

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TRUCKER

The pickup was traveling about 45 mph, investigators said. The semi ended up turning over on its left side.

Roach said Allahverdi's license should have been suspended pending the outcome of the case.

"I guarantee you he doesn't have a driver's license from the State of Texas," Roach said.

A driver could lose his Texas commercial driver's license, Roach said, for traveling 15 mph over the speed limit.

Allahverdi's California commercial driver's license is valid and permits him to drive double and triple trailers, hazardous materials and tankers. The five-year license, according to Bartholomew Sullivan with the West Memphis

newspaper, was issued in April 1998. It shows two citations, both for driving unregistered loads. One citation was issued in Texas. The other one was issued in Wyoming.

Federal regulations, however, say that even with two serious traffic violations in a three-year period, Allahverdi's license could be suspended for 60 days at most.

"There's something not right with that," Roach said. "His ticket should have been jerked."

Roach said he expects to present the Texas case to a Gray County grand jury here when they meet on April 27. The grand jury, he said, could consider indicting Allahverdi on charges of manslaughter, a second degree felony, or on charges of criminally negligent homicide, a state jail felony. The former is punishable by a

2 to 20 years prison sentence and/ or a \$10,000 fine. The latter is punishable by two years in jail and/ or a \$10,000 fine.

The district attorney said he had planned to present it to the last grand jury, but didn't because of the grand jury's case load.

Roach said Allahverdi was initially charged with manslaughter on a complaint by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The case was apparently never presented to a grand jury.

"We've had to reconstruct that file," Roach said. "When we took office in January 2001, the file was hot here."

He said the case was apparently logged into the District Attorney's computer system at one time, but was no longer in the system.

Roach said the first he heard of the case was last fall when DPS officials called to ask about

the disposition of the case.

"That's when we started looking for the case," Roach said.

Gray County Sheriff's office nor the Gray County District Clerk's office have any record of Allahverdi being booked into jail here or bond being set.

Arkansas investigators are accusing Allahverdi, who was driving a load of cosmetics at the time of the accident near West Memphis, of rear-ending a truck carrying flammable fertilizer. The fertilizer truck then reportedly rear-ended the Toyota Camry of a Wisconsin family on their way to Texas. The Toyota, officers said, burst into flames killing Ruth Hawkins, 51; her daughter, Janese Hawkins, 20; Ruth Hawkins' son and grandson, Antoin Harvey, 24, and Antoin Harvey Jr., 2.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SURVEY

tion purposes only, she explained, the report also helps public school officials determine intervention methods.

"When we saw that kids were starting to use drugs and alcohol at an earlier age, we realized we needed to start providing information to them sooner," she said.

As a result, the Pampa school district started offering "Life Skills," a nationally recognized drug and alcohol abuse program, at younger students.

"We hope it will help," she

said. Also, Gershmel has been meeting with a cross section of students on a regular basis.

"We're hoping to come up with ideas, things to try over the next few years," she said. "We're getting good input — what's working and what isn't."

While many of the figures in last year's survey were not encouraging, Gershmel said one positive point emerged — 74 percent of the students surveyed said they had received drug and alcohol information, compared to the state average of 66 percent.

These are the significant findings from the 1,273 students surveyed in May 2001:

- 75% of PISD students reported that cigarettes are somewhat or very easy to get (68% statewide)

- 39% of Pampa students believe that tobacco use is "very dangerous" (47%)

- 75% reported that cigarettes are somewhat or very easy to get (68%)

- 12% reported their parents neither approve or disapprove of kids smoking (5%)

- 33% Pampa ISD students reported using a tobacco product in the past month (22%)

- 18% of 7th graders reported using a tobacco product in the past month (11%)

- PISD students collectively indicated significantly higher rates than students statewide with regard to: the number of close friends who drink alcohol, easy availability of alcohol, those who say they obtain alcohol from friends or at the store, past-month alcohol use, beer as the beverage of choice, the drinking of beer on a weekly or monthly basis, the binge-drinking of beer or wine coolers, driving while intoxicated at least once and four or more

times during the previous year, attending parties at which alcohol is routinely present, trouble with the police because of alcohol and trouble with friends because of alcohol.

- 43% of PISD students stated they had consumed alcohol during the past month (36%)

- 45% stated they drink beer weekly or monthly (33%)

- 46% reported "binge drinking" at least once during their lifetimes (36%)

- 31% said they usually drink five or more beers at a time on average when they

drink (17%)

- 27% said they had driven a car after having "a good bit to drink" at least once during the year (15%)

- Pampa ISD students collectively indicated significantly higher rates than did their peers statewide with regard to easy availability of "Ecstasy," past-month marijuana use, class attendance while stoned (chiefly grade 9), and driving a car while high (chiefly grade 11)

- 23% stated that Ecstasy was readily available to them (19%)

- 17% of PISD students reported past-month marijuana use (14%)

- 14% reported attending at least one class in the past year while "stoned" on marijuana (11% statewide) — including 20% of ninth graders (12%)

- 25% of PISD 11th graders reported driving while "stoned" (16%)

- 26% of PISD 9th graders reported inhalant experimentation (19%)

- 74% of PISD students reported they had gotten information about drugs and alcohol from a school source since classes began in the Fall 2000 (66%)

Lefors school board eyes ag science program

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

LEFORS — An Ag Science program is being considered by the Board of Trustees at Lefors Independent School District.

Superintendent Allen Law said several local residents have indicated they would like to have an Ag Science program added to the curriculum of the local school district.

"We are considering offering it to the students, but we want to carefully study it and look into it," said Law. "We want to look at it and research the costs and benefits to the district."

He said a survey will be taken and a decision will be made by February 2003. If approved, the program would be implemented in the 2003-2004 school year, he said.

"We have an active local 4-H group," he said. "We just want to see what will be best."

Also to be considered by the board, said Law, is the possibility of offering it to both junior high and high school students.

"We need to determine the interest of the students and families," he said.

Law said there are 172 students in the school system from kindergarten through 12th grade.

School board members decided to continue with a full-time computer technology staff member in-house. The district contracted with a person to provide the operations of the computer technology during the past school year.

Under financial reports, Law said the district has a \$700,000 fund balance, and that the current tax collections are going quite well. He said all current billings were approved.

Lefors students in junior high and high school who excelled in track, tennis, cross-country and the small school academic team were recognized at the board meeting.

A report was given to the board on a break-in at the school over the past weekend. Four offices were broken into and ransacked, said Law.

The door to the superintendent's office was kicked in and the office ransacked. In the elementary school, two windows were broken out and a small safe was stolen. He said an undetermined amount of money was taken.

Additionally, two offices in the high school were broken into and ransacked.

Law said the break-in is under investigation by the Gray County Sheriff's Office.

Miami camper owners asked to protest to Review Board

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

MIAMI — Travel trailer owners in Roberts County will be encouraged to go before that county's Appraisal District Review Board to protest the tax on the travel trailers.

Miami Independent School District (MISD) Superintendent Allan Dinsmore said the tax assessor will be instructed to include the travel trailer tax with the property tax statements to be sent to taxpayers in the fall.

Travel trailer owners wish-

ing to protest the tax will be encouraged to attend the Review Board meeting, said Dinsmore. He said the school district representatives will be at the meeting to support the taxpayers.

MISD Board of Trustees decided in their meeting Monday night they have no choice but to include the travel trailer tax because Texas voters passed a constitutional amendment in November 2001 to tax the trailers.

Cities and counties may waive collection of the tax, but schools do not have that option.

Dinsmore said the

appraisal district decides the value and collects the tax. He said the trustees decided to encourage the appraisal board to waive or not assess the tax.

"The school board does not want to collect this tax," said Dinsmore. "But contrary to what some political figures say, the board has no alternative. We are legally bound to do so because the constitutional amendment was passed."

Legislators and state officials have said they did not understand the amendment to tax the travel trailers when it was passed in the last legislature to put it before the voters.

Board members recognized Tyler Rankin as Reserve Grand Champion at the Houston Livestock Show. Also recognized was Kate Teirce as winner of the district single girls tennis title.

Kris and Kyler Roach, both freshman, were recognized as first place winners in the boys doubles competition in tennis at district.

In other business, the board took the following actions:

- Accepted the tax collector's report which showed 99.3 percent current taxes have been collected;

- Approved transfer of 10 students into MISD for the

2002-2003 school year. All are currently attending school in the district;

- Approved designation of the Miami "Chief" newspaper to the Media Honor Roll as sponsored by the Texas Association of School Boards;

- Approved a resolution to not hold a school trustee election as there are only two candidates for the two positions on the board;

- Discussed attending a board training meeting on May 15 for new and experienced board members to be held at West Texas A&M University.

- And approved the junior high cheerleading handbook and the purchase of playground equipment.

Water agreement may go down the drain

An agreement between the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and Mesa Water Inc. concerning Mesa's plan to pump water from Roberts County and sell it downstate may be in jeopardy.

Officials said today that last minute negotiations are continuing before the agreement is presented to the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board of directors in White Deer Thursday.

"It's going to be close," CRMWA General Manager Kent Satterwhite said today.

He said, however, that he thinks negotiations today and possibly Wednesday can iron out objections.

"I feel pretty confident it will be resolved by Thursday," Satterwhite said.

The CRMWA board is expected to go into executive sessions at their meeting Wednesday in Plainview to review the possible settlement of their contested case protest of applications by the Mesa group and related litigation.

The CRMWA board of

directors will meet at 10:30 a.m. — Wednesday, at Celebrations, 520 Ash Street, Plainview.

The board's executive committee was briefed after Mesa and CRMWA staff reached a tentative agreement in March.

CRMWA filed a protest last summer against the permit applications of a group of Roberts County land owners operating as Mesa Water Inc. A tentative settlement was reached last month in Dallas after several months of negotiations.

Under the agreement, CRMWA would withdraw its protest of the Mesa pumping applications and Mesa would drop its lawsuit against CRMWA that claims the water authority is taking property from the land owners without just compensation. Mesa could then proceed with its efforts to get permits to pump about 150,000 acre-feet of water annually from the land owners' properties annually for sale elsewhere in the state.

Mesa officials are expected

to appear before the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board of directors Thursday in White Deer to press for approval of their applications. The ground water district has to approve the permits before Mesa can pump and sell their water.

Sources close to the negotiations said this week that CRMWA has dropped its protest against two of the applications, but the protests remain against others under the Mesa umbrella.

"I think there is still the possibility of an agreement," Satterwhite said.

In other business, the CRMWA board is expected to authorize two additional delivery points for Slaton's water

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

POWER

wrestler, he bends bars of steel up to three inches thick.

Clark can smash a 2-foot wall of concrete with his forearm. He bench presses 450 pounds, stands 6-foot, two-inches tall and weighs 270 pounds.

The public is invited and a nursery is provided for children under 4 years old. A \$2 donation will be asked for at the door.

allotment. One will be at Post. Another will be at Wolfthor.

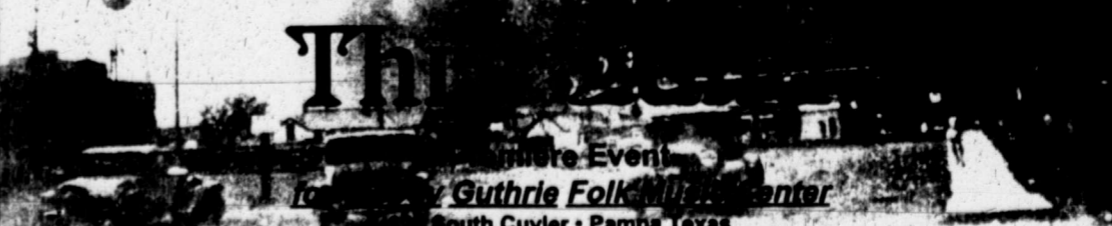
Satterwhite said the board is also expected to consider funding a brush control program and to consider revising the authority's personnel policy to allow for condensed work weeks.

April 10-14 at Calvary Baptist Church

ACT I (Area Community Theatre, & PAMPA'S TRIBUTE to WOODY PRESENT

A Reader's Theatre Production of the

Dust storms of the 1930'sMusic and Hymns of the Era with photos, sunrises & sunset



THREE PERFORMANCES ONLY
Friday & Saturday, April 12-13, 2002 - 7:30 p.m. • Sunday, April 14, 2002 - 2:30 p.m.
Also on Sunday: 2:00 p.m. Texas Historical Marker Dedication of the Harris Drug Store [Woody Guthrie Center]
Followed by Frank Stallings' BLACK SUNDAY book signing before, during intermission & after THIS LAND production

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\$8 Adults
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Reservations
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

READING

make it possible for the parents and children to enjoy the library as a family in the early

evening. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Shanla Brookshire at the library, 669-5780.

VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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

Publisher: L.W. McCall
Assoc. Publisher: Kate B. Dickson
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Managing Editor: Nancy Young
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods

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W.T. herd descends on D.C.

While I make it a habit to keep up with the news of my alma mater, West Texas A&M University, on the Internet, and through friends that are still on campus, there is nothing quite like getting news directly from the horse's mouth. Lucky for me, I had a chance in February to hear from the top herd of WT horses during their visit to Washington D.C. In fact, the head horse, President Russell Long, and his trusty sidekick, Mrs. Long, surprised me by greeting me in the lobby of their hotel when I was expecting to meet with two other WT ranch hands, Mr. Keith Brown, the Alumni Director, and Ms. Pat Cathcart, the WT Foundation Director. It was so nice listening to their stories of the new WT event center, the upcoming plans for a new fine arts building, and to hear all about the successes of our sports teams, and of course, there were a few horse whispers that I can't repeat.



J.B. HORTON
GUEST COLUMNIST

During their visit to the area, the D.C. area alumni hosted a reception for the WT delegation. I was chomping at the bit to see all of our fine WTAMU Deans who accompanied Dr. & Mrs. Long to Washington D.C. At the reception, Dean Guffey, Dean Park, Dean Cooley, Dean Hallmark, and Dean Clark were all in attendance along with Dr. Killbrew, the pro-horse (provost), and several other

prominent alumni, including the Chairman of the FDIC, Don Powell. The setting of the reception was in the United States House of Representative's Agriculture Committee room on Capitol Hill. It was quite a corral. The view from the Committee room overlooks the incredible dome of our nation's Capitol which made it even more of a magical night to share good memories and to discuss new dreams for the future.

The evening galloped by with many smiles, laughs, and greetings. Dr. Park was her usual charming self with such elegance. I think most current students, and certainly most former students, would join me in saying how wonderful her presence is on our campus. Hopefully she won't be taking her saddle off anytime soon.

It was a pleasure chewing the grass with the gentlemen Deans as well. They represent WT very well in every respect. I remember hearing over and over as a stu-

dent that we were fortunate to have such an outstanding representation of academic professionals in the Panhandle of Texas. I couldn't agree more.

Having been able to get to know these folks over the past several years, I can say without reservation, that these are some of the finest educators in the country. And that's not a lot of horse manure. We are very fortunate, indeed.

While it was nice seeing all of these folks, I think it is equally important for these thoroughbreds of WT to see how much WT alumni, even as far away as Washington D.C., care about their alma mater.

Over 50 alumni attended the reception. It was impressive, and the willingness of the alumni in the area to host the event should be a strong signal that WT graduates throughout the country are interesting in staying in touch with our university.

WT still remains a very special place to me, even after several years of being gone from the campus, and I know I am not the only one who feels that way.

I hope our WT folks hoof it back to D.C. soon! It sure was good to see some 'real' folks and enjoy some good 'ole Texas talk. There's nothing like tossing the hay with my great friends from West Texas A&M University. God bless.

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of The Pampa News.

TEXAS EDITORIALS

Nations – united – help rebuild Afghan education

The Facts (Brazoria County) on improving Afghani education:

About 1.5 million boys and girls across Afghanistan started a new school year on Saturday, and the day marked the return of girls to school for the first time in years.

Girls had been barred from public schools during five years of strict Taliban rule.

Afghanistan's interim prime minister, Hamid Karzai, attended one back-to-school ceremony, and he was moved to tears.

"This was the happiest day of my government," Karzai said later at a news conference.

Celebratory scenes were repeated across the country as Afghan children began the traditional school year on the first work day after the Persian New Year.

It was, indeed, an event worth celebrating. Still, the nations education system is in a sorry state.

Teachers are underpaid, earning the equivalent of \$28 a month, and they badly need more training. Schools are in ruins and are insufficient for the 4.4 million school-age children.

Girls in many cases are five years behind their male peers, and even boys lessons under the Taliban regime were restricted to Islamic themes.

That was no accident. A strong public education system is the cornerstone of democracy, and a weak education system is a tool of repression.

At one school Saturday, students sat on a mud floor balancing notebooks on their knees. A small window high in the wall let in a stream of light. A brick wall had been hurriedly repaired.

But the students were there, and they were eager to learn.

They spoke of hopes and dreams, of what they wanted to be when they grew up. They are Afghanistan's future, and it is the education system, after all, that will help them to reach their dreams, for themselves and for their battered country.

The United Nations and others have been working to rebuild Afghanistan's education system.

To launch the new school year, the United States sent millions of textbooks.

Japan covered 60 percent of the cost of opening schools, with Germany and Sweden also contributing.

Such support is essential if the world is to truly lift Afghanistan into the 21st century.

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Bait and switch on homelessness

Do headlines go up or down with Republican presidents? When the Yankees win the World Series, is that good or bad for the stock market? A lot of the correlations made by folks looking for headlines are silly, but one seems to be holding true: A rising GOP tide lifts all press stories about homelessness. The same sad people ignored by reporters during the Clinton years are now sought out for their views on heartless conservatives.

Yes, it's time once again for the poverty-fighting Bait and Switch. Attract caring people to liberal causes by preaching that they can change the lives of the homeless for the better by passing a multimillion or billion dollar (who's counting?) piece of legislation. Watch while nothing changes or – more often – money allocated for those who fail tempts more people to give up fighting and plop into the safety net. Then switch the proselyte to a position even further to the left: Lack of success means that the government must double its spending.

But reality has a way of biting. Half a millennium ago, church leaders in Lyons, France, decided that their parishioners did not have enough opportunity to save themselves years in purgatory by performing the good deeds of offering alms to the poor. So the Lyons bishop sent messages to his counterparts in other cities: Send us your beggars. And so it was: Homeless men from all of Europe came, begged, drank and died. They kept coming, until the bishop begged, "No more."

San Francisco is a Lyons of the pre-



MARVIN OLASKY
COLUMNIST

sent, offering its thousands of single, homeless residents \$320 to \$390 per month, plus food, shelter, clothes and medicine. That stipend, supplemented by panhandling, enables the homeless to stay in misery and – according to National Public Radio – helps to "preserve the city's reputation for compassion." So some propose to cut the monthly stipend (often used for drugs and alcohol) to \$50: NPR says that is a "punitive approach."

But what's compassion? San Francisco compassion, according to the Christian Science Monitor, means that "urinating in public is a cherished right." San Francisco compassion means that 183 homeless people died on the streets in the year 2000, the victims of drugs, alcohol and what President Bush accurately calls the soft bigotry of low expectations. The Monitor portrayed one San Franciscan "looking at a panhandler wrapped in a tattered and filthy blanket" and saying, "This guy here, you can't get him to follow somebody else's rules." So, rather than trying, give him \$320 to \$390 each month and watch him die.

NPR says the problem of homelessness is complicated, and it is – but part of it comes down to this question: Should

homeless individuals have to follow somebody else's rules? Just about all of us have to do exactly that. "It's not tough to be homeless in San Francisco," the San Diego Union quoted one of the Bay Area's homeless men as saying. It's tough for those with little willpower to leave homelessness, because city support plus panhandling allows them not to follow somebody else's rules.

Today's homelessness debate is not about caring. The liberal position is a classic bait-and-switch. The bait is, "Don't be mean-spirited," and those thus hooked are eventually switched to a perverse definition of liberty. When Patrick Henry said, "Give me liberty or give me death," he was not talking about the liberty to urinate in public or sit around without using any of his God-given talents. He was not talking about the social equivalent of ignoring the law of gravity. But San Francisco compassion today demands that anyone can choose any lifestyle he chooses, no matter how destructive, and have taxpayers pay for it.

We should say no to such a reality-denying manipulation of sentiment. Homeless individuals who want to change their lives and begin acting responsibly deserve support. Those who are psychotic and unable to change their lives deserve help. Those who disable themselves need not a road to further destruction paved with a few dollars, but true compassion, which means seeing them as created in God's image and helping them to restore that shine, no matter how many layers of caked-over dirt are in the way.

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, April 9, the 99th day of 2002. There are 266 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 9, 1942,

American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious "Bataan Death March" which claimed nearly 10,000 lives.

On this date:

In 1682, French explorer Robert La Salle reached the Mississippi River.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after she was denied the use of Constitution Hall, by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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Lori Fult Gordon for their c Western.



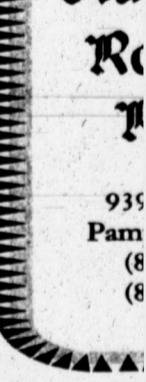
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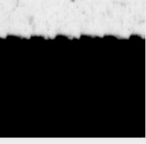
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Business Review

'Designing women' at Pampa's Avenues

It's the only interior design business in Pampa, and the latest in design is available at the local store.

Avenues at 119 S. Western is the place to go for all your needs. It offers a complete selection of interior design materials and services.

DeLynn Gordzelik and her mother, Pam Ashford, began the local business by custom-making draperies and bedding in their work room. A few years later, Lori Fulton-

Groenwald joined them in the business as a licensed designer, #3907. She has been licensed for about 13 years.

Lori and DeLynn will go anywhere to assist their customers. They have designed the interior of homes all over the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles — including Stratford, Amarillo, Canadian, Miami, Panhandle and Guyton, Okla.

While reds, golds, purples and greens are very popular, it is the customer's preference that is important, said DeLynn.

Blues and yellows are fashionable, but she said neutral colors are always popular.

"It just depends on the colors the client wants," said DeLynn. "Some people like bold colors and others prefer the most subdued and neutral colors."

She also said animal prints remain in vogue. Texture and colors of the fabrics has changed somewhat, she said. "The animal prints are available in an even broader range," said DeLynn.

Animal prints currently in fashion include leopard, mink, fox and zebra.

Whether it be the popular animal skins, fabrics with an oriental flair, the vintage look, or even the lodge design, DeLynn and Lori will uniquely design your home. The vintage look, or shabby chic, is quite transitional.



Custom-made drapes flank a table attractively decorated by Avenues' staff. The latest in lighting design and other accessories are also available.

Lori, Pam and DeLynn are constantly updating their skills by attending seminars and workshops in design. The women keep abreast of the latest changes in styles and/or trends in fashion.

The young women will help redecorate an entire home or only one room.

Avenues has a wide selection of wallpaper books for customers to browse through to make their selections. Four lines of wallpaper are carried. Approximately 20 lines of fabrics and trims are available at Avenues for customers to make a selection. An attractive selection of accessories is maintained in stock at Avenues for their customers.

Also available at Avenues are custom-made blinds as well as anything made of fabric.

A wide selection of upholstery fabrics is available to the customers. Staff will make cushions to the customer specifications.

Lori and DeLynn go to their customers' homes to assist with the arrangement. "We'll even help pick paint colors to match the draperies and wallpaper," said Lori.

The women say they will assist in the selection of furniture or anything for the home.

Shopping for the customers is another feature offered by the young women. If a cus-

tomers prefers, Lori and DeLynn will obtain the customer preferences and do the shopping for them.

Providing high quality work is important to them. They will be pleased to discuss with customers any interior design job—large or small.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Lori or DeLynn at 665-0983.

Avenues is located at 119 S. Western and has an attractive selection of accessories in stock for their customers.



Lori Fulton-Groenwald and DeLynn Gordzelik provide the latest in design for their customers at Avenues, 119 S. Western.



Fresh flowers provide an added feature to a beautifully designed nook for Avenues' customers.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 9

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Good Grammar Is Sweet Music To Any Language-Lover's Ears

DEAR ABBY: I wish you would run your collection of "pet peeves" again. Seventy years ago I learned to conjugate verbs, and I am amazed at the number of people who use "got" when they should say "have." Thank you.

MR. J.W. ANDERSON,
LEVITTOWN, PA.

P.S. Remember, Abby, "Got has got to go!"

DEAR MR. ANDERSON: It has been nearly 10 years since these rules of basic grammar appeared in my column — and we can all use this refresher course. Read on:

DEAR READERS: A while back, I wrote a column on the misuse of words and other irritants and named a few. I then asked readers to send their pet peeves concerning common mistakes in grammar and pronunciation. How's this for a collection?

The "lie" and "lay" confusion: To "lay" means to set or put; to "lie" means to recline. Remember, chickens lay eggs. People lie down.

The use of "all are not" when the person means "not all are." Example: Saying, "All women are beautiful," when one means, "Not all women are beautiful."

We frequently hear "between you and I." Wrong! It's "between you and me." Another irritant is "try and" instead of "try to." For example, one may try to win — then lose.

But how can one try and win — and then lose?

One hears supposedly educated people say "between she and I" instead of the correct "between her and me."

And how about the word "irregardless"? Just plain "regardless" will do, but regardless of how "irregardless" grates on one's nerves, it has nosed its way into the dictionary. (It means "regardless.")

Talk about overusing a word, I nominate "basically." People who start every other sentence with the word "basically" usually have limited vocabularies.

My pet peeve — double negatives: "I don't know nothing" and "We don't go nowhere" are the worst offenders.

Some people think the plural of "you" is "youse." It's not. "You" is both singular and plural.

The word "forte" (meaning strong point) is pronounced "fort" — not for-tay.

Also, people use the word "snuck" instead of "sneaked." Although "snuck" somehow sneaked into the dictionary, it's not used by people who use proper English.

Ask someone to define "hoi polloi," and it's a good bet that he will say "high-tone or upper class." Actually, it means "the masses" — or the general population.

"Nuclear" is pronounced "nuke-lee-er," not "nuke-you-ler!"

And how about "he's got," "she's got" and "they've got"? The better

word is "has." ("He has," "she has," etc.) "Got" has got to go!

The month of February has two "R's" in it, but we keep hearing "Feb-yoo-ary."

We frequently hear that a man has "prostrate" trouble, when actually he has "pros-tate" trouble.

Another error — using the word "myself" instead of "me." Example: "If you have any questions, see Bobby or myself after the meeting." "See Bobby or me" is correct.

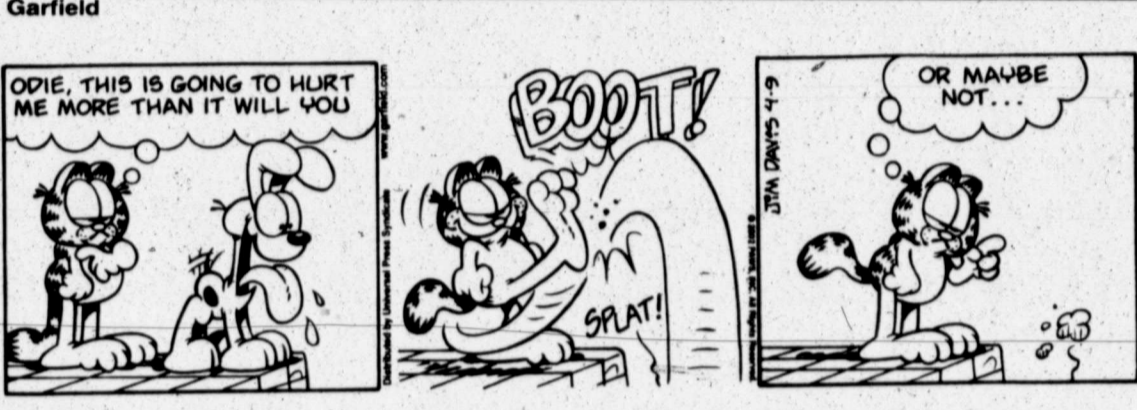
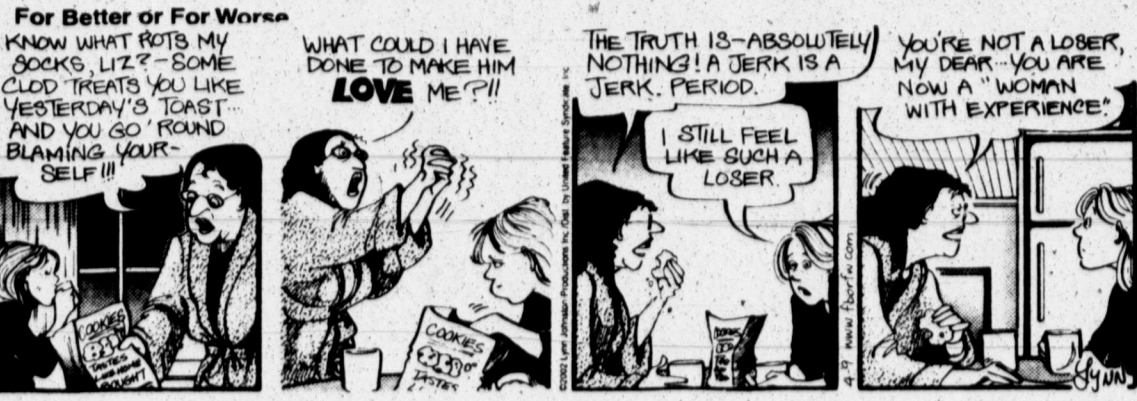
The "infer" and "imply" mix-up: The writer "implies"; the reader "infers." (It's like pitching and catching.)

Please do not say "o" instead of "zero." Or use the word "that" when "who" is correct. ("That" refers to inanimate objects, "who" to people.)

Now, lend me your ear: Don't use "loan" as a verb, as in, "Loan me a 20." It should be, "Lend me a 20." "Loan" is a noun; "lend" is a verb.

Finally, the misuse of the word "ask." Some say "ax" instead of "ask." I would much rather be "asked" than "axed." Wouldn't you?

Pauline Phillips and her daughter Jeanne Phillips share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69446, Los Angeles, CA 90066.



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- Cooking amount
 - Trebek of "Jeopardy!"
 - Shredded
 - Cohort of away
 - Fidel
 - Carpentry need
 - Web surfer?
 - Train unit actor
 - Mob problem tool
 - Paquin of "The Piano"
 - Mexican coin
 - Thanks-giving veggie
 - Son of Isis
 - In the raw
 - Like Abner
 - Top card
 - Wager
 - Whirled
- DOWN
- Mexican area
 - Medical box
 - Ram's mate
 - Polite address
 - Saffron-flavored
 - Buffalo's lake
 - Nick's dog
 - Whopper
 - Flowers
 - Whirled soldier

Yesterday's answer

CARD	BUSS
TOPIER	ENACT
ARENA	GOMER
COMETS	ONE
KNEW	KARATE
SIAN	PITONS
G	JOE
DIALUP	LAY
TANDEM	BIDE
RIM	PLAZAS
USAKA	USAGE
TIETON	TIRES
SENT	ENDS



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SPORTS

Late signups continue for Optimist programs

PAMPA — Late registration continues for Optimist Baseball-Softball 2000 with 721 players already registered on 57 teams, according to Kevin Davis and Sheri Tice, Optimist Baseball-Softball Coordinators.

The Babe Ruth League for boys 13 to 15 years old will have six teams, reported Larry Craig, who is assisting with organization of the league.

"Our teams will be Bank of America, Cree Oil Inc., Fototime, Holmes Gift Shoppe & Sports Center, Lions Club and Triangle Well Servicing Co.," Craig said.

There are currently 76 players registered in the league.

The Cal Ripken 11-12 League has had 86 boys sign up for seven teams. The teams will be Bill Allison Auto Sales, Cabot Corporation, Celanese Corporation, Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Glo-Valve Service, Pampa Cybernet and Rotary Club.

Eight teams with a total of 101 players will compete in the 9-10 Cal Ripken 9-10 League. Those teams are Celanese Corporation, D.E. Chase Inc., Dean's Pharmacy, FirstBank Southwest, The Hanover Company, Kiwanis Club, Moose Lodge and The Operating Company.

The 7-8 Pitching Machine

League and the T-Ball League will have nine and 10 teams, respectively. There are 114 registered in the Pitching Machine League and 117 in T-Ball. "We do not have all the team sponsors yet," Davis said.

A record 227 girls have signed up for Little League Softball.

"We have a waiting list for 13-15 Senior Little League Softball," said Tice. "Our teams in that league have the maximum number permitted by Little League. We would like to organize another team for the girls who are waiting, but we need a coach. We were able to get a volunteer to coach in our 7-9 Little League Softball program, so the girls on the waiting list will be able to play."

Team in 10-12 Girls Little League Softball have increased from five last year to eight this year. "We have 97 girls in this league," Tice added. "We now have five teams with 74 players in 7-9 Girls Little League Softball. Trying to schedule 16 teams to play in one park is impossible. We are looking forward to having T-ball use their new park so that both the 7-8 Pitching Machine League and our 7-9 Little League Softball can use the current T-ball park."

Practice starts this week with league games beginning the week of April 22.

Perks receives special invitation to Masters

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Craig Perks knew exactly what was in the envelope when the special delivery arrived at his house late last month. Even so, this was one to savor.

After tearing open the perforated seal, Perks pulled out a cream-colored piece of stationery. Printed on it was one of the most treasured messages in golf.

"The Board of Governors at the Augusta National Golf Club cordially invites you to participate in the 2002 Masters Tournament," he was informed.

Perks was officially the last man invited to the play in the Masters, a late addition that came courtesy of his unexpected victory three weeks ago at The Players Championship.

With three sensational shots to close out the tournament, Perks took home a check for \$1.08 million that day at the TPC at Sawgrass course.

But really, the piece of paper that arrived at his home in Lafayette, La., was every bit as valuable to him.

"My wife and I sat down and opened that one together," Perks said. "It was pretty special."

This is the first trip to Augusta National for the 35-year-old New Zealander. Perks, a college All-American who didn't make it to the PGA Tour until he was 33, estimates he's had five offers to play the hallowed course on non-tournament weeks.

"But I've politely declined," he said. "I wanted to earn my way here."

Now that he has, he looks at the course from a very different perspective than most of the other 88 entrants.

After all, this is a year of great change at Augusta National. Nine holes have been lengthened, a total of 285 yards have been added to the course, and the differences have been the main topic of conversation in the buildup.

"It's going to be a new course

for everybody, in a way," Sergio Garcia said.

Perks, meanwhile, is coming in with a blank slate, no preconceived ideas. His only view of the course has come from his couch in front of the television set, which is where he expected to be again this year for golf's first major.

"I don't know what to expect, and I think that could be somewhat of an advantage," Perks said. "But the big disadvantage is that you need so much experience on the greens, and I don't have any."

Ah, the greens. Change the course as they might, it's hard to imagine that the very fast, deeply contoured putting surfaces — and how the best in the game handle them — won't be the deciding factor when Sunday rolls around.

Perks played nine holes with Raymond Floyd on Monday, and spent as much time as he could quizzing the 1976 champion on pin placements, speed and break.

Just how tough could these greens be?

"We were calling them blues," Chris DiMarco said after his practice round Monday, referring to the hue a super slick putting surface can take on. "It was like, 'How many blues did you hit today?'"

Perks said the greens at Augusta on Monday were as fast as the greens were the Sunday of the final round of The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. That day, several players said those greens were as brutal as they had ever been on the ultra-challenging Stadium Course.

But Perks persevered in a finish so great, it has already been made into a promotional commercial for the PGA Tour.

He chipped in for eagle on No. 16, snaked a 28-foot putt into the hole on No. 17, the island hole, and saved the tournament with a chip-in for par on No. 18.

Knight coming to Pampa

PAMPA — Texas Tech basketball coach Bobby Knight is coming to Pampa for a fund-raising dinner next month.

Knight will be the guest speaker during a program June 6 at the Pampa Country Club. The purpose of the fund-raiser is to promote support for student-athletes and to acquire membership in the Red Raider Club.

The dinner begins at 6:30 that night and Knight is scheduled to speak at 7:30. Joining Knight will be Texas Tech Athletic Director Gerald Myers and former Texas Tech

All-American E.J. Holup, and Red Raider Club Directors.

Dress is casual. Cost is \$100 per person, which will be a donation to the Red Raider Club.

The donation covers the dinner and an automatic membership in the Red Raider Club.

Checks and reservations must be in by June 1. Donations should be made to: Texas Tech Red Raider Club in care of Elmer Wilson, 2801 Duncan, Pampa, Tex. 79065.

For more information, call 806-669-2487.

NOTEBOOK

GOLF

PAMPA — The BSA Hospice Golf Scramble will be held Saturday, May 4 at Hidden Hills public golf course.

Four-player teams will tee off at 8 a.m. and sign-in begins at 7 a.m. Teams will be flighted according to handicap by the Hidden Hills Golf Pro.

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places in each flight.

For more information on the scramble, contact David Teichmann at (806) 669-5866.

PAMPA — Hidden Hills Seniors held a 4-man scramble last weekend.

Results are as follows:

1. Travis Johnston, Bob Young, Butch Shepherd and Callans George, 62.
 2. Jerry Davis, John Howell, Dale Hawkins and Jess Mathis, 63.
 3. Larry Schneider, Bill Harwood, Howard Wells and Gene Winegeart, 64.
 4. Fred Courtney, Pat Montoya, Bob Brandon and Ken Reeves, 64.
- Closest to the hole: Buddy Epperson, No. 4.

TRACK

AMARILLO — Pampa hurdler Teryn Stowers won the triple jump at last week's Amarillo Girls Relays.

AMARILLO GIRLS RELAYS

Division I (Class 54-4A)
Team Totals: 1. Hereford 145; 2. Amarillo High 119; 3. Palo Duro 98; 4. Canyon 62; 5. Tascosa 57; 6. Pampa 42; 7. Borger 37; 8. (tie) Dumas and Randall 27; 10. Caprock 6.

Pampa Results

Girls Division
110 hurdles: 4. Kendall Stokes, 16.78.
Long jump: 3. Teryn Stowers, 37-5.25.
Triple jump: 1. Teryn Stowers, 37-5.25; 6. Abbi Cavalier, 34-1.5.
Discus: 6. Angela Phillips, 113-1.
Shot put: 2. Angela Phillips, 38-6.5; 3. Skye Niccum, 36-1.

NORTH PLAINS RELAYS

At Dumas

Boys Division
Team Totals: 1. Dumas 122; 2. Tascosa 86; 3. Sanford-Fritch 83; 4. Canyon 64; 5. Dalhart 58; 6. Borger 56; 7. Pampa 40; 8. Palo Duro 22.
Long jump: 2. Ryan Nash, 20-5.5.
Triple jump: 3. Ryan Nash, 37-11.
400 relay: 4. Pampa, 44.63.
110 hurdles: 3. Tanner Dyer, 15.44.
400: 3. Matt Crow, 23.42.
200: 3. Matt Crow, 23.42.

AUTO RACING

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Maybe practice is overrated.

Matt Kenseth won the Samsung/Radio Shack 500 despite running only five laps in practice at Texas Motor Speedway.

Kenseth held the lead with a late-race, two-tire stop and driving to an easy victory in his No. 17 Roush Racing Ford.

It was the second win of the season and the third of his career for the former NASCAR Winston Cup rookie of the year.

Jeff Gordon was able to hold off Mark Martin for second — 0.888 seconds, or about eight car-lengths, behind Kenseth.

The winner averaged 142.455 mph in the race slowed by 41 laps of caution.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Walker Racing cut ties with Sarah Fisher, the third woman to race in the Indianapolis 500 and one of the rising stars in the Indy Racing League.

At 19, Fisher became the youngest person to compete in the IRL when she raced in the 1999 season finale at Texas Motor Speedway for Team Pelfrey.

She joined Walker Racing the next season and earned almost \$1.04 million in her next 21 IRL starts.



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Matt Robben is safe at third in the last inning as the Pampa Junior Varsity rallied to tie the score at 2-0 against Borger JV.

Darkness ends junior varsity game between Pampa and Borger teams

PAMPA — Pampa and Borger battled to 2-2 tie in junior varsity baseball action last weekend. The game was called on account of darkness.

Eddie Palma started on the mound and did an outstanding job, striking out seven, walking three and giving up five hits in seven innings.

Palma was never in trouble and the only inning Borger had more than one runner on base was in the sixth when their two runs scored on a home run by Curtis Green. Tyler Doughty pitched the eighth to finish the game.

Nick Story had two of Pampa's six hits. Matt Robben, Ryan Barnes, Doughty and Palma had one hit each.


Pampa scored its two runs in the seventh. Robben walked, Barnes and Story

had base hits, Doughty and Martin drew walks.

"We had plenty of opportunities to score. We just couldn't get the job done today. We had 15 strikeouts, which is terrible. I was very disappointed with our effort at the plate. Out of 15 strikeouts, 10 were looking at the third strike. We haven't done that all year," said Pampa coach Troy Owens. "We left runners on second or third in four innings. In that type of situation, someone has to clutch up and find a way to get them in."

Owens said an outstanding job was done by the defense, which didn't commit an error.

Pampa JV's record is now 8-4-1 for the season.



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(Courtesy photo)

Pampa gymnasts (from left) Ashley Wheeler, Kimberly Curtis and Aleah Noble competed against 250 other gymnasts from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas.

Gymnastics of Pampa members place at Dream Catcher Classic

OKLAHOMA CITY — Gymnastics of Pampa Level 4 team members Kimberly Curtis, Aleah Noble and Ashley Wheeler recently participated in the first Dream Catcher Classic held in Oklahoma City.

The Pampa gymnastics competed against 250 other athletes from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas.

Kimberly Curtis led the Level 4's. She had solid performances to place 17th on vault, 19th on floor exercise, 20th on beam, 23rd on bars, and 19th in the 10-11 year-old

All Around. Aleah Noble, who also competed in the 10-11 year old age group, was attending only her second competition.

She also had good performances to place 15th on bars, 22nd on beam, 24th on floor exercise, 25th on vault, and 21st in the All-Around.

Also competing in the 10-11 year-old Level 4's, Ashley Wheeler's solid performances earned her 16th place on bars, 18th on floor exercise, 22nd on vault, 28th on beam, and 24th in the All-Around.

Hasegawa earns first Mariners' win

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Anaheim Angels decided not to keep him, so Shigetoshi Hasegawa moved on — to the powerhouse team that had baseball's best record last season.

Hasegawa was back in town with his new Seattle teammates Monday night and earned his first Mariners win in a 5-4 victory over the Angels.

"They didn't need me, so I found a new, good team," said the reliever who signed an incentive-laden, \$4.5 million one-year deal with the Mariners in January.

Hasegawa (1-0) pitched 1 2-3 hitless innings against his former team, although his bases-loaded balk in the seventh forced in Anaheim's fourth run.

"Now they're enemies and I've got to pitch against them," he said. "I really don't try to think about that, and it's a different team now with a different uniform — a red uniform."

In other AL games, it was the New York Yankees 16, Toronto 3 and Cleveland 9, Minnesota 5.

The Chicago White Sox's game at Detroit was rained out. No makeup date was announced.

A 33-year-old right-hander, Hasegawa was 30-27 with a 3.85 ERA during five seasons with the Angels after spending six years with the Orix Blue Wave in Japan. Cheerful and outgoing, he became one of the Angels' most popular players.

"Shiggy's a fine pitcher and did a good job for them tonight," Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia said. "Nobody has more respect for him than the guys in this clubhouse."

"Over the winter, we needed starting pitching, so we signed Aaron Sele (who had been with the Mariners) and Hasegawa got a great offer from Seattle. He didn't fit in here financially."

Hasegawa was part of what Seattle manager Lou Piniella called the Japanese "one-two and one-half" punch for the Mariners in the victory over the Angels.

Hasegawa got the win; Kazuhiro Sasaki pitched a perfect ninth for his second save, and Ichiro Suzuki singled during a three-run eighth as Seattle rallied from a 4-2 deficit.

Piniella assigned Suzuki the "half" for his role in the win.

Bret Boone hit a two-run homer, and John Olerud added a solo shot to power the Mariners, who scored all their runs off relievers after Jarrod Washburn shut them out in his 5 1-3 innings and left with a 3-0 lead.

Ben Weber (1-1) gave up three runs and three hits in two-thirds of an inning as the Mariners went ahead 5-4 in the eighth.

Olerud led off the inning with a homer off Weber, his second of the season. Ruben Sierra doubled and scored on Carlos Guillen's single to pull Seattle even at 4. Guillen went to second on Dan Wilson's sacrifice bunt, moved to third on Suzuki's single, then scored the tiebreaking run on Jeff Cirillo's sacrifice fly.

Seattle starter Paul Abbott gave up four runs on seven hits in 6 1-3 innings. He walked three and struck out four.

Hasegawa, who replaced Abbott with two runners on, intentionally walked Garret Anderson with two outs, then was called for a balk that brought home the Angels' final run.

Boone hit a two-out, two-run shot off Donne

Wall in the seventh for his second homer. Piniella said the Mariners won despite making mistakes. Edgar Martinez short-circuited a scoring threat in the second when he doubled to lead off the inning, then was thrown out trying to steal third.

The 39-year-old Martinez stole four bases last season, and Piniella, asked if he called for the steal, looked offended and replied, "If I did, I'd be managing in Albuquerque."

Robbin Ventura had six RBIs and Alfonso Soriano had a career-high five hits as New York won its sixth straight since an opening-day loss.

Soriano and Ventura both hit three-run homers and rookie Nick Johnson added a two-run shot for the visiting Yankees, who had 22 hits, including nine in an eight-run sixth. David Wells (2-0) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings against the team the Yankees traded him to three years ago.

Every Yankees starter had at least one hit. Jason Giambi, who entered 3-for-21, went 2-for-3 with an RBI to raise his average to .208.

Luke Prokopec (0-1) was pounded for seven runs and eight hits in just two innings for the Blue Jays, who have lost four straight.

Travis Fryman hit a grand slam, and Ellis Burks and Matt Lawton homered as Cleveland won its home opener.

Fryman hit his sixth career slam in the third off Eric Milton (1-1), and Lawton connected against his former teammates in the fourth. Milton, who didn't give up more than seven runs in any of his 34 starts last season, was tagged for nine runs — equaling a career high — and eight hits in four innings.

Rookie Ryan Drese (2-0), who made his season debut last week on 2 1/2 hours notice, allowed four runs, eight hits and five walks in five innings as the Indians won their fifth straight overall.

Lady Harvesters take second in district golf

CANYON — Pampa's Lady Harvesters shot a 412 Monday in the final round of the District 3-4A Tournament to take second place behind Hereford in the standings. Hereford shot a 375.

Meagan Shannon led the Lady Harvesters with a 100, followed by Krissy Holman 103, Cortney Locknane 104, Mollie Crossman 105, and Michelle Haley 109.

The top two teams in district advance to regionals April 22-23.

DUMAS — Pampa's Lady Harvesters shot a 369 to take second last weekend in the fourth round of the District 3-4A golf tournament at Pheasant Trails.

Leading Pampa golfer was Cortney Locknane with a 94.

Hereford won the fourth round by 19 strokes. The Lady Whitefaces are the overall leader by 114 strokes over second-place Pampa. In third place is Canyon at 1,542.

Heather Stokes of Hereford is the medalist leader with a 322 after four rounds.

Pampa scores: Cortney Locknane 94-377; Krissy Holman 97-372; Mollie Crossman 99-413; Megan Shannon 99-373; Michelle Haley 106-395.

SCOREBOARD

BOWLING					BASKETBALL				
Harvester Lanes					National Basketball Association				
League Individual Results					All-Time Glance				
Chamber Merchants League (Week 28) Week's Top Scores Men High scratch game: Blaine Bolton 229; High handicap series: Mike Podraza 550; High handicap game: Blaine Bolton 238; High handicap series: Mark Clark 626 Women High scratch game: Becky Hall 223; High handicap series: Becky Hall 501; High handicap game: Becky Hall 261; High handicap series: Phonda Sierman 665					By The Associated Press All Times EDT Eastern Division				
Senior League (Week 10) Week's Top Scores Men High scratch game: Andy Anderson 234; High handicap series: Andy Anderson 660; High handicap game: Jerry Laughlin 274; High handicap series: Kurt Lowry 670 Women High scratch game: Nell Laughlin 224; High handicap series: Nell Laughlin 504; High handicap game: Nell Laughlin 259; High handicap series: Sandy Johnson 622					By The Associated Press All Times EDT West Division				
BASEBALL					By The Associated Press All Times EDT Atlantic Division				
National League All-Time Glance					By The Associated Press All Times EDT Central Division				
East Division					West Division				
Monday's Games					Monday's Games				
Tuesday's Games					Tuesday's Games				
Wednesday's Games					Wednesday's Games				
Thursday's Games					Thursday's Games				
Friday's Games					Friday's Games				
Saturday's Games					Saturday's Games				
Sunday's Games					Sunday's Games				
Transactions					Transactions				
Baseball Transactions					Baseball Transactions				
Basketball Transactions					Basketball Transactions				
Football Transactions					Football Transactions				
Hockey Transactions					Hockey Transactions				

Spring Canyon to open for Small Fry Tournament

FRITCH — The National Park Services is pleased to announce that Spring Canyon, also known as the Stilling Basin, will be open on April 13 for the annual Small Fry Fishing Tournament. Park staff has been working in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to open the area for this annual event.

In September of last year, Spring Canyon was closed to public access as part of the homeland security directives issued by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The National Park Service has implemented this directive and closed the area since that time.

Chief Ranger Bill Briggs is working with the staffs of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority to open the area on a limited basis in the near future.

Superintendent Karren Brown stated: "The general public may use the Stilling Basin between 1 p.m. and sundown (7:17 p.m.) on April 23. After that time, the area will be closed again in compliance of Bureau of Reclamation directives for homeland security. This gives people an opportunity for a great afternoon of fishing."

For more information, contact park headquarters at 806-857-3151.

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For more information, contact park headquarters at 806-857-3151.

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Israeli troop positions alter

JENIN, West Bank (AP) — Under heavy U.S. pressure, Israel withdrew Tuesday from two Palestinian towns, but soldiers took over other areas of the West Bank and fought dozens of beleaguered gunmen in a refugee camp.

An Arab satellite television channel, quoting Palestinian sources, said 10 Israeli soldiers were killed and eight others wounded Tuesday in an attack in the West Bank. The channel, Al-Jazeera, is based in Qatar and monitored in Cairo.

Israel had no statement on the incident, which would be the single deadliest attack involving Israeli soldiers in the past 18 months of fighting.

At least 124 Palestinians and 11 Israeli soldiers have been killed since March 29, according to Palestinian medics and the Israeli army. The toll was expected to rise amid reports of dead Palestinians still not evacuated from areas of battle.

The heaviest fighting raged in the Jenin refugee camp, where Israel Radio said soldiers came under attack with dozens of bombs, some containing as much as 220 pounds of explosives. Palestinian witnesses said fighters in the camp set off bombs in one building as a group of soldiers entered it during a search Tuesday.

In Bethlehem, Israel's siege of the Church of the Nativity, where more than 200 armed Palestinians are holed up, entered its second week, with no sign of a resolution. Israeli tanks ringed the church Tuesday, including one parked on Manger Square, and dozens of troops manned rooftop lookouts.

However, Israel agreed to briefly ease the confinement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and permit him to meet with four senior advisers ahead of a cease-fire mission by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is due to arrive Friday.

In a speech to parliament Monday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon branded Arafat the head of a "regime of terror" Israel would have to dismantle, and suggested he would no longer do business with Arafat and other members of his

Palestinian Authority. Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met Tuesday with U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni, in preparation for Powell's arrival, and Palestinian officials said they expected to hold talks with Zinni in the coming day.

Just hours after President Bush issued a stern call for a withdrawal, Israeli forces pulled out of the West Bank towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem early Tuesday, but troops remained in the towns of Nablus, Bethlehem, Jenin and Ramallah. Sharon has said the offensive would continue until Palestinian militias — responsible for a string of shooting and bombing attacks on Israelis — were crushed.

In the Jenin refugee camp, dozens of Palestinian gunmen remained holed up in a small area in the eastern part of the camp. Camp resident Jamal Abdel Salam said he was told by the armed men that they would keep fighting. "They said they prefer death to surrender. They asked me to look after their families," Abdel Salam, an activist in the Islamic militant Hamas group, said in a telephone interview.

Israeli commanders in the area have said several Palestinian gunmen with explosives strapped to their bodies have blown themselves up in suicide attacks. So far, nine Israeli soldiers have been killed in more than a week of fighting in the camp, and estimates by both sides said more than 100 Palestinians have died. An exact count was not possible because Israel barred reporters and medics from the camp.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said dozens of bodies were piled in the streets of the camp and residents were prevented from getting food and water. In a complaint to Ben-Eliezer, the Israeli organization said the military has committed serious human rights violations in the camp, including the demolition of homes with residents still inside. "Those who left their houses to try to get supplies were shot at by the army," the organization wrote.

Venezuelan oil dispute heats up, affects exports

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The government bombarded workers with calls that they show up at their jobs Tuesday, trying to avert a crisis for President Hugo Chavez as workers in the vital oil industry and sympathetic labor and business groups staged a strike.

Traffic in Caracas, the capital, was light but picking up early Tuesday morning, as private buses, taxi lines and the subway operated normally. Some bakeries and diners opened for businesses to a lighter-than-usual flow of pedestrians headed to work.

Venezuela's largest labor and business confederations called Tuesday's strike in sympathy with protesting executives at the oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, or PDVSA. The confederations said they might extend the walkout indefinitely to deal a blow to the leftist government, which has labeled the oil executives "saboteurs" and "terrorists."

Fedepetrol, the nation's largest blue-collar oil union, said it was joining the general strike — a move that could virtually paralyze Venezuela's lifeblood oil industry, which provides 80 percent of export revenue and half of government income. Venezuela is the No. 3 oil supplier to the United States.

Chavez's government aggressively fought the strike, forcing TV and radio stations to broadcast anti-strike messages every fifteen minutes Monday and Tuesday. The government said operations at

PDVSA were normal.

"Throughout the day people are going to notice that the strike was a complete failure. People are going to work like any normal day," said Vice President Diosdado Cabello in one such message aired Tuesday.

Labor Minister Maria Cristina Iglesias warned that public workers who joined the stoppage could be fired. "It's a strike we can call subversive," she said.

A five-week labor slowdown by PDVSA managers had already disrupted exports to the United States and other markets, refinery and shipping officials said on condition of anonymity. Some 20 tankers sat idle outside Venezuelan ports.

PDVSA's Paraguaná complex, one of the world's largest refineries, operated at 50 percent capacity on Monday, refinery workers said. El Palito refinery in central Venezuela was closed, and Puerto la Cruz in the east was running below capacity.

Hoping to avoid a repeat of a Dec. 10 general strike that paralyzed Venezuelan commerce, Iglesias insisted that Chavez's 3-year-old government is doing its best to pay \$21 billion in back wages and pensions it inherited from past governments.

The government has sacked 11 PDVSA executives and forced another 12 into early retirement since white-collar workers began protesting Chavez's Feb. 25 appointment of a new company board.

Centennial stamp cancellation in offing

DARLENE BIRKES
FOR THE NEWS

A mobile unit located at White Deer Land Museum, 116 S. Cuyler, will process the Gray County Centennial stamp cancellations from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday, April 12.

The mobile unit is stationed at the museum because of the construction at the Pampa Post Office. The stamp cancellation will feature the Texas Panhandle with the Gray County loca-



be available for 25 cents, and they feature the logo for the 100th anniversary of Gray County, a star with longhorn, oil derrick and wheat symbolizing the ag and petroleum industries.

The cachet envelope plus stamp cancellation can be ordered by mail by enclosing \$1 made out to the Gray County Historical Commission and mailing to the White Deer Land Museum, P.O. Box 1556, Pampa, TX 79066.

Including a self-addressed #10 envelope, 4 x 9 1/2-inches, will aid in the processing. Cachet envelopes with canceled stamps will also be available at the White Deer Land Museum from 9 a.m.-12 noon, Wednesday, April 10, when mail orders are being processed.

The stamp cancellation is part of a weekend of celebration for Gray County in commemoration of April 14, 1902, when 152 qualified voters in the unorganized county filed for petition to hold an election for organizing the county.

Saturday, April 13, Altrusa International, Inc., will hold a style show at 10 a.m., at M.K. Brown Heritage Room, using a centennial theme. Tickets will be available at the door and proceeds benefit the many service projects of the Pampa club.

Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m., will be the Texas Historical Marker dedication at the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center, 320 S. Cuyler.

This will be followed by a reception honoring Frank Starlings, author of "Black Sunday." The ACT I readers theatre presentation of "This Land," directed by Loralee Cooley, will follow. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children and reservations can be made by calling CompuTech, 665-3266.

Five dollars of each book pictorial history of Gray County published by The Pampa News will go toward the Gray Co. Centennial.

Piano concert slated in Borger

BORGER — All area piano teachers, piano students and their families are invited to attend a concert with pianist James Lent, a presentation of the Concert Association in Borger, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 12 at Borger High School Auditorium.

Winner of many competitions including the 1996 and 1999 Washington International Piano Competition and the 1994 Houston Symphony National Young Artists competition, Lent has appeared as a soloist with the Vancouver Symphony, the Houston Symphony, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and the Shanghai Philharmonic. He has participated in many music festivals, as well, including the Aspen Music Festival.

A native of Texas, Lent resides in New York where he is currently a doctoral candidate at the Yale University School of Music.

This concert is the last one of the 2001-02 season. The association's membership campaign for the 2002-03 season is currently in progress. New members who join by April 12 are eligible to attend this concert on next season's membership.

For more information about joining the Community Concert Association, contact Marie Poulain at (806) 273-3574. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for next season or for just the concert.

Altrusa fund-raiser



(Community Camera photo)

Jodi Barker, left, and Donna Slavick select fashions and accessories from Dunlaps department store for inclusion in the upcoming Altrusa Style Show slated at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 13 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The annual fund-raiser is open to the public and tickets may be purchased in advance from any Altrusa member or at the door on the day of the event.

Hong Kong gets tough on immigration

HONG KONG (AP) — After forcibly deporting the first of 2,000 Chinese migrants ordered to leave Hong Kong, authorities warned Tuesday they will soon evict the others.

The government won a court case in January against thousands of mainlanders seeking to remain in Hong Kong and set a March 31 deadline for them to leave.

Since the deadline, the migrants — whose parents hold Hong Kong residency permits — have been protesting almost daily. The parents moved here to find work, but children who followed later were often refused residency and they now accuse the government of unfairly dividing families.

On Monday, Ng Ka-tun, 33, became the first mainland to be forcibly removed since the deadline.

Ng's sister said he had wanted to stay and take care of his wife, a mainland who gave birth to their daughter here last month. But when Ng showed up at an immigration office to ask for more time, he was put in a van and taken to the mainland, his sister said. 3/8

She accused authorities of misleading him by suggesting they were still weighing his case.

Hong Kong's security chief said Ng had been told clearly he had no grounds to stay. Security Secretary Regina Ip also warned authorities

would "repatriate" other migrants "any" time now.

Authorities say there are 4,300 Chinese migrants here illegally. They plan to remove all of them but initially are going after just 2,000.

"I'm very worried," said 19-year-old Hui Yuk-sum, who arrived almost three years ago and overstayed her visitor's permit. "If they deport me, my years of fighting for residency rights will be wasted."

Hui's parents and a younger sister and brother all have residency rights, leaving her the only member of the family without clearance to remain in affluent Hong Kong.

Although Hong Kong was returned from Britain to China in 1997, they have separate legal systems and tight border controls remain.

Early Tuesday, around 50 migrants and their parents held a demonstration outside government headquarters, begging to be allowed to stay on humanitarian grounds.

The migrants — whose parents hold Hong Kong residency permits — have been protesting almost daily since the March 31 deadline. The parents moved here to find work, but children who followed later were often refused residency and they now accuse the government of unfairly dividing families.

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