

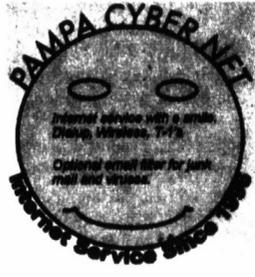
THE Pampa

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2003

NEWS

Vol. 90 No. 100 Texas
 50 cents Daily • Sunday \$1



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **LOW**
68 **33**

LOCAL
St. Vincent's to host Book Fair next week
 St. Vincent de Paul School, 2300 N. Hobart, will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair March 31 through April 4 in the school gym from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The public is invited to come and shop.

LOTTERY
 AUSTIN (AP) — The winning numbers drawn in the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night: 1-11-21-22-28-29. Estimated jackpot: \$5 million. Next Lotto Texas game: Saturday night.

DEATHS
 No deaths were reported to The Pampa News by press time today.

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WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE
 It's Tree Planting Season...
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U.S. vows to intensify attacks

Bush: "We have one objective in mind - victory. And we will achieve victory."

By DAVID CRARY
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

With sandstorms finally over and a new front opened in the north, U.S. commanders said Thursday they would swiftly intensify attacks on Iraqi forces. In the south, a captured Iraqi airfield was renamed "Bush International Airport," while a British armored unit destroyed Iraqi tanks outside the besieged city of Basra.

and Saddam Hussein's regime toppled. The pair met at Camp David to discuss the first week of the war. "We have one objective in mind — victory," Bush said. "And we will achieve victory." Blair said he and Bush had decided to seek new U.N. resolutions on humanitarian relief, a postwar administration for Iraq and a promise to keep Iraq's territorial boundaries intact. In Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, 1,000 Rangers and other paratroopers from the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade airdropped overnight onto an airfield and were busy securing it as

they linked up with allied Kurdish militiamen. It is the first large deployment of American ground troops in the region; previously, only small groups of U.S. Special Forces were operating along with the Kurds. "This tightens the noose against Saddam's forces," said Brig. Gen. James Parker, commander of U.S. forces in the north. In central Iraq, where huge Army and Marine forces are gradually closing in on Baghdad, U.S. commanders were buoyed by the arrival of good weather. Defense officials said U.S. and British forces flew more than 600

bombing missions Thursday as they revved up an air campaign that had slowed because of bad weather. And in southern Iraq, a captured key Iraqi airfield was informally renamed "Bush International Airport," with a hastily erected sign put up at its entrance. The base, about four miles from An Nasiriyah, was expected to be a major resupply base and transport hub for American forces. In a news briefing at Central Command, Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks said several U.S. units successfully battled Iraqi forces, including

(See WAR, Page 3)

HOME of the BRAVE

SPC. Alvaro Levario
 Rank: E5
 Branch of Service: U.S. Army
 Job qualification: 82nd Eng Co. CSE Unit 15561
 Stationed: Camp Edwards, South Korea
 Family: Wife Lisa of Pampa; sons Jonathan White and Anthony Levario; parents Alicia and Ines Levario, two brothers and four sisters, all of Borger.

Officers arrest two in burglary

By NANCY YOUNG
 MANAGING EDITOR

Two Pampa residents were arrested Tuesday morning and charged with burglary in connection with the break-in of a local business. Zachary Lee Mears, 23, 1000 S. Nelson, and Riordon Lynn Hill, 19, 923 S. Wells, were arrested by Pampa Police Department at 10 a.m., Tuesday, at 1000 S. Nelson for the burglary of Onie's, a local liquor store at 1222 N. Price Road. Gray County Sheriff's

Department assisted in the arrests. PPD officials said they were notified by the store owner at 5:43 a.m. that the store had been burglarized. The burglary was discovered by a private citizen in the early morning hours Tuesday who notified the owner. The owner was at the scene when police arrived, said officials. Police said the burglary apparently occurred after the store closed at 9 p.m. Monday.

(See ARRESTS, Page 3)

State high court set to hear school funds issue

AUSTIN (AP) — Arguments over the legality of education funding in Texas have moved from the statehouse to the courthouse, with the Supreme Court set to hear a challenge to the so-called Robin Hood system. The state's wealth-sharing school funding formula has already survived several legal challenges since it was written in 1993. It sends money from property-rich school districts to poorer ones. But the latest legal fight comes as lawmakers are under pressure to fix the system. The Supreme Court has agreed to consider the case brought by a group of wealthy districts that say the system has essentially created a statewide property tax. That's banned under the Texas Constitution. Trial and appeals courts have dismissed those claims. The Supreme Court

Rummerfield: Experience counts

Editor's Note: This is another in a series of interviews with candidates for offices to be decided in the May 3 local elections.

By DAVID BOWSER
 STAFF WRITER

Mike Rummerfield said he thinks many of his life's experiences would help him as mayor of Pampa. "I'm field operations manager for Sidwell Oil and Gas," Rummerfield said. "I've been with them for a little over 22 years." Sidwell Oil and Gas are independent oil and gas producers. They started in Pampa in the 1940s. They're headquartered in Amarillo now. "I'm also environmental compliance officer and safety manager for the company," he said. Rummerfield said that in his job he's dealt with various government agencies at the federal, state, county and local levels. He said he's used to reading and understanding various rules and regulations, no matter how complex they are. He's used to working out budgets and issuing competing bids and evaluating the reliability of bidders. Rummerfield said he's used to working with contracts and adjustments in contracts. His job requires him to plan and coordinate with different contractors and get them to work as a team to complete projects on time and within budget. "I've also done physical labor when it was needed to get the job done," Rummerfield said. "I can run a shovel and



Mike Rummerfield
 (Pampa News photo)

use a pipe wrench." Rummerfield moved to Pampa in 1980 to work for Sidwell Oil and Gas. "I was born and raised in Amarillo," he said. "I grew up there, went to high school there." He graduated from Amarillo High School in 1966, then went on to Amarillo College. Rummerfield's interest in Pampa politics dates to the vote to dissolve the Pampa Economic Development Corporation. "I lived here 22 years and never took a real interest in politics until that happened," Rummerfield said. "It was pretty

surprising to me." He decided that if there were that many people who wanted to see the PEDC dissolved, maybe it was time to become interested in what was going on. "I started going to some of the commission meetings," Rummerfield said. "It looked to me like there was a breakdown in communications between the commission and a majority of the public." The majority of the public voted to dissolve the PEDC, but the commission appeared reluctant to carry through the voter mandate and to furnish information to the public about what was going on, Rummerfield said. "If I remember right, Mayor (Lonny) Robbins asked Dalton Lewis of the PEDC for an executive meeting here quite some time ago," Rummerfield said. "Dalton said he didn't believe they could have an executive meeting under the Open Meetings Act. He requested an open meeting, and Mayor Robbins flatly refused." Rummerfield said that to his knowledge, that meeting still hasn't taken place. When asked to respond to Rummerfield's comment, Robbins said that the meeting was never held on the advice of former Interim City Manager John Hatchel. "He said that nothing would come from it," Robbins said. "It just seems to me that business ought to be made public," Rummerfield said. "I don't understand the reluctance to discuss it in an open forum."

(See RUMMERFIELD, Page 3)



74th Annual Pampa Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Citizen of the Year Award
 Speaker Kenneth Chambers "The Cellular Cowboy"
 March 27th • 7:00 pm • Pampa Country Club • Tickets \$20 • For More Information Call 669-3241

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ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Tuesday, March 25

Assault on a family member was reported in the 400 block of North Wells. Minor injuries were reported by police.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Randy Matson. A vehicle was scratched. Damage estimate was \$300.

Minor in possession, tobacco, was reported at Pampa High School.

Wednesday, March 26

Wendell George Mayberry, 34, 529 Lowry, was arrested on a charge of assault causing bodily injury, family violence. He was also arrested for resisting arrest and a Pampa municipal warrant for disorderly conduct by language.

Donald Wayne Johnson, 521 Montague, 52, was arrested for disorderly conduct and failure to identify.

A money bag containing \$1,000 was reported stolen at a business in the 800 block of West Kingsmill. According to the police report, there was no forced entry.

Assault with bodily injuries was reported in the 400 block of Magnolia. According to the police report, injuries were minor.

A hedge trimmer was found in the 1200 block of East Francis.

A simple assault was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee.

Thursday, March 27

Ronnie Don Jenkins, 52, 318 1/2 N. Wells, was arrested for public intoxication.

Elias Chavez, 26, of Clovis, N.M., was arrested for burglary of a motor vehicle.

After being stopped by officers in a vehicle which had been reported stolen in Borger, a male escaped on foot before he was identified. The vehicle was stopped in the 300 block of North Nelson.

FIRE

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

Wednesday, March 26

9:37 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 100 block of West 30th Street.

12:18 p.m. — One unit and five firefighters responded to a lifting assist in the 400 block of Pitts.

Thursday, March 27

1:15 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 2300 block of Mary Ellen.

CORRECTION

A "Southern Living at Home" fund-raiser and brunch will be held Saturday, March 29, at Zion Lutheran Church. The event is a fund-raiser for Baby's Coming Shop in Pampa and is not otherwise associated with the church.

SHERIFF

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

Wednesday, March 26

Kim D. Morris, 36, of Lefors, was arrested on bond surrender charges out of Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 offices. Original charge was possession of a controlled substance.

Mick G. Pendergrast, 46, 316 N. Sumner, was arrested on bond surrender charges of evading and harassment.

Monica Lynn Titmus, 36, of Hereford, was arrested by Department of Public Safety Trooper for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

Cloteal McGee, 35, 1209 Duncan, was arrested for no drivers license and a Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace warrant for failure to signal turn.

Sedrick Brenn Drew, 20, 1112 Darby, was arrested for violation of probation. Original charge was theft of property by check.

AMBULANCE

Rural Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m., today.

Wednesday, March 26

9:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of East Francis; no patient was transported.

9:39 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of West 30th; one patient was transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center; one patient was transported to BSAW in Amarillo.

10:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Magnolia; no patient was transported.

Thursday, March 27

12:57 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit; one patient was transported to PRMC.

1:14 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2300 block of Mary Ellen; one patient was transported to PRMC.

3:33 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2300 block of Mary Ellen on lifting assistance.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	3.05	XCEL	13.13	+0.21
Milo	3.73	Kerr McGee	40.25	+0.15
Corn	4.21	Limited	13.20	-0.10
Soybeans	4.89	Williams	4.46	+0.07
		McDonalds	14.45	+0.22
		Exxon Mobil	35.58	-0.28
		Atmos	21.31	+0.06
		Pioneer Nat	25.05	-0.01
		Penney's	20.28	-0.32
		OXY	29.30	+0.10
		COP	51.80	-0.07
		Schlumberger	38.16	+0.06
		Tenneco	2.37	-0.08
		CVX	65.15	+0.65
		Wal-Mart	53.14	-0.19
		OKE	17.93	-0.20
		NS Group	6.47	-0.18
		Cabot Corp.	23.47	-0.29
		Cabot Oil Gas	23.62	+0.16
		Coca Cola	40.32	-0.41
		VLO	40.25	+0.20
		Halliburton	21.01	+0.32
		Triad Hospitals	26.80	-0.19
		NOI	21.71	-0.07
		KMI	44.78	-0.38
		Kerr McGee	40.25	+0.15
		Limited	13.20	-0.10
		Williams	4.46	+0.07
		McDonalds	14.45	+0.22
		Exxon Mobil	35.58	-0.28
		Atmos	21.31	+0.06
		Pioneer Nat	25.05	-0.01
		Penney's	20.28	-0.32
		OXY	29.30	+0.10
		COP	51.80	-0.07
		Schlumberger	38.16	+0.06
		Tenneco	2.37	-0.08
		CVX	65.15	+0.65
		Wal-Mart	53.14	-0.19
		OKE	17.93	-0.20
		NS Group	6.47	-0.18
		Cabot Corp.	23.47	-0.29
		Cabot Oil Gas	23.62	+0.16
		Coca Cola	40.32	-0.41
		VLO	40.25	+0.20
		Halliburton	21.01	+0.32
		New York Gold	330.25	
		Silver	4.40	
		West Texas Crude	28.63	

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

A wind advisory is in effect for the area today and tonight. Today's forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, windy and cooler conditions with highs in the upper 60s and west winds 15 to 20 mph, shifting to the north and increasing to 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Tonight should be mostly cloudy, again windy and cooler with a 20 percent chance of rain, lows in the lower 30s and north winds 25 to 35 mph with gusts to around 45 mph. Friday should be partly cloudy. Windy and cooler. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to around 40 mph.

Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds 15 to 20 mph. Saturday, mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Saturday night, mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s. Sunday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s. Sunday night, mostly clear. Lows in the mid 30s. Monday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 70s. Monday night, mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 70s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 40s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.

STATEWIDE

Heavy winds are expected over West and North Texas today and tonight, in advance of a fast-moving cold front.

Friday's highs will dip about 20 degrees on average, and Saturday will remain cool. Sunday and Monday should be warmer.

A slight chance of rain is forecast tonight and Friday morning in North Texas, and all day Friday in southeast Texas. A few storms may be severe.

West Texas will be partly cloudy and very windy today, with blowing dust into the Permian Basin and South Plains, with sustained 20-35 mph winds. It should be even windier in the far west and mountains, and any fires

could grow dangerous.

The Panhandle will also be windy today.

High temperatures today will range from the 60s in the Panhandle to near 90 in the path of the winds, and 80s south. Friday it will be partly cloudy, with highs in mid 40s to low 50s in the Panhandle, mostly 50s south and west. A warmup will begin Saturday, with mostly clear skies through Monday. Highs should be back in the 70s and 80s by then.

South Texas will be breezy and warm today, with highs in the 80s, 70s north. Friday will be sharply cooler north and southeast, with highs in the 60s and cloudy skies there, and a slight possibility of showers over the entire region.

Saturday will be even cooler north and southeast with a slight chance of rain, and highs will dip to the 60s south and west. Skies will be mostly cloudy. Sunday and Monday should be clear and warmer.

North Texas will be warm and quite windy today, with highs around 80. Showers and storms are possible tonight, along with much cooler temperatures from the cold front.

Friday will be mostly cloudy and windy, with possible morning rain, and highs around 60. Skies should be mostly clear Saturday through Monday, with highs around 60 Saturday and reaching 70 by Monday.

Investigators scrutinize air pockets' effect on shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Investigators of the Columbia accident are studying whether pockets of cold air caused foam on the external fuel tank to peel off and strike the space shuttle's left wing during take-off.

The phenomenon, called cryo-pumping, was found in foam on another external fuel tank that was dissected at Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The tank was a little newer than the one on Columbia.

The cooling of an air pocket changes the foam's density and can affect the foam, said Navy Rear Adm. Stephen Turcotte, a member of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board.

The board wrapped up a second day of public hearings Wednesday in Cape Canaveral.

Investigators also said Wednesday that the data recorder discovered last week in Texas may hold "a gold mine of information" that could help determine what destroyed the shuttle Feb. 1, killing all seven astronauts.

"The million-dollar question, of course, is what's on it," said NASA's Scott Hubbard, a board member.

The 9,400 feet of salvaged magnetic tape include 15 inches that are crumpled and wrinkled, but investigators are hopeful data can be retrieved from the rest of the reel, Hubbard said. NASA plans to duplicate the tape.

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Economy not up to speed, analysts say

WASHINGTON (AP) — The economy grew at a mediocre 1.4 percent annual rate in the final quarter of 2002, and many economists think it won't do much better in the current quarter as the stagnant job market and war uncertainties make American consumers and businesses more cautious.

The government's final estimate of the gross domestic product in the final three months of last year was unchanged from its previous estimate a month ago, the Commerce Department reported Thursday. That matched analysts' expectations.

GDP measures the total value of goods and services produced within the United States and is considered the best barometer of the economy's health.

Optimistic economists believe the economy in the current January-March quarter grew at a rate of around 1.5 percent to just over 2 percent. Pessimists are forecasting growth of under a 1 percent rate. Some economists believe the first quarter experienced negative growth, meaning the economy shrank.

New claims for unemployment benefits last week fell by a seasonally adjusted 25,000 to 402,000, a two-month low, the Labor Department said. Even with the drop, claims are at a level suggesting the job market remains sluggish.

On Wall Street, growing fears about a protracted war in Iraq pushed stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 117 points and the Nasdaq was off 17 points in the first hour of trading. The latest reading on GDP highlighted the economy's struggle to get back on a steady footing after getting knocked down by the 2001 recession.

The 1.4 percent growth rate marked a sharp slowdown in the economy from the 4 percent pace

registered in the third quarter of 2002. Since the end of 2001, economic growth has been jagged, with a quarter of strength followed by a quarter of weakness.

That muddled climate has made businesses reluctant to lock into major financial commitments, namely capital investment and hiring. That is the biggest factor restraining the economy's ability to get back to full throttle.

Although businesses have largely batted down the spending hatches, consumers have been the main force keeping the economy going.

Consumers are turning more cautious. The nation's unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in February as the economy lost a whopping 308,000 jobs.

Economists are concerned about how consumers will behave in the months ahead, a main force that will shape the recovery. For now, though, economists are hopeful consumers will spend sufficiently to prevent the economy from sliding into a new recession.

In the final quarter of 2002, consumer spending grew at a rate of just 1.7 percent, slightly better than the government's previous estimate, but a sharp pullback from the 4.2 percent growth rate registered in the third quarter.

Business investment in equipment and software grew in the fourth quarter at a 6.2 percent rate, but spending on new factories, buildings and other structures was cut for the fifth straight quarter, subtracting from GDP in the fourth quarter.

The bloated trade deficit also was a drag on fourth-quarter GDP and a slower pace of inventory-building by business contributed less to growth than in the third quarter.

City Briefs

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

- ALTRUSA STYLE Show,** MK Brown Heritage Room, Mar. 29th, 10:30 a.m.
- JOY'S UNLIMITED** is now open at 110 N. Cuyler! 10:00-5:30 Mon.-Sat!
- METAL SECRETARY'S** desk w/ pull-out for typew., sec. chair w/ pad for rollers. \$35. Newt Secret 669-2227.
- BEAUTY 2000** has openings for hairstylists and nail techs. 806-665-5447.
- LOST 2** male Schnauzers 1 black & 1 silver. Reward. Call 669-2381, 664-0150, 661-4001.
- THE NIGHTWINDERS** live Sat., Mar. 29, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. at the End Zone, 2401 Alcock. No cover.
- DOCTOR'S DAY!** March 28, remember them and their service for Pampa. Thank you gift from Celebrations, Coronado Center, 665-3100.
- MEREDITH HOUSE** has an opening for 1 CBA Tenant. Call 665-5668.
- MERLE NORMAN** Cosmetics is now open at 110 N. Cuyler! Free gift with purchase while supplies last!
- HIDEABED FOR Sale.** Call 665-1794.
- WE'VE MOVED** to All About Beauty, 1405 N. Banks. Laurie Slack, Vanessa Milligan, Nancy Jacoby, & Christine Wall. Come see us for all your hair & nail care. New bulbs in beds. 665-1101.

VIEWPOINTS

Stand up & show your colors

War in Iraq seems to be weighing heavily on people's minds as the war enters its second week.

Media coverage has been extensive, and I find myself wanting to watch it on television at night, but not wanting to watch it.

Armchair Generals have popped up everywhere. The radio airwaves are full of these self-designated authorities. While I may be the only person who feels as such, I find many of them quite disgusting. Just the intonation in their voices causes me to flinch and change stations frequently. At times I really wonder where these people have gained their supposed knowledge of the military.

Last weekend as I listened to reports of anti-war demonstrations, I was struck at hearing 100,000 demonstrated in New York City against the war. Where were these people on Sept. 11, 2001? Are their memories so short that they don't remember the loss of life and devastation? I was amazed.

Here at *The Pampa News* we are profiling members of the military in a daily feature called "Home of the Brave." So many Pampa and Gray



NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

County young people are serving in the battles and in the military at other locations.

As each "Home of the Brave" column is featured, we are placing them on a bulletin board in the lobby of the newspaper office. I have a feeling it will be covered before long.

We've received calls from several residents who are working on projects to let the troops and their families know these members of the military are supported at home. News of these activities will be in the newspaper as plans are finalized and more information becomes available. If anyone has information on patriotic projects, please let us know. Pampa and its residents have a long history of patriotism.

During the Persian Gulf War in 1991, a few individuals in Borger formed a support group for the families of the men and women serving in that

conflict. Parents, wives, children, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends of our military members were able to gather in a very active group as they had a common bond. It was astounding to me how many people were serving our country at that time from our small county.

I've heard there are plans to begin a support group in Pampa, and I am so glad because I know how these groups can bring comfort to the families. Just having someone to talk to who "knows how you feel" helps family members. Having a child in a war situation is the most helpless feeling a parent can have. American flags are flying high across the country and yellow ribbons are popping up in many locations. Emails reflecting patriotism have become quite popular. I have really enjoyed the many I've been receiving.

If you are working on a patriotic project, let us know.

Remember to say a prayer for the military members and their families, and show your colors - red, white and blue.

(Nancy Young may be reached at nanceyyoung@hotmail.com)

THE Pampa NEWS

403 W. ATCHISON • PAMPA, TEXAS
TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520
EMAIL: deedee@pan-tex.net • pannews1@pan-tex.net

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop and smell the roses

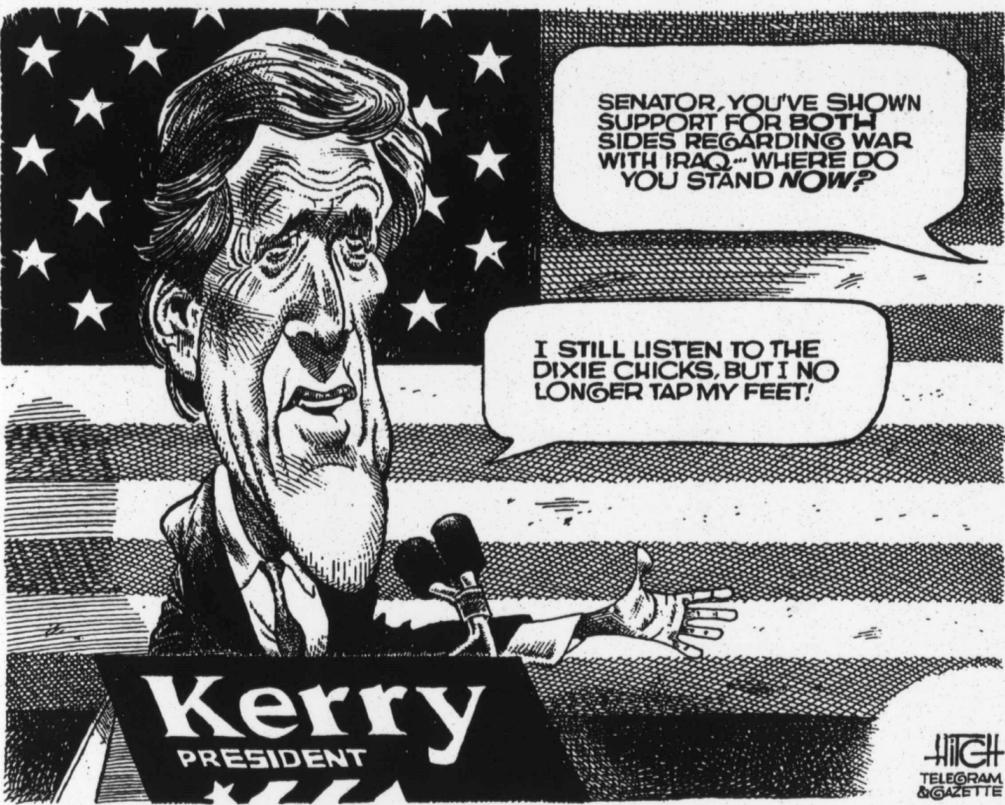
Editor's note: This came as an e-mail in response to Mr. Jones subscribing to the Online edition of *The Pampa News*. I felt his observations were worth sharing.

To the editor:
Thank you very much for taking care of the problem so quickly, I do appreciate it. I spent my childhood in Pampa, and every day I deal with the traffic (and apprehension) of living here in Washington DC. I miss the wide open spaces, friendly people, and the quiet stark beauty of the Texas Panhandle. It is nice to have your site, my family are almost all gone from there now and it has been 35 years since I left as a boy. But thanks to having your site I can come home and occasionally get the "inside the beltway" mentality out of my head and remember that there is such a place out there. I hear alot of people complain in your paper about Pampa, but they really should stop and smell the roses. I wish my children lived in your world. Again, thank you,
H. Kim Jones
Washington, D.C.

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- Today is Thursday, March 27, the 86th day of 2003. There are 279 days left in the year.
- Today's Highlight in History:
On March 27, 1977, 582 people were killed when a KLM Boeing 747, attempting to take off, crashed into a Pan Am 747 on the Canary Island of Tenerife.
- On this date:
In 1512, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida.
- In 1625, Charles I ascended the English throne upon the death of James I.
- In 1794, President Washington and Congress authorized creation of the U.S. Navy.
- In 1836, the first Mormon temple was dedicated, in Kirtland, Ohio.
- In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.
- In 1958, Nikita Khrushchev became Soviet premier in addition to First Secretary of the Communist Party.
- In 1964, Alaska was rocked by a powerful earthquake that killed 114 people.
- In 1968, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit the earth, died in a plane crash.
- In 1973, "The Godfather" won the Academy Award for best picture of 1972, but its star, Marlon Brando, refused to accept his Oscar for best actor. Liza Minnelli won best actress for "Cabaret."
- In 1980, 137 workers died when a North Sea floating oil field platform, the Alexander I. Keilland, capsized during a storm.
- Ten years ago: A top U.N. relief official accused Bosnian Serbs of breaking their promises by blocking an aid convoy for trapped Muslims in eastern Bosnia, a day after a cease-fire agreement.
- Five years ago: The Food and Drug Administration approved the drug Viagra, made by Pfizer, saying it had helped about two-thirds of impotent men improve their sexual function. Ferdinand Porsche Jr., who founded the sports car firm that bears his name, died at age 88 in Zell am See, Austria.
- One year ago: Twenty-nine Israelis were killed in a suicide bombing during a Passover Seder in Netanya, Israel. A gunman killed eight members of the Nanterre city council outside Paris; a suspect killed himself the next day while in police custody. In the world of entertainment, death claimed Oscar-winning filmmaker Billy Wilder at age 95; comedian Milton Berle at age 93; and actor-comedian Dudley Moore at age 66.
- Today's Birthdays: Lord Callaghan, former British prime minister, is 91. Blues musician Robert "Junior" Lockwood is 88. Former newspaper columnist Anthony Lewis is 76. Dance company director Arthur Mitchell is 69. Actor Julian Glover is 68. Actor Jerry Lacy is 67. Actor Austin Pendleton is 63. Actor Michael York is 61. Rock musician Tony Banks (Genesis) is 53.



Doing right may be our undoing

As American troops face Iraqi soldiers, they confront an enemy whose major defense is our reluctance to use the force we have if there is a significant danger that we will kill innocent civilians. No better example can be found of what Henry Kissinger called the process by which "the weak grow strong through effrontery and the strong grow weak because of inhibitions."

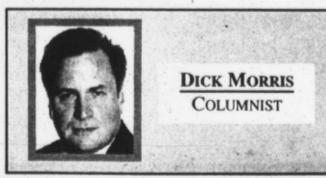
By stationing tanks inside hospitals, dressing as civilians, driving regular cars, and hiding inside the homes of ordinary people, Iraqi soldiers are deploying their most fearsome weapon: our own refusal to kill noncombatants.

We have already demonstrated that we are willing to spend billions of dollars to avoid killing civilians. Precision guided munitions, smart bombs and the like are all costly measures designed to save the lives of the innocent.

But what should we do when saving the innocent means killing American soldiers and prolonging the war?

Once we let Iraqi soldiers become confident in the belief that the United States won't attack them if they mingle with civilians, are we not encouraging them to do so? Won't our policy lead to the exact thing we are trying to avoid: more and more civilian deaths as the Iraqi Army deliberately mixes with the population to avoid American attacks?

But the political premise: That Americans will rebel against the war if we end up killing civilians, is not true. If the Administration and the military



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

make their case that the Iraqis are deliberately abusing our good will and manipulating our efforts to avoid civilian deaths, Americans will understand that we cannot ask our soldiers to take fire and not shoot back for fear of hitting civilians.

This is, after all, a war, not a hostage situation, however much the Iraqi Army wants to make it one.

The Pentagon spokespeople should stress, in their briefings, the way the Iraqi Army is endangering citizens by using them as human shields to deter American attacks. They should stress how our own policy of civilized warfare is leading to casualties. Americans will approve of loosening the rules of engagement to let our soldiers win this war quickly and with a minimum loss of American life.

Should the Iraqi Army melt back into Baghdad, a siege situation could develop where there are three things we can do: shell and bomb the enemy, starve him out, or go in and get him.

Starving him would be unacceptable politically. It would leave Saddam in power for too long and give the anti-war movement around the world too much time to mobilize and too much of a weapon as photos of starving children

sear the world's conscience.

Fighting in the streets of Baghdad is a little like "going into the water to fight the shark" (Winston Churchill's description of a land war in Asia against the Japanese). Churchill's metaphor tells us all we will ever need to know about street to street, house to house fighting in Baghdad. Were we to fall into that trap, we would become the latter day equivalent of the Israeli Army, condemned as it buries civilians in bulldozed buildings.

The answer must be to unleash our military from its current restrictions and permit bombardment of whichever buildings shelter the enemy. Americans will understand that there will be civilian deaths, but they would vastly prefer those to unnecessary American military casualties.

Should the Iraqi Army use chemical or biological weapons, then all bets are off. The resulting outrage that would sweep America, and the way the war would be instantly justified to anyone with eyes to see, would remove many of the inhibitions that currently restrict our efforts.

Let's understand that Americans can be trusted to grasp that war is war and that it leads to deaths of innocents. But the tactics of the Iraqi Army will assure that the blame falls on Saddam, not on us.

Dick Morris is a political consultant, commentator and author. Comments may be sent to him at dmredding@aol.com

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Ex-military officers turn war critics

NEW YORK (AP) — Since publicly questioning whether the Pentagon committed enough force to Iraq on NBC News, retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey said he's received waves of supportive e-mails from active and retired military people.

He also knows he's infuriated some top brass, and ignited a debate over the roles of the dozens of former officers now earning paychecks from media organizations to explain war to the uninitiated.

They've become fixtures on television during the past week, standing over maps of Iraq with pointers, explaining military terminology and speculating about battle strategy.

McCaffrey and former Desert Storm commander Norman Schwarzkopf have given NBC and MSNBC star power, with a deep bench including former nuclear weapons inspector David Kay. ABC News has recently retired experts like Lt. Gen. Gregory Newbold and Gen. Charles Horner. CBS has former NATO commander Gen. William "Buck" Kernan and Gen. Joseph Ralston.

CNN's prime-time star is former Gen. Wesley Clark, who directed NATO forces in Kosovo. Gravel-voiced counterterrorist expert Lt. Col. Bill Cowan appears on Fox News Channel.

"Every general who ever worked for me is now on some network commenting on the daily battle," Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday.

McCaffrey, President Clinton's top anti-drug adviser and now a teacher at West Point, said he believes that the administration risked "a political and military disaster" if assumptions that Iraqis wouldn't fight hard proved untrue. He ultimately believes the coalition will prevail.

The combative McCaffrey, on the "Today" show on Tuesday, bristled when host Katie Couric referred to "armchair generals."

"Remember, Katie, I'm not an armchair general," he said. "I've had three combat tours and been wounded three times."

Clark, on CNN, has similarly questioned whether the U.S. should have sent in more personnel.

"Our primary loyalty is to the armed forces, there's no question — not to the channels we're with or the administration," McCaffrey said.

Yet some of the criticism has gotten under the skin of war supporters. Retired Rear Adm. Stephen Baker, who works at the Center for Defense Information, a Washington-based think tank, said the commentators shouldn't question the war plans.

Ralston said he believes his role as a CBS analyst is to explain the issues but not give his opinions.

The active-duty officials formulating the war plan are privy to more information than retired officers, he said.

"I think it's being a little bit presumptuous to think we can sit here in an air-conditioned office with the limited amount of information we've got and make some pronouncements that General (Tommy) Franks is not screwed up on this and not doing it right," Ralston said. "I just think it's wrong."

Col. Jay DeFrank, director of press operations at the Department of Defense, said he expects retired officials to have different points of view. "An informed debate is a foundation of democracy," he said.

Hong Kong quarantines hundreds

BY DIRK BEVERIDGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian nations closed schools and quarantined hundreds to block the spread of a deadly mystery disease Thursday, as Hong Kong researchers said they have found an easily transmitted virus they believe is its primary cause.

Hong Kong announced that it would quarantine more than 1,000 people who may have been exposed while closing its schools as a precaution. Singapore shut down its schools on Thursday and the Rolling Stones postponed weekend concerts for fear of the disease.

The measures came a day after mainland China disclosed a sharply higher death toll for the flu-like illness, spreading fears of a wider outbreak.

The illness, severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, has now infected more than 1,300 people in more than a dozen countries and is blamed for at least 53 deaths, most of them in Asia.

Thousands of Hong Kong residents wore surgical masks while going about town, giving this vibrant city the feel of a sprawling hospital ward, although the Health Department recommended masks only for people with flu-like symptoms so they won't infect others.

"If people feel more safe wearing a mask, it is up to them to decide," Health Department spokeswoman Sally Kong said.

The Taiwanese capital of Taipei declared a full medical alert Thursday after a major engineering company temporarily closed because five of its employees were suspected of being infected. They had recently traveled to mainland China.

Hong Kong's government leader, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa, said Thursday night that officials had ordered the quarantine of 1,080 people believed to have been in close contact with SARS victims. They are being urged to stay home and must check in regularly with health officials over a 10-day period starting Monday or they could be fined or jailed.

Tung said Hong Kong schools, except for universities, will close early for spring break, shutting from Saturday to April 6 as a precaution.

"For the sake of our health and for the sake of the health in our community, we must win this battle," Tung told a news conference.

The quarantine affects those who have visited SARS victims in hospitals or people who recently spent time on the ninth floor of Hong Kong's Metropole Hotel, where an infected

mainland Chinese medical professor passed the disease to seven other people and started a global outbreak.

Singapore, which has suffered two deaths, has already quarantined 840 people who may have had contact with victims and on Thursday shut all of its schools through April 6.

Researchers at Hong Kong University said Thursday that their latest tests have identified a new virus from the Coronavirus family, which causes common colds, as the primary cause of SARS. But they said it might combine with a virus from the paramyxovirus family, which includes measles, mumps and canine distemper, making the effects even worse.

One of the researchers, microbiology professor Malik Peiris, said the virus can survive in open air for a few hours and during that time can be transmitted through such contact as handshakes or even to someone pressing an elevator button previously touched by a disease victim.

The virus can easily be killed by alcohol, Peiris said.

The Rolling Stones postponed a pair of weekend rock concerts in Hong Kong due to disease fears, and three rugby teams pulled out of a weekend tournament in the former British colony.

17-year-old sentenced in mob case

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A 17-year-old boy was sentenced to 3 1/2 years in prison for his role in a fatal mob beating of a man last fall.

Jemeral Andrews, who pleaded no contest to aggravated battery in January, also was ordered Wednesday to serve 4 1/2 years of extended supervision, a type of probation, when he is released from prison.

Prosecutors say Andrews, who was 16 at the time of the beating Sept. 29, kicked victim Charlie Young Jr. in the ribs but then left before others in the mob delivered the most devastating blows.

"Clearly, Mr. Andrews is one of the less culpable," Assistant District Attorney Mark Williams told Milwaukee County Circuit Judge John Franke.

Young, 36, died in a hospital Oct. 1. He had been chased onto a porch and beaten with makeshift weapons including broomsticks, shovels, a folding chair and a milk crate after he had a confrontation with one of the youths.

Andrews is the fifth defendant sent to prison by Franke for involvement in the beating. Ten juveniles were originally charged as adults with first-degree reckless homicide, and several have pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

Tyson acquitted of conspiring to hire illegal aliens

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Poultry giant Tyson Foods and three of its managers were cleared of charges they conspired to hire illegal immigrant workers to boost production at their plants when they couldn't find Americans willing to work the \$7-a-hour jobs.

A federal jury deliberated less than a day before acquitting the defendants Wednesday in a case stemming from a four-year investigation in which undercover agents posed as immigrant smugglers.

"The verdict confirms that Tyson Foods made a concerted effort to hire properly and abide by the law," company spokesman Gary Mickelson said in a statement.

"While we're pleased with

today's verdict, it's unfortunate that Tyson Foods and our team members were needlessly subjected to this ordeal," he said.

U.S. Attorney Harry Mattice Jr. said the verdict was "frustrating. ... We are consoled by the fact that we did the right thing by bringing this prosecution."

Tyson, which produces about one-third of the nation's chicken, employs about 120,000 people in 29 states and 22 countries. Last year, the company generated sales of more than \$23 billion.

The company and six managers were indicted in 2001. One defendant killed himself. Two others — Spencer Mabe and Truley Ponder — reached plea agreements.

Mabe and Ponder testified for the government, saying they

were doing what the company demanded when they went along with hiring illegal immigrants at the Shelbyville plant.

U.S. Border Patrol Agent Benito Maldonado testified he and other undercover agents posing as smugglers delivered 136 illegal immigrants to Tyson plants in six states.

Tyson denied the allegations, contending the illegal activity involved only a few plant managers who independently violated the Springdale, Ark.-based company's "zero

tolerance" policy on illegal hiring.

The defendants included Tyson regional vice president Robert Hash, 50; plant manager Keith Snyder, 44; and former manager Gerald Lankford, 64. All three testified they were unaware that illegal immigrants were being hired.

Federal prosecutors presented jurors with hundreds of secretly recorded conversations in which undercover agents and managers of Tyson poultry plants arranged for illegal immigrant workers.

Smart's sister nominated for award

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Elizabeth Smart's younger sister Mary Katherine is among those nominated for the \$295,000 in rewards offered in the kidnapping case, a family spokesman said.

Mary Katherine told her father in October that the homeless handyman they knew only as Emmanuel might have been the one who abducted her sister from their bedroom in June.

The man was identified later as Brian David Mitchell and he and his wife, Wanda Barzee, were arrested after Elizabeth was found in their company on March 12.

Smart family spokesman Chris Thomas said Wednesday that one or more "outside parties" nominated Mary Katherine for the rewards.

If she receives any of the money, it will be donated to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Thomas said.

"The family hasn't solicited the rewards (on Mary Katherine's behalf); they're officially neutral," Thomas said.

Salt Lake City officials are to determine who will receive any reward money.

"The family feels there are a number of people who are heroes in this case. ... There are a number of people who are deserving," Thomas said.

The deadline for claims or nominations to receive the award money is Friday. The city will spend some time after that date deciding who should get the money, Mayor Rocky Anderson's spokesman Josh Ewing said Wednesday.

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- Pampa - Lazy "S" Feed & Garden • 806-685-4189 • 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.
- Borger - Borger Feed Barn • 806-274-2099 • 2:00-3:00 p.m.
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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Embarrassed Neighbor Hears More Than She Wants To Know

DEAR ABBY: When I read the letter from "Seen It All in Minneapolis," from the woman who neighbors through their bathroom window, I had to smile. I live in a townhouse and my neighbors and I share a common bedroom wall. One night I was awakened by a pounding noise. I couldn't figure out where it was coming from, and eventually went back to sleep. Over the next few weeks, I was awakened frequently by the same sounds. One night, after listening for a while, I realized it was coming from my neighbors' bedroom — they were having intimate relations. I didn't say anything at first, but finally decided I had to. I was afraid my mother would be visiting while the neighbors were going at it again. I was more than a little embarrassed at having to broach the subject. One morning, I rang the couple's doorbell. When the woman came to the door I said, "I have something to tell you — the walls here aren't very thick." She took one look at my red face and understood immediately. Needless to say, I never heard them again.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN IN MARYLAND

DEAR S.I.G.: They say the squeaky wheel gets the grease. The same holds true for bed-springs and things that go bump in the night. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I have a simple solution for "Seen It All." Plant a bush, install a trellis, or build a fence between the driveway and the window to obscure the view. If that

doesn't work, plant a fig tree and lend your neighbor a leaf.

NATURE LOVER IN ROME, N.Y.

DEAR NATURE LOVER: Why not? It was the first "fashion statement" conceived in the Garden of Eden.

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago my sister had the same problem — only she was the one with the bathroom window that wasn't opaque enough. Her bathroom faced the street.

One of her neighbors sent her a card that looked like a wedding invitation. It read, "This is to inform you that the one-way frosted glass window in your bathroom is in backward."

She never found out who sent it, but she had that window fixed in a hurry.

KATHY FROM OKLAHOMA

DEAR KATHY: It could have been worse. It could have been an announcement of another natural performance of "Oh, Calcutta!" at her address.

DEAR ABBY: I am 17 and ache to have a baby. Everyone says I'm too young to have a kid — but I want one really bad. I've got a great guy, but he doesn't want to be a father right now. So far, I've tried to respect his wishes. However, I'm on birth control pills and sometimes I feel I should secretly stop taking them. Then if I get pregnant I can say, "Wow, how did that happen?" Please tell me what you think. I can't hold out much longer.

READY-OR-NOT IN TEXAS

DEAR READY-OR-NOT: Continue to hold out, because you are on the verge of making a mistake that could affect at least three people for a lifetime. Before you act on your fantasy, it's important that you understand what is missing in your life and why you are trying to fill the space with an innocent baby. Conceiving a child through dishonesty is a terrible beginning. From the tone of your letter, neither you nor your "great guy" is ready for the responsibilities of parenthood.

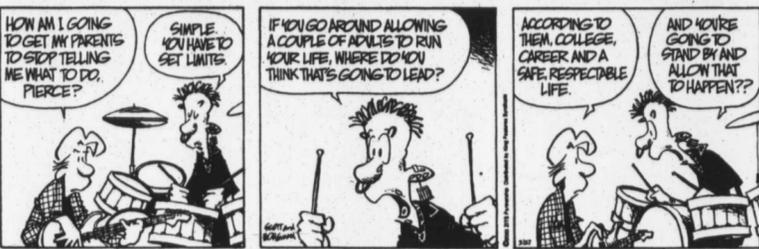
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blonde



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

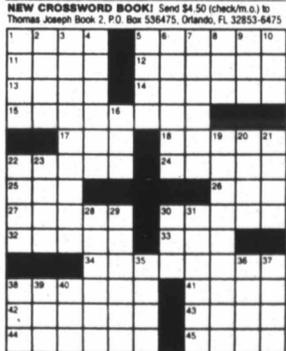
BY THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - 13 Silent actor
 - 14 Stomach-aid
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 - 25 1040 entry
 - 26 Caltech rival
 - 27 Bluefins
 - 30 Faux pas
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 - 38 Bathroom
 - 41 Trading post buy
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 - 43 Once more
 - 44 Oceanic bird
 - 45 Command to Fido
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 - 2 Theater award
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 - 19 Formal allegation
 - 20 Eye colorer
 - 21 Head, to Henri
 - 22 Takes a load off
 - 23 Loyal
 - 28 Nanny's kin
 - 29 Mooch
 - 30 Ignited
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 - 35 Comic Mort
 - 36 Creative germ
 - 37 Moist
 - 38 Ball-park souvenir
 - 39 Wonderment
 - 40 Wager

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Yesterday's answer

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- 3 Loyal
- 4 Nanny's kin
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- 6 Ignited
- 7 Greek vowels
- 8 Comic Mort
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SPORTS

Emmitt Smith signs with Cardinals

PHOENIX (AP) — It took two years for the Arizona Cardinals to lay the groundwork to sign Emmitt Smith. The next two will determine whether the NFL's career rushing leader made a mistake.

Smith signed a two-year contract with the Cardinals on Wednesday, adding the luster of his name to a franchise that might be capable of tarnishing it. Somehow, the Cardinals convinced him they were committed to improving.

He certainly convinced them he has some big games left.

"There is still fire in that man to play this game," coach

Dave McGinnis said after the Cardinals announced the acquisition during the NFL owners' spring meeting. "He is filled with the desire to excel. It transcends him."

Details of Smith's contract were not disclosed, but it was thought to be worth about \$4 million a year.

Smith, who turns 34 on May 15, did not attend the news conference. The team planned to introduce him — wearing his familiar No. 22 on an unfamiliar, red-and-white jersey — at its headquarters in Tempe on Thursday.

That's two weeks after Smith paid his first free-agent visit to the Cardinals. He

wrapped up two days of talks with McGinnis and the front office on March 13 feeling exhilarated by the all-out push to make him feel at home.

"We think Emmitt brings so much to our program in terms of his attitude, his desire and his track record," said Rod Graves, the Cardinals' vice president. "And we think incorporating all of that into our program will lift the level of where we are."

Smith's career with Dallas ended on a low note — the Cowboys wouldn't guarantee him a starting job and then released him Feb. 27. McGinnis said Smith will start, and also will help tutor

young running backs like Marcel Shipp, who led the Cardinals in rushing last season in his second year.

What the Cardinals couldn't guarantee was a return to the Super Bowl. Smith won three Super Bowl rings with Dallas, but now plays for a franchise that finished 5-11 last season, has had just one winning season in 15 years in Arizona and has been to the playoffs only twice since 1947.

Smith contributed to the Cardinals' woes over the years, scoring 25 of his NFL-record 153 career touchdowns against them, the most against any opponent.

Smith broke Walter Payton's career rushing record of 16,726 yards last season, but came up 25 yards short of his 12th consecutive 1,000-yard campaign, the first time he failed to run for that many since he was a rookie in 1990.

McGinnis, who was a Chicago assistant when Payton was finishing his career with the Bears, expects Smith to exert the same kind of uplifting influence on his teammates.

"Walter was a great example to everyone who was there at the time," he said. "Emmitt will do the same, on the field and in the locker room."

NOTEBOOK

FOOTBALL

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys will start the Bill Parcells era against the Atlanta Falcons on Sept. 7 at Texas Stadium, the NFL said Monday.

It will be Parcells' first game as the Cowboys' head coach. The game will be televised nationally by Fox as part of the NFL's 2003 Kickoff Weekend.

The rest of the Cowboys' 2003 regular-season schedule will be announced at a later date.

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Bob Knight didn't start dancing when the public address system at United Spirit Arena began blaring out Frank Sinatra's New York, New York.

But there's no denying he's glad his Texas Tech team beat Georgia Tech 80-72 Wednesday night to earn a berth in the NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden next week.

"Our defense was pretty good most of the way," Knight said. "We made some mistakes in the second half, but the thing that pleased me most was that we had better movement. I think we played better offensively."

With Andre Emmett's 29 points, the Red Raiders captured their third straight tournament home game. The win sends Knight to the tournament's semifinals for the sixth time in his 37 years as a head coach.

GOLF

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The golf world is still waiting for an encore from Craig Perks.

The unknown who made three of the most clutch shots of the entire season to win The Players Championship last year has been nearly invisible since the big victory.

"My wife and I are still saying, 'Is it really true?'" Perks said.

They're not the only ones.

Perks, the only player to earn his first career victory at The Players, begins the defense of his improbable title Thursday against Tiger Woods and 143 others who make up the strongest field in golf.

Perks has struggled since the win, but part of that was by design.

Given a five-year exemption with the victory, Perks almost immediately began retooling his game. He figured it was a no-risk proposition to fix a swing he felt had become "stagnant," despite his victory in what is largely considered golf's fifth major.

"I was sick and tired of being sick and tired," he said. "I didn't want to be one of those players who had one great week and no one ever heard of again."

A year later nobody really has heard from Perks again.

Harvesters win three titles at their own Quad

PAMPA — The Pampa tennis team warmed up for the Lubbock Invitational by hosting a Quad. Visiting teams were Frenship, Vernon and a fourth team comprised of area individuals. Vernon won the Class 3A Team Tennis State Championship this fall.

Pampa had three first place finishes. Senior Helen Brooks won Girls Singles while sophomore Mitchell Crow and junior Erin Norris won Mixed Doubles. Brooks defeated freshman teammate Myca Vinson 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the finals.

Junior Britton White won Boys Singles by defeating senior teammate Kevin Turner, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4, in the finals.

Crow and Norris defeated Vernon's DelaGarza and Bohannon 2-6, 7-6, 10-5 for the championship.

Other top finishers were seniors Abby Bradley and Vanessa Orr, second, Girls Doubles; Zach Hucks and Tyler Howard, second, Boys Doubles.

Kevin Beedy and Adam Cherry of Spearman won the Boys Doubles division. They were last year's 3A state champion in doubles.

The Harvesters travel to Lubbock for the Lubbock

Invitational this weekend.

Quad Results Boys Singles

Britton White: (first place) def. Jeffery Rosales, Vernon, 6-2, 6-2; def. Tim Harris, Frenship, 3-6, 6-1, 7-5; def. Kevin Turner, Pampa, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Kevin Turner: (second place) def. Dan Richardson, Vernon, 6-2, 6-2; def. Adam Etchison, Pampa, 6-2, 6-3; lost to Britton White, Pampa, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Austin Morton: lost to Tim Harris, Frenship, 7-5, 6-4; def. Brad Fenter, Vernon, 6-0, 6-4; def. Jeff Rosales, Vernon, 6-3, 6-4; lost to Craigen Nes, Frenship, 6-1, 6-1.

Adam Etchison: def. Craigen Nes, Frenship, 6-3, 6-3; lost to Kevin Turner, Pampa, 6-2, 6-3; lost to Tim Harris, Frenship, 7-5, 6-4.

Girls Singles

Helen Brooks: (first place) def. Erica Grimaldo, Frenship, 6-0, 6-0; def. Cassie Petty, White Deer, 3-6, 6-0, 6-3; def. Myca Vinson, Pampa, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Myca Vinson: (second place) def. Kristen Tasker, Frenship, 6-2, 6-1; def. Andrea Duffie, Vernon, 6-0, 6-3; lost to Helen Brooks, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Boys Doubles

Jay Gerber-David Thacker: (third place) def. Moore-Parmer, Vernon, 6-1, 6-0; lost to Beedy-Cherry, Spearman, 6-3, 6-4; def. Lytle-Gorham, Vernon, 6-2, 6-0.

Zach Hucks-Tyler Howard: (second place) def. Armour-Armour, Frenship, 7-5, 6-3; def. Lytle-Gorham, Vernon, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2; lost to Beedy-Cherry, Spearman, 6-2, 6-2.

Girls Doubles

Vanessa Orr-Abby Bradley: (second place) def. Lawrence-Boyd, Vernon, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; def. Quintero-Lawrence, Vernon, 6-4, 6-3; lost to Wilderson-Haynes, Vernon, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Tara Jordan-Payton Baird: def. Smith-Mocco, Frenship, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; lost to Wilkerson-Haynes, Vernon, 6-2, 6-1; lost to Quintero-Zunker, Vernon, 6-2, 6-3.

Mixed Doubles

Mitchell Crow-Erin Norris: (first place) def. Adams-Glover, Frenship, 6-0, 6-3; def. Robbins-Long, Pampa, 6-2, 6-2; def. DelaGarza-Bohannon, Vernon, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Nick Robbins-Lacie Long: def. Herber-Truelove, Vernon, 6-1, 6-7, 7-5; lost to

Crow-Norris, Pampa, 6-2, 6-2; lost to Parmer-Clifton, Vernon, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

Steven Smith-Ashlee Lucus: lost to DelaGarza-Bohannon, Vernon, 2-6, 4-6, 6-4; def. Kamnani-Denny, Pampa, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; lost to

Herber-Truelove, Vernon, 6-1, 6-4.

Sunil Kamnani-Lauren Denny: lost to Parmer-Clifton, Vernon, 6-0, 6-3; lost to Smith-Lucus, Pampa, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; def. Adams-Glover-Frenship, 6-2, 4-6, 10-7.



(Courtesy photo)

PHS senior Helen Brooks won Girls Singles at the Pampa Quad.

Second-seeded Kansas takes on Duke in regional semis

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Roy Williams isn't ready to burst into tears just yet.

Williams has accomplished just about everything imaginable in his 15 years as coach at Kansas except win the national championship.

It's become a sort of tradition for him to cry upon his team's elimination from the NCAA tournament.

"My goal and my dream at Kansas is every year we have a chance," Williams said Wednesday. "I'd like to be the last guy standing at one time."

The second-seeded Jayhawks (27-7) need four more wins to get the job done, starting tonight against third-seeded Duke (26-6) in a West Regional semifinal matchup involving two of college basketball's top programs.

The winner meets either Arizona or Notre Dame on Saturday at Anaheim Arena for a berth in the Final Four.

The Jayhawks have made it that far three times in Williams' previous 14 years as their coach including last year, when they lost to eventual champion Maryland 97-88 in the semifinals.

Kansas reached the championship game 12 years ago before losing to Duke 72-65 — one of three NCAA titles the Blue Devils have won under coach Mike Krzyzewski.

"We beat two, three, four in

the country and then we got to the national championship game," Williams recalled. "I loved our kids that day. It was a 7, 10, 12-point game all the way, our kids kept fighting."

"We never got over the edge. We didn't have one kid who played a minute in the NBA."

Kansas also reached the Final Four in 1993.

The second-seeded Jayhawks are winless in three games against Duke under Williams and 1-6 overall against the Blue Devils. The lone victory came in the NCAA semifinals in 1985, when Kansas won its last NCAA championship.

Williams was hired a few months later to succeed Larry Brown, who left to coach in the NBA.

Williams' 388 wins entering this season are the most for anyone in his first 14 years as a head coach — 45 more than Jim Boheim's teams at Syracuse won from 1977-90.

And Williams' current 400-115 record gives him the highest winning percentage — .801 — of any active head coach with a minimum of six years experience.

"Roy is one of the best coaches," Krzyzewski said. "A really good coach allows the players to showcase their skills. A system can hold a kid back. Their system gives them a lot

of freedom. They're allowed to follow their instincts; they're difficult to beat."

Duke has been, too. In Krzyzewski's 23 years as head coach, the Blue Devils have a 590-174 record for a .772 winning percentage.

In addition, they've won three national championships and played in nine Final Fours under the man known as "Coach K."

"Their team has gotten better and better as the season went along," Williams said in what has to be the ultimate compliment. "I have a great deal of respect for Mike. I love their kids and how they play."

Krzyzewski had to deal with the early departure of Jay Williams, Mike Dunleavy and

Carlos Boozer to the NBA.

So instead of having all five starters back from one of the nation's best teams, he had to make do with two.

And there are six freshmen and three sophomores on the roster.

"What I did this year was not put any expectations on them," Krzyzewski said. "We've tried to coach this team based on its level of ability and experience."

Three freshmen are among the team's top six scorers, including J.J. Redick, who established himself early as one of the nation's finest outside shooters.

Kansas, meanwhile, is led by seniors Nick Collison and Kirk Hinrich. Krzyzewski

called Collison the best player in the country and said Hinrich is among the top 10.

Hinrich said he believes the experience is an advantage, but added: "They have guys who have been a part of a national championship team."

Duke won the NCAA title two years ago and some expected the Blue Devils to repeat last season, but they were eliminated by Indiana in the third round.

Kansas hopes to repeat that feat.

Duke and Kansas have had two of the country's elite programs for years — even before Williams and Krzyzewski were hired. They've played in 24 Final Fours between them — 13 by the Blue Devils.

Optimist Club has final baseball sign-ups

PAMPA — Final sign-ups and tryouts for Optimist baseball players from 5 to 15 will be held today at the Optimist Club from 5:30 to 7 p.m., said Kevin Davis, the Optimist 2003 Baseball Commissioner.

"We will have our drafts in the 9-10 Cal Ripken league, 11-12 Cal Ripken League and Babe Ruth League for players 13 to 15 this weekend," Davis said. "We will probably have the blind drafts for Tee Ball and the Pitching Machine League next week."

Wednesday's registration brought the total to 365 players, including an entire team from Clarendon. "Our boys are excited about playing ball in Pampa," said Danny Askev, the Vice-President of Clarendon Baseball and manager of the Clarendon Babe Ruth team. "We are ready to get started."

The Optimist program now includes teams from Miami, Lefors and Clarendon.

"We are very pleased for these communities to have

teams in our programs," said Optimist President John Warner. "These teams make our leagues stronger by providing more competition for Pampa teams. The teams also give our players an opportunity to meet kids from these other communities."

Warner continued, "The Pampa United Way helps us with a grant each year which has made it possible for us to expand our program and offer opportunities to youth in other communities."

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SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament

At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

EAST REGIONAL

Second Round

Monday, March 24

At Constant Convocation Center

Norfolk, Va.

Boston College 86, Vanderbilt 85, OT

At Mackey Arena

West Lafayette, Ind.

Purdue 80, Virginia Tech 62

Tuesday, March 25

At Harry A. Gampel Pavilion

Storrs, Conn.

Connecticut 81, Texas Christian 66

At Bramlage Coliseum

Manhattan, Kan.

Notre Dame 59, Kansas State 53

Semifinals

Sunday, March 30

At University of Dayton Arena

Dayton, Ohio

Connecticut (33-1) vs. Boston College (22-8), Noon

Purdue (28-5) vs. Notre Dame (21-10), 2:30 p.m.

Championship

Tuesday, April 1

At University of Dayton Arena

Dayton, Ohio

Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.

MIDEAST REGIONAL

Second Round

Monday, March 24

At The Coors Events & Conference Center

Boulder, Colo.

Colorado 86, North Carolina 67

At Thompson-Boling Arena

Knoxville, Tenn.

Tennessee 81, Virginia 51

Tuesday, March 25

At The Lloyd Noble Center

Norman, Okla.

Villanova 70, George Washington 57

At The Bryce Jordan Center

State College, Pa.

Penn State 77, South Carolina 67

Semifinals

Saturday, March 29

At Thompson-Boling Arena

Knoxville, Tenn.

Villanova (27-5) vs. Colorado (24-7), Noon

Tennessee (30-4) vs. Penn State (26-8), 2:30 p.m.

Championship

Monday, March 31

At Thompson-Boling Arena

Knoxville, Tenn.

Semifinal winners, 7:30 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

Second Round

Monday, March 24

At The Pit

Albuquerque, N.M.

New Mexico 73, Mississippi State 61

At Stegeman Coliseum

Athens, Ga.

Georgia 74, Rutgers 64

Tuesday, March 25

At Reynolds Coliseum

Raleigh, N.C.

Duke 65, Utah 54

At United Spirit Arena

Lubbock, Texas

Texas Tech 72, UC Santa Barbara 68

Semifinals

Saturday, March 29

At The Pit

Albuquerque, N.M.

Duke (33-1) vs. Georgia (21-9), 9 p.m.

Texas Tech (28-5) vs. New Mexico (24-8), 11:30 p.m.

Championship

Monday, March 31

At The Pit

Albuquerque, N.M.

Semifinal winners, 9:30 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL

Second Round

Monday, March 24

At McArthur Court

Eugene, Ore.

LSU 80, Wisconsin-Green Bay 69

At Maples Pavilion

Stanford, Calif.

Minnesota (25-5) vs. Texas (27-5), 9:30 p.m.

Championship

Tuesday, April 1

At Maples Pavilion

Stanford, Calif.

Semifinal winners, 9 p.m.

National Basketball Association

At A Glance

By The Associated Press

ALL Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
43	28	.606	—
42	28	.600	1/2
38	34	.528	5 1/2
38	34	.528	5 1/2
34	37	.479	9
32	40	.444	11 1/2
22	50	.306	21 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
45	25	.643	—
41	30	.577	4 1/2
40	32	.556	6
34	38	.472	12
29	44	.397	17 1/2
26	46	.361	20
22	48	.314	23
14	57	.197	31 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
54	17	.761	—
50	20	.714	3 1/2
46	26	.639	8 1/2
42	29	.592	12
37	34	.521	17
26	45	.366	28
16	56	.223	38 1/2

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB
50	21	.704	—
44	27	.620	6
41	30	.577	9
37	34	.521	13
35	37	.486	15 1/2
33	37	.471	16 1/2
22	49	.310	28

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 124, Golden State 103

L.A. Lakers 108, Atlanta 91

Minnesota 108, Miami 91

San Antonio 107, Milwaukee 94

Washington 95, Portland 91

Wednesday's Games

Golden State 107, Boston 95

Toronto 89, Cleveland 83

Philadelphia 91, Indiana 85

New Jersey 101, New York 95

Detroit 102, Atlanta 99, OT

Phoenix 101, Memphis 99

Chicago 82, Miami 74

Utah 94, Portland 85

Orlando 97, New Orleans 95

Denver 108, Milwaukee 103

L.A. Lakers 96, Houston 93

Washington 80, Seattle 74

Dallas 114, L.A. Clippers 107

Thursday's Games

Minnesota at Orlando, 7 p.m.

Houston at San Antonio, 9:30 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m.

New Orleans at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Golden State at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

Cleveland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.

Phoenix at Detroit, 8 p.m.

Minnesota at Miami, 8 p.m.

New Jersey at New York, 8 p.m.

Milwaukee at Utah, 9 p.m.

Memphis at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Dallas at Portland, 10:30 p.m.

Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

At A Glance

By The Associated Press

All Times EST

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
44	20	6	5	99	200	156
40	20	12	4	96	186	160
34	30	10	2	80	214	209
31	34	9	3	74	197	217
26	41	6	5	63	182	239

Northeast Division

W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
48	20	8	1	105	247	174
40	27	7	3	90	221	197
35	29	8	4	82	229	221
28	32	8	9	73	194	221
24	35	9	8	65	172	201

Southeast Division

W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
35	23	13	5	88	209	194
36	28	8	5	85	209	206
23	33	12	9	67	168	224
27	38	6	5	65	206	270
22	38	11	6	61	166	224

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
45	19	9	3	102	247	187
40	21	9	6	95	236	197
27	30	13	6	73	179	191
27	33	11	5	70	184	208
27	39	7	3	64	196	242

Northwest Division

W	L	T	OL	Pts	GF	GA
43	21	12	1	99	250	198
37	18	13	8	95	227	182
39	27	10	1	89	186	167
35	25	8	9	87	214	214
26	34	12	4	68	172	214

Pacific Division

W L T OL Pts GF GA

42	17	15	3	102	233	163
38	26	9	5	90	194	185
30	33	9	4	73	191	208
30	35	6	5	71	189	204
27	35	6	8	68	199	224

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

x-clinched playoff spot

y-clinched division

Tuesday's Games

Colorado 2, Ottawa 2, tie

Toronto 3, Carolina 3, tie

Detroit 4, Minnesota 0

Washington 4, Montreal 3, OT

Philadelphia 1, Nashville 1, tie

N.Y. Islanders 9, Chicago 2

Dallas 4, Vancouver 3

Columbus 2, Los Angeles 1, OT

Wednesday's Games

Buffalo 2, Florida 1

Atlanta 5, Carolina 1

Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 1

St. Louis 1, Minnesota 0

Edmonton 4, Phoenix 3

Thursday's Games

New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Florida at St. Louis, 8 p.m.



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21 Help Wanted
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FUN Valley Family Resort, South Fork Colo. needs retirees & others with own RV for Summer employment. Office, housekeeping, cooks, sales, maintenance & rv parks. Write: Personnel 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury, Tx 76049.

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21 Help Wanted
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SIGN ON BONUS Pampa Nursing Center has an opening for a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Vocational Nurse, in the position of Charge Nurse on the 2-10 shift. Applicants can contact Mitzi Devoll, R.N., Director of Nursing at 1321 W. Kentucky, EEOE.

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DUNLAPS is now accepting applications for Store Manager. College degree preferred.

Please bring resume with references to: **Dunlaps Coronado Center Pampa Tx 79065 or call Christy Parker at 669-7417**

\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS FOR CERTIFIED NURSES AIDES Pampa Nursing Center is currently hiring Certified Nurses Aides. Qualified applicants apply in person to Mitzi Devoll, R. N., Director of Nursing, at 1321 W. Kentucky, Pampa, Tx. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

21 Help Wanted
FULL-TIME LVN's 3-11 p.m. shift. Charge Nurse & PRN LVN. Must have caring attitude. Apply in person at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle. or call Kay 537-3194.

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ST. Matthew's Episcopal Day School is accepting applications for Administrator of the Pre-school/Kindergarten and Day Care Programs. Position requirements include bachelor's degree with 12 credit hours of child development or early childhood education, six credit hours of business management and one year experience in a licensed child-care facility. Applicants should submit resume to: St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 727 W. Browning, Pampa, TX 79065

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GARAGE Sale. 912 S. Sumner Computer New \$400

121 N. Dwight. Lots of yarn, crafts, also material, glassware. Sat. only, 8-5 p.m.

MULTI-FAMILY Sale. Lots of misc., kids clothes, nice women's clothes. Fri. 12-7, Sat. 11-7 613 N. Sumner.

YARD Sale: Fri. 8:30-11 and 1-7, Sat. 8:30-? Used furn., good for rentals. 1216 E. Foster.

COFFEE, dining, end tables, chair, treadmill, baby items, dog house, ramps, tires, clothes, misc. 8:00 Fri., Sat. 2729 Navajo.

77 Livest/Equip.
65 yearling Black Angus Bulls-Bloodlines-Basin Max 602C- Sleep Easy-GT Max-Schurr/Top Supreme-Fame-Fly Traveler-1680 Precision-Battle Cry...Low to Moderate BW and High Growth. 40 Angus Heifers to be bred in May to Sleep Easy, Northern Improvement, and Fame. Preg. Checked and Delivered in Sept. More Info. Contact Thomas Angus-Gordon Thomas 580-655-4318 or 580-497-7217 Reydon Okla.

80 Pets & Suppl.
FREE Australian Shepherd puppy, 6 months old. 665-1105 ask for Vickie.

FREE male Golden Retriever, less than 1 yr. old. 665-1770.

AKC Reg. Golden Retriever, male, 5 mo. old, \$200. 665-6346, 898-6492.

95 Furn. Apts.
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DOGWOOD Apts., 1 bdr. furn., avail. Dep. & ref. required. 669-9817, 669-2981.

EFFICIENCY. apt. \$225 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$20 day, \$80 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

FURN. Unfurn. 1-2 bdr. apts. All bills paid. Starting \$250. Courtyard Apts., 1031 N. Sumner 669-9712.

96 Unfurn. Apts.
CAPROCK Apts. has fantastic specials on all 1, 2 & 3 bdr. apts. starting at \$290. 3, 6, 9 & 12 mo. leases avail. Pool, laundry, washer / dryer hook-ups, club room, on-site management and SOFTENED WATER to all units. 1601 N. Somerville, 665-7149 Mon-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4.

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

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

96 Unfurn. Apts.
VERY clean, large 2 bd, appliances, w/d hook up, water & gas paid. HUD. Ref. Call 665-1346

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

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1 bd, appl. clean. \$250 mo. Ref. & dep. required. 411 Texas. 669-9817.

313 N. Faulkner, 522 N. Dwight, 2 & 3 bd., central b/a. Call 669-2080.

REMODELED 3 bd, 2 bath, 327 Sunset, 886-1920 Possible Lease Purchase.

FOR Rent, 130 S. Sumner, small 3 bd trailer, 1 1/2 bath, \$250 mo, \$150 dep. 669-2291.

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

AMERICAN Self Storage, 2520 N. Hobart-Pampa. 806-669-2537, 806-664-1900.

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

LOWEST Rents in city. Downtown locations- stores, warehouses, rec. facilities Call 665-4274!!

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

1831 sq. ft. brick home, 3 bd., 2 bath, double gar. 12x24 out building, many amenities, \$79,900, 2319 Mary Ellen 669-2087.

3 bedroom, spacious, near high school, fenced, c. heat & c. air. C-21 Realtor 665-5436, 665-4180

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SEVERAL 2 & 3 bd houses for sale by owner. Use your tax refund for down pymnts, 665-4842.

WE are moving & need to sell our neat & spacious 2 story, 4 bdr., 2 full ba., 2 liv. areas home. Must see to appreciate. 901 E. Francis. Call 665-7815.

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1984 Volvo. Great shape! \$2500. Call at 2300 Christine or call 669-9347.

4-SALE 1994 Ford Tempo, excellent work or school car. \$2500. 848-2976.

1986 Ford Van Club Wagon XLT, 460 engine, 43,000 actual miles, 5 new tires. 669-2030.

122 Motorcycles
2000 Honda Shadow. Clean, low low miles! Call 669-2969, \$5400 O.B.O., Brian

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 28, 2003:

The unexpected occurs this year. You demonstrate a remarkable ability to flow with opportunities and make what you want happen. You pull the wild card both financially and emotionally, not knowing what's next. Enjoy and relish the excitement. Few years will be like this one. You can nearly wish upon a star and make what you want a reality. Romance flourishes as you have never experienced before. Go for it. If attached, your relationship will sizzle. Communication flourishes. Curb a tendency to be sarcastic and say things that you might regret. AQUARIUS is your natural cheerleader.

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) *** Check in with a friend about an unanticipated change of plans. Together you make the most out of the change. A serious conversation takes you in a new direction. Avoid sarcasm, because much happens very quickly. Consider your options. Tonight: Start your weekend with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Claim your power, especially if a problem happens at the last minute. Laughter surrounds a personal matter, though you might not want to share this intimacy with everyone. Discussions lead you in a new direction, if you avoid demeaning or debasing another. Tonight: A jest show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Enjoy what might be happening on a deeper level with someone at a distance. A partner reverses direction. You take a decision more seriously than you

have in prior times. Stay even with your dealings. Avoid sarcasm at any cost. Tonight: Skip out the door. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) ***** Listen to an associate who seems to be an endless source of information. You could go a bit overboard or be touchy with your dealings. Be aware of what you're feeling, because you have a knee-jerk reaction that you might later regret. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Defer to others, considering what is appropriate to do. You get feedback that sheds new light on a relationship. You might want to have a long-overdue conversation, but you'll feel most uncomfortable with the information that comes forward. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Because a situation develops around your home life, you might not feel as if you're wrong. Avoid an animated conversation that could become quite difficult if you're not comfortable. Focus on work and getting the job done. A boss could be touchy. Tonight: A must show.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You might want to consider what a loved one or friend means. Reread a message or rethink a conversation. Your perspective takes you in a new direction as a result. Dance to a different tune. Break a pattern. A family member could be reactive because he or she is more comfortable with the old. Tonight: A fun dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Discuss a situation differently. Consider more carefully your options that revolve around a child or loved one. Basics and foundations count. A partner wants you to settle in and make stronger decisions. A strong action brings an even stronger verbal reaction. Tonight: Head

on home. Take a night off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Walk forward. Experiment some. You will only gain as a result. Reach out for others. If need be, make a point about a financial matter. Don't be surprised if someone has a strong reaction to your words, reminding you that there is strength in a difference of opinion. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Take your time making a decision. You feel more mellow and understood than you have in a long time. A discussion takes you down a different path, if you allow it to. You might not be happy with a professional situation. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** With the Moon in your sign, you might be hard to stop. Your sarcasm could cause a problem when you least expect it. Pent-up anger could be venting. Do what you do well. Touch base with friends. You're happiest with the pack. Tonight: Celebrate Friday night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** Take your time right now. Close your door. Get your job done. Let others find you. You make excellent decisions because of your willingness to pull back. Clear your desk, looking forward to a few days without heavy responsibilities. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

BORN TODAY
Artist Ken Howard (1944), beer baron August Anheuser Busch Jr. (1899), country Western singer Reba McEntire (1955) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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Proposal extends overtime to low-income employees

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 640,000 white-collar workers could lose overtime pay, while more than a million low-income employees could begin to earn it under a White House proposal to overhaul decades-old labor laws.

The changes being suggested Thursday by the Labor Department revamp a section of the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act that defines blue-collar and white-collar workers and determines who must be paid a time-and-a-half hourly rate for working more than 40 hours a week.

About 110 million workers are covered by the complex regulations, which have not been updated in 28 years.

The Bush administration also is pursuing other revisions to workplace regulations and programs, including the Family Medical Leave Act, job training programs and unemployment insurance. The overtime proposal is subject to a 90-day public comment period. Final regulations, which would not require congressional action, probably would not take effect until late this year or early in 2004.

"Our proposal has attempted to simplify and update, to make those rules easier to apply and easier to enforce," Tammy McCutchen, administrator of the Labor Department's wage and hour division, told The Associated Press late Wednesday.

The current regulations are 31,000 words, she said. The proposed replacement: 13,000 words.

"Easy, clear rules mean employees will understand when they're entitled to overtime, employers will know what their obligations are and the Department of Labor will be able to more vigorously enforce the law," McCutchen said.

Business groups long have complained that the complicated rules, which contain outdated job descriptions and salary levels, require

overtime pay for already well-compensated and highly skilled professionals.

A surge in overtime pay lawsuits aimed at employers also is a concern. Workers filed 79 federal collective-action lawsuits seeking overtime pay in 2001, surpassing for the first time class-action job discrimination suits against employers, according to the American Bar Association.

Workers now are exempt from overtime pay if they earn more than \$155 a week, or \$8,060 a year, and meet other convoluted, confusing job criteria, such as devoting at least 80 percent of their time to "exercising discretion" and other "intellectual" tasks that cannot be "standardized in ... a given period of time."

The proposal would raise the salary cap to \$425 a week, or \$22,100 a year, and any worker earning less automatically would be required to receive overtime pay.

Jobs most affected by the changes likely would be assistant managers of stores, restaurants and bars, McCutchen said. They would get overtime pay despite their management status as long as they earn less than \$22,100 a year.

The proposal also clarifies and simplifies definitions of administrative, executive and professional employees that should be exempt from overtime pay. Generally, workers would be exempt under the proposal if they manage more than two employees and have the authority to hire and fire, or they have an advanced degree and work in a specialized field, or they work in the operations, finance and auditing areas of a company.

With the proposed changes, employers could face \$334 million to \$895 million in direct payroll costs for the 1.3 million low-wage workers estimated to become eligible for overtime pay. Overall, businesses could face costs of \$870 million to \$1.57 billion to implement new requirements.

Former Sen. Moynihan dead at 76

WASHINGTON (AP) — Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a former Democratic senator, ambassador and presidential adviser known for his scholarly intellect, has died. He was 76.

"In many respects, Pat Moynihan was larger than life," said Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle, leading tributes on the Senate floor to the man who from 1977 to 2001 was one of the body's most beloved and respected members.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who two years ago succeeded Moynihan in the New York Senate seat, announced his death on the Senate floor. "We have lost a great American, an extraordinary senator, an intellectual and a man of passion and understanding for what really makes the country work," she said.

Moynihan died Wednesday at the Washington Hospital Center from complications stemming from a ruptured appendix. In declining health recently, he had undergone surgery to have his appendix removed on March 11.

During his 24 years in the Senate, lawmakers from both parties turned to the gangly, professorial Moynihan for his expertise on welfare issues, transportation, Social Security and foreign policy.

"Rising from the depths of Hell's Kitchen in New York," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., "he became one of America's true leading intellectuals, whose foresight and whose ability brought to public attention a mass of critical issues long before others even realized these issues existed."

"I just hope God gives us a few more Pat Moynihans in this Senate, and in this country," fellow New York Democrat, Sen. Charles Schumer, said.

Groups raising funds via phone company

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a new twist on dialing for dollars, the Christian Coalition of America and several other pro-family lobbies are raising money by encouraging members to sign up with an anti-abortion phone company that gives its profits to the groups.

The fund raising through Pro Life Communications is the latest example of interest groups delving into commerce to boost their finances, especially with tough economic times putting a squeeze on donations. Other groups are selling mailing lists and endorsing credit cards for commissions.

"I think it would be safe to say there has been a decline in contributions, and I think it's due to the economy and due to September 11," Christian Coalition President Roberta Combs said. "I think everybody was affected by it. But we're very hopeful it will turn back around."

Pro Life Communications also operates under the brand name Freedom Telecom, raising money for conservative groups with agendas far broader than opposing abortion, said Joseph Dalton,

who founded the St. Charles, Mo., business with his wife, Jane.

"The ministry was started based on a direct calling from our Lord and savior Jesus Christ," he said. "It is unusual what we do. But that's also the reason for the wonderful response we get. Other companies have used long-distance and communications for fund raising in the past. However, they only donate a portion of the profits. We donate all the profits."

The Christian Coalition began promoting the company's new local service last week. It signed up to raise money through its long-distance service last year.

Others raising money through Pro Life Communications include National Right to Life and several of its state affiliates, Concerned Women for America and Heartbeat International.

The business, founded five years ago, has also reached out to political candidates. Businessman Clyde Cleveland, a Libertarian candidate for Iowa governor last year, raised money through the company for his campaign, Dalton said.

CareFlite, pilots reach tentative accord

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP) — Helicopter pilots at CareFlite, the nonprofit company that transports hundreds of patients to North Texas hospitals each month, have reached a tentative agreement with executives of the Grand Prairie-based company.

The negotiating team for the 20 pilots agreed on Wednesday to stay on the job and present CareFlite's final offer to pilots on April 4.

The agreement comes during a federally mandated cooling-off period that expired

Wednesday at midnight.

If the parties hadn't reached a tentative agreement before the deadline, either side would have been free to take action, such as strike or slowdown by pilots or a lockout by management.

Paul Bohelski of the Office and Professional Employees International Union said the union would not recommend approval of Wednesday's deal.

CareFlite President Ed Majors told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Thursday's editions that he expected pilots to ratify the contract.

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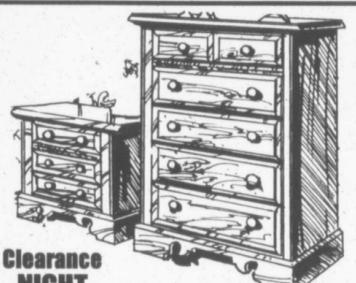
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