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HIGH

LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:

Winning numbers drawn: 11-12-21-27-40-44 Estimated jackpot: \$9 mil

lion Number matching six of

Matching five of six: 46.

Prize: \$2,603. Matching four of six:

3,244. Prize: \$91. Matching three of six:

65,078. Prize: \$5. Next Lotto Texas game

Saturday night. Estimated jackpot: \$13

million.

DEATHS

Sean C. Boales, 35, store manager.

Tony Waters, 54, minister, Gospelheirs founder.

INSIDE... Classified 9 **Comics** 6 Editorial4

WEST TEXAS LANDSCAPE

It's Tree **Planting** Season ...

120 S. HOBART 669-0158





(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Father Lupe Mayorga, assistant priest at St. Vincent's De Paul Catholic Church, and Delma Sealman, church secretary, flank the patriotic display of local service members in the foyer of the church.

BY NANCY YOUNG Managing Editor

this area in military service are all branches of the military

Members of St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in members of the military nize their efforts.

in the U.S.

And they are searching for

more pictures to go up in the fover of the church.

"It was Father John's idea," Several local young men said Delma Sealman, a secreand women are currently tary at the parish office, speakinvolved in the war in Iraq as ing of the brightly decorated members of the United States bulletin board showcasing the military. Many others from military members representing stationed in other countries or which the local priest decorat-

Pictures of 10 uniformed Pampa wanted to do show Army, Navy, Air Force, their appreciation to these mil- Marines — are displayed on itary members and to recog- the bulletin board covered

(See WALL, Page 3)

U.S. troops close in

Special forces raid presidential palace

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

American officials said Iraqi go.'

along the Tigris River.

"We are getting closer and U.S. troops surged forward closer," said Navy Capt. Frank dos raided the Thar Thar pres-Thursday into the outskirts of Thorp, a Central Command idential palace, in a resort area Baghdad, and a special forces spokesman. "We will be in 56 miles north of Baghdad. unit raided one of Saddam Baghdad within a matter of Hussein's presidential palaces. hours from when we decide to in a briefing at Central

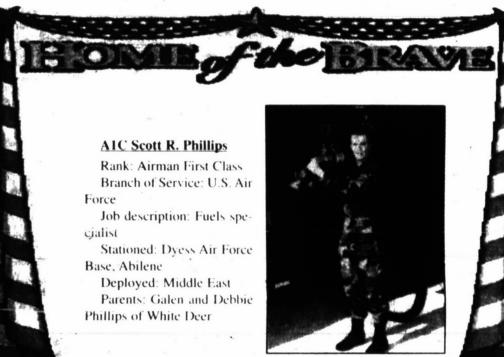
forces infiltrated some Iraqi palace compound after sup-Lead units of the multi- command posts in the pressing anti-aircraft fire. The pronged U.S. assault force Baghdad area and secured commandos found no leaders were approaching from two strategic dams and bridges to there, but came away with directions: Army troops closed guard them from sabotage, documents that will be in from the southwest after. The air assault on the capital reviewed by intelligence officrossing the Euphrates River; continued, with coalition cers, Brooks said. Marine units advanced from forces targeting a row of tin

the southeast in a long column shelters near the site of Baghdad's old airport.

Another group of comman-

Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, Command, said the raiders forces appeared on me verge paying the way, special landed by helicopter in the

(See WAR, Page 3)





Smith feels education important

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

BY DAVID BOWSER

STAFF WRITER

Education is important to William Charles Smith

"My father was on the school board," Smith said. "Education is extremely important in our household.

His mother-in-law has been a teacher for more than 35 years.

Running in the only contested race for the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees, Smith is challenging incumbent Nancy Coffee, and cattleman James Goode for the Place 4 slot.

Born in Lubbock, Smith's family moved to Pampa in 1957. He grew up in the Pampa school system, graduating from Pampa High School in 1974. After high school, he went on to attend Louisiana State University, Lubbock

Christian University and Texas Tech. It was while at Tech that he met his

"Her dad was in the oil business," Smith said She and her family had lived in Pampa

for a while "I didn't know her then," Smith said.

and marry her. Today they have two sons. Pampa. He's also extremely busy. and a daughter.

Smith said, "and moved to Midland."

In 1991, they moved to Pampa where



(Pampa News photo)

William Charles Smith

Smith and his brother formed a family oil ment that the schools are in in this state. and gas operating company with their working with their hands tied

Company, an environmental, health and projects. safety consulting and training company.

He had to go to Texas Tech to meet her extremely concerned about education in ment entities, whether that's OSHA or

"Between school and sports and "We lived in Lubbock until 1982," church," he said, "we try to squeeze what before decisions are made ever we can into those kids."

Smith said he thinks he can be more a

part of his children's lives and help the community by serving on the school

"Education and opportunities are so important," Smith said, "not only today but in life later down the road.

He said he sees the challenges facing the school board as the same ones that are challenging school boards all across the state. One of the major challenges will be funding

"Over the years," he said, "the issues have been up and down. I don't know that they ever change. Everybody is trying to do more with less. We just felt like it was time to provide, not only our children, but the children in the community with the best possible education that the community can afford.

Smith's major concern is planning, or lack of it.

"I haven't read or seen in a long time, a to do or want or need list. Smith said. I just plan to help existing board members perform their duties more effectively and efficiently. Especially in the environ-

In some cases, he said, there's not a lot He sold his interest back to them in late that can be done other than better plan 1993, and started Evergreen Consulting ning or communications or research on

"That's what I do for a living." Smith With three kids, Smith said he is said. "I'm used to dealing with govern

DOT or EPA. He said he wants all the facts together

(See SMITH, Page 3)

Perryton residents injured in accident

A Perryton woman, Kimberly Lynn Benton, 31, was treated and released from Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo following a wreck Sunday in Pampa.

Benton was transported by LifeStar Helicopter after her 1995 Chevy Lumina, traveling north on Price Road, collided with a 1995 Ford F-150 pickup, driven by Ricardo Deleon, 32, 317 Starkweather.

Deleon was turning south on Price Road from 23rd Street when it turned in front of the Lumina, according to Pampa Police Department records

Three passengers in the Benton vehicle were transported by Rural Metro Ambulance Service to Pampa Regional Medical Center for treatment of injuries.

They were identified in police reports as Deana Foster, 34, Perryton, Arren. Benton, 7, Perryton; and

(See ACCIDENT, Page 3)

April 15 • 11:45 AM • M.K. Brown Room Of The Pampa Community Building Speakers: Pampa City Manager - Mitch Grant & Pampa Police Chief - Trevlyn Pitner For Reservations 669-3241

Rescued POW reportedly waged a fierce gun battle

LANDSTUHL, Germany (AP) - Spirited ed an official as saying. "She did not want to be their home in Palestine, W.Va., in a 15-minute 11 corpses - some believed to be Americans but hungry, rescued prisoner of war Pfc. Jessica taken alive." Lynch arrived in Germany for treatment of two fered in a fierce gun battle she waged against her report. Iraqi captors.

the 19-year-old Army supply clerk shot several dos acting on a CIA tip. Iraqi soldiers during the March 23 ambush that she had several gunshot wounds, finally running out of ammunition, the newspaper said, citing unidentified U.S. officials.

"She was fighting to the death," the Post quot-

Pentagon officials and family members con-

Lynch was rescued from an Iraqi hospital in a The Washington Post reported Thursday that daring nighttime raid Tuesday by U.S. comman-

The former POW left Iraq on a stretcher with resulted in her capture. She kept firing even after an American flag folded across her chest, and arrived at a U.S. air base in Germany late Wednesday for treatment at the U.S. military's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

From Germany, she spoke with her family at

SHERIFF

Wednesday, April 2

Ellis Lee Fondren, 44, Teague, was

stance of over four grams and under 200

grams and unlawful carrying of firearms.

was arrested for public intoxication.

ending at 7 a.m. today.

accident.

reported.

Thursday, April 3

Ronnie Don Jenkins, 52, 312 N. Wells,

FIRE

following calls during the 24-hour period

Pampa Fire Department responded to the

Wednesday, April 2

12:10 p.m. - One unit and three firefight

5:24 p.m. - The fire marshal investigated a

cigarette burn in a pickup seat in the 600

block of Magnolia and determined it was an

9:35 p.m. - Two units and seven firefight-

ers responded to a report of a structure fire in

the 1600 block of West Somerville. An unat-

tended pan on a cook stove caused minor

damage to the stove area. No injuries were

ers responded to a motor vehicle collision in

the 1400 block of North Hobart.

arrested for possession of a controlled sub-

reported the following arrests.

Gray County Sheriff's Department today

telephone call.

broken legs and bullet wounds reportedly suf- tacted late Wednesday declined comment on the days and she's hungry," said her father, Greg were captured members of her unit. Lynch. "She wants some food."

> legs, and her family said she also injured her arm. broken legs, a broken arm and at least one gun- Post reported. shot wound.

stabbed when Iraqi forces closed in on her.

Landstuhl spokesman Capt. Norris Jones would not comment on Lynch's injuries other U.S. soldiers, leading the Pentagon to accuse Iraq than to say she was in stable condition.

"She's weak, she knows she's injured and Her father said she will be transferred to Walter report for duty in August. Reed Hospital in Washington as soon as possible.

The U.S. forces who rescued her also found blood," Brandi Lynch said.

in and around Saddam Hospital, and the military "She's real spirited. She hasn't eaten in eight was trying to determine whether any of them

Lynch and as many as 12 other members of Randy Coleman, a military spokesman in the 507th Maintenance Company, based at Fort West Virginia, said Lynch had fractures in both Bliss in El Paso, Texas, were captured after making a wrong turn in Nasiriyah. She watched sev-U.S. officials in Kuwait said earlier she had two eral soldiers in her unit die in the ambush, the

Not long after the fighting, five of Lynch's fel-According to the Post account, she was also low soldiers showed up in Iraqi television footage being asked questions by their captors. The video also showed bodies, apparently of of executing some POWs.

Lynch joined the Army after graduating from they're doing the best that they can to get her so high school in 2001. Her brother Greg enlisted she can travel," said her brother Greg Lynch Jr. the same day. Her 18-year-old sister Brandi will

"I still want to do it even more. It's the Lynch

SEAN C. BOALES

OBITUARIES

1967-2003

REDFIELD, S.D. - Sean C. Boales, 35, died Thursday, March 13, 2003. The body was cremated. Private burial services will be held at a later date.

Mr. Boales was born Oct. 12, 1967; at Glendale, Calif., to James and Jane Boales. He grew up in California and graduated from Verdugo Hills High School in Tujunga, Calif., in 1985. He was a former manager of Radio Shack in Pampa and joined the staff of ALCO in Texas in 2000. He managed the ALCO store in Redfield at the time of his death.

Before settling in Redfield in July 2001, he lived in Tremonton, Utah, and Valentine, Neb. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS

Nimitz from 1988-92.

He married Sandra S. Keeton on May 18,

1998, at Las Vegas,

He played the guitar and drums and was an avid golf, tennis and writing enthusiast.

Survivors include his wife, Sandra, Redfield; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Jennifer Bradley of Ramona, Calif.; his

James and Jane Boales of Lancaster, Calif.; four brothers, Michael Boales of Lancaster, Kevin Boales of Tujunga, Patrick Boales of Oxnard, Calif., and Brendan Boales of Wichita, Kan.; and a grandchild.

TONY WATERS

AMARILLO Tony Waters, 54, died Monday, March 31, 2003. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m., Friday in Memorial Park Cemetery with Mike Linney, of Family Worship Center, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

Gospelheirs." He was a U.S. Army veteran, dren. serving from 1966-67 in Vietnam.

He married Janna Raglin in December 1996 the funeral home.

Don Waters, in 1997; his parents; and a sister, Alabama, Amarillo, TX 79106.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Celebration Baptist Fellowship Church, 506 S.

Survivors include his wife, Janna, of the home; four daughters, Heather Douglas of Pampa and Holly Kellerman, Tiffani Threet and Tisha Lancaster, all of Amarillo; two sisters, Phyllis Wilson of Louisiana and Melinda Lambright of Amarillo; three brothers, Ronald Mr. Waters was born at Louisville, Ky. An Waters and Perry Waters, both of Virginia, and ained minister, he founded and led Mark Waters of Amarillo; and eight grandchil-

Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m., today, at

The family requests memorials be to

SERVICES TOMORROW

WATERS, Tony — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memorial Park Cemetery, Amarillo.

WEATHER FOCUS

Today's forecast is calling for breezy conditions, highs in the lower 80s and west winds

ers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 50s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Sunday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 60s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Monday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 60s. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the mid 70s.

STATEWIDE

windy conditions shape up again today over the state.

Texas will be clear to partly cloudy through the weekend with no rain. South Texas slight chances of rain this

North Texas will be partly to mostly cloudy, with rain chances mostly in the east. Any severe weather should be isolated.

Spring temperatures will be evident, with highs around 80 over the state through the weekend.

gerous in West Texas, as winds, low humidities and warm temperatures are forecast through the weekend. The far west will see winds of 30 mph today with gusts up to 50 mph. Blowing dust could reduce visibilities to

Warm temperatures and cloudy this weekend with Highs should be around 80 through the weekend, south and west, 70s in the warmer in the deep south. It South Plains and upper 60s in will be cooler on Monday.

North Texas will continue to see breezy to windy conditions through midday Friday. will see cloudy skies and ly cloudy skies through the Partly cloudy skies will preweekend. The deep south dominate through the weekend, with highs around 80. There may be some scattered cast elsewhere beginning rain in the west today.

Southeast areas may see some rain Friday and Saturday. The best chance for rain and cloudy skies will be Saturday night and Sunday in the central and east. Monday's highs should be Any wildfires will be dan- due to stiff winds there. about 10 degrees cooler.

HAPPY

MARTHA, NANCY, BARBARA, PHIL, ANDREW

JOHN HOLT

JOHN DAVID

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Wednesday, April 2

Douglas Hollingshead, 41, 1020 Twiford, was arrested for theft over \$50 and under

Christina Hoskins, 41, 1120 S. Sumner, was arrested for no seatbelt and on a bench warrant for violation of Arkansas hot check

A gas drive-off was reported at a convenience store in the 2100 block of North Hobart. Estimated loss was \$3.

A hit and run was reported in the 900 block of West Kentucky. Damage to fence was estimated to be \$300.

Criminal trespass of habitation was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill.

Thursday, April 3

Police are investigating an attempted break-in in the 300 block of Tignor.

Investigation is continuing into a report by a Pampa man that \$1,100 was taken from him at gunpoint at 6:30 p.m. at the intersection of Huff and Crawford.

AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, April 2

12:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road; one patient

2:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Doucette; no patient was transported.

10:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility; one patient was transported to PRMC.

STOCKS

rreduction, reprint
12:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to
the 1400 block of N orth Hobart; one patient
was transported to Pampa Regional Medical
Center

was transported to PRMC

3:45 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of East Frederic; one patient will be transported to PRMC

The following grain quotations are	Halliburton 21.05 -0.27 -
provided by Attebury Grain of	Triad Hospitals 27.65 +0.37
Parnyxi	NOT 22.50 -0.34
Wheat 3.04	KMI45.56 -0.19
. Milo	XCEL
Corn - 443	Kerr McGee 40 65 -0.51
Soybeans 5 07	Limited 13 30 +0.04
	Williams 4.88 - +0.01
The following show prices for	McDonalds 14 17 -0.15
which these mutual funds were	Exxon Mobil 35.52 -0.18
bid at the time of compilation	Atmos 21.47 -0.09
OXY 30 66 -0.17	Pioneer Nat 26.46 -0.23
0.17	Penney's 20.21 -0.07
	COP 52.83 -0.52
The following 9 30 a m. N.Y.	Schlumberger 38.01 -0.33
Stock Market quotations are fur-	Tenneco 2.40 +0.03
nished by Edward Jones & Co.	CVX64.79 -0.29
of Pampa	Wal-Mart54.29 , +0.22
BP	OKE
Celanese18.200.20	NS Group 7.90 +0.05
Cabot Corp24 31 +0.09	
Cabot Oil Gas 24 23 0 04	New York Gold 329.95
Coca Cola 41.10 -0.35	Silver 4 40
VLO 40.13 -0.79	West Texas Crude 28.56

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported Amarillo. She was released following treat-

the following accidents. Sunday, March 30

7:01 p.m. — A 1997 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Ricardo Deleon, 22, 317 Starkweather, was turning south on Price Road from 23rd Street when it collided with a 1995 Benton, 31, Perryton, traveling north on Price Road. Deleon was cited for unsafe turn (left), no proof of financial responsibility and failure to yield right of way at a stop sign. Three persons in the Benton vehicle were transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center. Benton was

Wednesday, April 2

12:10 p.m. — A-2002 Ford Focus driven by Frankie Delane Johnson, 45, of Willis, and a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice driven by Josue Rodriguez, 76, 1429 Charles, collided in the Chevy Lumina driven by Kimberly Lynn 1400 block of North Hobart. Johnson was cited for failure to yield right of way from a private drive. Johnson reported possible injury at the scene. A passenger in the vehicle, Jo Ann Franklin, 627 N. Zimmers, and Rodriguez suffered non-incapacitating injuries. All three were transported to Pampa Regional Medical transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in Center by Rural Metro Ambulance Service.

City Briefs

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

ALL YOU Can Eat Pampa at Top O' Texas Sportsman's Club. Adults \$7.00, Kids 6 to 12 yrs. \$3.50, Under 6 Free.

ATTENTION TANNERS! Clean beds, new bulbs at All About Beauty, 665-1101, 1405 "Reasonable Banks. Rates"

BARN DANCE, Apr. 11th, Grandview-Hopkins ISD Gym, live band "The Adams Brothers" from Clarendon, 7 p.m.-? \$1 ea. Silent Auction.

□ p.m. Call for reserv. \$6 each. Library 111 N. Houston

BRANDON'S FLOWERS Shrine 2 meat Spring Bar-B- For every Occasion! 665-5546, Que, Sun. Apr.6, 11am-2pm 2143 N. Hobart (by Subway)

> **DUNLAPS** IS now accepting applications for Store Manager. College degree preferred.Please bring resume with references to: Dunlaps

BIARRITZ CLUB proud- 7th Thursday 9:00AM - 9:00 ly presents Blues Boy Willie, PM Fri. & Sat. 9:00AMfeaturing "Yogie & Sugar 6:00PM Sunday 2:00PM-Show Band" from Dallas, Fri. 6:00PM Monday 9:00AM-Apr. 4, 8 p.m. & Sat. Apr. 5, 9 9:00PM Lovett Memorial

EVERYTHING GOES sale @ Beauty 2000, 329 N. Hobart. 75% off on all clothes, jewelry, purses, 50% off on all hair products also 2 show-

HOLMES SPORTS Center will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, Apr. 4th. Please shop Coronado Center Pampa Tx with us early. We will be 79065 or call Christy Parker open Saturday as usual.

cases for sale, Sat. 9am-?

IT'S NEST building time for the birds and they love FRIENDS OF the Library chimneys. If you need a Book Sale April 3rd to April chimney cap see us Fireside Comfort, 725 W. Brown.

> SPRING HAS Sprung! Spring clothing arriving dai-Wonderful selection. Twice Is Nice.

15 to 25 mph. Tonight should be mostly clear with lows in the mid 40s and west winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday should be mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 70s. Northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 30s. Southeast winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 60s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Slight chance of show-

Looking ahead, West

under one mile there. Otherwise, West Texas will be sunny to partly highs in the low to mid 80s

the Panhandle. It will be cooler on Monday. South Texas will see mostshould be free of rain, but a slight chance of rain is fore-

Friday. The best chance for rain should be Sunday and Monday in southeast and south central Texas. Small craft advisories continue today in the Coastal Bend

with blue fal a frame for the They are sea the church, as Several displa Sealman said t "Father Joh

He also said

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Come and SALE! Ha cial somet ing snacks will be give win) so co good time

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For (Tra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

He also said that coalition forces "don't think that the fighting is over yet."

"There are still options that are open to the regime, including weapons of mass destruction," he said. "We take that very seriously."

His position was echoed by a spokesman for British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who told his Cabinet Thursday not to expect a quick resolution to the war.

Another U.S. spokesman, Navy. Lt. Mark Kitchens, said U.S. forces are seeing "strong and credible signs that the Iraqi forces are being overwhelmed and will soon collapse."

However, Iraqi authorities vowed to make a stand, raising the possibility that some units had been pulled into Baghdad for urban warfare rather than risk a head-on clash outside the city.

While some Marine units advanced toward the capital, others from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines battled building to building with Iraqi fighters in Kut, a military town on the Tigris. Three Marines were wounded, and Lt. Col. B.P. McCoy said 30 Iraqis were killed, including 10 to 15 gunned down when they attempted what he called a suicide charge against Marine tanks.

To the west, thousands of Army vehicles were crossing the Euphrates and moving toward Baghdad after an unsuccessful attempt by Iraqi forces to defend a bridge at Musayyib. Scores of blown-up Iraqi vehicles and dozens of bodies lined the roads as the U.S. troops passed by.

U.S. defense officials said two Republican Guard divisions were badly weakened by the approaching Americans on Wednesday. U.S. forces incurred minimal losses in those battles, but the Iraqi regime vowed that resistance would stiffen.

"Fight them with your hands, God will disgrace them," said a statement attributed to Saddam, and read by Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf on Iraqi satellite televi-

"We're now trying to exhaust them," al-Sahhaf said of the invading forces, "making them more tired until our leadership decides the time and method to clean our territory of their desecration."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WALL

with blue fabric. Gold stars are on a white fabric and provide a frame for the pictures. A gold bow is at the bottom.

They are searching for more pictures to go up in the foyer of the church, as Father John began with the people they knew. Several displayed are members of the local church, but Sealman said the tribute is not limited to church members.

"Father John has worked so hard on this project," said Sealman. "He really wanted to recognize the members of the military."

She said the patriotic display is not limited to members of their church or Pampa residents,

"We want pictures of all the young people who are serving their country in Iraq and other foreign and stateside locations who are from here or who have local connections," she said. 'We also are putting up pictures of those who are not from here, but have relatives here. It is open to anyone serving their country in the military."

Sealman has more pictures which have arrived which she is putting on the board today. Below each picture lists the name, branch of service, rank, family members and where the military member is located.

"We have each of them on our prayer line," said Sealman. "It just helps to know their faces. We are getting their addresses and sending cards to them, too. We just want them to know we're thinking about them."

She welcomes anyone to contact her the church office, 665-8933, for additional information.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SMITH

"I think that's very important to make good economic decisions," Smith said.

The focus of those decisions, he said, must be the students. "I think primarily the need is for the children's education to be the best that we can provide," Smith said. "Whether that's in a grass hut or a brand new school-building at this point, I think, is irrelevant. Those are nice things if we can figure out a way to get them."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ACCIDENT

Katilyn Benton, 10, Perryton.

Passengers in the Deleon vehicle were Steven Stamps, 22, 600 N. Dwight; Crystal Herrera, 17, 400 N. Roberta; and Rebecca Dudley, 17, 800 E. Craven. According to the police report, none were injured.

Deleon was cited for unsafe turn (left), no proof of financial responsibility, failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

According to the report, no air bags in either vehicle deployed.

Arts & Crafts Show

Sat., April 5th from 10:00 to 7:30 p.m. V.F.W. Post 1657 105 S. Cuyler St. Pampa, Texas

Come and see the wonderful Arts & Crafts for SALE! Have a great time shopping for that special something. The Kitchen will be open serving snacks, drinks, and a hot meal. A Door Prize will be given away (do not need to be present to win) so come sign up and enjoy a down home good time at the Show & Sale, come and join us!

For more info. call Art Emporium (Trading Post) at 1-806-665-1245

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Patented

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2 pc. SET

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FULL SET KING SET *399 ***749**

\$899

SEALY POSTURE PREMIER

Twin Set \$249 Full Set \$299 Queen Set \$349

\$299 TWIN SET \$349 **FULL SET** \$399 **OUEEN SET** \$649 KING SET

SEALY "PILLOW-TOP" *399 TWIN SET \$449 **FULL SET** \$499 **OUEEN SET** \$749 KING SET

9:00 TO 5:30 MONDAY-SATURDAY

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HOME DELIVERY

VIEWPOINTS

Do we really stand united?

BY COURTNEY GAGAN

This morning I awoke to beautiful blue Texas skies and temperatures expected to reach the mid-70s. The perfect weather for a drive to a neighboring community, to dig up some cacti:

truck; my heart began to swell as I headed east. I passed several churchés on my way out of town, all with parking lots packed with cars. All of course different makes and models, driven there by different people... But once inside the great halls of worship none of that matters, because they all are united for one common cause, to practice their freedom of religion. The one place that social status, education and race should not matter. One of the great things that the Pilgrims sailed across the ocean for, hundreds of years ago, and the founding beliefs of our country.

Heading east I turned the radio on looking for something to sing along to. Instead my radio landed on a news station. Usually I continue searching for music, but the reports on the war caught my attention. Some of them, booming through the speakers, sent chills up my spine.

The first report discussed the "pro-war" rallies. People were gathering to support the brave soldiers, young and matured, fighting on the other side of the world. The Pledge of Allegiance coming across loud and clear.

Unfortunately, the following news report was not quite so supportive or "united." Anti-war rallies were being summarized and the jist of the story that filtered in was not too pleasing. Protesters were making accusations that President George W. Bush has not tried to peacefully resolve the situation. Another protester was said to be marching with a sign stating "Support the Warriors not the War." What are warriors without a war? That is a question I would like answered.

GUEST COLUMN

Civilians of the United States have the Getting into my American made pick-up option and for many considered "the up signs, none/the less on national televitry running as smoothly as possible while they are out fighting for continued free-

someone else, but we are accountable for Wilson Elementary.

this war just as much as President George W. Bush. We drive around in our foreign cars, become envious of movie stars that have every drop of water in their home imported, buy petroleum products produced in other countries and proudly march around in little circles chanting and holding sion. It is us, the citizens of the United States, that make our country appear "foolish" and "flaky" to other countries. Not one

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In the meantime, while our proud soldiers are out fighting, take a good long look around you and really see the sacrifices others have made, for your freedom. I personally know that my father's joyous gift of malaria, that he permanently gained in Vietnam, surfaces every summer when the Oklahoma heat wave rolls in, but I have never heard him complain about serving his country. Pick up a history book at your local library, where we have the privilege of checking out free books, and do a little Sunday reading. I think those that take their freedom for granted need a refresher course on the numbers that have died in battle for you to live in the most glorious place on this earth, the United States.

If this is nothing except a bouquet of sentimentalities to you coming from someone who loves her country and you still believe that there are other options than war, I have a great suggestion. You go over to the war zone and create the peace that our government and armed forces have diligently worked on for quite some time now. I am sure the flights are pretty cheap, and first class seats probably aren't filled yet. If funds are a setback for you to initiate your personal "peace plan," don't fret, just put it on your American Express.

Editor's Note: Courtney Gagan is a graduate of Oklahoma State University.

opportunity" to join the armed forces. "Armed" being the key word. They receive a plethora of education once they sign that dotted line. Education is such a broad term: man. Some sign for assistance to further their education. Some knowing and probably have known since they played "military" at the age of eight, that this is their calling. And some at the beginning point, maybe just a place to feel equal. Who honestly knows each individual reason, but it is loud and clear that when the recruited person signs his or her John Hancock, they have vowed to protect and defend America the Beautiful. Instead of marching merry-goround style, holding cardboard signs, protesters could use other actions that are much more beneficial. Say, maybe, bake some cookies, write a letter of support to those risking their lives, or possibly just do their job here at home and keep our coun-

The comment made about President George W. Bush was the one that really made my wheels spin. One man is going to be held responsible for this entire war? Why don't we stop and look at the prior events that have led up to this war and past presidents that should accept responsibility as well. This has been a snowball effect. A war we have known for years was going to happen, didn't happen overnight. Instead of taking responsibility for this war, as a nation "united" we are going to blame it on one man? We all want to put the blame on She teaches fourth grade at Woodrow

OUR BELOVED LEADER SADDAM IS OUR LIVE AND IN PERSON TO DELIVER. HERE INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE TO HIS AN INSPIRATIONAL THAT RIGHT, OH PEOPLE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OH GREAT LEADER ? YOU BETTER BELIEVE II, PAL! HEY! WATCH THAT HAND OR YOU'RE GONNA LOSE IT! caglecartoons.com

Report reveals constitutional ignorance

The March 10 issue of Human Events carried a special report on the 10 most outrageous government programs. Their 18 judges included conservative/libertarians such as former Rep. Dick Armey, R-Texas, former Delaware Gov. Pete Dupont, Mark Levin, president of the Landmark Legal Foundation, and David Boaz, Cato Institute's vice president.

The Legal Services Corp. headed the list, followed closely by the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act and the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931. Rounding out the list were: Americorps, Endangered Species Act, No Child Left Behind Act, Amtrak, Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards, Title X Family Planning Act, and the provision of welfare payments to non-citizens and illegal aliens.

Human Events, a conservative, Republican-leaning publication, unlike Democrats who protect scoundrels in their party, wasn't reluctant to list the presidents who sponsored or supported these outrageous government programs. Most of the programs were born during Republican administrations. Herbert Hoover was in office when the Davis-Bacon Act was written in 1931. Richard Nixon presided over the births of the Legal Services Corp. (1974), the Endangered Species Act (1973), Amtrak (1971) and the Title X Family Planning Act (1970). Gerald Ford sponsored CAFE standards (1975), and George W. Bush signed off on the No Child Left Behind Act (2002).

These laws interfere with and federalize

WALTER WILLIAMS COLUMNIST

al control over education, the worse it becomes. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has attacked and trivialized private property rights. CAFE standards, by forcing auto companies to produce lighter, and hence less safe cars, have cost thousands of highway fatalities, and it goes on and on. One of the more disgusting revelations of the Human Events report came when a

simple question was put to high-level bureaucrats in charge of running these outrageous programs. Human Events asked them to state the constitutional authority for the programs. Warren Flatau, Railroad Administration spokesman, said he wasn't a legal scholar but opined that the same question could be asked of other agencies. Chris Tollefson, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, answered that it was his understanding that authority for ESA "is based on the commerce clause." Former Rep. John Erlenborn, R. Ill., now president of the Legal Services Corp., answered: "Probably the same one that lets the federal government build highways. I don't know. The general welfare clause."

The correct answer to Human Events' question about the constitutional authority for these outrageous programs is: There is no constitutional authority whatsoever. Grossly ignorant or conniving politicians tell constitutionally ignorant Americans that it is the general welfare clause that authorizes these programs. You figure it.

Here's what James Madison, the father of our Constitution, said about the welfare clause: "With respect to the two words 'general welfare', I have always regarded them as qualified by the detail of powers connected with them. To take them in a literal and unlimited sense would be a metamorphosis of the Constitution into a character which there is a host of proofs was not contemplated by its creators.'

Thomas Jefferson said, "Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare, but only those specifically enumerated." The detail or enumeration to which Madison and Jefferson refer is found mostly in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

Rep. John Shadegg, R-Ariz., has introduced the Enumerated Powers Act several times. It would require each act of Congress to contain a concise and definite statement of the specific constitutional authority relied upon for the enactment of each portion of that act or else the bill could not go forward. Shadegg's Enumerated Powers Act (HR 175) went down to three crushing defeats.

Can we ask for more compelling evidence of Congress's contempt for our Constitution, or do you think our congressmen are simply reflecting the constitutional contempt of the people?

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Boycott station that plays The Dixie Chicks music

To the editor:

This is in protest of the local radio station playing The Dixie Chicks when we have men and women from this town over there fighting to defend this country and the freedom of everyone in this country.

I called the radio station and asked them not to play them any more. I was told they had no control over what they play, so I got the number of the station's owners in Denver, Colo., and called there. She hung up on me.

I think all sponsors of this local station should withdraw their support until the station quits playing The Dixie Chicks.

Shirley Stephens Pampa

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, April 3, the 93rd day of 2003. There are 272 days left in the year

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 3, 1860, the legendary Pony Express began service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif.

In 1865, Union forces occupied the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

In 1882, outlaw Jesse James was shot to death in St. Joseph, Mo., by Robert Ford, a member of James' gang. In 1936, Bruno Hauptmann was electrocuted in Trenton, N.J.,

for the kidnap-murder of the Lindbergh child. In 1946, Lt. General Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed

outside Manila. In 1948, President Truman signed the Marshall Plan, which allocated more than \$5 billion in aid for 16 European countries.

In 1968, the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation

In 1968, North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

In 1982, Britain dispatched a naval task force to the south Atlantic to reclaim the disputed Falkland Islands from Argentina. In 1996, an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

In 1996, Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski was arrested.

Ten years ago: President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin opened a weekend summit in Vancouver, British Columbia, beginning their talks after a luncheon with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific rea-

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

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Smith also reprimands another offi Gary Tallma spokesman.

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CCPC computer tech excited about certification program

BY DARLENE BIRKES FOR THE NEWS

Computer technologist DeWayne Stephens of Clarendon College-Pampa Center is new to Pampa. He is teaching the new information technology program to qualify students to become Microsoft certified systems engineers for Windows 2000. There are only 14 colleges in Texas that offer the two-semester course of study in the Microsoft IT Academy program.

"The advantages are that students can earn college credit as well as industry certification,"

The first semester students learn to be a support specialist and in the second semester, a networking specialist. The student learns to plan, install, implement, manage and support a Microsoft Windows 2000 Network environ-

Stephens is scheduling a Summer I course that will include the fundamentals of network- completed the program." ing.

"To be a network technician, one has to understand how computers work, the hardware system, networking, installation and configuring, the infrastructure design, as well as troubleshooting, configuring and optimizing servers, and many other aspects," Stephens

After passing the official Microsoft exams and the Comp TIA exams, the certified technician is equipped to find a job in the Panhandle. Stephens referred to a Panhandle Work Force development graph that estimated the need for technology certified students increasing to 1,000 jobs by the year 2010 in the Panhandle. Starting salaries begin at about \$30,000, said

"There are so many types of positions as repair, customer service, maintenance, imple-

is a big future in computers. I want this program to have a niche at Pampa Center, and I am going to work hard to see that it happens," said the enthusiastic instructor.

He added, "This can be adopted to other programs, even though most computers today are running some version of Microsoft

If students want to continue their education to acquire an associates of applied science degree, they can add two additional semesters of study with three electives and the required courses of English, math, fine arts, speech and social/behavioral science.

"There is no reason why a student can not attend college with the scholarships and grants available and even an IT loan," said Stephens. "A student can even apply for an IT loan to upgrade his home computer so that he can practice at home during his study with pay back not required for one year after he has

Stephens had worked as a network technician before coming to Pampa Center. He worked for several school districts and a hospital as technical coordinator and systems administrator. He worked as a consultant in Phoenix, Ariz., but enjoys smaller towns.

"Some of my best days were working for a small school district "Livie I did everything related to computers," Stephens said. "Pampa feels like home — a friendly, helpful town."

He is excited to be here, excited about the program, enjoys working in the new college building and with the staff "who treats me like family."

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Stephens or Counselor Jennifer Moore at CCPC, 1601 W. Kentucky. For more details, visit www.clarendoncollege.edu/programs/it on the Internet or call the campus at



Computer technologist, DeWayne Stephens, currently heads up the Microsoft Information Technology program, new to CCPC. Students graduate as certified systems engineers after a concentrated course requiring two semesters of study.

mentation and design," Stephens said. "There 665-8801. No. 2 U.S. Interior Department official met with former associates

2 official in the U.S. Interior Department first of at least four meetings with Interior participated in meetings on oil and gas leas- Department colleagues about the Chevron es involving companies that were clients of project, according to Griles' appointment a lobbying firm he had worked for previ- calendars, which were obtained by news

Clients of Deputy Interior Secretary J. Steven Griles' former lobbying firm had huge financial stakes in the leases off ed Griles' actions, saying he acted ethically. Florida and California.

Some of the meetings involving Griles figured in a dispute that ended with the Bush administration paying \$46 million to Chevron USA Inc. to abandon a natural gas drilling project in the Gulf of Mexico, just 30 miles from Florida beaches.

Before the Senate confirmed Griles in 2001, he promised to refrain for a year from involvement in any issue in which one of his former clients or employers had a financial interest.

Though Griles is listed as a lobbyist for Chevron in reports filed with Congress by his firm, he says he did no personal lobbying for the company.

While Griles' nomination was pending before the Senate, Chevron was paying Griles' firm \$80,000 to lobby the Interior Department, according to reports filed with

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The No. was confirmed, Griles participated in the organizations and environmental groups under the Freedom of Information Act.

Interior spokesman Mark Pfeifle defend-

Pfeifle said Griles participated in discussions about the dispute involving Chevron's leases, but made no decisions. The Justice Department negotiated a settlement with the company.

"Steve Griles made as many decisions for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to win the Super Bowl as he did on the Destin Dome buyout," said Pfeifle. Destin Dome is the name of the area of the Gulf where Chevron's leases were located.

Pfeifle said the Chevron settlement was negotiated by career employees who saved taxpayers more than \$285 million because Chevron and other oil companies had sued the federal government for far more than they collected.

After inquiries by The Associated Press, Griles' former lobbying partner Marc Himmelstein said the firm plans to change each of the three lobbying reports it filed In September 2001, two months after he with Congress to remove Griles' name.

Webster. His National Guard

Albertsons Assorted Chops Family Pack Boneless Chicken Tenders Fresh



National Guard Colonel relieved of duty after streaking incident

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP) - A National Guard battalion commander is being relieved of his command for running naked outside the barracks at Fort Bragg.

Lt. Col. J.D. Webster was one of several soldiers seen streaking on Feb. 18, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Zannie O. Smith, acting commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, has told Webster he intends to take away his job as commander of the 1st Battalion of the 130th Regiment, Aviation Apache attack helicopter unit.

Final action will be taken after the officers have been offered a chance to give a rebuttal.

Smith also issued written reprimands to Webster and another officer, said Maj. Gary Tallman, a Fort Bragg spokesman.

been appointed for the battalion, Tallman said.

Webster declined to comment through a spokesman.

unit battalion is based at Morrisville, at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, Military officials wouldn't and is now training at Fort

release any details on Hood, Texas:

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NEWS COMICS

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To order "How to Write Letters for

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THURSDAY • APRIL 3, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Accommodating Mother-in-Law Gets Back What She Gives

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, when I first became a daughter-in-law, it was a good lesson in how *not* to be a mother-in-law. So when our son became engaged, I told his chosen one I considered her "in-law" status only a legality, that I felf-I was gaining a daughter, and that wives should always come before mothers.

My husband and I offered advice only when asked and kept still when we saw them do something we thought was a mistake.

When our son had to travel out of town for additional job training, Dad and I moved into their home at their request. We had a great time with our grandchildren and made it possible for our son and his wife to have uninterrupted time for each other.

I am now a widow in my 90s and live in a lovely apartment my son and his wife built onto their home. They visit and help me whenever 4 need them.

When we drive places, I have always insisted on sitting in the back seat because I find it easier to get in and out of the car. (The kids often have things to discuss and I don't need to know everything.) Believe me, the back seat "ain't" all that bad!

My daughters live in Virginia and California and come to stay whenever my son and his wife want to get away. All of them keep me busy with my computer, getting my own meals, knitting and library

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books. My girls call daily — California in the mornings and Virginia to unless requested. say good-night. The kids here in — Thou shall town are in and out several times a much you look forward to grand-day. When I tell each one how children. blessed I feel, my son always says, "Mother, you reap what you sow." GRATEFUL MOM/IN-LAW from your own.

DEAR GRATEFUL MOM/IN- Heavenly Father, in whose love LAW: In most relationships, they abide, for their happiness. your son is right. Love and

Dear Abby is written by Abigail
respect are a two-way street. I Phillips, and was founded by her mother,
receive so many letters about Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at
bad relationships that it's a www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, pleasure to print one that Los Angeles, CA 90069.

details such an exemplary one.
And while we're on the subject, I'll reprint a favorite item All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, II. 61054-0447. (Postage is that has appeared in my column

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR A MOTHER-IN-LAW

by Iola M, Irwin Thou shalt love, honor and respect the new couple. Thou shalt allow them com-

plete independence. Thou shalt speak only kindly and loyally about them: Thou shalt not find fault.

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Thou shalt not give advice

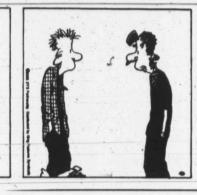
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A FAST-FOOD BURGER JOINT

IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Crossword Puzzle

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By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 2 Hoopla

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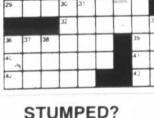
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STUMPED?

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The Family Circu



"Do you have to check every tree for squirrels?"

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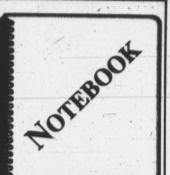
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BASEBALL

ANAHEIM. (AP) — Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to hit 300 home runs, connecting for a three-run drive in the Texas Rangers' game against the Anaheim Angels.

Rodriguez is 27 years, 249 days old. Previously, the fastest to 300 was Hall of Famer Jimmie Foxx at 27 years, 328 days. Foxx finished his career with 534 homers.

CORECTION

Blake Helms of Pampa was listed as a junior on the All-District 3.4A Boys Soccer Team, which was published in the Amarillo Globe-News. Blake is actually a senior...

AUTO RACING

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Driver Ryan Newman, crew chief Matt Borland and race engineer Mike Nelson have brought something new to Penske Racing South — an emphasis on technology.

All three have degrees on mechanical engineering and bring a different perspective to a job where learning was mostly by trial and error.

"In school we're taught an organized way to go about solving problems," Nelson said. "I think that's an advantage.

It's not a shock that technology is a priority on the team owned by Roger Penske. Penske's entries in technically more sophisticated world of open-wheel racing have been dominant. Since 1969 they have 12 Indianapolis 500s, 11 open-wheel championships and 114 total victories.

"The cars, although very different, they're you're still trying to accomplish the same thing, which is to make all four tires work as best you can," said Borland, a graduate of the General Motors Institute, who came to NASCAR from an engineering position in CART.

"A lot of the strategy part is pretty different," Borland added. "Indy cars, you just keep trying to run as long as you can on fuel because the cars get faster on long runs. With these cars, you continually get slower on long runs. You have to think kind of opposite from what you grew up doing.

"And, in NASCAR, you get more involved in the car-building process, whereas in CART you buy the chassis from Reynard or another supplier. You pretty much just run the car, but here you're pretty much building the car and motor from the ground up and racing the car."

The Penske team switched from Ford to Dodge this year, and both Newman, last year's top rookie, and teammate Rusty Wallace, the 1989 Winston Cup champion, got off to slow starts.



Basketball player Valerie Velez of Pampa will playing in the Golden Spread High School All-Star Games at the Event Center in Canyon.

Velez will play in Golden Spread All-Star contests

Valerie Velez has been selected to play in the annual Texas Golden Spread All-Star Basketball Games today through Saturday at the West Texas A&M Event Center in Canyon.

The Games feature outstanding area senior players from the Texas Panhandle and eastern New Mexico.

Velez will be a member of the East team, which plays the North girls at 6 p.m. Friday.

All-District 3-4A player this past season.

She led the Lady Harvester in scoring (10.1 lowed by the boys at 8 p.m. pp), free throw percentage (73 percent) and steals (19) in district play.

Velez was second on the team in rebounding (4.1 rpg) and averaged 1.5 assists per game.

Golden Spread teams for both boys and girls are divided into North, South, East and West squads, which are coached by vol-

Tonight's action begins at 6 p.m. with the West girls playing the South girls, followed by the West boys and the South boys at 8 p.m.

Following the East-North girls game tomorrow, the East boys meet the North boys at 8 p.m.

The consolation games Velez was a second-team start at 1 p.m. Saturday beginning with the girls. The girls championship game starts at 6 p.m., fol-

> There will also be threepoint shooting competition. An senior boy or girl, regardless of whether they are selected for the All-Star Games, is eligible to partici-

Astros notch comeback victory over Rockies

HOUSTON (AP) — The Astros hadn't done this in 11 years.

Not since April 9, 1992,, had Houston trailed by four runs in the ninth inning and come back to win.

That's what happened Wednesday night, when Craig Biggio's two-run single capped a five-run ninth inning in an 8-7 win over the Colorado Rockies.

"When you're down by mound, you don't expect to win," Biggio said. "But those guys ahead of me did their jobs and you never give up. We gave ourselves an opportunity to win and we'll sure take it."

The last time this happened was at the Astrodome, when Houston overcame a 5ninth-inning deficit against Cincinnati and won 6-5 in 13 innings.

This also was the first time Colorado, which began play in 1993, ever lost on the road after leading by four runs in the ninth inning. The Rockies have lost twice at Coors Field after leading by four runs in the ninth.

Jose Jimenez (0-1) replaced Todd Jones with a 7-3 lead and gave up six hits while retiring just one batter. Jimenez waved off interview requests after the game.

"It's a lonely feeling for him right now," Jones said. "But you know if we're going to do anything this year, we're going to have to rely on him. It's just tough for him right now but those are the ups and downs of being a closer.'

Houston's rally began when Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent loaded the bases with singles, and Richard Hidalgo hit a two-run single.

"He just got the ball up over the plate and they put the barrel on it," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said. "The first three balls were hit on the ground."

After Brad Ausmus bunted into a forceout at third, Orlando Merced pinch hit for Billy Wagner (1-0) and had an RBI double that made it 7-6. Jose Vizcaino was intentionally walked, and Biggio singled to left.

"It is just one game, but it Cook gave up three runs —

shows what we are capable of doing," Bagwell said. "We can build on that. It helps your confidence because you know that you did something like that before."

Houston, which outhit the Rockies 14-13, won despite stranding 13 runners, and Colorado left 11. Bagwell had three hits and Biggio drove in

With Colorado ahead 3-2and the bases loaded followng walks to Ronnie Belliard and Jay Payton, Todd Helton singled to shallow right field. Chris Stynes scored on the hit off Wade Miller, and the ball rolled by Hidalgo for a tworun error that gave the Rockies a 6-2 lead.

"The first four innings were like two drunks fighting early in the morning," Hurdle said. "It took a long time to play, there were a lot of body blows, and it wasn't pretty."

A throwing error by Colorado catcher Charles Johnson cut the gap to 6-3 in the fourth, but Belliard had an RBI single in the fifth off Pete Munro.

Rockies starter Aaron

two earned - eight hits and four walks in four innings. Miller, who stayed in after he was hit by Chris Stynes' comebacker in the second, allowed five runs and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Colorado took a 3-0 lead in the second on RBI singles by Cook, Belliard and Jay Payton. Todd Helton followed with another single, but Hidalgo threw out Belliard at the plate.

Notes: Ausmus, Houston's catcher, received his second straight Gold Glove award prior to the game. ... After two openingnight homers, Bagwell is tied with Frank Howard for 43rd place on the home run list with 382. ... Nelson Cruz is to start Thursday against his old teammates.

Plainview beats Pampa girls

PLAINVIEW

Plainview jumped out to an early lead and held off Pampa for a 6-3 victory Tuesday in District 3-4A softball action.

Pampa took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first when Jennie Rogers scored. She doubled, advanced to third on a grounder, and stole home.

However, Plainview plated five runs in the bottom of the first on two hits, four walks and one error. The Lady Bulldogs added one more run in the second.

The Lady Harvesters scored the last two runs of the game in the top of the second

off two Plainview errors with Whitney Roden and Jackie Gerber reaching base. Rogers drive in one of the runs on an RBI single while the other run came on a Plainview miscue.

Rogers had two of the three Pampa hits. Roden had the other one.

Pampa pitcher Dusti Wilson after the first two innings retired 14 batters in a row. Her record is 10-2.

The Lady Harvesters are 5-3 in district and 18-8 for the season. They host Hereford at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Plainview is 1-7 in district and 4-14 for the season.

St. John's, Georgetown go for NIT championship

NEW YORK (AP) — St. John's coach Mike Jarvis walked into the room, picked up his cell phone and started talking to no one.

"What's that? Do you want me to tell him that?" Jarvis joked. He closed his phone and announced, "It's all set, Coach Esherick won't be here tomorrow."

Playing a conference rival in the National Invitation Tournament can provide such moments of levity. The Red Storm play Craig Esherick's Georgetown squad Thursday night in the NIT final, and St. John's (20-13) hopes to add another title to its tournament-record five championships.

Perhaps Jarvis should have joked that Georgetown big man Michael Sweetney won't be able to make it. Sweetney saved his best performance of the season for the end, dominating teams down low during the Hoyas' resent resurgence. He had 32 points against Minnesota in the semifinals Tuesday night.

Sweetney averages a double-double (22.8 points, 10.4 rebounds). He also is a junior, and he has given no indication whether he will leave school to enter the NBA draft.

"He's got to be if not the best big man in college, one of the best," St. John's guard Marcus Hatten said.

Hatten also has been the Red Storm's best player throughout the season. He scored 14 of his game-high 34 points in the final-3:17 to help St. John's erase a 16-point deficit in the final seven minutes and beat the Hoyas 77-72 on Jan. 18.

St. John's entered its game against Duke on March 2 at 12-12. But the Red Storm upset the Blue Devils 72-71 on Hatten's free throw with no time left, starting a string of eight wins in nine games.

Hatten also won the game against Texas Tech in the semifinals, hitting a layup with 16 seconds left to give the Red Storm a thrilling 64-63 victory.

Georgetown (19-14) also has won five of its last six after struggling throughout the regular season.

"St. John's went through some of the same growing pains we went through," Esherick said. "(Recently) our defense has picked up and we've played extremely good defense in the NIT."

Just one year ago, the Hoyas turned down a bid to the NIT because they would have had to play on the road and miss classes. Now Esherick is happy to represent the Big East in the postsea-

Aside from having two league teams play for the NIT title, four Big East squads made the round of 16 and Syracuse is in the Final Four.

in our league that were better than people thought in terms of the national press," Esherick said.

Georgetown has never won the NIT title. The Hoyas played in the final in 1993 but lost to Minnesota 62-61. Aside from having the chance to coach in the NIT, Esherick played at Georgetown in 1978 when the Hoyas made the semifinals and lost to North Carolina State, then lost again in the consolation game to Rutgers.

St. John's is no stranger to going to the championship game. Aside from having five titles — the last in 1989 the Red Storm have the most wins in the tournament's history (44).

In the locker room, a simple message is posted: "Know your ring size. St. John's goes for No. 6."

"We had a lot of games that could have been our last, but

"There were a lot of teams this is a grand finale," Hatten said. "We look forward to doing something special."

> The win over Texas Tech gave the Red Storm the 37th 20-win season in school history. It wasn't easy to reach that mark.

> "After we beat Duke, we realized we could play with anybody in the country," said junior guard Willie Shaw, who bruised his shoulder against the Red Raiders but expects to play against Georgetown. "The world thought we were going to get blown out, but that has been the turning point of the sea-

> Minnesota (19-13) and Texas Tech (21-13) play in the consolation game. Coach Bob Knight saw the Red Raiders blow a 10-point lead against St. John's in his bid to win a second NIT title. Knight led Indiana to the championship in 1979.

By CHUCK SCHOFFNER

AP Sports Writer

Diana Taurasi and Alana Beard will be there. So will "Rocky Top" and "Hook 'em, horns!" The women's Final Four will feature two of the game's top stars, a ton of tradition and plenty of orange.

Taurasi will lead defending champion Connecticut against Texas in one semifinal at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta on Sunday. Duke, which looks to Beard for leadership at both ends of the floor, faces six-time champion Tennessee.

If this group looks familiar, well, it should. Connecticut, Tennessee and Duke reached last year's Final Four. the sport's showcase event for the first time since 1987, the year after the Longhorns won the national championship.

victories, second only to Tennessee's Pat Summitt, who has 820.

Connecticut (35-1) made it the national semifinals for the fourth to Connecticut, is in the Final Four has the athletes and size to stay with

straight year despite losing four for the third time in five years. The starters from last season's unbeaten team. Coach Geno Auriemma has no seniors and his new starters include two freshmen. A third freshman plays major minutes.

"I don't think people really understand what we went through and what Coach has gone through with us," forward Jessica Moore said. "For us to be here is just amazing, and it's like a sense of relief, a real blessing for me. I just feel so proud to be a part of our team."

Tennessee's orange-clad faithful will follow the Lady Vols (32-4) to. their 14th Final Four and clap with gusto every time the band strikes up "Rocky Top."

This is the last chance for Kara Texas is bringing the burnt orange to Lawson and the other Tennessee seniors to win a title. The Lady Vols lost to UConn in the semifinals last year and haven't won a title since 1998.

"This is a confident group. We Texas coach Jody Conradt has 817 believe in each other," Lawson said. "We want to go a couple of steps further this year.

Duke (35-1), which has lost only

Blue Devils are the only team in the field without a national championship, but they've won 15 straight games and have been playing outstanding defense.

Texas (29-5), winner its last 17 games, was the No. 2 seed in the West Regional. The other semifinalists were seeded No. 1.

The Longhorns' men's team also reached the Final Four.

The matchups: **Duke-Tennessee**

Duke's 76-55 victory over Tennessee on Nov. 24 was so long ago that it's hard to draw any conclusions from it. But Summitt hasn't forgotten it. Nor has she forgotten her team's 63-62 overtime loss at Connecticut on Jan. 4.

"Anytime you get beat along the way, you immediately want to play again," Summitt said. "When we saw the brackets, we saw that we had a great opportunity for revenge. We shouldn't need motivation. (But) we do have something to prove."

Tennessee is deeper than Duke and

Beard and 6-foot-4 Iciss Tillis, who plays on the perimeter and inside.

The Lady Vols have the consummate leader in Lawson, who has played every game as if it were her last. At 6-2, Gwen Jackson can shoot from the perimeter or post up, and with her deep bench, Summitt can go with a big lineup, a small lineup or a combination.

Beard, a smooth left-hander, is tough to defend because she can drive, pull up for the jumper or hit the fadeaway from in close. She's also Duke's best defender.

So far, Beard has been carrying Duke in the NCAA tournament. To beat Tennessee, she'll need more help from Tillis, Sheana Mosch, Mistie Bass and Michele Matyasovsky.

Connecticut-Texas Connecticut's young players have rallied around Taurasi, the only returning starter. She's averaging 25.8 points in the tournament, prompting Auriemma to compare what she has done to when Larry Bird led Indiana State to the 1979 Final Four.

"That's the last person I can think of Carey said.

that had a cast of characters that nobody will ever remember on the men's side," Auriemma said. "I think D has the same sort of responsibility. She's got to do a little bit of everything every night. It really has been remarkable.'

Moore has become a key player after averaging only 3.8 points in last year's NCAA tournament. Freshmen Barbara Turner, Ann Strother and Willnett Crockett all have had big moments - and some sour ones, too. But Taurasi usually has been there to bail them out.

Texas could give the Huskies trouble with its inside duo of Heather Schreiber and Stacy Stephens. The Longhorns also have a heady point guard in Jamie Carey, a good shooter who left Stanford after a series of concussions and was cleared to play at

The victory that sent Texas to the Final Four, 78-60 over top-seeded LSU, came on Stanford's floor.

"Since I was in the seventh grade, I dreamed of cutting down the nets at Stanford to go to the Final Four,"

Award-winning night for A's

By The Associated Press

Oakland had an award-winning victory over Seattle.

AL MVP Miguel Tejada hit a three-run homer, and Cy Young winner Barry Zito pitched six solid innings Wednesday night as the Athletics beat the visiting Mariners 8-3.

"I won the Cy Young, but it doesn't mean I'm going to come out and dominate," Zito

Eric Chavez also homered for the defending AL West champions, who won easily again for rookie manager Ken Macha. Tim Hudson went eight innings in a 5-0 victory in the opener Tuesday night.

"You don't want to be the guy to let the team down," Zito said. "After what Huddy did last night, you don't want to be the lame mule to break the

In other American League games, it was Anaheim 11 Texas 5; New York 9, Toronto 7: Minnesota 8. Detroit 1: Kansas City 5, Chicago 4; Cleveland 4, Baltimore 2; and Boston 7, Tampa Bay 5.

Zito (1-0) gave up one run and three hits to improve to 21-1 in his last 31 home starts, dating to June 18, 2001.

Tejada said before the game he would not be distracted by his contract situation — he can become a free agent after the

before the end of the season if season. The fastest to 300 had he's going to stay. The club been Hall of Famer Jimmie says it can't afford to offer him a multiyear deal.

"I wasn't looking for a home run," the shortstop said. "I just want to get on base for my team. It's nice to have the first ing up four runs and seven hits

Jamie Moyer (0-1) allowed eight runs, six earned, and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings. He walked four.

Angels 11, Rangers 5

At Anaheim, Calif., Alex Rodriguez became the youngest player to hit 300 homers, but Anaheim won behind home runs from Troy Glaus, Brad Fullmer and Darin

Rodriguez, 27 years, 249 days old, hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning off Ramon Ortiz (1-0), his second of the

Foxx at 27 years, 328 days. Foxx finished with 534 homers.

Bengie Molina had four RBIs, and Ortiz improved to 10-1 against Texas despite givover five innings. John Thomson (0-1) allowed six, runs and 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings in his AL debut.

Yankees 9, Blue Jays 7

At Toronto, Erick Almonte homered and had three RBIs in his first game as Derek Jeter's replacement, and New York finished a three-game sweep and opened with three straight road wins for the first time since 1942.

Almonte, recalled after Jeter dislocated his left shoulder in Monday's opener, went 2-for-5 in his first major league start.

Ascension Academy wins freshman baseball game

Gold lost to Ascension Academy 5-3 in a 9th grade baseball game Tuesday night.

Chris Jimenez had a double for Pampa's only extra base hit. Clay Jones and Craig Stone each had a single.

Dylan Henley pitched the first three mnings for Pampa and Keenan Davis pitched the last three. Henley gave up two season and wants a new deal hits, walked three and struck

AMARILLO — Pampa out one. Davis gave up one hit, walked three and struck out five.

> "We made some costly errors the first three innings, but settled down after that and played some pretty good ball," said Pampa coach Clint

> Pampa dropped to 3-9 on the season. The next game is Friday against Fritch at 4:30 p.m. at Harvester Field.

> > 1 1/2

GB

GB

1/2

1 1/2

Spurs prepared for playoffs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs showed why they're preparing for the playoffs - and the Memphis Grizzlies are playing out the season.

Duncan had 33 points on 13-of-16 shooting and added 19 rebounds in the Spurs', 105-87 victory Wednesday night. San Antonio has won seven straight, while Memphis has lost seven of its last eight.

"Everybody on that team, they know what time of year it is," Memphis center Lorenzen Wright "They've been preparing their bodies. Getting their bodies ready for the playoffs because they know how rigorous it

"Right now, it's about to start a whole new season for them. We're winding our season down, and they are starting another one." Malik Rose added 18

points for San Antonio, and point guard Tony Parker scored 10 of his 16 points in the third period.

"I don't think it was just Wright said. inside," "They came in here as a team, and played really well, like they've been playing against everybody."

Wright led Memphis with 24 points, but the rest of the frontline had little punch.

Mike Miller, still bothered 16 away from home.

by back spasms, had seven points. The Grizzlies were outscored 50-38 in the paint and outrebounded 49-35.

"I wanted top get physical with him," Duncan said of his defense on Gasol. "When he got his touches, I wanted to make him feel uncomfortable."

Wesley Person and reserve Mike Batiste added 14 points each for Memphis.

Notes: Memphis center Stromile Swift missed the game because of a sprained thumb. ... Dunean had his 54th double-double by halftime. ... The Leading scorer Pau Spurs lead the series 27-4. Gasol scored five points ... The Spurs won their and had five rebounds seventh straight on the before fouling out, and road and 15th of their last

Bucks rally past Rockets, 106-99

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee threw a new wrinkle at Yao Ming.

Toni-Kukoc held Yao scoreless in the fourth quarter as the Bucks erased a 13-point deficit to win their third consecutive game, a 106-99 victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

Sam Cassell scored 20 points to help Milwaukee move two games ahead of

Washington in the race for the Eastern Conference's eighth playoff spot. The Wizards lost to Sacramento, and the Bucks hold the tiebreaker with Washington.

Yao scored 12 points and had four rebounds in the first quarter, but was held to three points and two rebounds in his final 21 minutes.

Center Ervin Johnson fouled out late in the third

quarter, and Milwaukee coach George Karl left the 6-foot-11, 235-pound Kukoc on the 7-6 Yao the rest of the way.

"As a big guy, he's used to people putting a body on him," Kukoc said. "Since I don't have a body to put on him, it was easier for me to try and move from side to side. What I tried to do was anticipate and beat him to the spot. It worked well a couple times."

Major League Standings

All Times EST **East Division** American League Pct GB East Division Montrea 0 1.000 Philadelphia 0 1.000 0 1.000 New York .500 Boston .667 Atlanta .000 Baltimore .500 Florida .000 .333 Tampa Bay Central Division .000 Pct GB **Central Division** Houston 0 1.000 Pct Pittsburgh 0 1.000 Kansas City 0 1.000 St. Louis 0 1.000 Minnesota 0 1.000 Chicago :500 Cleveland .500 Cincinnati Chicago 000 .000 Milwaukee Detroit .000 West Division West Division Pct GB Pct San Francisco 1.000 Oakland .0 1,000 Los Angeles .667 Anaheim .667 .333 Arizona .333 Texas 2 1/2 Colorado Seattle .000

> Tuesday's Games Houston 10, Colorado 4

San Diego

Arizona 5, Los Angeles 4, 10 innings San Francisco 8, San Diego 1 Wednesday's Games Montreal 3, Atlanta 0 Philadelphia 8, Florida 2 N.Y. Mets 4, Chicago Cubs 1 Pittsburgh 7, Cincinnati 4 Houston 8, Colorado 7 St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 0 Los Angeles 5, Arizona 0 San Francisco 5, San Diego 3

Thursday's Games Pittsburgh (Fogg 12-12) (Jr. Anderson 8-13), 12:35 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Prior 6-6) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 11-11), 1:10 p.m Milwaukee (Kinney 2-7) at St. Louis

(Stephenson 2-5), 1:10 p.m. Philadelphia (Padilla 14 11) at Florida (Redman 8-15), 1:35 p.m Colorado (Cruz 2 6) at Houston (Robertson 0-2).

Los Angeles (Ishii 14-10) at San Diego (Peavy 6-7), 5.05 p.m

Montreal (Vazquez 10-13) at Atlanta (Ortiz 14-

Tuesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 10, Toronto 1

Boston 9, Tampa Bay 8, 16 innings

Anaheim 10, Texas 0

Oakland 5. Seattle 0

Wednesday's Games

Kansas City 5, Chicago White Sox 4

Anaheim 11, Texas 5

N.Y. Yankees 9, Toronto 7

Minnesota 8, Detroit 1

Cleveland 4, Baltimore 2

Boston 7, Tampa Bay 5

Oakland 8, Seattle 3

Thursday's Games

Minnesota (Lohse 13-8) at Detroit (Bernero 4-7),

Chicago White Sox (Garland 12-12) at Kansas

Boston (Fossum 5-4) at Tampa Bay (Bierbrodt 0-

Seattle (Pineiro 14-7) at Oakland (Mulder 19-7),

Cleveland (B.Anderson 6-11) at Baltimore

City (Asencio 4-7), 2:05 p.m.

(Helling 10-12), 7:05 p.m.

1:05 p.m

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 4,

Horoscope

You know what you want. Be careful not to push those in authority away from you. Head in a predestined direction, understanding what-your long-term goals are. Often others wonder how and why you spend your money. Remember, you don't have to explain yourself, unless you're in a partnership. If you are single, your magnetism will speak, drawing many to you. You have the pick of many. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom if you maintain common interests. Work on a cause together. TAURUS helps build your confidence.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

* * * Financial matters take precedence. You might want to investigate more of what is happening with others. You push hard to get others to accept your ideas and answers. Don't be belligerent; be open to your potential. Consider what you want. Tonight: Treat others to munchies.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** * Initially, your high energy might not be as focused as you would like it to be. Nevertheless, you could discover that you need a few days off to rebuild and center. You might wonder what motivates someone quite close to you. Discussions lead you in a new direction. Tonight: As you like it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) * * Know when to sit back and do some daydreaming. You might enjoy some downtime to complete a project that is a bit overdue. Be careful with your anger and how you express it. You want

others to hear you, don't you? Take your time. Tonight: Mosey on home CANCER (June 21-July 22)

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

* * * * Facts from an associate could be out of sync. You might need to follow through on what needs to happen within a friendship. Don't push too hard to get things your way. Relax and understand what a friend means, rather than just listening to the words. Tonight: Let the good times roll. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

** * Others look to you for confirmation, if not direction. Someone close or a work associate could be extremely confused. Understand what makes this person tick. Listen to what someone wants before you come to a snap decision. Tonight: Leader of the gang. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

* * * * Visualize. If need be, find an expert. You'll gain information if you allow yourself to float and enjoy. Consider what you believe to be an option. Think in terms of gaining more of what you want. Don't follow the tried and true path. Break old patterns. Tonight: Split town, if possible LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

* * * Deal with a loved one directly. You could find someone to be rather testy, if not difficult. You need to refrain from getting into a my fault/your fault type of situation. Remember the value of this person in your life. Work as a team. Tonight: Dinner for two. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** * Others run with the ball, no matter what you say or do. Just roll over and get into the swing of things. You could be surprised by the outcome. Defer, as you really have very little choice. Keep discussions open and flowing. Don't close down. Tonight: Out. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

** You want to complete a job to your specs, which is good. Somehow, you might not find that others will do what you want and believe is necessary. Dig into work, realizing that it is Friday. Everyone needs a weekend. Roll out the door as soon as possible. Tonight: Easy does it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** You might want to go more than halfway with a personal matter. Illuminate a situation with your insight and creativity. Presentation might have everything to do with the net results. Use your dynamic personality, and others will respond. Tonight: Romp on out the door. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

* * Deal with personal and domestic matters first. Not everyone will or can agree with you. You need to think through a discussion rather than blurt out your ideas in your customary format. Ask for help and more feedback if you need it. Tonight: Head on home. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

* * * Your ability to understand others comes out with a friend who could easily go into a tirade. Express what might be happening for you; don't let questions mark your conversations. The clearer you are, the more success you will gain, both personally and professionally. Tonight: Close to home, please.

BORN TODAY

Actor Anthony Perkins (1932), magician David Blaine (1973), actor Robert Downey Jr. (1965)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. © 2003 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



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Borger Hwy. 665-4392 21 Help Wanted

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bury, Tx 76049.

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21 Help Wanted

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Work floor Supervise Quality control of work hop contracts assigned deadlines. Shares in vorkshop vocational and ay program responsibilties. This includes imelementation of daily cheduled training programs and documenta tion for assigned case load. Qualifications High School diploma or GED, plus some experince in the therapeutic activities. Must have valid Texas drivers li cense. With an hourly rate of \$7.63 plus a gen rous employee benefit nackage. Apply PMHMR., 901 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, Tx 79106, 806-358-1681 An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Pampa, TX 79065

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Fexas Panhandle Mental

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tion has an opening for a Mental Retardation workshop director in Pampa. Duties include, responsible for the general success of the work shop. Responsibility includes supported employment, production, program developer duties, quality control in the vocational area, as well as social and educational development Qualifications: School diploma / GED plus two (2) years of work experience in the therapeutic activities. fust have a eighth grade reading comprehension level as videnced by score on the Adult Basic Learning Exam (ABLE) test. Must have a valid Texas drivers License. Past super visory experience, ability to develop short and ong term goals, to coor-

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NEW.

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THERAPIST

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MOVING Sale: Corner of Sat., Sun. 9 a.m.-dark

911 Lindberg, Skellytown, Fri. & Sat. 8-? Nice furni, misc. household new items added on Sat.

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Alcock & Christy. 2 couches, 5 Families, Fri., MOON'S Trading Post,

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97 Furn. Houses

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for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

KQ ICN JMNPESJ E BEO, ICN JMNPESJ EO KOMKUKMNED,

CRYPTOQUOTE

JMNPESJ E QEBKDI.

ANS KQ ICN JMNPESJ E ZCBEO,

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98 Unfurn. Houses

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Jobless claims soar to highest level in nearly year

WASHINGTON (AP) -New claims for unemployment benefits shot up last week to their highest point in nearly a year as businesses made work forces leaner amid a muddled wartime economic climate.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications jumped by a seasonally adjusted 38,000 to 445.000 for the week ending March 29. That represented the highest level of new claims since the week ending April 13, 2002.

Thursday's report highlighted the difficulties both companies and workers are facing, not only because of war but also because of a muddled economic climate.

"It is the pall of the Iraqi war, higher energy prices and lower stock prices just weighing on the willingness of companies to maintain jobs," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com. "The uncertainty is so high they just can't think about expanding their businesses at this point."

The pace of layoffs last

week was worse than economists were predicting. They were forecasting claims to rise to around 410,000.

Economists say claims above the 400,000 mark generally depict an extremely weak job market.

The more stable four-week moving average of new claims also rose last week to 426,250. The moving average has been above the 400,000 level for five straight weeks.

Uncertainties surrounding the war and lackluster profits making businesses step up layoffs. Those same forces also are making companies reluctant to aggressively hire and to invest heavily in capital projects, major forces restraining the economy.

After falling into a recession in 2001, the economy has been struggling since then to get back on firm footing. The road to recovery has been

With economists forecasting sub-par economic growth for both the first and second are among the forces that are quarters of this year, the nation's labor market is likely to deteriorate further, they say.

The nation's unemployment rate rose to 5.8 percent in February. Economists believe it could move to 5.9 percent or 6 percent for March, and higher in the months ahead. The government reports on the employment situation for March on Friday.

Economists also believe the economy lost 40,000 jobs in March alone. That wouldn't be good, but it wouldn't be as bad as February when payrolls were slashed by 308,000.

To energize the economy and help job creation, President Bush has called on Congress to enact a fresh round of tax cuts.

His chief spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said Thursday: "Today's bad news makes it even more important for Congress to act and pass the president's proposal."

Federal Reserve policymakers have been keeping interest rates at very low levels, with the hope that might help cushion the negative impact of the ailing job market, a turbulent stock market, higher energy prices and war

A big fear is that a worsening labor market will make consumers turn more cautious, slowing the economy further.

New jobless claims fell by 20,000 two week ago, but that left the level of claims at a still high 407,000.

New claims have been running above the 400,000 mark for seven weeks in a row.

The number of workers continuing to draw unemployment benefits soared by 107,000 to 3.61 million for the work week ending March 22, the most recent period for which that information is available.

That sharp rise left the level of continuing benefits at their highest point since Nov. 16, 2002. The high level of claims suggest that not a lot of hiring is taking place, economists

"If you get caught losing your job, this is an extremely difficult market to find another one and it is getting worse," Zandi said.

he number of workers continuing to draw unemploybenefits ment soared by 107,000 to 3.61 million for the work week ending March 22, the most recent period for which that information is available.

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House passes bill to deny Social Security to felons

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fugitive felons and parole violators would be denied Social Security benefits in legislatron headed to the Senate.

The bill, approved by the House 396-28 on Wednesday, also increases protections for Social Security recipients who have a legal financial representative in charge of their benefits. such as minors and the disabled. Those who abuse their positions would face a \$5,000 fine.

The bill also disqualifies as such representatives people who have been convicted and imprisoned for more than a year, and fugitive felons.

Kidnappers, drug users and car thieves are currently among those permitted by the Social Security" Administration to be representatives. An audit by the agency's inspector general found 3.473 cases in which fugitive felons were serving as financial representatives in 10 states that auditors checked.

later this spring.

Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., chairman of the House Ways and Means Social Security subcommittee, inserted a measure that would end a provision used by Texas teachers to increase their retirement benefits.

Democrats, after intense lobbying by teachers unions, defeated the bill last month when it came to the House floor. Many lawmakers changed their mind since then, leading to Wednesday's suc-

Spouses of retired, disabled or deceased workers usually receive Social Security benefits. But a 1977 law reduces those benefits for employees of some state and local governments who do not pay into the Social Security system and do not collect benefits, and are covered by their own retirement systems. 4

The provision that Shaw's measure would end allows those workers to

The Senate could take up the bill avoid the reduction in benefits if they are covered by both Social Security and their government pension during their last day on the job.

Congressional investigators found that 4,795 teachers in Texas and 24 in Georgia had taken advantage of the provision as of June 2002, transferring briefly to other jobs before retiring. For as little as about \$3 paid to Social Security, those teachers will receive on average an extra \$4,800 a year.

Some school districts also started charging processing fees ranging from \$100 to \$500 to make the switch. One district collected an additional \$283,000 in revenue from the fees.

The provision is costing the federal government about \$450 million. Social Security officials say the practice could grow as more people become aware of

The bill. H.R. 743, can be found at http://thomas.loc.gov

Stocks - Bonds

Altrusa fund-raiser



Altrusa International Inc., of Pampa recently held its largest fund-raiser of the year, the annual Altrusa Style Show. Present at the event were (left-right) Maxine Freeman, Mary Nelson, Virginia Stavenhagen, Dorothy Stowers, (standing) and Elanor New.

Terrorists may try something, FBI warns

WASHINGTON (AP) use common household items to improvise chemical or biological weapons and then hide them in food.

Using materials available at stores, on the Internet or through a mail-order firms, terrorists could make cyanide comria and botulinum toxin, or distill the poison ricin from castor. beans, the FBI said Wednesday in its weekly bulletin.

The memo, sent to 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies, said there is no specific threat or indication that an attack is imminent. But it detailed several past attacks using such weapons, including

(806) 665-7318

(806) 662-6222

The FBI says terrorists could of local restaurant salad bars with salmonella bacteria that sickened 751 people in 1984.

Yeast, infant formula, sugar, epsom salts, cheesecloth, blenders, masks and gloves are among the items widely available that terrorists could use to set up a laboratory to make ed fresh evidence of the terror pounds grow salmonella bactes crude chemical and biological weapons, the bulletin said. A key tool is the agar plate, which is used by scientists and doctors. Institutes of Health are also to grow cultures.

> "Large numbers of agar plates can be inoculated and harvested by an individual pos-

an Oregon cult's contamination or kill large numbers of people."

The FBI last week warned that terrorists could make simple chemical and biological weapons with materials available nationwide. That bulletin noted that the capture of al-Qaida operations chief Khalid Shaikh Mohammed has providnetwork's experiments with such weapons.

Officials at the National worried about the threat from botulinum toxin, which occurs naturally.

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