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THE PAMPA NEWS

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Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Serious business

Abi Simmons, 4, scowls and clutches her stick horse when her mom, Shannon, comes to claim her after she competed in the Kid Pony Show Monday night. Participating in the younger version of the rodeo is serious business for these little buckaroos. For results from Monday night's events, see today's Sports Day on Page 8.

Zoning hearing draws limited public reaction

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

Few questions and no comments characterized a public hearing last night to hear comments on a proposed retail building on the north side of 28th Avenue between Duncan Street and Perryton Parkway.

About half a dozen residents attended the hearing, which was to have been followed by a meeting of the Pampa Planning and Zoning Commission.

Three commission members were present, and four is needed for a quorum in order to take any action, according to Richard Morris, public works superintendent.

No action could be taken on any items, and another meeting will be scheduled to consider the items which were on Monday's agenda.

Craig Carney of Plano, representing Pampa Venture, Ltd., explained the company's plans for building a retail structure in the triangular area directly north of 28th Avenue and bounded by Duncan Street and Perryton Parkway. Pampa Venture, Ltd.; Pampa Management, L.L.C. has applied for the 3.76 acres, located in West Half, Section 100, Block 3, I&GN RR Co. Survey, to be zoned retail.

The tract is currently zoned agricultural and has no structures on it.

The proposed structure north of 28th Avenue would be 25,000 to 30,000 square feet, composed of split face brick with awnings and "aesthetically pleasing," Carney said.

The building would house more than one retailer, and 157 parking spaces would be provided on the Perryton Parkway side of the triangle, with the stores fronting on Perryton Parkway.

One back entrance would be cut into the curb on the Duncan Street side, Carney said.

"There will be ample space for landscaping to meet the city's landscape ordinance. The main entry will be on Perryton Parkway. The rear of the stores will face Duncan Street," Carney said. Carney was also instrumental in developing the site of Pampa's future Wal-Mart Supercenter, Morris said.

Edna Haydon, who lives on 28th Avenue next to the site of the proposed retail building, asked how the property would be held. "Will it be a holding company, a main tenant, or who will own it?" she said.

"Pampa Venture is how it will be styled. They will own the prop-

See HEARING, Page 3

Car bombs hit two Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Two car bombs exploded in separate cities in Iraq Tuesday, killing at least 14 Iraqis and one U.S. soldier. Dozens were wounded, including 10 American soldiers. A U.S. Marine was killed in action west of Baghdad.

Six coalition soldiers were killed in an explosion while defusing old mines and other ordnance at a munitions dump in Suwayrah, 25 miles

south of Baghdad, authorities said.

The Slovaks and the Latvians were the first deaths from either of the two countries in Iraq, Polish officials said in Warsaw.

One of the car bombs blew up as a convoy of provincial council members passed by in the northern city of Mosul. The council members escaped injury, officials said.

See BOMBS, Page 3

Germany, France promise support of Iraq resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States called for a vote Tuesday on a revised U.N. resolution defining the new Iraqi government's powers. The measure appeared to have overwhelming support after a last-minute compromise won the backing of the war's sharpest critics, France and Germany.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, meeting in Washington with Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer, said the U.N. Security

Council was "close to unanimity" on the resolution.

"I am expecting a very satisfactory vote," Powell told reporters ahead of a U.N. vote scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

A last-minute addition to the resolution by the United States and Britain, summarizing Iraq's "security partnership" with U.S.-led forces, was the key compromise.

See U.N., Page 3



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Setting up

James Scott, a worker with the Pride of Texas Shows, loads a boat into the classic children's ride as they set up on a parking lot across from Coronado Center for the 2004 Pride of Pampa Band Carnival. The band's annual fundraiser opens tonight and will continue through Saturday, June 12. Proceeds from the carnival help pay for instruments, uniforms, and expenses for the band's many trips to competitions and sporting events.

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Pampa, Lubbock contestants crowned at rodeo

Amanda Puckett of Lubbock was crowned Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas and Whitney Wichert of Pampa was crowned Teen Queen during the final performance of the annual Top O' Texas PRCA Rodeo in the rodeo arena Saturday night at Recreation Park.

The competition included a luncheon and style show as well as riding events. The two replace Courtney Stephens and Karli Douglas, who reigned at this year's events.

Pageant results
TEEN DIVISION
Teen Queen. Whitney Wichert of Pampa.
Runner-up. Karra

Longo-Daniel.
Appearance. Whitney Wichert of Pampa.
Personality. Longo-Daniel of Groom.

Horsemanship. Wichert.
QUEEN DIVISION
Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas. Amanda Puckett of Lubbock.

Runner-up. Erin Bowden of Graham.

Appearance. Puckett.
Horsemanship. Robbi Brede of Alpine.

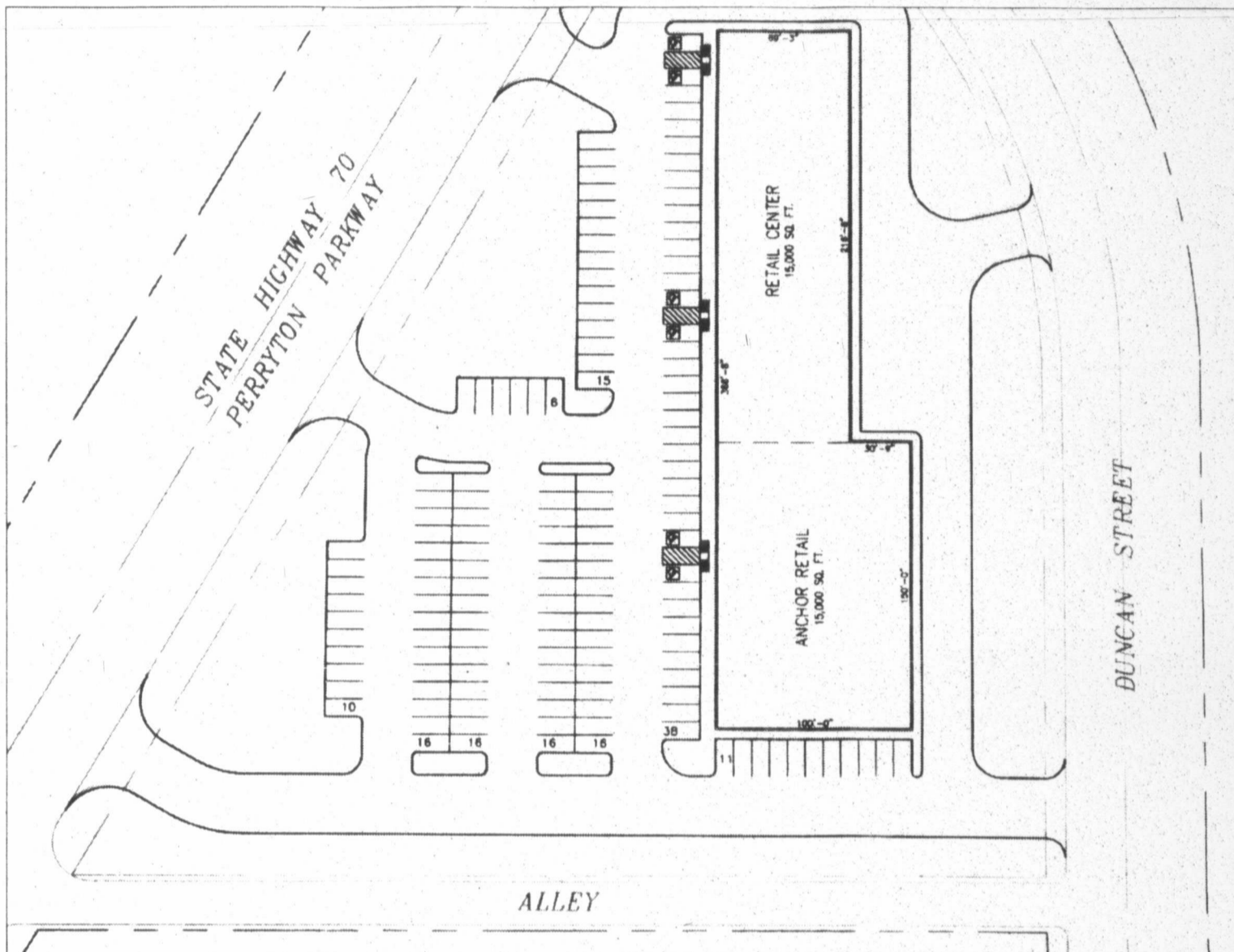
Wichert won the ticket sales category, and Tristin Reeves received the Pageant Director's Award for exemplifying the best sportsmanship and cooperation and for being a courteous and considerate competitor.



Amanda Puckett
Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas



Whitney Wichert
Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen Queen



A drawing of a proposed retail building on 3.76 acres bordered by Perryton Parkway, 28th Avenue and Duncan Street was unveiled at a public hearing Monday to discuss re-zoning the triangular plot from agricultural to retail.

Bombs

Continued from Page 1

Nine people died and about 25 were injured, the U.S. military said. The Mosul deputy police chief was hurt, but not seriously.

In the other attack, a suicide attacker detonated a car bomb during rush hour outside the American forward operating base War Horse in Baqouba, about 30 miles northeast of Baghdad.

At least five Iraqis and one American soldier were killed, the U.S. military and police said. Fifteen Iraqis and 10 American soldiers were wounded while standing at a security checkpoint.

A U.S. Marine was also killed in action, the military said Tuesday. The death occurred Monday in Anbar province west of Baghdad, but the military released no further details.

In Ramadi, a Sunni Muslim city in Anbar province, a bomb exploded as a convoy of Westerners passed by, witnesses and police said Tuesday. The Westerners fired back after the Monday night attack. Hospital officials said eight Iraqis were killed and three injured.

The identity of the Westerners was unclear, and there was no immediate comment from U.S. authorities.

Attackers also fired several mortar rounds at a military base camp in the northern part of Mosul, the military said. Two contract employees received non-life-threatening injuries.

Violence continued against U.S. forces and their allies in the countdown to the handover of sovereignty in Iraq on June 30. A car bomb exploded Sunday near the gate of another a U.S.-run base north of Baghdad, killing nine people and injuring 30 others — including two American soldiers.

The latest violence occurred as the U.N. Security Council in New York prepares to vote on a U.S.-British resolution outlining a blueprint for post-occupation Iraq and giving international support to the new Iraqi leadership.

Late Monday, the United States won important French and German approval for the resolution. The draft was revised four times over the past two weeks. It marks an end to the U.S.-led occupation and defines the relationship between the new government and the U.S.-led multinational force.

Hearing

Continued from Page 1

erty and lease to tenants," Carney said.

"We're negotiating the leases at this point," he said.

"One of the things we need to remember is that we're not approving the site plan per se, but as you rezone you can inquire. At a later stage when they start actual development, we will meet and have preliminary approval. Today, our main goal is looking at rezoning from agricultural to retail," Morris said.

"I am a real estate developer who represents national tenants across the country. I develop 10,000- to 30,000-square-foot retail buildings, usually in the vicinity of a Wal-Mart Supercenter. I also develop Wal-Mart and other large retailers like Lowe's," Carney said.

"They have a concept drawing already. They will have to submit their plans at a future date," Morris said.

Morris said notices were published in the newspaper and mailed out to individuals in the affected area, and half of the responses requested were returned, "a pretty good response," he said. According to a property owners notification list provided at the meeting, 12 owners were notified and six

responded. Of the responses, two protested the proposed rezoning and the other four approved.

"We always knew something like this was going to happen someday, we just didn't know when," Mrs. Haydon said after the meeting.

Morris also spoke on the status of the five "out lots" bordering the Wal-Mart Supercenter.

"I've had people send me a conceptual drawing for a couple of the out lots near the new Wal-Mart. I would think that it may be awhile, but we'll probably see something come in to those proposed two sites in the future," Morris said.

The two lots are at the corner of Charles and 30th Avenue, northeast of the new Wal-Mart.

The agenda of action items for the meeting included considering approval of the zoning change from agricultural to retail for the tract immediately north of 28th Avenue, setting a date for a public hearing to amend wording on Ordinance No. 690 to read exactly how such provision reads in state law, and an update on the conceptual site plan for two Wal-Mart site out parcels.

The three members of the planning and zoning commission who were absent from Monday's meeting are Charles Buzzard, Janie Shed and Darville Orr.

U.N.

Continued from Page 1

Iraqi leaders would have control of the country's security forces, and Washington and Iraq's new interim government promised to work out a policy on how to cooperate on "sensitive offensive operations."

The deal stops short of granting the Iraqis a veto over major offensives by U.S.-led troops.

France, Germany and others had sought such a veto for the Iraqis. Their pressure to give the Iraqi government due to take power on June 30 more authority prompted Washington and London to repeatedly alter their draft resolution.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Bob Curry, right, vice-chairman of the Pampa Planning and Zoning Commission, visits with Craig Carney of Pampa Venture, Ltd. at Monday's public hearing concerning a proposed retail development immediately north of 28th Avenue and between Perryton Parkway and Duncan Street.

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Viewpoints

Thank goodness, my tormentor has gone

The tormentor is gone. The person who periodically placed me in danger of losing my sanity is gone. The person who taunted me with visions of things I had not attained is gone. I am speaking of our revered sports editor, L.D. Strate.

L.D.'s last day at *The Pampa News* was Friday, June 4. I thought that day would never come.

It seemed L.D. was a permanent part of the newspaper, and would be here through thick or thin, indefinitely. But that was just

wishful thinking. I first worked at *The Pampa News* throughout most of the 1980s, and L.D. was here then. I came back to *The Pampa News* last September, and L.D. was still here.

He was always here, not making a sound or otherwise bothering anyone until, I suppose due to a build up of pressure, he felt he just had to tell one of his jokes. At least he called them jokes.

They are the kind of jokes that make your face and stomach hurt, the kind that make you moan and whim-

per and beg for mercy. In short, they are groaners. After delivering his lethal dose of "humor," he would retreat chuckling happily to his corner and get back to work.

L.D. also runs photos of people smiling proudly at the camera and holding up strings of big, fat, long fish, which they caught at Lake Bar Ditch with a bait made of any former food that is over three

years old and stinks. These are the visions of things I have not attained which I mentioned earlier. I love to go fishing. I have caught my share of bass, crappie, bluegill, perch, walleye, catfish and all manner of trout, including brown and rainbow. I know how to fish with a fly rod, and I know how to clean fish (although I'd rather not) and

cook them. I think the biggest fish I ever caught was a rainbow trout in Colorado that was 19 inches long and I don't know how heavy.

I caught it out of a river, which makes everything even more exciting because the running water joins in the battle.

But these photos L.D. runs in the paper are humbling to such a fisherperson as I. When it takes two Schwartzneggers to hold up a string of fish that could feed a small country for a year, my record seems

kinda puny. Maybe the evil spell will be broken, and now I will be able to qualify for one of those mega-fish pictures. Maybe I will learn to catch the one that got away. Maybe I will be the next fantastically successful fish catcher to be featured on the sports pages, proudly flaunting my finny trophies.

I think I'd rather have L.D. back. After all, I haven't yet heard how many sports writers it takes to change a light bulb or catch a fish.

Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer



Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 8, the 160th day of 2004. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On June 8, A.D. 632, the prophet Mohammed died.

On this date:
In 1845, Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tenn.

In 1861, Tennessee seceded from the Union.

In 1876, author George Sand died in Nohant, France.

In 1915, Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan resigned in a disagreement over U.S. handling of the sinking of the Lusitania.

In 1953, the Supreme Court ruled that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve blacks.

In 1967, 34 U.S. servicemen were killed when Israeli forces raided the Liberty, a Navy ship stationed in the Mediterranean. (Israel called the attack a tragic mistake.)

In 1968, authorities announced the capture in London of James Earl Ray, the suspected assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1978, a jury in Clark County, Nevada, ruled the so-called "Mormon will," purportedly written by the late billionaire Howard Hughes, was a forgery.

In 1982, President Reagan became the first American chief executive to address a joint session of the British Parliament.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Captain Scott O'Grady, whose F-16-C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2.

Ten years ago: Bosnia's warring factions agreed to a one-month cease-fire. President Clinton returned to Oxford University, where he'd attended as a Rhodes scholar, to receive an honorary doctorate.

Five years ago: The United States, Russia and six leading democracies authorized a text calling for a peacekeeping force in Kosovo. President Clinton announced new restrictions aimed at making it tougher for teens to sneak into R-rated movies.

One year ago: Frustrated and angry over delays, a coalition of the nation's mayors meeting in Denver asked federal officials to bypass state governments and give them the money they needed to beef up homeland security.

Our readers write

Work of the heart

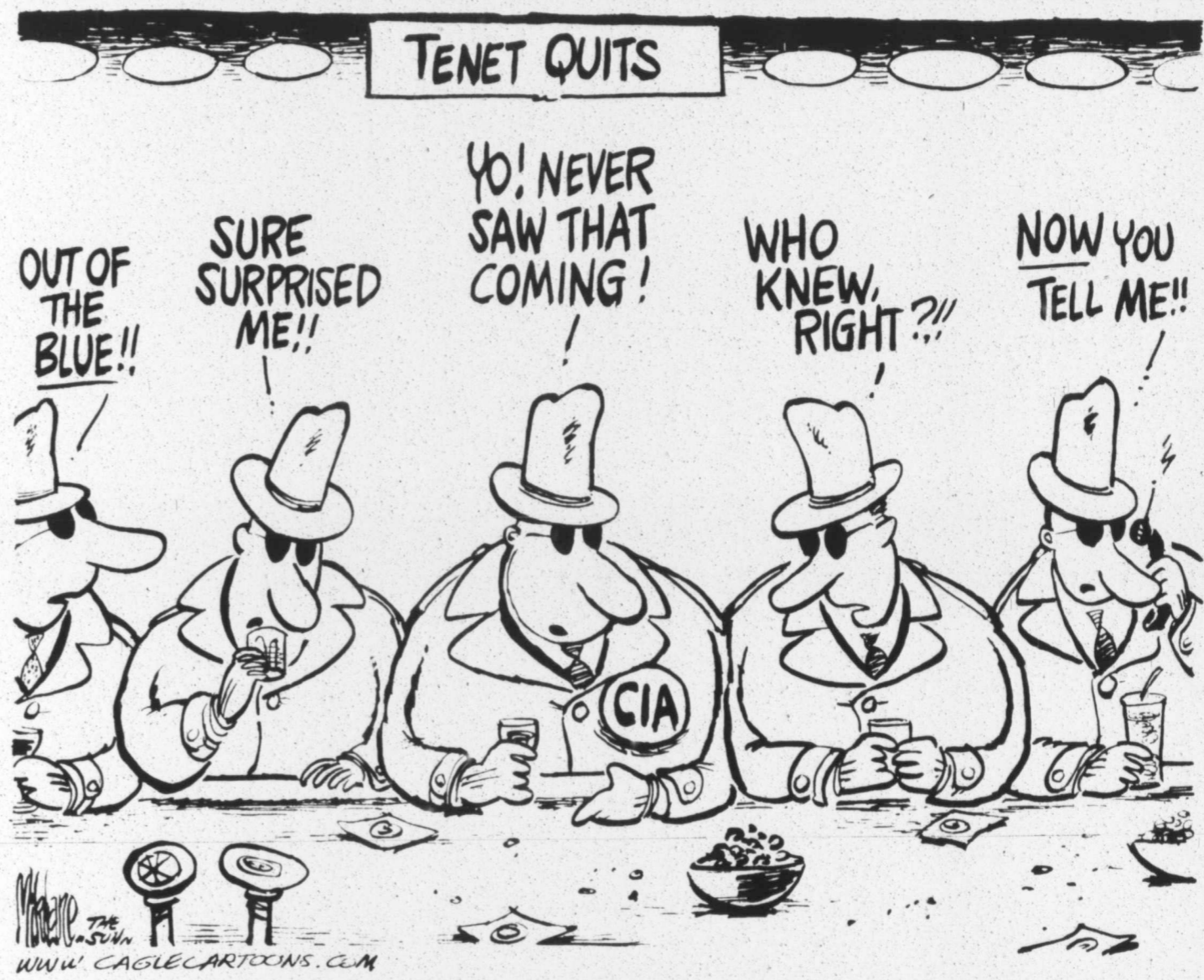
To the editor:
The week of June 10-17 has been designated as National Nursing Assistants Week. This week is set aside each year to recognize the special contributions that nursing assistants make in the life of nursing home residents.

Nursing assistants are the heart, soul, eyes and ears of

the nursing home profession. Their hard work and commitment is proven daily by the care provided to our residents and family members.

We at Pampa Nursing Center would like to say thank you to all nursing assistants around the Pampa area. Your "heart" work is greatly appreciated.

Janice Cunningham
Pampa Nursing Center



Watch for these Iraq war miracles

"Do you believe in miracles?" With the film "Miracle" out on video, many are hearing announcer Al Michaels' famous question as the U.S. hockey team upset the heavily favored Soviets in 1980. I do believe in miracles, both in individual lives and in international events — just look at the world's unlikely record of 59 years now without a nuclear war.

My definition of an international politics miracle is an event that would have seemed near-impossible only a short time before it happened, like the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. I see God's hand in miracles. Others see differently, but we can all examine the steep odds against peace in Iraq.

As Mindy Belz, World magazine's international editor, puts it: "We've spent nearly a year empowering everyone over there, good and bad, and so we have a stew. To survive long term, Iraqis need a federal system, but to survive until December they will need strong central government."

So, miracle No. 1: What if the mess in Fallujah serves to unite Shiites and Kurds, who out of concern about renewed Sunni influence can unite democratically and agree to give each other lots of autonomy? What if the U.S. seizes bin Laden,

patrols Iraq's borders and succeeds in clamping down on Sunni terror? What a Thanksgiving we could have this November!

Let's move to the prospects for miracle No. 2: Instant global communication helping rather than hurting the peace process. Iraq is now like the mountain climber who, dying on top of Everest, was talking to his wife on a cellphone — Iraqi democracy doesn't have enough oxygen to breathe, but communication advances allow us to hear each gasp clearly. Our tendency is to crowd in when

we should be standing back so that we don't get in the way of the rescue team, the soldiers who can rout Iraq's bullies.

Does that mean we should censor photos and videos of the war that make our side look bad, as the Abu Ghraib materials do? Not at all — but we shouldn't be passive when U.S. networks do their own censorship for ideological and political reasons. Photos and videos aplenty of Saddam's tortures exist, but many of our journalists are more interested in a few episodes of perversity than the stories of the 30,000 prisoners Saddam's regime executed at Abu Ghraib.

Last week in Washington, See **MIRACLES**, Page 5

Marvin Olasky
Columnist



Dad's long good-bye is finally over

On Saturday afternoon, after what Nancy called "the long goodbye," my father went home.

My first reaction was to recall Edwin Stanton's words when Abraham Lincoln breathed his last: "Now he belongs to the ages."

That can only be said about giants, and my father was a giant — he towered above his contemporaries and the great majority of the world's most famous political figures past and present.

Nowadays much is said about the legacies American presidents leave behind, and only a tiny handful of presidents of the United States left behind them legacies as

abundant as that which my dad left behind.

When he came into office the nation was nearly an economic basket case. The morale of the American people was at rock bottom — we had lost that confidence in ourselves that had created the American colossus, and our leaders had surrendered to the idea that the Cold War would be a permanent fixture on the world scene.

When he left office after eight years, the economy was booming, we had recap-

tured the can-do spirit that had motivated Americans for generations, and the Soviet Union was approaching collapse and with it the Cold War.

His legacy included far more than his accomplishments in statecraft. His optimism was contagious, he showed us the shining city on the hill, and taught us that we could reach it.

Throughout it all he never lost his sense of humility, his innate decency, his love of country, and his love of the

American people. He was a gentleman to the tips of his fingers in an age of incivility.

In all my life with him I never saw him do anything to hurt another person. He would have rather cut off his hands than offend a fellow human being.

Above all, my father lived as close to his maker as it is possible for a mortal to be. Every morning he put himself in God's hands, accepting whatever happened as the will of the Lord with absolute confidence that he would receive whatever he needed to cope with whatever the Lord put in front of

See **GOOD-BYE**, Page 5

Michael Reagan
Columnist



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Top singers

Some members of the 70-voice Pampa High School Concert Choir display trophies won at the Alamo Classic Choral Festival in San Antonio on the choir's annual spring tour held at the Judson Performing Arts Center recently. The Concert Choir won Best in Class for 4A Mixed Choir and the Concert Women won first runner up. Both choirs made first divisions from each of the three judges. In addition to competing at the festival, the choir performed at the State Capitol in Austin. Choir members enjoyed a tour of the capitol as well as sights on the river walk in San Antonio, Sea World in San Antonio, Medieval Times Dinner Theater in Dallas as well as Six Flags Over Texas Theme Park in Dallas.

Laci Peterson's mother describes loving bond with deceased daughter

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — Scott Peterson had seemed the perfect gentleman to his mother-in-law, so she grew worried when she said he began behaving strangely the moment he first reported his wife, Laci, had vanished.

Laci Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, vividly remembered a Christmas Eve telephone call from her son-in-law, a conversation she recounted Monday at Peterson's capital murder trial.

"He said, 'Is Laci there?'" Rocha said. "I said, 'No,' and he said that her car was in the driveway and the dog was in the back yard with the leash on and Laci was missing."

The fact that Peterson used the word "missing," instead of saying his wife wasn't there, alarmed Rocha. "I knew something was wrong," she said.

Her day on the witness stand extended testimony from members of Laci Peterson's family. The trial was set to resume Tuesday with Ron Grantski, Laci Peterson's stepfather, testify-

ing as a prosecution witness. Peterson is accused of killing his pregnant wife in their Modesto home on or around Christmas Eve 2002. Prosecutors say he then drove her body to San Francisco Bay and dumped it from his small boat.

Lawyers for Peterson, who says he was fishing alone on the bay that morning, argue that someone abducted his wife while she walked in a nearby park, then framed him after learning his alibi.

The remains of Laci Peterson and her fetus, a boy the couple planned to name Conner, washed ashore in April 2003.

Peterson, 31, could face the death penalty or life without parole, if convicted.

On Monday, Rocha also said Scott Peterson shunned friends and family members as the frantic search for his wife ensued on the evening he told family she had vanished.

"He kept angling away from me," Rocha said.

Rocha said she later asked what Laci's plans for the day had been.

Impeachment hearing scrutinizes Connecticut governor's ethics

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Hearings that could end with a call for Gov. John G. Rowland's impeachment opened Tuesday with investigators prepared to lay out details of a seven-year-old real estate deal that one legislative leader says is central to the probe.

The committee's attorney, Steven Reich, reminded lawmakers of the significance of the hearings.

"Never before has this state conducted an impeachment inquiry relating to its governor, and never before has a committee of the General Assembly faced what you faced, a decision whether to recommend that a popu-

larly elected governor be removed from office," he said.

Reich made clear that investigators and lawyers hired by the committee will not make a recommendation on impeachment. "In the end, the decision is yours and yours alone," he said.

Journalists easily outnumbered the public at the Capitol. Seats set up for the public in the historic Old Judiciary Room, which had been transformed for the hearings, went unclaimed and an overflow room was empty except for reporters.

Reich told lawmakers that his investiga-

tion had been hindered because many of those involved had asserted their constitutional rights against self incrimination.

The governor is battling a subpoena that he testify before the legislative impeachment committee hearing evidence that he accepted gifts from friends, employees and state contractors. He issued a statement saying he would not comment on the hearings.

The first day of hearings was to focus on the governor's rental and sale of his condominium in Washington, D.C., seven years ago.

"In my mind, I think that is one of the

more serious issues," state Rep. John Wayne Fox, one of the panel's co-chairmen, said of the condo deal.

The condo was rented to the niece of a businessman whose companies have received millions of dollars in state aid. It was then sold for thousands of dollars above market rate to an associate of the same businessman, who fronted the money for the deal.

The buyer, antiques dealer Wayne Pratt, was convicted in April on tax evasion in connection with his purchase of Rowland's condo.

Former Air Force Academy cadet pleads guilty to rape

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — The only cadet to face a court-martial following last year's rape scandal pleaded guilty Tuesday to reduced charges.

Douglas L. Meester of Marco Island, Fla., was accused of assaulting a fellow cadet in October 2002 during a night of heavy drinking in a dorm room. He was originally charged with rape, sodomy, indecent assault and providing alcohol to minors.

Those charges were dropped and, in exchange, Meester pleaded guilty to conduct unbecoming an officer, indecent acts and dereliction of duty. Meester was left the academy and is on

extended leave from the Air Force. The service said his status will depend on the type of sentence he received.

Meester entered his plea during a hearing on the day his court-martial was to begin. He was expected to be sentenced during the hearing later Tuesday.

An 18-year-old freshman from Pennsylvania who was in the dorm room has said she passed out and awoke as Meester raped her, but defense attorneys say she never told him to stop and did not resist after drinking at least six shots of tequila.

She was one of scores of women came forward to say they had been raped by fellow cadets and had some-

times been punished or ignored by their superiors.

She did not attend Tuesday's hearing but said in a video statement shown in the courtroom that she feels an enormous amount of guilt for letting herself get into a situation like that but she said she knows she never consented have sex with Meester.

"I have been unable to move on," she said, noting that a trial would have reopened her wounds. She also said she realized a conviction was unlikely.

Meester, his hand shaking as he read a statement, apologized for his actions but insisted that nobody did anything against their will.

Miracles

Continued from Page 4

I attended the first public showing of "Remembering Saddam," a 50-minute film that focuses on how Abu Ghraib torturers cut off the right hands of men who exchanged Iraqi money for dollars during the 1990s. Those men were fortunate to escape with their lives, and seven of them were present at the premiere, waving new, high-tech hands that American ingenuity and compassion have given them.

ABC, CBS and NBC

should be in a bidding war for their film; CNN, to its credit, showed about 10 minutes of it last week. Some people say that communications technology makes warfare asymmetrical, since we display our sins while tyrants torture and kill their opponents in secret. But even brutes may take pride in their work, and film it for posterity — a society like ours is only at a disadvantage if media gatekeepers try to keep out anything that could help to re-elect George W. Bush.

So miracle No. 2 would be letting all the light shine. Television networks should show us what we're fighting against, even if that makes

more people understand what we're fighting for. Given demonstrated press bias, such a turnaround would be extraordinary.

And here's one more miracle to look for: something good to come out of the Abu Ghraib revelations. So far they have affected America in two ways. They made some give up on the Iraq war, and that hurts us militarily. They made others argue that war is war and degradation happens, so get used to it — that could be a cultural loss. It's hard to be as tough as we need to be, in this war against terrorism, without brutalizing ourselves. Miracle No. 3 would be finding a way.

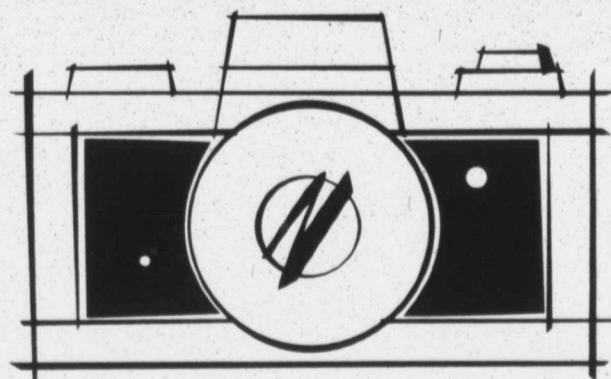
Good-bye

Continued from Page 4

him. Today as I joined my family at the first of the memorial services, I felt grief at his passing. But, as I stood over the casket this

morning I was comforted in knowing that with all of the gifts that my father had given to the nation that the greatest gift he had given to me was knowing that at one o'clock Saturday afternoon when my father closed his eyes for the last time he went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A finer gift cannot be given to a son. Thank you, Dad. I love you.

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THE PAMPA NEWS
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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: "Burned in Victoria, Texas" wrote that she had been badly hurt after her three-year relationship with a man she had known since childhood fell apart. She asked for encouragement in entering the dating scene again — something she has been afraid to do since the romance ended a year and a half ago.

You advised that although the experience had been a painful one, it had been a valuable learning experience — and said (among other things) that it's worth kissing a few frogs once you finally meet Prince Charming.

I thought she could use some encouragement from someone who has been in the same boat. I, too, was convinced I would never become attached to anyone again.

Then I landed a job as a teaching assistant at the university I attend, and met "George." He asked me out several times; each time I gave him the excuse that I was "too busy." One evening he prepared a dinner of my three favorite foods (all by himself), packed it in a picnic basket, and brought it to me at the research office. We talked and laughed for hours, and I finally told him the real reason I wasn't seeing anyone.

He explained that there are nice men out there who understand and don't mind taking things slow — and he was one of them. We have been inseparable ever since. And he has kept his word.

My message to "Burned": There are kind men who will understand your feelings and cherish you for the wonderful person that you are. You and I are very much alike, and I assure you that all of your waiting will pay off in the end. You are not alone. You have support from another

Texan. **NO LONGER LONELY IN DALLAS**

DEAR NO LONGER LONELY: Bless you for your words of encouragement. Dating can be arduous. It can take stamina, a strong sense of self-worth, and a sense of humor to make it to the end of the process unscathed. You are not the only Texas gal who reached out to "Burned." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I can identify with that 23-year-old girl because I had a similar experience. My pride and self-confidence were also crushed. I felt worthless. After five years, I took matters into my own hands.

On my 30th birthday, I got the best gift God could have given me. A friend and I began dating. I asked HIM out for our first date (something I'd sworn I'd never do). I haven't looked back since. We were married last June.

You were right, Abby, when you told "Burned" that her bad relationship was a learning experience. I hope she takes your advice to heart and doesn't let it keep her down. She needs to take that first step forward. You never know what you can accomplish until you try.

— VERY HAPPY IN COMMERCE, TEXAS

DEAR VERY HAPPY: Well said. I would like to extend that message: No one ever accomplished anything by sitting passively and waiting for success to come to them. The greatest rewards come to those who have the courage to stand up, step forward and take their swings at bat.

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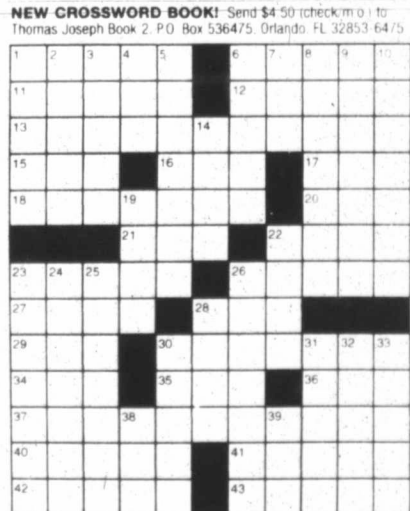
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

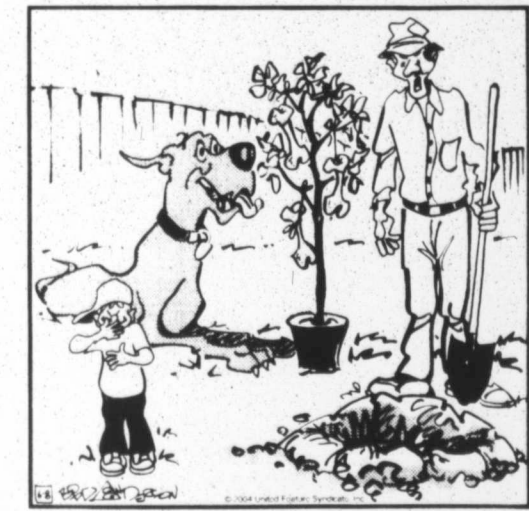
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 - 6 — out (beat, barely)
 - 11 Copycat's cry
 - 12 Love
 - 13 Excited
 - 15 1980s Pakistani president
 - 16 Mc: iden name indicator
 - 17 Bustle
 - 18 London section
 - 20 Greek letters
 - 21 Skill
 - 22 Cast a ballot
 - 23 Rating units
 - 26 Easy gait
 - 27 Ensnares
 - 28 Buddy
 - 29 Border
 - 30 Fedora, e.g.
 - 34 New Haven student
 - 35 Much of N. Amer.
 - 36 "Cold Mountain" heroine
 - 37 Distraught
- DOWN**
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 - 3 Travel aid
 - 4 Cut hay
 - 5 Okla. homans
 - 6 Starkers
 - 7 Shelley
 - 8 Bubbly drink
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 - 14 Flat fee
 - 15 Field cover
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 - 17 Flows
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 - 19 Calvin
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 - 21 Shaq, for one
 - 22 Cuban coin
 - 23 Outcry
 - 24 Puts up
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 - 28 Garden visitor
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Sports Day

Kid Pony Show action continues

Little 'buckaroos' take part in rodeo-like competitions

The annual Kid Pony Show, held in conjunction with the Top O' Texas Rodeo, opened Monday night with races of all types, involving stick horses, goats, barrels and flags, as well as calf riding and "golfette."

Entrants may be up to age 15, and events are divided into age groups. The action continues tonight at 7 p.m. at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena at Recreation Park, and wraps up Wednesday night beginning at 7 p.m.

Here are the results for Monday night's Kid Pony Show:

Stick Horse Race. Boys Group I — Jared Lake, Pampa, first place; Austin McKee, Borger, second place; and Walker Kennedy, Pampa, third place. Girls Group I — London Lowrey, first place, and Chaney McCuiston, second place, both of Pampa, and Shadelynn Nettles, Amarillo, third place.

Goat Ribbon Race. Boys Group I — Jayden Mayfield, first place, Austin Hendricks, second place, and Weston Hendricks, third place, all of Pampa. Girls Group I — London Lowrey, first place, Corby Snapp, second place, and Chaney McCuiston, third place, all of Pampa.

Flag Race. Boys Group II — Chuck Durham, Borger, first place; Kory McConnell, Hereford, second place; and Colt Ensey, Pampa, third place. Girls Group II — Shelby Spielman, Dalhart, first place; Rilee Didway, Pampa, second place; and Mackenzie Thompson, Sanford, third place.

Golfette. Boys Group I — Quaid Hiatt, Canyon, first place. No qualified runs for Girls Group I. Boys Group II — Kory McConnell, Hereford, first place, and Yancie McCuiston, second place, both of Pampa. Girls Group II — Rilee Didway, Pampa, first place; Shelby Spielman, Dalhart, second place; and Brittany Simer, Perryton, third place.

Walk & Lead Barrel Race. Group I — Quaid Hiatt, Canyon, first place; Carly Christian, Amarillo, second place; and Lexi Didway, Pampa, third place.

Barrel Race. Boys Group I — Jerrod Young, Pampa, first place; Michael Ramirez, Amarillo, second place; and Quade Hiatt, Canyon, third place. Girls Group I — Carly Christian, Amarillo, first place; Abi Simmons, Dalhart, second place; and Chaney McCuiston, Pampa, third place. Boys Group II — Yancie McCuiston, Pampa, first place; Kory McConnell, Hereford, second place, and Chuck Durham, Borger, third place. Girls Group II — Rilee Didway, Pampa, first place; Mackenzie Thompson, Sanford, second place; and Macy Cochran, Pampa, third place.

Calf Riding. Group II — Kade Winkler, first place, Brandtley Swires, second place, and Yancie McCuiston, third place, all of Pampa.

All contestants were awarded blue participant ribbons and bandanas courtesy of Wrangler.



Hays Daily News photo by JAMIE ROPER

Pampa native and Fort Hays State University freshman Helen Brooks hits a return shot during practice at the FHSU courts.

Pampa native ITA rookie of year

Intercollegiate Tennis Association has named Fort Hays State University freshman, and Pampa Senior High Alumni, Helen Brooks as the 2004 North Central Region Rookie Player of the Year.

Brooks won 27 matches this past season finishing fifth on the All Time Wins record for a freshman - and did this while playing #1 Singles and Doubles.

Brooks, a Nursing major, also collected the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Freshman of the year award.

The North Central Region consists of the RMAC, MIAA, North Central and Northern Sun conferences.

Helen was ranked #13 in the North Central, and the first FHSU tennis player ever to be ranked.

She also qualified to be named Academic All American, was inducted into Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, and Fall 2004 will be introduced into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Helen is the daughter of Neil and Jerilyn Brooks and the granddaughter of Reid and June Brooks of Pampa and William E. (Buddy) and

Helen Butler of Amarillo. Helen played #1 Singles for Pampa High School her senior year 2002-2003 under Coach Carolyn Quarles and Coach Donna Turner and advanced to Regionals.

She signed a letter of intent to play for FHSU in June 2003.

FHSU is a NCAA II school located in Hays, Kansas.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Nathan Ferguson bites the dust when his calf bucks him off during the calf riding contest at the Kid Pony Show on Monday evening. Tonight at 7 p.m., the show continues at the Top O' Texas Rodeo Arena, east of Pampa on U.S. Highway 60.

Ballers team takes third tournament

The Ballers are a group of 9 and 10 grade boys from Pampa and Borger who have played together for three years. The team has picked a good time to get on a roll with 12 straight wins in three tournament championships.

The next tournament is the May 8 National Invitational in Kansas. There are 104 teams entered in the team's division with the Ballers opening game on Friday the 11 at 4:20 p.m. against the defending National Champions Kansas City Keys. The next game is at 8:40 p.m. on Friday against team Tulsa and Saturday the 12 against Wichita Spurs at 10:00 a.m.

The team is also entered in the Reebok Big Time Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 22 through July 26. This is an NCAA sanctioned tournament with over 400 of the top teams and players in the nation competing. Coaches from all the top programs in the country will be in attendance to scout the tournament. The Ballers are sponsored by Franks Floor Covering in Borger.



The Ballers, pictured, front row: Sharod Young, Tyler Fernandez, Braydon Barker, Shade Haddox; back row: Coach Frank Fernandez, D.J. Dixon, Andrew Dixon, Nathan Purswell, Jarrett Kotara, Coach Jimmy Barker.

High Plains Drifters announces tryouts schedule

The High Plains Drifters soccer club, the Panhandle's oldest and most successful club soccer program for youth, will hold tryouts on July 1 and 2 at the West Texas A&M University soccer fields.

An informational meeting for prospective players and parents will be held in Amarillo on Monday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the McCoy, Myers & Associates building at 6200 Bell.

Here is the try-out schedule for July 1 and 2:

- Under 11/12 Girls (born between 8/1/92 and 7/31/94) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Under 13 Girls (8/1/91-7/31/92) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Under 14/15 Girls (8/1/89-7/31/91) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Under 16 Girls (8/1/88-7/31/89) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Under 17 Girls (8/1/87-7/31/88) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Under 18/19 Girls (8/1/85 - 7/31/87) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Under 11 Boys (8/1-93-7/31/64) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

- Under 12 Boys (8/92-7/31/93) 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
- Under 13 Boys (8/1/91-7/31/93) 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.
- Under 14 Boys (8/1/90-7/31/91) 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.
- Under 15 Boys (8/1/89-7/31/91) 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.
- Under 16/17 Boys (8/1/87-8/31/89) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Under 18/19 Boys (8/1/85-7/31/87) 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Doalies and shin guards. Doalies are asked to bring their gear. Parents and players must sign in and receive a team fact sheet before reporting to the fields.

In addition, players are expected to attend try-outs both days.

If players have conflicts or questions, contact Butch Lauffer, director of coaching, at 651-2678.

For more information about the High Plains Drifters and the try-outs, log on to www.hpdrifters.org.

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1230 Christine, 3 bd., 2 bath plus office, on corner lot. \$55,000. Call 662-7118.

1300 Mary Ellen 1-1/2 story, 3BDR., 2BA, CH&A, lrg. utility rm. & lots of storage. Newly painted, corner lot, 2 car gar. & 3 rm apt. 665-8396

1301 Duncan, 3 bd 2 bath house with 2 bd apartment. \$29,000. Call 662-7118.

451 Harvey, in Miami 3 bdr., 2 bath, garage, & carport. 1811 sq. ft. Wheelchair accessible. Call 806-868-4161 or 806-683-5326.

BUY Foreclosure! 4 bdr., 1 ba., \$17,000. For listings 800-749-8124 ext. F900.

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Astronomers ready scopes for transit of Venus

GREENWICH, England (AP) — The spectacle of tiny Venus passing across the face of the sun awed observers around the world Tuesday, as people from Australia to the United States squinted skyward or hunched over telescopes for the rare event.

Many came with a sense of cosmic wonder, some were only puzzled.

"How come the sun had a black dot in it?" Dorcas Tam, 7, asked in Hong Kong.

Across the Middle East viewers took to the mountains in Lebanon, the desert in Jordan and the pyramids in Egypt to get a glimpse.

People in Africa and Europe could also see almost the entire show, while only the tail end of the event could be seen by just the

eastern portions of the United States and Canada.

"The hook that got people was that there was no one in our lifetime who had ever seen it. My son Daniel got gripped by that," said Debbie Musselwhite, who came with 10-year-old son to join several hundred people at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England.

"It's a brilliant opportunity to know the mechanics of our solar system," said another visitor, Shereza Feilden, 14.

Some people were waiting in line at 6 a.m. for a chance to use one of the filter-equipped telescopes provided by the observatory, said Emily Winterburn, curator of astronomy.

The Royal Observatory, beside the Thames in south-

east London, has a historic connection to the transit, which occurs twice about every century. In 1716, Edmond Halley of comet fame observed the transit at Greenwich to calculate the distance between the Earth and the sun.

Planetariums the world over set up telescopes with eye-protecting solar filters.

In the United Arab Emirates, the Astronomical Society set up an air-conditioned tent, providing telescopes and lectures.

"One day, I want to be a pilot and reach up there," said Nemr Ramzi, a 10-year-old Palestinian, who was in the tent.

In Bahrain, state-run television aired documentaries on Venus. A group of science students at an observation

point discussed whether they should collectively perform a special prayer often said during solar eclipses.

"Any phenomenon is related to religion, and we are Muslims. The simplest thing to do is to pray to God. ... We are thanking him on every occasion," said Mohammed Youssef, an assistant professor of physics.

In Greece, two American experts stationed themselves at opposite ends of the country in hopes of unlocking the mystery behind the "black drop effect," which makes Venus appear teardrop shaped instead of a circle when it aligns with the edges of the sun.

"It's like a fine French wine for the people who know about it and enjoy it,"

gushed Jay Pasachoff, an astronomer at Williams College in Massachusetts, as he watched the event from the observatory of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Pasachoff's team collected data on Venus' atmosphere. It also took advantage of the transit to refine techniques for studying so-called exoplanets orbiting distant stars. The used 12 telescopes and NASA's Transition Region and Coronal Explorer spacecraft, known by its initials as TRACE, to observe the transit.

In Rome, priests, tourists, garbage collectors and even policemen lined up to view the eclipse through a telescope set up near St. Peter's Square by Donald Goza and his wife Elizabeth from

Houston, who timed their Italian vacation to coincide with the eclipse.

"Italy has clear skies," said Goza, a systems analyst who described himself as a "casual astronomer."

A blue sky over Sydney gave about 40 people looking through telescopes at the city's observatory a clear view.

Rain and cloud obscured the show in Japan and Thailand. It also was cloudy in Hong Kong, but that didn't stop more than 100 people queuing up at the Hong Kong Space Museum, where several telescopes were waiting.

Cristy and Robert Sears, amateur astronomers from Bellingham, Wash., came to Paris for the event.

Local soldiers visit Girl Scouts

Cookies for the troops were a success, report local Girl Scout representatives.

With the community's help, five area soldiers in Iraq received 72 boxes of Girl Scout Cookie.

The boxes included nuts and cards, posters and letters from seven Pampa Girl Scout Troops.

Soldiers who received cookies were PFC Jeff Taylor, Capt. Chuck Cogger, and Spec. Ricky Conners, LCPL Lawrence Rosario and PFC Daniel Abernathy.

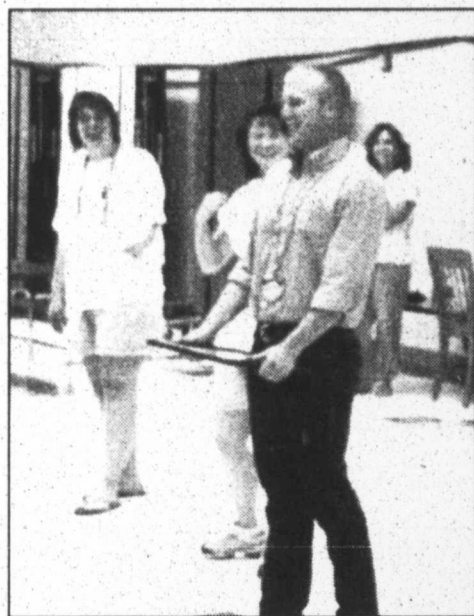
During one of the troop meetings, SPC. Ricky Conners, who was home on leave for a brief time, did a question and answer session with the girls.

PFC Jeff Taylor also stopped by the Girl Scout Little House to personally thank the girls for the cookies. He is now stationed at Fort Bragg.

The Girl Scouts have received several letters back from the soldiers and from the men in his area that benefited from his care packages.

Letters received said things like:

—Thanks for all your prayers and thought, and I hope to be back in



SPC Ricky Conners visits with local Girl Scouts.

Pampa before too long!

—Hello from Iraq! Thanks you all so much for all the cookies you sent me.

—It's nice to get a taste of home out here in the desert.

Thank you so much for the letters and the cookies.

All of you brightened up our day.

—Your letters and drawings of support are pinned up on our walls.

—We at Marine wing support squadron in Iraq appreciate everything you have done for us.

—The cookies made me the most popular guy in the unit!

—I would like to think you for all for everything you've done.

—I haven't had Girl Scout Cookies since my sister was a Scout, way back when.

—Have fun in Texas for me.

One soldier sent Dinar in his letter, so that the girls could see what the money looks like overseas.

Troops 232, and 245 also worked on a service project where they sent two care packages — one at Christmas and one at Valentines — to Conners.

The packages included Girl Scout cookies, nuts and other necessary personal items for his unit.

The girls sent him four cameras, and he returned pictures of the area that he was in.

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South Korea, U.S. military talks unravel in discord

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Talks between the United States and South Korea ended in discord Tuesday over plans to consolidate U.S. bases in the South, while Seoul said more discussions were needed on separate plans by Washington to slash the number of American troops here.

South Korean Defense Minister Cho Young-kil described the U.S. proposal to pull a third of its 37,000 troops out by the end of next year as not yet finalized.

He pledged to strengthen Seoul's own forces amid concerns of a security vacuum along the Cold War's last frontier.

South Korean National Security Adviser Kwon Chin-ho said the withdrawal plan, unveiled Sunday on the eve of two-day military talks in Seoul, was "nothing but a suggestion."

"Everything is on the table, including the size and timing of the U.S. troop pull-out," he was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

A U.S. official said on condition of anonymity that Washington has asked Seoul for input and is hoping to wrap up talks in a few months.

He described Sunday's overture as "an opportunity for us to begin to consult."

Still to be discussed are such issues as what units would be removed, he said.

A U.S. pullout would force South Korea to shoulder more responsibility for defending itself from possible North Korean military aggression.

The plan has spurred concern that North Korea could

view the move as a sign of U.S. weakness as the North wrangles with its neighbors and Washington over its nuclear weapons program.

Cho tried to quell concerns about the U.S. withdrawal plan, saying: "We have to have further negotiations. ... It has not yet been decided."

"Concerning concerns about a security vacuum, we will take measures to ensure that the U.S.-South Korea deterrent capability is not diminished, and we will make efforts to strengthen our deterrent capabilities," Cho said.

Posturing over the proposed troop withdrawal, the first major U.S. reduction since the early 1990s, came

as the two allies finished two-day discussions over another sensitive issue: plans to move U.S. troops away from the tense border with communist North Korea to points farther south of the capital, Seoul.

Those talks ended in disagreement over how much land would be needed for new bases, which would consolidate troops from around the country, said Lt. Gen. Kwon Ahn-do, the main policy coordinator for South Korea's Defense Ministry.

The plan, long in discussion between the countries, calls for repositioning most of the U.S. troops stationed close to the border.

You are invited to attend *Grief: What to Expect*

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10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

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800 N. Sumner, Pampa Texas

There is no charge to attend and advance registration is not required

For more information call
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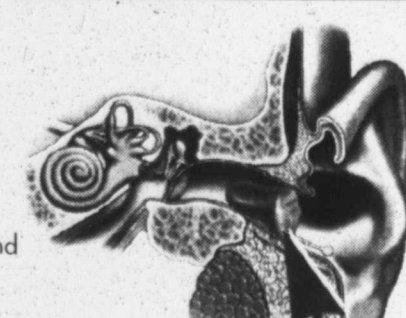
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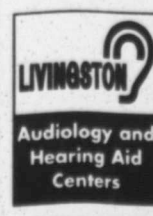


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