liza to wear turtle-necks, just to cover up some. Whenever there's a family function, there "they" are for all to see. My husband and the siblings (all over 18) have talked about how uncomfortable that makes them. This is not one of those things that you can just turn your head from, especially when Liza is sitting across the table at dinner. My son doesn't have a problem with it, but I would like to know if there's something you would suggest I could say - either to her or my son -- to let them know how uncomfortable we are without making it sound like we're attacking her? -- **COVER UP, PLEASE, IN ALABAMA**

**DEAR "C.U.P.":** Liza has invested a lot of money -- not to mention the pain -- in acquiring those assets. She wouldn't be human if she didn't want to display them. However, because you feel you're seeing too much of a good thing, approach your son about asking his girlfriend to dress a little more conservatively at dinner. If that doesn't do the trick, lower the temperature when they're over and hand her a sweater - or serve lobster and hand out bibs.

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiance bought a ring and necklace for me for Valentine's Day. The ring was to be a wedding ring. Both are yellow gold, which is something I have never worn, nor do I care to. The first ring he selected was white gold. Then he decided that with the yellow gold, he would get "more bang for his buck." A friend of ours, "Diana," went with him and told me the story. I told Diana I'm thinking of asking him to return the items and have the two of

us look for a white gold set. Her response? "You'd better shut up and wear them. He may send you packing if you hurt his feelings." Abby, it's only a request, but this will be a lifelong remembrance for me to wear. What should I do? -- **IN A TIZZY IN OKLAHOMA CITY**

**DEAR IN A TIZZY:** I'm guessing your boyfriend took Diana to help with the selection because he thought she'd know what you like. Frankly, he took the wrong girl. He should have taken you. If Diana is truly a friend, she should tell him she "forgot" that you have a strong preference for white gold and suggest the two of you exchange the set for something you might like better. While some readers may not agree, not all surprises turn out to be pleasant ones. The most practical way to choose wedding/engagement rings is for the man to talk to a jeweler in advance about what he can afford to pay and ask that a selection of rings in his price range be put aside for him and his girlfriend when he brings her in. That way, she can have something she will enjoy wearing, he won't feel pressured into spending more than he can afford, and everybody's happy.

**DEAR ABBY:** When a person cooks a meal, isn't it also his or her responsibility to do the dishes when the meal is finished? If not, then who should? I think the cook should be responsible. -- **BOILING OVER IN ST. LOUIS**

**DEAR BOILING OVER:** And I think the person who EATS the meal should volunteer to clear the table and help with the dishes.

## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Dance item
- 5 Soft look
- 9 Harbor
- 11 Colum-bus' birthplace
- 12 Declare
- 13 Inert gas
- 14 Lynx or lion
- 15 "X-Men" villain
- 17 Squid's cousin
- 19 Golf's Trevino
- 20 Conviction
- 21 Pos-sessed
- 22 "Gladia-tor" star
- 24 "Tamer-lane" writer
- 26 Thomas of "That Girl"
- 29 Research setting
- 30 Yard event
- 32 "Thanks" in Tokyo
- 34 Twice cinq
- 35 Lawn need
- 36 Ingenu-ous

D	I	S	C	U	S	P	A			
E	L	P	A	S	O	I	S			
F	L	A	S	H	L	I	G	H	T	S
H	E	D	G	E						
C	H	E	R	L	O	O	P			
B	R	O	W	B	O	N	G	O	S	
I	I	I	D	U	O	D	I	E		
T	E	S	T	E	D	G	E	N	E	
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A	O	N	E	G	E	N	E	V	A	
N	U	T	S	E	D	I	T	E	D	

#### Yesterday's answer

- 1 Jokes
- 2 Refined women
- 3 Nebraska eatery
- 4 In the river
- 5 past
- 6 Towel
- 7 aids
- 8 Pioneer carriers
- 9 Conditional
- 10 e.g. release
- 11 Luke's mentor
- 12 Refined women
- 13 Nebraska eatery
- 14 In the river
- 15 past
- 16 Towel
- 17 aids
- 18 Pioneer carriers
- 19 Conditional
- 20 e.g. release
- 21 Luke's mentor

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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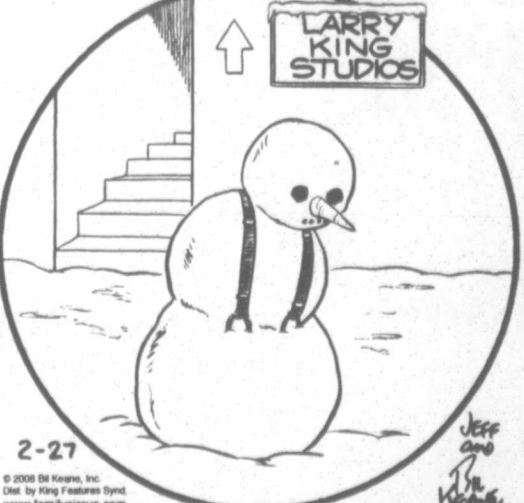
## Marmaduke



"Nope, not skylights. Solar panels for the sauna."

## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



Suggested by our family, we present another of their cool friends.

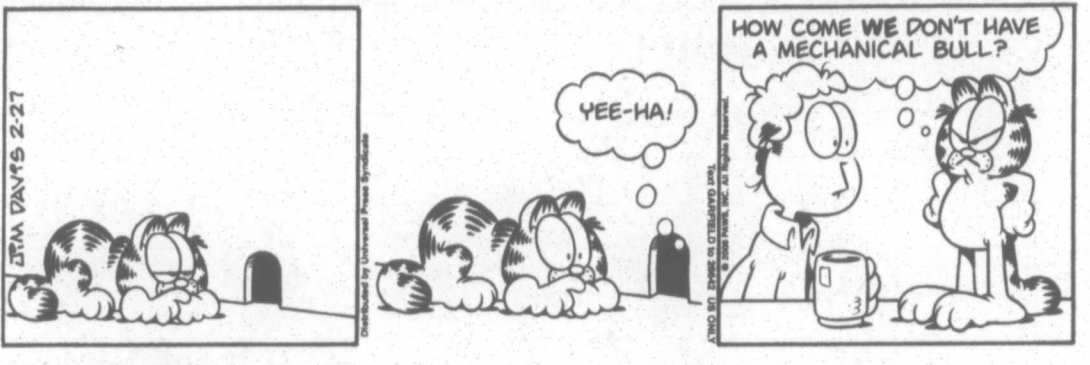
## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie





# Sports

## Lady Buffs host Lone Star Conference showdown against Abilene Christian

CANYON, Texas — With the top spot in Lone Star Conference South Division standings at stake, the West Texas A&M women's basketball team is set for a Wednesday night rematch against Abilene Christian, who dealt WTAMU its lone league loss of the season. A Lady Buff victory in the storied game will clinch the LSC South regular season title in addition to the top seed for the upcoming conference tournament in Bartlesville, Okla.

West Texas A&M enters the game as No. 1 in the South Division while ACU sits in the No. 2 spot; earlier this season, the Wildcats collected a 71-66 overtime win over the Lady Buffs in Abilene that also broke WT's 29-game win streak in conference

play. The teams are almost equal in offensive production as ACU has a slight edge with an average of 72.6 points per game as compared to WT's 72.4 points per game; however, the Lady Buffs hold their opponents to an average of 55.8 points per game while the Wildcats allow 67.5. Additionally, WT outscored its opponents by a 16.6 margin whereas ACU hold a 5.1 advantage.

Junior All-American Emily Brister continues to be the most potent scorer for the Lady Buffs with her 21.5 points per game in addition to her team-high 7.2 rebounds per game. She is shooting .476 (178-of-374) from the floor, .316 from long range (30-of-95) and .873 (151-of-173) from

the charity stripe.

Fellow classmates Courtney Lee and Jamie Dreiling are next in line in Lady Buff Scoring, tallying 11.3 and 10.3 points per game, respectively. Lee is also tied for second on the team in steals (34) with junior Chelsea Blackshear, while Dreiling is second on the team in blocks (12) and rebounds (5.0 rpg).

As the match-up between West Texas A&M and Abilene Christian is the Lady Buffs' last regular season home game, lone senior Jenessa McKray will be honored prior to tip-off.

The Lady Buffs travel to face Texas Woman's in their final game of the season on Saturday, with game time set for 2 p.m.

## Stars, Lightning deal 5-player trade

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars tried to boost their offense and their playoff moxie Tuesday, getting center Brad Richards from Tampa Bay in a five-player deal completed hours before the trade deadline.

The Stars gave up backup goalie Mike Smith, forwards Jussi Jokinen and Jeff Halpern and a fourth-round pick in next year's draft for Richards and starting Lightning goalie Johan Holmqvist.

Richards, MVP of the playoffs when the Lightning won the Stanley Cup in 2004, was Tampa Bay's fourth-leading scorer with 51 points (18 goals, 33 assists) in 62 games. He moves up to third on the Stars' scoring list, six points ahead of Mike Modano.

Tampa Bay is last in the Eastern Conference and looking to clear salary cap space two years after signing Richards to a five-year contract that averages \$7.8 million

per season.

The trade breaks up Tampa Bay's "big three" of Richards and prolific forwards Vincent Lecavalier and Martin St. Louis, two of the top 10 scorers in the league.

"I've played on every team in my life since I was 14 with (Lecavalier). He's my best friend," Richards said. "It goes without saying, that part was tough. But I kind of got past that mentally now. That's why I'm so excited."

Richards, who waived his no-trade clause, said Dallas topped the list of teams he would consider joining.

The appeal for the Stars was adding a proven playoff scorer in their effort to get out of the first round for the first time since 2003. In the 2004 playoffs, Richards set an NHL record with seven game-winning goals and led the league with 26 points in 23 games.

## Congress hopes to decide soon whether to refer Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Clemens should know by the end of the week if Congress will ask the Justice Department to investigate whether the star pitcher or his accuser made false statements under oath.

Clemens' lawyer says they knew long ago that is where things probably were headed.

The majority and minority sides of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee met Tuesday to discuss how to proceed on the Clemens matter.

"I can't say anything about dis-

cussions today," Phil Schiliro, chief of staff for committee chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Our goal is a decision this week."

Waxman and ranking Republican Tom Davis of Virginia spoke with each other during a committee hearing about missing White House e-mails. When that hearing ended, Davis headed for the majority side's offices, rather than the minority side, as is customary.

Keith Ausbrook, Republican

general counsel for the committee, wrote: "We will be consulting with the Democrats on what to do next. I cannot comment on any specific meeting or step."

At issue is whether Congress might have been lied to by Clemens or his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee.

McNamee says he injected the seven-time Cy Young Award winner with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times between 1998 and 2001. Clemens denies ever taking performance-enhancing drugs.

## Buff's finish regular season against ACU

CANYON, Texas — There is much on the line for the West Texas A&M men's basketball team on Wednesday when it closes out its 2007-08 regular season by hosting the Abilene Christian Wildcats in a 8 p.m. contest at the First United Bank Center. A victory in the contest will clinch the Lone Star Conference South Division regular season title for the WT men and ensure them of the top spot in the 2008 LSC Championships, which will be held in Bartlesville, Okla., March 5-9.

The contest will not be an easy one as the Wildcats enter the contest with an 18-7 overall record this season and a 5-5 mark in LSC South contests. ACU started the season as one of the nation's hottest teams, winning 15 of its first 17 contests to climb into the

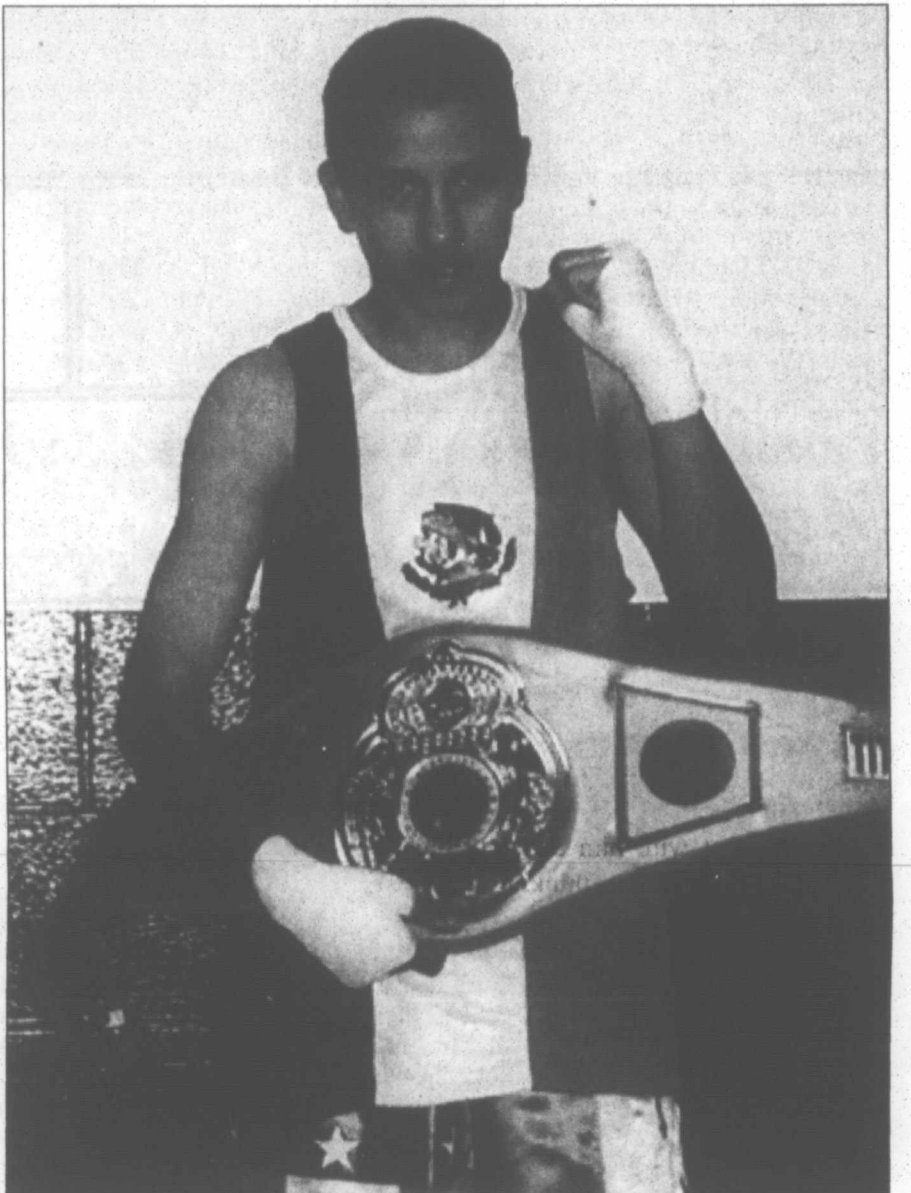
nationally rankings. The 'Cats have remained one of the country's most potent offensive squads, ranking first in the LSC in scoring offense at 87.1 points per contest and with a .512 team shooting percentage.

The Buffs emerged victorious in their first meeting with ACU this season, a 90-82 victory at Moody Coliseum in Abilene on Feb. 7. Seniors Robert Lee and Andre Hill led the way in the win over the 'Cats with Lee notching a game-high 25 points on 9-of-13 shooting and Hill contributing a season-high 21 points.

For the season, Lee has been WT's most steady contributor on the offensive end, averaging 17 points per ball game, a figure that includes a 20.3 scoring average during league play. The Fort Worth, Texas, native has led the

Buff's in scoring in 13 of 26 games this season since transferring from the University of Houston. In addition to his big scoring night the first time against ACU, Hill has been one of the LSC's most disruptive defensive forces, ranking among the leaders in the conference with 41 blocked shots this season.

In addition to Lee and Hill, the Buffs have gotten great contributions from fellow seniors Pierre Barlow, Tyler Cooper and Chris Hinz, who have all helped the Buffs become one of the hottest teams in the country by winning 12 of their last 13 games. The five seniors, who will be playing in the final home game of their WT careers, will be honored prior to tip-off of the ACU game.



Courtesy Photo

Cristoval Larrazolo, with the Pampa Boxing Club, fought in the 125 pound weight division this past weekend in Lubbock for the Texas State Regional Championships. Larrazolo won in his division, and will go on to compete for the State Golden Gloves in Ft. Worth. This is Larrazolo's second time to be going to the State Golden Gloves, his previous trip was in 2005.

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**OPTIMIST CLUB UPDATE**

The Optimist boys' basketball regular season action continued on Monday and Tuesday night with 6 games on the schedule. The Enbridge Longhorns defeated the Celanese Red Raiders 23 to 9 in the early game on Monday night. Cory Chidester was high point for the Longhorns with 12, Barrack Reeves had 5, Matthew Wheeler added 4 and Kade Winkler finished the Longhorn assault with 2 points. Rhett Hardin had the only points of the game for the Raiders with 9.

In the 7pm game on Monday night the NBC Sonics Ethan Hunt exploded for 15 points in a 35 to 5 victory over the Celtics. Cager Osborne with 8, Josh Hernandez with 7, Trey Miller with 4 and Braden Childress with 1 also scored for the Sonics. The Celtics were led by Braxton Maul and Justin Velasquez with 2 points and Blaine Troxell added 1 to round out the Celtics night.

The Willis Oilfield Nuggets 35 to 20 victory over the Clifton Supply Pistons was their 8th of the season to go a perfect 8-0 and win the 5th/6th grade League Championship and nail down the #1 seed in the City Tournament. High point for the Nuggets was

Damon Walker with 14, Alex Maruffo had 8, Aaron Allen had 5, Hunter Hughes and Dayton Tipton each had 2 points and Jacob Brown and Brycen McClendon each had 1 to complete an outstanding team effort by the Nuggets. The Pistons top man of the night was Calvin Webb with 8 points, Cuyler Clifton had 6 and Logan Turley, Tyler Curfman and Ashjen Payne each got on the board for the Pistons with 2 points.

The early game on Tuesday night saw the Fenton Motor Cowboys pull out a narrow 30 to 22 victory over the Enbridge Longhorns in a very good game. Lead man for the Longhorns was Cory Chidester with 8 points, Barrick Reeves, Tyler Devuyt and Bryce Chidester each had 4 points while Matthew Wheeler finished up for the Longhorns with 2 points. The Cowboys were led by their big man Zach Beedy with 16 points and Josh DeLoach had the rest of the Cowboys points with 14.

The Great Plains Abstract & Title Buckeyes also completed a season sweep in the 7pm game on Tuesday night with a 34 to 8 victory over the Celanese Red Raiders. The Buckeyes finished the regular season

with a 6-0 record to win the 3rd/4th grade League Championship for the 2nd consecutive year. The Buckeyes were led in the game by point guard Cade Engle with 16 points and 4 assists, Garret Mullican and Landon Taylor each notched 8 points and Greyson Wilson finished with 2 points. Rhett Hardin and Colin Masak each scored 4 points for the Red Raiders.

In the late game the K.C. Enterprise Irish continued to show their improvement with a 32 to 26 upset of the 3rd place Roden Oilfield Aggies. The Irish got an all around team effort led by Zach Wilson with 13 points, Alec McClendon had 7, Ryan Lee had 6, Kade Hood had 4 and Zane McCoy added 2 as five of the seven Irish player's got on the score board. The Aggies were led by Nate (dog) Furgason with a big 12 points, Bryson Burrell had 10 and Michael Mechelay and Chase Brown each scored 2 to round out the Aggies night.

There are only three regular season games left on the schedule with each to played on Thursday night. The annual City Tournament will begin on Friday night with three elimination games on the

**Harvesters, Lady Harvesters proceed in district**

by Katherine Flanary Sports Editor

The Lady Harvester soccer team tied caprock on Monday at Dick Bivins Stadium in Amarillo. Faby Soria (assist to Cecilia Garcia) scored the one goal for the girls, tying the second place team in the district.

"The defense did a great job, especially in the second half, of shutting down the Longhorns to potent attack and limiting caprocks shots on the goal," Coach John True said in an email.

Caprock scored on a penalty kick 10 minutes into

the second half to tie the game.

"Cindy Meza did an outstanding job of marking Caprock's Krystin Bustos, who is responsible for a large percentage of Caprock's goals this season," True said. "(Mesa did) not allow her to get free and score in the game."

As of Monday night, the tie puts the Lady Harvesters in a tie with Canyon and Borger for the third playoff spot.

The Harvester soccer team defeated Caprock 2-1 in their game Monday night at Dick Bivins Stadium in

Amarillo.

Rusty Snider scored the first goal of the evening for Pampa.

Tanner Dyson added to the score at the end of the first half to make the score 2-0.

"In the second half, the Harvesters fought off a strong wind and a spirited effort by the Longhorns to win the game 2-1 for the second district win of the season for the boys," True said.

The win keeps the Harvesters in the playoffs with four games remaining on the schedule.

**Varsity Baseball now 1-4, face Borger**

By Katherine Flanary Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester baseball team lost to Tascosa Tuesday, 10-3.

Jeremy Maxell pitched two innings with no walks, giving up two runs and one strikeout.

Dakota Gowin pitched two innings and began the fifth inning. He had no outs, allowed five runs on five hits and had two walks.

Colden Fortenberry pitched the rest of the fifth, allowing two runs and one walk.

John Luke Covalt pitched the sixth inning, allowing no runs.

Heath Skinner hit his second home run of the season.

The Harvesters are now 1-4 in the season. They will play Borger in Pampa on Friday at 4:30.

**Rangers' McCarthy scratched from spring start**

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)

— Texas right-hander Brandon McCarthy will not start the Rangers' spring training opener because of soreness in his right elbow.

Rangers manager Ron Washington said Tuesday the injury was minor and McCarthy was being held back as a precaution.

"He's good and strong and he's got a good mental attitude," Washington said. "We don't want to send him out there with something on his mind where he can't be free and he gets hurt for real."

Left-hander A.J. Murray

will start the Rangers' spring opener Wednesday against Kansas City.

McCarthy missed a month last year with a stress fracture in his right shoulder blade and finished 5-10 with a 4.87 ERA in 23 appearances, 22 of them starts. He also battled problems with blisters.

He said the elbow has bothered him about a week, and he had hoped it would clear up in time to face the Royals.

"We're still in February," McCarthy said. "There's no need to rush anything. I'd be concerned if this were

March 25."

Kevin Millwood, the Rangers' No. 1 starter, will miss his first scheduled start Friday after injuring his right hamstring during conditioning drills Sunday. Millwood played long toss Tuesday, making about 40 throws.

"It feels good," Millwood said. "If it keeps getting better the way it is, it shouldn't be long."

Left-hander Matt Harrison, acquired in the Mark Teixeira trade with Atlanta last year, could start in Millwood's place.

**Passing contagious with Kidd, Mavericks**

DALLAS (AP) — Since Jason Kidd got back in the Dallas lineup, it has become a passing fancy for the Mavericks to, well, pass the ball — and be ready to catch it.

"It's infectious. Everybody is infected with the passing disease. It's fun to be a part of," Jason Terry said. "How can you not enjoy running up and down the court with him out there?"

Coach Avery Johnson said Kidd has everybody running harder, from Terry to Jerry Stackhouse, Josh Howard and even 6-foot-11 center Erick Dampier.

And the coach believes the reason is simple.

"Human reaction. You're going to run more if you think you're going to get the ball," Johnson said. "They know if they're open, there is a high probability that they're going to get the ball."

Kidd has 45 assists in his first four games back with the Mavericks, the team that drafted him No. 2 overall in 1994. That is half of Dallas' total during that stretch, and 40 of Kidd's assists have come in the three-game winning streak since a loss in his debut last Wednesday at New Orleans when he'd had only one practice with the team.

When Kidd rejoined the

Mavericks after the much-discussed and then-restructured deal with New Jersey, the All-Star point guard had a simple message for his teammates: Be ready for passes.

"He still catches you off guard sometimes," Dirk Nowitzki said. "We've improved from game to game. ... Sharing the ball has become contagious. It's been great."

With Kidd, the Mavericks have had assists on 62 percent of their field goals, and that has increased to 68 percent the last three victories. Their season average is 55 percent.

In Kidd's first home game for the Mavericks since December 17, 1996, he had 11 points with nine rebounds and eight assists Monday night in a 102-94 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

He also had six turnovers, but half were passes that should have been handled and turned into points. Nowitzki bobbled one under the basket and lost it out of bounds when the game was close late in the third quarter.

"We had a couple of careless turnovers," Johnson said. "We're not going to win many games with 21 turnovers. But we're still in the lab with this team. It's still a process."

But the Mavericks never trailed Chicago after Kidd's

pass to Howard a minute into the game for a 3-pointer that opened the scoring. And they had a season-high 26 fastbreak points.

During an 8-0 run in the fourth quarter, Nowitzki grabbed a rebound and threw a long pass ahead to Terry for a breakaway layup. Terry then had a steal and threw a similar half-court pass to Kidd for another easy layup.

In a third-quarter stretch, Terry had a steal and a lob pass to Stackhouse for a layup. Then Kidd had another steal, passed the ball to Terry, got it back and flipped to Nowitzki at the top of the key for a 3-pointer.

"I'm getting some good looks in transition," Nowitzki said. "Teams were starting to sit on our stuff and it was hard. He makes it easier for us. We have to take advantage of it."

The easy initiation period for Kidd and the Mavs is over after wins over Memphis and Minnesota, the bottom two teams in the Western Conference, and struggling Chicago.

Before Kidd gets to face New Jersey in Dallas on March 8, the Mavericks have a five-game stretch that includes road games against Western Conference division leaders San Antonio, the Los Angeles Lakers and Utah. They also play surging Houston.

**China expresses shock over Yao Ming injury**

BEIJING (AP) — Yao Ming's season-ending injury has China thinking the once-unthinkable: The host nation's biggest and glitziest star might miss the Beijing Olympics.

News of the NBA All-Star center's injured foot hit China heavily on Wednesday, highlighting Yao's role as a face of the games and a symbol of the nation's quest for global competitiveness and international acceptance.

Yao, the world's most recognizable Chinese athlete, is far and away China's most popular sporting star.

While doctors say he should still make the Games, healing is expected to take until around June — close to the Olympics' Aug. 8

opening ceremony. "When we heard about Yao's injury, we felt shocked and concerned just like all the basketball fans in China," Bai Ximin, manager of the national men's team told a packed news conference.

"We can totally understand how he feels right now and we hope he'll remain positive and optimistic while receiving treatment," Bai said.

The 7-foot-6 Yao, who was averaging 22 points and 10.8 rebounds, was ruled out for the season on Tuesday with a stress fracture in his left foot, a stunning blow to the surging Houston Rockets.

Bai and the Chinese Basketball Association's deputy director, Hu Jiashi, said officials dis-

cussed Yao's condition with China's Lithuanian-born coach Jonas Kazlauskas at a morning meeting. They said contingency plans were being worked out in case he is ruled out of the Games.

Kazlauskas told officials, assistant coaches, and players to "face the reality and have a positive attitude," Hu said. He said the coach had dual lineups and game plans and was prepared to send the team to play with or without Yao.

Spokesmen for the Chinese Olympic Committee said they had no immediate comment.

Yao's injury was a lead item on the main midday national television news report and dominated coverage in leading newspaper Titan Sports,

which offered a hopeful note.

"The only thing offering Yao Ming any solace at this time is that his injury will not force him to miss the Beijing Olympics of his dreams," Titan said.

Doctors blamed the injury on accumulated stress on the bone, rather than any single incident. Titan said the true cause was the Rockets' failure to provide a reliable substitute for Yao, forcing him into too much game time.

"In fact, exhaustion was really the major reason behind Yao Ming's injury," the paper said.

Hu refused to blame the Rockets, however, saying: "Injury is unavoidable in any competitive sport."



Courtesy Photo Rusty Snider goes to kick in Monday night's game against Caprock. The Harvesters won the game with a score of 2-1.



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TRUCK Drivers needed. Drug test and references required. Competitive pay! Call 665-0379.

NATURAL Gas Measurement Co. hiring Field Technician. Good benefits. email resume to jobs@tm-ems.com or mail to Attn: Resume, P.O. Box 2358, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2358.

POSTAL JOBS \$17.89-\$28.27/hr. now hiring. For application & free government job info, call American Assoc. of Labor, 1-913-599-8226 24 hrs. emp.serv.

REAL Estate Co. needs maintenance man w/ own tools. Apply at 1347 Coffee, Mon.-Fri., 8am-6pm, 665-4274, 665-1875.

#### 21 Help Wanted

DRIVEWAY Attendant Needed. Able to fix flats & change oil. CDL a plus! 40+ hrs. a week. NO PHONE CALLS. Apply in person. Utility Oil, 501 W. Brown, Pampa.

WE need an Exp. Pulling Unit Operator. 401K, vacation, lots of hours. Call 669-3947 & leave msg.

COODER'S Dixie Cafe now hiring for Hostesses, part-time, 16 yrs. or older. Wait Staff, full-time, 18 yrs. or older. Apply in person, 2219 Perryton Pkwy. No phone calls.



Now Accepting Applications **COMPANY DRIVERS** Local Deliveries. Safety and Performance Bonus Quarterly! Paid. Vacation / Holidays, Week-end Differentials.

Company Benefit Package: Medical / Vision / Life, 401K, with Company Match; Paid Orientation, Referral Bonus. Class A CDL-X required. Call Johnny Luttrell Today! 806-922-3047 You Tried The Rest Now Drive for the Best!

THE City of Lefors is currently taking applications for a Full-Time Utility Dept. Employee. The applicant must have a class B CDL prior to employment. Exp. in water, wastewater and gas utilities, as well as heavy equip. operation, is preferable. Applicant must be willing to obtain necessary water and wastewater licenses. A completed application is required and will be accepted until 5:00p.m. on Mon. March 10th, 2008. Salary is commensurate with exp. Appli. may be picked up at Lefors City Hall, 101 N. Court, Lefors, TX. Mailed applications should be postmarked the day before the job vacancy closes and sent to P.O. Box 383, Lefors, TX, 79054. If more info. is needed, please contact Linda Forsyth, City Secretary, 806-835-2200.

**PAMPA NURSING CENTER** has an opening for a **Cook**. Please apply in person to: **Sharon Brown at 1321 W. Kentucky 806-669-2551**

**L.V.N. \$1500.00 Sign-On Bonus PAMPA NURSING CENTER** is now hiring for **Charge Nurses on the 10p to 6a shift and for weekends.** Contact **Mandi Martin 1321 W. Kentucky or 806-669-2551**

**MUST SELL** Beautiful, 6 person Spa / Hot Tub Factory Warranty 53 jets, waterfall, lounger, cover, chemicals & steps 2007 model, need space New, never used Only \$4600 806-677-0400

**GIRLS** bdr. suite, incl. twin beds w/ headboard & mattress, nightstand, chest of drawers, \$175. 665-8678, or see Alicia at Wayne's Western Wear.

**RELIABLE** help wanted. Starting pay \$6.50. Must be able to work nights & weekends. Must be 21 & have ref. 806-676-0995.

**NEEDED: C.N.A.'s, Full-Time.** Excellent benefits package. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

**NEEDED: R.N. - 16 hrs.** on weekends, Fri. & Sat., 10:30am-7am. 537-3194, St. Ann's Nursing Home. Would consider 2 R.N.'s alternating weekends.

**60 Household** White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

**MATTRESS SETS** New in Plastic Pillow or Plush 15 yr. factory warr. Q-\$289 K-\$389 All sizes avail. 806-677-0400

**OWNER FINANCE** 1020 Fisher 3 bdr., 1018 Duncan 2 bdr., Easy To Qualify 665-4595 440-1698

**OWNER FINANCE Low Down & Low Payment: 1108 S. Faulkner 332 Sunset 931 E. Francis 313 Miami Habla Espanol Call Joe 806-336-1740 Or Milton 806-790-0827**

**OWNER FINANCE Price Reduced! 313 Miami 1018 Duncan 2 bdr., 1 ba. Low Down Low Mo. Easy To Qualify 665-4595**

### POTTER TRUCKING, INC.

**DUMAS, BORGER, PAMPA, TEXAS AREAS**

**Equal Opportunity Employer**  
**Call 806-935-6385 for Application**

- \*\*\$14 / hr Plus for Experienced Qualified Drivers
- \*\*Retirement
- \*\*Vacations
- \*\*Health Ins., Dental, Vision, Disability, Life, Partial Insurance Paid on Wife and Children
- \*\*DOT Medical, Uniforms
- \*\*Home Every Night
- \*\*YOU MUST HAVE
- \*\*CDL W/ Hazmat and Tanker
- \*\*Good Driving Record
- \*\*Previous Employment Record
- \*\*Clear Drug & Alcohol Record
- \*\*DOT Physical

### Wal-Mart

#### COME GROW WITH US!

Wal-Mart is looking for driven people. At Wal-Mart, you will explore new opportunities and learn in a supportive and challenging work environment. As a member of the Wal-Mart team, you'll receive competitive wages and a generous benefits package including: health, 401(k), stock purchase plan, profit sharing, merchandise discounts, and career advancement opportunities. Please apply at the hiring kiosk located at your Pampa Wal-Mart or online at [www.walmartstores.com](http://www.walmartstores.com)

### NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS!

Wal-Mart will not tolerate discrimination of employment on the basis of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, veteran status or any other legally protected status.

### NOW HIRING:

CDL Driver Needed.  
 General Laborers,  
 Diesel Mechanic/Assistant.

Must be at least 18 years of age and submit to a drug test.

Apply in person at:  
**West Texas Landscape**  
 120 S. Hobart  
 Please No Phone Calls!!!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008:

This year, express your newfound vitality and energy. Choosing where to funnel it could be important. Partners and friends might be tough or saturnine; don't get depleted by useless conversations. Give negative people space. Don't allow yourself to be dragged down. If you are single, you will expand your immediate circle of friends. Easily, you might meet a special person through new friends. Do take your time forming relationships. If you are attached, you will be redefining your relationship. At times your sweetie could be remote. Understand rather than pressure. SAGITTARIUS brags about 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)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Take an overview. Your mind is a tremendous resource; use it. Sometimes you might be in disagreement with what you are hearing. Verify others' intentions and information. Tonight: A movie or escape to a beautiful piece of music.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Work with each individual. Sometimes when you talk to others collectively, they don't get the quality of your interest, caring and perspective. Reveal the true Bull, and many will be falling over themselves to have more dealings with you. Tonight: Make nice. Dinner for two.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* There are times when you want to take a stronger stand. Recognize that there are also times when subtlety would

be more effective. Go for the latter, and you will experience a great deal of success. Tonight: Tired? Take a snooze.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* You might feel entrenched. The problem will be if you see no way out. Ask for help or get feedback. Though you might not like what you hear, it could help. Information is not exact. Don't make decisions just yet. Tonight: Return a call.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* If you hit an obstacle, tap into your ingenuity. There is no telling what your natural charm can do as well. Someone might be uptight about money, perhaps making you even more uptight. Don't let this chain reaction occur. Tonight: Think "weekend fun."

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Tension that comes out might be more of your own creation. Think in terms of greater self-knowledge, understanding how your own judgment creates tension. You also could be more tired and worn out than you realize. Defer as much as you possibly can. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* You usually don't hesitate to speak your mind in your normally charming manner. You could find that you are uncomfortable with what you need to say. Consider evaluating what might be happening with you first. Tonight: Favorite haunt.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Curb a need to possess, which could come out in many different ways. Be aware that you could feel insecure and are not dealing with the issue. Emphasize the concrete. Balance your checkbook. Stay out of the emotional realm. Tonight: Pay bills.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Come out from under that cloud and reveal the true you. Don't be surprised if you draw a strong reaction. Others could become uptight if you express the free and easy you. Let it happen. Tonight: What would make you happy?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* If you are feeling like you cannot quite get an idea or project off the ground, know that every day isn't made for work. Perhaps you need some time off. When did you take your last day off? If you can, schedule a personal day ASAP. Tonight: Vanish. Do what you want.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* If you stay focused on the majority of people and don't get too involved with details or a partner who just might be dull today, you'll come out smiling. Groups and meetings serve you well. Listen to your instincts. Tonight: Expect a crowd where you are.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
 \*\*\*\*\* Much could happen. You could suddenly carry more than your share of responsibilities. Know that this situation doesn't need to be forever, only for today. Establish your boundaries; others will respect them. Tonight: You are a stronger force and presence than usual.

**BORN TODAY:** Actor Zero Mostel (1915), director Vincent Minnelli (1903), novelist, playwright, screenwriter Ben Hecht (1894)

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

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X Y D L B A A X R  
 IS LONG FELLOW

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.

**2-27 CRYPTOQUOTE**

**JWR UTIC SW OMWZ UWZ SW**  
**TYCYCLS DCXCYS GWM TMQ**  
**DCXCYS TYCYCLSTM YC**

— **D T J A D T Q A R D J**  
 Yesterday's Cryptquote: SUBURBIA IS WHERE THE DEVELOPER BULLDOZES OUT THE TREES, THEN NAMES STREETS AFTER THEM.  
 — BILL VAUGHAN

#### 21 Help Wanted

IMMEDIATE Openings! Roustabout Company now hiring for valid CDL Drivers, Backhoe Operators and Experienced Roustabouts in the East Texas area. We offer competitive pay and a monthly performance bonus. Please call 580-819-1073 for more info.

**NEED MOTIVATED Man or Woman for office work, computer data entry, phone answering, email**

[blueribbonsales@gmail.com](mailto:blueribbonsales@gmail.com) for more info.

**McLEAN CARE CENTER** has openings for the following positions:  
 \*Full-Time Housekeeper  
 \*Full-Time Dishwasher  
 \*Nurse Aides  
 Come by 605 W. 7th or call 806-779-2469 to apply or for more info.

**WANTED:** Exp. oil field pumper. Salary based on Exp. Apply 216 S. Price Road, Pampa.

Full Time employment. Must be 18 yrs., insurance, vacation, sick leave & retirement plan. Bartlett's Hardware, 500 W. Brown, Pampa.

PART-time help needed cleaning carpet. Must have valid dr. lic. and pass backgr. check. 665-1976

ACCEPTING applications for all positions at Holiday Inn Express in Pampa.

UPS in Pampa has 2 part-time Supervisor Positions open. Apply online at [upsjobs.com](http://upsjobs.com)

KOYOTE Trucking needs Full-Time flat-bed truck driver. 1 year driving exp. req. 806-665-0984.

#### 50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

#### 60 Household

**MATTRESS SETS** New in Plastic Pillow or Plush 15 yr. factory warr. Q-\$289 K-\$389 All sizes avail. 806-677-0400

**MUST SELL** Beautiful, 6 person Spa / Hot Tub Factory Warranty 53 jets, waterfall, lounger, cover, chemicals & steps 2007 model, need space New, never used Only \$4600 806-677-0400

**GIRLS** bdr. suite, incl. twin beds w/ headboard & mattress, nightstand, chest of drawers, \$175. 665-8678, or see Alicia at Wayne's Western Wear.

#### 69 Misc.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

RED Barn, Sat. 10-5. Dinettes sets, desks, chest books, much more. 1420 S. Barnes.

#### LIMO SERVICE

662-0097

DEBBIE'S Used Furniture, 903 S. Main, Borger, Tx. Lrg. Inventory! Specials. 273-2905, 886-0268

**Will Buy Surplus Equipment**  
 \*Controls  
 \*Valves  
 \*Fittings  
 \*Instrumentation  
 \*Prime Liquidators  
 832-883-6563 (cell/f)

1935, 1929, & 1937 Harvester Annuals @ Swap Shop. 1001 E. Frederic.

#### 69a Garage Sales

ESTATE Sale: 1216 Williston St. Everything must go! Sat. Mar. 1 & Sun. Mar. 2, 8am-6pm.

#### 77 Lives/Equip.

SERVICEABLE black Angus bulls for sale. Volume discounts. Contact Thomas Angus, 580-655-4318, 580-497-7217.

#### 80 Pets & Suppl.

FREE German Shep. and Husky puppies. 7 weeks old. Call 665-4854.

PTT Bull puppies for sale. 806-664-2133.

FULL Blood Great Dane Puppies for sale. \$200 ea. firm. Call 662-1987.

#### 95 Furn. Apts.

OWNER FINANCE 1020 Fisher 3 bdr., 1018 Duncan 2 bdr., Easy To Qualify 665-4595 440-1698

OWNER FINANCE Low Down & Low Payment: 1108 S. Faulkner 332 Sunset 931 E. Francis 313 Miami Habla Espanol Call Joe 806-336-1740 Or Milton 806-790-0827

OWNER FINANCE Price Reduced! 313 Miami 1018 Duncan 2 bdr., 1 ba. Low Down Low Mo. Easy To Qualify 665-4595

**115 Trailer Parks**

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

#### 121 Trucks

06 Dodge Mega cab 1 ton diesel, 4x4, still under warr. 05 Idle Time camper, 28 ft. 5th wh. Loaded, still under warr. 806-323-9986 aft. 6pm.

1995 GMC 4x4, New Tires \$4200 OBO. 665-5473



LAW OF THE LAND

## High court to hear Exxon Valdez case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is considering whether to prevent victims of the Exxon Valdez disaster from collecting a \$2.5 billion judgment, nearly 19 years after the tanker dumped 11 million gallons of oil into Alaska waters.

**... Exxon says it should not face any punitive damages because the company already has paid \$3.4 billion in fines, penalties, cleanup costs, claims and other expenses.**

In the case being argued Wednesday, Exxon Mobil Corp. wants the court to erase the award of punitive damages to nearly 33,000 commercial fishermen, Native Alaskans, landowners, businesses and local governments.

The 987-foot tanker, commanded by its captain, Joseph Hazelwood, missed a turn and ran aground on a reef in Prince William Sound, causing the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

A jury initially awarded \$287 million to compensate for economic losses

and \$5 billion in punitive damages. A federal appeals court cut the punitive damages in half. The compensatory damages have been paid.

Now Exxon says it should not face any punitive damages because the company already has paid \$3.4 billion in fines, penalties, cleanup costs, claims and other expenses.

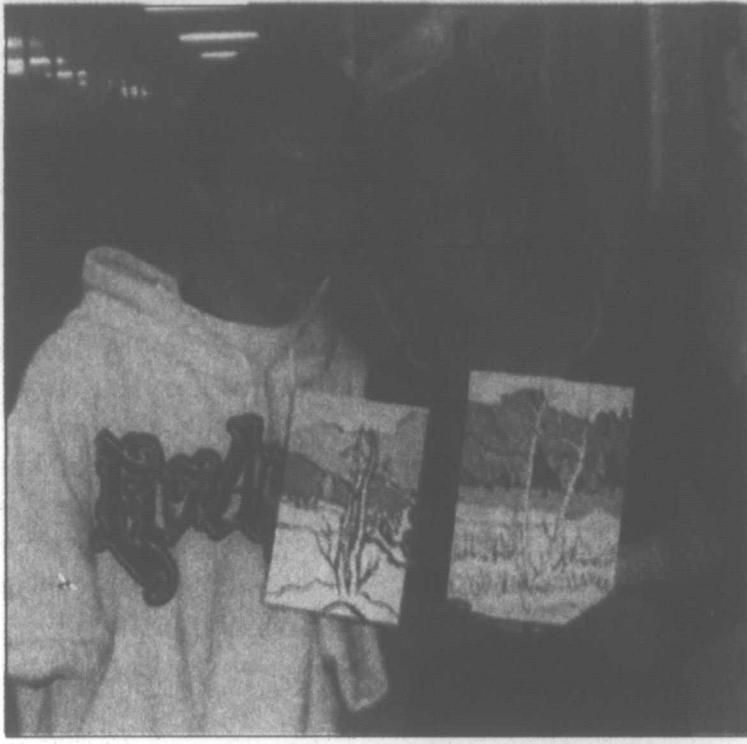
It argues that long-standing maritime law and the 1970s-era Clean Water Act should bar any punitive damages, which are intended both to punish behavior and deter a repeat.

The company says it should not be held accountable for Hazelwood's reckless conduct. He left the bridge of the ship before the turn and had been drinking shortly before it left port, both in violation of Coast Guard rules and company policy.

The plaintiffs say the judgment, representing three weeks of Exxon's 2006 profit, is rational and proportionate. It takes account of Exxon's decision to allow Hazelwood to command the ship, despite knowing he had an ongoing drinking problem, the plaintiffs contend.

Justice Samuel Alito, who owns Exxon stock, is not taking part in the case. A 4-4 split would leave the damages award in place.

## Art projects



COURTESY PHOTO  
Eighth graders Marisol and Gerardo Delgado show off art projects they made during classes at Pampa Junior High School.

## Reasons for blackout in southern Florida remain a mystery

MIAMI (AP) — Power executives were still in the dark Wednesday about how a glitch at a substation triggered a blackout that cut power to millions across south Florida. The outage snarled traffic when traffic signals went dead, forced hospitals to scramble for generators and cut off air conditioners in the afternoon heat.

The sporadic outages Tuesday spanned 300 miles of the peninsula but appeared to be concentrated in the southeast portion of the state. Communities along the southwest coast, in the Florida Keys and as far north as Daytona Beach reported interruptions.

While the outages cut power to 2 million to 3 million people at its peak, power was quickly restored to most parts of the state and authorities said no injuries

were reported. Only about 20,000 people lacked electricity during the evening commute home.

Bob Wild, a sports marketing consultant who lives in Miami's southern Kendall neighborhood, said he didn't even notice the blackout, thanks to his home's generator.

"We're a hurricane family. We've been through Hurricane Andrew and everything before and since," he said. "Our daughter called us from Washington and said she'd seen the blackouts on TV. That's when we found out."

The president of Florida Power & Light was puzzled

by how the blackout happened, saying an equipment malfunction at an electrical substation should not have caused the outages.

None of the events should "have caused the kind of widespread outage that we saw," FPL President Armando Olivera said. "That's the part that we don't have an answer for yet."

At about 1 p.m. an equipment malfunction happened at a facility that transmits power in Miami, starting a sequence of events that caused power to go off in areas around the state.

The malfunction led to a fire at the facility, which in turn caused larger problems

call for comment.

Julie Wagner, a manager at the San Francisco-based title company, confirmed that Jackson's property was set for auction.

Court documents obtained by Fox News warn Jackson that he has until the date of the auction to take action to keep his lavish estate.

If the property does go to auction, the initial asking price could be higher than the \$24.5 million Jackson owes because of interest due and other costs, according to the filing.

Also going up for sale would be all the home's furnishings.

## Michael Jackson's ranch up for auction

LOS ANGELES (P) — Want Michael Jackson's merry-go-round? How about his locomotive, or his curtains?

Those items and more could hit the auction block next month as the pop star's Neverland Ranch will be put up for public sale unless he pays the more than \$24 million he still owes on the property, according to a Tuesday court filing.

Financial Title Co. filed the notice of trustee's sale with Santa Barbara County Superior Court, setting the auction date for March 19.

A spokeswoman for Jackson did not return a

*While the outages cut power to 2 million to 3 million people at its peak, power was quickly restored*



### FORD FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC WELCOMES DR. SAMANTHA FORD



In a continuing effort to accommodate our patients, FORD FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC is pleased to welcome Samantha A. Ford, D.C. to our practice.

Dr. Samantha graduated Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian of her class with a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Texas Chiropractic College in Pasadena, TX. She completed her pre-med studies at Texas Tech University and holds a B.S. degree in Human Biology.

Of special note, Dr. Samantha is certified in Activator technique and Kinesiotaping and brings to our practice a wealth of knowledge about rehab and soft tissue work.

Dr. Samantha is licensed by the Texas Board of Chiropractic and is a member of the American Chiropractic Association and the Texas Chiropractic Association.

Welcome home, Dr. Samantha!

Call to set up an appointment to discuss a care program for you that may include specific spinal adjustments, exercise recommendations, nutritional advice or other conservative methods of care based on your health history, age, current condition and lifestyle.

### FORD FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC Rehabilitation & Wellness Center

701 N. Price Rd  
806.665.7261

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# 1/2 PRICE SALE WOMENS & MENS

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