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Conrad family suspect waives pretrial evidentiary hearing

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

PINEVILLE, Mo. -- A Missouri man accused of murdering a man and his daughter-in-law here and suspected of killing a family in Gray County waived a pre-trial evidentiary hearing today.

Levi A. King, 23, a native of Pineville, is accused of killing a neighbor, Orlie McCool, and McCool's daughter-in-law, Dawn McCool in Orlie McCool's home here the afternoon of Sept. 29.

The two bodies were discovered

the following day by McCool's nephew. King is also a suspect in the shooting deaths of a Gray County family.

Brian Conrad, 31; his wife Michell, 35, and her son, Zack Doan, 14, were shot to death in the early morning hours of Sept. 30, in their farm home seven miles south of Pampa. Michell's daughter, Robin Doan, 10, escaped the early morning shootings and, after the assailant had gone, called 911. Michell Conrad was six months pregnant.

King was arrested in McCool's

pickup Sept. 30 in El Paso.

Clad in an orange jail uniform, King waived the pre-trial hearing before Associate Circuit Judge John LePage and was returned to the McDonald County jail.

Judge LePage set March 21, for King's arraignment on the McCool killings.

McDonald County Prosecutor Stephen Geeding said the public defenders representing King, Charlie Moreland and Thomas Marshall, had notified his office only two days ago that they would waive today's hear-

ing.

Witnesses were quickly notified that they would not need to appear in court, including three Homeland Security agents that worked in El Paso and an El Paso homicide detective who had been scheduled to fly in.

Moreland indicated that the defense would seek a change of venue in the trial at the arraignment.

McCool was well thought of in the community, said Nancy Wolf with

See KING, Page 3

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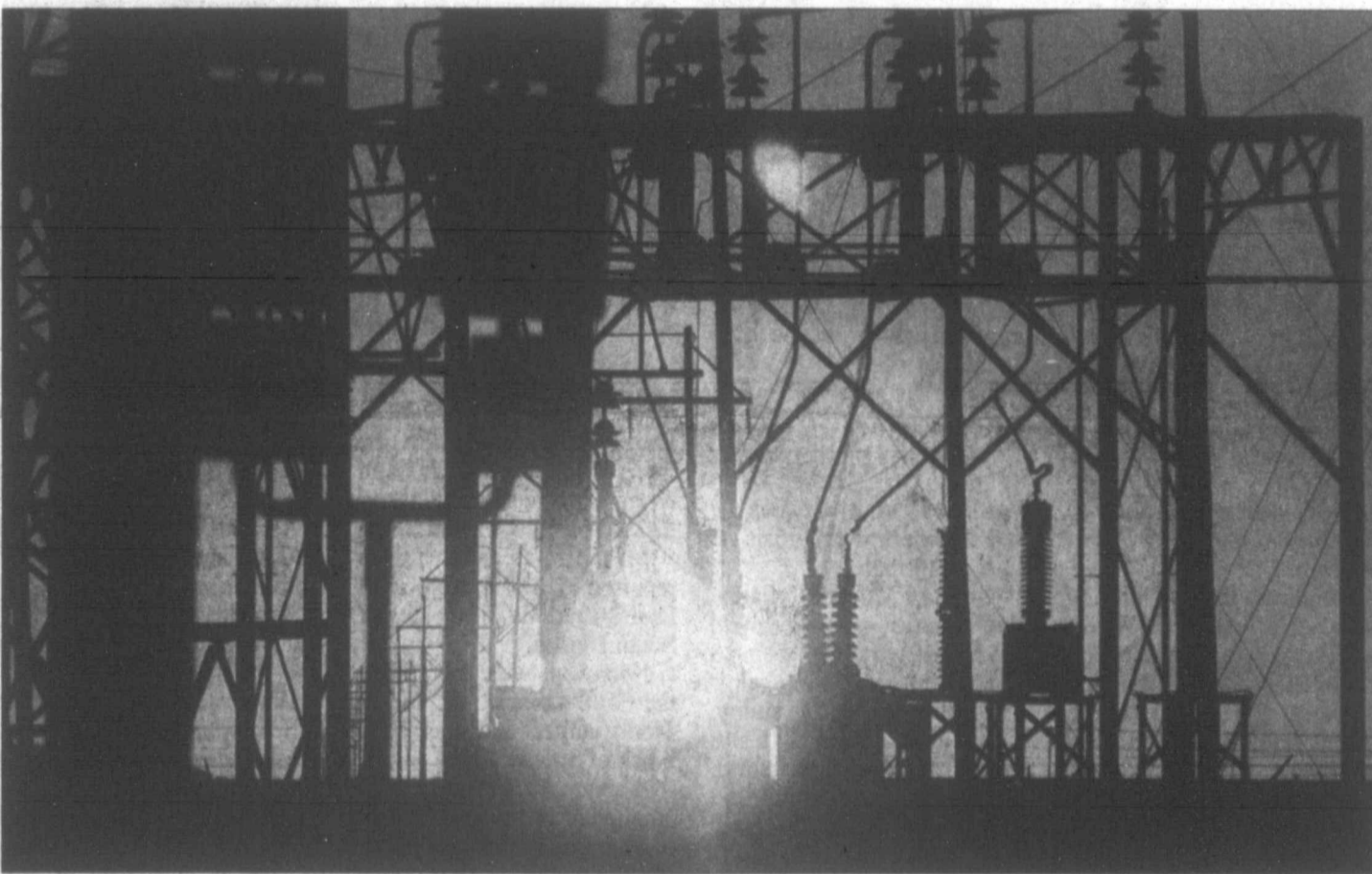
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Powerful sunrise



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Bursting with power, the sun dawns on another clear day through a power sub-station on U.S. Highway 60 west of Pampa.

Wildfires continue to plague dry Texas

Pampa's four wildfires Wednesday were not the only flames that threatened Texas. The Texas Forest Service said Thursday that strong winds and dry conditions created a busy day for firefighters in Central Texas. By 4 p.m. Thursday, officials at the West Texas Initial Attack Incident Command Post in Granbury were busy coordinating resources to 11 fires totaling 3,200 acres.

Weather forecasts for today again call for southerly winds 15-25 mph with gusts near 30 mph and lower humidity over much of Texas, meaning red flag warnings and watches will be in effect again today. Conditions are not expected to improve until Sunday, when lighter winds are forecast.

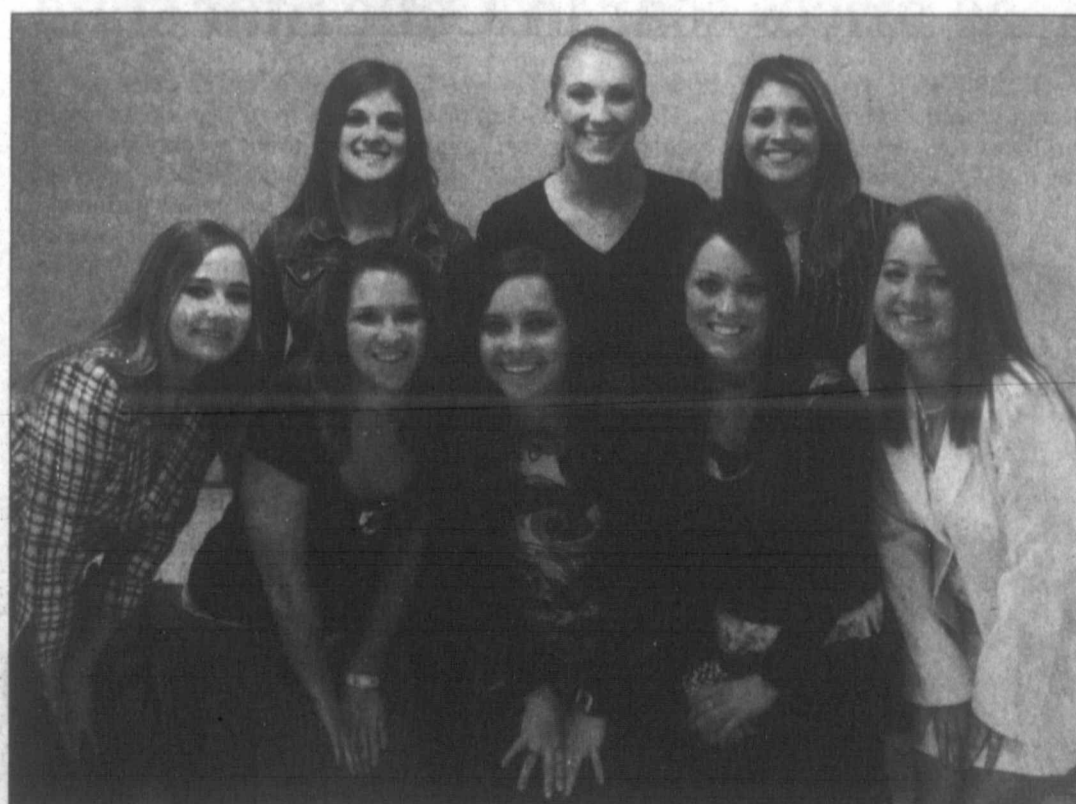
"We've had some rain, so people tend to think we're out of fire danger, but today

proved we're not out of the woods yet," said Incident Commander Paul Hannemann with the Texas Forest Service. "March is typically a windy month, so people need to keep their guard up."

Fires ranged from Ellis County south to Atascosa County, which had four fires that have threatened more than 70 homes and forced numerous evacuations, including a nursing home in Pleasanton. The Pleasanton Fire, which was started by a car fire, burned more than 700 acres, and was 70 percent contained Thursday evening. Other fires burned 125 acres near Campbellton and 60 acres near McCoy, and also threatened homes. Both fires were started by landowners burning prickly pear cactus, a common live-

See FIRES, Page 3

Lions queen candidates



Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS

The Pampa Lions Club held the annual Queen's Contest Thursday and selected a queen from this group of young ladies. Back row, from left, Jackie Gerber, Krissie Alexander and Audrey Dunn. Front row, from left, Alexa Silva, Stacianne Novian, Callie Cobb, Felicia Urban and Laci Long. Club members selected Gerber to serve as queen. Urban was runner-up.

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Helping out



Courtesy photo

Lost in Lefors? Not for long! Charlie Wilkins, a part-time resident of Lefors, has volunteered his time to repair or replace street signs throughout Lefors. Wilkins said all the street signs on the main spur through town are in place, and the side streets will be his next priority. Wilkins is also a member of the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department and the Lefors Action Group.

Alcohol may have fueled Alabama church fires

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A group of three college students charged in connection with a string of Alabama church fires that apparently began as a thrill-seeking prank may have been fueled by alcohol, authorities said.

Benjamin Nathan Moseley and Russell Lee DeBusk Jr., both 19-year-old theater students at Birmingham-Southern College, were arrested this week along with 20-year-old Matthew Lee Cloyd, who was studying pre-med at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Throughout the month-long investigation, authorities said alcohol could have led to a warped bravado that sparked the arson, and initial interviews with the suspects bore out the theory, according to one officer.

However, deputy state fire marshal Ed Paulk, who was involved in the investigation, said he did not know if alcohol was a direct factor.

Voters down on Bush, Congress, state of nation; Republicans fret

WASHINGTON (AP) — More and more people, particularly Republicans, disapprove of President Bush's performance, question his character and no longer consider him a strong leader against terrorism, according to an AP-Ipsos poll documenting one of the bleakest points of his presidency.

Nearly four out of five Americans, including 70 percent of Republicans, believe civil war will break out in Iraq — the bloody hot spot upon which Bush has staked his presidency. Nearly 70 percent of people say the U.S. is on the wrong track, a 6-point jump since February.

"Obviously, it's the winter of our discontent," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla.

Republican Party leaders said the survey explains why GOP lawmakers are rushing to distance themselves from Bush on a range of issues — port security, immigration, spending, warrantless eavesdropping and trade, for example.

The positioning is most intense among Republicans facing election in November and those, considering 2008 presidential campaigns.

"You're in the position of this cycle now that is difficult anyway. In second term off-year elections, there gets to be a familiarity factor," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., a potential presidential candidate.

"People have seen and heard (Bush's) ideas long enough and that enters into their thinking. People are kind of, 'Well, I wonder what other people can do,'" he said.

The poll suggests that most Americans wonder whether Bush is up to the job. The survey, conducted Monday through Wednesday of 1,000 people, found that just 37 percent approve of his overall performance. That is the lowest of his presidency.

Bush's job approval among Republicans plummeted from 82 percent in February to 74 percent, a dangerous sign in a midterm election year when parties rely on enthusiasm from their most loyal voters. The biggest losses were among white males.

On issues, Bush's approval rating declined from 39 percent to 36 percent for his handling of domestic affairs and from 47 percent to 43 percent on foreign policy and terrorism. His approval ratings for

dealing with the economy and Iraq held steady, but still hovered around 40 percent.

Personally, far fewer Americans consider Bush likable, honest, strong and dependable than they did just after his re-election campaign.

By comparison, Presidents Clinton and Reagan had public approval in the mid 60s at this stage of their second terms in office, while Eisenhower was close to 60 percent, according to Gallup polls. Nixon, who was increasingly tangled up in the Watergate scandal, was in the high 20s in early 1974.

The AP-Ipsos poll, which has a margin of error of 3 percentage points, gives Republicans reason to worry that they may inherit Bush's political woes. Two-thirds of the public disapproves of how the GOP-led Congress is handling its job and a surprising 53 percent of Republicans give Congress poor marks.

By a 47-36 margin, people favor Democrats over Republicans when they are asked who should control Congress.

While the gap worries Republicans, it does not automatically translate into GOP defeats in November, when voters will face a choice between local candidates rather than considering Congress as a whole.

In addition, strategists in both parties agree that a divided and undisciplined Democratic Party has failed to seize full advantage of Republican troubles.

"While I don't dispute the fact that we have challenges in the current environment politically, I also believe 2006 as a choice election offers Republicans an opportunity if we make sure the election is framed in a way that will keep our majorities in the House and the Senate," said Ken Mehlman, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

Stung by criticism, senior officials at the White House and the RNC are reminding GOP members of Congress that Bush's approval ratings may be low, but theirs is lower and have declined at the same pace as Bush's.

The message to GOP lawmakers is that criticizing the president weakens him — and them — politically.

King

Continued from Page 1
the prosecutor's office.
"I knew him for years,"

Geeding said. McCool had just sold the steakhouse he had south of Pineville on U.S. Highway 71.

Geeding said if a change of venue is granted, the trial would probably move to

Pulaski County in the center of the state.

"Nothing is for certain yet," said Tim Finnical, a special prosecutor in the case.

Fires

Continued from Page 1

stock grazing practice. The 200-acre Somerset Fire, south of San Antonio, burned two homes and threatened a 400-unit apartment complex. In Ellis County, the Landfill 1 fire burned 70 acres and destroyed a mobile home and a barn, but firefighters

saved 18 homes.

Two homes, six outbuildings and multiple vehicles were lost in Coryell County on the 160-acre Perryman Creek/Copperas Cove Fire. Fort Hood Military Reservation in Coryell County also saw its share of fire activity, with more than 3,000 acres burned on the Brown's Creek Range and the Owl Creek Range fires.

Smaller fires also burned in Caldwell, Gillespie, Hayes and Medina counties,

where 10 homes were threatened, but saved.

"The firefighters have done a monumental job of protecting lives and homes," Hannemann said. "Texans need to do their part by avoiding any outdoor burning and using extreme caution with any spark-producing equipment, especially on days like today when we have high winds."

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Viewpoints

It's harder for today's children to concentrate

I recently read an article in an educational magazine written by a former classroom teacher who had taught in an underperforming high school.

The author of the article is Antonia Lewandowski, and the title of her article is, "What Happened to Effort?"

Ms. Lewandowski's premise and conclusions will cause some readers to cheer, and they will cause others to question her understanding of society, its problems, and today's youth. Let me summarize what the author said in the thought provoking magazine article.

The author states that many people and organizations have definite ideas about how public schools and public schoolteachers

have failed to provide a quality education for our nation's youth. There is much talk of how far behind most other industrialized nations the students of the United States lag.

Ms. Lewandowski, however, asks this question, "Are teachers solely in charge of learning? What happened to student responsibility?"

She contends that administrators and parents are not asking students, especially high school students, to do their part as learners because there is no strong accountability expectation of students for the lessons that are taught, the guidance that is offered, or the assignments that are carefully designed.

Antonia Lewandowski laments the fact that in our country it is not uncommon

for students to take courses twice and three times, not because they have learning disabilities or lack of intelligence, but because they have not learned to motivate themselves.

She asks, "When and where did students develop the idea that they are not personally responsible for the work they do?"

She admits that teachers must plan and deliver lessons that are motivating and differentiated for the varied abilities of the students who are in those classes. However, she asserts that all learning is not fun. Some learning requires

hard work. Reading, writing, and problem solving build upon the acquired mastery of the basics, and the basics are developed through student effort.

Lewandowski asserts that through careful planning, good teachers construct lessons that build on students' prior knowledge and interests.

Good teachers, she adds, seek connections to help students remember and learn. She mentions that good teachers work hard to help their students reach their academic goals. However, she finishes that thought by saying that "...good teachers

deserve good students."

The author continues in the magazine article by saying that good students appreciate and expect to receive direct, explicit messages about their own effort and its role in their academic achievement.

Students, according to Lewandowski, can be taught to listen intently and to restate other's views. They can, in other words, learn how to engage in "accountability talk."

The author challenges society to help students sort through the barrage of stimulation that competes for their attention and concentrate on the essential, age-appropriate tasks of growing and learning.

Ms. Lewandowski has noticed an increase in stu-

dents at school who are overstimulated, undernourished, and sleep deprived, and she comments that these attributes are not conducive for internalizing the attitudes and strategies students need to persevere in rigorous work.

We may all agree that preparing children and young adults to meet the demands of the 21st century requires parents, community members, and school personnel working hand-in-hand as guides, teachers, and mentors. However, Antonia Lewandowski would urge us not to leave the students themselves out of our discussions and planning for the future. Often, they are the "missing piece" when it comes to their education.

Barry Haenisch
PISD
Superintendent



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 10, the 69th day of 2006. There are 296 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 10, 1876, the first successful voice transmission over Alexander Graham Bell's telephone took place in Boston as his assistant heard Bell say, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you."

On this date:

In 1629, England's King Charles I dissolved Parliament; he did not call it back for 11 years.

In 1785, Thomas Jefferson was appointed minister to France, succeeding Benjamin Franklin.

In 1848, the Senate ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the war with Mexico.

In 1864, Ulysses S. Grant became commander of the Union armies in the Civil War.

In 1880, the Salvation Army arrived in the United States from England.

In 1949, Nazi wartime broadcaster Mildred E. Gillars,

'Show me a man who claims he is objective and I'll show you a man with illusions.'

— Henry R. Luce
American magazine publisher
(1898-1967)

also known as "Axis Sally," was convicted in Washington, D.C., of treason. (She served 12 years in prison.)

In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Memphis, Tenn., to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (Ray later repudiated that plea, maintaining his innocence until his death.)

In 1980, "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tamower was shot to death in Purchase, N.Y. (Jean Harris, convicted of murder, served nearly 12 years in prison before being released in January 1993.)

In 1985, Konstantin U. Chernenko, Soviet leader for just 13 months, died at age 73.

Ten years ago: Hezbollah guerrillas launched a wave of bomb and rocket attacks on Israeli troops in south Lebanon. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, accusing China of "reckless" provocations against Taiwan, said on NBC that U.S. warships would move closer to Taiwan.

Five years ago: President Bush told Americans in his Saturday radio address that he thought support for tax relief was building, while opening the door to considering a different sort of cut than what he had proposed and Democrats deployed.



Nation that lives by 'E Pluribus Unum'

Sometimes people who hold different opinions claim that a problem cannot be solved when, really, they simply disagree on the best way to solve it. A free exchange of ideas and beliefs helps keep our country strong, but many people have forgotten the spirit of unity that is also part of our country's identity. There are times when I am handed a quarter and it reminds me of our need to work together to solve problems.

Most people know that George Washington is depicted on the front of the quarter, but you may not have noticed the motto on the back: "E Pluribus Unum." This official motto of the United States is on all of our coins. The motto is Latin for "out of many, one," and was adopted as our country's official motto in 1776. It refers to the forma-

tion of one nation from 13 colonies.

The phrase was made popular by the Roman poet Virgil, author of the epic poem The Aeneid. He used "E Pluribus Unum" in the poem Moretum when describing the blending of many colors into one. "E Pluribus Unum" has taken on additional meaning over the years as America has welcomed people from all over the world and added states to our union. In many other countries, national identity has everything to do with who your parents are or the particular piece of land on which you grew up. Being a true American has more to do with what you believe

than where you are from.

When immigrants earn citizenship, they are given the same rights and freedoms as every other American. It does not matter that their parents were not American. It does not matter that they cannot trace their family's lineage back in time to find an ancestor who shed blood in the Revolutionary War. The key to being American is sharing certain fundamental beliefs, such as the value self-governance and the right to free speech and to worship as you choose.

We are a nation rich in diversity. We have people from disparate backgrounds, who practice different religions and who have a variety

of native tongues. Our diversity has made us stronger because we remain united by the fundamental beliefs we share. To preserve the unity of our nation, those who are seeking citizenship must be willing to put the interests of America ahead of the loyalty they have for their former countries.

Unfortunately, today the climate in Washington, D.C. is frequently one of division. Too often people vote or make decisions based on politics or party affiliation instead of first carefully examining the issues and then backing solutions that are in the best interests of the country. Political partisanship often divides our country, but we are strongest when we move past it and work together across party lines.

Kay Bailey Hutchison
U.S. Senator



See MOTTO, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Feb. 24

Odessa American on U.S. port deal with Dubai-based company:

At first glance it looks just like what South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham called it: an "unbelievably tone-deaf politically" decision. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., a government interagency panel, signs off on allowing a company owned by the government of Dubai, second-largest of the seven United Arab Emirates, to buy the company that handles operations at six U.S. ports?

In this post-9/11 era, do we want an Arab-owned company running port ter-

minals in New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Miami and New Orleans?

The deal seems wildly counterintuitive, but perhaps we should step back a bit to see whether what sounds absurd really poses a threat.

The short answer is that there are legitimate reasons for concern, but rejecting this arrangement out-of-hand because an Arab government owns the company should not be automatic and could undermine positive developments in the Arab world.

Although we have not yet seen terrorist attacks, or strong evidence of weapons or other tools of terrorism coming in through U.S. ports, those ports are certainly potential entry points that bear watching.

The United States has concluded agreements with most major foreign ports to tighten up inspection and paperwork for cargoes originating elsewhere and bound for this country. But still only one in 20 cargo containers is inspected in most U.S. ports.

That said, beyond following rules laid down by government agencies, Dubai Ports World, the company seeking to buy the contracts to handle operations at these six ports, would not be handling port security if this deal goes through. Security, for better or worse (its some of both) is handled by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs. That wont change.

The company now operating the

See PORT, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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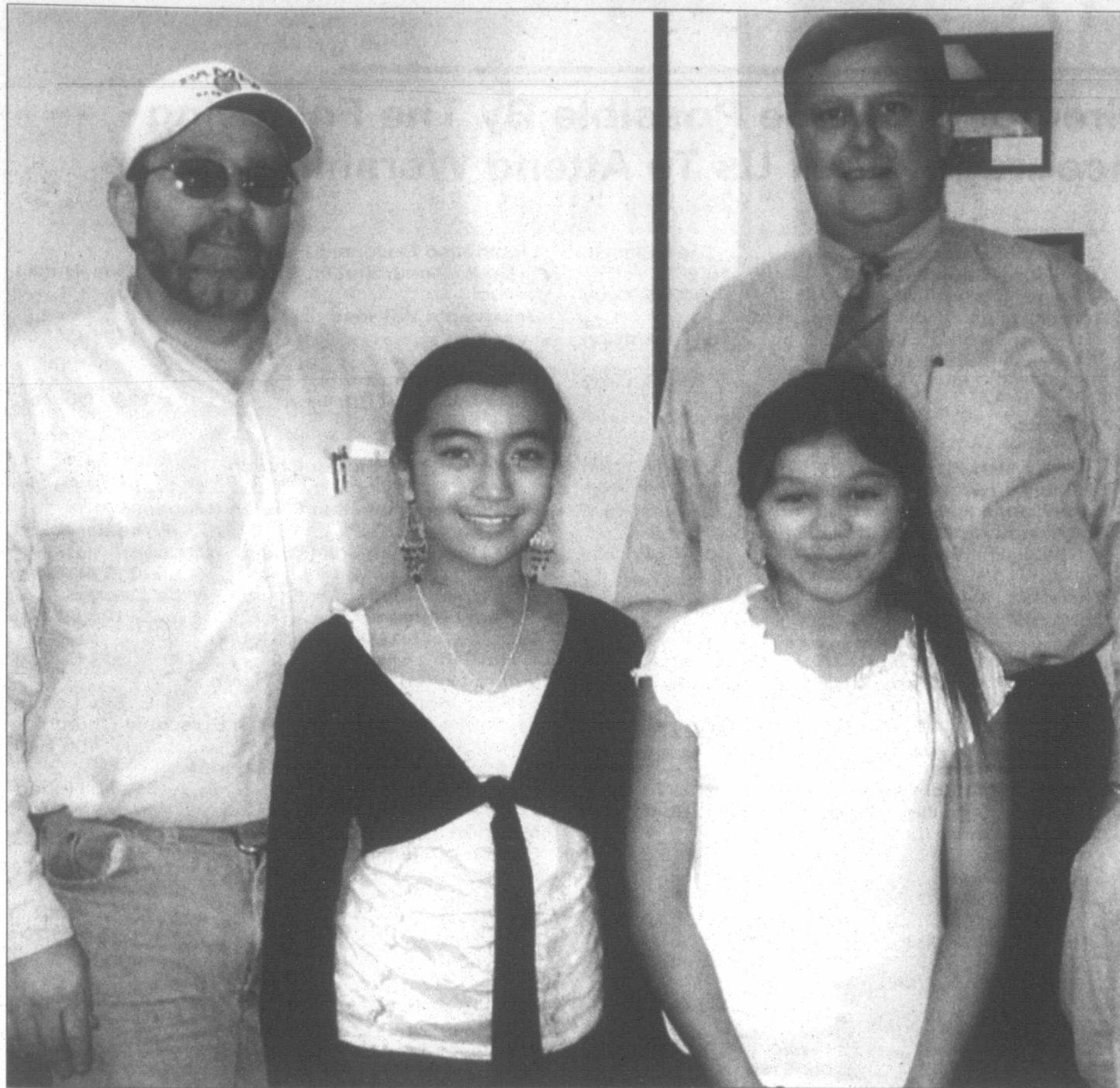
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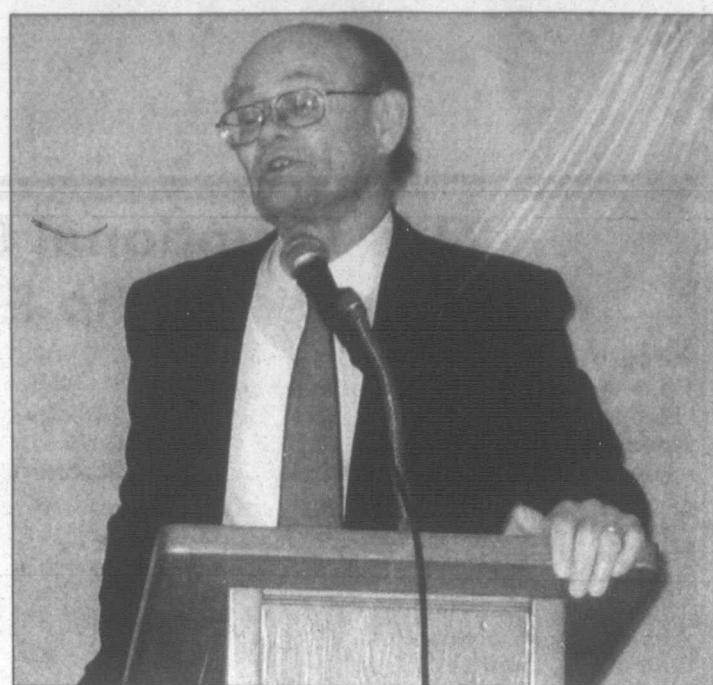
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Poetry reading



Charles Smith and Lance DeFever, both Pampa Independent School District school board members, recently posed for a picture with Lamar Elementary School students Abigail Salazar, B'Anca DeLeon and Jacob Nelson. The students read a poem at a recent board meeting. Members heard from the students and their teachers, Jan Cory and Jennifer DeLeon, about after-school programs, Reading Plus technology, and special classes and groups at Lamar.



Rotary speaker

At a recent Pampa Rotary Club meeting, John Warner discussed Pampa United Way and the work it does in and around the city of Pampa. Pampa United Way supports 17 agencies in our community and directly affects more than 18,000 people each year. Warner thanked everyone who has contributed to the success of United Way both in the future and the past.

Motto

Continued from Page 4

One area where the nation needs its legislators to unite is in strengthening America's competitive edge in science and technology. For years, I have been working with educators to strengthen science and technology programs at the state level. Recently, I introduced legislation to strengthen math and science education throughout the country, and President Bush

has shown support with his American Competitiveness Initiative.

Everyone has a stake in creating a better future for our children and grandchildren, and leaders in Washington have a responsibility to work together to achieve common goals. Our nation's framers supported this notion when they fought for our independence. "E Pluribus Unum" reminds us that we must continue to promote strong public education for all citizens and cooperate in the best interests of our nation.

The next time you see one of our

quarters with its portrait of George Washington, think of how the country united behind him, voting unanimously to elect him as the first president. But also remember our need to come together now. The new quarters, honoring each of the 50 states, will all feature the motto "E Pluribus Unum." This is appropriate because all states comprise one united nation.

We Texans know better than anyone that we can accomplish much on our own. Yet, when all Americans work together, there is no limit to what our great country can achieve.

Port

Continued from Page 4

ports, P&O Ports, is a British company, so there has been foreign ownership for a while. Most of those who actually work at the ports are U.S. citizens, and that would probably not change. And you can be sure the relevant unions will look after workers.

This situation should have been handled differently in terms of Congress and the public. Given the

existence of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., one can understand the need for closed meetings to review many proposed transactions that involve proprietary information.

But the committee should have understood, better than most, that U.S. ports are different from, for example, ball-bearing factories or shopping malls and pose a much different concern for all Americans.

Congressional hearings or a longer process are still appropriate. We should remember, however, that Dubai is in many ways an example of

what the administration says it wants to encourage - a moderate, mostly secular Arab regime that has opened up its economy and achieved prosperity and stability.

To reject its purchase could, as Cato Institute trade scholar Dan Griswold said, "send some dispiriting signals to the Arab world" and discourage the kind of reform most Americans desire.

So let's look at this deal more closely.

But let's be prepared to accept it if there's no evidence it will harm U.S. security interests.

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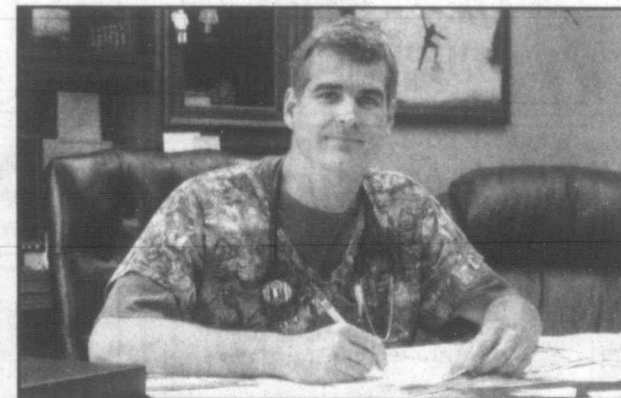
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JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER HEBREWS 13:8

Religion

Minister's Musings: Hollywood misleads young people with little truth, lots of fiction

I just finished watching the 2006 Academy Awards. Usually I don't watch them because I just fume, but for some reason I thought I should watch them this year, and I'm glad I did. After the presentations were over, I told my wife that I was going across the street to write this article.

She said, "Have you been fuming?"

I honestly answered, "No, just thinking about how deadly Hollywood is."

As most of you know by now, the movie "Crash" won best picture. Throughout the evening, there were regular praises of both "Crash" (six nominations) and

"Brokeback Mountain" (nine nominations) for being powerful films that pointed out the evil of intolerance and the glory of loving each other.

Now, it is true that both movies do powerfully attempt to expose intolerance. However, "Crash" points a critical finger at racial intolerance while "Brokeback Mountain" condemns homosexual intolerance.

Over and over again during the awards, the host and

various presenters would use the two movies as if they were a single club and then swing it at every kind of intolerance.

You see, intolerance of any kind is the primary target of Hollywood.

Well, let me speak the truth plainly. Even though I did not really care for "Crash," I will have to admit that it does a mighty job of exposing the idiocy and evil of racial bigotry, a form of intolerance. As you know from previous articles that I have written, I believe

that every racial bigot who does not repent prior to death will spend eternity in hell.

The Bible plainly says, "If we say we love God yet hate a brother or sister, we are liars. For if we do not love a fellow believer, whom we have seen, we cannot love God, whom we have not seen. And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love one another." (John 4:20-21)

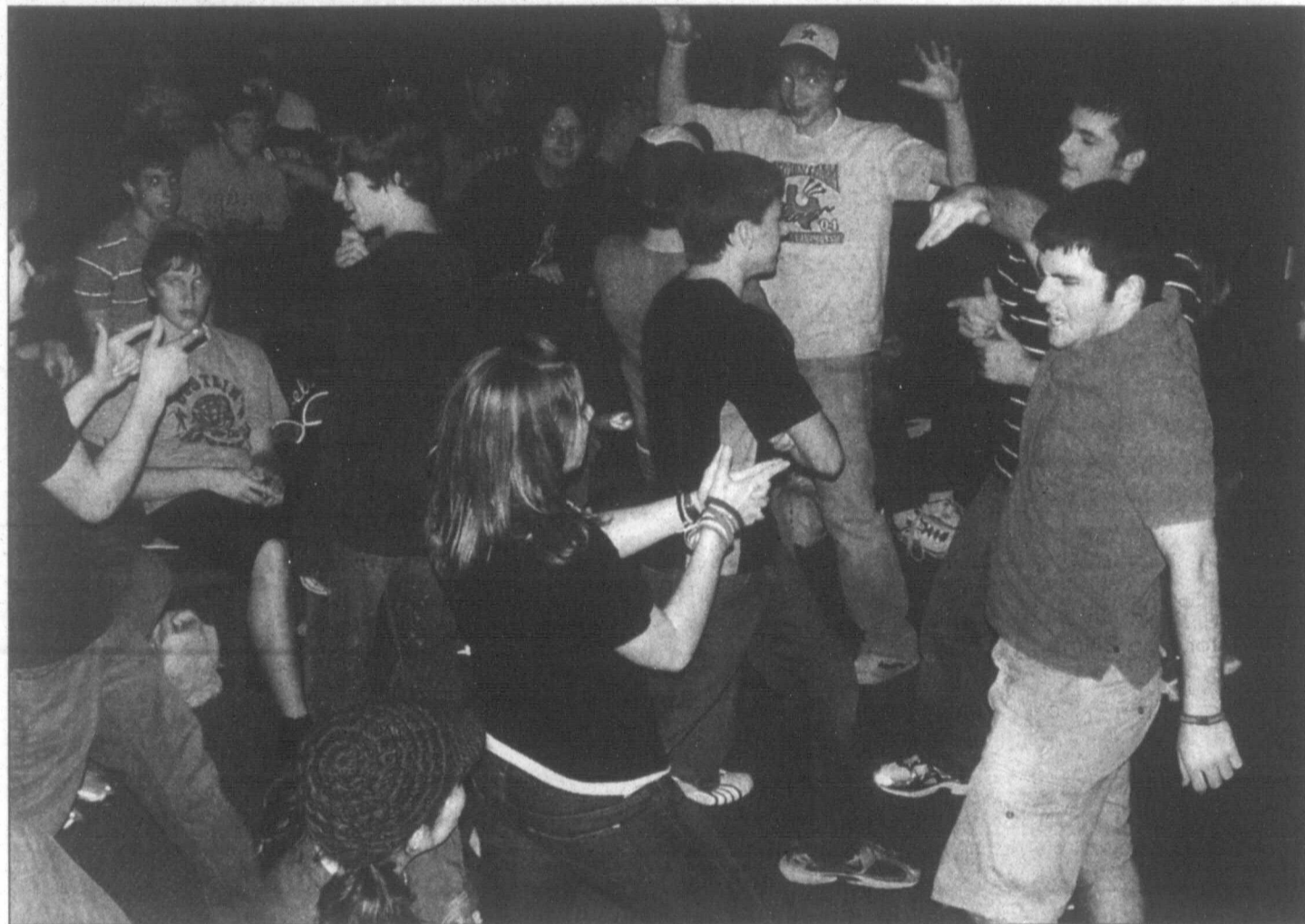
However, to use that evil which is clearly condemned by God in the scriptures, to support the sin of homosexuality is either ignorance or

See SUBLETT, Page 12

Mike Sublett
Hi-Land Christian



Disciple Now



Students played an ice-breaker game during a recent outreach at Pampa's First Baptist Church. Eighty-eight students from 18 to 11 years of age recently participated in First Baptist Church's "Disciple Now Weekend." The weekend theme was "Image is Everything," based on Psalm 139. "We live in a world today where students are many times driven to place their value on their performance and what others think about them," a press release from the church said. "The danger of following this formula though is most students end up with low self-esteem." Over the weekend, students were given hope and direction in how to avoid this 'self-image' trap." For more information about Disciple Now or other programs at Pampa's First Baptist, contact the church at 669-1155.

Carpenter's Church

The Carpenter's Church, 639 S. Barnes, will present The Phillips Family in concert March 19-22 at the church. The Phillips Family will appear at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 19 and at 7 p.m. March 20-22. A press release from the church said the Phillips "are in full-time musical ministry keeping a schedule of over 150 dates per year." The Phillips Family consists of brothers J. Charles and Greg. The duo performed with their mother Christine for 20 years before she died in January 2003. The brothers host and produce a weekly television show out of Nashville, Tenn., and were inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame in 2001. They were awarded Group of the Year in 1993 in the ICGMA Gold Cross Awards and have been featured in a number of Christian publications including "The Singing News" and "The Gospel Voice."

CHURCH BRIEFS

Zion Lutheran Church will hold mid-week Lenten services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays through the Lenten season. The congregation and guests will sing evening prayer. The topic for the sermon series will be "Jesus' Words from the Cross." The services are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

AMARILLO — Larry and Jodi's Good-Time Gospel Jamboree will present Justin Todd Herod, Psalms IV Quartet, Ricky Pfeil and Clarence, and the Good-Time Gospel Jamboree Band in concert at 7 p.m. March 16 at the Church at Quail Creek, 801 Tascosa Road.

Admission is free.

AMARILLO — Association for Single Christian Fellowship will host a singles dance for area Christian singles from 7-11 p.m. Saturday at the EpiCenter on Hillside and Soncy. For more information, call (806) 378-8328.

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Ref: Robert J. Morgan

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My 53-year-old husband insists on raising the window shade and turning on the light when he takes a bath and when he washes up in the morning. He strips naked to brush his teeth and wash his face while standing 4 feet from the window. The window is large, and it starts just above the bathtub. I have asked him not to do it because I don't think it's appropriate. I have told him he will be regarded as the "weird old man" in the neighborhood. When I told him the situation bothered me, he stopped for a few weeks. Now he's at it again. Our yard is large and open, so there's an opportunity for the neighbors to see what's going on. How do I get him to stop? Or should I just let him continue and try to get over it? — **WANTS LESS SOUTHERN EXPOSURE IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR WANTS LESS: Your husband isn't "going" to be regarded as a "weird old man" in the neighborhood — he's already there. That you told him it bothered you and he felt compelled to start again indicates to me that he gets a thrill out of exposing himself in situations where he could get caught. Because he's in his own home, I don't think he's breaking any laws. However, rather than argue over it, I have a suggestion: Contact a window company and have the bottom half of the bathroom window "frosted." That way, your husband can parade around the way nature made him, and if anyone happens by, there won't be any embarrassment.

DEAR ABBY: I run a small day-care business out of my house. I watch only the children of relatives or friends. One of my friends wants me to start watching her young daughter, "Sierra," who will turn 6 this summer. The problem is Sierra is terrified of animals, large and small.

We have a dog, three cats and a guinea pig. Sierra refuses to even get out of the car and stand in my yard. I think they should find day care elsewhere. They, however, keep insisting that Sierra will be "just fine" and that she understands that, come summer, she'll have to come to my house. Abby, I think it's cruel and insensitive of them to expect Sierra to "get over it" just like that. I have asked them to start asking Sierra to get out of the car and slowly work her way up to coming in before summer starts, but they just laugh and shrug it off. Please help me make them understand without my having to come right down and refuse to take the child. I'm afraid I'll lose friends over this. — **"MARY POPPINS" IN KENTUCKY**

DEAR MARY P.: I believe it was your namesake who coined the phrase, "A spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down." Because your concerns are realistic, sweetly tell your friends that you have instituted an "entrance exam." Unless they can prove to you that their daughter can get out of the car, enter your house and interact with the other children, you cannot accept her. They are doing her — and you — a disservice by ignoring her animal phobia. Their child may need professional help to get over it. Say it with a smile, but for everyone's sake make the statement. For the parents to pretend that their daughter's terror of animals will vanish with no intervention on anyone's part is not only unrealistic, it's unfair to their daughter, to you, and to the other children in your care. If they're unwilling to take action, they are not "friends." They are just poor parents who are trying to unload their problem onto you.

For Better Or For Worse



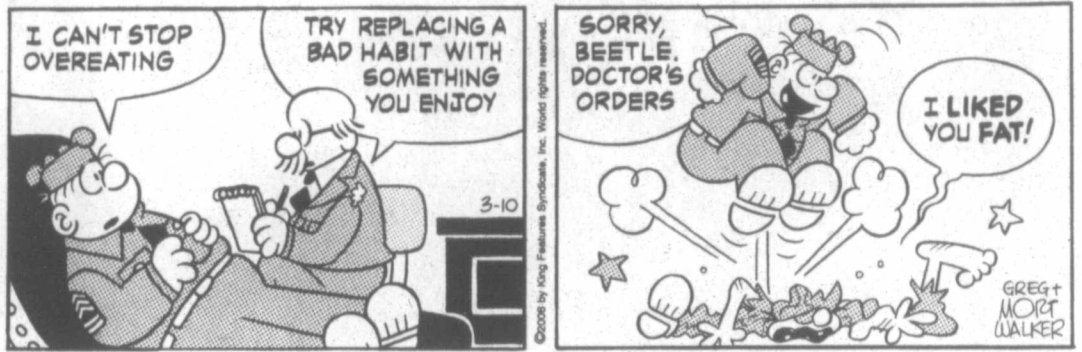
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

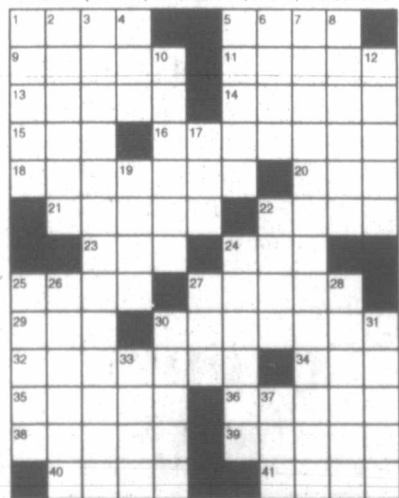
- ACROSS**
- 36 Friend of Aramis
 - 1 Relaxing spot
 - 38 Rose feature
 - 5 Plops down
 - 39 Hotel units
 - 9 Theater worker
 - 40 Possesses
 - 41 Removed

- DOWN**
- 1 Some statuary
 - 2 Fancy ties
 - 3 Jim Henson series
 - 4 Chick's mother
 - 5 Long stories
 - 6 Tops a cake
 - 7 Jim Carrey film
 - 8 Grad-to-be
 - 10 Bridge acts
 - 12 Reveler of myth
 - 17 Director
 - 19 Almanac fill
 - 22 One of the Bears
 - 24 Musical film
 - 25 Underway
 - 26 Western spread
 - 27 Old horse
 - 28 City near Mt.
 - 30 Rural sights
 - 31 She played
 - 33 Seabird
 - 37 Suit — T

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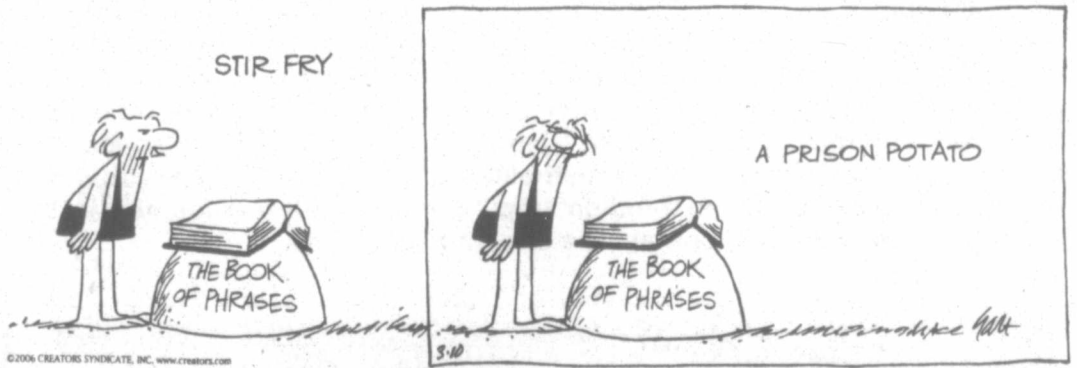


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

Hot shots



Courtesy photo

Pampa Hot Shots recently took first place at the Bi-State Shootout in Elk City, finishing with a record of 4-and-1. The girls also notched a second place finish at the Elk City MAYB Tournament. The Hot Shots are coached by Dr. Kevin Sieck and Steve Kuhn. Team members include Caitlin Sieck, Kirsten Kuhn, Autumn Chidester, Kailyn Troxell, Delaney Clendening, Lindsey Brown, Stephanie Allen, and Laura Kirkland.

Haynes returns to head Cal Ripken League

Ronnie N. Haynes will be the Commissioner of the Cal Ripken 11-12 Optimist Baseball League for the fourth year, Optimist Baseball Commissioner Kevin Davis announced today.

"Ronnie has done an outstanding job as Commissioner for the 11s and 12s," Davis said. "We are really pleased that he will return in this position."

Teams in the 11-12 Cal Ripken League last year included Cabot Corporation, Celanese Corporation, D. E. Chase, Inc., Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Glo-Valve Service and Rotary Club.

"Our league will join other leagues in an organizational meeting Monday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m.," Haynes said. "Registration and tryouts will be conducted March 21-24 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club."

"I like to see kids who are 11 and 12 year old play-

ing sports, particularly baseball," Haynes said. "Sports teaches kids good work habits and good sportsmanship. By working together, kids learn to respect authority and each other."

An Optimist member for 27 years, Haynes is in his second term as President of the club. He has served on the board of directors a total of 15 years. He was a manager for the Rotary Club team from 1979 through 1992 and later helped coach Celanese for a year.

Haynes also works as a coach and board member for Pampa Special Olympics. He is a past president of the Pampa Special Olympics Board of Directors. Married to Dennie for 27 years, they have two children and one granddaughter. Haynes is self-employed as Haynes Trucking.

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

Soccer concludes today; Track & Field team at Wichita Falls Tourney

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Pampa High School sports teams are busy both this afternoon and Saturday. Tournament results will be posted as soon as they become available.

Baseball

The Pampa Harvesters, in Snyder competing in the Best of the West Tournament, lost their first game of the season to Presidio, 11-2. Pampa was scheduled to meet Lubbock Christian Thursday afternoon. The tournament concludes today.

Softball

The varsity and junior varsity Lady Harvesters will host Canyon this afternoon at 4 p.m. Both teams will travel to Amarillo to face Tascosa Saturday afternoon at 1.

Track and Field

The Pampa varsity squad is in Wichita Falls today to compete in the Wichita Falls Tournament.

Soccer

Both the Harvesters and Lady Harvesters will wrap their seasons at home this afternoon when Pampa hosts Caprock. Games will start at 4:15 at the Harvester Soccer Complex.

Tournament champs



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

The PJHS Yellow Team is all smiles as they show off their medals and certificates from their recent 5th and 6th grade volleyball championship. Pictured are (L-R), back row- Coach Tammy Stevens, Andra Cortez and Courtney Ward. Middle row- Coach Kellie Metts, Joleen Pittman, Alanna Stephens, Jennifer Hendrick and NaKayla Hardman. Front row- Erin Rice, Kylee Metts, Taylor Morgan, Talor Kindig, Monica Zubia.

Sixty three compete in Pampa Junior High School volleyball league and tournament

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Pampa Junior High School recently held a 5th and 6th grade volleyball league and tournament which concluded Tuesday. According to coach Deanna Polasek, "We had a wonderful turnout with 63 girls taking part in this tournament."

Coach Polasek said it was easy to see the improvement in the girls from the start of the regular season to the end of the tournament. "They learned so much. They are all winners," said Polasek, who also praised coaches Carrie Hicks and Kathy Lee for their help.

The Yellow team (pictured above) took first place in the tournament, while the Orange Team finished first in the reg-

ular season, second in the tournament.

Team members

Yellow

Andra Cortez, Courtney Ward, Joleen Pittman, Alanna Stephens, Jennifer Hendrick, NaKayla Hardman, Erin Rice, Kylee Metts, Taylor Morgan, Talor Kindig and Monica Zubia. Coaches: Tammy Stevens and Kellie Metts.

Orange

Aribel Martinez, Miranda Beedy, Kirsten Kuhn, Ellen Cambern, Brienne Moyer, Karami Rice, Kendle Ramey, Marisol Dominguez, Delaney Clendening, Callie Coleman and Amber Harris. Coaches: Cecelia Cloud and Calee Henley.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Nazareth boys take State with 55-48 win over Lipan

AUSTIN (AP) — Make some more room in the Nazareth trophy case, this time for the boys' team.

Dustin Schulte scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds as Nazareth knocked off defending Class 1A Division II champion Lipan 53-48 to win the title.

Nazareth (33-4) won the school's fourth state championship to go with the 17 won by the girls' program. The boys also won titles in 1986, 2002 and 2003, and played in the final five other times.

Jake Hoelting added 13 points for Nazareth and Charlie Rundell scored 11.

Brent Stewart scored 15 to lead Lipan (35-4) but had just two points in the second half.

Stewart hit 4 of 6 in a tight first half. Lipan led 15-7 late in the first before Nazareth rallied to tie it on Hoelting's 3-pointer and

led 23-22 at halftime.

Lipan took its only lead of the second half, 24-23, when Stewart opened the third quarter with a layup. An 8-0 Nazareth run punctuated by Alan Gerber's long 3-pointer put the Swifts up 31-24.

Lipan got 3-pointers from Chad Johnson and Casey Riddle, but Nazareth maintained its lead when Schulte got a soft bounce off the rim for his shot to fall in the final seconds of the quarter.

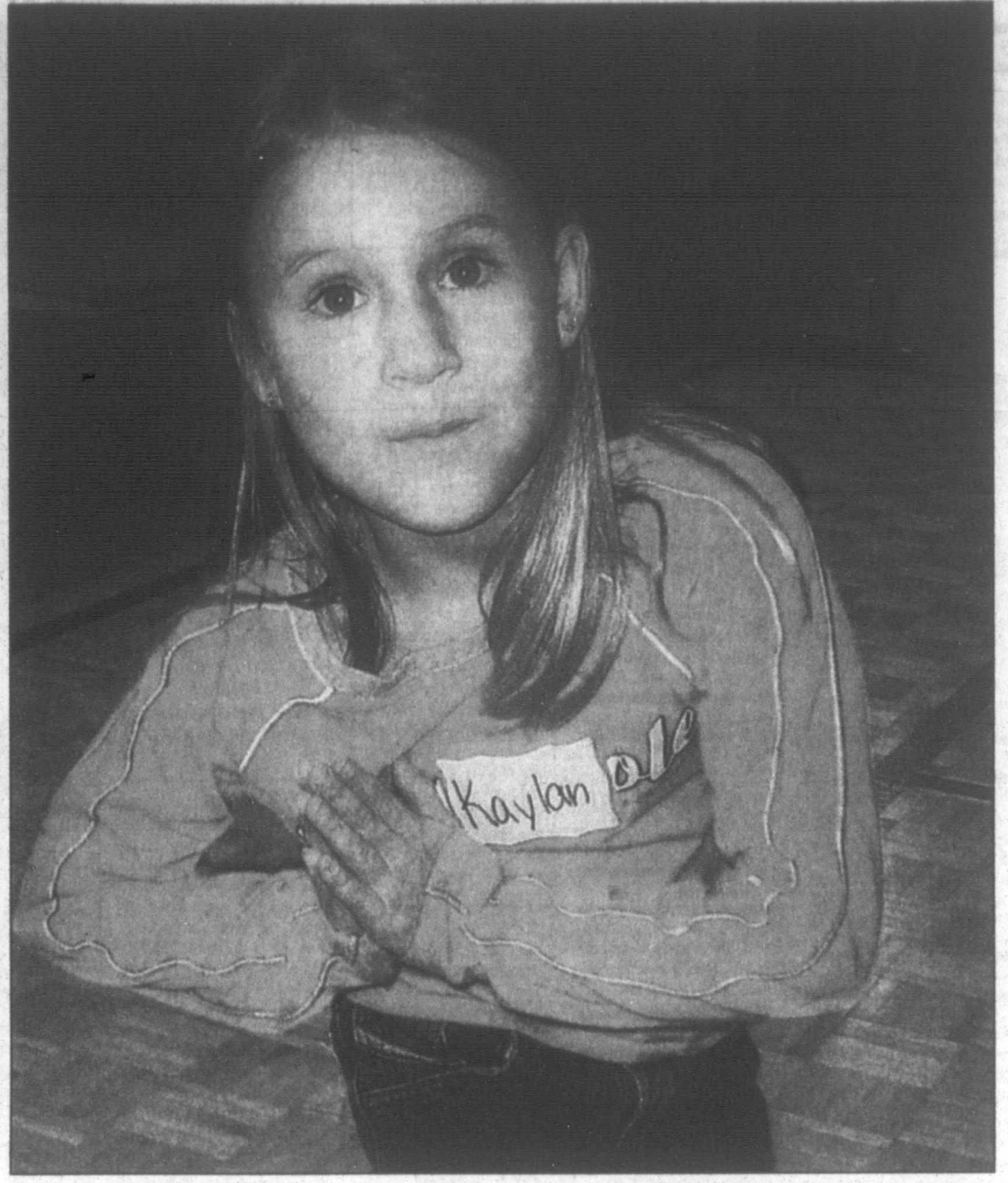
The Swifts built the lead as high as 46-35 in the fourth on Rundell's short jumper with 5:30 left. Nazareth shot 64 percent in the second half.

The Swifts were steady at the free throw line as well, hitting 12 of 19 free throws in the final period to nurse the lead. Nazareth had a huge advantage at the line: Lipan was 5 of 8.

After-school activity



▲ Know what Erika DeWitt loves to do before she exercises? She loves to stretch out her hammys (a.k.a. hamstring muscles). That's what Miss Krista Rowe, local Jazzercise instructor, taught her to do at her weekly CREATE a Beat! exercise class.



▶ Exercise for Kaylan Smith begins with assuming the "prayer position" and twising back and forth. Smith is exercising during CREATE a Beat!

Two killed, several injured as Southern storms sweep past

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Storms packing heavy rain and high wind moved across several Southern states, damaging homes, barns and businesses and killing at least two people and injuring several more.

Power failures and wind damage were reported in Arkansas,

Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee on Thursday.

Wind gusts of up to 80 mph were reported and a tornado was confirmed in eastern Arkansas, the National Weather Service said.

"Some of the trees that made it through Katrina might not make it

through this," said Ceroy Jefferson, assistant superintendent for Mississippi's Jefferson Davis County Schools, one of many counties that dismissed students early.

Unusually severe straight-line winds did much of the damage, the National Weather Service

said. More severe weather was predicted for the region, as forecasters said heavy storms could result from a system that was expected to pass through Arkansas on Monday.

A lightning-sparked house fire killed an 83-year-old Thomas Davis in the southwest Arkansas

town of Ashdown.

Near Memphis, Tenn., 48-year-old Susan Lake of Burlison was killed when heavy rains caused her sport-utility vehicle to hydroplane out of control and strike an oncoming tractor-trailer, authorities said.

Former nurse faces sentencing

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A week ago, a former nurse who killed at least 29 patients was sent to prison for the rest of his life and confronted by his victims' relatives in New Jersey.

Today, Charles Cullen was set to be sentenced in Pennsylvania, where he was expected to again face relatives of patients he killed.

Cullen, 46, pleaded guilty to 29 murders and six attempted murders in both states. He escaped the death penalty after agreeing to help prosecutors in seven counties identify patients to whom he had given lethal drug overdoses. He will serve his sentence in New Jersey.

Cullen administered overdoses to seven patients at nursing homes and hospitals in Lehigh and Northampton counties, and tried to kill

three others in one of the worst murder sprees ever discovered in the U.S. health care system.

Cullen was to be sentenced Friday in Northampton County for the 1998 murder of 78-year-old Ottomar Schramm at Easton Hospital.

Although he does not have to be present at that hearing, he has been ordered to attend his sentencing a few hours later in Allentown in Lehigh County, where he was expected to again come face-to-face with his victims' families.

Last week, relatives of the 22 New Jersey victims confronted Cullen after he received 11 consecutive life terms, calling him a "monster" and "vermin." Cullen said nothing, his eyes closed.

Sublett

Continued from Page 7

scariest part about that is the powerful influence that Hollywood has over the young people of today.

What Hollywood did the other night, if it occurred at the grocery store, would be like buying a family-sized pack of rib-eye steaks only to get home and discover that there were three delicious rib-eyes on the top covering up seven pounds of maggot-infested beef scraps.

Condemning racial bigotry would be the three gorgeous rib-eyes; condemning those who would condemn the sin of homosexuality would be the seven pounds of spoiled scraps.

God loves every racial bigot, but will send every single one of them straight to hell if they don't repent before they die. God loves every lesbian and homosexual but will send every single one of them straight to hell (with tears pouring down His cheeks) if they don't repent before they die. Now that is the truth taught in the scriptures on the matter.

So everybody, especially young people who place way too much value on Hollywood, be careful with anything that Hollywood says or does. Too often, it will be just a little bit of truth mixed with seven pounds of maggot-infested wickedness. Doesn't sound like a dinner I want to attend. How about you?

God bless.

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