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THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2002

NEWS

Vol. 97 No. 307 • Pampa, Texas
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LOCAL

PMS choir concerts set Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Pampa Middle School seventh and eighth grade choirs will present a Pre-U.I.I. Concert at 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 2 in the middle school auditorium. In all, three different choirs will perform three selections each. The concert is open to the public.

Choirs participating in the concert will go to U.I.I. contest April 4 and 5 at Austin Middle School in Amarillo.

The choirs will be participating in the sight reading contest immediately after their Concert performance.

Marketing topic of Extension meetings

Texas Cooperative Extension is conducting a series of meetings related to marketing. The first two meetings were held discussing futures, hedging and basis.

On Tuesday, April 2, the group will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Production Credit Association conference room at 424 N. Hobart in Pampa. Discussion will focus on using options and future contracts.

On Tuesday, April 9, the discussion will be about market trends and projections. We will again meet at the PCA offices in Pampa at 6:30 p.m.

These meetings have been very informative and educational. Anyone interested in Marketing is welcome to attend these meetings.

Please RSVP to the Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

DEATHS

Paul T. Buchanan, 84, chemist, gas co. executive.
Randell L. Schulz, 75, pipefitter.
Marie McCracken Thomas, 79, services pending.

INSIDE...

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Sports 5

West Texas LANDSCAPE

Residential & Commercial
669-0158 mobile 663-1277

Hearing set on water permits

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

WHITE DEER — Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District will hold a hearing on the Mesa Water high impact production permits beginning at 9 a.m., Thursday, April 11, at their offices in White Deer.

The eight permits would allow a group of Roberts County landowners, operating as Mesa Water, to pump about 170,000 acre feet of water per year for municipal and industrial consumption. Quixx, L.P., a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, the local electric utility who is aligned with Mesa, also has some property in Carson and Gray County for which they are applying for permits.

Headed by Dallas oilman T. Boone Pickens, who has a ranch in Roberts County, Mesa Water proposes to pump groundwater from the Ogallala Aquifer beneath their land and sell it to urban areas down state.

The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and the City of Amarillo already have permits to pump water from Roberts County for municipal use. CRMWA, which provides water to 11 municipalities in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, including Pampa, began pumping water in December from their well field in Roberts County. Amarillo is not scheduled to begin pumping for about another 25 years.

The Mesa permit requests were made Sept. 15 and Nov. 20, 2000, according to C.E. Williams, general

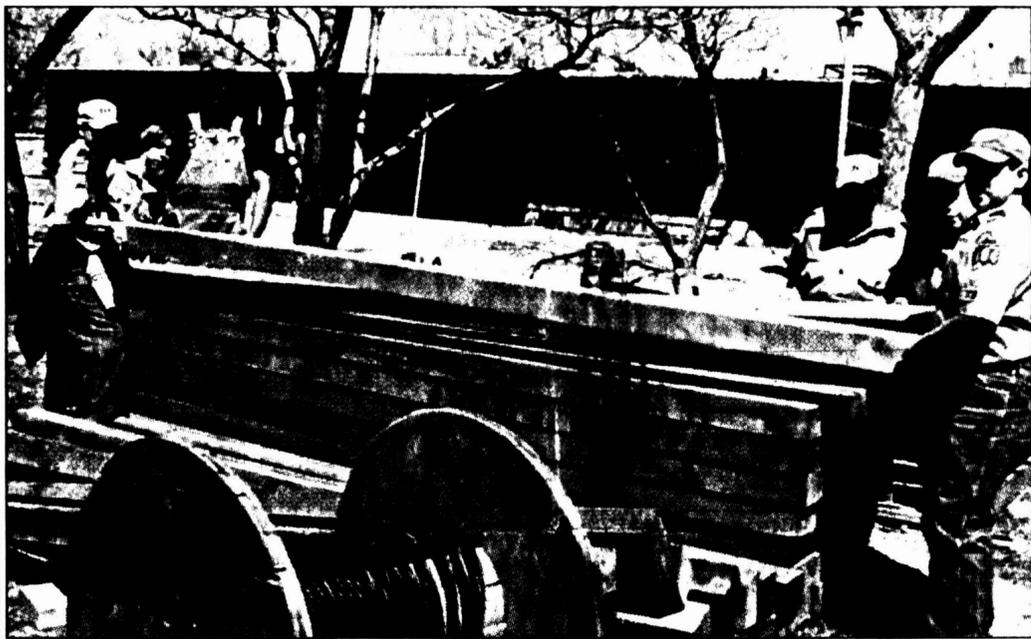
manager of the groundwater district.

Following a hearing in December 2000, the PGCD board of directors put the permit applications on administrative hold, saying the applications were not complete. Among other things, the applications did not list an end user, or buyer, for the water.

Pickens, however, said he could not find a buyer unless he had a permit that would guarantee that he could deliver the water.

Last spring, after extensive negotiations, the PGCD staff prepared a draft permit that would enable Mesa to go to prospective buyers with some guarantee of delivery, but before the permit could be approved by the board, CRMWA contested Mesa's applications.

(See HEARING, Page 3)



(Pampa News photos by Kate B. Dickson)

Lending a hand with 4x4s that are being used for dining hall porch roof supports are, from left, Tyler Dodson, Ryan Olson and Mike Albus, scout leader and contractor on the scout camp project. At right are Phillip Rodriguez, Russell Carter and Jacob Maciel.

Right photo, Boy Scouts and leaders from Pampa's Troop 404 and 413 gathered at M.K. Brown Scout Camp Friday. Front row, from left, Joshua Mulkey, Ryan Olson, Russell Carter, Cole Guyer and Tucker Brown. Second row, from left, Travis Hagerman, Jacob Maciel, Billy Hightower, Phillip Rodriguez, Tyler Dodson and Kenny Hightower. Back row, from left, Mike Albus, Bill Shroeder, Bill Hightower, Chase Guyer, Craig Guyer, Adam Hagerman, Jake Albus and B. Jay Hagerman.



Cool camp

Boy Scouts facility 'new and improved'

By KATE B. DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Boy Scouts visiting M.K. Brown Boy Scout Camp this summer are in for a surprise when they see both new construction and refurbished buildings that are awaiting them.

It's all thanks to more than \$450,000 given to the camp by Sybil B. Harrington Living Trust, said Bob Altman, assistant scout executive for the Golden Spread Council, B.S.A.

The contractor, Mike Albus of Pampa, who is also a Boy Scout leader, says the work will be finished by June 1. The camp is located between Mobeetie and Wheeler.

One of the new projects is a bathhouse with both a men's and women's side that will be used by leaders and the older scouts who work at the camp, Albus said.

"And they'll have hot water, too," Albus said with a laugh, recalling some of his camping days with only cold water for a shower. Individual campsites have showers that Albus hopes can be updated in a future project.

A completely new kitchen awaits cooks in the dining hall building which is taking on a new look with its metal exterior being covered in brick and stone, Albus said. Also included in that project are all new windows and swamp coolers.

(See CAMP, Page 3)

Lake McClellan under special fire restriction

The Cibola National Forest, including Lake McClellan National Grassland, south of Pampa, implemented fire restrictions beginning today, April 1, officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service announced.

"Since the weather outlook calls for warmer temperatures, high winds and continued dry conditions, we feel it is necessary to take these precautions," explained Liz Agpaoa, Cibola National Forest supervisor. "We want our visitors to be fire safe while enjoying their national forests and national grasslands," she added.

In addition to Lake McClellan, other sites included in the Cibola National Forest and covered by these fire restrictions are

(See FIRE, Page 3)

Gray, Wheeler agencies receiving heart defibrillators through grant

Two area counties were among the recipients when American Heart Association Texas Affiliate has awarded more than \$800,000 in matching grants to help rural communities place 796 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in their first-responder vehicles.

These life-saving devices are used to restart the heart when a person suffers from sudden cardiac arrest.

The grants were made to 189 different agencies in 93 counties including Gray County and Wheeler County Sheriff's Offices.

The majority of these life-saving devices will be placed in law enforcement vehicles, such as police and sheriff deputy cars, and in fire and EMS vehicles.

Gray County Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said the local sheriff's department is slated to receive the lifesaving devices, but had not received them by press time today.

In Briscoe, Gray, Moore, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Swisher and Wheeler Counties, 104 AEDs were funded for the following agencies: Silverton Volunteer Ambulance Service (1), Gray County (8), Dumas Fire Dept. (2), Vega Volunteer Fire Rescue (1), Lazbuddie Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. (2), Parmer County Sheriff's Department (5), City of Amarillo, Fire and Police Departments (52), County of Potter Sheriff's Dept. (6), Randall County Sheriff's Office (10), City of Canyon (7), West Texas A&M University

Police Dept. (3), City of Happy - Volunteer Fire Department and EMS (1), Allison and Briscoe Volunteer Fire Departments (3), Wheeler County Sheriff's Office (3).

"In rural areas, often the sheriff's deputy or fire department volunteers arrive on the scene critical minutes before the ambulance gets there. In many cases, having an AED onboard these first-responder vehicles means that a cardiac arrest victim will get the shock needed to restart their heart within the first couple of minutes of collapse. In some remote areas of Texas, the ambulance response time can be much longer," says David Loose-Mitchell, Ph.D., president of the American Heart Association. (See GRANT, Page 3)

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OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

SLAYBAUGH, W.D. "Bill" Jr. — 2 p.m., St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Borger.

MARIE McCracken THOMAS
1923-2002

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Marie McCracken Thomas, 79, a former Pampa resident, died Sunday, March 31, 2002, at Phoenix. Services are pending under the direction of Carr-Tenney Mortuary in Tempe, Ariz.

Mrs. Thomas was born on March 1, 1923, at Shamrock.

She was preceded in death by her husband,

a brother and her parents.

Survivors include a daughter, Vivian Linxwiler of Chandler, Ariz.; a brother, A.C. McCracken of Pampa; three sisters, Jo Bennalack of Hathaway Pines, Calif., and Yvonne Winborne and Wanda Passmore, both of Pampa; four grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

RANDELL L. SCHULZ
1926-2002

Randell L. Schulz, 75, of Pampa, died Sunday, March 31, 2002, at Pampa. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Schulz was born June 18, 1926, at Nocona, Texas. He had been a Pampa resident since 1940. He married Joy Fay Williams May 24, 1948, at Shamrock. He was a pipefitter for Missouri Valley Incorporated of

Amarillo for 22 years and was a member of Highland Baptist Church of Pampa.

Survivors include his wife, Joy, of the home; three sons, Ronald Dean Schulz and Barry Eugene Schulz, both of Amarillo, and Gregory Paul Schulz of Cincinnati, Ohio; a brother, Gerald Don Schulz of Pampa; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Highland Baptist Church.

PAUL THOMPSON BUCHANAN
1917-2002

LUBBOCK — Paul Thompson Buchanan, 84, died Saturday, March 30, 2002, of Alzheimer's disease. Services were to be at 2 p.m., today at Rix Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Jantzen officiating. Burial will be at 2 p.m., Tuesday in Old Hansford with Burl Buchanan officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Rix Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mr. Buchanan was born July 20, 1917, in Old Hansford, Texas. He graduated from Spearman High School and held a bachelor of science degree from Panhandle A&M University in Goodwell, Okla. He married Ollie Pauline Wallin on Aug. 8, 1941, near Gruver.

He spent several years working at Standard Oil Company in Aruba, Netherlands West Indies. A chemist by profession, he was superintendent of Dorchester Gas Company in Marshall, Texas, prior to retiring and moving back to Pampa in 1982.

He was the first boy in Hansford County to ever receive the Eagle Scout Award. He

earned the Silver Beaver and Woodbadge from Philmont Scout Ranch. He served as scoutmaster in the Adobe Walls District for more than 20 years. He attended the first National Boy Scout Jamboree in 1935 at Valley Forge, Pa.

He was a member of Briarwood Church of Pampa.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Monroe and Wilson; two sisters, Ruth Tipton and Lucille Allen; and a granddaughter, Dana Adams.

Survivors include his wife, Ollie; a daughter, Mary Mauldin of Austin; two sons, Tom Buchanan of Lubbock and Alan Buchanan of Red River, N.M.; a brother, J.B. Buchanan of Spearman; four sisters, Louise Vaught, Edna Bassel and Virginia Cates, all of Amarillo, and Helen Fisher of Spearman; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Alzheimer's Research or to Boy Scouts of America.

ON RECORD

POLICE

The Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests during the 96-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, Feb. 15

A burglary of a building was reported in the 1100 block of South Varnon in which a \$300 bicycle was stolen. The theft occurred sometime between Feb. 15 and March 30.

Monday, March 18

A refrigerator and refrigerator dolly were reported stolen in the 400 block of North Faulkner. The loss is valued at \$150.

Monday, March 25

A domestic assault with no injuries was reported in the 900 block of East Twiford.

Wednesday, March 27

Household furniture valued at \$2,900 was reported stolen from a home in the 600 block of North Russell. Entry was through a window.

Thursday, March 28

Criminal mischief was reported in the 200 block of North Wynne in which graffiti was written on a vehicle.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of East Kingsmill in which a marker was used to write on a vehicle.

A simple assault with no injuries was reported in the 500 block of Naida.

An air compressor and air impact tool was taken from a yard in the 900 block of East Murphy.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 400 block of North Gray.

Criminal mischief in which a vehicle was egged was reported in the 2400 block of Cherokee.

Friday, March 29

Aggravated assault with minor injuries was reported in the 600 block of Carr.

Aggravated assault with no injuries was reported in the 1300 block of Charles.

Disorderly conduct/language was reported in the 100 block of East Foster.

Burglary in which unknown items may have been taken was reported in the 800 block of Locust.

An 18-pack of beer was reported stolen at Allsups, 1900 N. Hobart.

Saturday, March 30

John Hardy King, 50, 1914 N. Faulkner, public intoxication.

A bicycle was found in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

A \$10 gas drive off was reported at Allsups, 1900 N. Hobart.

A report of a \$1 counterfeit bill was taken in the 300 block of North Hobart.

An attempted aggravated assault was reported in the 400 block of North Purviance.

A domestic disturbance with no injuries was reported in the 1000 block of South Faulkner.

Criminal mischief in which a vehicle window was broken was reported in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A domestic assault with minor injuries was reported in the 900 block of East Frederic.

Sunday, March 31

Shadow King, 25, unknown Pampa address, public intoxication and disorderly conduct/language.

Raul Lara, 30, 1012 Gordon, no insurance. The unattended death of a 75-year-old man was reported in the 1800 block of North Wells.

A bicycle was found in the 1100 block of Barrett.

A false report was made to police in the 700 block of East Browning.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 600 block of East Albert where it is unknown if anything is missing.

MiFamilia restaurant at 723 E. Frederic reported a burglary in which two money bags, containing \$100 were taken. Entry was through a window.

Monday, April 1

Johnathon Paul Munn, 20, 917 Kentucky, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Brandon Scott Jason-Olson, 17, Pampa, theft under \$50 and minor in possession of alcohol.

An 18-pack of beer was stolen at Allsups, 1900 N. Hobart.

AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, March 29

7:55 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony West (BSAW).

8:07 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Wells; no transport.

8:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of North Christy and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center (PRMC).

Saturday, March 30

9:10 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded 10 miles south on Highway 70 and transported

one. Destination not listed.

11:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Frederic and Barnes and transported one to PRMC.

Sunday, March 31

6:38 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Wells; no transport.

7:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells; no transport.

11:56 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of East Frederic; no transport.

4:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Wells; no transport.

Monday, April 1

5:22 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported one to BSAW.

SHERIFF

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

Friday, March 29

Jeff Glenn, 33, Lefors, arrested by the DPS for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Saturday, March 30

Lucio Resendiz, 39, Elk City, Okla., arrested by the DPS for public intoxication.

Jeffery R. Nash, 41, 1220 E. Francis, arrested by the DPS for unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, March 31

John Robert Moss, 36, 716 E. Albert, public intoxication.

Tina Sue Hoskins, 32, 419 Carr, arrested by the DPS for driving with license suspended, no insurance and expired motor vehicle inspection.

John Wesley McPherson, 25, Borger, transport of anhydrous ammonia.

Adam Scoggins, 23, 1805 N. Banks, arrested by the DPS for driving while intoxicated/first offense.

FIRE

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

Saturday, March 30

10:36 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to Central Park to assist with the annual Easter egg hunt there.

3:26 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a brake fire on a dump truck in the 900 block of Wilks. The fire was out by the time firefighters arrived.

Sunday, March 31

5:41 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a false alarm in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.

6:39 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a request for lifting assistance in the 1800 block of North Wells.

12:04 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 500 block of East Francis.

4:23 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1800 block of North Wells.

STOCKS

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa.		VLO	48.99	-0.53
Wheat	2.48	Halliburton	17.06	-0.01
Milo	3.17	Triad Hospitals	33.96	-0.42
Corn	3.53	NOI	25.87	+0.54
Soybeans	3.86	KMI	48.82	+0.39
		XCEL	25.27	-0.08
		Kerr McGee	63.33	+0.48
		Limited	17.00	-0.90
		Williams	23.76	+0.20
		McDonald's	27.35	-0.40
		Exxon Mobil	44.06	+0.23
		Atmos	23.71	+0.11
		Pioneer Nat.	22.47	+0.18
		Fidelity Mageln.	102.55+0.07	
		Penney's	20.01	-0.70
		Phillips	63.10	+0.30
		SLB	59.32	+0.50
		Tenneco	4.10	+0.10
		CVX	90.40	+0.13
		Wal-Mart	58.90	-2.39
		OKE	20.90	+0.05
		New York Gold	302.65	
		Silver	4.66	
		West Texas Crude	26.31	

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast calls for sunny skies and windy conditions; highs in the mid-80s, and south winds 20 to 30 mph. Caution advised on area lakes. Tonight, mostly clear. Lows around 50. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Tuesday, partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the middle 60s. Northeast winds 20 to 30

mph. Tuesday night, increasing clouds. Lows in the mid-30s. Wednesday, mostly cloudy. Highs 55 to 60. Wednesday evening, partly cloudy.

STATEWIDE

Mostly sunny skies and fair temperatures will be the norm over the state today. Most of the state can expect cooler temperatures and cloudier

skies by Wednesday. Temperature extremes over the past 24 hours ranged from 41 degrees overnight at Marfa to 88 degrees Sunday afternoon in Harlingen and McAllen.

In South Texas, the morning low clouds over the southeast will give way to mostly sunny skies, which will prevail over all of South Texas today. Highs will range from the mid 70s along the coast to the mid and upper 80s over the brush country and western areas of the deep south. A cold front moves in Wednesday, with cooler temperatures, cloudier skies and a chance of showers and thunderstorms through the end of the week, with highs only reaching the 60s in the Hill Country and mid 70s in the deep south and coast.

In West Texas, mostly clear to partly cloudy skies are expected today through Tuesday. Highs today will be in the 80s, with 70s in the mountains. Lows tonight will be in the 40s and 50s. A cold front will move south across northern sections of West Texas on Tuesday, with highs on Tuesday into the 50s and 60s north there, and highs in the 70s and 80s in the rest of West Texas. The cooler temperatures will reach the rest of West Texas by Wednesday, with partly to mostly cloudy skies. Cool temperatures will continue through Thursday, slightly warming on Friday, with a slight chance of showers over the region through Friday.

No children of Education Board enrolled in school system

HOUSTON (AP) — They're elected officials in charge of shaping classroom policy in Texas schools, but not one of the 15 members of the State Board of Education has a child in the public school system, according to a published report.

The four members who have school-age children either send them to private school or teach them at home. Other board members have children who are now adults, most of whom attended public schools.

Partisan and philosophical bickering over textbooks, curriculum and management of the \$19 billion Permanent School Fund have kept the panel in controversy.

And, several board members whose children attended public schools said they wonder about the motivations of board members whose children are privately educated.

"I can't understand why you'd want to dictate what happens if you don't have any kids in there," Rosie Sorrells, D-Dallas, a retired educator,

told the Houston Chronicle.

Cynthia Thornton, Round Top, also a retired teacher, agreed. "I wonder why they are on the board," she said.

Board members David Bradley, R-Beaumont, and Richard Watson, R-Gorman, have home-schooled children. Chase Untermyer, R-Houston, and Richard Neill, R-Fort Worth, send their children to private schools. Those four members are among the most conservative on the board.

Gov. Rick Perry said that he and his wife, Anita,

"show ultimate faith in the job our educators do by sending our two children to a Texas public school."

Bradley, an insurance and real estate executive, said he and his wife decided to teach their two children at home 10 years ago after moving to Beaumont.

The school that his first-grader would have attended had a barbed-wire fence around it and a long history of problems, he said.

THE Pampa NEWS

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City Briefs

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

ATTENTION PARENTS EXP. PRESSER needed. of PHS 2002 Seniors planning meeting for Senior Prom to be held Tues. April 2nd, 7 p.m., PHS Library. For questions call 665-0508, 665-6262.

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GRANT

Association Texas Affiliate.

He added that, in cases of cardiac arrest, the most crucial factor is often the time between when the heart stops and when it is restarted with an AED. While CPR can keep blood flowing to the brain until the AED arrives, it can't restore the normal heart rhythm. The longer the person waits for the AED, the less chance that the normal rhythm will be restored.

"Each minute we lose waiting for an AED means a 10 percent less chance that the patient will survive," says Dr. Loose-Mitchell. "If we can get an AED to these folks in under 5 minutes, we can save thousands of lives every year."

Each year, 18,000 Texans suffer sudden cardiac arrest, either from heart disease or from trauma such as drowning or electrical shock. Currently, more than 95% of those victims die before reaching a hospital.

"It is our goal to change that statistic. We believe widespread and strategic deployment of AEDs is the single best method for achieving this goal," says Kelly Curry, a quality management specialist with Lubbock's Covenant Health System, who co-chaired the American Heart Association's Texas AED Placement Program. Lt. Rip (Ralph) Faulkner of the El Paso Fire Department shared chairmanship duties.

"We put this program on the fast track," Faulkner says, "because we want to get those AEDs out there in emergency responder vehicles, where they can save lives, as quickly as we can."

The grant award requires each agency to purchase their AEDs within 90 days of the award. Except for a few agencies where training will be needed, the AEDs can be put into use within 24 hours of delivery.

"The American Heart Association Texas Affiliate has made emergency response a priority in its programs," notes Pat Ayala of El Paso, board chair for the Texas Affiliate. "Not only are we helping to fund AEDs in first responder vehicles, we're spending \$1.5 million to put thousands of CPR-trained citizens into Texas communities through our CPR in Schools program. In 2002, the Texas Affiliate is investing nearly \$2.4 million dollars to ensure that we do a better job of saving lives. That's in addition to the more than \$8 million we're spending on Texas research programs and the \$11 million on prevention, treatment and professional education programs." Other members of the Texas AED Placement Program committee included Steven C. Ellerbe, D.O., of Liberty, Carl Voskamp of Victoria, Greg Wolf of Collinsville, Ron Hilliard of Austin, Kelly Curry of Lubbock, Frank Marshall of Conroe, Thomas Tenner, Jr., PhD, Lubbock, Douglas E. Ross of Austin, and Alejandro Garcia FF/LP of Wichita Falls.

For more information about AED placements in Briscoe, Gray, Moore, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Swisher and Wheeler Counties, please contact: Gray County, 315 N. Ballard, Pampa, Tx, 79065 Richard Peet, 806-669-8007; Wheeler County Sheriff's Office, PO Box 88, Wheeler, Tx 79096 Jimmy W. Adams, 806-826-5537, Wheeler.

The American Heart Association nationally spent about \$382 million during fiscal year 2000-2001 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs. Nationwide, the organization has grown to include more than 22.5 million volunteers and supporters who carry out its mission in communities across the country. The association is the largest nonprofit voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill about 950,000 Americans.

For more information about heart disease and stroke, call 1-800-AHA-USA1 or visit our Web site at americanheart.org.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

HEARING

In September, retired District Judge John Forbis of Childress was appointed to hear the contested case, but through a series of meetings and negotiations initiated by the PGCD staff, an agreement has apparently been reached which is expected to result in CRMWA dropping their protest.

At the PGCD special meeting on April 11, the PGCD board of directors will review

the settlement agreement and decide whether to accept, reject or modify the agreement, Williams said.

According to PGCD records, the permit applicants are Pickens; Timothy A. Johnson, Mary L. Kneisley, Robin L. Morse, Jenny L. Sullivan, David Whitson and Katy L. Wilde; Bill Tolbert; Susie Reynolds; Quixx WRR, L.P.; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kennedy; Courson Family Land Partnership, Ltd., and Mr. and Mrs. Albert T. Reynolds.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

FIRE

Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands and the Black Kettle National Grasslands.

The following fire precautions and restrictions now apply beginning at 8 a.m. today, April 1:

Open Campfire Restrictions

Campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires are prohibited on national forest lands without a permit, except in Forest Service developed map and picnic grounds where grills are provided.

Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.

Smoking Restrictions

Smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter and free of all flammable material.

Fireworks

Fireworks are prohibited on all national forest lands at all times.

"We need everyone's help to keep our forest free from fires for the duration of this fire season," Agpaoa urged.

For additional information, contact Mark Chavez or Karen Carter at 505-346-3900.

Additional fire information can be obtained at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire>.



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

Boy Scout leaders Mike Donley and Bill Shroeder check out the progress being made on the refurbishment of the Nature Center at M.K. Brown Boy Scout Camp.

Endowment campaign winds down

By KATE B. DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

With \$450,000 in construction to be completed soon, Golden Spread Council, B.S.A. officials are looking forward to completing another project — meeting their \$500,000 endowment goal in order to provide perpetual upkeep for M.K. Brown Boy Scout Camp.

The construction is being funded by a Harrington Foundation gift (see related story) and the \$500,000 is being solicited from a variety of sources, said Bob Altman, assistant scout executive for the Council.

"We have over \$300,000 of the endowment goal now," Altman said. "We've had donations from a number of sources including Celanese and Phillips."

About 15 years ago the Pampa Council and Golden Spread merged which gave the new Council something most don't have ... and that's two camps, Altman said.

South of Amarillo is Camp Don Harrington which historically has received more resources than the M.K. Brown Camp, Altman said.

"We didn't have the resources to do both camps," Altman said of construction projects.

But now, thanks to the Harrington gift, the focus has shifted to M.K. Brown which has relied mostly on volunteers for the work and upkeep of the property.

The \$500,000 endowment will mean there will be more money available for M.K. Brown and the principal won't be used, Altman said.

"It will allow us to provide for the upkeep and for the Ranger," Altman said.

"We're so lucky to have Gary Noblett as our Ranger," he said. Noblett, a retired Gray County Deputy Sheriff, was hired as the Ranger, or caretaker, last year and he and his wife live on the property.

Because of the support received, Altman said the Council "... is blessed to have two first-class camping facilities."

He said the trustees of the Harrington trust made the gift to the M.K. Brown Camp because "they knew how much Mrs. Harrington loved camping and how important scouting was to her family."

In addition to the facilities at the two camps, Altman said the Council has something new that will make their use even more productive.

"We are so excited. We have our first full-time program director," Altman said. "We have these two wonderful properties and now we'll have a program director to make the camping experience even more fulfilling."

Altman said the Council wants to wrap up its endowment campaign soon and anyone who would like to donate should send the gift marked for M.K. Brown Camp endowment to: Golden Spread Council, B.S.A., 401 Tascosa Road, Amarillo, TX 79124.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CAMP

The Nature Lodge, where scouts work on crafts and attend small classes, is also taking on a new look to match that of the dining hall.

The Lew Benz building, which serves as the office and includes some sleeping space, is getting a 14-foot addition and will also be bricked to match the other buildings, Albus said. At one time, that facility was the main building for the entire camp.

Though construction will still be under way, it's expected that as many as 300 scouts will be at the camp April 12-14 for a Council Camporee. Meals will be cooked and eaten at the campsites that weekend.

On the first Saturday in May, May 4, Albus hopes there is a big turnout of volunteers to help with the annual cleanup and tree trimming.

"We need to get ready for summer," he said of the camping season.

Especially wanted is a volunteer with a bulldozer or other suitable heavy equipment that can be used to "drag out some old, downed cottonwoods," Albus said.

Anyone willing to pitch in to help clean up the camp should call Camp Ranger Gary Noblett at 806-826-1056.

Abilene college mourns five students killed in crash

ABILENE (AP) — With songs and prayers at a Monday chapel service, Abilene Christian University students tried to find comfort while mourning the deaths of five classmates killed in a car accident.

"This tragedy reminds us ... the words of Scripture that life is like a vapor that appears for a time, then vanishes away," Provost Dwayne VanRheenen said. "As Christians we have hope, not despair. Death has a sting but it also has a victory."

About 2,000 students attended the daily chapel service in Moody Coliseum to remember the Nigerian students who died Sunday morning on their way back to campus when their sport utility vehicle careened off Interstate 20 and crashed onto a concrete embankment.

Along with reading Scripture from Psalm 42, the students sang hymns including "Great is Thy

Faithfulness" and "I Need Thee Every Hour."

Abilene Christian has identified the students as Kolawole "Kola" Sami, 18, an industrial technology major; Olutomi "Tomi" Aruwajoye, 17, an accounting major; Iyadunni "Dunni" Bakare, 18, a biology major; Abimbola "Abola" Orji, 19, a management major; and Toluwalope "Tolu"

Olorunsola, 18, who had not declared a major.

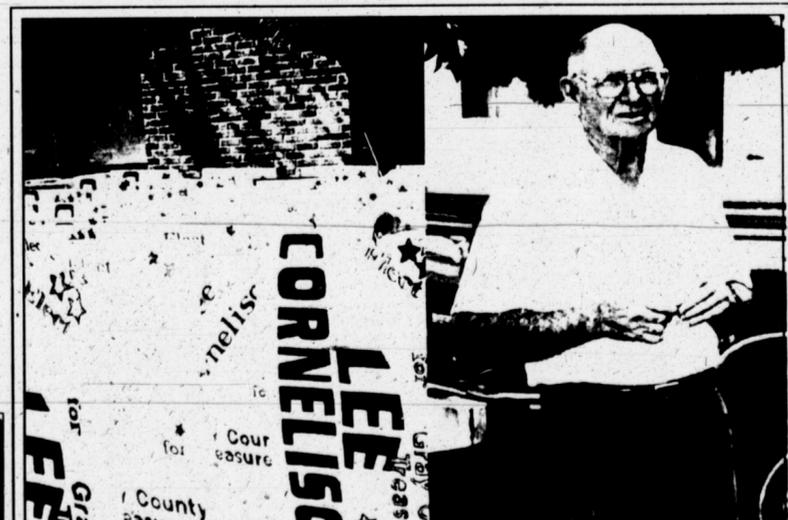
Meanwhile, authorities were continuing to investigate what caused the accident.

Department of Public Safety Trooper Jeremy Smith said the students left Houston about 10 p.m. Saturday. It was 6:35 a.m. Sunday when their vehicle slammed through a concrete embankment near Weatherford, about 110 miles

east of Abilene, and landed about 30 feet below.

"They had been driving all night, so the speculation is they fell asleep," he said.

Investigators were awaiting autopsy results, but Smith said it did not appear that alcohol or drugs were involved. It had rained Saturday night, but weather was not likely a factor because Sami, the driver, did not hit the brakes, he said.



"Thank You" Gray County for your vote of confidence in the March 12 Primary election. The overwhelming outpouring of support and encouragement was gratifying. The only way I can adequately say 'thank you' will be to do a good job for you. That is my pledge...I will serve Gray County to the best of my ability.

Also, I want to thank my dad. Without Dad's ceaseless work building my signs and my family and friends helping with the other details, we could not have been so successful.

F. Lee Cornelison
F. Lee Cornelison

Paid Pol. Ad. Campaign Treasurer, Royce Jordan, 2607 Evergreen, Pampa, Texas 79065, Phone 806-665-0377

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MONDAY, APRIL 1

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Small Wedding Causes Big Problem With Bride's Family

DEAR ABBY: I hope you can stand another wedding-related disaster. I was married last October. My husband and I both wanted a small wedding because we couldn't afford a large one. We planned to elope and be married with only our parents and siblings as guests. The idea was to spend a fun weekend at a local inn.

My mother-in-law suggested that we include a few of our closest friends: Therefore, my husband and I each invited six friends and their dates/spouses. A total of 33 people attended the wedding, and it was exactly what we wanted.

I plan to throw a party for other relatives later this year. However, none of mine are speaking to me! They say I wrote them off by excluding them from the wedding — that I chose friends over family, and some other hurtful comments.

When I explained that my husband's aunts, uncles and cousins weren't invited either and expressed their happiness for us, my relatives didn't care. My husband comes from a prominent family, and my side of the family is using that against me. They insist I am ashamed of them and think they're not good enough.

I thought throwing a party for everyone afterward would solve the problem. However, after what my relatives have said, I don't want to waste our money on them. I doubt they'd come anyway, since we're not speaking.

Abby, is one obligated to invite relatives to one's wedding? Is there an invitation protocol? Please advise.
 KELLY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR KELLY: Nothing is written in stone. However, in an ideal world, members of one's family are supposed to be closer than one's friends. Since it's too late to invite your family to your wedding, send them personal invitations to your party and see who shows up. (That way they won't think you have turned your back on them completely.)

DEAR ABBY: I have a hint for your readers who have a loved one in a nursing home. Carry a notebook. If there's a problem, note the day, time,

the person you talked with and the condition of your loved one. Describe any problems and when they were solved.

If your loved one can make notes, give him or her a notebook, and have the person make notes of what is happening.

I shared this idea with a friend. She said it worked for her and her dad. He is getting much better care now.

DEAR CAREGIVER: Thanks for the suggestion. Jotting down the details of important conver-

sations can be helpful for many reasons. Another good idea is to drop by unexpectedly and let the management know that you are paying attention to the care your loved one is receiving. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Our visits to friends in nursing homes and convalescent hospitals would be much more pleasant if the patient's family would pin up happy pictures or awards on the walls. Most rooms have a bulletin board.

We could talk about happy experiences and honors, rather than aches and pains.

MARGARET MILLER, CINCINNATI

DEAR MARGARET: I have a better idea. Why don't all visitors take along photos or other mementos of happy events to live up the conversation? Funny cartoons can also lighten the atmosphere. Smiles and laughter are good medicine for all concerned.

Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



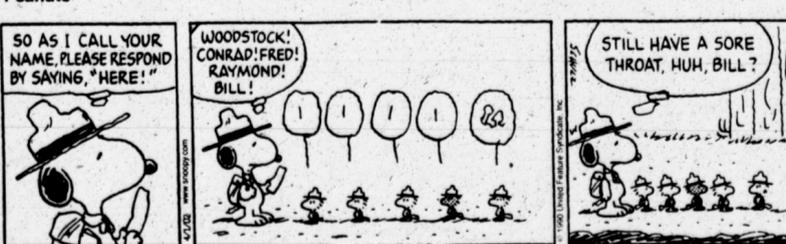
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

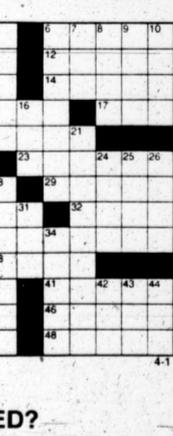
- ACROSS
- Broad comedy
 - Fuss
 - Disen-cumber
 - Jaws' threat
 - German steel city
 - Mexican farewell
 - Gloria of films
 - All the rage
 - Swear
 - Like some rugs
 - Extinct birds
 - Make amends
 - Composer Jerome
 - Misery
 - Umbrella part
 - Actor Ken
 - Start, as a computer
 - Slight color
 - Nary a soul
 - Constitu-tions
 - Make boolees
 - Concert performers
 - Ninny
 - Continue
 - Aspen aficionado
 - Playing marble
 - Ship of 1492
 - Cheboy-gan's lake
 - Iron output
 - Velocity
- DOWN
- Craze
 - Patella
 - Cargo amounts
 - Foot or fathom
 - Cats and dogs
 - Witty saying
 - Money maker
 - Getting together
 - Cargo amounts
 - Foot or fathom
 - Cats and dogs
 - Witty saying
 - Money maker
 - Nile serpents
 - Revue part
 - Trig function
 - Greek vowel
 - Exist
 - Foot feature
 - Ark
 - Finish

Marmaduke



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The Family Circus



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Wildwood



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 Welcome... HOME OF... AND A P...
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SPORTS

Maryland, Indiana reverse roles in title game

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — For all the talk about being a favorite, Maryland still has the feel of an outsider.

The Terrapins have never won an NCAA basketball championship. In fact, this is their first appearance in the title game.

"We're trying to establish ourselves," coach Gary Williams said. "Our program probably hasn't been as smooth as a lot of those other programs."

He was referring to a program such as Indiana, which already has five championship banners hanging back in Bloomington.

Still, for all the talk about their rich tradition, the Hoosiers seem a bit out of place, having reached the final game of the season Monday night as one of the biggest surprises of any NCAA tournament.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we would actually be here," senior Dane Fife said. "I always pictured in my mind that, sure, we could be here, but then there's reality."

The Terrapins (31-4) have

been primed for this moment ever since they squandered a 22-point lead to Duke in last year's national semifinals, ruining their first appearance in the Final Four.

"I knew we weren't satisfied with what happened," Williams said. "These guys never wavered. You could tell the first day of practice the intent of this team."

Maryland won its first regular-season title in the Atlantic Coast Conference since 1980 and earned its first No. 1 seed ever. In Saturday's semifinals, the Terps built a 20-point lead over Kansas, another top seed, and held on for a 97-88 victory.

"We've been a top seed basically all season long," star Juan Dixon said. "We stayed strong all season long to get to this point."

Indiana (25-11) certainly has a more impressive pedigree. The Hoosiers are playing in the championship game for the sixth time, and they've never lost after getting this far.

Then again, this team didn't exactly have a smooth trip to the Georgia Dome.

Indiana started the season 7-5, including losses to Southern

Illinois and Butler. At that point, the shadow of Bobby Knight loomed large over the program.

"People got down on us and really didn't look at the schedule," said coach Mike Davis, noting that all five losses came against 20-win teams. "When we lost to Butler, I told our guys we were on our way to having a good season."

The Hoosiers turned things around with a 7-1 start in the Big Ten. They went on to claim a share of their 20th conference title, but that didn't foreshadow a long run in the NCAA tournament.

Indiana, the No. 5 seed in the South Regional, wasn't expected to make it past the first weekend, let alone knock off top-seeded Duke.

"It's not like you're playing a seven-game series," Davis said. "The teams that we've played so far, we've been better than they were in one game."

The Hoosiers aren't about to start doubting themselves now, even though Maryland was an eight-point favorite.

"We don't consider ourselves underdogs, though everyone else does," Fife said. "We believe we

can win this basketball game, just like we have all season."

Indiana's storied history includes national championships in 1940, 1953, 1976, 1981 and 1987.

The last three were under Knight, fired by Indiana in September 2000. Davis, an assistant to the General, stepped into what many people considered an impossible situation.

Instead, he survived the turmoil and thoughts of quitting to put his own stamp on the program. During the tournament, his news conferences have been filled with laughs and feel-good stories. Knight was noted for obscene rants, tongue-lashings and once, even a bullwhip.

"I'm just a basketball coach," Davis said, hardly sounding like Knight. "If you don't know who you are, it's easy to get caught up in it."

Indiana is a slower team that thrives in the halfcourt and averages 71 points. Maryland loves the transition game, lives off big runs and is among the nation's top-scoring teams at 85 points a game.

The Hoosiers beat Oklahoma 73-64 in the semifinals, coming

up with a great offensive effort against a stellar defensive team. They were 8-for-13 from 3-point range, a good showing but nowhere near the 15-for-19 performance in the regional final victory over Kent State.

To win the last game, the Hoosiers will need that long-range shooting and solid inside play from Jared Jeffries and Jarrad Odle to offset the formidable Maryland front line of Lonny Baxter, Chris Wilcox and Byron Mouton.

"They don't bang like we do," Baxter said.

The Hoosiers also will have to stop Dixon, an All-American who added to his tournament run with 33 points against Kansas.

"He wants to win the championship in the worst way, and you can tell," Davis said. "He's going to put Maryland on his back and try to do that."

Hoosiers point guard Tom Coverdale played 29 minutes against Oklahoma, more than expected after he sprained his left ankle in the win over Kent State.

"It was pretty sore after the game," Coverdale said, "but I think it will be better Monday than it was Saturday."

NOTEBOOK

BASEBALL

PAMPA — Pampa Kids & Youth Club baseball signups will be held Tuesday through Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Baker School.

The baseball leagues are for boys and girls from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

Signup fees are \$20 for one child, \$35 for two children, and \$45 for three children.

If more information is needed, call Pampa Communications at 669-8236 or baseball commissioner Rick Nelson at 665-6190 after 5 p.m. Other contact persons are Danny Martin (835-2906), Dean Crockett (665-3927), Robert Cottrell (665-0335) or Steve Stillwagon (669-0535).

Players will be placed on a team by age through a blind draft. All games will be played at Hobart Street Park.

PAMPA — Optimist tryouts in the baseball and softball leagues are scheduled Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30 to 7 at Optimist Park.

Tryout will be held in the 9-10 league, Cal Ripken 11-12 league, 13-15 Babe Ruth League in baseball and girls softball for 11-12 and 13-15 leagues.

Registration in both baseball and softball will continue during the tryouts.

Players who will be on the same Optimist team from last year won't have to try out. Players in other leagues will be assigned to a team using a blind draft.

Players should bring tennis shoes, a glove and a light jacket to the tryouts.

GOLF

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) — Annika Sorenstam blew past Karrie Webb with back-to-back birdies to seize the lead, then held off fellow Swede Liselotte Neumann to become the first back-to-back winner in the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

Sorenstam closed with a 4-under 68 for a one-stroke victory, claiming the LPGA Tour's first major championship of the year.

She knocked in a 2-foot par putt on the final hole before Neumann faced a 15-foot birdie putt from just on the fringe that would have forced a playoff.

Sorenstam finished at 8-under 280 and earned \$225,000 for her fourth major and 33rd career victory.

Neumann gave Sorenstam all she could handle, closing with a 69 and putting on the pressure until her birdie attempt on the final hole slid by on the left.

MILTON, Fla. (AP) — Dave Eichelberger won his sixth Senior PGA Tour title when rain wiped out play in the Emerald Coast Classic.

Eichelberger opened with consecutive 5-under 65s for a two-stroke victory over Doug Tewell, still two back after 10 holes when the third round was called off at The Moors Golf Club.



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

A Caprock runner slides too late to avoid being put out by Pampa catcher Michael Galloway, who has just applied the tag after taking a throw from shortstop Evan Miller.

Pampa suffers first District 3-4A loss

AMARILLO — Caprock dealt Pampa its first District 3-4A loss 9-4 Saturday in high school baseball action in Amarillo.

Caprock never trailed, and led Pampa 8-1 after three innings.

Facing a 9-3 deficit in the top of the seventh, the Harvesters started a rally against Longhorns' hurler Bryan Bailey, who had shut out Pampa in the fifth and sixth.

Wes Martin opened the inning with a single and Michael Galloway reached on an error. After Evan Miller walked to load the bases, Adam Jones came up and knocked in a run on a sacrifice fly. However, reliever Rudy Morgan was brought in and retired the next two hitters on groundouts to retire the side.

Kyle Leach and Steven Contreras led Caprock's 10-

hit attack. Leach and Contreras had two hits, knocking in a pair of runs apiece.

One of Leach's hits was a two-run triple.

Tyson Moree had two of Pampa's seven hits with a double and single. Miller, Randy Tice and Ryan Zemanek each had RBI singles. Jones had a double and Martin a single.

Max Simon started on the mound for Pampa and was relieved by Tice in the third inning. Simon was charged with the loss. He gave up six hits while striking out seven and walking three. Tice struck out six and didn't give up a walk while allowing four hits.

Pampa is now 3-1 in district and 9-10 for the season. Caprock, also 3-1, is 7-8 overall.

The Harvesters host Canyon at 4:30 Tuesday at Harvester Field.

Lakers edge Spurs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal said he wanted to guard Tim Duncan with the game on the line. He received the assignment and made the biggest play.

O'Neal blocked Duncan's potential game-winning shot from near the foul line with about 7 seconds remaining Sunday to preserve the Los Angeles Lakers' 96-95 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in a matchup of two of the NBA's elite teams.

Whether a foul should have been called was debated afterward.

"I turned and shot, he got me on the wrist, and no foul was called," Duncan said.

Duncan, who had 26 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, but was only 1-of-9 from the field in the fourth quarter, clapped his hands, thinking a foul was going to be called as his attempt fell well short of the basket.

And several of his teammates seemed to slow down while the Lakers got the ball to the other end of the court in running out the clock.

Several photographs indicated O'Neal's hand came in contact with Duncan's wrist, but it was unclear whether O'Neal touched the ball, as he claimed.

"That was all ball," said

O'Neal, who had 24 points, nine rebounds and five blocked shots. "Even if it wasn't all ball, they owed me that call for all the times that I get hit on the arms. There was no foul. I've been getting beat up for 10 years. I've only complained twice in that time. If they don't like it, too bad."

The win was the 17th in 22 games for the Lakers (52-21), who remained 1 1/2 games behind Sacramento for the NBA's best record.

It was also the Lakers' seventh win in their last eight games against the Spurs, including a four-game sweep of the Western Conference finals last spring.

"Tonight was just a test of our championship character," said Kobe Bryant, who led the Lakers with 31 points and nine rebounds. "It is just a matter of us showing our championship heart."

Derek Fisher made two free throws with 15.9 seconds left to cap a 7-0 game-finishing run and give the Lakers their only lead of the second half.

Then came O'Neal's decisive play.

"It doesn't matter," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said when asked if he thought a foul should have been called. "The call wasn't made, the game's over."

Tournament runners-up



(Courtesy photo)

The Yellow Team (above) placed second in the post-season tournament during the Optimist Volleyball League this season. Team members are (front, from left) Emily Woodruff, Whitney Jenkins, Valerie Rushing, Kristen Dunn, Krissa Whittley and Krista Shults; (middle row, from left) Sabrina Stone, Victoria Campbell, K'Lyn Holmes and Kenadie Sutherland; (back, from left) coach Patti Williams and assistant coach Velda Shults. Not pictured is Amy Adams.


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 If this Notice does apply to you, you may be eligible to opt out of the LP national siding class action settlement if you wish by filing an Opt Out Request form with the LP Siding Litigation Claims Administrator. If you do opt out of this class action settlement, you will no longer be eligible to receive any benefits under the settlement agreement. You would be permitted, however, to pursue whatever legal remedies may be available to you.
 The deadline for filing an Opt Out Request form is June 17, 2002. To request additional information from which you can determine whether you are eligible to opt out of the class action settlement or to request either a Claim Form or an Opt Out Request form, you may contact the LP Siding Litigation Claims Administrator. If you have damaged LP siding that is eligible for compensation under the settlement agreement and desire to file a claim, you must complete a Claim Form and return it to the LP Siding Litigation Claims Administrator postmarked on or before December 31, 2002.
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APRIL 1 2002

UConn beats Oklahoma to complete perfect 39-0 season

By **CHUCK SCHOFFNER**
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Even the Connecticut players can't decide if they're the best women's basketball team ever. All they know is that they're the national champions — again. And unbeaten — again. Pushed to the end by a feisty Oklahoma team, Connecticut scratched out an 82-70 victory Sunday night to cap the program's second unbeaten season with its third national championship.

The Huskies (39-0) won in such convincing fashion this season — their average victory margin of 35.4 points is an NCAA record — they could claim with some validity that there has been no better team.

Could, but won't. "When you've got players ahead of you, like Rebecca Lobo and Jennifer Rizzotti, you can't be the greatest," UConn's Tamika Williams said, mentioning two of the stars on the Huskies' first unbeaten team. "Are we up there with one of the best? Yes. Can we challenge one of the best teams? Yes. But the game is moving so fast, there is going to be another four or five like us that is going to do some good for women's basketball."

And Sue Bird, what do you think? "My team did a great job," Bird said. "That's why we're the greatest — well, not the greatest, but one of the greatest."

What matters in the end is that they were good enough to

beat Oklahoma, and that, UConn coach Geno Auriemma, is saying something. "This was, without question, the most difficult game we have had to play," Auriemma said. "Oklahoma was unbelievably good. They were unbelievably good. I never thought the game was over until the buzzer went off."

When the buzzer did sound, Connecticut had become the first school to go unbeaten twice.

The Huskies went 35-0 in winning the 1995 title and they also won in 2000, when they finished 36-1.

Never mind that Connecticut finished this perfect season with an imperfect game. The Huskies committed 21 turnovers and missed all nine of their 3-point shots. They were

so strong inside, it didn't matter. Oklahoma (32-4) often used four guards, and they were overmatched against the Huskies' relentless rebounders. Swin Cash, Asjha Jones and Williams.

Connecticut outrebounded Oklahoma 44-25, the second largest rebounding margin in a championship game, and forced the Sooners into 38.7 percent shooting.

"They just rebounded the heck out of the ball," Oklahoma's Rosalind Ross said. "We were blocking them out, but they're so athletic they could jump right over us."

Cash was the biggest presence inside with 20 points and 13 rebounds. She got it all started with three baskets in the first 2:41, two of them putbacks, and was named the outstanding

player in the Final Four. Jones had 19 points, nine rebounds and five blocks. Williams also grabbed nine rebounds and scored 12 points. If a ball came off the glass or even if it was just rolling on the floor, one of the three usually grabbed it.

"Swin was incredible from the get-go," Bird said. "She kind of set the tone for the game. Right away, she took it down low and she was really just pounding all day. When she's aggressive, there's no stopping her."

Bird was pushed, knocked to the floor and hit in the face by flailing arms but still managed 14 points, including six straight free throws in the final 1:04 to secure the victory.

Diana Taurasi added 13 points and scored what might

have been the biggest basket of the game.

Oklahoma, which trailed by 16 early in the second half, had just cut the lead 73-67 on a driving layup by All-American Stacey Dales with 2:15 left. The OU fans were screaming, the Connecticut fans squirming.

Needing a basket to stem the tide, the Huskies went to Taurasi backing in against Dales. She turned, shot, drew the fifth foul on Dales and made the basket. Her ensuing free throw made it 76-67 with 1:04 to play and the Huskies could breathe a little easier.

"He knew I wanted it and that I was going to make something happen," Taurasi said of Auriemma. "I took it to the lane and no one collapsed. So I just said, 'Let's power it up there.' I got hit and it went in."

Big Unit, D-Backs raise flag, the Rocket opens for Yankees

By **BEN WALKER**
AP Baseball Writer

After more than a month of spring training, Rafael Palmeiro is all set to play ball for keeps. "Everybody's optimistic, but this year is extra special," the Texas first baseman said. "We really have some good players and we have a quality team."

Same goes for Luis Gonzalez. "The last time we took the field for real, when we walked off we were world champions," the Arizona star said. "All the guys are anxious and eager."

And so, after an acrimonious winter filled with talk about contraction and more labor trouble, baseball can finally focus on what it does best — playing ball.

The season started Sunday night with an Easter special as Bartolo Colon pitched the Cleveland Indians past the Anaheim Angels 6-0.

On Monday, it revs up with opening day at 10 ballparks.

Randy Johnson and the Diamondbacks will raise the

World Series banner before they play the San Diego Padres at Bank One Ballpark.

Pedro Martinez pitches at Fenway Park, Roger Clemens starts at Camden Yards in his drive toward 300 career victories.

Sammy Sosa and Ken Griffey Jr., both within range of 500 career home runs, face each other as the final year begins at Cinergy Field. The Minnesota Twins, after escaping offseason elimination, play at Kansas City.

Cal Ripken, Mark McGwire and Tony Gwynn, all gone. Yet new stars on the way — are Florida pitcher Josh Beckett and Texas third baseman Hank Blalock really as good as the scouts say?

Patriotic tributes and reminders about Sept. 11 will be present. American flags will appear on players' jackets. "God Bless America" will continue to be sung during the seventh-inning stretch and there will be a minute of silence at 9:11 p.m. during each team's first home night game.

That is, if the games last that long. Baseball has once again

tried to institute speed-up rules — pitchers must throw the ball within 12 seconds of the batter stepping in the box if no one is on base.

Among those in charge of enforcing the regulations is Joe West, one of the five umpires rehired after 22 of them lost their jobs 2 1/2 years ago in a failed resignation plan.

At Arizona, fans are still celebrating after Gonzalez's bottom-of-the-ninth single beat the New York Yankees in Game 7 last November. But Johnson, the winning pitcher that night, already is looking ahead.

"I've put all that behind me," the Big Unit said. "How is that going to make me better out there against the San Diego Padres?"

The NL Cy Young Award winner will not have to face Padres slugger Ryan Klesko. He'll start serving a suspension for a pair of brawls with Anaheim in spring training.

The Yankees will unveil a juiced-up lineup that now includes Jason Giambi when they visit Baltimore. Clemens begins his bid for 300 career victories — he needs 20 —

while Scott Erickson starts for the Orioles for the first time since elbow surgery in August 2000.

Clemens is coming off a 20-3 season and his record sixth Cy Young Award. He will start for a team that, for the first time in four years, is not the World Series champion.

There are other changes, too. While adding Giambi, Robin Ventura, Rondell White, David Wells and others, the Yankees

lost Tino Martinez, Paul O'Neill, Scott Brosius and Chuck Knoblauch.

The Yankees will begin the year with the majors' highest payroll at about \$125 million, dwarfing Tampa Bay's total of around \$34 million.

"It doesn't feel any different," Clemens said. "We came up short, but the goals are still the same."

Chances are, fans at Camden Yards might have more than

baseball on their minds at opening day. At night, many of them will be watching their TV sets as Maryland plays Indiana for the NCAA men's basketball title.

The college hoops championship will be played at the Georgia Dome, a few miles from where newly acquired Gary Sheffield and the Atlanta Braves open against Philadelphia at Turner Field.

Jordan, put on the spot by Collins last week over whether he plans to play next season, returned the favor by putting the onus on Collins for the upcoming rough schedule that starts with Tuesday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers. The Wizards trail Indiana by 2 1/2 games in the battle for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"It's going to be a tough stretch, four games in five nights," Jordan said.

Mavericks defeat Wizards, 110-103

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steve Nash had a better finish than Michael Jordan.

Neither shot well in the first half, but Nash was able to answer Jordan's charge late in the fourth quarter as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Washington Wizards 110-103 Sunday.

Jordan, who started 0-for-7, made three consecutive baskets to tie the game at 92, 94 and 96. Then Nash, who was 1-for-6 in the first half, made a 3-point shot with 2:19 to go put Dallas ahead for good at 99-96.

Nash followed with another long jumper — his foot was on

the line, so it actually counted for two — then he had a three-point play and made two more free throws. He scored 10 of his 22 points in the final 2 1/2 minutes.

"That's when they count," Nash said, "especially after not shooting particularly well the rest of the game. I really knew my time was coming."

Jordan missed his last two shots and finished 4-for-14 with 10 points and five assists in 28 minutes. Jordan has been the backup point guard in recent games as he recovers from knee surgery, but he was used more at his old position of shooting guard

by coach Doug Collins on Sunday.

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"It's going to be a tough stretch, four games in five nights," Jordan said.

Singh ends his victory slump

THE WOODLANDS, Texas (AP) — The Houston Open had the look of a runaway victory — to everyone but Vijay Singh.

Singh won his first PGA Tour title since the 2000 Masters, closing with a 4-under 68 Sunday for a six-stroke victory with a tournament-record 22-under 266 total on the TPC at The Woodlands.

He earned \$720,000 for his 10th PGA Tour title, but didn't rest easy until his closest rival, Darren Clarke, bogeyed No. 17.

"Darren really played well. It was closer than it looked," Singh said. "He really didn't make a bad shot until his bogey on No. 17. That gave me a six-shot lead. I didn't have any trouble with that."

Singh ended a string of 50 straight PGA Tour tournaments without a victory.

"It's been almost two years. I was wondering when the next

one would come," Singh said. "It couldn't be at a better time, two weeks before the Masters."

Singh became the 14th straight different winner on the PGA Tour, the longest such stretch since 1994, when the tour went 20 straight tournaments without a repeat champion.

Clarke shot a 71 to finish second at 272. Spain's Jose Maria Olazabal was another stroke back after a 70. Jay Haas (69) and Shigeki Murayama (70) followed at 275.

"I knew I wasn't going to worry about anybody but Darren," Singh said. "I played really well and kept him at bay. I really didn't want to worry about him and concentrate on what I was doing."

Singh's 22-under total shattered the tournament record of 18 under, set by Curtis Strange in 1980 at Woodlands Country Club. Singh's margin of victory

matched the tournament record set by Jackie Burke in 1952.

"You always get antsy when you don't win, it's just a matter of how you handle it," Singh said. "Last year, I got a little antsy, and this year I decided to just concentrate on playing. Today, I wanted to play a solid round and that's what I did."

Singh, who missed the cut last week at The Players Championship, birdied the first hole of the final round and tightened his grip on the lead at No. 13 when Clarke hit his tee shot out of bounds.

Singh took his second shot over the water and onto the green, and two-putted for birdie. Clark scrambled to save par.

Singh took a five-stroke lead when he narrowly missed an eagle putt and settled for a birdie on No. 15. When Clarke bogeyed No. 17, the lead reached six strokes.

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Horoscope

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2002
BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Your drive and persistence pay off. What you have been considering initiating works! Your innovative thinking breaks barriers, making the impossible possible. Reach out for those at a distance. You make a difference. Tonight: Relax that overactive mind.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Continue to work individually with those around you. Your sense of what might be workable financially could need an adjustment. Seriously consider another's opinions if you don't want a mini-rebellion! Tonight: Go along with another's wishes.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** Others knock on your door, knowing full well that you might be pre-occupied. Express your logic and clarity in a way another can understand. Not everyone needs to be in synch. Honor your free and easy style. Your sense of humor takes over. Tonight: Join friends for dinner.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Plunge into work, but don't be surprised if someone pulls the rug out from under you. You might not always be in agreement with others, but honor a boss and treat him or her exactly as such.

You're not changing this person's ideas. Tonight: Ask for a foot massage.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
*** Review a creative proposal, knowing that nothing is written in stone. On the other hand, dealing with the author of this idea needs to be done with a great deal of finesse. Not everything is as it seems. Lighten up with a loved one. Tonight: Play a favorite sport.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Deal with finances directly involving your family and your security. Review a matter closely that involves friends. Carefully check out a situation that involves your loved ones. Juggling different interests takes all your energy, more than actually doing them! Tonight: Happy at home.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
*** Approach a situation creatively, which might mean presenting the same idea in many different ways until someone "gets" it. Your ingenuity comes through for you as a result. Others respond to your smiling ways. Tonight: Out and about.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Carefully revamp your budget. Think in terms of expenses and what might be necessary. When framing a budget, don't eliminate every little pleasure. You need something to lighten your mood or the mood of the office, if you're dealing with a work budget. Tonight: Enjoy one of the simple pleasures in life.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** You might be surprised by oth-

ers' responses. You can do a complete about-face and not think twice about it; however, others could be stupefied. Understand others better. Be open to feedback and, maybe, make an adjustment. Tonight: Ask and expect to receive.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Step back some, especially if you feel as if you might not have the complete picture. Much could change quickly, if you so choose. Still, play the waiting game, as much needs to come forward. Another's responses could be off as well. Tonight: Yawn. Get a good night's sleep.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
*** Your perspective could change considerably with information from a friend or associate. Meetings might not turn out exactly as you think they will. Think in terms of growth and change. Don't obsess about having things go your way. Tonight: Find your friends.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** Bosses make demands, and you jump. If you're a boss, you could find another's attitude and/or words to be challenging. Understand when enough is enough. Stay in touch with your long-term goals involving your work. You might need a change. Tonight: In the limelight.

BORN TODAY:
Actress Linda Hunt (1945), actor Jack Webb (1920), actor Alec Guinness (1914)

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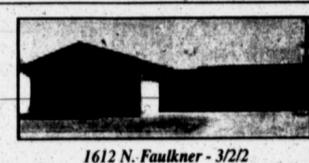
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TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

OFFICE Space for rent, 3 months free rent. 669-6841

STREET front office, 620 sq. ft. \$450/mo. 120 W. Kingsmill. Combs-Worley Building. 669-6841.

534 S. Cuyler-bldg. & lot. Great for shop or bar. Avail. Apr. 1st. 665-7792, or 665-8889

103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

1009 Mary Ellen: 2 bd, 1 bath, garage apartment, new c h/a, \$24,000. Call 669-2935

3 bdr., 1 ba., 2 liv. areas, fpl., lrg. lot. 1113 Terry Rd. \$18,000. Call 669-1409 or 669-1318.

4 bedroom, 2 bath home, double garage, central heat & air. Call 665-3359 or 669-9109.

ADORABLE 3/1/1 central h/a, 1215 Williston. Call 665-7481 after 5 pm.

NICE 2 bedroom, remodeled, fenced, utility room. Owner carry. Call 665-4842

CLEAN 1 bedroom, stove, refig., all bills paid. 669-3672, 665-5900

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

NICE 1 bdr. References required. Stove & refig. Call 669-9817

PICK up rental list for Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

711 N. Gray C. \$235 1130 Christine- \$425 669-7682, 669-6006

LOWEST Rents in City b/drms, duplexes, & homes. Remodeled, Great Neighborhoods. 665-4274

2 Bedroom, dining room, work shop, 1214 E. Francis \$225 mo + deposit. 665-2254

3 bdr., avail. soon, central heat/air, lrg. rooms, 1 1/2 ba., north side. C-21 Realtor, 665-4180, 665-5436

1612 N. Sumner 3 br., 2 ba., dbl gar., cent. H/A, Lease & dep. \$575 mo. 665-6000, 664-3507.

2 br., plumbed for washer & dryer, range & refig furnished, new paint inside, new carpet. \$250 mo., \$100 dep. Call Canadian 806-323-5840.

3 br., 1 ba., HUD, H/A/C dishwasher, utility rm/w/ built in ironing board, covered deck, encl. carport, fenced, 2 stor. bldg's, 601 Bradley. 663-0684.

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 Candidate to have at least 2 years of applicable experience, preferably in a gas or petroleum-related industry working with 2 and 4 cycle engines (White Superior, Waukesha, Caterpillar, & Clarks). Must take and pass applicable knowledge and performance tests. Reporting location will be in the Sneed, Dumas, or Borger area.
 Candidate to have a satisfactory safety record, a thorough knowledge of safety rules and practices, and be able to perform duties in a safe manner. Must be open to learning and have a history of being able to work as part of a team. Must be willing to respond to off-hours call-outs and work overtime as needed.
 DEFS offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package. Qualified applicants should mail resume before April 5, 2002. DEFS is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 Please send resume to:
 Duke Energy Field Services
 Attn: B. Huser
 P.O. Box 359
 Borger, Texas 79008
 Phone: (806) 275-5219
 Fax: (806) 275-5281

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:
 AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW
 One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.
 4-1 CRYPTOQUOTE
 OYNPYBY TJZ SEY-HYLYSKYH;
 OYNPYBY PK NJAM YAJZMC,
 SAH PK PX NPGYNT
 KJ OYQJUY S LSQK. —
 AJEUSA BPAQYAK WYSNY.
Saturday's Cryptoquote: MOST PEOPLE REPEAT OF THEIR SINS BY THANKING GOD THEY AIN'T SO WICKED AS THEIR NEIGHBORS.
 — JOSH BILLINGS

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PFAA officers



(Community Camera photo)

Pampa Fine Arts Association met recently and discussed future plans for the organization including the Student Summer program, Chautauqua, the annual Arts and Crafts Show, Members' Show and more. During the meeting the following officers were also installed: (left-right) Joe Mullenax, vice president; Roy Morriss, treasurer; Linda Nowell, president; and Alberta Jefferies, Ruth Barrett and Christine Alexander. Other officers not pictured are: Sue Abbot, secretary; Bruce Riehart, Evelyn Epps, Charlene Morriss, Carl Williamson and Kay Crouch.

Royal family mourning Queen Mother

LONDON (AP) — The coffin of the Queen Mother Elizabeth rested Monday in a small stone chapel at Windsor Castle where the royal family privately mourned the beloved matriarch before she is taken to lie in state in London.

Troops in a dozen locations around the country and in the colony of Gibraltar brought out ceremonial cannons to fire 41-gun salutes in honor of King George VI's widow, who died at her Windsor home Saturday afternoon at the age of 101.

Flags flew at half-staff and thousands of admirers of the enduringly popular former queen signed condolence books that were opened Sunday at royal palaces and homes around the country.

Bouquets of bright spring flowers, with fond messages attached, were placed at St. James's Palace and the adjacent Clarence House, which had been the Queen Mother's London home since her husband's death in 1952 and the accession of her daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.

Admirers lined up at St. James's Palace to sign one of the 16 books of condolence. More than a thousand visitors had signed the books by lunchtime Sunday and the figure had more than doubled by mid-afternoon.

Matthew Shearer, holding his two young daughters by the hand, said it was a historic moment. "It is not just her death," he said, "but the change, the passing of an era."

The State Bell at St. Paul's Cathedral rang for an hour Sunday afternoon to mark the Queen Mother's passing. The bell is tolled only for the death of a member of the royal family, a serving dean of the cathedral or a senior national figure.

The queen, who has lost her mother and her only sister, Princess Margaret, within seven weeks, led her family in prayer Sunday evening at the foot of her mother's coffin.

All four of her children, Princess Margaret's son and daughter, Prince Charles's sons and other close relatives filed solemnly into the private chapel for a short and

simple evensong service of prayer and remembrance.

The coffin, draped in the Queen Mother's red, gold and blue royal standard was carried to the chapel on Sunday from Royal Lodge, her house in Windsor Great Park, where she first lived as Duchess of York before her husband was unexpectedly thrust onto the throne in 1936 by the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII.

The coffin will remain at the simple Royal Chapel of All Saints until it is moved to the Queen's Chapel at St. James's Palace on Tuesday. On Friday it will be moved to the medieval Westminster Hall

at the Houses of Parliament to lie in state until Monday evening, April 8. There the public will be able to pay their respects before the Westminster Abbey funeral service at 11:30 a.m. April 9.

After the service, the coffin will be moved by road to Windsor for a private committal service and interment in a side chapel at the magnificent St. George's Chapel, within the precincts of Windsor Castle.

The Queen Mother will be laid to rest alongside her husband in the George VI Memorial Chapel at St. George's. At the same time, the ashes of Princess Margaret

will be taken from the royal vault in St. George's and interred with her parents at the George VI chapel.

The royal family, preparing for a second funeral in as many months, will remain in mourning until April 19, after a memorial service for Princess Margaret. The queen's only sister died Feb. 9 at age 71 after years of illness and was cremated after a private funeral at Windsor.

The Queen Mother, who had been at the center of public life for more than half a century, was as popular at the end of her life as she had been as the queen consort of George VI during World War II.



(Photo by Sarah Schwab)

Cole Guyer of Pampa, left, applies black paint to a screen-printing design, while Ty Melanson, owner of Powerhouse Screen Printing and Graphic Design, provides direction.

4-H Clothing Project field trip

Eighteen area 4-Hers and leaders from Pampa, Lefors and McLean recently spent the day in Amarillo learning about clothing buying and construction as part of their work in the Gray County 4-H "Clothing and Textiles Project."

The students conducted a buying exercise using comparison-shopping skills at Whispers Consignment Shop, K-Mart and various department and specialty stores in Westgate Mall.

The group then visited the

Creative Needle, a thriving alterations business, with owner Raymond Girard. Girard shared information about his business and his experience as a costume designer for the Amarillo Little Theater. He encouraged the students to continue learning about sewing, a skill he said is quickly becoming a lost art.

The final stop of the day was a tour of Powerhouse Screen Printing and Graphic Design. Owner Ty Melanson walked students through the process

used in creating a screen-printing design.

Competition categories for the 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project are clothing construction, clothing buying and fabric and fashion design.

Students are now busy preparing for competition in the Gray County Fashion Show to be held Sunday, April 7, at Trinity Baptist Church in McLean.

County winners will advance to district Saturday, May 4 in Borger.

U.S. Yugoslavia deadline nears

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The leaders of Yugoslavia's dominant republic demanded Monday that the country's president support the extradition of war crimes suspects or take responsibility for the international isolation and financial ruin threatening the country.

The U.S. Congress had given Yugoslav authorities until March 31 to cooperate with the U.N. tribunal by handing over the suspects or lose \$120 million in financial assistance. Secretary of State Colin Powell is to decide next week whether to make the suspension final.

Some 15 suspects indicted in connection with bloodshed in Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia still remain at large in Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

Yugoslav nationalist President Vojislav Kostunica calls the U.N. tribunal illegal and anti-Serb. He has also said he opposes extraditions to the court until the country passes a domestic law regulating extraditions.

But other leaders, afraid to lose the U.S. support necessary for recovery of the country's devastated economy, have already taken steps to extradite some of the 15, who held top positions in former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's regime.

In an interview published Monday, Kostunica said "cooperation cannot be avoided ... it's something we have to live with." But he insisted that without a clear national law regulating the cooperation, handing over any suspects would result in the "destabilization of the country."

In the interview published by the Bosnian Serb Reporter

weekly, Kostunica blamed his pro-democracy rivals in the Serbian government for allegedly obstructing a draft law regulating cooperation with The Hague, and blamed them for the looming sanctions.

Serbia's justice ministry on Sunday served police arrest warrants for four Milosevic aides, charged along with him with crimes against humanity during the 1998-99 Kosovo war.

The ministry said it expected police to follow through on the indictments and apprehend Milan Milutinovic, the current Serbian president, Nikola Sainovic, Milosevic's top security adviser and former deputy prime minister, Dragoljub Ojdanic, a former Yugoslav army commander, and Vljko Stojiljkovic, former Serbian interior minister in charge of the police.

Acting on a similar ultimatum, the Serbian government last year arrested Milosevic, now standing trial in The Hague for atrocities his forces committed in Kosovo, Bosnia and Croatia in the 1990s.

That handover last year triggered protests from Kostunica and his nationalist followers. Determined to avoid a similar crisis, the Serbian government has demanded that Kostunica either agree to the handovers or take responsibility for the punitive sanctions.

"The United States will impose sanctions ... that will mean turning the clock back to the era of Slobodan Milosevic, to misery and isolation," Serbian Justice Minister Vladan Batic told reporters early Monday, alluding to the U.S. deadline that expired at midnight Sunday EST (0500 GMT) Monday.

Argentina economy continues to decline

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — As Argentina's government prepared to lobby the International Monetary Fund for more aid Monday, a business group released fresh figures suggesting the economy remains rooted in its four-year recession.

A survey of 479 businesses showed that sales of a wide range of consumer goods including electronics, furniture and jewelry were about half as high this March as in March 2001, according to CAME, a group representing small and medium-sized businesses.

The results, released Sunday, came as bad news on the eve of a two two-week mission by IMF representatives who are expected to clarify what Argentina needs to do to receive further aid from the international lending agency.

The government of President Eduardo Duhalde, who took over in January after Fernando de la Rúa was brought down by protests over the country's economic chaos, is hammering out measures aimed at steadying the peso and keeping the budget

deficit down — a key IMF demand.

Under pressure from citizens still waiting for improvement, Duhalde recently predicted the economy would turn around this year, and Cabinet chief Jorge Capitanich repeated that on Sunday, saying Argentina would "emerge from the depression" in the second half of the year.

The sales figures suggested that no turnaround was evident in March.

CAME blamed the decline in sales on a number of negative factors, including the currency instability induced by the recent devaluation of the peso, the partial freeze on bank accounts, rising prices and the lack of economic confidence.

Meanwhile, consumer groups released figures showing that despite the falling demand, prices of basic goods rose sharply in March.

A survey by the Buenos Aires-based DEUCO organization showed that the cost of a basket of basic consumer goods had risen by around 15 percent, with the prices of cooking oil, medicine, meat and flour up 20 to 30 percent.

Dutch euthanasia law takes effect

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Starting Monday, Dutch doctors may legally help end the lives of hopelessly ill patients suffering unbearable pain, as a law permitting euthanasia went into force.

Although the Netherlands became the first country to legalize mercy killings, a political debate continues over further relaxing the stringent guidelines for doctors, even allowing them to prescribe suicide pills for the elderly who are not terminally ill.

The law, enacted one year ago, slipped quietly into effect with no fanfare, since Monday was a national holiday and because it hardly changed existing practice.

But its passage stirred other countries to re-examine their own laws, and encouraged the worldwide movement advocating the right to die with dignity. Belgium enacted a similar law late last

year, but the Swiss parliament rejected a motion to legalize assisted suicides, which are now tolerated.

Last week, an editorial in the Vatican's newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano reiterated the Holy See's opposition to euthanasia, calling it "a crime against life."

The editorial came one day after the British High Court, in a groundbreaking decision, granted the wish of a paralyzed woman to have her doctors switch off a life-supporting ventilator.

Another terminally ill British woman, Diane Pretty, 43, appealed last month to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, to let her husband help her die. Pretty, paralyzed from the neck down by motor neuron disease, was seeking to overturn a British appeals court ruling which said her husband could not be granted immunity from prosecution if he helped her commit suicide.