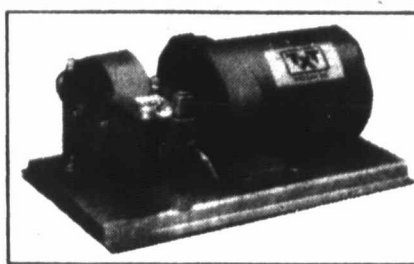


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**WEATHER**

**HIGH** 62 **LOW** 30

### LOCAL

#### Aggie Mothers Club to meet on Monday

AMARILLO — Amarillo Aggie Mothers' Club monthly meeting is set for Monday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 S. Coulter Rd. Enter under the green awning.

### DEATHS

Brian A. Prigmore, 60, U.S. Air Force veteran.

**INSIDE...**

Classified .....11  
Comics .....8  
Editorial .....4  
Religion .....7  
Sports .....9

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# Budget change surprises no one

By ALAN FRAM  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservatives expressed little surprise, and anger in private, as administration officials said President Bush now estimates the new Medicare overhaul law will cost a third more than projected when Congress passed the legislation last year.

The president's budget, to be released Monday, will also project a federal deficit this year of about \$520 billion, congressional aides said. That would far exceed this year's \$375 billion, the highest ever in dollar terms.

The budget will estimate the price of retooling Medicare and adding prescription drug benefits at \$534 billion over the decade ending 2013, officials said. The figures, first revealed Thursday by congressional aides speaking on condition of anonymity, were confirmed by administration officials.

While hunting for the votes they needed to nudge the bill through, Bush and administration officials as well as top congressional Republicans told wavering conservatives they believed the bill's costs would track the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's \$395 billion estimate.

Bush signed the Medicare bill Dec. 8, giving him a legislative victory that he intends to promote during his re-election campaign.

"It points again to the No. 1 agenda item that needs to be addressed by Congress," Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, said of the new figures. "We've got to protect the family budget from the federal budget."

Hensarling was among several conservatives who voted for the measure after being told by Bush and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., that the costs should follow the CBO projections.

Other conservatives said privately

they were owed an explanation as to why the White House did not provide them with the figures before they voted.

Administration officials said the new cost estimate was not ready until now. And they said the different figure shouldn't be surprising given the millions of beneficiaries, hundreds of billions of dollars and time period involved.

"Slight differences can change those estimates," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said Friday. Asked whether the administration misled lawmakers, McClellan said, "Of course

(See BUDGET, Page 3)

# Early voting nears end for PGWCD board

By MARILYN POWERS  
STAFF WRITER

Early voting in the election of two to the board of directors of Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District continues through Tuesday, Feb. 3, with 248 ballots cast as of 4:30 p.m. Jan. 29.

Of those 248, 190 were in Precinct 3, where Stephen Smith is challenging incumbent John R. Spearman Jr. The remaining 58 were from Precinct 7, where incumbent Robert Clark faces Kim Flowers.

The two water conservation district precincts do not cover the same geographic area as regular voting precincts which are printed on voter registration cards. Water Board Precinct 3 covers the northern third of Gray County, the southwest quarter of Roberts County, and about one-eighth of Wheeler County in the northwest section. All registered voters living in Pampa are eligible to vote in the Precinct 3 water district board election. Precinct 7 is in

Roberts County. Early voting for Precinct 3 is in the non-jury courtroom of Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell, for Gray and Wheeler County residents, and at the Roberts County Clerk's office, U.S. Highway 60 at Kiowa in Miami, for Roberts County residents.

Early voting for Precinct 7 is at the Roberts County Clerk's office.

Election day will be Saturday, Feb. 7. Precinct 3 voters in Gray and Wheeler Counties may vote at the Gray County Annex Building, 12125 E. Frederic Ave. in Pampa.

Precinct 3 voters living in Roberts County will vote at the Little Red School House, Texas Highway 70 and FM 282.

Election day voters in Precinct 7 will vote at Miami Community Center, 103 S. Main in Miami.

For more information, contact the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District office in White Deer at 883-2501.

## Recruiting office reopens



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Staff Sgts. Shawn Miller, seated, and Steven Darby of the U.S. Army reopened the Army Recruiting Office in Coronado Center last week after the office had been closed for about a year. Since the office has reopened, the staff sergeants report about 10 visitors, with three enlisting. Individuals may enlist in the Army or Army Reserves at the office, or get information on the 212 career fields offered by the Army, as well as other military service information such as the Army's college assistance program. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 665-1470, Staff Sgt. Miller at (877) 394-4977, Staff Sgt. Darby at (806) 236-2344, or go to the Army's website, [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

# Nebraska feeder: He's blessed by competition

By DAVID BOWSER  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A Nebraska cattle feeder told a jury here this week that he is blessed because he lives where there is a competitive market.

Tom Feller, 48, has two feedyards near Winer, Neb., with a total capacity of 20,000 head of cattle. Testifying in a class-action lawsuit against IBP, Feller said the county in which his lives, Cuming County, Neb., is the largest cattle feeding county in the country with feedyards totaling 300,000 one time capacity. Consequently, he said, there are a number of packing plants nearby. He said he often gets four or five buyers visiting his feedyards, including a buyer from IBP.

Although he said he still sells cattle to IBP and terms the local IBP buyer a "good guy," Feller said there was a time when he didn't sell any cattle to the largest packer in the world even though it has two packing plants near his feedyards.

The lawsuit accuses IBP of using captive supplies, cattle owned or controlled by the packer more than seven days prior to slaughter, in a way that they could manipulate the cash cattle market in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

"In 1994," Feller said, "that was a disaster period. There was a lot of blood on the floor."

The lawsuit accuses IBP of using captive supplies, cattle owned or controlled by the packer more than seven days prior to slaughter, in a way that they could manipulate the cash cattle market in violation of the Packers and Stockyards Act. The class-action lawsuit covers anybody that sold cattle to IBP in the cash market between Feb. 1, 1994, and Oct. 31, 2002.

Earlier testimony indicated that the structure of the cattle market changed in 1994.

Two cattle feeders, Mike Callicrate of Kansas and Jim Miller of Colorado, testified earlier in the trial that they had been boycotted in

1994 by IBP.

"I didn't sell a lot of cattle to IBP in that period," Feller said Thursday.

He said that in 1994, he sold most of his cattle to small packing plants around Omaha. Even then, he said, he lost money although there were still quite a few bids for the cattle.

"I operated like I always did," Feller said. "It was just operated at a lower price."

Although he said that by 2000, he was selling 15 percent of his cattle to Excel, 20 percent to a packer in Minnesota, 15 percent to Nebraska Beef, 15 percent to Greater Omaha and 10 percent to IBP, he said that when IBP was not in the market, it was evident.

Feller said that since IBP is the

largest packer in the world, accounting for about 40 percent of the beef slaughter, other packers wait for it to bid and set the market. If it doesn't bid, he said, the other packers have to absorb the cattle that cattle feeders were expecting to sell to IBP, that usually means accepting lower prices.

Tom Green, an attorney for IBP, pointed out that 90 percent of the cattle Feller sold in the summer of 2000, was to other packers who bid more than IBP.

"To whom you sell your cattle," Green said, "is your decision."

Feller admitted that the IBP packer was free to pass on Feller's cattle.

Green also pointed out that in 1994 through 1996 the supply of cattle was increasing and the price of fed cattle was at an all time low.

Green said that cattle prices go up and down depending upon supply, but Feller countered by saying that the supply was being controlled, at least at times, by the packers through various marketing agreements.

"Captive supplies put supply in the packer's hands," Feller said.





Sharon McKee

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1314 Kingsmill ... \$32,500  
820 N. Gray ... \$49,000  
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## ON RECORD

### POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

A juvenile was arrested at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, for class disruption and released to the juvenile probation office.

Family violence was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells. No injuries were reported.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 300 block of South Gray.

Tampering with a government document was reported in the lobby of the police department. The document was a false Social Security card.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1600 block of North Banks.

Forgery was reported at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart.

A student at Pampa Sheltered Workshop, 1301 W. Somerville, became unstable/assaultive and

was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center, where he was later transferred to Northwest Texas Hospital under order of a judge.

Simple assault was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester. No injuries were reported.

Marcella Lynn Turner, 22, 509 N. Dwight, was arrested at her residence for failure to identify as a fugitive, failure to appear, no insurance, and expired driver's license.

Danasty Mize, 18, Skellytown, was arrested at 1900 N. Hobart on capias pro fines for two counts of animal nuisance, and warrants for running a stop sign and failure to appear.

**Friday, Jan. 30**

Pedro Vargas Montoya, 24, 1221 E. Francis, was arrested at 715 E. Locust for public intoxication and assault by threat.

Evaristo Jimenez, 24, 909 E. Gordon, was arrested at 715 E. Locust for public intoxication and assault by threat.

### ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

**Thursday, Jan. 28**

7:30 a.m. — A 1984 Buick Skylark, owned by Jimmy Dale Atwood, 23, 601 Wynne, collided with a gas meter owned by Atmos Energy, in the 500 block of Wynne. The vehicle was reportedly unoccupied at the time of the incident. Atwood was cited for defective equipment and no insurance.

### FIRE

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

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

7:47 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a gas leak in the 500 block of North Wynne. A vehicle had struck a gas meter. Firefighters stood by until Atmos Energy workers could turn off the gas and repair the meter.

9:29 a.m. — Three firefighters in one unit participated in a Career Day at St. Vincent's School, 810 W. 23rd.

1:55 p.m. — Two firefighters in one unit participated in a Career Day at St. Vincent's School, 810 W. 23rd.

### SHERIFF

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

**Thursday, Jan. 29**

Steven Gregory Franks, 44, 2808 28th, was arrested by Amarillo Police Department on a Gray County grand jury indictment for retaliation.

Amber Paige William, 23, Amarillo, was arrested for a motion to revoke probation on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

### STOCKS

|                                                                                                    |                  |        |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|
| The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.                            | KMI              | 59.25  | -0.25 |
| Wheat                                                                                              | XCEL             | 17.23  | NC    |
| Milo                                                                                               | Kerr McGee       | 48.10  | -0.68 |
| Corn                                                                                               | Limited          | 18.02  | +0.19 |
| Soybeans                                                                                           | Williams         | 10.18  | +0.04 |
|                                                                                                    | MCD              | 25.54  | +0.04 |
|                                                                                                    | XOM              | 40.88  | -0.59 |
|                                                                                                    | Atmos            | 25.61  | -0.05 |
| The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa. | Pioneer Nat.     | 32.04  | -0.32 |
| OXY                                                                                                | JCP              | 26.52  | +0.51 |
| BP                                                                                                 | COP              | 65.87  | -0.75 |
| Celanese                                                                                           | SLB              | 61.85  | +0.03 |
| Cabot Corp.                                                                                        | Tenneco          | 10.96  | -0.25 |
| Cabot Oil Gas                                                                                      | CVX              | 86.08  | -1.23 |
| Coca Cola                                                                                          | Wal-Mart         | 54.52  | +0.04 |
| VLO                                                                                                | OKE              | 22.60  | -0.09 |
| HAL                                                                                                | NS Grp           | 9.24   | +0.01 |
| Trinidad                                                                                           |                  |        |       |
| NOI                                                                                                |                  |        |       |
|                                                                                                    | New York Gold    | 399.88 |       |
|                                                                                                    | Silver           | 6.25   |       |
|                                                                                                    | West Texas Crude | 32.81  |       |

## WEATHER FOCUS

### PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, highs in the lower 50s and south winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should fall on partly cloudy skies with lows around 30 and south winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday should see partly cloudy skies. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the west 5 to 15 mph in the afternoon. Saturday night, cloudy with a chance of rain. Rain changing to snow in the evening. Breezy. Lows in the mid 20s. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain and snow 30 percent. Sunday, cloudy with a 40

percent chance of snow. Breezy. Much colder. Highs around 30. North winds 15 to 25 mph. Sunday night, cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Breezy. Lows around 18. Monday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 20s. Thursday, mostly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 40s.

## Economy up in final quarter

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy grew at a 4 percent annual rate in the final three months of 2003 — a slowdown from the red-hot performance of the prior quarter but still compelling evidence of a recovery in full motion at year's end.

The reading on the gross domestic product for the October-to-December quarter, reported Friday by the Commerce Department, came after the economy grew at a sizzling 8.2 percent rate in the third quarter. That had been the strongest performance in nearly two decades.

Analysts were predicting a slowdown in economic growth in the fourth quarter as the stimulative impact of tax cuts and a refinance frenzy faded with the onset of winter.

The 4 percent growth rate for GDP was weaker than the 4.8 percent pace that analysts had been forecasting. The GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced within the United States and is considered the broadest measure of the economy's health.

"The bottom line: The fourth quarter was strong and was a very good end to the year. Perhaps it wasn't as good as we thought it would be but it still showed the economy going into this year with significant momentum," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

The fourth-quarter's performance disappointed some Wall Street investors. The Dow Jones industrials were down 41 points in morning trade. The Nasdaq index was up around 4 points.

For all of 2003, the economy grew by a solid 3.1 percent. That marked an improve-

ment over the 2.2 percent increase registered in 2002 and represented the strongest showing since 2000.

For out of work Americans, though, it may not feel like better economic times.

Job growth has been slow. The nation's payrolls grew by a scant 1,000 jobs in December, disappointing economists and frustrating jobseekers.

The economy has lost 2.3 million jobs since President Bush took office in January 2001. The president believes a stronger economy will lead to more jobs. Democrats point to the job losses as evidence of what they say are the president's failed economic policies.

Analysts are hopeful that stronger job growth will take place later this year as businesses feel more confident in the economy and see their bottom lines improve.

In the fourth quarter, businesses increased investment in equipment and software at a brisk 10 percent rate even though that was down from a 17.6 percent growth rate in the third quarter. And, in another encouraging sign, businesses boosted inventories in the fourth quarter. That added 0.61 percentage point to the GDP last quarter, a turnaround from the 0.13 percentage-point reduction to GDP seen in the third quarter.

Businesses trimmed spending on new plants and other buildings at a 3 percent rate in the fourth quarter, deeper than the 1.8 percent rate of decline seen in the third quarter. Economists say that a sustained turnaround in capital investment is a necessary ingredient for the recovery to be lasting.

## OBITUARIES

**BRIAN A. PRIGMORE**  
1944-2004

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Brian A. Prigmore, 60, a former Pampa resident, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2004. Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Heritage Baptist Church in Oklahoma City. Arrangements are under the direction of Guardian West Funeral Home.

Mr. Prigmore was born Jan. 5, 1944, at Pampa, to Orbie Michael Prigmore and Lena Myrtle Prigmore. He lived in the Pampa area until graduation from high school when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He remained in the Air Force for 22 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a

brother, Richard Prigmore; and two daughters, Theresa Lyna and Lena Michelle.

Survivors include his wife of 31 years, Carolyn; his children, Katherine Lampshire and Burns Flat, Okla., Dawn Prigmore and Rush Prigmore, both of Oklahoma City; three brothers, Robert Prigmore of Bullard, Donald Prigmore of Grapevine and Michael Prigmore of Papillion, Neb.; and three grandchildren.

The body will be available for viewing until 9 p.m. today at Guardian West Funeral Home in Oklahoma City. Visitation will be from 6:30-9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

## SERVICES TOMORROW

**HORST, William "Bill"** — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

**PRIGMORE, Brian A.** — 10 a.m., Heritage Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

## Energy bill hinges on reducing costs

WASHINGTON (AP) —

While energy prices across the spectrum — from gasoline at the pump to heating oil, natural gas and crude oil — have soared, the political steam in Congress to enact a new national energy agenda has cooled with the winter frost.

The Bush administration is pressing congressional Republicans to scale back a bloated \$31 billion energy bill, arguing it has no chance to pass this year unless it is stripped of billions of dollars in direct spending and tax breaks.

The bill's supporters, along with the White House, are trying to resuscitate the legislation, which was shelved in November after Senate leaders were two votes short of overcoming a Democratic-led filibuster. The House approved it.

Since then, opposition to the bill's cost — about \$23 billion in tax breaks and another \$8 billion in spending — has grown, especially among some Senate

Republicans, who argue it would result in billions of dollars in spending above the congressional budget ceiling.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., who chaired the House-Senate conference that produced the bill, acknowledged that its price tag needs to be re-examined to get the bill through.

"I am confident we can nail down the votes," he said. "We're only two votes down."

But slashing programs and tax benefits that are the product of months of negotiations among lawmakers may be harder than expected.

The bill's cost ballooned from less than \$20 billion to \$31 billion largely because lawmakers wrangled concessions and programs in return for their support. Abandoning those agreements by chipping away at the bill could lose as many supporters as it gains, several GOP senators conceded.

"Some of my colleagues have made it clear that in order to get

their support we have to include certain things in the bill," said Domenici. He said as the bill was being assembled, fellow lawmakers wanting items in the bill "had me over a barrel" because "I needed every vote."

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who led the Senate negotiations on the bill's tax package, said there are intense discussions under way on where to make cuts. But he said he hasn't signed off on any proposals yet because "we have to maintain a well balanced bill" or lose support.

The White House, which always has complained about the size of the tax breaks, also has sent mixed signals.

President Bush, who in the past called energy legislation a matter of national and economic security and one of his top domestic priorities, included just a single sentence in his State of the Union address last week, stopping short of calling for passage of the broad-based bill before the Congress.

## State plan allows toll lanes on any Texas highway

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Transportation under a proposed rule would be able to create toll lanes on any part of the state highway system if the lanes reduce congestion.

The policy is likely only to be applied to new construction.

The Texas Transportation Commission issued the proposed rule at its monthly meeting on Thursday in San Antonio. It continues the state's movement toward including tolls in future highway projects. The rule now will go through a six-week public-comment period before being finalized in March.

The draft rules also would expand the department's authority to enter into agreements with local transportation entities for the operation of

toll and high occupancy vehicle lanes. The state already has such an agreement with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, which has HOV lanes on Interstates 10 and 45 and U.S. 59 and 290.

Another agreement with the Harris County Toll Road Authority will allow the county to operate four toll lanes on I-10 when it is expanded.

Included in the proposed rules is a provision to allow exclusive lanes on multilane highways that would be tolled and restricted to certain vehicle classes such as lanes only for trucks. Motorcyclists and owners of low-emission vehicles could be authorized to use HOV lanes without meeting the minimum occupancy requirements of other vehicles.

## City Briefs

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(Courtesy photo)

Dancers perform in "TEXAS" at the Palo Duro Amphitheater.

## Foundation secures rights to 'TEXAS' by Paul Green

After a yearlong effort by the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, Inc. to protect the nearly \$1 million dollar investment of the script TEXAS, copyrights to the Paul Green script, TEXAS are now the sole property of TPHF.

The conclusion announces that the terms of settlement guarantees that the script be retained in the community and the local foundation for which it was specifically and originally written. TPHF recently sought the protection of the court to insure that its rights were maintained as acknowledged in the long existing contract with the Paul Green Foundation in an effort to retain and honor the production that most people have previously associated with the Foundation.

This legal step was taken to protect the reputation and original purpose of the script.

### Plane skids to stop; landing gear folded

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An AmericanConnection plane carrying 26 passengers landed safely Thursday night at St. Louis' Lambert Airport after its landing gear collapsed.

No one was injured.

Officials said the Jetstream 41 turboprop plane was flying from Fayetteville, Ark., to St. Louis when the pilot discovered that the front landing gear did not fully retract. One passenger told KSDK-TV that the plane's occupants were told 45 minutes into the flight that there was a problem.

The pilot touched down on the rear wheels, and then gently put the nose of the plane on the runway.

The plane was flown by Trans States Airlines, a regional partner of Fort Worth, Texas-based American Airlines.

developed and written to tell the history and stories of the people living in the Texas Panhandle, as well as to secure the right to present other, different historical dramas about Texas, such as the brand-new and innovative TEXAS LEGACIES.

"Our local organization is pleased that a compromise has been reached in this matter," stated TPHF President, Blaine Bertrand. "TPHF has a deep regard for the Paul Green Foundation, its board of directors and the legacy of Paul Green. The long and productive relationship between the North Carolina group and our local Heritage Foundation can now continue."

Using the resources of an insurance carrier, the complete rights of ownership to the Paul Green script are now owned by the people of the Panhandle of Texas. Trademarks and other proprietary rights associated with the script have also been secured. The investment the Panhandle has made for 40 years has been preserved for future generations.

After a decline in attendance resulting in more than a \$3 million loss to the community, TPHF made the difficult, yet necessary move to reverse the downward trend. Considering and applying careful attention to industry trends, market research, and critical analysis, the decision was made to develop a new story to rejuvenate audience

interest and guarantee new growth in theatre attendance. The result is TEXAS LEGACIES, which premiered in the summer of 2003. This new script continues the mission of the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, to preserve, record and present Texas History through entertainment and education.

A direct result of the recent settlement gives complete ownership and control of the Paul Green script, TEXAS, to the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, allowing the Foundation the ability to showcase the original script or parts thereof and if they choose.

The first chapter of TEXAS LEGACIES, the Adventure of a Lifetime, will take the stage in the Palo Duro Canyon, June 3, running nightly except Sundays through Aug. 21.

TEXAS LEGACIES shares the stories of the Texas pioneers as never before with the finest talent, horsemanship and theatrical magic that the theatre world has ever seen. Panhandle history comes to life in the nation's newest outdoor epic drama.

Phil Price's Heavenly Country will be the newest addition to the Pioneer Amphitheatre performing Sundays, June 13 through Aug. 22.

For information on tickets, auditions or about either production, visit the web at [www.epictexas.com](http://www.epictexas.com) or call 806-655-2181.

## Space Center workers remember Columbia crew

HOUSTON (AP) — Johnson Space Center workers wiped away tears during an emotional tribute to the seven astronauts who died during the space shuttle Columbia's final mission.

"To this day, I have this lump in my gut," center director Jefferson Howell told about 1,000 workers who gathered under cloudy skies. "How did you let this happen? What could you have done to prevent this?"

A chunk of foam the size of a suitcase tore a hole in Columbia's left wing 82 sec-

onds after liftoff a year ago. The gap let in the searing gases of re-entry two weeks later as the orbiter returned home. The spaceship broke apart over Texas on Feb. 1, killing all aboard.

"I like you went through the terrible myriad of emotions: denial, horror, terrible grief, frustration, anger, guilt," Howell said.

Despite those feelings, Howell said workers did what had to be done, buried the dead and got back to work.

"This is exactly what this crew would have wanted us to

do," he said. "Wouldn't they be upset with us if we quit? Wouldn't it be an insult to them if we gave up?"

Workers at the center, where Mission Control is located, should use the crew's example of "incredible courage, teamwork, total integrity, professional excellence, commitment to their purpose," as they continue their work, Howell said.

"That is a way we can honor them," he said. "Crew of Columbia, you will never be forgotten. Crew of Columbia, we honor you with our actions and our success."

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

## BUDGET

not."

"Very messy," said Joe Antos, a health policy expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, describing the reaction among conservative lawmakers.

He said many of them felt "brow beaten" into backing the legislation, which passed the House in November by five votes after leaders held the roll call open nearly three hours while nailing down support.

The new figures, the first time the White House has released projections of the Medicare bill's costs, could deepen a rift between the White House and conservatives already upset over spending and budget deficits on Bush's watch.

"The president is committed to making sure cost controls continue in Medicare," said White House spokesman Trent Duffy.

Bush included a 10-year, \$400 billion estimate for his broadly written plan for overhauling Medicare in his budget last February.

Democrats said the new estimate meant a bonus for drug companies and managed health care organizations,

which have joined the ranks of their favorite election-year targets.

"Another \$140 billion squandered on fly-by-night HMOs and astronomical drug industry profits. It's a proud day for the Bush administration," said Rep. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce's health subcommittee.

Nearly everyone expects the Medicare bill to get increasingly costly in coming years as the huge baby boom generation retires and medical expenses grow. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, director of the Congressional Budget Office, has said the measure's costs in its second decade could exceed \$1.5 trillion.

Administration officials said they could not initially explain precisely why the projections differed. Antos said it was probably due to estimating differences over the number of people expected to use federally subsidized health plans and health care tax breaks the bill creates.

The administration released some positive news about their forthcoming budget, including proposals for:

—\$45 million for cleaning up the Great Lakes.

—An \$18 million increase — to \$122.5 million — for the National Endowment for the Arts.

—\$60 million for a cattle identification system and other mad cow-related programs, up from \$13 million this year.

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- ✓ High Blood Pressure—major contributing factor for up to 70% of strokes
- ✓ African American

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## VIEWPOINTS

## It's time to strike back, Bush

## THE Pampa NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79066. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall  
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore  
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch  
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods  
Composition Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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## TEXAS EDITORIAL

## E.U. should retain ban on selling arms to China

From the Jan. 25 Victoria Advocate:

The European Union is set to destabilize East Asia and threaten peace in the region.

The EU foreign ministers (on Jan. 26) will begin debating whether to lift a ban on the sale of modern, high-tech weaponry to the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army for more than a decade has been modernizing its forces and equipment, largely paid for by ever-increasing trade surpluses with the United States. The U.S. trade deficit with China last year topped \$100 billion.

"For 13 consecutive years, China has made double-digit increases in the public budget for the 2.5-million strong People's Liberation Army," The Associated Press reported. "Reported defense spending grew 17.6 percent to \$20 billion in 2002 — but foreign analysts say the true spending is likely four times the official figures."

That buys a lot of weaponry, and Europe's leading arms-dealing nations are eager to grab as much of that market as they can.

The EU's Code of Conduct for arms sales bars member nations from selling weaponry to countries that might use it for external aggression or internal oppression or whose governments violate basic human rights.

China's violation of this code in the Tiananmen Square massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators resulted in the EU ban on weapons sales.

Too little has changed since then to justify lifting this prohibition. The Chinese regime still violates the human rights of the nation's people, harshly suppressing both political dissent and religious groups that do not kowtow to the government. Should pro-democracy demonstrators take to the streets in large number again, the PLA likely would massacre them as it did in 1989.

The EU also has to know that any modern weaponry it sells to China will better equip the PLA to invade Taiwan, as the regime frequently threatens to do if the island-nation it regards as a renegade province refuses to surrender to mainland control. A military conflict in the Taiwan Strait would drag in other nations, including the United States and potentially Japan.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, Jan. 30, the 30th day of 2004. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 30, 1968, during the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive began as Communist forces launched surprise attacks against South Vietnamese provincial capitals.

On this date:

In 1649, England's King Charles I was beheaded.

In 1882, the 32nd president of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was born in Hyde Park, N.Y.

In 1933, Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany.

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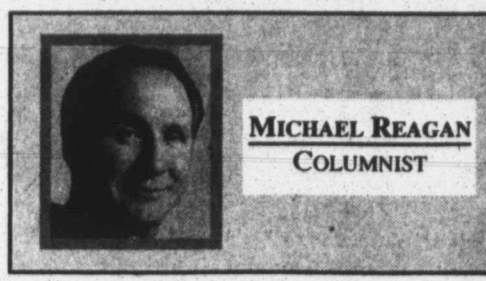
Hatred of President Bush is what drives the Democratic candidates for their party's presidential nomination, says Larry Sabato, the widely respected political observer at the University of Virginia — and he thinks it's time for President Bush to wake up to that fact and go on the offensive.

"The Democrats have dominated the news media — every channel, every hour, with the exception of the State of the Union address," he says. "Democrats' unity of opposition to Bush on every issue has kept the campaign a symphony rather than a cacophony, building toward a crescendo of anti-Bush fervor. The Democrats are pumped. The Bush White House appears blissfully ignorant of that reality, at least early in the campaign season."

He's right. Back in 1996, when Bill Clinton was running for re-election, the Democrats started very early in the campaign to spend a lot of money to derail any Republican's chance of winning. It was the smart thing to do and it worked.

This year it's important that people be reminded that there are two primary campaigns going on, side-by-side with the Democratic primaries there are also Republican primaries.

But it's the Democrats who get all the media attention. Every day, Edwards gives his same speech, Kerry gives his same speech, and Dean gives his same speech: "down with America, down with the president" and all the rest of that demagogic claptrap.

MICHAEL REAGAN  
COLUMNIST

The President of the United States, however, gets almost no time at all. If I were the President at this stage, I'd be showing up for the primaries. I would have been in Iowa and New Hampshire, and I'd be in Missouri and South Carolina and every other state holding primaries.

He should show up on primary nights, thank the Republicans who voted for him and discount what all these people are saying.

You get around that by having the President show up on primary night, thank the people who voted for him and set the record straight. Being President, he will get air time and we won't have to listen to six unbroken hours of slander against him and his party. He can start now to demolish all the untruths, blatant lies and distortions about him being peddled by the Democratic demagogues.

When Senator Kerry attacks the President for being allegedly dominated by all those evil special interests President Bush would have an opportunity to point out that Kerry's party is totally owned by special interests. They couldn't exist for one minute without the financial and political support of the trial lawyers, the abortion industry, big labor,

the teacher's unions, the radical environmentalist movement and the rest of the motley crew who own the Democratic party lock, stock and barrel.

What Kerry is saying is that the Republican "special interests," which is growth and the economy, must go so he can bring his special interests to the White House and pay off the trial lawyers and the abortion industry and all the rest for their support.

All this garbage is all going unanswered and it needs to be rebutted by the President. Five Democrats, three of whom shouldn't even be in the race, are getting all the publicity bad mouthing the President. He's getting none.

The American people must be warned that if they vote for John Kerry or any other Democrat the war in the Middle East will end there and begin here. You won't have to worry about body bags coming back from Iraq because they'll be coming home from the mall.

Vote for the Democrats and the economy will turn sour. They are anti-business which is where the 401Ks of millions of middle class Americans are invested. But the Democrats attack the very source of our 401K retirement funds — business. Most of our financial resources are invested in the market, and these people want to ruin the market, ruin the economy and lose the war.

And nobody is in a better position to tell these truths to the American people than President Bush. He should get out there on the campaign trail now.



## There's more this country can do

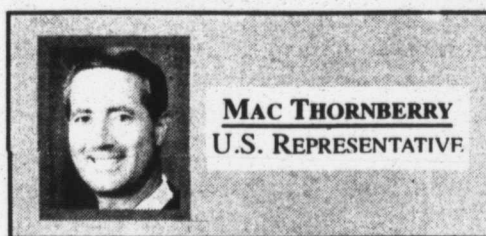
As we enter another election year, our airwaves and mailboxes are already flooded with ideas about how to change America. Political campaigns often focus on what's wrong, or at least on what ought to be done better in the opinion of the candidates. That's to be expected. But if we are to truly take stock of the "state of the union," we need to remember our strengths, as well as to acknowledge our challenges for the coming year.

A lot is going right in America. We have passed through a perilous year without a major terrorist attack here at home and have made up for some, but not all, of the neglect of our homeland security. Our magnificent men and women of the military have liberated the Iraqi people from one of the cruelest regimes of modern times, and the world, including the United States, is safer as a result. Our economy is picking up steam with a broad recovery that should be sustainable. Life expectancy is the longest it's ever been, and new medicines and procedures continue to improve our quality of life as well. Our national blessings continue to multiply for those who are willing to see them.

Yet, we do face many challenges in the year ahead, challenges that will not remain idle during a campaign year. Among the issues on Congress' plate this year are:

**The War on Terrorism:** In fighting this war, we have done a lot in the past year. Many of the enemy are behind bars or are otherwise unable to launch their ruthless attacks. But terrorists continue to plot against us every day. We cannot let up in hunting them down and thwarting their evil schemes. And if we can show progress toward a stable, secure, self-governing Iraq, we will have struck a major blow against those seeking new recruits for the terrorist training camps.

**Homeland Security:** At home, the Department of Homeland Security has not

MAC THORNBERRY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

yet come together as one, integrated Department, and it still struggles to overcome the bureaucratic, cultural resistance to change. We are just beginning to think about how to measure success in trying to make the country safer and to prevent the unthinkable for happening. We have much work to do.

**The Budget:** Each year, one of the most important things Congress does is to make decisions on the budget — how much money the federal government will demand in taxes and then how that money will be spent. The combination of a slow economy, the war on terrorism, and a lack of fiscal discipline caused large deficits to reappear. While things are looking better, we will not be able to return to a budget surplus this year. But we ought to at least put the country on the path toward a balanced budget, which requires limiting the growth of spending and, above all, a strong, growing economy.

**Implementation of the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill:** Last year, Congress and the President approved the most significant change to Medicare in its 38 year history, making available prescription drug coverage. As that bill begins to be implemented, Congress will have to keep a close watch to ensure that the hopes of strengthening Medicare for everyone are achieved.

**Highway Bill:** Every five years or so, Congress must pass a bill that allocates how the money in the highway trust fund is to be spent. With every gallon of gasoline you buy, you pay 16.4 cents into the federal trust fund, which is then returned

to the states to build and repair highways and for other transportation related projects. A major goal for this year is to ensure that Texas gets back at least 90 — 95 cents for every dollar we send in taxes. Today, we get back only about 88 cents for every dollar of fuel taxes paid by Texans.

**Immigration:** The President has outlined a major proposal to change the status of workers who have entered the country illegally. It will be very controversial in Congress and around the country, and I have real concerns with what has been suggested. But, with illegal immigration continuing to be a problem and with delays of months or even years for those trying to follow the rules and enter the country legally, immigration will be a major issue on the country's agenda for some time.

**Energy:** The House gave final approval last year to a comprehensive energy bill, which is not all that I would like, but does take real positive steps toward more energy security for the country. Hopefully, the Senate will break the log-jam that has prevented a final vote on the measure.

**Judges:** There have been several controversial court decisions over the past year, dealing with everything from the Pledge of Allegiance to the definition of "marriage." Constitutional amendments have been proposed to reverse some of these decisions, and frustration with delays in getting a Senate vote on a number of the President's judicial nominees will make judges a key issue for the year.

We are fortunate to live in a great country, which can always be made better. Hopefully, even in a political year, Congress and the Administration will find ways to make progress on some of the major challenges facing us, thinking not only of next November, but of the next generation, as well.

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BUY ONE GET ONE****FREE****Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society current, past officers**

(Courtesy photo)

Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society recently elected the following officers for the current club year: (left-right) Jackie Chisum, vice president; Debbie Davis, secretary/treasurer; and Gary Stevens, president. The society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Realty at Pampa Mall. New members are welcome. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded a deserving senior at Pampa High School. For scholarship information, contact Starla Kindle, a counselor at PHS.



(Courtesy photo)

Las Pampas Koi and Water Garden Society recently elected a new slate of officers for the current club year. Outgoing officers are (left-right) Ginger Duncan, secretary/treasurer; Loyd Waters, president; and Irvine Riphahn, vice president.

**Hezbollah seeks new role in prisoner switch with Israel, analysts say**

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Once again Hezbollah has forced Israel's hand — at least that's how many in the Middle East view the release of more than 400 prisoners in an exchange with the Jewish state.

But analysts say the militant group is just choosing to avoid a confrontation with the United States, ensure political survival and carve out a regional role.

In the German-brokered deal with Hezbollah, Israel freed the prisoners Thursday in exchange for the bodies of three of its soldiers and the release of a kidnapped Israeli businessman.

After the release, Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, warned that the group would kidnap more Israelis to use as bargaining chips if necessary to secure the release of more prisoners.

But some say the prisoner deal marks a new chapter for a militant group that has been labeled a terrorist organization by the United States.

"Their next major challenge

... is to chart out a more dynamic policy," said Rami Khouri, executive editor of the English-language Daily Star. "They have a lot of other dimensions. They're in parliament, they run a lot of social programs, they're not only a resistance organization."

Analysts, however, say Hezbollah is just being pragmatic as a result of the increasing pressure the United States has been exerting on Iran and other Arab states with the presence of tens of thousands of U.S. troops in Iraq.

The prisoner release, though a victory for the group, deprives Hezbollah of one of the few remaining reasons to operate as a guerrilla force, just as Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon did in May 2000. The Israelis were forced to pull out after an 18-year occupation largely because of guerrilla attacks spearheaded by Hezbollah.

That is one reason why Hezbollah may move to raise its political profile and redefine itself, especially as a

regional force that could engage in broader issues.

Only 21 of the prisoners freed Thursday were Lebanese, an indication that Hezbollah plans to reach beyond local politics.

One way in which Hezbollah has set an example for other regional groups is through willingness to negotiate with Israel, albeit through a third party — Germany — while continuing its attacks on the Jewish state.

"It's probably the first step in the breaking of the taboo on direct contact, even if there has been a degree of negotiation through third parties," said Alex Standish of Jane's Intelligence Digest. "Perhaps this is a breaking of the ice on both sides."

Khouri said that could pave the way for other Islamist groups to reconsider their positions — "you fight Israel and resist it but you reach a point where you can negotiate, and you get what you want and get involved in a political process."

Syria, which supports exchange, also is sending a general manager of the Hezbollah and the prisoner message, said Gebran Tueni, respected An-Nahar daily.

**Blockbuster to drop out of Hong Kong market**

HONG KONG (AP) — Blockbuster Inc., the video rental unit of entertainment giant Viacom Inc., said Friday it will end its Hong Kong's business and has dropped plans to enter the mainland Chinese market.

It will shut its 24 outlets in Hong Kong over the next 18 months and lay off 200 employees, according to a statement from its Hong Kong unit, Blockbuster Hong Kong.

"Hong Kong has always been one of the film capitals of Asia, but it has been a very expensive market to develop and operate," Blockbuster International president Chris Wyatt said in the statement. Spokesman Michael Wong said Hong Kong's rental cost is the highest in the 28 countries where the company operates.

Dallas-based Blockbuster Inc. saw Hong Kong as a good place to establish a foothold in China when it entered the ter-

ritory in 1999, but now it said it had withdrawn all business plans for the mainland market.

Wong said the company believes return on investment from China would be poorer than those from other places it plans to expand. Wong declined to name the countries under consideration.

Apart from high rents, Wong acknowledged other

factors — including piracy — also play a part.

Despite efforts to tackle rampant counterfeiting, piracy of entertainment and computer goods still flourish in mainland China and Hong Kong. Pirated movies are available for as little as 10 Hong Kong dollars (\$1.28) or even cheaper across the border, in neighboring mainland Chinese cities.

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## RELIGION

# Pampan named West Texas district Sunday School Teacher of the Year

Over 85 percent of Americans say they want to improve their spiritual lives during the next 12 months, according to a Gallup poll.

That's just one of the reasons that Lois Thompson volunteers every week to teach Bible lessons at First Assembly of God Church, 500 S. Cuyler.

Thompson, who teaches an adult Sunday school class, has been named 2004 West Texas District Teacher of the Year by the National Sunday School Department of the Assemblies of God.

She is one of over 120,000 volunteers who teach Bible lessons to over 1 million children, youth and adults every week in Assemblies of God Sunday Schools.

Thompson was nominated for the award by Darlene Lewis because Lewis says, "Thompson uses the Bible as her textbook and lets the Lord give her a fresh lesson that will minister to her class for 'such a time as this.'"

First Assembly is led by the Rev. Leland Lewis who describes Thompson as "a lady who is anointed by the Holy Spirit and led by God."

As 2004 Teacher of the Year, Thompson will be included in a video honoring all state Assemblies of God Sunday school teachers.

She has been invited to participate in a Sunday school celebration at Chateau on the Lake in Branson, Mo., along with other winners.



Lois Thompson

(Courtesy photo)

## Episcopal leader advocates diversity

NEW YORK (AP) — A "state of the church" message from Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold advocated tolerating diverse beliefs among Episcopalians on questions relating to homosexuality. It also ignored a challenge to the denomination's leadership.

Two days before the message was released Jan. 22, delegates from 12 of the Episcopal Church's 107 dioceses formed the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes.

The protest group says the consecration of openly gay Bishop V. Gene Robinson violated biblical teaching.

Griswold said homosexuality "is undeniably a difficult issue for many" but Episcopalians "live with divergent points of view regarding the interpretation of Scripture."

He said the "diverse center" of the denomination accepts "the tension caused by these different points of view" as "something potentially positive and creative rather than a threat."

In other developments related

to the divide over homosexuality: —The Dioceses of Central Florida (39,000 members) and Fort Worth (18,000 members) became the first of the 12 to formally join the new network.

—Minority caucuses in six of the 12 dioceses issued a joint statement urging Episcopalians to "repudiate" the network and respect "multiple viewpoints and biblical interpretations."

—Bishop Henry Parsley Jr. of Birmingham, Ala., who voted against confirming Robinson at a national convention last summer, denounced formation of the network as divisive and unfortunate.

—Forward in Faith North America, with some 100 parishes, said it would consider joining the network at a Feb. 11-13 meeting and confer the following week with Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, the world Anglican leader.

## Church of the Nazarene plans Valentine's events

Women's Ministry Bible Study at Church of the Nazarene will present "A Woman's Heart" by Beth Moore beginning at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 1 at 510 N. West.

A Valentine's banquet is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Dyer's Bar-B-Que. The public is

invited to attend either or both of these events. A nursery will be provided.

For more information, call 665-8887 or 669-7217.

## De La Torre to perform at First Assembly of God

Robert De La Torre, an original member of the internationally known "Galileans," will share his music ministry at 6 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 1, at First Assembly of God, 500 S. Cuyler.

Though many changes have occurred in Gospel music through the years, De La Torre maintains an individual style that relates to all walks of life. As "The

Galilean," he ministers in Spanish and English, enabling him to reach across generational and ethnic boundaries.

The public is invited to attend.

## Secret to the Christian life

Many people greatly misunderstand Colossians 3:4, Philippians 1:21 and Galatians 2:20, especially the latter two. In Philippians, Paul tells us that "for to me to live is Christ." To him, this is a fact, but among God's children today there is a big misunderstanding.

They think "for to me to live is Christ" is a goal to reach. They must try to so live that they may arrive at the goal. It is a standard to reach. It is their expectation. Let us remember, however, that Paul is not telling us here that his goal is "to me to live is Christ."

He is not saying that he must go through many years, trials and dealings of God before he can reach the goal. What he says is that the reason why he lives is Christ. Without Christ, he cannot live at all. This describes his present condition, not his goal. This is the secret of his life, not his hope. His life is Christ. He lives because Christ lives in him.

Galatians 2:20 is another familiar verse among Christians. The misunderstanding many have with this verse is even more grave than with Philippians 1. Again, they take this verse as their goal, as their standard.

How they pray and wait and long to arrive at a point where, "It is no longer I that lives, but Christ liveth in me." But is Galatians 2:20 a hope? Is it a goal? Is it a standard to arrive at? Many make it so.

They hope that one day they will arrive at the place where they no longer live but Christ lives in them. This is their goal.

What they fail to see is that this is God's way of victory — not a goal or a standard. It does not say what I should do that I may live. Neither does it say what I can do to make me live. It simply says that Christ lives in me (Galatians 2:20).

It is not a standard or a goal. It is not something which is set high above for him to exert His utmost strength to reach.



## Minister's Musings

JIMMY FLYNN, PH.D.  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Rather, it is the secret of life.

What is the secret of life? It means that the way of victory is not a goal but a process. Do not confuse the process with the goal. This is a marvelous grace God has given us. It is a way by which the defeated may overcome, the unclean may be clean, the common may become holy, the earthly may be heavenly, and the carnal may become spiritual.

It is a way, not a goal.

The way lies via a substitutionary life. As Christ is our substitute in death, so he is our substitute in life.

At the beginning of our Christian life, we saw how the Lord Jesus bore our sins on the cross so that by His death we were delivered from death, our sins were forgiven and we were condemned no more. Today Paul tells me that because

Christ lives in me, I am delivered from living. The meaning here is simple: Since He lives in me, I no longer need to live. As He died on the cross for me, so now He lives in me in my place.

This is the secret of victory. This is Paul's secret. He does not say, "I hope I will not need to live, or I hope I can let Him live." He just says, "No longer live I, for I have let Him live. Now it is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me."

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## THE Pampa NEWS

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EMAIL: deede@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net  
This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall  
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore  
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch  
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods  
Composition Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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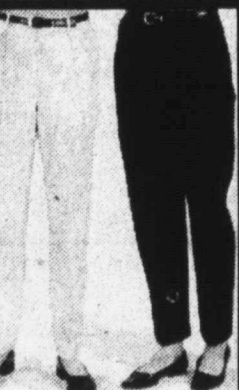
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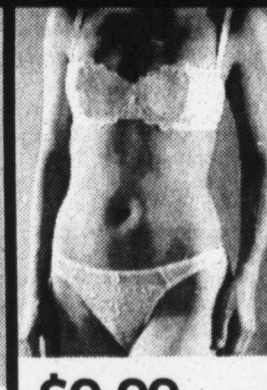
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FRIDAY • JANUARY 30, 2004

## DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

### House Clutter May Disguise Problems That Run Deeper

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been working out of the country for almost a year. Since he's been gone, I have turned into a housekeeping slob. I have a demanding job where I pick up the slack for missing personnel. I am one of a few musicians at church on Sundays. In addition, I'm struggling with a chronic back problem. I'm overwhelmed.

Cleaning the house has taken a back seat to all the other things I do, and now it is full of clutter. It's out of control.

Most of the time I feel like I don't care. How can I get out of this slump? I feel guilty when I watch my neighbors taking care of their homes. Please help me get going.

NOT MOTIVATED  
IN ORANGE, CALIF.

DEAR NOT: Has it occurred to you that you might be depressed by your husband's long absence? The first thing to do is schedule an appointment with your physician for a complete check-up and a frank talk. Once that's done, ask a friend or two if they'll help you with the house over a weekend. Treat them to dinner and a movie afterward. Of course, for the same amount of money, you could probably hire someone to help you, but enlisting the help of friends would be more fun. And from my perspective, contact with friends is what you need right now. Good luck.

DEAR ABBY: There is a husband and wife in our church who drive everyone crazy. We live in a small rural area and most of our congregation are simple, modest folk.

These people live in a neighboring town in a very pretentious, affluent neighborhood. They drive an expensive SUV and are extravagant in everything they do. Their children misbehave often, and the whole family acts like they're better than everyone else. They are all spoiled, lacking in discipline, and seem to have behavior or emotional problems. Despite their bravado, they don't realize that everybody can see through them.

Maybe if you remind these individuals that God can see them,

whether they are in church or not, they'll know they aren't fooling anyone.

MISERABLE METHODIST  
IN NEW YORK

DEAR MISERABLE METHODIST: God can see you, too. And he has asked me to relay this message: "Happy are they who tend to their own gardens and waste not their time complaining about their neighbors' shortcomings."

DEAR ABBY: For three years in high school, I was sexually harassed by a boy I'll call "Tim." When he graduated, I thought my troubles were over. They're not. Due to a disability, I will not be going away to college. Tim is not going away for the same reason. We will both be attending the same community college.

I have contacted the head of security at the college and will be speaking to him soon.

How do I keep Tim from destroying my dignity like he did in high school? I am terrified of him.

FEARFUL IN OHIO

DEAR FEARFUL: First of all, let's hope this young man has matured past the point where he would harass you. Neither of you are children anymore.

You are doing the right thing to take your concerns to the head of security. If that fails to resolve the problem, document any and all incidents and promptly report the harassment to the police department.

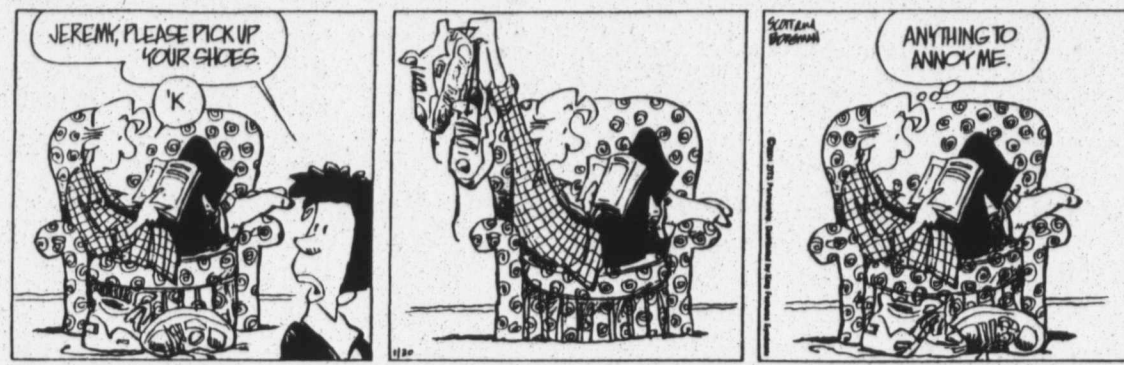
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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#### For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



#### Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD

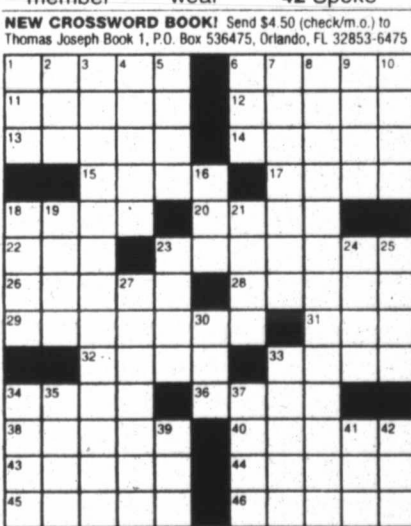
By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Deep pink
- 6 Art class stuff
- 11 Knowing chum
- 13 Life
- 14 Dagger partner
- 15 Phoebe's portrayer
- 17 Money dispenser
- 18 Lot unit
- 20 Criminal group
- 22 Overly
- 23 History division
- 26 Corn-husker city
- 28 Singer Tucker
- 29 Old Fords
- 31 Malcolm's dad
- 32 Renown
- 33 Scoop holder
- 34 Lacking locks
- 36 Bible twin
- 38 Clear
- 40 More sagacious
- 43 Soda bottle size
- 44 Game setting
- 45 Endures
- 46 Amble

#### DOWN

- 1 City transport
- 2 Have debts
- 3 Homes with rooms in a long line
- 4 "L.A. Law" lawyer
- 5 Table parts
- 6 Ab neighbor
- 7 Braves
- 8 Home with rooms in a long line
- 9 League member
- 10 Moose cousins
- 16 Epoch
- 18 Tiny bit
- 19 Crooner Perry
- 21 Hill crawlers
- 23 Placid
- 24 Tatum's dad
- 25 Eli's place
- 27 Pilot's wear
- 30 Golf aid
- 33 African capital
- 34 Phone part
- 35 La Scala solo
- 37 Crawled
- 39 Hosp. areas
- 41 Compass pt.
- 42 Spoke



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#### Marmaduke



#### The Family Circus



#### Flo & Friends



#### BASEBALL

PAMPA Harvester Club meet Tuesday in the high school house. All parents attend.

#### BASEBALL

PAMPA tional meet ball and s will be Monday at Persons becoming or commiss attend the r

#### BASKETBALL

#### HERE

Hereford e 38 in juni action early Eric Ki points and lead Pa Teichmann points, B Craig Cro Anguiano Barker 2. two 3-point

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#### In the

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#### PAMP

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#### FOOTBALL

#### HOUST

HOUST Carolina consider Davis' str for their cl Davis mulled before his high school was breast can "I was and nobo take care wanted to take care n't let me She watched high so Spartanbu star at Au into the p And Bowl.



## SPORTS

**'Boston's Finest' now plays for Panthers**

HOUSTON (AP) — Carolina Panthers tight end Jermaine Wiggins is so proud of where he's from that he likes to wear a custom-made coat that proclaims him "Boston's Finest."

He didn't bring it to Houston for the Super Bowl, but his reason had nothing to do with the fact that on Sunday he'll be playing against his hometown team, the New England Patriots.

"It's just not cold enough," he said.

Wiggins grew up in East Boston and still lives there in the offseason. "East" is inscribed on his right forearm, "Boston" on the left.

Having grown up watching the Patriots, he was thrilled when they signed him late in the 2000 season, after he'd been released by the New York Jets.

A year later, he was on the

first New England team to win the Super Bowl. Two years later, he's back in the Super Bowl and so are the Patriots, but this time he's on the Panthers.

The '01 Patriots and '03 Panthers have a lot more in common than having Wiggins on the roster. There's the turnaround from a 1-15 records two years before, strong defenses and unheralded quarterbacks.

"I told guys right from the beginning, 'Hey, listen, I see a lot of similar qualities,'" Wiggins said.

Actually, Wiggins is saying things all the time.

He likes giving his opinion so much that he aspires to have his own talk show. He even had an internship at a Charlotte radio station last year, albeit in the marketing department.

His favorite topic is the Boston Red Sox. He thinks the world of Pedro Martinez and is against the proposed swap of Manny Ramirez for Alex Rodriguez "just because I like Manny," he said.

As for the Celtics, he'd rather Jim O'Brien was still coaching than have Danny Ainge running the front office. Wiggins also happily passed on the rumor that Shaquille O'Neal recently was looking at homes in the Boston area.

"He never shuts up," said Patriots receiver Troy Brown, who has known Wiggins since college and had a locker next to him in New England. "He's got that strong Boston accent and he's not afraid to use it."

"He trash-talks, jokes, brags — anything. You can hear him from a mile away and you can

tell it's him because of the accent."

When the chatterbox tight end tries teasing quarterback Jake Delhomme about sounding like Bobby Boucher, the Adam Sandler character in the movie "Water Boy," it's easy for Delhomme to fire back that Wiggins has no right to make fun of anyone else's accent.

The 6-foot-2, 260-pound Wiggins started 11 games this season, mostly when the Panthers opened in a formation using two tight ends. He's mostly used to block, as evidenced by his season totals of eight passes for 80 yards, with one touchdown.

He caught a pass in each of the first two games this postseason. The only time he touched the ball in the NFC championship was an important one —

a fumble recovery that kept alive Carolina's first touchdown drive.

He made a similar lost-in-the-shuffle contribution in the Patriots' Super Bowl win over St. Louis two years ago, making the catch before the catch that set up the winning field goal.

He also played a key role earlier that postseason, making 10 catches for 68 yards in the snowy game against Oakland best known for the "tuck rule." Those numbers were especially memorable considering he had 14 catches for 133 yards that entire season.

If Wiggins comes through in the clutch again Sunday, could he wind up with the words "Carolina's Finest" imprinted on a coat?

"Nah," Brown said. "He loves Boston, so he might not get one of those."

## NOTEBOOK

## BASEBALL

**PAMPA** — There will be a Harvester Baseball Booster Club meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the ready room at the high school athletic field-house.

All parents are urged to attend.

## BASEBALL-SOFTBALL

**PAMPA** — An organizational meeting for the baseball and softball programs will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at Optimist Park.

Persons interested in becoming a coach, manager or commissioner are urged to attend the meeting.

## BASKETBALL

## HEREFORD

Hereford edged Pampa 41-38 in junior varsity boys action earlier this week.

Eric Kingcade had 13 points and 5 rebounds to lead Pampa. Weston Teichmann followed with 8 points, Brett Ferrell 8, Craig Crowell 5, Aaron Anguiano 4 and Braydon Barker 2. Teichmann had two 3-point goals.

Barker had 6 assists and Anguiano had 4 rebounds.

**CLAUDE** — Wheeler was defeated by Claude in district action earlier this week.

In the boys game, Claude claimed a 63-54 win behind the scoring of Cody Cook (14) and Geoffrey Lemons (11).

Cameron Burton had 14 points to lead Wheeler. Brad Masters followed with 12.

Claude posted a 52-39 win in the girls game.

Shelby Conrad had 14 points for Claude and Lezli Finsterwald had 12 for Wheeler.

**PAMPA** — A strong defensive effort by Pampa helped stop a fourth-quarter charge by Caprock to capture a 48-43 win last weekend in a freshmen boys game.

Leading Pampa in scoring was Chase Harris with 20 points. Bradley Johnson had 9 points, Jarron Clark 8, Devan Shultz 6, Michael Robinson 3 and Trenton Young 2.

Pampa freshmen host Randall at 6 p.m. Monday in McNeely Fieldhouse.

## FOOTBALL

**HOUSTON (AP)** — The Carolina Panthers might consider thanking Stephen Davis' strong-willed mother for their championship run.

Davis recounted how he mulled quitting football before his junior year of high school when his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer 14 years ago.

"I was the youngest child and nobody was there to take care of her," he said. "I wanted to stay home and take care her, but she wouldn't let me do it."

She survived and watched her son become a high school star in Spartanburg, S.C., a college star at Auburn and then head into the pros.

And now the Super Bowl.

**Patriots hope to extend streak one more game**

HOUSTON (AP) — The New England Patriots end most practices working on game situations, with coach Bill Belichick telling them they are down two points with four minutes left, or four points with two minutes left, so they can work on their comebacks.

Talk about a waste of time.

The Patriots haven't needed a comeback since Nov. 23 — the last time they've trailed in a game — and they haven't lost at all in 14 games over four months. So it's probably fair to ask: Can they even remember what it feels like to lose?

"We know that every week we've come close to losing," cornerback Ty Law said. "We practice those situations so we're prepared for anything."

Only the 1972 Miami Dolphins, who went 17-0, have won more games in a row to finish the season. The Patriots won't be able to match that perfect record this year, but they're hoping they can end the season the same way.

"If you go 16-0 but you lose the Super Bowl, why do all that work and lose?" Law said. "I'd rather be 9-7 and win the Super Bowl."

New England lost its opener 31-0 to the Buffalo Bills and then lost again on Sept. 28 to the Washington Redskins to drop to 2-2. Two months later, after the Patriots had won eight in a row to improve to 10-2, they still didn't look like a Super Bowl contender.

Nine of their first 12 games could very well have been losses, including the Nov. 30 victory over Indianapolis that wasn't settled until the Patriots stopped the Colts with a goal-line stand on the last play of the game. With the winning streak at eight, Belichick shook his head with disdain after a reporter referred to New England as dominant.

"I think that's a joke," he said. "The ball's inside the 1 yard-line on the last play of the game. Who's dominating whom?"

**Local wrestler wins awards**

Zachary Bradley of the Pampa Takedown Club has been winning all kinds of wrestling awards.

Zachary won the third-place trophy at the Tulsa Nationals, the first-place medal and best-all around trophy from the Cotton Bowl Classic.

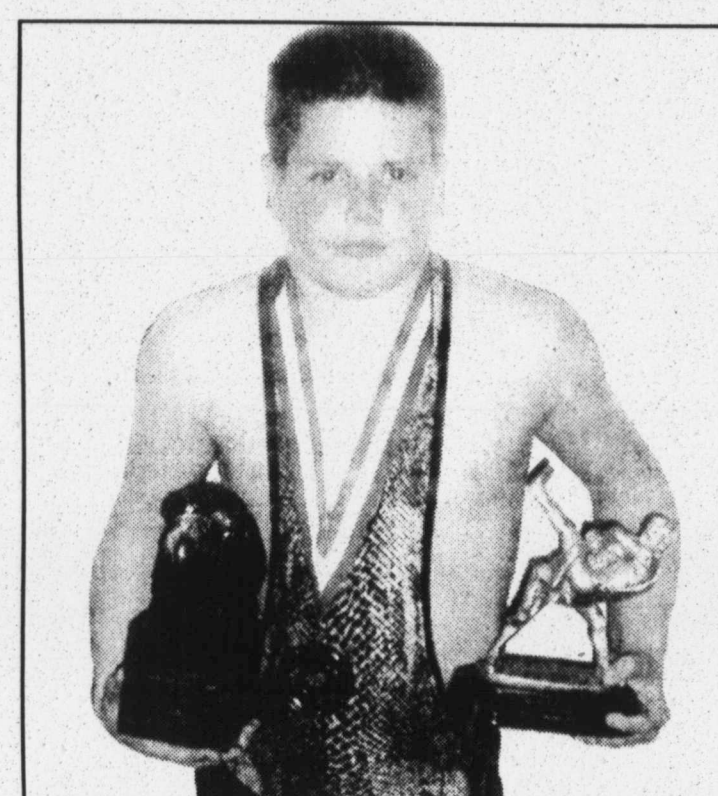
Zachary has recently been named to the All-World Team.

"Our season is coming to a close, and the kids are looking good," said coach Rick Urquhart.

The Takedown Club will be competing in Amarillo Feb. 7, 14, 21 before going to the State Finals in El Paso.

Pampa could very well bring home four or more state champions this season. These kids have put in over 200 hours of mat time," said coach Urquhart. This sport has tested their mental, physical and spiritual strength. If you see any of these kids competing, tell them good luck."

Takedown Club wrestlers entered in the upcoming



**Zachary Bradley shows some of his latest wrestling awards.**

tournaments include Andrew Smith, tot-hwt; Carlton Patton, Div. 1, 38 lbs.; Yancie McCuiston, Div. 1, 50 lbs.; Brandtly Swires, Div. 1, 50 lbs.; Krysten Miller, Div. 1, 60 lbs.; Korbin Ramirez, Div. 2, 55 lbs.; Dustin Frazier, Div. 2, 93 lbs.; Zack Burnett, Div. 2, 93 lbs.; Zachary Bradley, Div. 2, 115 lbs.; Steven Botello, Div. 3, 95 lbs.; Jason Martinez, Div. 3, 110 lbs.; Cody Schiffman, Div. 4, 75 lbs.

**7th grade basketball teams finish season at Dumas**

Pampa results from the 7th grade girls tournament held in Dumas last weekend are as follows.

Pampa had a game scheduled for Monday night, against Plainview but it was cancelled due to the bad weather.

7th B placed 4th in the tournament  
Pampa B vs Dumas B — won 24 — 22

Pampa B vs Canyon B — lost 19 — 26

Pampa B vs Plainview B — lost 16 — 47

## Tournament Stats:

Tabby Courter — 27 pts., 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 6 steals, 3 blocks  
Kat Aler — 6 pts., 3 rebounds, 5 steals, 2 blocks  
Diana Mechelay — 3 pts., 3

rebounds, 1 assist, 4 steals

Paige Alvey — 1 pt., 3 rebounds, 2 steals

Victoria Campbell — 2 pts., 3 rebounds, 2 steals

Alex Hutto — 2 pts., 3 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 block

Kamy Miller — 3 pts., 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 blocks

Karlle Novian — 3 pts., 2 rebounds

Shelby Needham — 5 pts., 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals

Rikki Beesley — 6 pts., 5 rebounds, 1 steal

Destiny Fitzer — 1 pt., 3 rebounds

Julie Schunemann — 1 rebound, 1 assist, 1 steal

Teysha Parker — 2 steals

Emily Watson — 1 rebound

Katelin Wall — 1 rebound

Carley Richardson was sick and

didn't get to play in the tournament.

7th A tied for 5th in the tournament

Pampa A vs Canyon A — lost 13 — 57

Pampa A vs Dumas A — lost 15 — 45

Tournament Stats:

Kelby Doughty — 12 pts., 1 rebound, 2 assists, 4 steals

Lauren Smith — 7 pts., 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 7 blocks

Kamie Doughty — 6 pts., 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals

Holly Winegeart — 3 pts., 3 rebounds, 3 steals

Libby Dyson — 2 pts., 1 assist, 1 rebound, 2 steals, 1 block

Lilly Price — 2 pts., 5 rebounds, 1

block

April Silva — 1 assist, 2 steals

Jessica Miner — 2 rebounds, 2 steals

Kara Lane — 1 rebound, 1 block

Keisha Crowell was hurt and didn't get to play in the tournament.

"This finishes our 7th grade girls basketball season. Our wins or losses may not have (I know didn't) come out the way we all wanted, but everyone worked so hard this year and improved so much since the first of the season. I am so proud of all these girls and am glad I got to coach them. They are a great group of girls. I look forward to watching them play next year. The parents were also very helpful and encouraging all season. Now, the girls are starting to get ready for track season," coach Deanna Polasek said.

**Tigers could terminate Rodriguez deal if he hurts lower spine**

NEW YORK (AP) — The Detroit Tigers would be able to terminate Ivan Rodriguez's contract after the 2005 season if he gets a spine injury in his lower back that lands him on the disabled list for five weeks or more.

The 10-time All-Star catcher does not currently have any injuries, but the provision would protect the Tigers if one occurs.

On the verge of agreeing to a guaranteed \$40 million, four-year contract with the Tigers, Rodriguez was in Texas on Thursday to be examined by Dr. Andrew Dossett, the Rangers' spine consultant.

Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, had several conversations Thursday with the Tigers

aimed at finalizing the deal, a baseball source said on the condition of anonymity.

Under the terms being negotiated, Detroit could terminate the contract after the 2005 season if Rodriguez is on the DL for a lumbar spine injury for 35 or more days in either 2004 or 2005, another baseball source said, also on the condition of anonymity.

Detroit also would have the right to end the contract after the 2006 season if he is on the DL for 35 or more days because of a lumbar spine injury that year, the source said.

Rodriguez was on the disabled list from June 6-27, 1992, because of a stress fracture in his back and a fractured thumb.

He was on the DL from April 25-June 2, 2002, because of a herniated disk in his lower back, an injury that didn't require surgery.

Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski wouldn't say much about the negotiations.

"I think, at this point, how we feel about the situation is best kept to ourselves," he said Thursday. "I will say that we continue to have conversations with Scott Boras, but I'll leave it at that."

The deal contains a team option for 2008 that could make the agreement worth \$50 million over five years. The sides spent Thursday going over contract language, one of the sources said.

Rodriguez, a 10-time Gold Glove winner, would be moving from the World Series champion Florida Marlins to a team that went 43-119, one of the worst seasons in major league history.

Rodriguez, 32, played his

first 12 major league seasons with the Rangers, winning the 1999 AL MVP award.

He signed a \$10 million, one-year contract with the Marlins and hit .313 last season with 16 homers and 85 RBIs.

**White Deer drops district tilts**

**SUNRAY** — Sunray defeated White Deer 57-28 in a District 1-1A matchup earlier this week.

Guadalupe Rivero was Sunray's high scorer with 14 points.

Nick Hillman had 8 points and Andrew Parsley 7 for the Bucks.

In the girls game, Sunray broke open a tight game in the

third quarter for a 51-42 victory.

Sunray's scoring leader was Raniel Bumpas with 18 points.

White Deer trailed by only three (26-23) at halftime, but scored only one basket in the third quarter as Sunray went ahead by 14.

Ashley Davis had 14 points and Kara Lewis 9 for the Does.

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# Fort Elliott defeats Miami

MIAMI — Junior Newman scored 21 points as Fort Elliott beat Miami 67-55 in District 2-1A action earlier this week.

The win gave Fort Elliott a 4-1 record in district and a 16-8 record for the season.

Jason Boydston added 17 points and Justen Bryant 14

for the Cougars.

Miami got a 26-point performance from Jeffrey Browning. Kris Roach followed with 10.

Katie Donaldson poured in 33 points to lead Fort Elliott to a 76-57 victory in the girls contest.

Miami got 14 from Mariam Hannon, 12 from Jennifer Hutchinson and 11 from Kaylee James.

Holly McCurley chipped in 17 for the Lady Cougars.

Fort Elliott is 5-0 in district and 23-1 for the season. Miami is 18-5 for the season and 2-3 in district.

## SCOREBOARD

**GOLF**  
Hidden Hills Senior Regular-Season Scramble  
(4-man team)  
1. Howard Wells, Nathan Lancaster, Bob Henderson and Bill Harwood, 65.  
2. Harley Knutson, Ray Covalt, Waldon Haynes and James Lee, 67.  
3. Oscar Sargent, Ralph Wilson, Jess Mathis and James Gray, 67.  
Closest to pin: Harley Knutson, No. 6.

Seth Stribling of Pampa has his first hole-in-one Jan. 28 at Hidden Hills. He hit a 6-iron to the No. 6, 143-yard par three hole.

**HOCKEY**  
National Hockey League  
At A Glance  
By The Associated Press  
All Times EST  
EASTERN CONFERENCE  
Atlantic Division

|                | W  | L  | T  | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Philadelphia   | 25 | 11 | 11 | 5  | 66  | 142 | 116 |
| New Jersey     | 26 | 13 | 10 | 1  | 63  | 117 | 94  |
| N.Y. Islanders | 24 | 20 | 5  | 2  | 55  | 143 | 127 |
| N.Y. Rangers   | 19 | 21 | 7  | 4  | 49  | 134 | 144 |
| Pittsburgh     | 11 | 33 | 5  | 3  | 30  | 102 | 194 |

|          | W  | L  | T  | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ottawa   | 28 | 13 | 7  | 3  | 66  | 174 | 108 |
| Toronto  | 27 | 13 | 8  | 3  | 65  | 137 | 121 |
| Boston   | 23 | 14 | 11 | 4  | 61  | 126 | 121 |
| Montreal | 25 | 19 | 6  | 2  | 58  | 127 | 114 |
| Buffalo  | 21 | 25 | 5  | 1  | 48  | 124 | 133 |

|            | W  | L  | T  | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Tampa Bay  | 25 | 16 | 6  | 3  | 59  | 134 | 112 |
| Atlanta    | 21 | 23 | 6  | 2  | 50  | 142 | 151 |
| Florida    | 17 | 21 | 11 | 3  | 48  | 115 | 139 |
| Carolina   | 17 | 24 | 9  | 2  | 45  | 98  | 128 |
| Washington | 16 | 29 | 5  | 2  | 39  | 125 | 161 |

|           | W  | L  | T | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Detroit   | 29 | 15 | 7 | 2  | 67  | 170 | 124 |
| St. Louis | 25 | 17 | 7 | 1  | 58  | 123 | 120 |
| Nashville | 25 | 18 | 6 | 2  | 58  | 124 | 131 |
| Columbus  | 14 | 27 | 7 | 3  | 38  | 107 | 148 |
| Chicago   | 12 | 28 | 7 | 5  | 36  | 112 | 153 |

|           | W  | L  | T | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Colorado  | 29 | 11 | 9 | 2  | 69  | 159 | 115 |
| Vancouver | 29 | 14 | 7 | 2  | 67  | 151 | 117 |
| Calgary   | 25 | 18 | 4 | 3  | 57  | 118 | 108 |

|             | W  | L  | T  | OL | Pts | GF  | GA  |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| San Jose    | 24 | 12 | 11 | 4  | 63  | 127 | 105 |
| Dallas      | 24 | 20 | 9  | 0  | 57  | 109 | 117 |
| Los Angeles | 20 | 15 | 12 | 5  | 57  | 137 | 132 |
| Phoenix     | 18 | 17 | 13 | 2  | 51  | 125 | 130 |
| Anaheim     | 15 | 22 | 8  | 6  | 44  | 107 | 135 |

Two points for a win, one point for a tie and overtime loss.

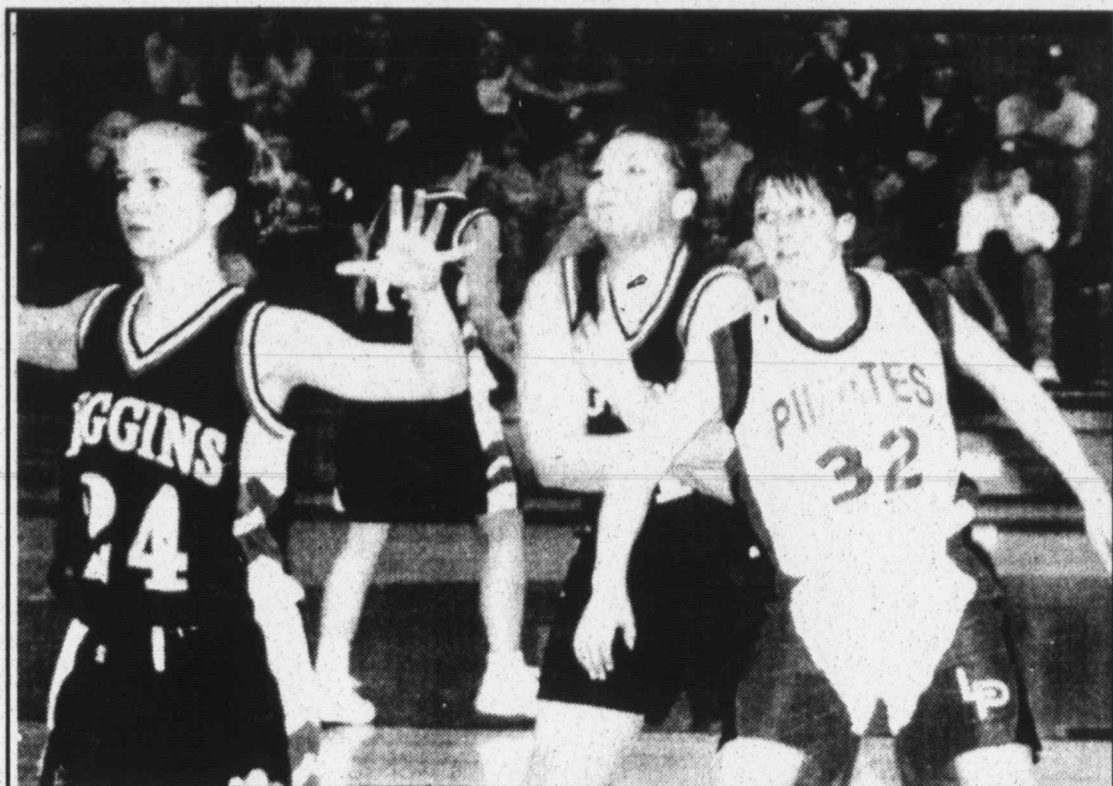
**Wednesday's Games**  
Philadelphia 3, Florida 3, tie  
Washington 2, N.Y. Rangers 1  
St. Louis 1, Atlanta 1, tie  
Dallas 5, Ottawa 3  
San Jose 4, Calgary 1  
Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3, OT

**Thursday's Games**  
Washington 5, Carolina 3  
Nashville 6, Columbus 4  
Tampa Bay 5, Pittsburgh 1  
Boston 2, N.Y. Islanders 1, OT  
Detroit 5, New Jersey 2  
Vancouver 4, St. Louis 2  
Montreal 3, Minnesota 2, OT  
Ottawa 4, Phoenix 1  
Edmonton 5, Chicago 2  
Colorado 3, Los Angeles 3, tie

**Friday's Games**  
Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.  
Toronto at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
San Jose at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Calgary, 10 p.m.  
Colorado at Anaheim, 10:30 p.m.

**Saturday's Games**  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.  
Boston at Montreal, 2 p.m.  
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Ottawa at Toronto, 7 p.m.  
Carolina at Detroit, 7 p.m.  
Vancouver at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Minnesota at Columbus, 7 p.m.  
Florida at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.  
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.  
New Jersey at St. Louis, 8 p.m.  
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.  
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
Pittsburgh at Boston, 1 p.m.  
Chicago at Montreal, 2 p.m.  
Anaheim at Calgary, 8 p.m.



Katie Barnes (32) of Lefors had 13 points against Higgins in district basketball action.

## Lefors sweeps Higgins in district

LEFORS — Lefors beat Higgins 58-25 in a District 2-1A girls game earlier this week.

Savanah Smith led the Lady Pirates in scoring with 17 points, followed by Katie Barnes with 13.

Julie Mulkey had 9 points

to lead Higgins.

Rachael Stubbs chipped in 11 points for Lefors, followed by Kayla Andis with 7, Lyndsey Duckworth 4, Jonelle Tinney 3 and Amanda Hicks 3.

Ricky Vaughn poured in 33 points to lead Lefors to a

73-35 victory in the boys game.

Trent Robertson had 11 points and Jered Andis 10 for the Pirates.

Devon Moorehead had 15 points for Higgins.

Both Lefors teams have 2-3 district records.

## For average fan, Super Bowl ticket a long shot

HOUSTON (AP) — As Bob Duckworth and his daughter waited to get autographs from Carolina Panthers players at the team's hotel this week, he realized it was the closest he would get to attending Sunday's Super Bowl game.

"Even the base price (for tickets) is out of my league," said the Houston-area high school teacher and father of four. "I'll be watching it on television."

Base price for one ticket is \$500, but those are long gone. Now, fans wanting a last-minute ticket must look to brokers, ticket scalpers and Internet sites such as eBay and StubHub.com,

where prices range from \$1,900 to more than \$6,000.

Of course, the buyer should beware. With every Super Bowl comes counterfeit tickets or people paying up front for bogus tickets that never arrive.

The Super Bowl is "the grand daddy of them all in terms of scams," said Eric Baker, president of StubHub.com, an online ticket seller.

"Anyone can throw up a Web site, make claims of guarantees," he said. "We've got a system where we're registering every seller, monitoring every transaction."

Gary Adler, general counsel for the National Association of Ticket Brokers, said his organization screens businesses and provides a list to help consumers buy from reputable sellers.

But some fans think even ticket brokers aren't the best deal for bargain hunters.

While Duckworth said he realizes the demand for tickets dictates the high prices, he believes the cost makes it impossible for the average fan to go to the game.

"Professional football used to be a middle class person's game," Duckworth said. "It's not anymore."

# DOUG BOYD MOTOR CO.



|                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>2000 Chevy Malibu</b><br>4-Dr., Gold, Beige Cloth         | \$7,995  |
| <b>2000 Cadillac Escalade</b><br>Pewter, Gray Leather        | \$24,995 |
| <b>1999 GMC Denali</b><br>Black, Gray Leather                | \$19,995 |
| <b>2003 Ford Excursion</b><br>Silver, Gray Cloth, 24,000     | \$29,995 |
| <b>2000 Mitsubishi Montero Sport XLS</b><br>Green, Tan Cloth | \$14,995 |
| <b>1999 Chevy Tahoe Z-71</b><br>White, Gray Leather          | \$12,995 |
| <b>1998 GMC Yukon Z-71 SLT</b><br>White, Tan Leather         | \$11,995 |



|                                                           |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>1996 Chevy Blazer LS</b><br>Green, Tan Cloth           | \$6,995 |
| <b>1993 Isuzu Trooper</b><br>Blue, Blue Cloth             | \$6,995 |
| <b>1992 Isuzu Trooper</b><br>5-Sp, White, Gray Cloth      | \$3,995 |
| <b>1996 Chevy Suburban LT</b><br>White, Blue Leather      | \$7,995 |
| <b>1996 Chevy, Suburban LT</b><br>White, Tan Leather      | \$6,995 |
| <b>1994 Chevy Suburban LS</b><br>White, Red Cloth         | \$7,995 |
| <b>1992 Chevy Suburban LS</b><br>Blue, Blue Cloth         | \$5,995 |
| <b>1990 Chevy Suburban Conversion</b><br>White, Red Cloth | \$3,995 |

|                                                                      |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature</b><br>Pewter, Tan Leather        | \$13,995 |
| <b>1997 Lincoln Town Car Signature</b><br>Burgundy, Burgundy Leather | \$7,995  |
| <b>1996 Cadillac Deville</b><br>White, Burgundy Leather              | \$8,995  |
| <b>1992 Cadillac Deville</b><br>Cranberry, Red Leather               | \$4,995  |
| <b>1991 Cadillac Deville</b><br>White, Tan Leather                   | \$3,995  |
| <b>2003 Dodge Neon</b><br>4-Dr, Blue, Gray Cloth, 7,000 miles        | \$10,995 |
| <b>2002 Dodge Neon</b><br>4-Dr, Black, Black Cloth                   | \$8,995  |



|                                                              |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>1996 Chevy Tahoe Z-71 LS</b><br>White, Gray Leather       | \$9,850  |
| <b>1996 GMC Yukon Z-71 SLE</b><br>Brown, Brown Cloth         | \$9,850  |
| <b>1997 Ford Expedition 1/2 XLT</b><br>Tan, Tan Leather      | \$12,995 |
| <b>2000 Dodge Durango</b><br>Loaded, Burgundy, Leather       | \$14,995 |
| <b>1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee Larado</b><br>Green, Black Cloth | \$10,995 |
| <b>1998 GMC Jimmy SLS</b><br>Brown, Gray Cloth               | \$8,995  |
| <b>1996 GMC Jimmy SLE</b><br>Burgundy, Gray Cloth            | \$6,995  |



**BUY HERE • PAY HERE**

821 W. Wilks - Pampa - 669-6062

### 1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
The Pampa Independent School District is seeking sealed bids for the following:  
Business Office  
W. Albert, Pampa, 79065, until 3:00 p.m.  
February 11, 2003.  
Specifications or a copy of information plan may be obtained from Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806) 4700-4700.  
D-83  
Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 2003.

### 4 Not Respon.

AS of this date 1/30/03  
Alice Short Jones  
longer be responsible for any debts other than those incurred by me.  
Alice Short Jones

### 5 Special Notice

ADVERTISING  
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Pampa News, M  
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### 14b Appl. Rep.

APPLIANCES  
Call Williams A  
Service, 665-8894

### 14d Carpentry

CUSTOM home  
tions, remodeling,  
dental / comm.  
Construction, 665-  
OVERHEAD  
REPAIR Kidwel  
struction. Call 665-  
ADDITIONS, r  
ing, roofing,  
painting, all types  
Mike Albus, 665-4

### 14e Carpet Ser

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3541, or from  
town, 800-536-53  
14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Co  
Repair old fence  
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669-7769.

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**1 Public Notice**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
The Pampa Independent School District will receive sealed bids in the Business Office at 321 W. Albert, Pampa, Texas 79065, until 3:00 p.m. February 11, 2004, for Football Uniforms. For specifications or additional information please call Betty Meadows, Purchasing Director at (806) 669-4700.  
D-83  
Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 2004

**4 Not Respon.**

AS of this date 1/29/04, I Alice Short Jones, will no longer be responsible for any debts other than those incurred by me. Signed Alice Short Jones.

**5 Special Notices**

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

**14b Appl. Repair**

**APPLIANCES** Broke? Call Williams Appliance Service, 665-8894.

**14d Carpentry**

**CUSTOM** homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

**OVERHEAD DOOR** REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

**ADDITIONS**, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

**14e Carpet Serv.**

**NU-WAY** Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost. It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

**14h Gen. Serv.**

**COX Fence Company**, Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

**14h Gen. Serv.**

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

**LONESTAR CHIMNEY** SWEEP now taking appts. NO MESS. 669-1562

**HUSBAND** for Hire. Will do most household repairs. References. Milton Brown, 664-0171 (cell#).

**SUPERIOR Quality** Ken-sington replacement windows and doors. Guaranteed 30% fuel savings! Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

**Jerry's Floor Installation Service**. Carpet restretching, ceramics, hardwood, laminates, vinyl, carpet. Over 25 yrs. exp. 664-7959 (c) 868-2016, Miami

**♦ Taylor**  
**Ceramic Tile Works** Handicap Conversions Shower Installation Floor Tile & Regrouting Keith 665-0328 or lv. msg

**14n Painting**

**INT./EXT.** painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

50 yr. exp. We paint, dry-wall, texture, comm/ residential. Free Estimates. Happy Painters 665-3214

**CERAMIC Tile Works**. Floor, kitchen & shower repair or remodeling. Call Jesus Barraza, 665-3453.

**14s Plumbing/Heat**

**JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop**, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

**Larry Baker Plumbing** Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

NOW stocking a large collection of Harley Davidson Knives!! Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa, 665-6716 or toll free 800-649-6716, V/MC/Disc/AmEx/Debit.

**21 Help Wanted**

**NOTICE**  
Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

**Permian Tank Company, in Canadian, Texas** now has positions open for **Oilfield Truck Drivers**. Position requires current Texas CDL Licenses and Texas Dot Drug Screen. Employment Application may be picked up at our office at 216 Airport Road, in Canadian, 8:00AM-5PM, Monday-Friday.

**NABORS DRILLING USA, L.P.**

The Technology leader in the industry is looking for **EXPERIENCED** career minded rig employees for our operations in the Western part of Oklahoma and border areas of Texas Panhandle. If you are an experienced rig hand please stop by and apply for a position at our Elk City office at:

1501 S. Merritt Ph. 580-225-0029  
See David Guzman  
Pay Scale:  
Drillers \$18.55  
Derrickman \$17.05  
Ftr./Mtr. \$16.00  
Benefits include:  
Group Health Insurance  
401K  
Safety Incentives  
Physical & Drug Screen Required  
Need Valid State issued I.D. and Social Security Card  
Nabors Drilling USA, L.P. EEOC Employer

EARN \$1200-\$1500 per month, part-time, working from home. Six-figure income possible within two years. Bonus car program and travel benefits. Call 806-323-5869 ask for Ray.

**21 Help Wanted**

**EXP. Oil Field Tank Truck Drivers** w/ current Class A CDL. Competitive pay and benefits. Interview at Hwy. 60 & 83 South, Canadian, Tx. at G.P. Guinn, Inc. or call Tonnie 806-273-2362.

**WANTED** exp. truck mechanic. Will consider trainee. Prefer current CDL license. Tools and equip. provided. Competitive pay and benefits. Interview at G.P. Guinn, Inc., 101 Carolina, Borger or call Don 806-273-2362

**THERAPIST TECHNICIAN I FHCS HOME BORGER**

Salary of \$7.26 / hr. plus a generous benefit package for full-time position. The Therapist Technician I perform direct care of consumers served by TPMHMR. Responsible for the daily care of the consumers provides supervision, training, assessment and assistance for all consumers. Responsible for consumer money that is kept in the group home and is accountable for assigned property. Qualifications: High school diploma or GED plus six months experience in therapeutic activities. Minimum of eighth grade reading-comprehension level as evidenced by score on the Adult Basic Learning Examination (ABLE) test. **Weekday SLEEPOVER not compensated for SleepTime.** Must have a valid Texas driver's license and be insurable under the agency vehicle policy. Knowledge of Borger community is preferred. Apply at

Texas Panhandle MHMR  
901 Wallace  
Amarillo, TX 79106  
806-358-1681  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

DO you have a flair for cooking? Are you responsible, fun & energetic? Apply in person for our Cook Position at the Merck House, 812 W. 25th.

**FOR HEAVENS** Sake Daycare is currently hiring a part-time teacher for afternoons. Must have exp. in childcare first aid & CPR plus. More info., 900 E. 23rd, 665-5758.

**21 Help Wanted**

**WAIT Staff & Hostesses** needed, full-time only. Apply in person 2-5 p.m. Texas Rose Steakhouse.

**OPENING** for mature, dependable cashier. hours 6pm-10pm daily. Apply at 1020 E. Frederic.

**PETCO Petroleum Corp.** is taking applications for an experienced pumper for the Pampa area. Insurance, 401K. Call 669-3947 for appointment.

**Now Hiring Schwan Sales**

We are looking for a high energy individual with good work ethics. Up to \$600 per week to start. Full benefit package. No experience necessary. Must have a valid drivers license and good MVR. Must be at least 21 years old. Please call 806-669-0235 for interview. EOE

**FAMILY SERVICE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE OPENING**

Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa will hire a family man or woman to assist families in making pre-arrangements in the Pampa area. This position requires an independent, competitive, and service oriented person. Full fringe benefits are available. On a national basis, persons working in this position have established an annual income of \$40,000 per year. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 806-669-7605.



Accepting applications for machinist and machinist trainees. Good Mechanical aptitude and math skills required for close tolerance machine work. Automatic machine experience a plus. Physical exam/drug screen/skills assessment required. EOE

Contact us at  
hr@titansteel.com  
PO Box 2316  
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**21 Help Wanted**

**NEEDED** Part Time Pharmacy Clerk. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2314, Pampa.

**Full Time Teller**  
Position requires one or more years teller or cash experience. Shifts may vary. Some Saturdays req.

**Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union**  
Attn: Human Resources Dept.  
6100 I-40 West Amarillo, TX 79106  
or Fax 806-331-2088

**49 Pools/Hot Tubs**

6 person spa slightly damaged. Full mechanical warranty. Has redwood enclosure. Nice. Must sell. Call 358-9597.

**50 Building Suppl.**

White House Lumber  
101 S. Ballard  
669-3291

**HOUSTON LUMBER**  
420 W. Foster  
669-6881

**60 Household**

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkd, warr, list \$550, sell \$236, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkd, warr, List \$400, sell \$208, Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750, sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

GE gas stove, \$325. Pine china hutch \$250. Call 669-3799.

**69 Misc.**

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

CASH for old gold jewelry at Rhams Diamond Shop 11 N. Cuyler

I am looking for some people with allergies, asthma, breathing difficulties, pets, odors and smoke to evaluate or field test a life changing product. No obligations to purchase. Call 806-323-5869 ask for Ray.

**BON'NEY TREASURES** Opening Feb. 2nd Booths / Rooms Now 1425 Alcock, 669-1400

**SEASONED** Oak Firewood, delivered and stacked. \$175 cord. 779-3284, 662-6161.

**69 Misc.**

**KISMET Emporium** Opening Jan. 30 Now Accepting Quality Consignments. 106 S. Cuyler, 665-0007

**BATHROOM** cabinet with sink, large medicine cabinet and toilet. Call 669-2157.

10x12 Portable Barn, has slight roof damage. Cheap. Will deliver. Call 358-9597.

**77 Livest./Equip.**

NEED pasture for 200-400 head of mother cows, year round. Call 806-423-1008.

**80 Pets & Suppl.**

PIT Bull Pups \$100 obo 669-2441

**95 Furn. Apts.**

**ALL real estate** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination" because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

1 bdr. apt., furn. or unfurn. Starting at \$275. All utilities pd. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner, 669-9712.

**Beautifully furn. 1 bdr.** starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3&6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

**DOGWOOD** Apts. 1 bedroom, furnished. References & dep. required 669-9817 or 669-2981.

**EFFI** apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up. air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

**96 Unfurn. Apts.**  
**CAPROCK** Apartments Has incredible specials on 1, 2, & 3 bdrm. Starting at only \$290. 3-12 mo. lease available.

\* Pool  
\* Laundry  
\* Wash/ dryer hook-ups  
\* Club room  
\* On-site management  
\* SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

**LOWEST** Rents in City! Downtown locations, stores, warehouses, rec facilities Call 665-4274!!

**103 Homes For Sale**  
Twila Fisher  
Century 21 Pampa Realty  
665-3560, 663-1442  
669-0007

1301 Duncan, 3 bedroom house with apartment in back. Call 662-7118.

**102 Bus. Rent. Prop.**  
OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

**103 Homes For Sale**  
Twila Fisher  
Century 21 Pampa Realty  
665-3560, 663-1442  
669-0007

1301 Duncan, 3 bedroom house with apartment in back. Call 662-7118.

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665-3560, 663-1442  
669-0007

1301 Duncan, 3 bedroom house with apartment in back. Call 662-7118.

**103 Homes For Sale**  
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Century 21 Pampa Realty  
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**96 Unfurn. Apts.**

**CLEAN** 1 bdr., stove, refig., completely renovated, new carpet. All bills paid. 669-3672, 665-5900

**GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts.**, 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875. 1/2 Off Deposit Special.

**LAKEVIEW Apts.** 1-2-3 bedrooms \$99-first month rent 669-7682

**LARGE** 1 bedroom apt., carpeted, appliances, bills paid. \$350. 665-4842.

**PAMPA MANOR**  
SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828

**VERY** clean 1 br., appli. Water/gas paid. Washer & dryer connections. HUD approved. 665-1346.

**97 Furn. Houses**  
2 bedroom, just remodeled, appliances, carpet, fenced backyard. Call 665-1346.

**98 Unfurn. Houses**  
PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

**NEW** Mgmt! N&L Investments. 1, 2 & 3 bdrm., apts., duplexes, homes & commer. prop 665-4274.

3 bdr., just remodeled, near Travis. \$500 mo. 665-4842, 662-3572.

2 bedroom, brick, detached garage, old but nice. \$350. Call 665-4842.

**CLEAN** 3 bdr. 1 bath, has stove and refig., ref., required. 1232 Darby, 669-3672 (d), 665-5900 (e)

**99 Stor. Bldgs.**  
TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

**PORTABLE** Buildings. Display models slightly damaged. 8' wide, 10' wide and 14' wide. Must sell. Will deliver and finance (WAC). 358-9597.

**102 Bus. Rent. Prop.**  
OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

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**103 Homes For Sale**

4 bd. \$250 mo for 5 yrs with \$2000 down. Call 886-5186

4 bd., under \$40,000 new c h/a, & roof, fireplace, possible OWC w/g down. C-21 Realtor 665-4180.

**665-6880**  
2 bdr, 2 ba  
Dining & Living Room,  
Large Kitchen,  
Fenced,  
Single Garage,  
Austin School

HOUSE for sale in Lefors. Located on McLean St. Needs lots of TLC. Call 835-2773.

**OWNER WILL FINANCE**  
Newly remodeled 2-3 bd, 1 ba, 1 car garage with extra room, covered patio, fenced yard.

Contact  
Milton  
806-790-0827

**106 Coml. Property**  
7 room building for sale in Lefors. Good location for small business. Price reduced. Call 835-2773.

**115 Trailer Parks**  
TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

**116 Mobile Homes**  
FOR Sale 14x80 Lancer 2 br, 1 1/2 bath, c h/a cook-top/oven w/d on 2 lots 14x24 Insulated Work Shop 665-3418.

**120 Autos**  
**Quality Sales**  
1300 N. Hobart 669-0433  
Make your next car



## Cleaning up the park



(Courtesy photo)

Seen here with bags of trash they gathered recently from Priest Park are ASTRA Club members (left-right) Jake Hopkins, Royce O'Neal, Kathryn Campbell, Stacianne Novian, Robyn Bell, Jarren Long, Stephen Bell and Aaron Pepper.

## Exxon Valdez case drags on

By RACHEL D'ORO  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Roland Maw is a bit skeptical about a federal judge's order that Exxon Mobil Corp. pay nearly \$7 billion in punitive damages and interest for a 1989 oil spill that devastated parts of the Alaskan shore.

For Maw and thousands of others whose trade was hurt by the Exxon Valdez spill, this week's ruling was merely the latest chapter in a legal saga that has stretched for years — and Exxon plans to appeal.

Plaintiffs, like legal experts, said Thursday that it's long past time to make some real progress — although no one expects that to happen soon.

"The mood among fishermen is let's get this thing to the U.S. Supreme Court and get it settled," said Maw, executive director of the United Cook Inlet Drift Association, which represents 550 salmon fishing outfits.

In the ruling issued Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Russel Holland ordered Exxon to pay \$4.5 billion in punitive damages to 32,000 fishermen, Alaska Natives and others affected by the nearly 11 million gallon spill in Prince William Sound. The judge also imposed interest estimated at about \$2.25 billion.

Exxon has already spent \$3.2 billion on cleanup, settlements and other fees and penalties.

Wednesday's order is the latest ruling in a case that's bounced between the federal court and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals since Exxon appealed a \$5 billion verdict delivered by a federal jury in 1994.

The appellate court, citing the original verdict as excessive, has twice sent the case back to Holland, most recently in August after the U.S. Supreme Court found that a \$145 million punitive damage award against State Farm Insurance was too much.

Holland's resulting order sparked hope and frustration among plaintiffs — who argue that Exxon knew that tanker Capt. Joe Hazelwood was an alcoholic but still allowed him to take charge of the vessel — and incredulity among lawyers who specialize in punitive damages litigation.

Among plaintiffs closely watching the case is Gary Kompkoff, chief of the Native village of Tatitlek, about seven miles from Bligh Reef, where the Exxon Valdez ran aground March 24, 1989.

## Stewart trial: Judge delays key testimony

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge criticized prosecutors in the Martha Stewart trial for waiting too long to give defense attorneys a copy of an FBI report that could damage the government's case.

Answering defense complaints, U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum on Thursday postponed the testimony of Douglas Faneuil, the government's star witness, for a week — interrupting the prosecution at a key point in the case.

And jurors — who filled out questionnaires in the case Jan. 6 but have yet to hear a full day of testimony — were sent home until Monday, told by the judge only that there had been a "bit of a mix-up."

Faneuil was ready to testify Thursday that he gave Stewart a secret tip from her stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, that led her to sell nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems stock in 2001, just before it plummeted on bad news.

But late Wednesday, prosecutors faxed to defense lawyers a document that raises doubts about whether the stockbroker ordered that the tip be passed on — and whether Faneuil himself recalls the episode clearly.

The document was an FBI report on an interview that

Jeremiah Gutman, Faneuil's former attorney, gave to federal authorities in January 2003.

An FBI account of the interview says Gutman told investigators that Faneuil had said "he had been instructed by Bacanovic or Waksal to pass information on to Martha Stewart about ImClone," according to a person who has seen the FBI account and discussed it with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Prosecutors suggested in court Thursday that the document shows only that Gutman, who is more than 80 years old, does not have a clear recollection of Faneuil's account.

It was "Mr. Gutman's memory which is the memory failure here," prosecutor Karen Patton Seymour told the judge.

In either case, lawyers for Stewart and Bacanovic complained that they should have received the document weeks or months ago.

"I do think that the government should have turned over this information sooner," Cedarbaum said.

Late Wednesday, Cedarbaum ruled that prosecutors must turn over notes from Gutman, including material from the period when he represented Faneuil.

## Texas put focus on human trafficking

WASHINGTON (AP) — Successful prosecutions of a Texas ring that held foreign women as sex slaves and a Korean man who ran a forced-labor garment factory in American Samoa were used Thursday by Attorney General John Ashcroft to highlight a U.S. campaign against human trafficking.

The sentences bring to 83 the convictions or guilty pleas obtained by the government since the Justice Department initiative was launched in March 2001, a threefold increase over the preceding three years, officials said. Prosecutors currently have 142 open investigations, the most ever.

"These crimes extend beyond the bounds of law. They are an affront to human dignity," Ashcroft told reporters. "They are crimes that demand swift and implacable prosecution of the predators."

In McAllen, Texas, U.S. District Judge Randy Crane imposed sentences ranging from four months to 14 years on five of the seven men who had pleaded guilty to holding women against their will, forcing them to work with no pay and raping them

repeatedly.

The women, mainly from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, had paid fees to be smuggled to the United States in hopes of a better life.

The ringleader in the case, Juan Carlos Soto, was to be sentenced Friday. Another defendant who pleaded guilty, Luis Villazavala, did not appear for sentencing Thursday and is now considered a fugitive.

In Honolulu later Thursday, a federal judge postponed sentencing of Kil Soo Lee on dozens of counts for illegally confining and forcing to work as laborers in American Samoa more than 200 mostly female garment workers from Vietnam and China. Lee was supposed to be sentenced Thursday, but Judge Susan Oki Mollway ordered the delay and a mental evaluation after Lee's attorney said he couldn't communicate with him.

At one point, prosecutors say, Lee and others at his Daewoosa Samoa garment factory carried out a mass beating of many of the workers. Lee is the third person convicted in the case, the largest human trafficking prosecution in U.S. history.

## THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

PRICES GOOD JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 2

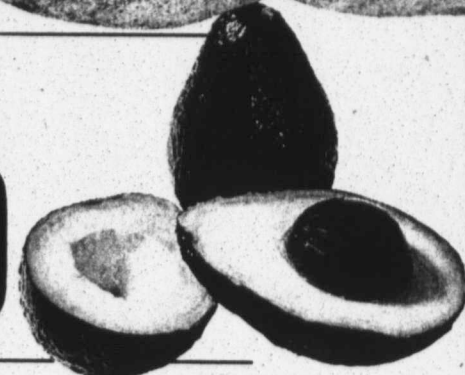
### LARGE BAKING POTATOES

4 <sup>LBS.</sup> \$1.00



### LARGE AVOCADOES

3 <sup>FOR</sup> \$1.00



### TEXAS GRAPEFRUIT

10 LB. BAG \$1.99



### LARGE LEMONS

4 <sup>FOR</sup> \$1.00



### HOT HOUSE CUCUMBERS

3 <sup>FOR</sup> \$1.00



### ASSORTED BLUE BELL ICE CREAM

3 <sup>HALF GALLONS</sup> \$10.00



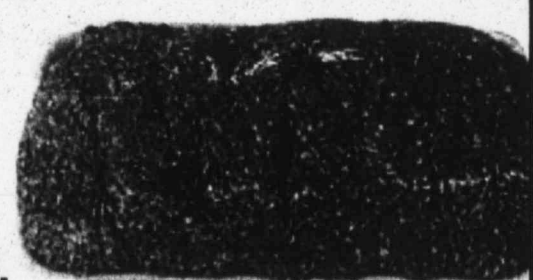
### SHURFINE MARGARINE

3 <sup>16 OZ. PACKS</sup> \$1.00



### FRESH GROUND BEEF

FAMILY PACK 99¢ <sup>LB.</sup>



### SANTITAS YELLOW CORN TORTILLA CHIPS

4 <sup>FOR</sup> \$5.00

PACKAGE PRICE \$1.99



### ASSORTED SHURFINE SODAS

12 PK. 12 OZ. CANS

2 <sup>FOR</sup> \$4.00



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