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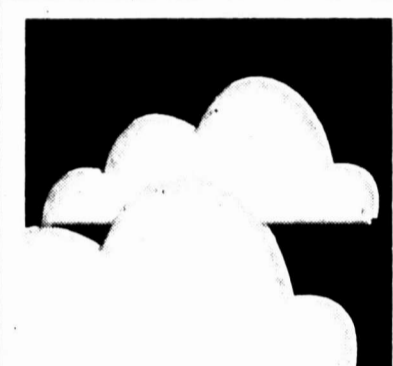
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 For weather details see Page 2

No Wednesday Lotto winner

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were: 3-20-25-26-34-35.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$11 million.

Travis, Lamar to salute veterans

PAMPA — Travis Elementary School students and teachers plan a Veteran's Day observance at 1:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9. All local veterans are invited to attend the celebration at Travis School, 2300 Primrose.

Lamar Elementary School students and teachers plan a Veteran's Day observance at 2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12. All local veterans are invited to attend the celebration at Lamar school, 1234 S. Nelson.

Woman indicted for anthrax hoaxes

BEAUMONT (AP) — A 24-year-old woman has been indicted on charges of leaving envelopes containing powder at a paper mill where she was a temporary employee.

Wes Rivers, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District, said Wednesday that a federal grand jury had returned a two-count indictment against Samantha Rogers of Rose City near Beaumont for threatened use of a weapon of mass destruction.

• **Avril Doucette Rush, M.D.**; 52, family practitioner, volunteer.

Classified 11
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West Texas LANDSCAPE
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 669-0158 mobile 663-1277

TNRCC to hold 'extremely rare' public meeting NPD agrees to session

By KATE B. DICKSON
 Associate Publisher

Gray Countians will have another chance to meet with National Pig Development (USA) officials in Pampa but no date has been set for the meeting, said Virgil Fernandez, spokesman for the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission.

NPD is the company that is seeking state approval to build a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) about 11 miles east of Pampa. The facility would house up to 50,000 hogs.

Fernandez said the public may want to make specific requests or have recommendations with regard to NPD's method of operations. "Sometimes," the spokesman said, "companies may want to do certain things to appease the public. But as long as they meet all the requirements there really is not much the public can do."

NPD has made application to the TNRCC for registration of the operation. Typically referred to as a permit, there is a difference in requirements for registration as opposed to a permit, Fernandez told *The Pampa News* Wednesday afternoon.

(See MEETING, Page 3)

Mother asks teen-agers to help solve mystery of Ashley's death

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

As the one-year anniversary approaches, a grieving family turns to local parents and teens to help them solve the mysterious death of Ashley Nicole Roe.

Ashley died on Nov. 30, 2000 in an Amarillo hospital, 13 days after her 15th birthday. One year later, authorities agree — they still don't know exactly what caused the Pampa student's death.

"I want to put out a plea to parents to talk to their children about this — any children in Pampa — and if their child knows something about Ashley's death, to please contact the police department," said Lenor Helfer, Ashley's mother.

On Nov. 25, 2000, two days after Thanksgiving, ambulance and emergency personnel were



Ashley Nicole Roe

called to a home in the 900 block of Cinderella. It was on a Saturday, shortly after noon. They found Ashley unconscious after apparently experiencing a seizure.

The Pampa High School freshman was first treated at Pampa Regional Medical

Center before being transferred later that day to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

Autopsy records, shown to *The Pampa News* by Ashley's family, list the cause of death as "undetermined." Ashley's death certificate lists "pending investigation" on the line where the immediate cause of death is given.

The autopsy report indicates lack of oxygen to the brain and damage to the heart tissue. Numerous toxicology tests were conducted with negative results except for evidence of formic acid "within the normal range." Formic acid, according to the report, "is a metabolite of formaldehyde and an index of exposure to formaldehyde..."

A urine test conducted by the hospital indicated THC, a chemical associated with marijuana use, in Ashley's system, officials said.

(See ASHLEY, Page 3)

Local author pens Guthrie book due out at mid-month

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

"Pampa News stories are an important part of it," Thelma Bray said this week, sitting in her living room on a tree-lined street in Pampa.

The title of which she speaks is a new book, *Reflections: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*, that Bray has spent the last several years writing.

The book, scheduled to be out Nov. 16, is a compilation of family letters, drawings and pictures of the Guthrie family.

Guthrie, whose work enjoys its own separate collection in the Smithsonian, moved to Pampa from Oklahoma with his family in the 1920s. It was here that he began writing and singing his own songs. He attended school in Pampa; worked at Harris Drug Store, where he bought his first guitar, and married his first wife in Pampa.

The pictures in Bray's book shows the Pampa of the 1930s as



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Thelma Bray's book, *Reflections: The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*, is scheduled to be out November 16.

a prosperous town despite the Depression the rest of the nation was suffering and the dust storms that blew across the Great Plains. The oil fields around Pampa were booming.

Woody Guthrie wrote about all of it, Bray said. His songs were about the Depression, the

Dust Bowl, the working man and World War II.

The opening pages of the book are a letter that Guthrie wrote to his new niece on Feb. 5, 1937, from Pampa. All nine pages of the letter are reproduced in Guthrie's handwriting.

(See BOOK, Page 3)

Gray voters follow state trend; OK 18 amendments

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

In a low voter turnout Tuesday, Gray County voters followed the trend of voters across the state in approving the 19 proposed amendments with the exception of Proposition 2.

Gray County voters rejected the amendment to approve up to \$175 million in bonds for building roads in colonias along the Texas-Mexico border 782-922, but it passed statewide.

State general obligation bonds and notes will be used to assist counties for access road road projects to serve the border colonias.

Only 1,785 voters of 15,049 registered voters in Gray County cast ballots in the election.

Local residents were in step with voters statewide in voting their approval of the other 18 propositions.

Proposition 1 passed locally 1,193-445. It relinquishes the state's claim to certain disputed land in Bastrop County, and will prevent a loss of title by people who bought and paid for property that was never transferred by the state because of faulty surveys.

Proposition 3 passed locally 863-804. It authorizes the legislature to exempt green coffee and raw cocoa held in Harris County from property taxes. In doing this, Harris County would qualify

as an exchange port for coffee by the New York Board of Trade.

Proposition 4 passed locally 1,206-501. It sets the term of the firefighters' pension commissioner at four years. Currently, the duration of all offices not otherwise fixed by the state constitution may not exceed two years.

Proposition 5 passed locally 1,074-648. It will allow a municipality to give outdated or surplus equipment, supplies or other fire fighting materials to an underdeveloped country.

Proposition 6 passed locally 1,097-608. It requires the governor to call a special legislative session so that lawmakers can appoint presidential electors when it is likely an election outcome won't be clear before the federal electors deadline. If electors are not determined by the certification date, no electoral votes may be cast for the state.

Proposition 7 passed locally 1,166-520. It allows the Veterans Land Board to sell up to \$500 million in bonds to finance additional home mortgage loans to veterans, and it could use certain assets for creating, operating and improving veterans' cemeteries.

Proposition 8 passed locally 887-822. It allows for \$850 million in general obligation bonds to pay for construction and repair projects or for the purchase of needed equipment by the General

(See AMENDMENTS, Page 3)

Britton remains in isolation cell

CANYON — A man accused of murdering a Hemphill County deputy remains in an isolation cell at the Randall County Jail in Canyon but will probably be moved to the new jail facilities in Amarillo within the 10 days, according to Randall County Sheriff Joel Richardson.

Christopher Chad Britton, 27, charged with capital murder in the death of Hemphill County Deputy Jim Bruce Graham, was moved to the county jail in Canyon Monday afternoon.

Hemphill County Sheriff Dean Butcher said Britton, who is being held without bond on the charge, had been moved from Gray County Jail due to a lack of isolation space and concerns for "safety of others." Britton had been incarcerated in the county jail in Pampa for approximately four months.

"He's in an isolation cell right now due to the nature of his charge, but if he proves he can get along, he'll be moved out with the others after awhile," Richardson said late Wednesday.

"Sheriff Butcher called and asked if I could hold (Britton) for awhile and, of course, I said, 'Yes,'" Richardson explained. "I have more single cells than anyone around here right now."

(See BRITTON, Page 3)

Free beginner computer classes

Novices to computers have the opportunity for some free computer classes during November at Lovett Memorial Library.

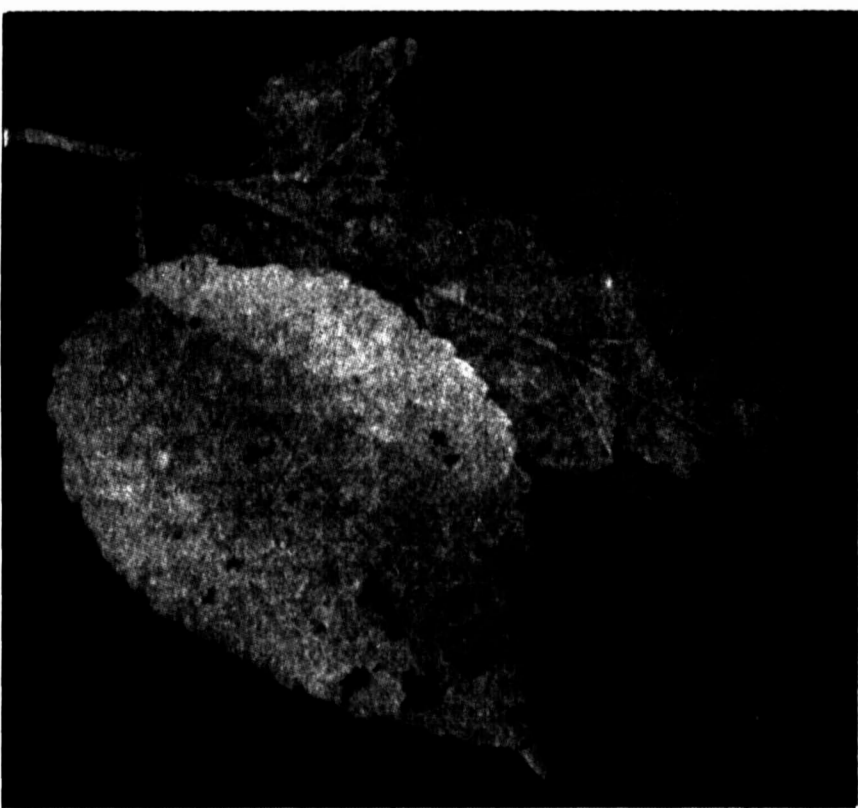
On Thursday, Nov. 15, Searching the Internet will be conducted at the library. On Tuesday, Nov. 27, a session on Using Free Email will be held.

Both classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

Word processing classes will be on Sunday afternoons. The first session, Using Microsoft Word I, will be at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11. The second session will be Using Microsoft Word II, and will be conducted at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18.

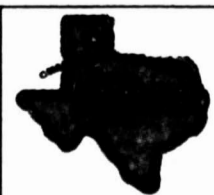
Teaching the classes will be Anne Stobbe and Joyce Porterfield. All hands-on classes are two hours long and limited to 11 students. Use of the mouse is a requirement for the classes.

All classes are free, but registration is required. Additional information may be obtained by calling the library at 669-5780.



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Floating in the water along the side of Hamilton Street, golden leaves from nearby trees mark the changing of the season.



Chamber of Commerce Parade ... Thursday, November 29th, 6:30 P.M.
Call For Details 669-3241

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MEETING

The way the law governing CAFOs was written, those seeking a registration do not have to go through a contested case hearing, Fernandez said. Calling Pampa's upcoming public meeting "extremely rare," Fernandez said it will mark only the second time such a hearing has been requested. The requests must come from elected officials and the TNRC spokesman said State Rep. Warren

Chisum (R-Pampa) asked for the hearing which NPD has agreed to. Chisum is chairman of the House Environmental Committee.

Meanwhile, NPD's registration application is "administratively complete" meaning that all the required paperwork has been submitted, Fernandez said. The application is now in the hands of the permit writers for their review.

If all goes smoothly, Fernandez said NPD may get the go ahead to build from the TNRC by the end of this month or the first of December.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ASHLEY

A Pampa Police Department report dated Dec. 1, 2000, describes the death as "Murder." In the notes on the face page of the report, investigating officers state: "On 11/30/00, a w/f (white female) juvenile died under suspicious circumstances."

Helfer said her daughter had gone to spend the night with a friend on the Friday before her death. The next day Helfer was called to the house where she found emergency workers trying to revive Ashley. She was told her daughter had had a severe seizure.

Freda Helfer, Ashley's aunt, said when she arrived on the scene with Ashley's mother, the teenager's face was blue and her body was bloated like she was nine months pregnant.

"She was half naked — no shirt or bra," Lenor Helfer said, adding that Ashley's shirt and bra were not cut off by emergency workers who returned the other garments the girl was wearing. The shirt and bra have never been found, she said.

"A hundred dollars of birthday money she had on her is missing," Helfer said. "And the jewelry she was wearing is missing."

Family members said they were told by medical personnel that Ashley may have been unconscious for 45 minutes or more before an ambulance was called.

Helfer said at least nine people were in the house when Ashley suffered the seizure including eight teenagers and an adult man who she said was asleep in another room. She said the man said he did not know what was happening until he heard an ambulance dispatched to the address on the police scanner.

She's concerned that as time passes, authorities

may lose their chance to solve the mystery surrounding Ashley's death. Two of the persons allegedly present that day have moved from the state, she said. A third person moved to Amarillo and now can't be located, she added.

To add to their frustration, Helfer said a coroner's inquest scheduled in October was canceled. They thought the case would be presented to the Gray County grand jury on Tuesday, but learned after they arrived that the district attorney was attending a funeral in Canadian and the case would not be presented at this session.

"We were in the posture to present the matter to the grand jury yesterday," District Attorney Rick Roach said Wednesday. He said his office had tried to contact Lenor Helfer to tell her when the plans changed, but hadn't been able to reach her in time. "That doesn't mean we're through with this by any means," Roach said. "We'll present it to the grand jury. We may even call a special meeting."

Roach said he received the Pampa Police Department's file on the case on Oct. 25.

"We turned it over to the DA's office about three weeks ago," confirmed Col. Terry Young of the Pampa Police Department.

He said the police department's investigation is complete at this point. "We're waiting on it to be presented to the grand jury."

"We're tired of being quiet," Freda Helfer said. "We feel like the case needs publicity."

"If this could happen to my child, it could happen to any child in Pampa," Lenor Helfer said. "Parents, please talk to your kids. If they know something (about Ashley's death), let them talk to police. We can't save Ashley, but we might save one more."

"Ashley needs justice. We need closure," Freda Helfer added.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BOOK

"Oil derricks running up to the city limits on three sides, off along the rim of the horizon, the big carbon-black plants," Guthrie writes in the book. "The sun was so clear and bright I felt like I was leaving one of the prettiest and ugliest spots I had

ever seen."

Bray said there were many people who provided her research, letters, photographs and drawings for the book, but she said Mary Jo Guthrie Edgmon, Woody Guthrie's sister was perhaps most instrumental in seeing that the book was completed because of her support and encouragement.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

AMENDMENTS

Services Commission, Texas Youth Commission, Department of Criminal Justice, Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Department of Parks and Wildlife, the adjutant general's department, Texas School for the Deaf, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Safety, State Preservation Board, Department of Health, Texas Historical Commission or Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Proposition 9 passed locally 1,176-546. It will allow state lawmakers to provide for filling vacancies in the legislature without an election if only one person is a qualified candidate. Currently, a special election must be held.

Proposition 10 passed locally 1,112-562. It authorizes the legislature to exempt certain goods to be exempted from property taxation if the items are warehoused temporarily to be assembled, stored, manufactured, processed, fabricated or repaired and then forwarded somewhere else inside or outside Texas.

Proposition 11 passed locally 1,042-685. It allows a school teacher, a retired school teacher or a retired school administrator who serves as a member of a governing body of a school district, city, town, or other local governmental district, including a water district, to receive payment for serving on that body.

Proposition 12 passed locally 1,223-480. It amends, repeals or relocates several sections of the current constitution to improve its clarity, organization, and consistency.

Proposition 13 passed locally 1,415-303. It allows the legislature to authorize a school board to donate real property and

improvements formerly used as a school campus to preserve that property. The board may make the donation if it determines the property has historical significance, that the donation will help preserve the property and that the school district no longer needs the property.

Proposition 14 passed locally 963-739. It allows lawmakers to authorize a taxing unit, other than a school district, to exempt travel trailers from property taxation as long as the travel trailers are lawfully registered with the state and are not used to produce income.

Proposition 15 passed locally 944-744. It creates the Texas Mobility Fund, which would be administered by the Texas Transportation Commission. The fund would finance the construction, acquisition and expansion of state highways and would partly pay for public toll roads and other public transportation projects. No money is allocated to the fund at this time. Traditionally, Texas has used a pay-as-you-go system for road construction.

Proposition 16 passed locally 912-746. It reduces the waiting period required for a valid home improvement lien on a homestead from 12 days to five days. It would also authorize the conversion and refinance of a personal property lien secured by a manufactured home to a lien on a

homestead. **Proposition 17** passed locally 1,035-678. It allows the state to certain state land and to clear title defects for people who claim title to those lands. Among other requirements, all taxes due on the land must be paid.

Proposition 18 passed locally 1,361-343. It authorizes the legislature to create a program to consolidate and standardize the collection, deposit, reporting and payment of criminal and civil court fees.

Proposition 19 passed locally 941-755. It allows the Texas Water Development Board to issue up to \$2 billion of additional general obligation bonds for water supply projects, water quality enhancement projects, water quality enhancement projects, flood control projects, state participation in water and wastewater facilities and projects for economically distressed areas.

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Reception following

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BRITTON

The Randall County Sheriff is in the process of transferring prisoners from the Canyon jail facilities to a newly constructed jail on South Georgia Street in Amarillo, he said.

"Today (Britton) is in Canyon but he'll probably be in the new one within 10 days," Richardson said. "I've moved two-thirds of the population to the new jail, but we're still training," the sheriff said, explaining the inmates that have been moved are considered low risk and medium risk.

"Because of the nature of the charge, (Britton) will

be high risk," he added.

Britton has been in law enforcement custody since June 17, when he was arrested in connection with the shotgun slaying of Graham in Canadian. Authorities said Graham had stopped the Canadian man that Sunday morning on four misdemeanor warrants. After an extensive manhunt, tracking dogs owned by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice located Britton hiding in a pond near Canadian on land once owned by Britton's grandfather.

A Hemphill County grand jury later indicted Britton for capital murder in connection with the deputy's death.

Supreme Court takes up school drug testing issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Thursday to decide if leaders of untroubled schools should have the same authority to test students for drugs as do schools with serious narcotics problems.

The high court will reconsider the subject of student drug screening in response to conflicting rulings over how far educators can go in keeping classrooms drug-free.

Justices upheld testing of athletes in 1995 in an Oregon school district, where drug-using jocks were blamed for discipline problems. The court stopped short, however, of endorsing blanket drug testing.

In the case accepted for review by the Supreme Court Thursday, an appeals court said a rural Oklahoma district violated the Constitution's ban on unreasonable searches by requiring random tests of students involved in extracurricular activities, such as the chorus.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the district had no justification for drug testing because it had few problems. Among the more serious incidents was a choir member caught with alcohol in a cough syrup bottle on a trip. The court struck down the district's policy, and school officials appealed to the Supreme Court.

"The issue presented is of major importance... to all public schools in the nation which are responsible for the safety of the students under their supervision on a daily basis and must address drug use which threatens their safety," the school told the court in urging it to accept the appeal.

Three-vehicle crash near McLean kills man

MCLEAN — A three-vehicle accident on Interstate 40, east of McLean, Wednesday, claimed the life of a California woman.

According to Texas Department of Public Safety's report of the accident, a 1990 Pontiac driven by James Steel, 30, of Highland, Calif., was traveling west on I-40 shortly after 6 a.m. Wednesday when the vehicle apparently entered the center median.

The driver tried to correct causing the Pontiac to go into a broadside skid. The vehicle then rolled 3 1/2 times, before coming to rest in the westbound lanes of the interstate highway, officials said.

A 1985 Mercury driven by Christan Hanson of Winston Salem, N.C., 1998 Kenworth tractor-trailer driven by Bray Clay, 30 of Sikeston, Mo., were traveling west and drove through the cloud of dust caused by the accident. Hanson's vehicle bumped the Pontiac as he steered to avoid it. The tractor-trailer hit the Pontiac in the passenger's side, pushing the vehicle into the center median.

Willie Steel, 59, of Highland, Calif., died at the scene, DPS officials said. James Steel was taken to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo where he was listed in satisfactory condition late Wednesday. Clay and a passenger in the tractor-trailer, Kenneth Dunn, 30, of Mena, Ark., were treated and released at Shamrock General Hospital.

PAMPA SHRINE CLUB

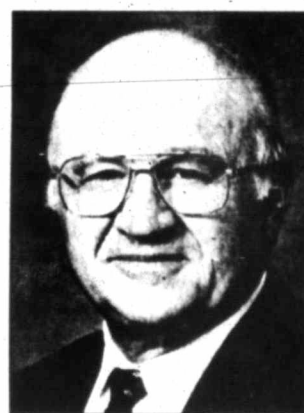
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Technology getting up-to-speed for Texans

Here's good news for Texans — whether you live out beyond the city limits or deep in the heart of the largest cities: we're working with state regulators to make sure Texas' technology needs are met.



Gary Stevens

This spring Texas legislators considered — and the Public Utility Commission is working to implement — measures that would ensure more customers throughout the state have access to advanced telecommunications services — like high-speed Internet access — at reasonable prices.

At SBC Southwestern Bell, we applaud these efforts to bring technological services to all Texans. As technology continues its rapid progression, high-speed Internet access becomes more and more crucial for economic development — an especially important element of success to the rural areas and inner-cities of our state.

SBC fully supports the goal of providing advanced services for businesses and homes in underserved regions of the state. And we believe Texans deserve access to advanced services through the technology that best meets their individual needs.

That's why we support a fair public-policy framework that:

- provides Texans with more choices for advanced telecommunications services at sensible prices;
- expands options for both technology and access speed, depending upon the needs of the area; and
- promotes competition, giving equitable treatment to all technologies and providers of advanced services.

Securing access to advanced services through many different technologies means more Texans get the technologies they need at prices they can afford.

At SBC, we're proud to be working to bring advanced technologies to more Texans. We can't think of a more worthwhile purpose than meeting the growing telecommunications needs of the Texas areas we serve.

Gary Stevens

Gary Stevens



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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: Longview News-Journal on the high cost of Mideast oil: East Texans involved in the oil producing industry know that the war on terrorism in the Middle East has much to do with the politics of oil.

The United States is dependent on oil from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. This group attempts to set world oil prices by controlling production.

OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, has kept the supply of Persian Gulf oil stable since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. However, that could change at any time because of the regions volatile politics and religious fanaticism. The United States, OPEC's largest oil customer, walks a narrow diplomatic line in the Middle East. In the global free-trade climate, major Western oil companies import, drill and produce oil in several Persian Gulf countries. U.S. trade allies depend on these imports. European countries imported 23 percent of their oil from the Persian Gulf in 2000; Japan gets three-fourths of its oil from the region. An oil crisis for those industrial trade partners would ripple throughout the United States.

Imports account for 60 percent of daily American oil consumption, up from 47 percent a decade ago. Only 5 percent of the world's population lives in the United States, but the nation uses about 19 million barrels of oil a day, or 25 percent of the global daily consumption of 76 million barrels. American cars and sport-utility vehicles alone consume 10 percent of that.

If Saudi Arabia's oil exports were destroyed or cut off, the United States would be plunged into economic chaos for years. Even with support of other oil exporting countries, such as Mexico and Russia, the United States could not rapidly bring the supply up to the level that Americans demand.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve, stored in underground caverns in Texas and Louisiana, can hold up to 700 million barrels. It now contains about 545 million barrels at best, a 53-day supply. Even if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, as well as the Gulf and the Pacific coastlines, were opened for more drilling, it would take three or four years before that oil could be delivered. The United States has only 3 percent of the worlds known oil reserves.

While it costs more than twice as much to produce oil in the United States as in the Middle East, where many prolific wells are based on land, the United States pays a hefty political and military price for its dependence on Persian Gulf oil. For example, the U.S. Navy keeps sea lanes open for oil tankers.

The lack of a coherent energy policy has cost Americans dearly. The federal government must mandate more fuel-efficient vehicles, encourage more domestic oil and gas drilling, boost imports from other regions and become more energy efficient. There also needs to be a greater effort in alternative sources of energy nuclear, wind, solar and alternative fuels. To do so might mean having to sacrifice the kinds of cars we drive or how we live.

There is no doubt that some of the \$43 billion the United States pays annually for obtaining Middle East oil helps fund the terrorists. Saudi Arabia also provides oil to the Taliban government, that's why the United States and its allies must carefully develop a comprehensive energy policy and why Americans should be prepared to pay the price.

It's time for the healing to begin

It's time for the healing to begin.

The fate of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation has been decided, and it will cease to exist until all debts are paid. Then the voters will have an opportunity to enact a new economic development corporation and be able to choose between a 4A, which is what Pampa has had, or a 4B, which is much more flexible. The 4B wasn't available to communities until a few years ago.

Emotions have run high in this election. I have been told by many Pampa residents that this issue has been the most divisive in the history of the community.

Both sides have wanted the best for Pampa—they just differ on what that 'best' will be. It's another one of those cases of what people's perception happens to be.

During the past few months, I have become one of the most unpopular people in town in some circles because I have covered this issue.

When I've written stories people considered anti-PEDC, the pro-PEDC people complained. When I've written stories people perceived as pro-PEDC, the anti-PEDC people complained.

But that's the way it is in the news business. It's a good thing I have strong shoulders.

One man even called and accused me of 'sleeping with the enemy.' While it's real, no one's business, my cat, Cookie, is the only thing I sleep with.

Tempers have just flared and it's time to move forward. Whether you liked the outcome of Tuesday's election or not, it's over.

It is time for each side to extend the olive branch and raise the white flag. It's time to sit down together and work on the future of Pampa.

During my coverage of this issue, I have



Nancy Young

Managing editor

become acquainted with many Pampa residents. As I was thrust into covering the PEDC less than two months ago, I didn't have a lot of prior history of the organization.

I have come to know many people whom I believe to be very honorable on both sides of the issue. Jerry Foote, PEDC vice president, is a person I believe to be very sincere in his desire to want Pampa to grow and prosper.

Acquainted with Lee Porter through the Pampa School Board, I have always found him to be forthright, honest and a gentleman. The third member of the PEDC board, Darville Orr, has been most open and courteous. But who would expect anything less than that—he's a former Stinnett Rattler. I believe both Lee and Darville to be sincere.

John and Susan Tripplehorn have both contributed much to the betterment of the community and the Texas Panhandle.

On the other side, Dalton Lewis has been most courteous and wants the best for Pampa. Kathleen Greene, Jim Terry and many others have wanted the same thing.

When I first came to *The Pampa News* in May, 1999, I had many misconceptions about Pampa. Of course, I came from Borger Bulldog country.

I was pleasantly surprised at how pleasant people were and how much they cared about

Pampa. There are so many activities going on. The Pampa Positive list is long.

When I hear people talking about how bad the economy is here, I want to say—drive down the main streets of some area communities. Pampa's is great. Pampa is so fortunate to have so many people interested and constantly working to make the community better. I can assure you there are many communities that don't have the excellent leadership this community possesses.

I hope that both sides will start standing shoulder-to-shoulder and work on the future of the community. Let's consider this a learning experience, and learn from it.

As I was driving to work this morning, I heard on the news that my oldest daughter, Kathy's, battle group, the USS Stennis, will be leaving for the Arabian Sea as early as this weekend. We thought she was leaving a few weeks ago, but it changed and they had been told departure for that area wouldn't take place until January.

Her ship, USS Bonhomme Richard, will join three other battle groups which include the USS Carl Vinson battle group that my oldest son, Jay, is with. He is on the USS Sacramento.

It is time for all of us to concentrate on what is happening overseas and work together providing strong support to our country.

If we were in Afghanistan, the government would control the news.

It was good to see Beat Berger on Wayne's Western Wear sign. That's a step in the community coming together as the annual rivalry takes place Friday night in Pampa.

Let's all join together this weekend and support the Harvesters and beat Berger. Then honor our veterans on Veterans Day on Sunday.

Woolsorters' disease very old indeed

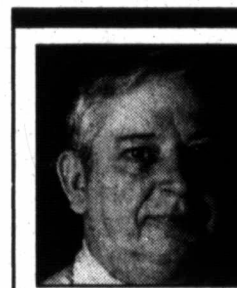
Anthrax — which at various times has been called splenic fever, woolsorters' disease and malignant pustule — is one of the oldest animal diseases in recorded history. There are references to it in the Bible and among the classical Greek and Roman writers.

Under natural circumstances, it is chiefly a disease of grass-eating nomads and usually infects people handling the hair, hides, wool, bones or carcasses of affected animals. Those tidbits of information are from the good old Encyclopaedia Britannica, always a good first stop when you are curious about something.

Actually, anthrax even produced one great benefit for mankind. It was the first disease in which the cause was attributed to a specific micro-organism. French biologist Casimir-Joseph Davaine discovered this in 1863. A German, Robert Koch, isolated it in a pure culture in 1876. Another Frenchman, Louis Pasteur, found a bacterial vaccine effective against it in 1881. Together, these discoveries led to the origin of the modern sciences of bacteriology and immunology. That's more good stuff from the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

And now for today's news.

Unless you work for a politician or a media organization, I wouldn't worry about handling your mail. Whoever sent it to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, to NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and to American Media obviously has a small supply and is trying to get maximum publicity for very few spores.



Charley Reese

Syndicated columnist

In other words, they are not likely to waste it on us common folks, who usually get sick and die with no fanfare.

At this writing, nobody in officialdom knows if it's connected to the terrorists involved in the Sept. 11 incidents or if there is any connection between the stuff mailed from Malaysia and the letters mailed from within the United States. Nor do the officials yet know the origin of the spores. They don't know if they came from overseas or from one of several U.S. labs that regularly work with the stuff. Genetic testing will likely provide answers in the near future.

There are three types of anthrax infection in humans — lung, intestinal and skin. Infections of the skin are usually easily cured with antibiotics, provided the infection is discovered soon enough. Otherwise, it can cause fatal blood poisoning. The intestinal form, which comes from eating contaminated meat, is almost always fatal, as is the lung version.

Only quick administration of antibiotics can give you a chance to survive it in those two instances.

Despite where the infection takes place, it is the same disease, and the causative agent — spores — is the same.

Germ warfare — or, as we call it, biological warfare — is also a very old practice. Mongol invaders often catapulted the bodies of plague victims over the walls of cities they were besieging. In one such instance in 1374, the bacillus was carried in ships to Europe, where it became the Black Death, which killed a third of the continent's population.

In the past century, however, only the Germans in World War I — who infected some cavalry horses and American livestock destined for the Allies — and us in the Korea War have been accused of using it. No evidence for U.S. use was ever offered.

Both we and the Soviets, however, did tremendous research in the field, and while it is banned by a 1972 treaty, nobody knows for sure what the real situation is in various countries in terms of production and stockpiles of infectious agents.

Welcome to the 21st century. The human race apparently consists of very slow learners, since no evil appears to be too old to resurrect. Unless, however, someone has enough spores to spray a large crowd with, what's going on now is aimed at publicity and psychological effect, not death. So ordinary folks like us shouldn't worry about it.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Nov. 8, the 312th day of 2001. There are 53 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 8, 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing power with a failed coup in Munich, Germany, the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

On this date:

In 1837, Mount Holyoke Seminary, a college exclusively for women, opened in South Hadley, Mass.

In 1889, Montana became the 41st state.

In 1932, New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated

incumbent Herbert Hoover for the presidency.

In 1933, President Roosevelt created the Civil Works Administration, designed to create jobs for more than four million unemployed.

In 1942, Operation "Torch" began during World War II as U.S. and British forces landed in French North Africa.

In 1950, during the Korean conflict, the first jet-plane battle took place as U.S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown shot down a North Korean MIG-15.

In 1966, Ronald Reagan was elected governor of California.

In 1988, Vice President George

Bush won the presidential election, defeating Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

In 1994, midterm elections resulted in Republicans winning a majority in the Senate while at the same time gaining control of the House for the first time in 40 years.

Five years ago: Three days after his re-election, President Clinton said at a news conference that there always are "a lot of hard feelings" after elections, but he urged Republicans to put aside politically charged investigations and work with him to balance the budget and enact campaign finance reform.

One year ago: A statewide recount began in Florida, which emerged as critical in deciding the winner of the 2000 presidential election. Early that day, Vice President Al Gore telephoned Texas Gov. George W. Bush to concede, but called back about an hour later to retract his concession. Waco special counsel John C. Danforth released his final report absolving the government of wrongdoing in the 1993 siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Texas.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Norman Lloyd is 87. Actress June Havoc is 85. Jazz singer Chris Connor is 74. Singer Patti Page is 74.

Your representatives

- State Rep. Warren Chisum**
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Pampa Phone: 665-3552
Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736
- State Sen. Teel Bivins**
Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994
Austin Address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711
Austin Phone: (512) 463-0131
teel.bivins@senate.state.tx.us
- U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry**
Amarillo Address: 724 S. Polk, Suite 400, Amarillo, TX 79101
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- U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm**
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Phil_Gramm@gramm.senate.gov
- Texas Gov. Rick Perry**
P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711-2428.
Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789
www.governor.state.tx.us/e-mail.html

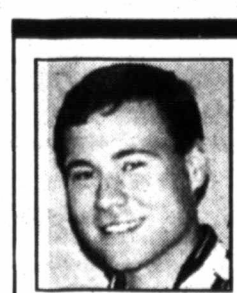
Keep America strong: Let's show our spirit

How do we do what President Bush and his top national security advisors are encouraging us to do: Get back to a normal life, yet be watchful as there are credible threats of further terrorism?

With anthrax cases becoming more common in the daily news, and an everyday reality in Washington D.C., a sense of uneasiness is still in the air. But President Bush's challenge carries a lot of credibility because of his actions. Recently, he has flown on a commercial airline from Chicago to Washington, D.C. He has attended a baseball game in New York City. He has flown across the Pacific Ocean to attend an international conference in China.

The President is leading by the old wise saying we all know: actions speak louder than words. Indeed, they do. He is also, I assure you, keeping a watchful eye on world events but trying to live his life as normal — whatever that means for a president.

In regards to flying today in America, I have two observations. First, it is probably safer to fly today than it has been in many years because of increased security measures and worldwide attention on the airline industry. Second, there are better bargains today than there have been in a long time — maybe in the



J.B. Horton

Guest columnist

history of flying. In short, it is safer and cheaper!

I want to follow the lead of President Bush and get back to normal. Actually, for the first time in my life, I want to do my best to please top government officials in their charge to spend money, travel and trust the government to do its job. So for me to meet this challenge, I am putting my money where my mouth is.

I am flying across the Atlantic next week to visit friends in a country that has supported us like no other in our global fight against terrorism — England. I am flying an American-based airline, spending money to do my part in boosting the economy, supporting our allies and trying to enjoy life (and life is much more enjoyable with cheaper airplane tickets!).

To sum up the character of our great nation, I must quote one small business owner in New York City who continues to run his business near Ground Zero. He said, "If I didn't open my business on Sept. 12, I would know that the terrorists had defeated me. I wasn't about to let that happen." The small business owner knew he wouldn't get any business that day, but he made a statement through his actions — which were much louder than words.

So, let's remember to show our neighbors, friends, family and enemies that we will keep a watchful eye, but through our actions, we will be telling them we are getting 'back to normal.' Our actions speak loud and clear. Let's act. And let's be very clear. If it is still a secret to the world, it won't be for long that our national character is one of the reasons we are called the home of the free, and the land of the brave. That seems very clear to me.

God Bless.

J.B. Horton is a Pampa native who was appointed by President George W. Bush on February 23, 2001 to serve in the United States Small Business Administration in Washington D.C. Comments can be sent to him at jbhorton4@hotmail.com

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U.S. officials don't know how many labs have anthrax

By LAURA MECKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After Larry Harris of Ohio ordered bubonic plague bacteria through the mail, Congress acted to tighten access to dangerous biological agents.

Now Congress is looking to broaden its reach on the realization that existing law does not track anthrax and other deadly material if a laboratory transfers it without proper documentation.

Federal authorities have little idea how many or which U.S. labs have anthrax or other biological agents, partly because the law requires only some to register. As a result, the FBI says it has been unable to trace many of the laboratories where bioterrorists may have gotten anthrax to send through the mail.

Law enforcement officials say they still do not know who is behind the attacks, which have killed four people and sickened 13 others.

The 1996 law also requires that labs that receive dangerous materials have certain security precautions. But experts say wide variations exist among both university and government labs. ...

Under the 1996 law, passed after Harris' successful mail order, labs that transfer hazardous biological materials, known as "select agents," are required to register with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There appears to be little enforcement of the registration rules. CDC officials say they have never encountered a violator, but bioterrorism experts say that doesn't mean there haven't been some that the government doesn't know about.

"In a nutshell, you have some efforts to register these agents, but you don't have any real oversight or regulatory teeth," said Janet Heinrich, director of the General Accounting Office's health section, who is beginning an investigation into enforcement of this law.

Further, if a laboratory had anthrax or another biological agent before 1997, it is not required to register with the CDC at all — a loophole that legislation now pending in Congress would fill.

The CDC's director said Wednesday that his agency is not comfortable as an enforcer and would rather have another agency be responsible for making sure labs follow the law.

"We are not a regulatory agency and don't profess any expertise or much experience in that at all," said Dr. Jeffrey Koplan.

The effect has been that the government has little clue how many laboratories are complying with the existing law, said Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg, a bioterrorism expert who worked in the Clinton administration.

"The problem with the select agent rule is it only assures that the people who want to cooperate with the system register with the CDC. It's very hard to identify who's out there shipping and receiving agents from the list and not registering," she said.

CDC officials say they are doing what they can to enforce the law.

"We are monitoring the labs that are registered with us," CDC spokeswoman Kathy Harben said. "If they are not registered with us, I don't think we would know what they're doing."

A microbiology expert, Ronald Atlas, put the numbers of labs that have anthrax at about 100, with an additional 38 that do veterinary work with nonpathogenic forms of anthrax.

More than a month after the anthrax-by-mail attacks began, the FBI said it still doesn't have a list of laboratories that have the bacteria. James Caruso, a top terrorism official at the FBI, told a Senate committee Tuesday that investigators are "pressing hard" to figure out how many labs and how many people had access to anthrax.

"The research capabilities of thousands of researchers is something that we're still trying to run down," he told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

The 1996 law also requires that labs that receive dangerous materials have certain security precautions. But experts say wide variations exist among both university and government labs. In many labs, it would be easy to take a single spore of anthrax home, where it could easily and quickly grow into a vast quantity of bacteria, said Atlas, president-elect of the American Society for Microbiology.

Lab security, he said, is "highly variable."

Legislation being drafted by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., would tighten lab security, putting requirements that are now detailed in a safety manual into law. Feinstein's legislation also requires any laboratory working with hazardous agents to register with CDC, not just those that are shipping the material elsewhere.

It would also bar individuals from possessing these agents. Current law allows for it if the person meets certain requirements.

But a broader law probably will not identify all those who possess dangerous agents if enforcement is not tightened, Hamburg said. She noted that CDC initially was given no money to implement its new responsibilities and never has had enough to run a full regulatory system.

Certificate of appreciation



(Courtesy photo)

A "Sheltered Workshop Volunteer's Reception" was held recently at Pampa Sheltered Workshop, 1301 W. Somerville. Altrusa sponsors the annual event to honor the many volunteers in the community who dedicate their time to the shelter and its clients. Above: DeLynn Gordzelik, left, president of the local Altrusa chapter, recently accepted a certificate of appreciation from Eva Isbell, director of Pampa Sheltered Workshop.

Scientists invent single-molecule transistor, a breakthrough in computing technology

WASHINGTON (AP) — When two Bell Labs scientists invented the transistor in 1947, it was as tall as the face of a wristwatch. Now, another Bell team has made a transistor from a single molecule — small enough to fit about 10 million on the head of a pin.

"It may become the cornerstone of a new era," Bell Labs vice president Federico Capasso said.

Scientists predict that silicon transistors, the bedrock element for current computers, are expected to be made as small as physically possible in the second decade of the century. Organic nanotransistors represent a new step for computing that extends beyond that barrier, and can be used in computers on paper, clothes and everywhere else.

"You might think about flexible electronics, some things in which silicon cannot do," said physicist Hendrik Schon of the Bell three-member team.

The invention by Schon and chemists Zhenan Bao and Hong Meng threatens to make Moore's Law — the axiom named after an Intel Corp. co-founder who predicted that the number of transistors on a piece of silicon would double roughly every 18 months — a footnote in history.

"I think it will show more or less ... the ultimate limit for Moore's Law," Schon said.

The breakthrough was published Thursday on the Web site of the journal Science.

Stanford University professor David Goldhaber-Gordon called the invention "really remarkable."

"It really looks for all the world like a standard silicon transistor, and in some ways even has better parameters," Goldhaber-Gordon said.

Smaller transistors generally translate to speedier devices. Intel and other chipmakers squeeze millions of transistors on a single microprocessor to power computers, and the techniques needed do to so are very expensive.

Schon said the molecular transistor is cheap to make, and can be done in an ordinary lab rather than the ultra-sanitary "clean room" now used by chipmakers.

Schon's team used "conjugated molecules" made out of carbon, hydrogen and sulfur. The solution is poured from a beaker onto gold electrodes, and the transistors form by themselves.

The transistor, which Schon called the "ultimate limit for miniaturization," faces several years of testing and improvements before it can be used in products. Schon and his team also need to figure out how it works.

"There were some pleasant surprises in the observed experimental results," Schon said. "Now we have to work on getting a better understanding of what's going on this scale."

Scientists are taking great strides in organic computing. The last leap was also made by Schon's team, just a month ago, when they created a transistor out of a cluster of molecules.

In August, IBM researchers created a simple logic circuit on a carbon nanotube, a single-molecule strand of carbon.

Goldhaber-Gordon said researchers have too much invested in silicon to see it replaced by molecular cousins anytime soon, but suggested the new device's small size would be useful for biological sensors.

"Forty to 50 years of development plus the GNP of a decent sized country will get you quite a lot," Goldhaber-Gordon said of silicon research.

One can go smaller than molecules, as any high school chemistry student knows. While Schon said he is skeptical of theories concerning atomic and subatomic quantum transistors, he won't go so far as to doubt the ingenuity of future inventors.

"Some people have ideas about making chains of atoms and then maybe moving the atoms to change the conductance. But I don't see how you can amplify signals with that," Schon said. "I don't know, maybe some people will come up with clever ideas."

On the Net: Bell Labs: <http://www.bell-labs.com>

Comptroller: 'One month is not a trend'

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander recently reported the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks reduced sales tax collections by a total \$42 million, a rebound from the initial \$100 million-plus dip.

"The state took an initial body blow of \$113 million immediately after the attacks, but we bounced back," Rylander said. "Texans are a defiant, confident and resilient bunch. I continue to believe it is highly unlikely that there will be a recession in Texas."

Rylander said consumer confidence, which was slipping before the Sept. 11 tragedy, continued to slide nationally and in Texas, but the local slip was not as steep. Between August and

October nationally, consumer confidence slid 25 percent and during the same time in Texas consumer confidence slipped 21 percent.

"For a few days in September, people stayed home and watched TV and worried about the world situation," she said. "October 22 was our peak sales tax collection day for taxes owed in September and it was not a good day. We were \$113 million behind what we collected during the same time last year. But Texans rallied."

The Comptroller said she does not believe the September economic snapshot will affect her biennial revenue estimate. "One month is not a trend," she said. "I fully expect our economy to

recover in the latter months of next year and I believe our very conservative estimates will hold."

State sales tax collections for September of this year totaled \$1.15 billion, down just 1 percent from collections during the same time last year.

Texas communities will learn the effects of the terrorist attacks on their local revenue when the Comptroller makes regular monthly sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose districts on Nov. 9.

Rylander also said she will be transferring \$686 million from the natural gas severance tax into the state's Rainy Day Fund, bringing that balance up to \$882 million. Wall Street cited the growing Rainy Day Fund, which Rylander urged protecting last session, in giving the state a high financial rating. That, in turn, will save Texans \$55 million this year.

Square House to host artist Wendell Mahan exhibit

PANHANDLE — History, nostalgia, whimsy and imagination all combine in Wendell Mahan's "Southwest

Americana" exhibit at Carson County Square House Museum in Panhandle. A reception for the artist will be held from 2:30-4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11 in the Square House Gallery.

Mahan, a Borger native, has received numerous awards for his work. He has placed in a number of juried art shows, has had a logo design accepted by Country Chevrolet in Borger and even earned recog-

nition from the U.S. Army.

Growing up in Borger gave him a taste for the varying perspectives described as "Southwestern" and "frontier." The display includes his pencil drawings of cowboys, Indians and vignettes as well as renderings of John Wayne and Sam Shepard.

Admission is free. For more information, contact the museum at (806) 537-3524.

Borger Altrusa

Fall Arts, Crafts & Flea Market

Featuring the fine handicrafts of local artisans

- *Antiques *Candles *Clothing
- *Woodworking *Sterling Jewelry
- *Collectibles *Gifts

Date: November 10th & 11th
Times: Saturday 9:00 to 6:00
Sunday: 10:00 to 5:00
Place: Borger Dome
Free Admission

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Calendar of events

PAMPA MASONIC LODGE #966
Pampa Masonic Lodge #966, 420 W. Kingsmill, meets Thursday, Aug. 23, with a feed at 7 p.m., followed by study and practice at 7:30 p.m.

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

OPEN DOOR AA
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Women's Support Group for victims of Domestic Violence offers peer counseling, group support and education on issues resulting from family violence and/or sexual assault from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call 669-1131.

LAS PAMPAS WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY
Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Building in the Pampa Mall. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Loyd Waters 665-6466.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION
American Heart Association meets at 12 noon the second Thursday of each month at Chaney's Restaurant.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD
Planned Parenthood hosts "Dose of Reality" at 6 p.m. the second of Monday of each month in Suite 173A of the Hughes Building. The program is open to teens 13 to 19 years of age.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH
Macedonia Baptist Church, 441 Elm, will hold daily prayer services at 7:30 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. for the citizens of Pampa — churches, schools, etc. The prayer services are open to everyone. For more information, call 665-4926.

PAMPA MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE
Pampa Area Ministerial Alliance meets the first Monday of every month. Location changes monthly.

GRAY COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
Gray County Genealogical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Gray County Sheriff's Department classroom. (Enter through the north door of the jail building.) For membership inquiries, contact Harley Madison at 669-6294.

CLARENDON VFW CHARITY BINGO
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7782, Hwy 287 east, Clarendon, hosts charity bingo every Saturday. Doors open at 6 p.m. with games starting at 7 p.m. Ten games are played per session. For more information, call 874-VETS. The maximum award is \$750 per game and \$2,500 per session.

FCCLA VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM
White Deer FCCLA will hold a Veteran's Day Program at 9 a.m., Friday, Nov. 9 in the White Deer High School Auditorium. Registration for the veterans will begin at 8:30 a.m. Dr. Raymond Laycock, a World War II veteran and retired physician of Pampa, will give the keynote address.

TAOS COMES TO TEXAS
Pampa Fine Arts and The Art Emporium Art Gallery will present "Taos Comes to Texas" from 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 16 and 17 at the Emporium located at 115 N. Cuyler. A total of 10 Taos artists will be represented at the exhibition. Special guests artists will be Frederick Aragon, Richard Alan Nichols and Rudl Mergelman. For more information, call 665-1245.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Presbyterian Church of Pampa, 525 N. Gray, will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a special worship service at 10:45 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 18. Among those present will be former pastors the Rev. Donald S. Hauck, the Rev. Marty Hager, the Rev. Joseph Turner and the Rev. John Judson. For more information, contact the church office.

CHRISTMAS PARADE
The annual Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be held the evening of Nov. 29. For more information, call 669-3241.

FESTIVAL OF TREES
Festival of Trees will kick-off Friday, Nov. 30 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Hours will be 5-8 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 and 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
The Texas Department of Health will be offering

immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, Hib (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Nov. 7 and 21, TDH, 736 Cuyler, Pampa; 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Nov. 15, Groom School, Groom; 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 20, White Deer Community Center, White Deer; 11 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4 p.m., Nov. 26, City Hall, Canadian; 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Nov. 28, Miami School, Miami.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER
The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: Nov. 27, Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, Pampa; Nov. 7 and 21, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Nov. 28, Family Care Clinic, Shamrock. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS
Celebration of Lights will be open Dec. 1 through Dec. 31 every evening after dark at Recreation Park.

COME BACK TO CHRISTMAS
"Come Back to Christmas" holiday celebration will be held Dec. 1 in Pampa, complete with carriage rides, crafts, drawings, Victorian-era costumes and more.

THE NUTCRACKER
Pampa Civic Ballet will present "The Nutcracker" at 7 p.m., Dec. 1 at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

MOONLIGHT EXTENSION CLUB
Moonlight Extension Education Club will host its 23rd Annual Christmas Bazaar Dec. 8 at Bailey County Civic Center and Coliseum in Muleshoe. For more information, contact Linda Huckaby, 902 W. 8th, Muleshoe, TX 79347.

TOUR OF HOMES
Twentieth Century Cotillion Study Club will host its annual "Tour of Homes" Dec. 9 in Pampa. All proceeds will benefit "Opportunity Plans, Inc."

ILP COMPETITION
The International Library of Photography is currently sponsoring a free International Open Amateur Photography Contest. To enter, send one photo to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-2612, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Categories are: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture or Other. **Deadline to enter is Dec. 31.** For more information, visit www.picture.com on-line.

COLGATE YOUTH SERVICE CONTEST
Local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, Girls Inc., Camp Fire and 4-H organizations are invited to enter their best community service projects in the 2000 "Colgate Youth for America" campaign. Cash grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to the most creative and best executed projects from local clubs and troops. Entry forms are available through regional offices of the national organizations or by sending a SASE to: Colgate Youth for America Campaign, P.O. Box 1058, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-1058. **Deadline for entry into this year's program is March 15.** Forms are also available on-line at www.colgate.com.

CGC GRANT FUND
Consumer Guidance Corp. has established a grant fund to help people in financial difficulty due to high energy costs. The program is funded by private donations from corporations and private citizens who receive a tax exemption because of the organization's 501(c)3 non-profit status granted by IRS. To receive a grant application or for more information, call (202) 595-1035 or visit www.ConsumerGuidance.org on the Internet. To contribute to the fund, send tax deductible donations to: Consumer Guidance, P.O. Box 96051, Washington, DC 20090-6051.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL
First Presbyterian Church, 525 N. Gray, is currently accepting aluminum cans for recycling. Proceeds will benefit Heifer Project International, an Arkansas-based service organization which provides livestock (chickens, pigs, sheep, cattle) along with training and support services to families and communities worldwide. For a limited time, donations will be matched 3-1 by a private foundation. HPI is a non-denominational not-for-profit agency. For more information, call the church office at 665-1031. Office hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Friday and before 10:45 a.m. Sunday. For more information about HPI, call 1-800-422-0474 or visit <http://www.heifer.org> on the Internet.

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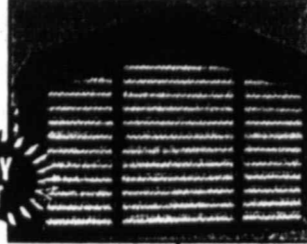
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Thursday, November 8

Page 8

Benefits for Ex-POWs Lighten Widow's Burden

DEAR ABBY: When you printed my letter about the thousands of former prisoners of war who had never gone to the Department of Veterans Affairs about benefits available to them, you touched many lives. It has enabled many former POWs and/or their spouses or widows to finally receive benefits due them. We American Ex-Prisoners of War have been extra-busy because of what you did.

Our work is all volunteer. The rewards come when we get letters like the one I'm enclosing from "Mrs. K." in Oklahoma.

Mrs. K.'s daughter talked with me about her father, who died 15 years ago. It turns out I was in the same German POW camps as her father. His best buddy and I could write nearly identical letters about our forced march in blizzard conditions in northern Germany in January 1945.

She told me: "I have four sisters. We all agree that this is the most excited our mother has been in a very long time. Words do not adequately express our gratitude."

Abby, if you would consider including Mrs. K.'s letter in your column, it would no doubt reach more World War II and Korean War POWs who need a nudge.

FRED CAMPBELL,
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Dear Abby

Is written by
Pauline Phillips and
daughter Jeanne Phillips

New flying missions out of Assam, India. (Naturally, the plane's name was "My Assam Dragon.") Ms. Moore never knew her father. He died on his last mission in World War II. I put her in touch with the China-Burma-India Association.

She said in her letter that her father was part of a Moore family in Harrison County, Ky., going back 200 years. Well, my mother was a Moore — and her family came out of Harrison County, Ky., same era. So it's possible you have connected some kindfoks.

DEAR FRED: It's letters like yours that make writing this column a thrill. I'm gratified to know that we were able to help Mrs. K. from Oklahoma. I am frequently told that when I print a letter, the writer hears from long-lost friends and acquaintances. But in the case of Ms. Moore, I'd say 200 years is a record. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Thank you for printing Fred Campbell's letter. My husband has been deceased since 1986. He was a B-17 pilot during World War II and was shot down May 4, 1944. He was a prisoner of war until April 29, 1945, and the conditions were deplorable.

After reading the letter from Mr. Campbell, my daughter contacted American Ex-Prisoners of War for more specific information about the legislative changes regarding former POWs and special benefits available. Mr. Campbell followed up my daughter's inquiry personally.

For years before his death, my husband suffered from puzzling ailments. One of the most puzzling was bouts of swollen feet. Mr. Campbell recognized that as a possible symptom of ischemic heart disease.

Fortunately, my husband kept good records, and we had an autopsy done when he died. Those records enabled the VA to decide favorably on my behalf and determined that after all these years that my husband's death was, in fact, service-related. The additional benefits I am now receiving have helped relieve tremendous financial worries for me.

Had I not seen your column, I would not have pursued a review of my husband's records. You have provided a wonderful service to your readers. Thank you again.

MRS. K.,
WIDOW OF AN AMERICAN EX-POW

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Contact DeeDee or Nancy

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Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

1 Stardom

5 Bush predecessor

11 Qom's country

12 Stimulate

13 Crooked

14 Harpsichord's cousin

15 Completely full

17 1040 org.

18 Bar fruits

22 Cardiff's land

24 Fright

25 Under the weather

26 Writer Anais

27 Fixed look

30 Destined

32 Did some modeling

33 Actor Wallach

34 Cleans the floor

38 Director's call

41 Nora's dog

42 Neptune, for one

43 James of "The Godfather"

44 Follows relentlessly

45 Tennis legend Arthur

POPS	CRAYON
ABLE	HELENA
ROUT	ALLWET
KEN	STAY
DAISY	BRA
CHEST	SILOS
HARE	RUMP
ATEAM	PANES
RED	AMEND
SNIP	ETA
POLEAX	IRON
AVENGE	CENT
WAITER	EDGE

Yesterday's answer

22	Bit of smoke
23	Arches National Park
24	Choir member
25	Quit
26	Stamp sheet
27	Johnny Depp
28	film
29	Doc's charge
30	parts
31	Llama's cousin
32	Buffalo's lake
33	31
34	40
35	Finishes

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Marmaduke



"If you can't think of any more dog stories, try some dumb cat stories... he likes them too."

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11-8

Jeff and Mike

"We don't need string. These are cell phones."

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11-8

Jeff and Mike

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



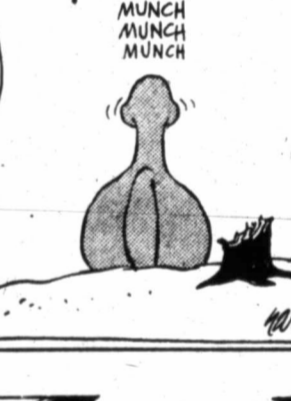
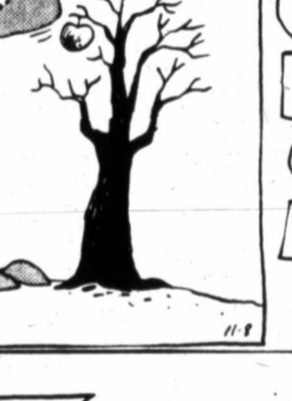
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



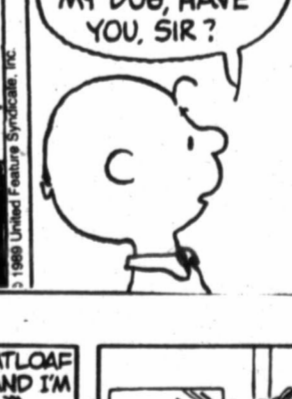
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



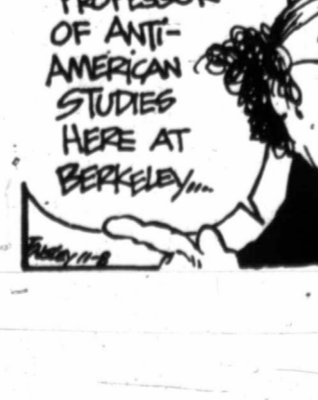
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Season on the line for both Pampa, Borger

Notebook

FOOTBALL

PAMPA — The Harvester Football Booster Club will be passing out inflatable cheer sticks before the Pampa-Borger kickoff at both the main south gate and the west gate under the bleachers for all the Harvester fans. The cheer sticks are free of charge.

Kickoff is 7:30 Friday night at Harvester Stadium.

MIAMI — Miami travels to Follett on Friday night with the winner emerging as the District 1-1A six-man champion. The loser will be the No. 2 playoff seed.

Both Miami and Follett have perfect 4-0 district records. Miami is 6-3 for the season. Follett is 7-2.

The Warriors will be going to the playoffs for the second year in a row.

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — The Big Unit is getting his World Series ring, but he lost his No. 1 spot in baseball's annual rankings.

Colorado first baseman Todd Helton took over from Arizona pitcher Randy Johnson as baseball's top player, according to the statistical rankings released Wednesday by the Elias Sports Bureau.

Helton received a 99.13 score out of 100, based on statistics from 2000 and 2001. Johnson, who helped the Diamondbacks win the World Series, was second at 98.25, followed by Chicago Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa at 97.634.

Boston's Manny Ramirez (96.709) was among the top three AL outfielders for the sixth straight season, joined by Magglio Ordonez of the Chicago White Sox (93.544).

Tied for third were the Yankees' Bernie Williams (89.62), in the top three for the fifth consecutive year, and Oakland's Jermaine Dye, who last year made the top three for the first time.

New York's Roger Clemens, a favorite to win his sixth AL Cy Young Award, was the top-rated AL pitcher for the fourth time at 97.971. Clemens also was the top AL pitcher in 1988, '91 and '98. Boston's Pedro Martinez was No. 1 in the previous two seasons.

Jason Giambi (94.00), one of the top free agents on the market, took over from Carlos Delgado at first base.

Seattle's Edgar Martinez (96.00) was the top designated hitter, the sixth time in seven seasons he held or shared the top spot.

Ivan Rodriguez of the Rangers (91.176) led AL catchers for the fourth straight season, and Texas teammate Alex Rodriguez (93.506) led AL shortstops for the third straight year and fourth time in five seasons.

Cleveland's Roberto Alomar (94.156) was the top second baseman for the fourth straight year and the eighth time in 10 seasons, and Indians third baseman Travis Fryman (84.571) was the top third baseman for the second straight season and the third time in four years.

The biggest aberration was among AL relief pitchers, with Chicago's Keith Foulke (94.299) finishing first for the third straight year, while the Yankees' Mariano Rivera (92.043) improved to second.

While Rivera was first in wins plus saves, fourth in strikeouts/walks ratio, fifth in ERA and 13th in hits per nine innings, he was 17th in appearances and 19th in innings.

Foulke was fourth in wins plus saves, tied for fourth in appearances, sixth in strikeout/walk ratio, seventh in ERA and hits per nine innings and 16th in innings.

The rankings, created by owners and the players' association in the 1981 strike settlement, are used to divide free agents into groups that determine draft-pick compensation for a player's former club if he signs with a new team.

By L.D. STRATE
Sports Editor

PAMPA — Fans on both sides of Harvester Stadium should get their money's worth, and then some, at Friday night's District 3-4A clash between Pampa and Borger.

"It should be an awesome game between two very good teams. Borger is well-stocked with good players and very well-coached. It should be a classic," says Pampa head coach Dennis Cavalier.

Both teams enter the season finale seeking playoff spots. Pampa is tied with Palo Duro for the top spot at 5-1. Borger is in a three-way tie with Randall and Hereford for third place at 4-2.

"Everything's on the line. If we win, we'll either be district champs or co-champs depending on the Randall-Palo Duro outcome. If we lose, we'll have to depend on the point spread to get into the playoffs," Cavalier said.

The Harvesters are 6-3 for the season and winners of their last

five games. The Bulldogs are 6-2 overall and are on two-game win streak. Borger's game with Clovis, N.M. in September was canceled at halftime because of bad weather. Clovis was ahead 14-0 at the half.

"Borger has a very solid team all the way around," Cavalier said. "They have an excellent defense. They might give up yardage, but seldom very many points. Their offense is very explosive in both throwing and running. They also have a good kicking game."

Borger's offense revolves around senior quarterback Jarred Hooper, a two-year starter.

"Hooper is very similar to the quarterback (Randall's Jacob Felton) we faced last week, except Hooper is faster," Cavalier said. "He does a remarkable job."

Hooper has thrown for 696 yards and three touchdowns, while rushing for eight TDs.

Cavalier said Hooper likes to throw to 6-0, 165-pound senior Kris Willis, who has caught 11

passes for 189 yards and a touchdown.

"Willis is very fast and quick, Cavalier added.

The Bulldogs use an assortment of running backs, but Chad Holland (180-pound senior) is their most dangerous, according to Cavalier. Holland is averaging 4.9 yards per carry and has scored four touchdowns. Chris Breedlove (165-pound senior) gets a lot of playing time.

Up front, center Tim Shetlar (225-pound senior), guard Josh Simmons (265-pound senior) and Taylor Hawkins (270-pound senior) are the big blockers for the Bulldogs.

"Shetlar is probably their best player on the line. Simmons and Hawkins are both good blockers," Cavalier noted. Defensively, tackle Damon Davis (265-pound junior) leads the Bulldogs.

"Davis is strong and very mobile," Cavalier said.

Other top defensive players include end Josh Reneau (185-pound senior), linebackers

Gabriel Garcia (185-pound senior), and Kendrick Dickson (175-pound senior). Shetlar is also one of their better defenders at the other end spot.

With the game on the line, Borger coach Craig Shores likes to move some of his quicker players from offense to defense. Offensive backfield starters Hooper and Holland are often switched to the defensive side of the ball.

Tomorrow night's kickoff is at 7:30 in Harvester Stadium. Harvester fans are urged to pick up free cheer sticks at the gates.

PAMPA HARVESTERS (Probable Starting Lineup) Offense

Center: Brandon McElroy (180-pound junior); Guards: Aaron Burrows (170-pound junior) and Matt Dudley (235-pound senior); Tackles: Trent Price (225-pound senior) and Jon Lambright (300-pound senior); Tight end: Jon East (220-pound senior); Split end (alternating): Adam Rodgers (165-pound senior) and Matt Crow (150-

pound senior); Flanker: Jesse Tarango (145-pound sophomore); Quarterback: Randy Tice (160-pound senior); Fullback: Justin Waggoner (180-pound senior); Tailback: Ty Elledge (170-pound senior). Kicker: Jered Snelgroves (145-pound junior). Punter: Jesse Tarango (145-pound sophomore).

Defense

Noseguard: Terrell Jennings (175-pound senior); Tackle: Adam Parks (190-pound senior); Ends: Chris Tice (180-pound senior) and Oscar Ortega (180-pound senior); Middle linebacker: Orlando Madrid (185-pound senior); Outside linebackers: Tanner Dyer (175-pound senior) and Chris Lewis (175-pound senior); Cornerbacks: Ryan Nash Z (160-pound senior); Michael Galloway (150-pound senior); Strong safety: Aaron Willis (170-pound senior); Free safety (alternating): Tristan Brown (150-pound junior) and Andrew Curtis (160-pound sophomore).



(Photo by Grover Black)

Running back Michael Robinson of Pampa is brought down after a short gain against Westover in 7th grade football action Tuesday at Harvester Stadium. Westover won by a score of 8-0. Pampa won the B team game 22-18.

Many of state's top teams collide in final week

By JOEL ANDERSON
Associated Press Writer

Three of the five top-ranked teams in The Associated Press high school football poll can move on to the playoffs with unbeaten seasons if they can defeat a ranked opponent this weekend.

Galena Park North Shore in Class 5A, Ennis in 4A and Stratford in 1A

must defeat tough district opponents in their regular-season finales to wrap up perfect records.

Baytown Lee, the No. 9 team in 5A, will travel to Galena Park North Shore with the District 23-5A title on the line. North Shore lost 34-31 in Baytown last season, but Baytown Lee coach Dick Olin doesn't see many advantages that favor his pass-happy team in this year's con-

test. "I just got sick watching their game tapes," Olin said. "They're so big and so fast. We're not bad at all, but if it becomes a contest where we've got to run, then we're going to lose."

It will be a battle between two of the most potent offenses in the Houston area. Galena Park North Shore boasts the area's top-ranked

offense at 453 yards a game, while Baytown Lee leans heavily on the record-setting arm of junior quarterback Drew Tate.

Tate is the state's top-ranked 5A passer, completing 226 of 347 passes for 2913 yards and 37 touchdowns with only three interceptions. He's also coming off an eight-touchdown performance in a 62-7 thumping of rival Baytown Sterling.

Optimist Cowboys win City Tournament championship

PAMPA — The Operating Co. Cowboys won the Optimist Club Football City Tournament held last month at Harvester Stadium.

In the opening game, the Cowboys rolled to an impressive 62-8 win over the Dolphins in the 5th-6th grade division.

Taylor Smith led the Cowboys' offense with four touchdowns, while Jerrod Bivins had a touchdown and 2-point conversion; Jacob Davis, 60-yard touchdown; Josh Mulkey one touchdown and a 2-point conversion; Colby Greenhouse, one touchdown; Thomas Fraser, one touchdown, and Jack Ware, a 2-point conversion.

The Cowboys also had a quarterback sack in the end zone for a safety.

Dane Howard scored a touchdown and a 2-point conversion for the Dolphins.

In the championship game, the Cowboys went against the Packers and posted a 28-0 victory. The win avenged a 12-8 loss to the Packers during the season.

The Cowboys played an aggressive defensive game, but a ball control offense won the game for them.

The Cowboys kicked off to open the game and recovered a fumble on the Packer 45-yard line. Jerrod Bivins capped off a four-play drive with a 20-yard touchdown run.

The Packers fumbled on their next possession with Gage Carruth recovering on the Packers'

40. The Cowboys moved to the 10 and Jerrod Bivins scored from there on a run. Josh Mulkey added the 2-point conversion.

Both teams played hard during the second quarter as they exchanged punts and the first half ended with the Cowboys ahead 14-0.

Early in the third quarter, Jerrod Bivins put a hard hit on a Packer ballcarrier to cause a fumble, which was recovered by Jonathon Smith on the Packer 45.

The Cowboys moved the ball well again, all the way to the Packer 5. The Packer defense stiffened and stopped the Cowboys on four straight downs. With the Packers on offense, the Cowboys returned the favor and forced a punt that landed on the Packer 15. Josh Mulkey ran around left end to make the score 20-0 after three quarters.

On the next Packer possession, the Cowboys' Thomas Fraser recovered another Packer fumble. The Cowboys' Colby Greenhouse picked up 25 yards and Josh Mulkey ran for 24 more to the Packer one. Colby Greenhouse plunged over for the TD and Jerrod Bivins had the 2-point conversion.

The Cowboys finished as both league and tournament champs.

"These young men are small in size, but have played with very big hearts throughout the year. They deserve to be champions," said Cowboys' coach Mando Ramirez.

Basketball scrimmage is planned

PAMPA — The Pampa's basketball team will be involved in a six-team scrimmage, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday at Amarillo High School.

Other teams involved in the scrimmage include Dimmitt, Amarillo High, Levelland, Caprock and Palo Duro.

It will be both a varsity and junior varsity scrimmage.

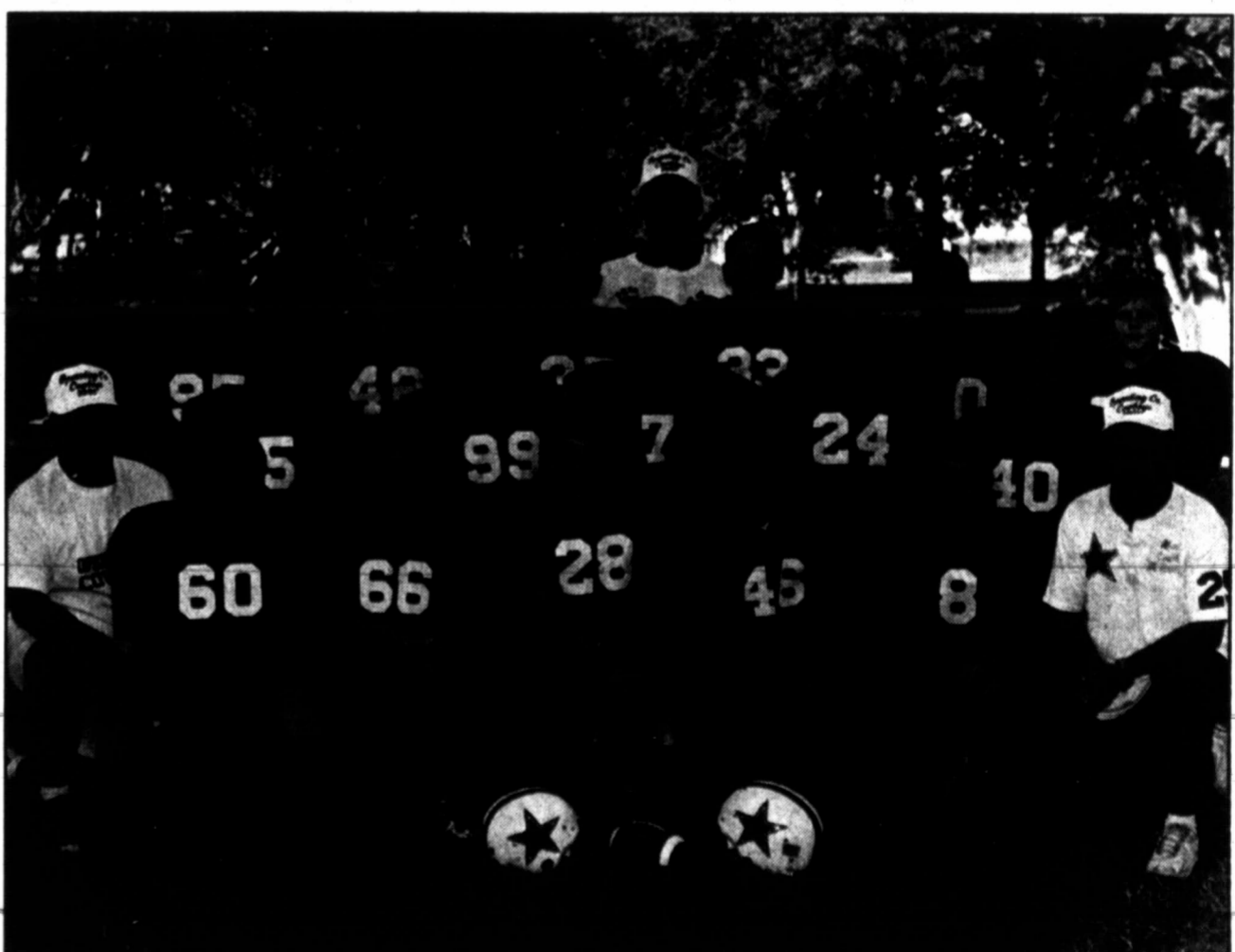
The Harvesters held their first scrimmage Tuesday at Highland Park against Plainview at Dimmitt.

"We've been banging on each other since the beginning of August. It's about time we starting banging on someone else," said Pampa head coach Jerry Schaeffer.

The Harvesters open the season Tuesday at Amarillo High. Pampa's only returning starter is Adam Rodgers, but others like Kyle Francis, Max Simon, Chad Platt, Sedrick Drew and Erin Brown saw plenty of playing time.

Rodgers is currently playing football as a starting receiver for the Harvesters.

"We're looking forward to getting Adam out for basketball, but we're also pleased with the success he's having in basketball. That can do nothing but help our basketball program. He caught to touchdown passes in Pampa's 20-19 win over Randall last week," Schaeffer said. "Winning begets winning. After the football team gets into the playoffs in the fall, he can show us how to get into the playoffs this winter."



Operating Co. Cowboys: Front row (from left) assistant coach Ernie Estrada, J. R. Cabrales, Gage Carruth, Tyler Dodson, Drew Williams, Josh Mulkey and head coach Mando Ramirez; Second row (from left) Adam Estrada, Justin Lake, Jack Ware, Jad McQuire and Jonathon Smith; Third row (from left) Skylar James, Jacob Davis, Jerrod Bivins, assistant coach Ty Greenhouse, Colby Greenhouse, Taylor Smith and Thomas Fraser.

Activists fear serial killer loose in Mexico

By MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Authorities in Ciudad Juarez found five more sets of skeletal remains Wednesday near a field where they had uncovered the decayed, partially-clad bodies of three young women the previous day.

The macabre discovery reignited fears that a gruesome series of 57 rape-murders of young women that plagued this tough border city in the 1990s has not ended.

"I am tied up in knots. This is like somebody's private cemetery," said Esther Chavez, a women's rights activist who led the battle to press authorities to investigate the killings, which began in 1993.

Searching near the cotton field where the bodies were found Tuesday, police found the skeletons Wednesday in a drainage ditch near a heavily traveled boulevard. All appeared to be the remains of women, prosecutor Arturo Gonzalez Rascon said.

Elderly pastor still missing after week

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — What started out as a routine trip for an 85-year-old pastor has turned into a missing person's case as authorities try to figure out how the disoriented man drove through four states before losing touch with his family.

The Rev. Lee Roy Butler's wife tried to guide him home after he became lost on the way to a pastor's meeting in his hometown of Memphis on Oct. 30.

He had somehow missed a turn and crossed the Mississippi River, ending up in Arkansas, then in Mississippi, and finally Alabama. That's when his phone signal faded, leaving his wife wondering when he would return.

"I just want to see him walk through that door," Annie Butler said Wednesday. "I'm still trusting in the Lord. I'm still hoping he'll come home and that everything will be all right."

Butler's abandoned car was found Friday outside Bolivar, Tenn., about 60 miles east of Memphis. Authorities searched the area with dogs and a helicopter equipped with infrared devices to detect body heat, but they found no clues, said Capt. John Garner of the Memphis police missing persons bureau.

"We can't rule out foul play," Garner said.

Butler, who has been the pastor at Hunter Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis for 40 years, left shortly after noon for a meeting that should have required only a 20-minute drive. When he had not returned after 3 p.m., Mrs. Butler called his car phone.

"He said, 'Honey, I'm ashamed to tell you, but I got turned around and I'm in Arkansas now,'" she recounted.

When he told her he was approaching the bridge taking him back into Tennessee and should be home soon, they hung up. But when he failed to arrive by 5:30, she called him again.

Gonzalez Rascon said all available state police agents would be placed on the investigation of the apparent murders, and that Mexican Army soldiers would participate as well in search operations.

"These deaths will not remain unpunished," he said in a story in Thursday's El Paso Times. "The killer or killers will be tried to the fullest extent of the law."

Ironically, the site where the skeletons were found is about 300 yards from the offices of the Association of Maquiladoras, the trade group that represents the

export assembly plants that dominate the city. Most of the victims in the 1990s killings were young, slender, dark-haired employees of maquiladoras.

Chavez said that one of the bodies found Tuesday had been identified as a maquiladora worker who was last seen after she showed up three minutes late for her shift at the plant — and was told to go home. She never got there.

Relatives of Claudia Ivette Gonzalez said they identified her clothing and other features, but state police would not confirm

that she was one of the victims found Tuesday, the newspaper reported.

"The authorities told us they would help find her when we reported her missing, but they never got back to us," her mother, Josefina Gonzalez, told the newspaper. "They told us they were investigating, but I don't know what to think anymore."

Chavez and other women's activists have harshly criticized local prosecutors for not investigating the cases more aggressively. More than a dozen young women have disappeared this

year in Juarez, located across the border from El Paso, Texas.

"The authorities lack investigative skill, and they lack interest," Chavez said. "Imagine, after all these deaths, they are only now deciding whether to bring DNA identification equipment here."

Women's groups plan to protest outside the state Attorney General's Office in Ciudad Juarez Thursday, to light candles in memory of the victims and demand stepped-up investigations.

The most recent of the eight victims found this week — she had been killed about 10 days ago, while the other bodies had been dumped weeks or months before — was apparently between 15 and 17 years of age.

The victim's hands were tied behind her back, and her body was clad only in socks. That was chilling similar to the dozens of murders that occurred here in the 1990s.

Between 1993 and 1999, at least 57 bodies turned up in the desert around Ciudad Juarez, a sprawling desert city of 1.3 million people that looks across the border at El Paso, Texas.

All were young, slender women; all had been strangled, apparently raped and many mutilated. The circumstances were so similar that investigators considered them serial killings.

There was no immediate information on whether the victims found Tuesday had been raped, and a source close to the investigation said it may be difficult to make that determination, given that most were reduced to skeletons by the sun, insects and desert rats.

The source said there were "important differences" between the bodies found Tuesday, and those found in the 1990s.

In March, 1999 five bus drivers were charged for 20 of the 57 previous murders, and such killings appeared to have ended.

For example, bodies found in the 1990s were half-buried, or left face down or on their sides in the desert to the west and south of the city. Tuesday's were found face-up in a field well within the city limits.

Moreover, in the 1990s cases, the victims were usually found unclothed from the waist down, with their shoes and other garments laid beside the bodies. Little clothing was found Tuesday and Wednesday.

Assisted suicide battle under way

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Richard Holmes knows the pain will only get worse as his terminal liver cancer advances in the coming months. He would rather die than see his condition deteriorate so badly.

"I understand that it will be very unpleasant at the end, and I want to be able to end my life on my terms," Holmes said.

Holmes, 72, had planned to end his life with the help of a doctor under Oregon's assisted-suicide law, the only one of its kind in the nation. But his doctor has turned him down because a new directive from U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft effectively blocks the Oregon law.

Holmes is now pinning his hopes on a lawsuit Oregon filed Wednesday against the U.S. government challenging Ashcroft's authority to limit Oregon doctors' medical practices.

He is among three terminally ill patients who have joined the lawsuit, filed by Oregon Attorney General Hardy Myers. He also filed motions in U.S. District Court seeking to temporarily bar the federal government from implementing Ashcroft's order.

"Ultimately, what we're seeking to do is waylay the federal government from illegally interfering in the practice of medicine in Oregon," said Kevin Neely, Myers' spokesman.

The author of Oregon's Death with Dignity law, Barbara Coombs Lee, said the lethal drugs prescribed under Oregon's law have been used humanely and that the federal government has no right to encroach on states' rights to regulate medical practices.

"It sends a terrible message to every doctor in the country that the federal Drug Enforcement Agency is going to decide whether doctors have used medications appropriately," she said. "It has never been the job of the DEA to do that."

Fear grips close-knit Montana town; police seek leads in salon slayings

FLORENCE, Mont. (AP) — Denise Phillie couldn't understand why no one at the corner beauty shop would answer the phone. But living in a small town, it didn't take long for her to learn why.

Word spread quickly as neighbors told friends the news: Crime tape and deputies were all around Dorothy Harris' hair and nail salon. Inside, the 62-year-old Harris, along with a customer and a manicurist, lay dead with their throats slashed.

"We haven't locked our house for 12 years," Phillie said Wednesday. "We locked our doors for the first time."

Ravalli County Sheriff Perry Johnson said Tuesday's slayings have investigators stumped. He appealed to the public for help Wednesday, saying authorities haven't found a motive and have only one solid clue — a description of a man in a dark suit and top hat seen outside the salon right before the bodies were discovered.

"Why this occurred, we simply don't know," Johnson said. "What I fear is this could be somebody that, for whatever reason, decided this was a good day to do some evil work."

The victims were identified as Harris, owner of The Hair Gallery; manicurist Brenda Patch, 44, of nearby Stevensville; and customer Cynthia Paulus, 71, of Florence.

Another customer arriving for an appointment late Tuesday morning discovered Harris' body in the front of the salon, curled in a fetal position in a pool of blood. The customer called authorities, who found the other two bodies in a utility room.

Johnson said the salon was not robbed, nothing was missing from the women's purses, and there was no indication the victims had been sexually assaulted.

Interviews with their family members turned

up nothing to suggest anyone who knew the victims was involved in the murders, he added.

For some of the 900 people who live in Florence, a picturesque Bitterroot Valley town 20 miles south of Missoula, initial shock at the killings was giving way to fear.

"The investigators came by again this morning, and they said they don't know any more now than they did right after it happened," said John Schlecht, 76, who lives across the street from the salon. Authorities believe Schlecht may have been among the last to see the salon owner before she was killed.

"Absolutely we're concerned," he said. "I've got two of my great-grandchildren here."

Etta Hanson runs another beauty salon in Florence. She had planned to take Wednesday off for a hunting trip, but decided against it because she didn't want to leave the other stylist alone in the shop.

Flower shop owner Monica Morlock was also paying more attention to safety after the killings, but turned down a request from her worried husband that she carry a pistol.

When her husband left the house for work Wednesday morning, "it was the first time I'd ever locked the door behind him," she said.

Phillie, a legal assistant in Florence, was trying to make an appointment with Patch on Tuesday but gave up when no one answered. As news spread of police cars at the salon, her heart sank. "I didn't want it to be," she said, calling Patch an "absolute sweetheart."

Phillie said the seemingly random slayings has left many people scared and angry in this tiny town, where residents are not used to gruesome crime.

"We're not in Los Angeles," she said. "This is Florence, Montana, for crying out loud."

Federal appeals court throws out Exxon verdict

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — A federal appeals court's decision to throw out a \$5 billion punitive-damage verdict against Exxon stemming from the nation's worst oil spill sparked anger among Alaskan fishermen and prompted the governor to consider intervening.

In its ruling Wednesday, the court said some damages were justified to punish the company for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, but decided the \$5 billion was excessive. The panel ordered a lower court to reduce that amount.

"That \$5 billion would have at least put a finger in the dike," said Patience Anderson Faulkner, who chronicled the damage from the oil spill for

attorneys pursuing a class-action lawsuit against Exxon Mobil.

Her family owned a fishing permit valued at about \$210,000 before the spill. If she still owned it, the permit would be worth about \$50,000 for anyone foolish enough to buy it, she said.

Small numbers of salmon straggle back annually but the herring are long gone and local fishermen blame Exxon.

"We all recognize violence doesn't help, but we sure would like to choke them," Faulkner said.

Lee Raymond, chairman of the Irving, Texas, oil company, said through a statement the company took responsibility for the spill and has already paid more

than \$3 billion in cleanup costs and compensation.

Raymond said the spill "was a tragic accident that the company deeply regrets."

David Oosting, a lawyer representing fishermen in the case, said he might ask the court to reconsider, or ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review it.

Gov. Tony Knowles said Wednesday he will attempt to bring the two sides to a negotiated settlement, saying the case has dragged on too long.

"The Exxon Valdez oil spill has really been a cloud that has hung over those fishing families and communities for more than a decade," Knowles said. "The court decision today didn't bring any resolution to that."



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BRIEFS

Pentagon reveals human toll of bombing against Taliban for first time

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. airstrikes in Afghanistan have killed scores of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, although precise numbers are impossible to confirm, the Pentagon says.

The terrorist network and its Taliban allies still have between 40,000 and 50,000 troops in Afghanistan, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Wednesday in a television interview. Twice a day, he said, reports cross his desk detailing Taliban battlefield dead, from a half-dozen to 20 at a time.

For the first time in the monthlong bombing campaign, Pentagon officials released a video Wednesday that depicted a human victim of the bombing. The fuzzy images from a plane's gun camera showed a figure emerge from a vehicle shortly before being obliterated by an American bomb.

On the other side, Pace said, some anti-Taliban fighters are so dedicated they have charged on horseback against Taliban tanks. American special forces troops are helping some of the rebel groups with supplies, ammunition and tactical advice.

Taliban and opposition report fierce fighting around northern Afghan city

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan opposition forces said Thursday they were advancing steadily toward the key northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif with the help of round-the-clock U.S. bombing. The ruling Taliban, however, said they pushed back several opposition attacks.

Both sides said fighting was intense south of Mazar-e-Sharif, which the Taliban seized from the opposition northern alliance in 1998. An opposition victory would allow it to open a supply corridor from Uzbekistan, and direct troops toward Taliban strongholds further south.

Also Thursday, witnesses said U.S. jets and at least one B-52 bomber dropped dozens of bombs on Taliban lines at the front north of the capital, Kabul. Opposition spokesman Bismillah Khan said, however, there were no immediate plans to launch an offensive in that area.

Huge plumes of smoke billowed from Taliban positions, which did not fire anti-aircraft guns as they have done on past bombing runs. It was unclear whether the guns had been knocked out or whether the Taliban were saving their ammunition.

Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said U.S. special forces troops are with opposition units coordinating airstrikes, which alliance commanders said helped them breach some Taliban defenses south of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Pakistani leader: Bombing during Ramadan will have negative fallout in Muslim world

PARIS (AP) — Pakistan's military ruler said Thursday that continuing the U.S.-led bombing campaign through the Muslim holy month of Ramadan will have "a negative fallout in the entire Muslim world."

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, a key Muslim ally in the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan, said he would take up the issue with President Bush when he meets him in New York this weekend.

"My means of pressure will be the strength of my argument," Musharraf told a news conference in Paris, where he is meeting French officials in an attempt to shore up Western economic aid to his country. He was to travel later Thursday to Britain, and then to New York.

Continuing the bombing through Ramadan, which begins in about 10 days, "will have an adverse effect in Muslim countries," Musharraf said, speaking in English.

Musharraf also said Pakistan has "no intention" of breaking diplomatic relations with the Taliban regime, which is harboring Osama bin Laden, the top suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks. He said it was "essential" these ties be maintained.

The ties provide "a useful diplomatic window," he said.