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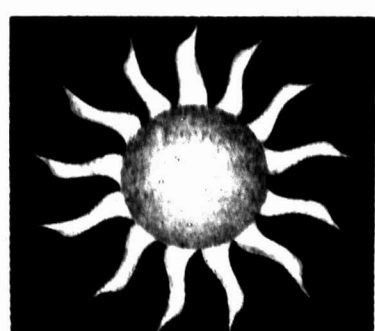
Pampa

Vol. 93 No. 304 • Pampa, Texas
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High today mid 70s
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For weather details see
Page 2

PAMPA — Friends of Wayne Stribling can pray for his recovery from cancer at two special prayer services this week. One is Tuesday, the other Thursday and both are at Pampa VFW Post at 105 S. Cuyler from 12:10 p.m. to 12:25 p.m. The first service will be led by the Rev. Todd Dyess and the second by the Rev. Derrell Monday.

DALLAS (AP) — A second-grade teacher accused of strangling her two young sons pleaded guilty today and was sentenced to two concurrent life sentences.

Lisa Marie Smith, 31, was charged with two counts of capital murder in the deaths of William Cody Smith, 5, and Tristen Thomas Smith, 3.

"She's fearful, but she's thankful they aren't seeking the death penalty," said Jim Moore, her attorney.

"She said that 'no matter what they do to me, I have to live with this the rest of my life,'" Moore said.

Smith spoke softly and cried as she addressed state District Judge Manny Alvarez. She also wept to her family. She will be eligible for parole in 40 years.

The district attorney's office had said it wanted to seek the death penalty. However, the state decided to accept the plea offer based upon evidence of Smith's psychological state at the time of the slayings and upon the wishes of the ex-husband's family not to go to trial.

- Billy Gene Bradsher, 68, former Pampa math, science teacher.
- Houston L. Price, 89, retired PISD bus driver, farmer.
- Audrey Carol Barnard Reeder, 74, homemaker.
- Loyce Sherrod, 72, homemaker.

Classified 7
Comics 4
Medical 8
Sports 5

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Waste project on Texas Top Five best list

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Pampa's Household Hazardous Waste Program is one of five programs in the state to be selected as a finalist for the 2000 Texas Environmental Excellence Awards sponsored by the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission.

The annual program is one in which hazardous waste everything from oil to paint to batteries to solvents to tires, etc., is collected from residents at no cost then disposed of properly.

For the past few years, the program has been financed primarily by a donation from Celanese but last year, city commissioners added 10 cents to the base water rate to raise about \$10,000 annually to help pay for the collection effort. Donations from business-

es will be sought to help pay the total cost which is about \$19,000.

The project also relies on the volunteer efforts of many including Green Thumb workers, Stone said. Green Thumb is a Senior Community Service Employment Program that receives funding through the U.S. Department of Labor. Green Thumb workers also help man the city's recycling station in Hobart Street Park.

About 200 environmental programs were considered before they were weeded down to the top five by the TNRCC staff. The judging committee is made up of representatives of industry, local government, civic organizations, schools and environmental groups from around Texas.

Pampa Sanitation Superintendent Rick Stone made the announcement of the finalist (See WASTE, Page 2)



Pampa Green Thumb workers recently worked on the Household Hazardous Waste project at Pampa's Recycling Center. Workers included Evalyn Adams, front, and Rick Stone, sanitation superintendent, as well as Ruby King and Raymond Roberson, back. Stone said the Green Thumb workers were instrumental in the success of the program.

Teacher, son hurt in wreck

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

A Pampa teacher was in satisfactory condition today at an Amarillo hospital with injuries suffered in a one-vehicle crash Sunday.

Lana Gardner, 34, of 708 14th, and her 4-year-old son, Trenton, were airlifted to Northwest Texas Hospital after the pickup she was driving crashed through a guard rail on Duncan north of Austin Elementary School and struck a concrete abutment.

Gardner is expected to undergo surgery for a broken hip. Her son was released from the Amarillo hospital Sunday after being treated for a broken leg. Both mother and son received numerous cuts and bruises.

Gardner is in her ninth year as a kindergarten teacher at Woodrow Wilson Elementary.

Pampa firefighters pulled the two through

the windows of the wrecked truck.

Officers said today that Gardner was northbound on Duncan shortly after noon Sunday when she apparently lost control of the 1998 white Ford F-150 pickup. The pickup veered to the right in the 2100 block of Duncan, crashing through a guard rail. The pickup struck the concrete abutment on the north side of the creek running beneath Duncan. Officers said the northbound truck then spun around and came to rest nose down in the creek, facing south. The force of the impact, authorities said today, tore loose a tool box that had been bolted to the bed of the pickup.

"It was totally demolished," Pampa Police Sgt. Alvin Johnson said.

Officers said the circumstances surrounding the accident were still under investigation. Seat belt information was not available at press time.

Weed, rubbish law changes in works

Spring is in the air and soon, too, will be the season's weed crop.

And in an effort to improve the city's existing provisions on the control of weeds and rubbish, city commissioners will take up the subject at their public work session Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. A vote on first reading is expected during the regular meeting.

The work session will be followed at 6 p.m. by the regular meeting. Both meetings are on the third floor of City Hall.

City Attorney Don Lane has prepared some suggested changes to the ordinance and is expected to outline them during the work session.

In other action, the commission will:

- Hear the annual Auditorium Advisory Board report.
- Hear the annual Library Advisory Board report.
- Review bids for repair work on several city water wells.
- Approve the list of disbursements from February.
- Authorize the city manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with TMI Employee Benefits Pool. This is the annual agreement for employee health insurance coverage.
- Consider approving the disbursement of the Director's Reserve Account for 1998/99 per the financial policy.

Burglary nets \$3,000 ring, medal

Pampa police are today investigating the burglary of a home in the 900 block of Varnon in which more than \$3,000 in jewelry was taken.

Officers said Rosa Maria Castillo, 29, of 921 Varnon, reported to police that someone entered her home over the weekend and took a diamond wedding ring valued at \$3,000 and a gold chain with a Virgin Mary medallion on it valued at \$200.

Authorities said the burglar apparently entered and left through the front door.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call Crimestoppers at 669-2222.



Not exactly Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail, a good-sized Texas jack rabbit hops across a pasture in the early morning dew as he searches for some tender green spring growth to nibble on. Beginning Sunday, the rabbit won't have to get up so early to look for breakfast. Daylight savings time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday, so he can sleep an extra hour.

Dog inside pen shot, killed; man arrested, charged

A Pampa man was free on bonds totaling \$8,000 today following the shooting death of a neighbor's dog over the weekend.

Billy Joe Roden, 52, 817 Kingsmill, was arrested about 7:30 p.m. Saturday and charged with cruelty to an animal, deadly conduct, discharging a firearm within the city limits, a felon in possession of a firearm and failure to identify himself to law enforcement officers.

Authorities said Roden is accused of shooting a black mixed breed chow Saturday evening.

Pampa Police Officers David Conner and Danny Stewart were called to the area shortly before 7:30 p.m. Saturday by a neighbor who said she was in her kitchen when she heard shots. She told the officers she looked out the back door and saw a man standing next to a dog pen in her backyard holding what appeared to be a .22 caliber rifle.

The officers said they found the black dog lying in a pool of blood in the pen, and saw a man next door standing in the doorway of his house.

Authorities said when the officers approached the man to question him, he became belligerent. The officers obtained a search warrant and found a .22 caliber rifle in the home.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Bob Muns set bond at \$4,000 on the charge of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, \$2,000 on the charge of deadly conduct, \$1,500 on the charge of cruelty to an animal and \$500 on the charge of failure to identify himself.

Police: Man pulls knife in front of two officers

A man who reportedly pulled a knife and threatened a man in front of two Pampa police officers was in Gray County jail today.

Ronnie Wilbon, 48, of 1125 Huff Road, was behind bars in lieu of bond on a charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Authorities said officers were called to the Allsup's convenience store at 1025 Wilks about 1 a.m. Sunday concerning a man who appeared to be intoxicated.

The officers, Sgt. Stephanie Raymond and Officer Keith Morris, said as they stood in the parking lot talking to the man, who appeared to have been drinking, a second man came out of the store and yelled at the man police were questioning.

The second man, identified as Wilbon, then reportedly pulled a knife from his pocket and started toward the man with the officers, continuing his verbal tirade.

The officers said they drew their weapons and ordered Wilbon to drop the knife. Wilbon then reportedly folded the knife and put it back in his pocket.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Bob Muns set bond at \$7,500.

'Pot,' guns yield charges

A 51-year-old man was in jail today in lieu of bond after Gray County sheriff's deputies raided his house Saturday.

Marion Sexton, 51, of 501 Roberts, was in Gray County jail today on charges of possession of prohibited weapons and possession of marijuana under two ounces.

Deputies said that, acting on a tip that there were drugs in the home, they obtained a search warrant and raided Sexton's house shortly after noon Saturday.

Officers said they found illegal type shotguns and a small amount of marijuana.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Bob Muns set bond at \$4,000.

Tourism Committee Meeting 2:00 p.m.,
Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at the Chamber Office

Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BRADSHER, Billy Gene — 2 p.m., First Assembly of God Church, Pampa.
REEDER, Audrey Carol Barnard — 2 p.m., Calvary Christian Fellowship Church, Shamrock.
SHERROD, Loyce — 2 p.m., McLean United Methodist Church, McLean.
STOVER, Reva Ellen — 2 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Follett.

Obituaries

BILLY GENE BRADSHER

Billy Gene Bradsher, 68, of Pampa, died Saturday, March 25, 2000, at Mustang, Okla. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in First Assembly of God Church with the Rev. Michael Moss, pastor of the church, the Rev. Crispin Bradsher and the Rev. Randel Duncan officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Bradsher was born March 15, 1932, at Bay Village, Ark., to Cleveland and Minnie Belle Hainer Bradsher. He moved to Wynne, Ark., as a teen and graduated from Wynne High School. He married Laverne Dixon in 1952 at Wynne. He held a bachelor of science degree from North Texas State University and a master of arts degree from West Texas State University. He taught math and science at Pampa prior to retiring in 1994.

He belonged to First Assembly of God Church of Pampa and was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Korean Conflict.

He was preceded in death by an infant child. Survivors include his wife, Laverne, of the home; four daughters, Rhonda Culwell of Perryton, Retha Pearce of Amarillo, Dietra Bradsher of Mustang and Anissa Duncan of Cleburne; two sons, Royce Bradsher of Mesa, Ariz., and Crispin Bradsher of Fort Worth; two sisters, Amanda Cothran of Marshall, Ark., and Mildred Brown of Bay Village; a brother, Roy Bradsher of Wynne; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

HOUSTON L. PRICE

Houston L. Price, 89, of Pampa, died Saturday, March 25, 2000, at Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Burial will be in Prairie Dale Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Price was born June 25, 1911, at Durham, Okla., to John and Claudia Price. He married Doris Blevins on Aug. 8, 1938, at Clovis, N.M. He had been a Pampa resident since 1948. He was a bus driver for Pampa Independent School District prior to retiring. He also farmed and was busy during the summer on his farm in Durham, Okla.

Survivors include his wife, Doris, of Craig Methodist Retirement Center in Amarillo; a son, David Houston Price of Dallas; and two sisters, Mary Holt of Amarillo and Annie Laura Stickland of Leedey, Okla.

AUDREY CAROL BARNARD REEDER

SHAMROCK — Audrey Carol Barnard Reeder, 74, died Saturday, March 25, 2000. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Calvary Christian Fellowship Church with Joe G. Jernigan, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Shamrock Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mrs. Reeder was born July 2, 1925, at Coffeyville, Kan. She married Stanley Reeder on Jan. 25, 1946. She had been a Shamrock resident since 1953 and belonged to Calvary Christian Fellowship Church.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Carolyn; and a great-granddaughter, Cheyenne Lacey Ward.

Survivors include her husband, Stanley, of Shamrock; a daughter, Colleen Thompson of Denham Springs, La.; four sons, Russell Reeder, Randy Reeder and Robby Reeder, all of Shamrock, and Ricky Reeder of Gillette, Wyo.; five sisters, Leola Walker and Gloria Zimmerman, both of Bakersfield, Calif.; Dorothy Edwards and Marjorie Whitebird, both of Coffeyville, and Linda Patton of Molene, Kan.; two brothers, George Barnard of Coffeyville and Jimmy Barnard of South Coffeyville, Okla.; 20 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

LOYCE SHERROD

McLEAN — Loyce Sherrod, 72, died Sunday, March 26, 2000. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in McLean United Methodist Church with the Rev. Thacker Haynes officiating. Burial will be in Alaneed Cemetery at Alaneed under the direction of Schooler Armstrong Chapel of Claude.

Mrs. Sherrod was born at McLean. She married Bob Sherrod on April 10, 1947, at McLean. She belonged to McLean United Methodist Church and was treasurer of both United Methodist

Women and Hillcrest Cemetery Organization. Survivors include her husband, Bob, of McLean; a daughter, Cindy Bichsel of Claude; a son, Joe Bill Sherrod of Amarillo; two sisters, Ruth Hindman and Opal Bodenhammer, both of Longview; and three grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to the Endowment Fund of McLean United Methodist Church.

Police

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, March 25

Cruelty to animals was reported in the 800 block of West Kingsmill.
 A burglary of about \$900 worth of camping equipment was reported in the 800 block of South Banks.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of Christy.

Sunday, March 26

A burglary was reported in the 900 block of Varnon. About \$3,200 in jewelry was taken.
 A theft of three concrete figures, a white deer and two green frogs, each valued at \$200 was reported in the 600 block of South Reid.

Broken windows in a vehicle was reported in the 500 block of North Dwight.

Found property was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Found property was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon.

Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, March 25

A car driven by Robert Cornelius, 86, was in collision with a pickup driven by Bobby Randall Dunn, 71, about 5 p.m., Saturday in the 300 block of East Harvester. Cornelius was cited for following too close.

Fires

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

Sunday, March 26, 2000

10:12 a.m. — One unit and two personnel were on standby at Pampa Regional Medical Plaza for Lifestar to land and load a patient, transferring the patient to an Amarillo medical facility.

12:32 p.m. — Two units and seven personnel responded to the intersection of Duncan and Linda on a motor vehicle accident. Personnel assisted with extrication and clean-up of a hazardous chemical.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, March 26

8:39 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of South Gray and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

8:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:31 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of W. Crawford, action taken not listed.

11:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:31 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of Duncan and transported one to

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	1.96	IRI	8.15/16	dn 1/8
Milo	3.11	KMI	30 1/16	up 1/16
Corn	3.54	Kerr McGee	53 3/16	dn 1/8
Soybeans	4.32	Limited	38 13/16	up 1/8
		McDonald's	34 13/16	NC
		Exxon Mobil	76 1/16	dn 1/16
		New Atmos	17 1/4	dn 3/16
		NCE	28 13/16	up 5/16
		OKF	24 5/8	up 3/16
		Penney's	14 3/4	dn 1/4
		Phillips	41 13/16	dn 1/8
		Pioneer Nat.	9 1/8	dn 1/4
		SLB	76 1/4	dn 1 15/16
		Tenneco	8 1/8	NC
		Texaco	50 3/4	dn 11/16
		Ultramar	22 7/8	dn 7/16
		Wal-Mart	54 9/16	dn 15/16
		Williams	43 5/8	up 7/16
		New York Gold	285.00	
		Silver	5.10	
		West Texas Crude	27.68	

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Occidental	18 13/16	dn 3/16
Fidelity Magell	146.77	
Puritan	19.01	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:

Amoco	48 11/16	dn 1 15/16
Amco	77 5/16	dn 2 3/16
Cabot	27 7/16	dn 5/16
Cabot O&G	17	dn 5/16
Chevron	82 7/8	dn 2 3/4

WASTE

selection and said the winner will be notified by mid-April then will be honored May 2 in Austin at the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards Banquet on May 2.

State Rep. Warren Chisum has weighed in on the matter by writing a letter to TNRCC Executive Director Jeff Saitas in support of Pampa's nomination.

"I'm proud of the reputation of the environmental stewardship the city has cultivated with our solid waste projects like the household waste

recycling program," Chisum wrote.

Pampa has been in the running before for the big award and Stone said, "Pampa has had to go up against some big cities and programs."

This year is no different. The other finalists in the government category are: City of Austin/Commercial and Multifamily Recycling Ordinance, City of Edinburg/Integrated Recycling and Waste Minimization Program, City of Fort Worth/Collection of Household Hazardous Waste Utilizing Regional Approach and Texas Department of Transportation/Road to Recycling-Austin.

Supreme Court tackles major school prayer case out of Texas

SANTA FE, Texas (AP) —

Amanda Bruce thinks she knows why so few classmates and neighbors have joined her in speaking out against public prayers at high school football games.

"They're scared they'll be shunned by the community or be labeled an atheist or devil worshiper like I was," said the 18-year-old senior, who wrote newspaper columns against the practice.

Nearly five years after two families filed a lawsuit against the Santa Fe school district over the prayers, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on Wednesday. It will be the court's first major school prayer ruling since 1992, when it barred clergy-led invocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies.

At issue is whether public school districts can allow students to initiate and lead prayers over the public-address system before the football games. A decision is expected by late June.

For some of the 10,000 residents of Santa Fe, a bedroom community 40 miles southeast of Houston with more churches than restaurants, the Supreme Court's decision has profound personal implications.

If prayer at sporting events is upheld, "it probably will destroy my faith in the Constitution and what this country stands for," said Debbie Mason, a Baptist who testified for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

On the other side, school board President John Couch II foresees trouble if prayer is disallowed.

"It would be a huge disappointment not only for us but for the nation," he said. "Students and private citizens would have their rights taken away from them on public property. I think it would be the start of further downfalls."

Gov. George W. Bush, who is seeking the Republican presiden-

Man asks for new trial as lawyer naps

HOUSTON (AP) — After his defense lawyer admitted to using cocaine and taking daily catnaps in the courtroom, a man serving life in prison for racketeering has asked for a new trial.

Luis Rios-Castano, 32, was convicted of helping to run an international drug ring and handed a life sentence in 1993. His lawyer, Luis Suarez, is on parole after collecting a drug conviction of his own the following year. During a hearing last month, witnesses said the former defense attorney's snores disrupted Rios-Castano's trial.

"I was so busy dealing drugs that I failed to call witnesses," Suarez said.

But prosecutors, pointing out that Rios-Castano was one of 13 defendants, are fighting the inmate's bid for a new trial, the Houston Chronicle reported.

U.S. District Judge Melinda Harmon, who is expected to decide soon, questioned the import of the naps during last

tial nomination, and state Attorney General John Cornyn filed briefs supporting student-led prayer.

The identities of the two families who filed the lawsuit — one Catholic and one Mormon — were sealed by the courts.

Their lawsuit alleged that the school district's policy of allowing students to lead prayers at home football games violated the First Amendment by creating a "pervasive religious atmosphere."

Mason, whose four children attended Santa Fe schools, said about 25 families, angered by numerous incidents including distribution of Gideon Bibles at Santa Fe High School, considered joining the suit but most dropped out as the conflict drew widespread attention.

A year ago, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a federal judge's ruling that "nonsectarian and non-proselytizing" prayer could be allowed at public school events such as graduation.

The judge had also allowed the same limited prayers at football games. But the 5th Circuit said those prayers are out of bounds, ruling that the games are "hardly the sober type of annual event that can be appropriately solemnized with prayer."

The Supreme Court is limiting its review to only the prayers-at-football games issue.

The school district responded to the 5th Circuit ruling by crafting strict guidelines banning pre-game prayer, and warned senior Marian Ward, elected by fellow students to deliver brief messages solemnizing football games, that she would be disci-

plined if she prayed.

Ward's family filed suit in September, arguing that the guidelines violated her free speech rights. A U.S. District Court judge agreed that the guidelines the school had written were unconstitutional and ruled that the school could not censor Ward's speech.

Ward was given a standing ovation when she delivered a prayer before the school's football home season opener.

Earlier this month in Texas' Republican primary, 94 percent of voters approved a nonbinding resolution backing student-initiated prayer at school sporting events.

Couch and Mayor Robert Cheek say the vast majority of Santa Fe residents favor prayer at football games. They downplay reports of friction between the sides, but admit that peer pressure might prevent some discussion.

"Anti-prayer is not a popular opinion," Cheek said. "I guess when you have an overwhelming majority supporting prayer, there are probably those who are scared to come forward."

Mason, Bruce and only a handful of other people held a demonstration at the homecoming game in October. They say they represent a large silent contingent that believes pre-game prayer wrongly entangles church and state.

"Deep inside, I know it's not right for someone to take advantage of a public forum to broadcast their religious beliefs," said Bruce, a Roman Catholic. "People need to think about the person sitting next to them who may not be a Christian."

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, March 25

Gary Michael Loftis, 45, 1007 S. Wilks, was arrested on charges of forgery.

Marion Sexton, 51, 501 Roberts, was arrested on charges of possession of prohibited weapons and possession of marijuana under two ounces.

Billy Joe Roden, 52, 817 W. Kingsmill, was arrested on charges of cruelty to animals, failure to identify and discharging weapon in public.

Sunday, March 26

Ronnie Wilbon, 48, was arrested on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Chad H. Young, 21, 317 Magnolia, Lefors, was arrested on a charge of public intoxication.

Tina Faye Millins, 25, 941 S. Faulkner, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana.

Tony Ramirez, 46, 4036 Rose Drive, Amarillo, was arrested on a Potter County warrant charging him with four counts of aggravated sexual assault on a child.

City Briefs

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

CLEARANCE GRAY'S Dec. Ctr., all pnt., sundry & shop items, hdw. 323 S. Starkweather.

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EYECARE PLUS is your contact lens fit and comfort authority. Whether you would like to try lenses to change or enhance the color of your eyes, bifocal contacts, or if you simply want to experience the convenience of clean, comfortable vision without glasses, call our office at 669-2824 for an appointment or for more information. 1916 N. Hobart.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Sunny today with a high in the mid 70s and north winds at 5-15 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy with a low in the mid 40s. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain and a high of 70. Sunday's high was 71; the overnight low was 41.

STATEWIDE — Spring storms dropped large hail and heavy rains on parts of Central and Northeast Texas overnight, along with high winds that blew a tractor-trailer rig off Interstate 35.

The thunderstorms had tracked into far Northeast Texas by early today.

Wind damage was reported in Salado, where the National Weather Service said 18-wheelers were blown off I-35.

The weather service said hail or wind damage came in Bell, Falls, Robertson, Lamar, Delta and Hopkins counties.

Patchy areas of light fog settled in from near Waco southward to the Coastal Plains and eastward to the Louisiana state line.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the 40s in the Panhandle to 60s in North Texas and 70s along the coast.

Winds were northerly and westerly from 5 to 15 mph statewide, but variable and gusty in and near thunderstorm activity.

The weather service said hail approaching two inches in diameter fell near Salado, where winds were estimated at 70 mph.

Wind damage was also reported in Heidenheimer and in Westphalia.

The forecast called for thunderstorms possible in the South Plains, far west, Panhandle and Concho Valley.

Daytime highs were expected from the 70s in the Panhandle to the 90s in the Big Bend. Lows will be in the 40s and 50s.

URGENT NOTICE

to owners of property in

Memory Gardens of Pampa

We are in the process of reorganizing all of our records into our new computer system. It is extremely important that you notify us by phone if:

- you or your family are deed holders
- you may be heirs and plan to use graves at Memory Gardens of Pampa

This new computer system will provide a centralized database with current and up to date property owner information.

Please Call 806-669-7605

Between the hours of 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Mon. - Thurs. and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

At this time of completion other products and services will be explained to you.

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED

at the intersection of Price Road and 23rd Street

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literacy Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. For more information, call Diane Wells at 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is extending clinic hours in Pampa. The clinic is now open from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A. Special evening hours until 6 p.m. are available by appointment. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Lovett Memorial Library's Spring Story Hours will be at 10 a.m. every Tuesday from Jan. 11-May 16. The program, which includes crafts and stories, is open to all children 18 months to 5-years-old. Story hours are free and no registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

DESK AND DERRICK CLUB

The Desk and Derrick Club will hold an orientation meeting at 7 p.m. March 28 in Zion Lutheran Church for prospective new members as part of its March "Desk and Derrick Awareness Month" activities. A potluck dinner will be served. For more information, call Diane Lumley at 665-8298 or at 669-3624.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXTRAVAGANZA

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church will hold an Arts and Crafts Extravaganza from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 1 in the school gymnasium, 2300 N. Hobart. The event will include a variety of crafts, tasty treats, face painting and more. The public is cordially invited to attend. Admission is free. For more information or to inquire about booth space, call 665-5665.

AHA ART GALA

The local chapter of the American Heart Association will hold its annual Art Gala and Auction fund-raiser at 7 p.m. April 8 at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold FreshStart, a free two-week smoking cessation support series sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 21-30. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235.

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Amarillo Mayor Kel Seliger and the Panhandle Association for the Education of Young Children will honor over 100 people who work to make the lives of young children healthy, safe and enriched with a breakfast at 8 a.m. Thursday, April 13 in the Oak Acorn Room of the College Union Building on Amarillo College's Washington Street campus. The event is being held in conjunction with Week of the Young Child "Early Years are Learning Years — Kids: The Right Stuff." Other events will include a ribbon cutting at 3 p.m. April 9 at Thompson Park Zoo; a PAEYC Award Banquet at 6:30 p.m., April 10 at AC; a Mayor's Proclamation at 2 p.m., April 11 at City Hall; and a Child Fest from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., April 15 at Western Plaza for children ages 2-8.

WTAMU 'e CAMP'

West Texas A&M University's "e Camp" for youngsters will explore the radio, television and film industry. For more information, write, call or e-mail the following: Dr. Leigh Browning, e Camp director, WTAMU Box 60747, Canyon, TX 79016-0207; (806) 651-2412; lbrowning@wtamu.edu.

BROWN BAG LECTURES

Dr. Jerry Lane, Clarendon College-Pampa Center, will present a series of topics during the noon hour every Thursday

through March 30. Topics include:

Couple Communication, Feb. 24; Time Management, March 2; Dealing with Anger in the Family, March 9; and Expressing and Communicating Feelings and Emotions, March 30. The public is cordially invited to bring a lunch and attend one or more of the sessions.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates for nursing home residents as part of its Ombudsmen program. The Ombudsmen will visit residents of long-term care facilities and help resolve complaints involving residents rights, quality of life and quality of care. Once accepted into the program, volunteers complete a three month internship including intensive training and supervision in preparation. Ideal candidates will have strong sense of fair play, excellent prob-

lem-solving skills, good relationships with older people and the ability to devote two hours a week to the residents served by the Ombudsman program. For more information, contact Jeff Price, regional Ombudsman, or Shirley Sheldon, Ombudsman Program Aide, at 1-800-642-6008; or write P.O. Box 9257, Amarillo, TX, 79105.

SCHOOL TO CAREER PROGRAM

Texas AFL-CIO has announced the "School to Careers" project for high school students interested in union apprenticeship programs. To learn more about the benefits of union-sponsored apprenticeship training programs, contact the local Texas Workforce Commission or call (512) 470-0918.

AISE

American Intercultural Student Exchange is a non-profit educational foundation seeking local host families for high

school foreign exchange students for the 2000-01 school year. The students, which come from 25 countries throughout the world, live with American families and attend local high schools during their 10 month exchange. Host families provide the students with a place to sleep, meals and a family atmosphere. For more information, call 1-800-SIBLING or visit AISE website, www.aise.com.

MS SOCIETY

The Multiple Sclerosis Society offers a monthly program for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS," "When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: A Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-

MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS website at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

TEXAS LS/AMPHIBIOUS ASSOCIATION

The Texas chapter of LST/Amphibious Association is seeking former amphibious shipmates for its next reunion, April 27-29 at the 11th Street Holiday Inn in Beaumont. For more information, contact R.H. Garner LST 461, HC 52 Box 362, Hemphill, TX 75948.

AMERICAN GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

American General Life and Accident Insurance Co. is offering the American General Scholarship for the first time in Texas to recognize good character in high school seniors. AGS will award more than 160 one-year \$500 scholarships, plus an additional \$1,000 to top-ranked applicants in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Virginia. Winners will be selected in March 2000 by an independent panel of educators. To qualify, students must rank in the top third of their senior class, must

present evidence of good character in two letters of recommendation (from a high school official and a community leader). Students will be evaluated on involvement in extracurricular activities and on a written response to a question about character. The student's taxable family income cannot exceed \$50,000. Applications are due March 1. For more information, call (615) 320-3149.

COLGATE YOUTH SERVICE CONTEST

Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Camp Fire and 4-H organizations are invited to enter their best community service projects in the 2000 "Colgate Youth for America" campaign. Cash grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to the most creative and best executed projects from local clubs and troops. Entry forms are available through regional offices of the national organizations or by sending a SASE to: Colgate Youth for America Campaign, P.O. Box 1058, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-1058. Deadline for entry into this year's program is March 31. Forms are also available on-line at www.colgate.com.

Worth the Wait



Jeffrey Dean, national motivational youth speaker, singer, songwriter and author of Nashville, Tenn., spoke to over 2,300 area teens recently. Students in Allison, Canadian and Pampa heard his "Wait on Love" message which focused on positive aspects of waiting until marriage for sex. Above: Dean is shown performing some of his newly recorded songs for students at Pampa Middle School. Teens were encouraged to focus on their goals and dreams as well as challenged to consider the "big picture" of life when making choices. The assembly was sponsored by Worth the Wait, a local non-profit educational organization funded by Texas Department of Health and donations from individuals, businesses and area foundations.

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Hospice Enhances Remaining Life for Patients and Families

DEAR ABBY: I am a former hospice nurse, now completing my graduate training as a nurse-practitioner in oncology. I am dismayed by the frequency with which physicians and the media ignore or misrepresent hospice as an option for terminally ill people and their families.

Hospice is not "giving up." It is changing the focus of care to enhance quality of life. The hospice team of nurses, social workers, chaplains and physicians accompanies patients on a difficult journey with an eye to relieving physical, emotional and spiritual pain and suffering. Hospice care alleviates the fear of dying. Indeed, it allows patients to die with dignity and in a way that enhances the beauty and meaning of life and death for them and their families.

ROSIE TOWNLEY BAKEWELL

DEAR ROSIE: I hope your letter generates the kind of response it deserves, because it's an important one as our population ages. I'm sad to say that even today, patients die protracted and painful deaths because some physicians and misguided but well-intentioned families seem unable or unwilling to admit that the person is terminal. Perhaps some of the fault lies with the medical schools, which have not given end-of-life issues enough attention in their curricula.

Since everyone has to die, a



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

death with dignity seems like the way to make every minute of life one that's worth living.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing with a message of warning to newlywed wives.

When I first married "Jim," I used to spend hours after dinner every night on the phone with my mother talking about family news — what was happening with my father, my sister, my sister's husband, etc. When Jim complained, my mother and I both felt he was being selfish and ignored him.

Soon Jim took up jogging, and as soon as I picked up the phone in the evening, he would leave the house to run his miles. Then Jim started traveling to races on the weekends, and eventually met "Peggy," a pretty schoolteacher from a neighboring town who also liked to jog.

My inability to "let go" and build my primary family ties with my new husband cost me a great guy. How do I know he's so great? Because he still waves to my mother

and me when we see him in the park jogging with Peggy and their two beautiful daughters.

OUT OF THE RACE IN N.J.

DEAR OUT: I'm printing your cautionary tale for all to see. How sad that your preoccupation with your family caused you to shut out the person with whom you vowed to build a life.

I find it interesting that when your ex-husband sees you in the park, you're still with your mother. Unless that's the way you want it to be for the rest of your life, I recommend some counseling.

CONFIDENTIAL TO "CALL ME LUCKY": You are right. As author J.G. Holland observed: "The most precious possession that ever comes to a man in this world is a woman's heart."

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



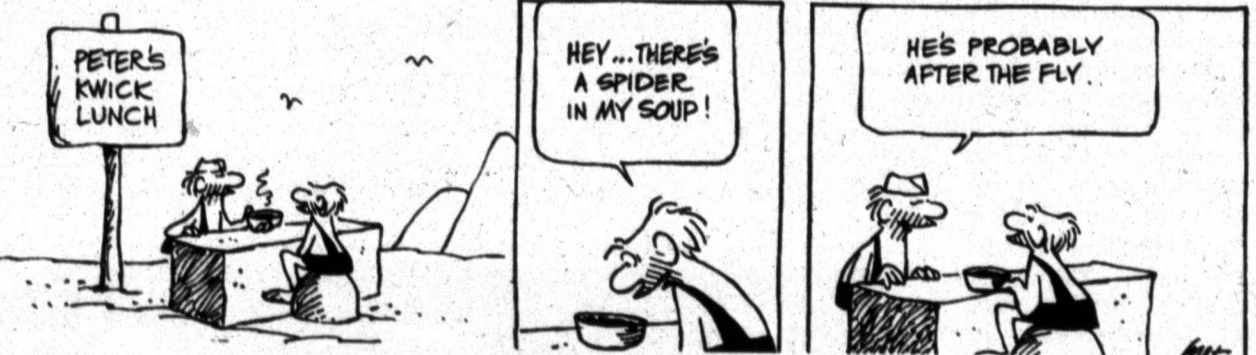
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



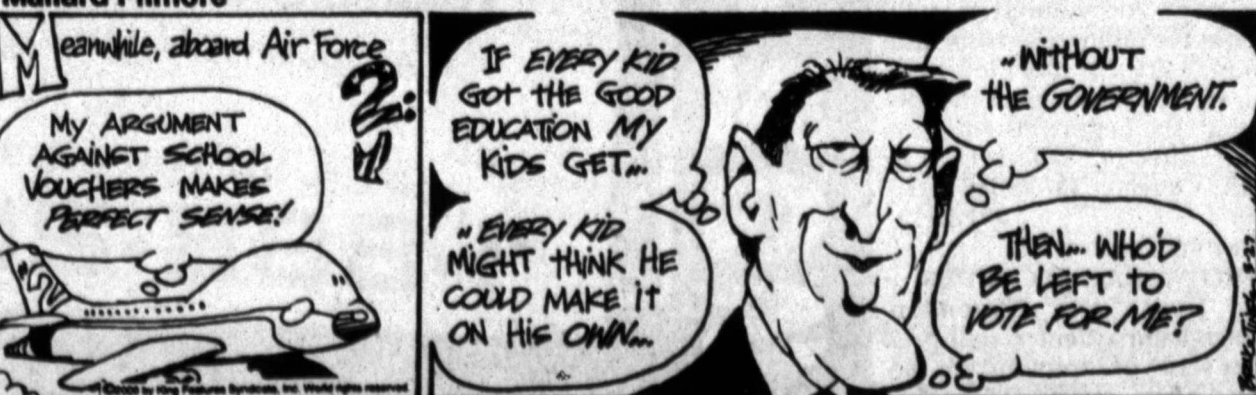
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Fillmore



Horoscope

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-Soso; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Stay in control of your finances. You don't have to be affected by others. Don't shy away from a special opportunity, but understand just how long it will take to come to fruition. You are unusually sensitive to a co-worker. Tonight: In the limelight.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You have an unusual ability to see the big picture. Listen to your inner voice. Follow through on what you know to be right. Others might not agree, but an independent, strong stance makes a difference. Others go overboard for you. Tonight: Make a long-distance call.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your sixth sense helps you with partnership and a money matter. Your ability to move past a problem and find answers impresses a boss or someone you know. Let another know just how much you care. Tonight: Togetherness counts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Others approach you, knowing what is necessary and wanting to enlist your help. Work as a team. Watch that is going on behind the scenes. Imagine what it might be like to walk in another's shoes. Your understanding can

make or break a situation. Tonight: Out and about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Dig into work, and you'll quickly get a lot done. Another is very uptight, and he pushes hard. Listen to your inner voice about a partnership, work and financial evolution. Another's intentions are honorable, no matter what your choice. Tonight: Indulge a partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Tap into the wellspring of creativity. Solutions come from left and right. Attempts to another's reservations. Your listen to get more information could be thwarted for now; try again tomorrow. Others pitch in. Make an important request. Tonight: Play the night away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Review a decision carefully. A co-worker goes beyond the call of duty to make what you want happen. Good will filters through work. A partner, who is sometimes difficult, might have a good idea. Sort through your feelings, and listen to what is being said. Tonight: Home is your castle.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Others don't often see eye to eye with you. Think about what is necessary to make a particular situation work. A flirtation could have more than a superficial connection; proceed with caution. Understanding helps you relate to others. Tonight: An important talk with a partner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Expenses are out of whack. Get in touch with your feelings toward a family member. Caring comes out of a difficult situation. You might need to ask another

for his support. A walk during a break can re-energize you at work. Tonight: Don't push.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Your charisma makes a big difference. You easily solidify a relationship. Others respond to your high energy. Approach a touchy situation carefully. Reach out for others; go all the way. You'll get the answer you seek. Tonight: Just ask.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Say little; think a lot. A potential investment could go many different ways. Understand what is motivating a family member who tests your patience and loyalty. Your gut feeling about an indulgence is right. Keep a secret to yourself. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Mean what you say when asking for what you want. Popularity soars. You gain favor because of your persistence. Don't be overly serious; use your charming ways. Network and attend a must meeting. You can make a difference. Tonight: Where the gang is.

BORN TODAY

Singer Reba McEntire (1955), actress Dianne Wiest (1948), basketball player Byron Scott (1961)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

CROSS 37 Start

1 Pacific

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5 Visit

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0 Genesis

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1 Magazine

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3 Roster

4 Give a

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Saturday's answer



STUMPED?

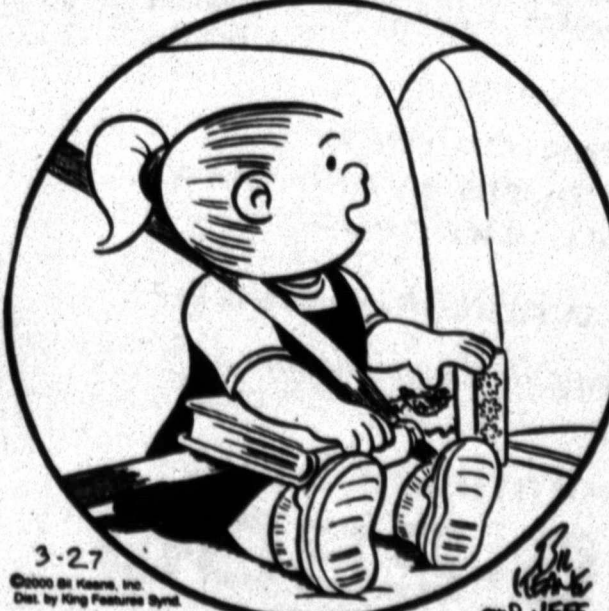
or answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7377
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ing Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Wake your half; my half is already awake."

The Family Circus



"Mrs. Clarke teaches us everything, and she's there for us nine days a week."

SPORTS

Notebook

FOOTBALL

PAMPA — Harvester Football Booster Club will meet Monday, April 3, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Pampa High School athletic building. Club members will start making preparations for the 2000 season.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — Dennis Doughty, head coach of the Pampa Harvester baseball team, will present a program entitled "Games and Drills To Make Practice Fun" at the Optimist regular meeting at 6:30 tonight at the Optimist building.

Doughty will demonstrate ways to keep a baseball or softball practice interesting while still teaching the fundamentals.

Baseball and softball coaches from all programs are welcomed to attend, according to Jeff Skinner, a co-coordinator of Optimist Baseball, Softball, 2000.

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche and Dallas Stars are making close games a habit.

The Stars prevailed in a seven-game Western Conference finals with Colorado last year en route to their first Stanley Cup in franchise history. On Sunday, the two teams seemed to pick up where the playoff series left off.

Milan Hejduk's goal with 1:43 left in overtime lifted Colorado to a 2-1 victory over Dallas, stretching the Avalanche's unbeaten string to 6-0-1.

"Dallas is a great team and it was a tight game, just like it usually is with them," Hejduk said. "This was like a playoff game. It's an important two points for us, just what we needed right now."

Hejduk skated up the right side, faked Dallas defenseman Darryl Sydor out of position and lifted a wrist shot over Ed Belfour's glove that glanced off the crossbar for his 32nd goal.

After the goal, an ecstatic Hejduk celebrated with a belly flop on the ice that included some swim strokes. "I was so happy, I didn't really know what I was doing," Hejduk said. "I was out of my mind."

Hejduk skated 2-on-1 with Jon Klemm, and when Sydor went down to try and block a shot or pass, Hejduk had an open lane to the net.

"He made a nice move and outwaited me," Belfour said. "It was a nice shot but I'd like to have it over again."

Joe Sakic scored in the second period for the Avalanche, who extended their lead in the Northwest Division to four points over Edmonton. Sakic has 16 goals and seven assists in his last 12 games.

"It's always a low-scoring game with Dallas," Sakic said. "Both goalies played well and it had a playoff feel. The two points were big for us because we're in such a logjam (for conference playoff seeding)."

Mike Modano also continued his scoring surge with a first-period goal for the Stars, who had their unbeaten streak stopped at six games. Dallas has a 11-point lead over Los Angeles atop the Pacific Division.

Modano has 20 goals and 22 assists in his last 29 games.

Modano scored his 36th at 6:02 of the first, ripping a one-timer from the right circle into the upper right corner of the net.

Sakic countered with his 27th goal at 11:02 of the second, flipping a rebound past Belfour while Colorado was on a power play.

The Stars thought they had a second-period goal from Brett Hull at 10:28, but it was disallowed with Kirk Muller being penalized for goalie interference after making contact with Patrick Roy.



(Special photo)

The Grizzlies posted an 8-1 record this season in the Kids Club Second and Third Grade Basketball League this year. Team members are (front row, from left) Carlyn Teichmann, Allison Bell and Kendra Clarkson; (middle row, from left) Cole Guyer, Tyler Hooper, Paul Sario, Chris Jackson and Luke Watson; Coaches are (back row, from left) Donny Hooper, David Teichmann and Randy Watson. Not pictured are Timothy Davis and Brice Hendricks. The season ended last weekend for all the teams in the league. Coach Donny Hooper said all the youngsters played well and made the season a success. "I was so proud of these kids this year. They really improved by leaps and bounds from the beginning of the season," Hooper said. "We really came a long way." Hooper said the team focused on basketball fundamentals and sportsmanship. "We really wanted the kids to learn some of the basics of basketball and that basketball is a team sport," he said. "Each of them really chipped in and played hard for us." Hooper thanked the players, coaches and parents for all the work that was put into the Kids Club this year.

Texas Tech likes its underdog role vs. Vols

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Texas Tech Lady Raiders considered themselves underdogs all season. That role is particularly appropriate tonight.

If the Lady Raiders are to reach the Final Four for the first time since their 1993 national championship, they will have to beat top-seeded Tennessee (31-3) in the Volunteer State. And no one has ever done that with a Final Four trip on the line.

The Lady Vols are 6-for-6 in regional championships played in Tennessee, and they will try to extend that tonight against Texas Tech (28-4) in the NCAA Midwest Regional championship at The Pyramid before essentially a home crowd.

That is just fine with the Lady Raiders.

"If everyone's cheering for us, it wouldn't be right," senior Keitha Dickerson said. "We always have to have someone against us, so I think it'll be a great atmosphere for us."

Coach Marsha Sharp said her Lady Raiders will feed off the orange crowd. They grew accustomed to being underdogs this season as they

won the Big 12 Conference's regular-season title despite being picked to finish fifth.

"I'm not going to change anything in the way I've been motivating them," Sharp said. "They motivate themselves. ... That's the way they've approached things all year."

That mentality helped the third-seeded Lady Raiders dig their way out of early holes in each of their past two games, including a 17-0 start Saturday before they defeated Notre Dame.

Tennessee is shooting for its 12th Final Four berth in the 19 years of the NCAA tournament and its fifth in the past six years. But Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt said experience doesn't make regional finals any easier.

"While we know we're only one game away, I think this is always the most challenging game of the playoffs. In my estimation, it's probably the toughest to play, and the opponent makes it even tougher," she said.

Texas Tech features one of the nation's stingiest defenses, allowing just 55 points.

Youthful Gators Final Four bound

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Coach Billy Donovan made sure the Florida Gators relied on more than the press to beat Oklahoma State.

Fearful that his team's emotional victory over top-seeded Duke drained too much energy, Donovan, a big believer in motivational techniques, asked his players to dedicate Sunday's game against the Cowboys to somebody special in their lives.

The Gators did exactly that, finding inspiration in the second half when they needed it most and beating the third-seeded Cowboys 77-65 in the East Regional final.

"I was just concerned about our physicalness, if we had enough in our tank," said Donovan, whose fifth-seeded Gators (28-7) are in the Final Four for only the second time in school history. "When you're playing or dedicating something to somebody, you have a tendency to go a little bit further, and that's what we did."

Using the same press that wore down the Blue Devils on Friday night and fourth-seeded Illinois in the second round, Florida forced Oklahoma State (27-7) into 18 turnovers and methodically wore down the Cowboys, especially point guard Doug Gottlieb, who looked exhausted in the first half from trying to constantly beat the pressure.

Oklahoma State committed just 33 turnovers in the first three tournament games, only six in the semifinal win over 10th-seeded Seton Hall.

But the uptempo game played by the Gators, who rotate seven freshmen and sophomores in and out of the lineup, nearly backfired because they also became

fatigued.

And the Cowboys, who have seven seniors, fought back from a 17-point deficit with a 20-6 run. When Glendon Alexander hit a 3-pointer with 7:56 to go, Oklahoma State suddenly trailed just 56-53.

It seemed to be anybody's game, and both teams were spent.

"I could see Oklahoma State was winded and tired, too," said the 34-year-old Donovan, who will join the likes of Dean Smith and Bob Knight as one of only six people to play and coach in the Final Four. "The problem was, we just could not effectively press. And when that happens physically to you, you've got to try to find something else that's meaningful and important to you that helps you dig down a little bit deeper and fight."

Thanks to Donovan, it was the Gators who had that extra dose of inspiration. It was printed on the tape wrapped around their ankles. Most of the players picked a family member. Kenyan Weaks, the lone senior, had "mom" written on his.

After a collective glance downward, the Gators scored the next seven points. Tournament MVP Mike Miller scored the last five, making two free throws, grabbing the rebound of a missed jumper by Oklahoma State's Brian Montonati, and hitting a 3-pointer with 6:16 left to make it 63-53.

The closest Cowboys came after that was eight points.

"It's just different when they're playing that type of energy level," Gottlieb said. "It's a system they believe in and they preach, and today it was very successful."

Pampa girls advance to regional soccer semis

ODESSA — The Pampa girls soccer team advanced to the regional semifinals Saturday with a 2-0 win over El Paso Bowie.

The Lady Harvesters (13-6) will play Denton at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Wichita Falls.

Sophomore forward Desiree Vigil got Pampa on the board right before half with a score in the 38th minute.

Freshman midfielder Sarah Porter added a security score in the 70th minute.

Danielle Martinez got an assist on the play.

Freshman keeper Leslie McWilliams, who was making just her second start, recorded her second consecutive playoff shutout.

Pampa's defense, led by Lindsey Earl, Sabrina Johnson and Mary Grace Fields, allowed Bowie only two shots at the goal.

Head coach Lori Patulea said mid-fielders Misti Northcutt and Jessica Burns also turned in an outstanding performance.

"They really dominated the middle of the field and kept us on offense," coach Patulea said.

Patulea feels confident the Lady Harvesters can come away with a victory over Denton.

"Denton has some very skillful players, but they're a low-scoring team," she said. "Speed-wise, we match up well with them."

Harvesters pound Canyon, 20-8

CANYON — Pampa came out swinging, blasting Canyon 20-8 in high school baseball action Saturday.

Pampa launched home runs by Kaleb Snelgrooves, Casey Owens, Justin Barnes and Cody Shepard as the contest was called after six innings due to the 10-run rule. Jesse Francis and Jacob Willis each had doubles.

Pampa scored in every inning except the first. The Harvesters' biggest inning was the sixth when they plated seven runs.

Adam Jones got the mound victory with relief help from Greg Lindsey.

It was the last non-district game for the Harvesters, who open District 3-4A play Tuesday at Caprock.

Pampa improves to 10-5-1 for the season. Canyon falls to 6-11.

Caprock dropped a 7-5 decision to Plainview in its final non-district game. The Longhorns are 6-10 for the season.

Pampa's first district game at home is Saturday against Dumas.

Tar Heels turn back Tulsa, 59-55

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — North Carolina has been to so many Finals Fours that even the program's biggest backers probably can't remember them all.

This one, though, isn't likely to be forgotten.

The Tar Heels came into the NCAA tournament having lost three of four. They were handed a long shot No. 8 seed, matching their worst in 22 years of being seeded, and faced critics who thought they didn't even belong. Rather than how far could they go, the top question was whether their coach would be back next season.

Then, in a stunning turnaround few can explain, they became Carolina again, winning four straight for the first time this season, capped by a 59-55 victory over Tulsa on Sunday that clinched a record-tying 15th Final Four berth.

"I am so happy for the team and so proud of them," said Bill Guthridge, his job safe, but his heart heavy as he headed to Kansas for his mother's funeral today.

"They really hung in there all year through some difficult times and helped keep me up. To be going to the Final Four is a real thrill for all of us. It's something we never get tired of."

This will be No. 11 for Guthridge as a player and coach, his second in three years as the head coach. It'll be his third time playing a Final Four in Indianapolis after losing to Kansas in 1991 and Arizona in '97.

"In just the last 10 years, we lost to Arizona in what? '91?" said Guthridge, showing that all the Final Fours can even run together for someone who was involved in them.

Next up for Carolina (22-13) is East Regional champion Florida (28-7). If there's anything the Gators will notice on game tapes, it's how great the Tar Heels have played defense this tournament.

UNC stopped Missouri's outside game in the first round, cut off top-seeded Stanford's inside game in the second round and held Missouri to one basket in the final seven minutes Friday night. Tulsa (32-5) shot a season-low 37 percent and scored its fewest points this season.

"They were a lot longer than we expected," guard Tony Heard said. "They were playing the passing lanes and we didn't move like we should have. But we missed a lot of open shots,

shots that we usually make."

Still, the Golden Hurricane were able to keep it close by playing pretty tough defense themselves. They even led 31-30 at halftime and were tied at 39.

Julius Peppers made two free throws that gave Carolina the lead for good, then freshman sensation Joseph Forte scored the next six points to open a big cushion.

Tulsa, which was hurt by having leading scorer David Shelton and emotional leader Eric Coley in foul trouble, fought back again thanks to freshman Dante Swanson.

His 3-pointer with 21 seconds left tightened the game to 57-55, but the rally stopped there. Free throws by senior guard Ed Cota and Forte ended the winningest season in Golden Hurricane history and their farthest run in 12 NCAA tournament trips.

"It's a sweet feeling because of all the goals we've met," Coley said. "But sometimes you're going to lose. It's tough as a senior, but I hope the other guys got a taste of it and will be back here next year."

Forte, the first freshman to ever lead North Carolina in scoring, came to Chapel Hill hoping to be a starter right away and expecting to win the national championship immediately.

The Tar Heels got off to a quick start, reaching No. 2 in the country right after Thanksgiving. Two months later, they had a four-game losing streak and were out of the poll for the first time in a decade.

"It took us a while to find each other this season," said Cota, who'll be playing in his third Final Four in four years. "The teams I was on here before knew how to win. This team found it late, but we couldn't have picked a better time."

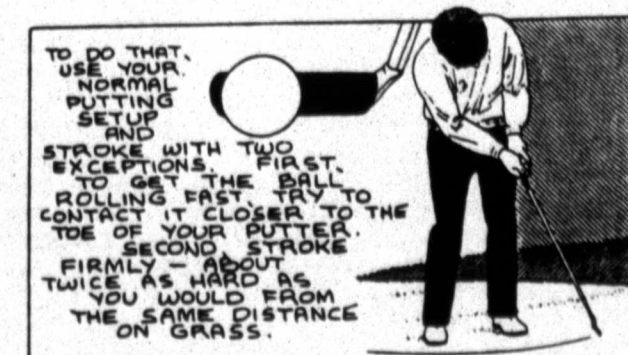
North Carolina has made the Final Four in every decade since the 1940s. The Tar Heels are going for their fifth and the most improbable title.

The Tar Heels had been a No. 1 or 2 seed in their previous seven Final Fours. They'd never gotten past the round of 16 with a lower seed.

According to the NCAA, North Carolina has one more Final Four appearance than UCLA. The governing body doesn't recognize the Bruins' 1980 trip, which was revoked as a punishment for rules violations.

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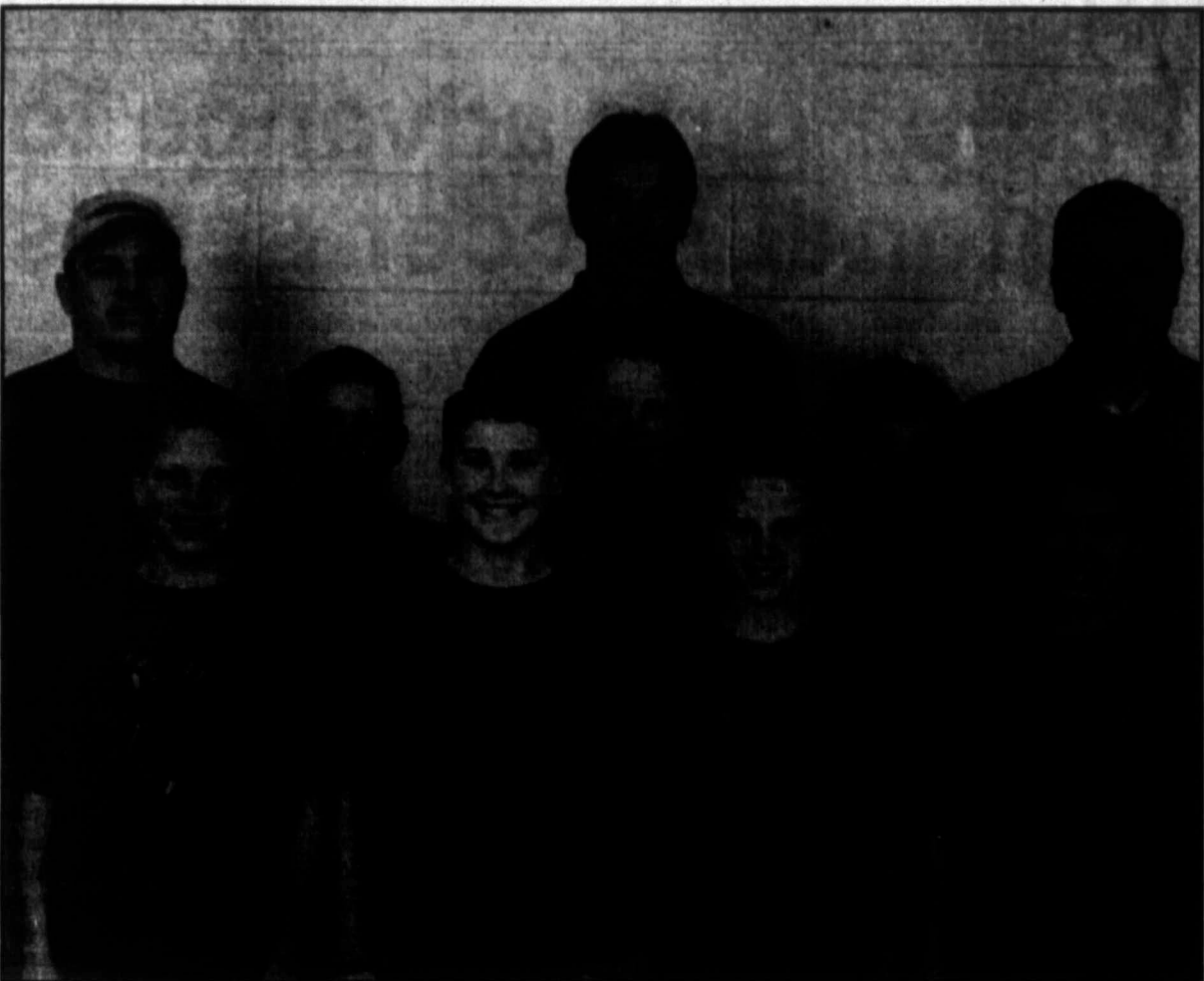
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Basketball champs



(Special photo)

The Bulls won the Pampa Optimist League and tournament basketball championships this year. Members of the team are (front row, l-r) Braydon Barker, Weston Teichmann, Reid Schindler and Billy Hightower; (second row, l-r) Kenny Smith, Jake Craig and Eric Kingcade; (back row, l-r) Larry Craig, Jimmy Barker and David Teichmann.

McGwire in regular-season form

The Associated Press

Mark McGwire and Gary Sheffield proved they are ready for opening day. Ed Yarnall showed why he won't be in a New York Yankees uniform when the season begins next week.

Yarnall whose bid to become New York's fifth starter has been spiraling downward all spring, allowed four runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings of the Yankees' 12-5 victory over Minnesota in Fort Myers, Fla., on Sunday.

"He wasn't very good ... he just seems lost," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He threw his fastball for strikes, but he wasn't getting anything else over. He's just going to have to fight his way through it."

With the Yankees starting the season with a four-man rotation, Torre said Yarnall will remain in Florida when the team breaks camp Wednesday for exhibition games in Houston and San Francisco.

"We know it's there, I just think he's put a lot of pressure on himself from the slow start, and he's having trouble right now," Torre said. "It will come, it's just a matter of when it happens."

In four appearances after being sidelined by back stiffness, Yarnall has given up 25 runs and 28 hits in 9 1-3 innings.

"I wasn't consistent, but it was better," Yarnall said.

In Winter Haven, Fla., McGwire hit two home runs, a rare opposite-field shot to right and a monstrous drive to lead St. Louis to a 15-11 win over Cleveland.

McGwire connected for a two-run shot to right field in the first inning and then led off the sixth with his sixth homer of the spring, a towering, 465-foot shot to left-center that thrilled a standing-room only record crowd at Chain O' Lakes Park.

"It doesn't really matter," said McGwire, who downplays his March home runs the same way he does the ones he hits in August

and September. "It doesn't go on your bubble gum card. You just have to go through the aches and pains and get ready for the season."

Many of the 9,042 fans arrived early to watch McGwire and the Cardinals take batting practice, and baseball's home run king didn't disappoint with some tape-measure shots during BP.

But he saved his best stuff for the game, hitting both homers off Indians starter Charles Nagy, who also gave up a two-run shot to J.D. Drew in the sixth.

Larry Sutton and Lou Lucca also homered for the Cardinals, who scored seven runs in the ninth — five off projected Indians closer Paul Shuey — to blow it open.

Russell Branyan hit a grand slam in the ninth and had five RBIs for Cleveland.

At Vero Beach, Fla., Sheffield returned from a finger injury to hit two homers, and Carlos Perez allowed no earned runs in five innings as Los Angeles beat Florida.

After injuring his pinkie sliding into third base on March 17, Sheffield had planned to wait until the Dodgers' final exhibition series this weekend in Toronto before returning.

But the stitches came out, and he fixed the wound with super glue just in time to club a fourth-inning solo home run and a three-run homer to give the Dodgers the lead in the sixth.

"It was kind of sore," Sheffield said. "But when you get in the game, you don't think about it."

In other games:

Tigers 7, Braves 3
At Lakeland, Fla., Tony Clark and Juan Gonzalez homered, and struggling Brian Moehler pitched six strong innings. Atlanta starter Tom Glavine gave up nine hits and seven runs in six innings.

Reds 4, Devil Rays 2
At Sarasota, Fla., Steve Parris pitched 7 2-3 innings, showing he's ready to start the season, and Ken Griffey Jr. had a single and a

sacrifice fly.

Royals 7, Blue Jays 3

At Haines City, Fla., Dan Reichert increased his chances to make the Kansas City staff by throwing three hitless innings. In six relief outings, Reichert has held opponents to a .185 batting average and has a 1.84 ERA.

Expos 8, Orioles 4

At Jupiter, Fla., Javier Vazquez allowed two runs in five innings and Peter Bergeron homered as Montreal assured itself of its best spring record in eight years.

Rangers 7, Phillies 6

At Port Charlotte, Fla., Ruben Mateo and Gabe Kapler homered as Texas beat Philadelphia. Rafael Palmeiro was 2-for-2 with a double, and Ivan Rodriguez also a solo home run for the Rangers.

Pirates 5, Red Sox 4

At Fort Myers, Fla., Bruce Aven hit a two-run homer off Ramon Martinez to lead Pittsburgh.

Astros 11, Royals (ss) 10

At Kissimmee, Fla., Jose Lima gave up 14 hits and four home runs before Houston rallied for the win.

Padres (ss) 11, Rockies 7

At Tucson, Ariz., Ryan Klesko hit a pair of three-run homers, his first two of the spring, and stole two bases to lead San Diego. Sean Burroughs, the top prospect in San Diego's farm system, added four hits, including a run-scoring single that broke a 6-6 tie in the seventh.

Giants 14, Athletics 5

At Phoenix, Terrell Lowery had three hits and four RBIs as San Francisco defeated Oakland. Jay Canizaro, in competition for a utility spot on the Giants' roster, hit his fourth homer of the spring.

Angels 14, Padres 11

At Tempe, Ariz., Scott Schoeneweis' bid for a spot in Anaheim's rotation was derailed as the left-hander was pounded for seven runs in six innings.

Diamondbacks 18, Mariners 6

At Peoria, Ariz., Travis Lee was 3-for-5 with four RBIs, while Luis Gonzalez and Tony Womack each had four hits.

Rainstorm delays Sutton's championship bid

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Nobody said beating Tiger Woods was going to be easy.

Or quick.

A rainstorm interrupted Hal Sutton's bid for victory over Woods at the 12th hole of The Players Championship on Sunday, leaving Sutton holding a 3-stroke lead with play scheduled to resume this morning.

Sutton was 1-under-par for the round and at 10-under for the tournament after snaking home a momentum-building 30-foot putt on No. 11 on the Stadium Course at TPC.

Then the storm hit, leaving the 41-year-old Sutton yet another evening to anticipate a showdown with the top player in the world.

Also on today's docket: the No. 17 island hole, where Sutton made triple bogey Saturday to help Woods pull back in contention.

"There are a lot of different

ways to try to figure out how to lose this thing, and I don't want to figure that out," Sutton said. "I want to figure out how to win."

It seemed as though he was headed that way over the front 9, with Woods hitting his approach shots close, but failing to convert a series of putts inside 12 feet. Woods was at 1-over for the day when the rain came.

On No. 5, he slid an 12-foot birdie try just off the cup, then stopped and stared at the hole for several seconds. Sutton matched his par and, as the players were heading to the sixth green, a fan shouted, "C'mon Hal, he's beatable."

Sutton built momentum on the par-3 eighth with a great sand save, reaching deep into the bunker to blast a shot out, then making a 12-foot putt.

"I'm thinking, this could be big here, it could really turn this thing around one way or another," Sutton said. "I just made sure I stayed in the shot."

He stayed with the putt, too,

and celebrated it with a big uppercut that has become common as the week has progressed.

Another confidence builder came on No. 11, where Sutton's long putt contrasted with Woods' miss on a birdie try from 6 feet to give Sutton the 3-stroke lead.

"Obviously, I would have liked to keep playing," he said.

When play was halted, Sutton had an 82-yard approach to the 12th green, while Woods was facing a third shot out of the hairy greenside rough.

Sutton won this tournament in 1983, also on a Monday, after rain wiped out the entire final round Sunday.

Woods is 1-0 on Mondays, and seemingly caught a break when the horn interrupted play.

"Obviously, things aren't going exactly the way I wanted," he said. "But I am right there, and I've got a pretty good chance of winning. There is a lot of golf to be played."

And, he pointed out, a lot of

water to clear. None more treacherous than the famous 17th, a hole that often decides this championship on Sundays. The par-5 16th also offers a tempting second shot over water and No. 18 has a long, intimidating lake running down the entire left side.

"It's much easier to come from three behind on this golf course," Woods said. "If there is any kind of golf course you want to play when you are behind, it is one of these with a lot of water and a lot of trouble."

Sutton stood by the same statement he's been making all week. It's the golf course, not Tiger, that he's trying to beat, and there is no way he'll be intimidated, even with another day to ponder the showdown.

"I am not going to look for a way to say, 'Poor, pitiful me' because of all of this," Sutton said. "We still have work to do and I feel good about the way I'm swinging and the way I'm putting. I'm just going to try to stay focused on what's at hand."

Twenty-four votes are needed for approval, meaning five teams have to switch, something considered highly unlikely.

Scoreboard

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA Basketball Tournament
At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 24

Florida 67, Duke 78
Oklahoma State 68, Seton Hall 66
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 26
Florida 77, Oklahoma State 65

SOUTH REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 24

Tulsa 80, Miami 71
North Carolina 74, Tennessee 69
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 26
North Carolina 59, Tulsa 55

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Friday, March 23

Michigan State 75, Syracuse 58
Iowa State 80, UCLA 66
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 25
Michigan State 75, Iowa State 64

WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Thursday, March 23

Purdue 75, Gonzaga 66
Wisconsin 61, LSU 48
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 25
Wisconsin 64, Purdue 60

THE FINAL FOUR
At The RCA Dome
Indianapolis
National Semifinals
Saturday, April 1
Wisconsin (22-13) vs. Michigan State (30-7), 5:42 p.m.
North Carolina (22-13) vs. Florida (28-7), 30 minutes after first game
National Championship
Monday, April 3
Semifinal winners, 9:18 p.m.

NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25

LSU 79, Duke 66
Connecticut 102, Oklahoma 80
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
LSU (25-6) vs. Connecticut (33-1), 7 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25

Tennessee 77, Virginia 56
Texas Tech 69, Notre Dame 65
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
Tennessee (31-3) vs. Texas Tech (28-4), 9 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25

Louisiana Tech 86, Old Dominion 74
Penn State 68, Iowa State 65
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27
Louisiana Tech (31-2) vs. Penn State (29-4), 7:30 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
Saturday, March 25

Georgia 83, North Carolina 57
Rutgers 60, Alabama-Birmingham 45
Regional Championship
Monday, March 27

Georgia (32-3) vs. Rutgers (25-7), Midnight

THE FINAL FOUR
At First Union Center
Philadelphia
National Semifinals
Friday, March 31
Midwest champion vs. West champion
East champion vs. Midwest champion
National Championship
Sunday, April 2

Semifinal winners

PRO BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

At A Glance

By The Associated Press

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	43	26	.623	—
New York	43	26	.623	—
Philadelphia	41	28	.594	2
Orlando	35	36	.493	9
Boston	30	40	.429	13 1/2
New Jersey	29	40	.420	14
Washington	25	46	.352	19

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Indiana	47	23	.671	—
Toronto	39	30	.565	7 1/2
Charlotte	38	31	.551	8 1/2
Detroit	36	33	.522	10 1/2
Milwaukee	33	37	.471	14
Cleveland	27	42	.391	19 1/2
Atlanta	25	44	.362	21 1/2
Chicago	14	55	.203	32 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Utah	47	21	.691	—
x-San Antonio	44	25	.638	3 1/2
x-Minnesota	43	26	.623	4 1/2
Dallas	39	40	.480	18 1/2
Denver	28	42	.400	20
Houston	26	44	.371	22
Vancouver	19	50	.275	28 1/2

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
x-L.A. Lakers	59	12	.831	—
x-Portland	51	18	.739	7
x-Phoenix	45	24	.652	13
Sacramento	40	29	.580	18
Seattle	40	29	.580	18
Golden State	17	53	.343	41 1/2
L.A. Clippers	14	57	.197	45

x-clinched playoff berth

Saturday's Games

Charlotte 85, Atlanta 70
Washington 83, Dallas 66
San Antonio 95, Cleveland 78
Utah 84, Vancouver 75
Detroit 126, L.A. Clippers 107

Sunday's Games

Philadelphia 111, Indiana 101
Orlando 84, Miami 69
Denver 112, New Jersey 110
Houston 123, Chicago 78
Milwaukee 99, Boston 84
L.A. Lakers 90, Sacramento 89
Minnesota 106, Toronto 101, OT
Phoenix 80, Golden State 82
New York 83, Portland 89

Monday's Games

San Antonio at Seattle, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Toronto at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix vs. Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Orlando, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New York at Sacramento, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

THE Pampa NEWS

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Oscar list ...

Complete list of 72nd annual Academy Awards presented Sunday:

Picture: "American Beauty."
Actor: Kevin Spacey, "American Beauty."
Actress: Hilary Swank, "Boys Don't Cry."
Supporting Actor: Michael Caine, "The Cider House Rules."
Supporting Actress: Angelina Jolie, "Girl, Interrupted."
Director: Sam Mendes, "American Beauty."
Foreign Film: "All About My Mother," Spain.
Original Screenplay: Alan Ball, "American Beauty."
Adapted Screenplay: John Irving, "The Cider House Rules."
Original Song: "You'll Be in My Heart" from "Tarzan," Phil Collins.
Original Score: "The Red Violin," John Corigliano.
Cinematography: "American Beauty."
Art Direction: "Sleepy

Hollow," Visual Effects: "The Matrix."
Film Editing: "The Matrix."
Sound: "The Matrix."
Sound Effects Editing: "The Matrix."
Costume: "Topsy-Turvy."
Makeup: "Topsy-Turvy."
Live Action Short Film: "My Mother Dreams the Satan's Disciples in New York."
Animated Short Film: "The Old Man and the Sea."
Documentary Feature: "One Day in September."
Documentary (short subject): "King Gimp."

Oscar winners previously announced this year:

Gordon E. Sawyer Award: Roderick T. Ryan, who created a film processor for use in special effects.
Irving Thalberg Memorial Award: Warren Beatty.
Honorary Award: Polish filmmaker Andrzej Wajda.

Oscarcast: Big, long and uncut

NEW YORK (AP) — Inflation continues to plague the Oscarcast.

"The 72nd Annual Academy Awards," which ABC aired live from Los Angeles' Shrine Auditorium Sunday night, ran a record-long four hours, eight minutes, by unofficial count, beating the four hours, five minutes of last year's Oscarcast.

What happened to those pledges that the so-called "2000 Oscars" show would be shorter, not longer? And who among us believed them?

Sure, the program was sleek, classy and as carefully engineered as Julia Roberts' new cleavage. So, with everything apparently on automatic pilot, why can't the show come in on time?

Nothing in particular gummed up the works, although no viewer would have missed the Burt Bacharach-led medley of past Oscar-winning songs.

Billy Crystal did his usual smooth job as host (his seventh turn), and seemed to pop up more often than in past Oscarcasts. His jovial wisecracks

were usefully interlarded through the evening, enlivening the clackety-clack efficiency of the business at hand.

Of course, he stole the first half-hour, which remained the show's high point.

For his signature prepared sequence, Crystal was digitally inserted into a series of classic films. At one point he sought counsel from Don Corleone in "The Godfather." At another, he sang the lead in a number from "West Side Story." "Tonight, tonight, there'll be no dance tonight, and yet this show will still run too long."

(Can't say we weren't warned.)

Then came musical tributes to Oscar nominees. Crystal filched the tune of "Mame" to serenade supporting actor contender Michael Caine: "How many movies can one actor make? Caine! He'll make one in the next station break! Caine!"

Later, when Caine was named winner for his performance in "The Cider House Rules," he offered perhaps the night's stand-out acceptance remarks.

The veteran actor not only

humbly, graciously saluted his co-nominees, but, as the grand old man in this circle, he effectively blessed each of them. It was a moment striking in its purity.

One smart innovation from producers Richard Zanuck and Lili Fini Zanuck: The five nominated songs were polished off deftly, back to back. These culminated with Robin Williams delivering the saucy "Blame Canada" (from "South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut"), complete with a kickline of leggy female "Canadian Mounties."

The stage setting for the Oscarcast was handsome, with pillars that could display graphic information, a flashing disco-like floor (borrowed, Crystal joked, from "Soul Train"), and a video wall in the background that accommodated multiple images like a computer desktop.

Prime topics of mirth for the evening: those 55 waylaid Oscar statuettes recovered by Willie Fulgear, the world's most famous junk man, and the imminent labor of pregnant best-actress nominee Annette Bening.

Sure, the program was sleek, classy and as carefully engineered as Julia Roberts' new cleavage. So, with everything apparently on automatic pilot, why can't the show come in on time?

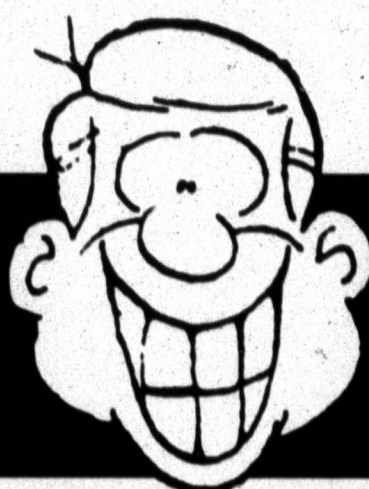
But during the long, long evening, viewers saw nothing embarrassing, silly or untoward to chortle about the next day.

Presenters read their scripted lines and got off. Winners expressed their grateful, not too extravagant thank-yous, and got off.

Behind his dark glasses, Jack Nicholson, introducing Irving G. Thalberg Award-winner Warren Beatty, seemed more doddering than rascally.

Even Cher, a presenter, conceded she had come dressed like a grown-up — which, disappointingly, she had. She promised it wouldn't happen again. But on the Oscarcast, promises have a way of being broken.

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MEDICAL

Study urges shorter stays at hospital for heart patients

By JEFF DONN
Associated Press Writer

Researchers suggested recently that hospitals could safely move toward releasing heart attack patients without complications after just three days, instead of the usual five or six.

The cost-benefit analysis, published today in the New England Journal of Medicine, sharpens an already touchy medical debate. Shorter stays for heart attacks could raise a public outcry like the one that led to a 1998 federal law mandating at least two days of insurance coverage for maternity stays.

Marti Ann Schwartz, who wrote "Listen to Me, Doctor: Taking Charge of Your Own Health Care," said she fears insurers will seize on such cost-benefit studies to rush patients out of the hospital. "They're trying to make up a sheet that the people ... can look at and say, 'It's five days, we cover three days, and it's disallowed,'" Schwartz said.

Hospital stays have become much shorter for heart attacks since the 1950s, when doctors believed patients needed such care for four to six weeks while the heart muscle healed.

The latest analysis is apt to push the industry toward even shorter stays, according to its chief author, Dr. Kristin Newby of Duke Clinical Research Institute in Durham, N.C. She joined researchers at four other institutions in carrying out the study, which was funded by pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical equipment companies Bayer Corp., Genentech Inc., CIBA-Corning, ICI and Sanofi.

Reviewing records of 22,361 patients, the researchers calculated that very few — perhaps as few as 13 — benefited from a fourth day in the hospital. For an average patient, the fourth day yields only another 2.2 days in life expectancy.

So it would take another 166 days in the hospital for another year of life expectancy. Thus, at \$624 a day in extra hospital and doctor costs, it would cost more than \$100,000 for an additional year

of life expectancy — more than double the \$50,000 figure for kidney dialysis. The kidney procedure is widely used as a benchmark for deciding if medical care is worth the social benefit.

Overall savings from shorter heart attack stays could be considerable, since more than 1 million Americans suffer heart attacks each year. About 60 percent have no complicating conditions, Newby said.

However, she acknowledged that most hospitals aren't yet set up to give patients all the pre-discharge testing, rehabilitation and advice they may need within three days.

"This is really outlining a possibility, if we could make our system more efficient," Newby said.

Dr. Donald Young, medical director of the Health Insurance Association of America, said the study raises points that should be considered. "Health care dollars are limited, and we need to know what works and what doesn't work," he said.

While also welcoming the study, some doctors extended cautions. They said it is very difficult to decide which patients are at highest risk.

Cardiologist Lynn Smaha, president of the Dallas-based American Heart Association, said he felt "mixed feelings" about the analysis.

"We're all trying to do what we can to reduce the cost. At the same time, we have to keep up the quality of care. Cost should not be the prime motivator," he said.

He said the conclusions of the analysis may be muddled by the fact that the patients did receive the fourth day of hospital care — and possibly benefits that are hard to quantify.

In an editorial in the journal, Boston-based doctors Elliott Antman at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Karen Kuntz at Harvard School of Public Health questioned if there is enough evidence for the safety of pre-discharge stress testing within three days of a heart attack. Such testing monitors the heart's recovery by putting the patient on a treadmill.

Johnson & Johnson halts marketing of Propulcid, a heartburn medication

NEW YORK (AP) — Johnson & Johnson will stop promoting its heartburn drug Propulcid because of concerns it may cause problems for people with heart disease or patients taking other medications.

The company said Thursday it will make Propulcid available on a limited basis for patients in the United States who can't take other medications.

Patients who are now taking the drug are asked to speak to their doctors.

The move comes two months after federal health officials called for additional warnings on the drug's label, saying it should only be used as a last resort and should not be taken unless the

patient has undergone heart tests.

The Food and Drug Administration first warned that Propulcid can cause serious heart problems in June 1998, but reports of deaths and hospitalizations mounted. About 70 deaths and 200 other reports of heart rhythm problems, including the life-threatening irregular heartbeat ventricular fibrillation, have been reported since Propulcid was introduced in the United States in 1993.

While Propulcid is one of the company's top selling drugs, its sales are far behind market leader Prilosec, made by AstraZeneca.

The company recently won federal approval for its new heartburn drug Aciphex.

Over-the-counter remedies may impair driving more than alcohol

By BILL BERGSTROM
Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A drug common to over-the-counter allergy medicines used by millions might affect drivers more than liquor, suggests a study published recently.

University of Iowa researchers who tested 40 allergy sufferers in a driving simulator found the standard dose of antihistamine contained in Benadryl and similar medicines had a greater effect than a few drinks on driving "coherence," or the ability to match the speed of the vehicle ahead.

The antihistamine, diphenhydramine, also had an effect similar to alcohol on steering stability and the likelihood of crossing into the oncoming lane, according to the study in today's Annals of Internal Medicine.

"We were quite surprised to find that diphenhydramine may have an even greater impact on the complex task of operating an automobile than does alcohol," said Dr. John Weiler, a University of Iowa medical professor. "That sends a chilling message. You would not want to be on the road when someone is driving at you who is taking these."

The study also looked at a newer antihistamine, fexofenadine, used in the prescription drug Allegra. The researchers said that when it came to driving ability, fexofenadine was indistinguishable from a placebo.

The maker of Benadryl, Warner-Lambert Co., attacked the new study as "seriously flawed" because it was partially funded by Aventis, the maker of Allegra. Weiler strongly defended his work, saying, "I am not for sale."

"We are in no way recommending that these medications be taken off the market. Benadryl is an extremely effective antihistamine, it is the side-effect profile that is disturbing," Weiler said.

Weiler also pointed out that the participants' assessments of how drowsy they were did not correlate with their performance, suggesting that people who take antihistamines may not be able to judge when they are impaired.

The researchers said more than 39 million Americans suffer from hay fever and allergies and 4.8 million take prescription drugs. Most go without treatment or take over-the-counter medications.

These medicines often come with warnings that they can cause drowsiness and should not be used while operating heavy machinery.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration researcher Richard Compton said that there had been too little research on the effects of allergy medications on driving safety and that people often ignore warnings about mixing them with alcohol.

However, Compton said a study of blood tests on victims of fatal crashes in the early 1990s suggested that antihistamine impairment was far less prevalent than alcohol impairment.

The Iowa researchers had the allergy sufferers, ages 25 to 45, report once a week over a four-week period to the driving simulator. Each was tested once after being given the usual dose of diphenhydramine; once with

the usual dose of fexofenadine; once with enough alcohol to produce a blood-alcohol concentration of 0.1 percent, the legal limit in some states; and once with a placebo containing no medication or alcohol.

Over a simulated 45-mile course on a two-lane rural road, the machine measured participants' ability to match speeds as a lead vehicle speeded and slowed, their ability to stay in their lane, and their ability to avoid a crash when a vehicle pulled out from a driveway in front of them.

Test drivers' following ability was significantly better after they took alcohol or fexofenadine than after diphenhydramine. Steering instability was greater with diphenhydramine or alcohol than fexofenadine or placebo. The number of times they crossed into the oncoming lane was twice as great after taking diphenhydramine as after fexofenadine or placebo.

Weiler also pointed out that the participants' assessments of how drowsy they were did not correlate with their performance, suggesting that people who take antihistamines may not be able to judge when they are impaired.

The results did not surprise people who have taken over-the-counter allergy medicines.

"They just zonk me out," Debbie Newton, a Mercerville, N.J., educational testing company employee. "For each pill you have a cup of coffee or a cup of cappuccino."

After a Greyhound bus crash killed seven people and injured 18 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1998, the National Transportation Safety Board blamed the sleepy driver's irregular work hours and also said he was impaired by antihistamine.

On the Net: The Annals of Internal Medicine Web is at <http://www.acponline.org/journals/annals/annaltoc.htm>

Vaccine-like therapy shows promise against kidney cancer

NEW YORK (AP) — A vaccine-like treatment wiped out or shrank tumors in patients whose kidney cancer had spread elsewhere in their bodies, according to a new study.

Experts called the results striking but cautioned that the preliminary study of only 17 patients would have to be confirmed by more work.

Tumors disappeared in four patients and shrank by more than half in two others, researchers from the University of Goettingen in Germany and elsewhere reported in the March issue of the journal Nature Medicine.

Cancer that has spread from the kidney is notoriously difficult to treat, and doctors often turn to experimental therapies. In the new study, tumors in the lung, bones, lymph nodes and elsewhere disappeared.

The research was aimed at revving up the immune system to attack tumors, much as an ordinary vaccine primes the body to fight off germs. The study used blood cells called dendritic cells, which normally trigger an immune attack by presenting other blood cells with bits of a target germ.

The scientists fused millions of tumor cells from each patient to dendritic cells from donors, then

injected the hybrid cells back into the patient. These hybrids could then alert the immune system by displaying bits of the patient's tumor.

Initially, patients were injected with the vaccine twice, six weeks apart. Those whose disease didn't progress continued to get boosters every three months. No serious side

effects appeared.

In three of the four patients whose tumors disappeared, it happened within the first 12 weeks, the researchers reported.

"We were quite happy with how this worked," and further development may make the treatment work better, said one study author, Dr. Rolf-Hermann Ringert of the

University of Goettingen. He said follow-up testing has already begun.

Dr. Samir Khleif, who conducts research on cancer vaccine treatments at the National Cancer Institute, called the report encouraging. But he stressed it must be confirmed by other researchers in studies that include more patients.

Bone marrow transplants not effective breast cancer treatment

BOSTON (AP) — A new study casts doubt on the value of bone marrow transplants for women with advanced breast cancer and one noted breast cancer expert is recommending that it be abandoned.

Researchers found that among women whose breast cancer had spread, patients who received bone marrow transplants and received high doses of chemotherapy "do not survive longer or have a longer time to progression of the disease" than patients who get just regular chemotherapy over a two-year period.

The study was set to be published in the New England Journal of Medicine on April 13. The journal released it Friday on its Web site Friday.

Dr. Marcia Angell, the journal's editor-in-chief, said a report out of South Africa that showed some benefit in the procedure later turned out to be fraudulent.

She said the journal made its report available early because the South African study "left a lot of concern and confusion among women and insurers who weren't sure whether to cover it."

A total of 199 patients took part in the study, and after three years, there was no significant difference

in the survival of the groups or in how long the treatment kept the cancer from recurring.

"It's true that it is no better than the standard treatment and that's a disappointment," said Dr. John K. Erban, chief of hematology and oncology at New England Medical Center and a co-author of the study.

However, he said the transplant treatment might be preferable for some women because it can be completed in three weeks. He said the conventional chemotherapy regimen takes two years and "is unpalatable for some women."

He added that it's possible that some very small set of patients might still be found who do better with the transplants.

In an accompanying editorial, Dr. Marc E. Lippman of the Lombardi Cancer Center in Washington, aid doctors should reconsider the way they treat women with advanced breast cancer.

"This form of treatment for women with metastatic breast cancer has been proved to be ineffective and should be abandoned in favor of well-justified alternative experimental approaches," Lippman wrote.

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