



WEATHER WEATHER

HIGH **LOW**
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LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) — Results of the Lotto Texas drawing Wednesday night:
Winning numbers drawn: 7-8-19-21-25. Bonus Ball: 21.
Number matching five of five, plus Bonus Ball: 0.
Number matching five of five: 5. Prize: \$16,717.
Number matching four of five, plus Bonus Ball: 12. Prize: \$2,059.
Number matching four of five: 614. Prize: \$86.
Number matching three of five, plus Bonus Ball: 554. Prize: \$85.
Number matching three of five: 23,710. Prize: \$5.
Number matching two of five, plus Bonus Ball: 7,121. Prize: \$5.
Estimated jackpot for Saturday night drawing: \$8 million.

DEATHS

Jonathan Robert Blaylock, 22, San Antonio resident.
Effie Cowan Jenkins, 98, teacher.
Gail Brewer Reynolds, 54, homemaker.

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Beautiful Paving Stones... You Can Install Yourself

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Flu evident, not epidemic, in PISD

Almost 100 absent Wednesday at PHS

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

A bout of influenza in Pampa schools seems to be mainly confined to Pampa High School, according to school nurses and attendance records. J. J. Slatten, PHS nurse, said that

close to 100 students were absent from the high school yesterday, and were mainly flu cases.

"My normal day is seeing five to eight or 10 kids. In the last few days, I've seen 30 kids in one day," Slatten said.

"I'm seeing sore throats, coughing, headaches, body aches and overall not feeling well, but no temperatures," Slatten said. She theorized that students who woke up not feeling well might be taking an over-the-counter

painkiller to lower temperature and decrease physical discomfort before coming to school, which would explain the lack of fevers in those having the other flu symptoms.

The approximately 100 absences represents a 10 to 15 percent absentee rate at the high school, Slatten said.

Absentee rates at the elementary schools, however, have shown no such increase. Austin Elementary School reported a five to seven percent absentee rate. Travis Elementary School's

absenteeism is at five percent. Wilson Elementary's is about 10 percent, and Lamar Elementary School is between five and seven percent.

"We have seen a lot of flu-like symptoms, but not near like epidemic proportions. We're seeing stomachaches, spiking temperatures and vomiting," said Kathy Schoenrock, school nurse for Austin and Wilson Elementary Schools.

"I've been seeing students who have (See FLU, Page 3)

Officer discovers suspected meth lab; two charged

By MARILYN POWERS
STAFF WRITER

Two Pampa men are out on bond after being charged with manufacture with intent to deliver a controlled substance weighing 200 grams or more but less than 400 grams, a first-degree felony.

James Michael Chaney, 30, and Morris Lynn Powell, 52, addresses not reported, were arrested Friday, Nov. 14, in the 300 block of Tyng Street when Pampa Police Officer Aaron McWilliams spotted a suspicious pickup parked along the railroad right of way behind a warehouse at 317 Tyng.

According to a PPD news release, McWilliams found the pickup at about 3:55 p.m. The vehicle was unoccupied but its engine was running. The hood was up and a power inverter was connected to the battery, supplying an adjacent building with 110-volt electricity.

McWilliams also saw several items in the pickup which are commonly used in the manufacturing of methamphetamine. He could smell ether, which is used in methamphetamine manufacture, coming from the direction of the building, and radioed for backup.

A man later identified as Chaney came out of the building and spoke with McWilliams. When Chaney left the building, McWilliams noticed a strong odor of anhydrous ammonia, also used in methamphetamine manufacture. The odor was strong enough to make McWilliams' eyes burn and cause him to

cough, officials said. McWilliams called for assistance from Pampa Fire Department. Firefighters arrived and used a hazardous gas detector, which showed a gas coming from the building. They decided that the gas could be an explosive or fire hazard, and entered the building.

Just before firefighters entered the building, Chaney told officers that there was a lit wood-burning stove in the building that could ignite the ether. He also confessed to having an active methamphetamine lab in the building.

Firefighters and police cleared the building and found one other person, Powell, inside. The fire department extinguished all flames and made the building safe for further investigation.

Members of the Panhandle Regional Narcotic Trafficking Task Force were called to help investigate and secure the scene. More than 200 grams of finished methamphetamine narcotics were found, along with numerous manufacturing paraphernalia items. Officers also recovered a large quantity of anhydrous ammonia and sulfuric acid.

All items found at the scene were seized as evidence. The dangerous chemicals and items were secured and removed by the ESA company, a drug lab cleanup crew out of Lubbock.

The pickup, a 1996 Ford, was seized, along with an electrical generator and other items and tools.

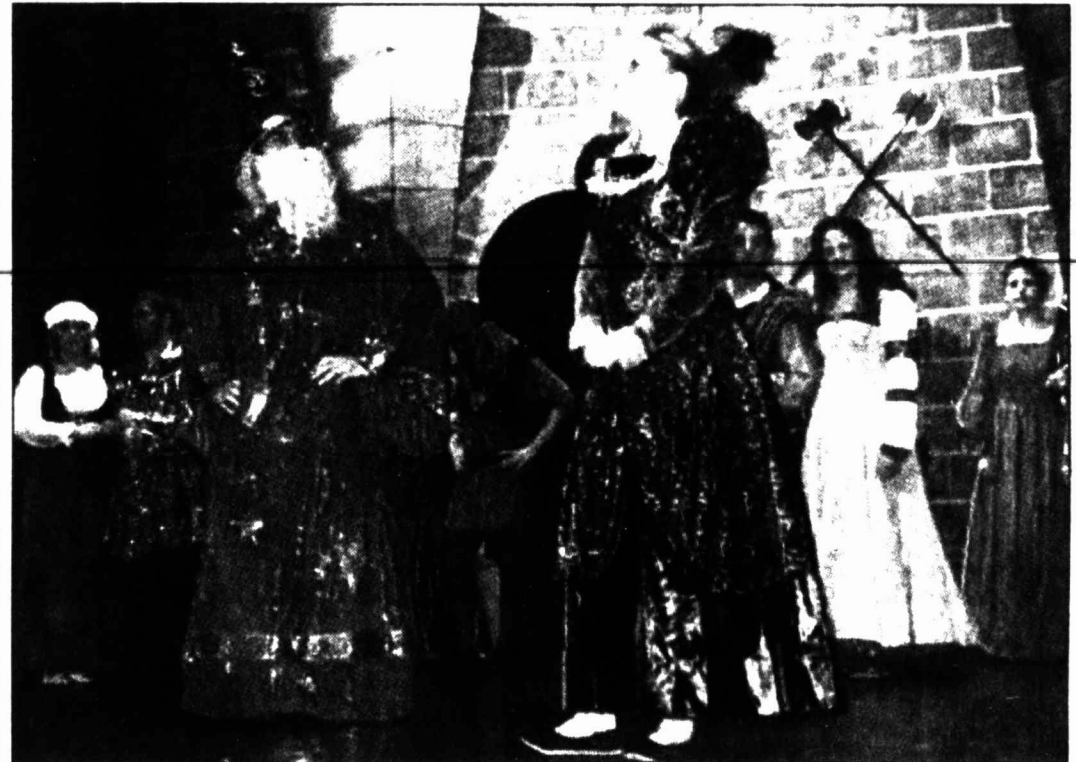
(See LAB, Page 3)

Fairy tale unfolds



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Minstrel (Kyle Ward) sings "Normandy" with Lady Larkin (Stephanie Nelson) and Jester (Alan Arzola) during a dress rehearsal Wednesday for Pampa High School Choir's production of "Once Upon a Mattress." The students are recreating the popular Broadway musical by Rodgers & Hammerstein at 8 p.m., tonight, and Saturday night at M.K. Brown Auditorium. A matinee performance is set for 2:30 p.m., Sunday. Tickets are \$7 per adult and \$4 for students.



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Queen Aggravain (Brittany Herriman) asks Wizard (Chris Smith) and the "Once Upon A Mattress" Chorus if they can dance the "Spanish Panic."

Order delays voter card mail-out

Gray County's voters may not receive new voter registration cards until after the new year begins.

Gray County Tax Assessor Collector Gaye Whitehead received notice from the Secretary of State's Office on Friday that federal court order has halted the mass mailing of new voter registration certificates until Jan. 11, 2004.

The current period for each county registrar to issue the

certificates is from Nov. 15 to Dec. 6, according to Whitehead.

In a faxed memo from Director of Elections Ann McGeehan, Whitehead learned that a federal three-judge panel issued the order in connection with congressional redistricting litigation.

On Nov. 12, the federal court ordered county voter registrars to delay sending out the voter registration certi-

ificates under Sect. 14.001 and 15.001 of the Texas Election Code until Jan. 11.

According to the order, the Secretary of State's office has instructed all Texas counties to redraw county election precinct lines if new precincts are required. Only 28 counties in Texas are directly affected by this court order, officials say.

Gray County is not directly (See MAILING, Page 3)



(Pampa Police Department photo)

Pampa police provided this photograph of the suspicious pickup that led Officer Aaron McWilliams to an alleged methamphetamine lab Friday.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS
beginning November 22 at the Recreation Park every evening after dark
CHRISTMAS PARADE ... "A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS"
sponsored by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce • Saturday, December 6th beginning at 1:00PM

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Sharon McKee

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504 W. 2nd, White Deer ... \$130,000
 300 N. Cuyler ... \$200,000
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 714 Oklahoma, Wheeler ... \$25,000
 Perry St. & Kentucky ... \$75,000

727 & 735 Scott (lots) ... \$4,000
 1225 N. Wells ... \$25,000

820 E. Locust ... \$4,000
 Grandview Hopkins ... \$90,000
 11931 N. Ragsdale ... \$165,000
 -839 Texas, White Deer ... \$130,000
 1524 Williston ... \$23,500



Sandra Schuneman

Happy Thanksgiving
 from our families to yours

OBITUARIES

SERVICES TOMORROW

BLAYLOCK, Jonathan Robert — Rosary/scripture services, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Deer.

EFFIE COWAN JENKINS
 1905-2003

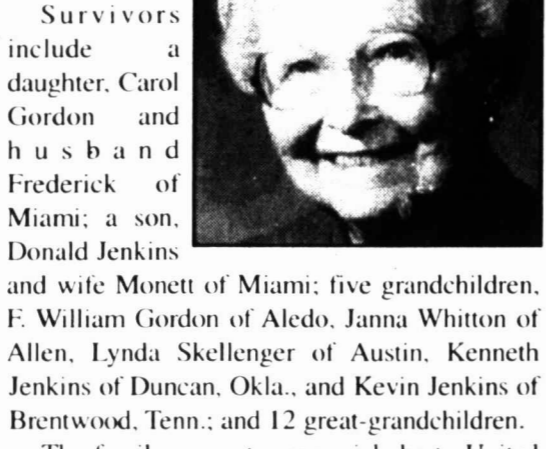
Effie Cowan Jenkins, 98, of Miami, Texas, died Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2003, at Miami. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22, 2003, at the United Methodist Church in Miami, with the Rev. Don Kinder, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Miami Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Jenkins was born June 10, 1905, in Roberts County, Texas. She had been a lifelong resident of Miami and Roberts County. She was a graduate of Miami High School and graduated from what is now Texas Women's University in Denton. She taught home economics at Miami High School for several years during World War II.

She married Theo Jenkins on June 14, 1929, in Ennis, Texas. He preceded her in death on May 23, 1982.

She was a member of the United Methodist Church of Miami and the Miami Chapter #98 Order of the Eastern Star.

She was a member of numerous civic clubs in Miami. Survivors include a daughter, Carol Gordon and husband Frederick of Miami; a son, Donald Jenkins and wife Monett of Miami; five grandchildren, E. William Gordon of Aledo, Janna Whitton of Allen, Lynda Skellenger of Austin, Kenneth Jenkins of Duncan, Okla., and Kevin Jenkins of Brentwood, Tenn.; and 12 great-grandchildren.



The family requests memorials be to United Methodist Church, 201 S. Main, Miami, TX 79059, or a favorite charity.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

GAIL BREWER REYNOLDS
 1949-2003

Gail Brewer Reynolds, 54, of Pampa, died Thursday, Nov. 20, 2003. The body was cremated and consequently not be available for viewing. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in First Baptist Church in Skellytown with J.C. Burt, associate pastor with Cornerstone Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Reynolds was born Feb. 4, 1949, at Wheeler. In 1997, she moved to Pampa from Skellytown where she was a member of First Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Millard and Clara Brewer; two brothers, Bill Brewer and Russell Brewer; and a sister, Jane Jackson.

Survivors include four daughters, Mandy Killian of Amarillo, Debbie McNutt of Borger, Kim Wallis of Dallas and Amy Purcell of Seattle, Wash.; two sisters, Estelle Carnal of New Braunfels and Elaine Taylor of Palestine; and two brothers, Ron Brewer of Copperas Cove and Rayford Brewer of Palestine.



—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

JONATHAN ROBERT BLAYLOCK
 1981-2003

SAN ANTONIO — Jonathan Robert Blaylock, 22, died Monday, Nov. 17, 2003. Rosary and scripture services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in White Deer with Monsignor Kevin Hand, of the church, officiating. Graveside services will follow at Sacred Heart Cemetery in White Deer. Local arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Blaylock was born July 17, 1981, in Amarillo. He was a lifelong resident of San Antonio. He was a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in San Antonio.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Floyd and Lavenia Blaylock; and his maternal grandfather, John Kotara.

Survivors include his parents, Robert and Gay Blaylock of San Antonio; a sister, Angie Blaylock of San Antonio; and his maternal grandmother, Theresa Kotara of White Deer.

The family requests memorials be to American Kidney Fund, 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, Md 20852; or to American Heart Association, 6605 I-40 West, Amarillo, TX 79106.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Sexual assault charge dismissed

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

A charge of sexual assault against a Pampa man has been dismissed in 223rd District Court as a result of DNA testing.

The second-degree felony charge was dismissed against Rufus Sio Nanez III because "test results indicated that he

was not a contributor to the DNA found at the scene of the offense," according to the motion to dismiss signed Oct. 30 by District Attorney Rick Roach.

Nanez, 29, was arrested July 22 for allegedly sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl on July 20. He was indicted for the offense on Aug. 7.

"We just didn't think we had enough physical evidence at the time to prove the case. It doesn't mean we don't believe the little girl's story. We're

very sad about it," Roach said yesterday.

"We did it (DNA testing) as quick as we possibly could," he said. "The investigation yielded exculpatory physical evidence, which made it impossible for us to go forward with the case at the time."

Detective Donny Brown of Pampa Police Department said that the department had closed its case concerning the incident and was not pursuing any further investigation at this time.

Former officer cleared by grand jury in shooting

DALLAS (AP) — A former police officer has been cleared in the off-duty shooting of a teenager.

A Dallas County grand jury on Wednesday determined that Derrick Evans committed no crime when he shot 19-year-old Jonathan Keeton in July during

a confrontation at the Pleasant Grove recreation center.

The former officer said he shot at Keeton after the teen pointed a gun at him on July 28.

Evans was fired by former Police Chief Terrell Bolton in August after he was questioned about the officer's background.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Theft of services was reported by the City of Pampa Water Department. Water service valued at \$49.25 was stolen in the 2100 block of Zimmers.

Found property was reported in the 500 block of West Atchison. A bicycle was found.

Theft of property was reported at the now-closed Cinema 4 movie theater at Coronado Center by Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Amarillo. Two countertop soda machines valued at \$542 each were taken.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. The victim allowed a female into her apartment to use the restroom. When the female left, the victim discovered that \$50 cash was missing from a wallet.

Gary Wade Lenning, 49, 421 Carr, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

Thursday, Nov. 20

Tammy Ryals, 31, 316 S. Gray, was arrested on capias pro fines for no driver's license and running a stop sign.

SHERIFF

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

Wednesday, Nov. 19

Kenneth Lee Hair, 29, 816 N. Nelson, was arrested on a blue warrant from the Austin Parole Board for burglary of a habitation.

Josue Ramon Vargas, 23, 1032 S. Faulkner, was arrested for no driver's license and failure to appear.

AMBULANCE

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

Wednesday, Nov. 19

7:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Doucette and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

1:54 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of South Finley and transported a patient to PRMC.

STOCKS

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

Wheat	2.95	NOL	19.21	+0.16
Milo	3.95	KMI	53.50	-0.17
Corn	4.34	XCEL	16.31	NC
Soybeans	6.73	Kerr McGee	40.58	-0.34
		Limited	18.02	+0.53
		Williams	8.90	-0.06
		MC'D	24.76	+0.11
		XOM	35.25	-0.19
		Atmos	24.54	+0.07
		Pioneer Nat	27.00	+0.01
		JCP	23.42	+0.05
		CCP	57.00	-0.03
		SLB	46.49	-0.04
		Tenneco	4.90	-0.11
		CVX	73.85	-0.35
		Wal-Mart	55.20	-0.01
		ORF	19.79	+0.10
		NS Grp	7.11	+0.01
		New York Gold	394.75	
		Silver	5.27	
		West Texas Crude	32.92	

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXV	35.88	-0.14
BP	42.44	-0.06
Celanese	30.67	-1.72
Cabot Corp	27.84	+0.10
Cabot Oil Gas	26.01	-0.24
Coca Cola	46.58	-0.28
VLO	42.67	-0.18
HAL	23.25	-0.18
Trad	31.55	+0.07

FIRE

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

Wednesday, Nov. 19

8:26 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a blown transformer in the 1100 block of Terrace. Residents reported hearing a loud "pop" and the electricity going off. Firefighters stood by until Xcel workers arrived.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today's forecast is calling for sunny skies, highs around 80 and southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Caution is advised on area lakes. Tonight should fall on clear skies with lows in the lower 40s and southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Friday should see mostly sunny skies. Highs in the lower 70s. Southwest

winds 5 to 15 mph. Friday night, partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows in the mid 40s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Saturday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 60s. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Saturday night, mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain. Rain changing to snow after midnight.

STATEWIDE

By The Associated Press

Unseasonably warm temperatures are forecast over the state before a cold front brings a wintry weekend in the north.

The Panhandle will see a good chance of snow flurries Saturday night and Sunday. Freezing overnight temperatures are expected in the north Sunday and Monday night.

and in Central Texas on Monday night.

Chances of rain will accompany the front elsewhere in the state, but the front will likely pack more cold than rain. Temperatures will drop quickly as the front moves in.

Conditions will be good for spread of any wildfires the next few days: warm temperatures, low humidities and some breezy or windy conditions in many areas.

The high temperature Wednesday was 77, recorded in six cities in South Texas including Austin and San Antonio. Dalhart recorded the overnight low, 27 degrees.

The West Texas forecast calls for sunny skies and warm temperatures the next few days, with highs in the 70s and 80s. On Saturday the cold front will make its way into the Panhandle, with snow flurries possible Saturday night and Sunday; daytime highs Sunday will only be in the mid 20s to mid 30s there, with cold overnight temperatures in the teens and 20s.

The South Plains will see a temperature drop overnight Saturday into Sunday, with highs Sunday in the mid 30s to mid 40s, and a slight chance of snow flurries. The south and west will see highs in the 50s and 60s on Sunday and Monday. Outside of the chance of snow flurries in the north the region should be free of any other precipitation through the weekend. It will be windy in the far west this weekend.

City Briefs

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

CREATE A Beat! After School Arts Program. Ages 5-11 (K-6), 3-5:45 M-F 665-7474.

DANCE, FRI. Nov. 21st. No dance Fri. Nov. 28th. Pampa Senior Citizens.

EARLY ADVERTISING Deadlines for *The Pampa News*, for the week of Thanksgiving!! Watch for display ad with details, in today's paper. 669-2525. Happy Thanksgiving!!

GIFTS ALL price ranges for all ages! Antiques, vintage, new. Layaway avail. North Fork Antiques, McLean. Open til 7 on Thursdays. Tues.-Sat. 10-6 p.m.

EARLY CIRCULATION Deadlines for *The Pampa News* beginning with Sun. Nov. 23rd thru Sun. Nov. 30th. Watch for display ad in Thurs. Nov. 20 thru Tues. Nov. 25th editions. (Starts, stops, etc.).

LIFESTYLES EARLY deadline for Sun. Nov. 30th, is Tues., Nov. 25th at 12 noon. (Wedding, anniversary, baby, newsmakers, etc.)

NEW! HOBBY Shop will now wrap your holiday gifts!

FRI. & Sat. Sale at All Its Charm. Buy 1 item at regular price & get 2nd item of equal or less value at 1/2 price.

PAMPA OFFICE Supply and The Christmas Shop will close at 1:00 P.M. Sat. Nov. 22nd in order to prepare for Gigantic Sale Monday Nov. 24, 2003. Come See Us.

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\$99

* 4 DOZEN CARNATIONS
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Suicide bomber strikes U.S.-allied party in Iraq's Kurdish north

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP)—A suicide truck bomb exploded at the office of a U.S.-allied Kurdish political party in this northern oil center Thursday, killing four bystanders and wounding about 30.

It was the second car-bombing in as many days against Iraqis cooperating with the U.S.-led occupation. Elsewhere, a pro-U.S. politician was assassinated in the southern city of Basra, his party said Thursday.

Jalal Johar, an official of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said the death toll rose to five Thursday night with the death of one of the injured, a boy about 7 years old.

The powerful explosion at about 10:30 a.m. shattered windows and damaged doors at the two-story yellow and green PUK building and blew out windows of the nearby radio and television station.

Such attacks in the Kurdish-controlled areas are less frequent than in Baghdad or other parts of

central and western Iraq dominated by Sunni Muslim Arabs. On Sept. 10, a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near a U.S. intelligence compound in the northern city of Irbil, killing three people and seriously wounding four American intelligence officers.

"We think that Islamic terrorist groups and remnants of the Saddam (Hussein) regime are behind the attack," security guard Assad Ahmed said of Thursday's blast. "They are coordinating between them."

The PUK is a group that supports American efforts in Iraq. Party chief Jalal Talabani is the current head of the U.S.-installed Iraqi Governing Council.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion fell on Ansar al-Islam, a small, al-Qaida-linked Kurdish extremist group active in the northeastern area of Iraq that borders Iran. Kurdish officials also said other Islamic militants as well as Saddam Hussein loyalists may

have been behind the blast. "We had information that terrorist Islamic extremist movements, remnants of the former regime, Ansar al-Islam and Arab fighters have planned to attack the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Kirkuk," Johar said. "Our information shows that there are terrorist Islamic movements in the region other than Ansar al-Islam."

Late Wednesday, a car bomb exploded outside the home of Sheik Amer Ali Suleiman, a tribal leader in Ramadi, about 60 miles west of Baghdad. Hospital workers said Thursday that two people were killed.

Suleiman is a leader of the Duleim tribe, one of the largest Sunni Muslim tribes in Iraq. He is a member of the city council and close to the Americans.

Ramadi is part of the "Sunni Triangle," where anti-U.S. attacks are concentrated.

Rebels repeatedly have attacked police stations and Iraqis perceived to be cooperating with the occupation.

In Basra, the Assyrian Democratic Movement said its representative on the municipal council, Sargoun Nanou Murado, was abducted Tuesday

on his way to work. His body was found Wednesday, a statement said.

The Assyrian Democratic Movement, which represents Iraq's Assyrian minority, is represented on the 25-seat Governing Council.

The assassination is the second this week of people working with coalition authorities in southern Iraq.

Bush, Blair project unity on terrorism and Iraq

LONDON (AP)—President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair stood united on the war on terror Thursday and the British leader said new bombings in Turkey demonstrate the need "not to flinch or give way or concede one inch" in Iraq.

Blair, who has seen his approval ratings sink amid broad opposition here to the war, said that the effort to create a stable, democratic Iraq is "an essential part in defeating this fanaticism and extremism" that is killing innocents in attacks around the world.

"Once again we're reminded of the evil these terrorists pose to innocent people everywhere and to our way of life," he said, standing beside Bush. "Our

response is not to flinch or give way or concede one inch."

He added: "We stand absolutely firm until this job is done; done in Iraq, done elsewhere in the world."

Just hours before the two met, blasts shattered the British consulate and the London-based HSBC bank in downtown Istanbul, killing more than two dozen people.

With the attacks sure to refocus attention on the continuing danger of terrorism, Bush and Blair warned against complacency and used the bombings to justify their troops' continued presence in Iraq despite rising death tolls there.

Bush even hinted that American troop levels there

could rise. Many have speculated that an expected transfer of power to Iraqis next year will mean a significant drawdown of U.S. strength in the region.

Under a troop rotation plan announced last week, the overall number of American soldiers in Iraq will fall to 105,000 by May from the current 130,000.

"We could have less troops in Iraq, we could have the same number of troops in Iraq, we can have more troops in Iraq. Whatever is necessary to secure Iraq," Bush said.

Like Blair, Bush expressed sympathy for the loss of life in Turkey.

"The nature of the terrorist enemy is evident once more," he said. "We see their utter con-

tempt for innocent life. ... They need to be stopped and we will stop them."

With as many as 100,000 anti-war protesters mobilizing for a massive march on Parliament as they spoke, Bush and Blair were seeking to turn the tide of opinion in Europe on the Iraq occupation.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

FLU

classic flu symptoms," said Chris Kirkpatrick, Pampa Middle School nurse. Absences at the middle school totaled 82 yesterday, or 10 percent of the total enrollment.

"We've had about 20 kids absent each day for the past two to three days," said Doug Rapstine, principal at Travis Elementary. "We usually run a 96 to 97 percent attendance."

Brenda Dunn, school nurse for Travis and Lamar Elementary Schools, said she hasn't seen flu or respiratory symptoms in students visiting her this week. She added that the Thanksgiving holiday next week, when students will be out of school, will help slow or stop the spread of the flu and other illnesses in the schools.

"There's no hard and fast rule" on when Pampa schools close due to attendance numbers, said Barry Haenisch, Pampa Independent School District superintendent.

"Basically, a district-wide decrease of 10 percent attendance across the district, or 300 to 350 in one day" would prompt school officials to consider closing Pampa schools, he said.

Haenisch said that the current spread of illness in Pampa schools is running counter to the usual pattern, in that the older students are getting sick first. Usually, the youngest students become ill and the illness spreads upward to older students later, he said.

If schools are closed due to illness or any other reason except for a natural disaster or loss of utility service, students would have to make up a maximum of two of those days, Haenisch said. Two snow days would be used as the make-up days.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

LAB

Chaney and Powell were arrested and booked into Gray County Jail. In addition to the charge of delivery and manufacturing of a controlled substance 200 grams or more and less than 400 grams, Chaney was charged with leaving a vehicle unattended.

Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez set Chaney's bond at \$50,000 and Powell's bond at \$10,000. Both men have posted bond and were released from county jail, according to a jail spokesperson today.

It took 10 to 15 personnel from various departments until early the next morning to process and clear the crime scene, officials said.

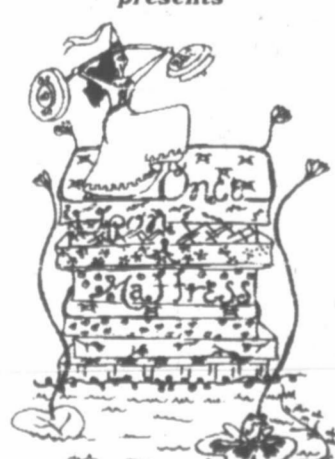
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MAILING

affected by the court's order, except for the delay of the voter registration card mail-out, Whitehead said.

"The Gray County Tax office is still concerned that all the 911 mailing addresses have not been received," Whitehead added. "If you have received your 911 mailing address, please check with the Voter Registrar at 669-8018."

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presents



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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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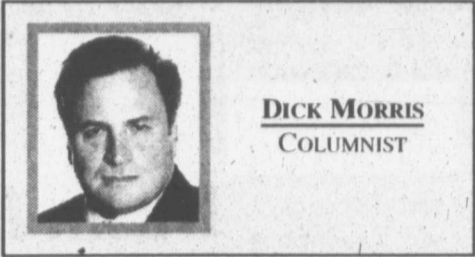
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Not a good way to get elected

It is very easy for Howard Dean to predicate his primary campaign on criticizing U.S. involvement in Iraq. But it may be very hard in the general election. Right now, he can attack the decision to intervene since he, alone among the major Democrats, neither voted in favor of the war or said he would have had he been in Congress at the time. But campaigns are about the present and the future, not the past. You can't wage them with nothing but historical issues. Democratic opponents of the Iraq war are fond of comparing this engagement to the disastrous conflict in Vietnam. But the political situation for opponents of both wars are quite different. None of the main critics of Vietnam, certainly none of the senators, called for outright U.S. withdrawal. They spoke of euphemistic, half-measures such as "negotiate now" or halt or pause the bombing of North Vietnam. With so many dead Americans, it was not possible to speak of unilateral withdrawal without being assailed for urging a solution of "cut and run." In Iraq, there are no half measures. You can't call for negotiations: The gov-



DICK MORRIS
COLUMNIST

ernment with which one might once have parlayed, lies dead and destroyed. Nor, if Bush is smart, will Dean be able to pin his hopes on turning the war over to the Iraqis. Bush is giving signs that he will do so just as Dean hits the general election campaign trail. How can Dean run urging Bush to do what he is already doing? The Iraq issue is the biggest danger to Bush's re-election. But Bush can completely neutralize it by bringing troops home week after week during the election campaign. With each new planeload, the arguments in favor of Dean will atrophy. Even if Iraqis are killing Iraqis and Baghdad and the Sunni triangle are in chaos, Americans will not care as long as Saddam is not in power and U.S. forces aren't being killed. Indeed, Dean faces the prospect of having to wage his campaign based on

two elements of not-so-ancient history - the recession and the deaths in Iraq. If Bush can keep the economy growing and creating jobs even as he pulls troops out of Iraq and secures those that remain by limiting their mission, he can achieve political immunity the likes of which incumbent presidents can only dream. It is always the right of the incumbent to remove his vulnerability by solving the nation's problems in time for his re-election. Presidents that look beleaguered in the year before elections can stage big comebacks (see Clinton 1995-96), with a bit of real progress on the issues. If Bush builds a dynamic economy, is withdrawing from Iraq piece by piece and passes Medicare coverage for prescription drugs on top of it all, he'll be a two-term president. Dean, for his part, won't be able to campaign on the issues of his choice - the economy and Iraq. As he criticizes Bush's record, he will find the solutions happening all around him. He'll be in a position akin to George McGovern's in 1972 - running as an anti-war candidate when (in Henry Kissinger's well-remembered words) "peace is at hand." It's not a good way to get elected.

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

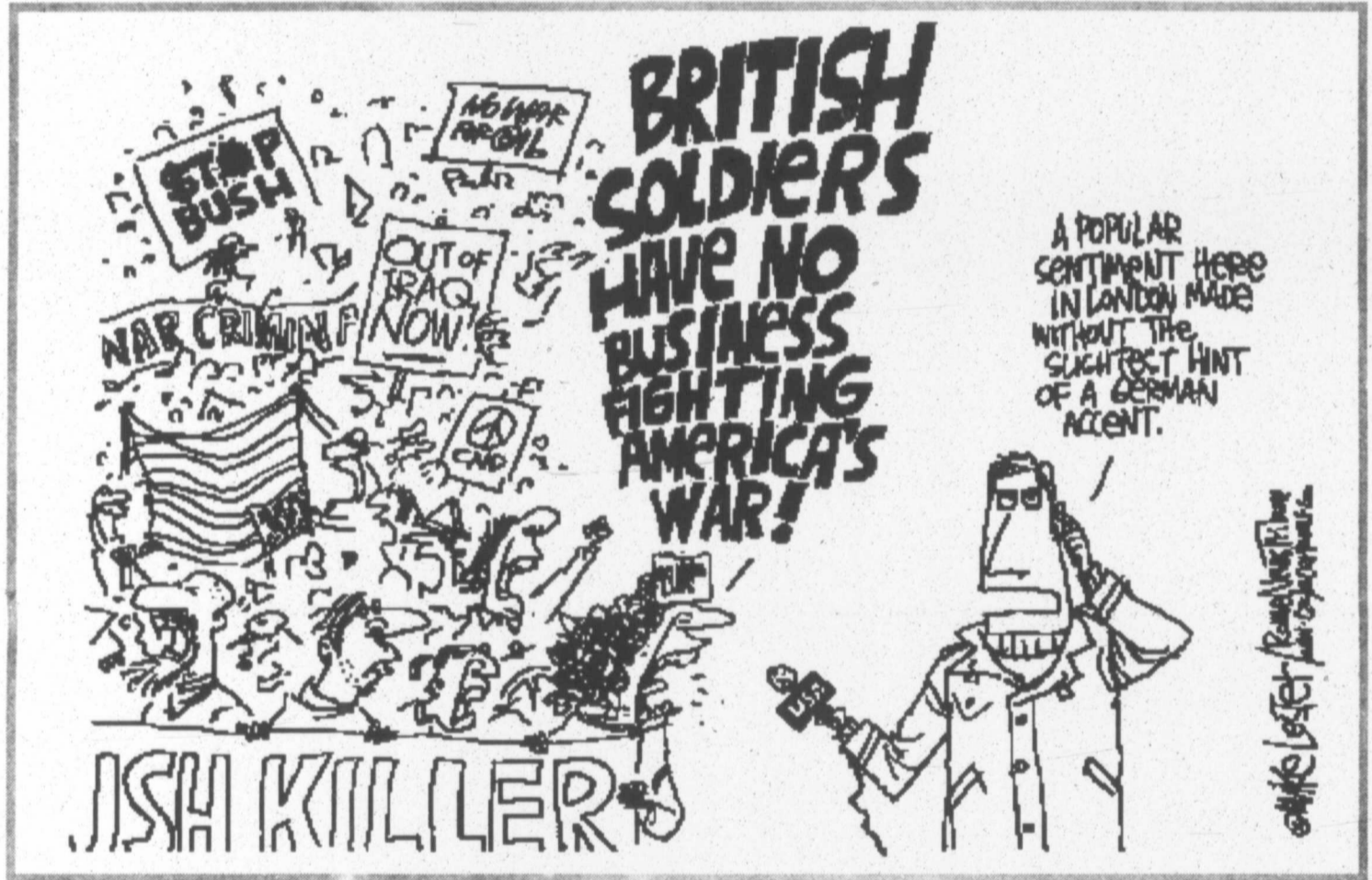
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why are we complaining?

To the editor:
 Wal-Mart seems to be a hot issue right now. It seems that so many say they'd love to have one and then the time comes and the only thing we hear about is negative. In another editor letter, a Pampa man complained about what it will do to our society. As I read the article, all I could think of was that I was missing out on some great stuff here in Pampa that I never knew existed. He, along with many other people, complain that it will close our "mom and pop" shops and shut down so many different "homegrown" stores. Will someone please tell me where all these stores are, because right now I'm missing out. We have three real supermarkets. One is going to die whether Wal-Mart comes or not. It's too expensive, not competitive and the parking lot is a nightmare. One I've never been to, but it's on the other side of town than the Wal-Mart, so if it's competitive, it's got some hope. The other meets every ad that is put out by another store, which means they will have to do the same for Wal-Mart ads on food. All it has to do is get some more "family friendly" shopping carts; those shallow things don't fit anything. Wal-Mart clothes are in a different league from the two department stores here. They are good clothes, but they are not designer clothes or shoes like some people go to these stores for. Resale stores won't have a problem with Wal-Mart because Wal-Mart doesn't sell resale clothing. We have an express place that does oil changes here. They will more than likely lose all their business and have to shut down. They have been able to charge an obscene price for a standard oil change just because they don't have the competition. Sure, the two shopping centers are empty. In case no one else noticed, those places died before the Super Wal-Mart ever got here. It's said that there are going to be so many retail stores closed because of this Wal-Mart, but where are these stores and what do they sell? Looks like other places of business will have to stop charging an arm and leg and start getting competitive if they want to stay open. Why are we all complaining about that?
 Rebecca McCall
 Pampa

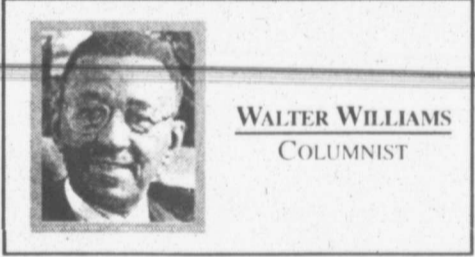
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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 for publication. 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 reason. 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.



Property rights bulwark of liberty

The largest losers of America's anti-tobacco crusade aren't tobacco companies and smokers, it's the American people who are incrementally giving up private property rights. You say, "Hold it, Williams, I agree that people have the right to smoke and harm themselves, but they don't have the right to harm others with those noxious tobacco fumes!" Let's look at it, because harm is a two way street. If you're allergic to tobacco smoke or just find its odor unpleasant, and I smoke in your presence, I harm and annoy you. However, if I'm prohibited from smoking a cigarette in your presence, I'm harmed because of a denial of what I find a pleasurable experience. There's an obvious conflict. One of us is harmed. How can it be resolved? There are several ways. You might consider the harm I suffer trivial compared to yours. You could organize a sufficiently large number of people and lobby lawmakers to enact smoking bans in bars, restaurants and workplaces. Alternatively, I might consider the harm you suffer trivial, and organize a bunch of people and lobby lawmakers to mandate that smoking be permitted in bars, restaurants and workplaces. Let's think about this for a moment. If you owned a restaurant, and did not allow smoking, wouldn't you find it offensive if a law were enacted requiring you to permit smoking? I'm guessing



WALTER WILLIAMS
COLUMNIST

you'd deem such a law tyranny. After all, you'd probably conclude, it's your restaurant, and if you don't want smoking it's your right. Similarly, I'd deem it just as offensive if smoking were allowed in my restaurant and a law were enacted banning smoking in restaurants. The totalitarian method to resolve the conflict is through political power and guns. In other words, the group with the greatest power to organize government's brute force decides whether there'll be smoking or no smoking in restaurants. Totalitarians might justify their actions by claiming that bars, restaurants and workplaces deal with the public, and thus the public should decide how they'll be used. That's nonsense. Just because an establishment deals with the public doesn't make it public property. The liberty-oriented method to resolve conflict is through the institution of private property. In fact, conflict resolution is one of the primary functions of private property, namely it decides who gets to decide how what property is used in what way. Put another way: Who may harm whom in what ways? In a nutshell,

private property rights have to do with rights held by an owner to keep, acquire and use property in ways so long as he doesn't interfere with similar rights held by another. Private property rights also include the right to exclude others from use of property. Under the liberty-oriented method of private property, as a means to conflict resolution, we'd ask the question of ownership. If the owner wishes his restaurant to be smoke-free, it is his right. Whether a smoker is harmed or inconvenienced by not being allowed to smoke in his restaurant is irrelevant. Similarly, if a restaurant owner wishes to permit smoking, it is his right, and whether a non-smoker is harmed or annoyed is also irrelevant. In the interest of minimizing possible harm either way, it might be appropriate for restaurant owners, by way of a sign or other notice, to inform prospective customers of their respective smoking policy. That way, customers can decide whether to enter upon the premises. In today's America, the successful anti-tobacco campaign has become a template for conflict resolution through the forceful imposition of wills through the political system. It's part of a continuing trend of attacks on private property rights. Private property rights are the bulwark for liberty, and should be jealously guarded and not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency.

TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Today is Thursday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2003. There are 41 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On Nov. 20, 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, in a ceremony broadcast worldwide from Westminster Abbey.
 On this date:
 In 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.
 In 1910, revolution broke

out in Mexico, led by Francisco I. Madero.
 In 1925, Robert F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Mass.
 In 1943, during World War II, U.S. Marines began landing on Tarawa and Makin atolls in the Gilbert Islands, encountering fierce resistance from Japanese forces but emerging

victorious three days later.
 In 1945, 24 Nazi leaders went on trial before an international war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.
 In 1959, the United Nations issued its "Declaration of the Rights of the Child."
 In 1967, the Census Clock at the Commerce Department

ticked past 200 million.
 In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to address Israel's parliament.
 In 1992, fire seriously damaged the northwest side of Windsor Castle, the favorite weekend home of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.
 Ten years ago: The U.S. Senate ended a filibuster against the Brady Bill, which imposed a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases, and passed it by a 63-36 vote; the Senate also approved legislation 61-38 implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

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Truck bombs hit British consulate, London based bank

ISTANBUL, Turkey (AP) — Trucks packed with explosives blew up at a London-based bank and the British consulate Thursday, killing at least 26 people and wounding nearly 450.

Security forces were put on the highest alert after the blasts at the high-rise headquarters of the HSBC bank and the British consulate occurred five minutes apart at about 11 a.m.

Among the dead was British Consul-General Roger Short, the Anatolia news agency quoted U.S. Ambassador Eric Edelman as saying.

The blasts followed a pair of synagogue bombings Saturday that killed 23 people, plus the two bombers.

The bombing coincided with President Bush's trip to Britain and were blamed on al-Qaida.

Bush, meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair, said Thursday's bombings showed the terrorists' "utter contempt for innocent life."

"The terrorists hope to intimidate, they hope to demor-

Panel supports computerized health records

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computerized health records could significantly cut dangerous medical mistakes, but government-created standards are needed to spur a seamless network accessible nationwide, a scientific group that advises the government said Thursday.

Some doctors, hospitals and pharmacies already use electronic health records, such as paperless prescriptions and software that links a patient's medical history to guidelines on how his or her disease is best treated.

But electronic medicine still isn't widely used, and most of today's computerized medical records are hospital- or pharmacy-specific. That's far from the goal of allowing instant access to, say, medical records of a patient lying unconscious in an emergency room far from home.

Yet routine use of electronic health records could help reduce the tens of thousands of deaths and injuries caused by medical mistakes every year, said the Institute of Medicine, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences. It is chartered by Congress to advise the government on medical matters.

To improve the use of electronic records, the institute recommended that the government help create data standards for the secure collection, storage and dissemination of medical information electronically.

That would form the basis for a network that would allow widespread exchange of critical health information, said the independent group, which advises the government on medical issues.

The report urges the government to model the system after the airline industry's air traffic and weather information systems.

alize. They are not going to succeed," Bush said at a news conference with Blair.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw described the attacks as "clearly appalling acts of terrorism" and suggested a link to the al-Qaida network.

"I'm afraid it has all the hallmarks of international terrorism practiced by al-Qaida," he said in London.

A man calling the semiofficial Anatolia news agency said that al-Qaida and the militant Islamic Great Eastern Raiders' Front, or IBDA-C, jointly

claimed responsibility for attacks.

Turkish authorities blamed the Istanbul attacks on Saturday and Thursday on the same groups.

"It seems the attacks have been conducted with the same barbaric methods," Justice

Minister Cemil Cicek, who serves as government spokesman, told reporters.

It was the worst single-day toll from terrorism in Turkey since 1977, when gunmen opened fire on leftists celebrating May Day, killing 37 people.

Turkish media said the attacks were carried out by suicide bombers, but the governor's office said only that attackers blew up explosive-laden pickup trucks.

At about the same time

Thursday, in Iraq, a truck bomb exploded in front of a U.S.-backed Kurdish political party in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing five people and wounding 40. Officials pointed to an al-Qaida-linked militant group, Ansar al-Islam, as being behind that blast.

The first Istanbul blast was at the Turkish headquarters of HSBC, the world's second-largest bank, shearing off the facade of the 18-story building and shattering the windows of nearby skyscrapers.

Tralee fund-raiser



(Courtesy photo)

Tralee Crisis Center, with the help of Randy and Jodi Estep, raised more than \$3,000 for its Christmas fund, proceeds from a recent poker run. Showing off a check signed "Randy Estep and Friends" are Tralee's Angie Edmondson and Karen McGahan.

U.N. agency working on Iran resolution

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The International Atomic Energy Agency has identified Russia, China and Pakistan as probable suppliers of some of the technology Iran used to enrich uranium in its suspect nuclear programs, diplomats told The Associated Press on Thursday.

The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity as a key IAEA board meeting discussed how to react to Iran's nuclear activities. While Iran has acknowledged nearly two decades of concealment, it has recently begun cooperating with the agency in response to international pressure.

As part of that cooperation, it has suspended uranium enrichment — an activity that the United States had linked to what it says was Iran's nuclear weapons agenda. Iran insists it

enriched uranium only to produce power.

While acknowledging that some of its enrichment equipment had traces of weapons-grade highly enriched uranium, it insists those traces were inadvertently imported on material it purchased abroad.

Iran has said it cannot identify the countries of origin because it bought the centrifuges and laser enrichment equipment through third parties.

The Vienna-based IAEA needs to establish where the equipment came from, however, to be able to compare isotope traces in its efforts to verify whether Iran is telling the truth about the source of the traces or whether it enriched uranium to nuclear weapons levels domestically.

The diplomats declined to

say how the agency established the probable origin of the equipment. Reacting to earlier reports linking it to Iran's enrichment program, Pakistan has denied all involvement.

In recent interviews, IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei has said that five countries and companies in Asia and Europe are the source of the enrichment equipment.

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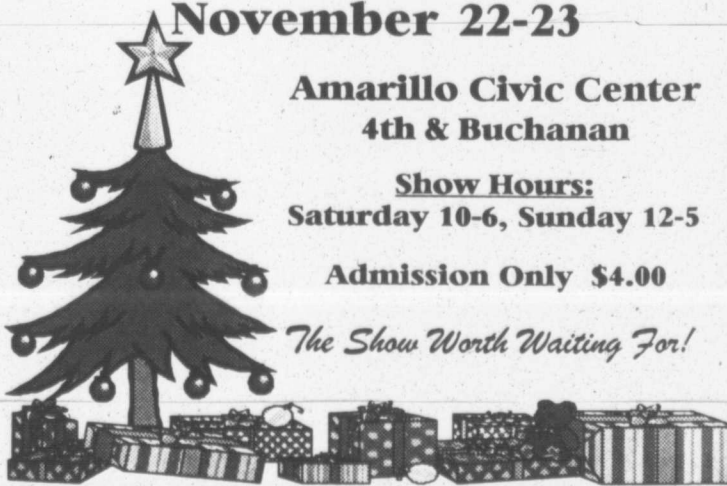
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Fri., Nov. 28th.....	Wed., Nov. 26th, Noon

ROP DISPLAY AND CLASSIFIED DISPLAY

Mon., Nov. 24th.....	Fri., Nov. 21st, 10:00am
Tues., Nov. 25th.....	Fri., Nov. 21st, 10:00am
Wed., Nov. 26th.....	Fri., Nov. 21st, noon

NO THURSDAY PAPER

Fri., Nov. 28th.....	Tues., Nov. 25th, 10:00am
Sun., Nov. 30th.....	Tues., Nov. 25th, noon

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THANKSGIVING DAY

HAVE A SAFE AND
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THANKSGIVING WEEK CIRCULATION DEADLINES

Sun. (Nov 30th) 10 a.m. on 11-28-03

Fri. (Nov. 28th) 9 a.m. on 11-26-03

NO PAPER ~ THANKSGIVING DAY 11-27

Wed. (Nov. 26th) Noon on 11-25-03

Tue. (Nov. 25th) 4 p.m. on 11-24-03

Mon. (Nov. 24th) 9 a.m. on 11-24-03

Sun. (Nov 23rd) 10 a.m. on 11-21-03

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THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 20, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Great American Smokeout Lets Smokers Choose Life

DEAR ABBY: Would you please forward my letter to a very good friend of mine? I have never met this remarkable woman, but she has been a big part of my life for a couple of years. I met her through your column. Her name is "Heartbroken Sister."

I recently celebrated my first year of abstinence from tobacco. She was my inspiration. Had it not been for her letter, I would never have been able to stop. Like "Heartbroken's" sister, I, too, am in my early 40s with small children. Like her, I started smoking at 13. That letter broke my heart, but it also made me think about the importance of being responsible for my health. I know she was trying to get through to teenagers, but she wound up saving my life. Her sister didn't die in vain!

Please tell "Heartbroken" that I love her and that she's always in my heart and prayers. Her letter remains posted on my refrigerator where I can see it every day as a reminder of her inspiration and love.

LYDIA ELDREDGE,
POCATELLO, IDAHO

DEAR LYDIA: Congratulations for conquering your addiction. Your letter warmed my heart. You chose the right time to write. November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month, and today is the 27th annual Great American Smokeout. For those who may not know about it, the Smokeout is an upbeat, good-humored, one-day campaign to encourage smokers to quit for 24 hours — just to prove to themselves they can do it.

The letter that inspired you appeared in my column in November 2000. Today I'm printing excerpts from it because more than half of all smokers start before age 14. A majority of teenage smokers have tried to quit, but can't. They're "hooked." An estimated 2,000 teens a day begin to smoke. Tragically, half of them will eventually die from a smoking-related illness. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Aug. 4 would have been my sister's 45th birthday. Sadly, she died in October of 1999. She had been a smoker since she was 13.

During her illness, I promised her I would try to stop as many kids

as I could from making the same deadly mistake.

Teenagers and Preteens: Smoking isn't "cool." It's deadly! If you don't smoke, please don't ever start. If you do smoke, quit now — if you can. Tobacco products are silent killers. By the time you find out you have a tobacco-related illness, it's usually too late.

More than 440,000 people in the United States die of tobacco-related diseases each year. I'm sure each and every one of them thought, "It won't happen to me." That's exactly what my sister thought. She was wrong — dead wrong. Thanks to her addiction, she'll miss her sons' graduations, she'll never attend their weddings or see the faces of her grandchildren. She won't grow old with the husband she loved and who adored her.

Our family is devastated. We miss my beautiful sister with all our hearts. Please help me spread the word.

HEARTBROKEN SISTER

READERS: The American Cancer Society informs me that when smokers quit, the benefits begin immediately. Twenty minutes after the last cigarette, blood pressure drops to a level close to that before the last cigarette. Eight hours after quitting, carbon monoxide levels in the blood drop to normal. Twenty-four hours later, the chance of heart attack decreases.

After one to nine months, coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue and shortness of breath decrease, and cilia regain normal function in the lungs, increasing the ability to handle mucus, clean the lungs and reduce infection. One year later, excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of a smoker's.

After five years, stroke risk is reduced to that of a nonsmoker. After 10 years, the lung cancer fatality rate is about half that of a smoker's, and the risk of oral, throat, esophageal, bladder, kidney and pancreatic cancer also decreases. Fifteen years after quitting, the risk of coronary heart disease is the same as that of a nonsmoker's.

Take it from me — those are all terrific incentives to quit today.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 44 Bumbling
- 1 Bridge
- 5 Bridge
- 10 Tubular
- 12 Non-
- 13 Paint
- 14 Pale
- 15 Finish
- 16 Over-
- 18 Checked
- 20 Big galoot
- 21 Folding
- 23 Went
- 24 Mob
- 26 Put on
- 28 Outlaw
- 29 Do a
- 31 "Gotta
- 32 "Heavens!"
- 36 Short
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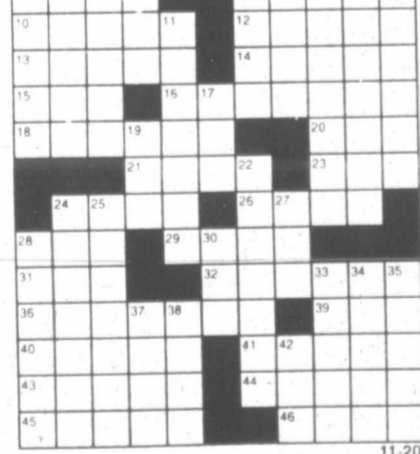
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Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK!

Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph, c/o The Pampa News, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

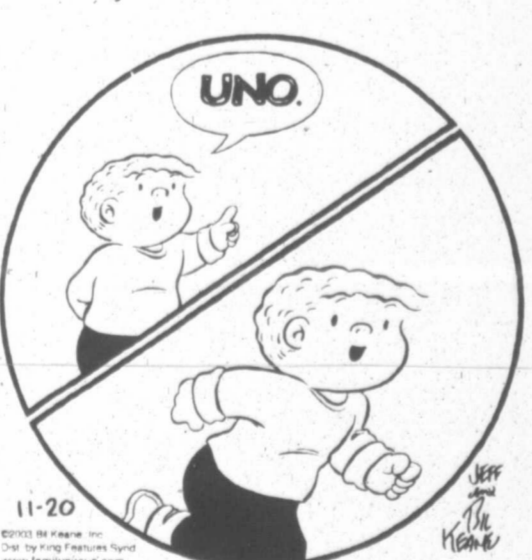


Marmaduke



"Looks like Marmaduke has been hanging out at the city dump."

The Family Circus



"I can count to one in Spanish!"

Flo & Friends



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SPORTS

Chapin could make it interesting for Pampa

PAMPA — El Paso football teams have a history of not advancing past the second round of the playoffs.

El Paso Chapin, Pampa's Area opponent Friday night, could change that playoff hex.

"Chapin has a good team and I'm not just saying that. They're different than most of the El Paso teams. It's a brand-new school and most of the kids who go there have a military background," says PHS coach Heath Parker. "These kids have grown up all over the world, so they're not your typical El Paso players."

Regardless of their demographics, the Chiefs have logged a perfect 11-0 record, including a 27-8 win over explosive EP Parkland in the bi-district round.

"Parkland was averaging 600 yards per game in offense, which is unbelievable, and Chapin held them to 185. Some polls have picked Chapin to win state in basketball this year, so they've got some good athletes," coach Parker said.

Senior quarterback Chris Day is a big reason El Paso Chapin is in the playoffs.

Through 10 games of the regular season, Day led the El Paso ISD in almost every offensive category. The 5-9, 160-pounder has passed for 1,797 yards and 21 TDs to lead

all District 1-4A quarterbacks. Ryan Warner and Eric Morales are his favorite targets.

Day has rushed for 877 yards and 12 touchdowns to lead the team in both rushing and scoring.

Tailback Frankie Martinez (170-pound junior) has contributed 877 yards on the ground to go with seven touchdowns.

"Their offense starts and ends with their quarterback. They operate out of the shotgun and he throws the ball very well to several different receivers. He's also the No. 1 rusher in the El Paso area and their tailback was No. 3 at one time," Parker said.

Leading the defense is senior linebacker Josh Flores (215-pound senior), who has 101 tackles.

"They have a very aggressive defense," Parker pointed out. "They play a 5-man line, which is something we haven't seen for awhile."

At this point, the Harvesters will for the most part have a healthy roster. At least 15 players had missed practice during bi-district week because of the flu bug.

"It looks like we're close to being healthy. We're looking better than we were last week," Parker said.

The Harvesters will be miss-

ing defensive tackle Tyrel Bolin, who was injured in Pampa's 27-7 win over San Angelo Lake View last weekend.

"Tyrel won't be playing in this game," Parker said. "Fortunately, we have depth at the tackle position. We can rotate four players, Brittin East, Jacob Potter, Sergio Alva and Kevin Parks."

Pampa's Gang-Green defense has been slamming the door on the opposition all season long. The Harvesters, led by linebackers Mac Smith (94

tackles) and Q.B. Cobb (93 tackles), are allowing just 8.9 points a game. End Max Vinson leads the team in fumble recoveries with five.

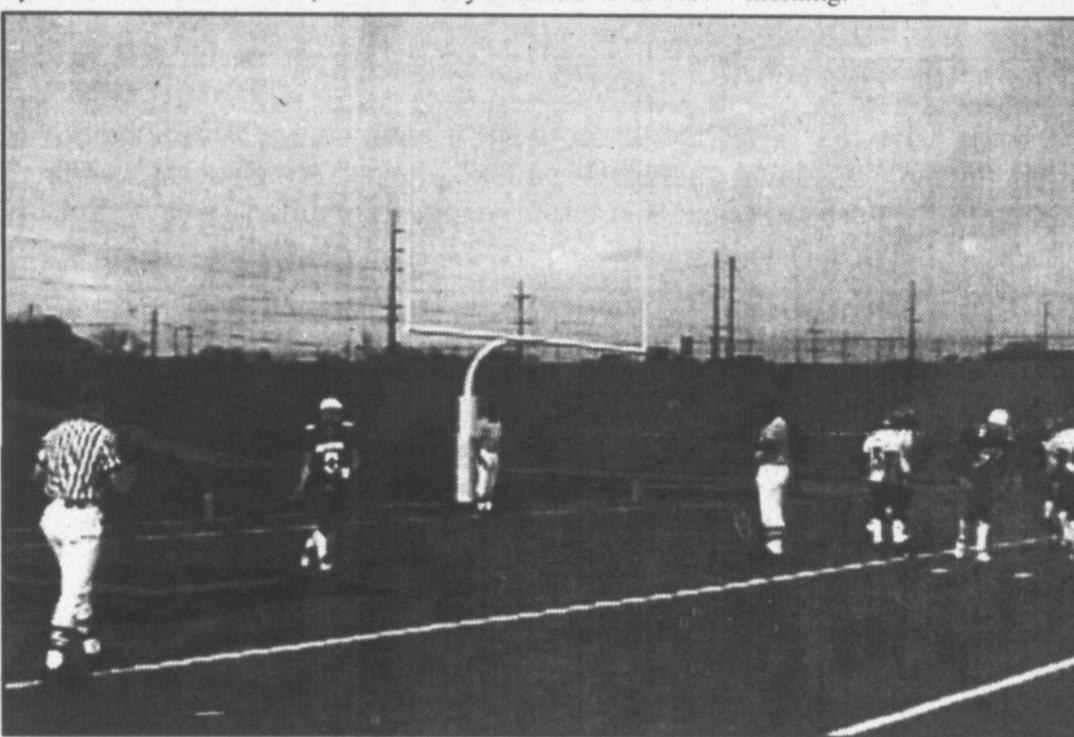
"Chapin's stats are identical to ours. They're averaging 35 points and giving up 10," Parker said.

Pampa compiled 376 yards in total offense in the bi-district win over Lake View. Quarterback Johnny Moore and running back Andrew Curtis each ran for two touchdowns.

Friday's kickoff is at 7:30

p.m. at Ratliff Stadium in Odessa. Harvester Booster Club is charting buses to the game at a cost of \$25 per person. Buses will be leaving McNeely Fieldhouse at 11:45 Friday morning and tickets will be sold at the PHS athletic building until 4:30 today.

Game tickets are also available at the athletic building. Student tickets are four dollars and adults six dollars. All tickets at the gate are eight dollars. No game tickets will be sold after 10 Friday morning.



(Photo by Ray Boring)

Harvester tailback Andrew Curtis (8) gets set to toss the ball to an official after scoring one of his two touchdowns against San Angelo Lake View.

NOTEBOOK

FOOTBALL

PLAINVIEW

Canadian goes against Parkland at 4 p.m. Saturday at Bulldog Stadium in a Class 2A Division 1 Regional Semi-final game.

Both teams have 9-2 records.

BASKETBALL

WHITE DEER

White Deer fell to West Texas High 47-28 in a basketball season opener Tuesday night.

WT's Will Wilson was the leading scorer with 15 points. Tanner Mitchell led White Deer with 10 points.

West Texas also won the girls' game, 74-56.

Dani Beagle tossed in 26 points to lead WT. Ashley Davis led White Deer with 15 points, followed by Emily Nusser (13) and Sara Smith (11).

LEFORS — The Lefors Lady Pirates downed Texline 31-24 Tuesday night to open the 2003-2004 basketball season.

Katie Barnes was high scorer, for Lefors with 14 points. Rachel Stubbs followed with 9.

H. Day had 9 points and C. Miller 8 to lead Texline scorers.

In a boys' game, Wellington defeated Lefors 64-51.

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Stars goaltender Marty Turco has slipped a bit since last season.

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks took advantage of some fortunate bounces against Turco on Wednesday night to salvage a 3-3 tie. The Stars goaltender blamed himself for all the goals.

"What they got tonight, I gave them," said Turco, who led the league with a goals-against average of 1.77 last season — the best in the NHL since World War II.

The worst of the three came on Andy McDonald's shot from the red line with 11:41 left.

With his team trailing 3-2, McDonald was at the end of a shift on the power play when he fired from 90 feet. The puck bounced once before getting through Turco's pads.

"On the power play in that situation, I'm trying to get off the ice," said McDonald, who also had a first-period goal. "I put it on net, it took a weird bounce on him and I was fortunate to get the break."

BASEBALL

HOUSTON (AP)

Catcher Brad Ausmus decided to stay with the Houston Astros, agreeing Wednesday to a \$4 million, two-year contract.

Ausmus, a two-time Gold Glove winner, hit .229 with four home runs and 47 RBIs for the Astros last season. He finished second among major league catchers with a .997 fielding percentage.

This is Ausmus' second stint with the Astros. He played in Houston in 1997 and 1998 after being acquired from Detroit. He went back to the Tigers for the 1999 and 2000 seasons before rejoining the Astros for the 2001 season.

Ausmus, 34, has caught at least 100 games in each of his 10 full seasons.

Top-ranked Huskies advance to tournament semi-finals

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut played its way to the Preseason NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden and the top-ranked Huskies needed both of their star players to get there.

Ben Gordon, considered one of the nation's best guards, scored a career-high 37 points in Wednesday night's 93-79 victory over Nevada in the quarterfinals. That came a night after center

Emeka Okafor, the AP's pre-season player of the year, had 21 points and 13 rebounds in a 70-60 first-round win over Yale.

"It was nice to have Emeka be so sensational the first game and Ben be sensational the second," UConn coach Jim Calhoun said. "But the guy who's been pretty good both games has been Denham Brown."

Brown, a sophomore

swingman, had 15 points and eight rebounds against Yale and then scored a career-high 22 points against Nevada.

"Ben was the emotional and offense leader," Brown said. "Scoring as many points as he did, that could get anybody pumped."

The Huskies (2-0) will play the winner of Thursday's Georgia Tech-Hofstra second-round game. The other semifinal on Nov. 26 will have Utah,

which beat Minnesota 66-54 on Wednesday, against the winner of Friday night's quarterfinal between Massachusetts and Texas Tech.

Gordon was well on his way to a career night Wednesday when the sellout crowd at Gampel Pavilion started chanting "You can't stop him" with 14 minutes to play.

Nevada needed no

reminder.

"Ben was doing all the scoring, the cheerleading. It was the BG show tonight. The Ben Gordon showcase," said Okafor, who led the Huskies with 14 rebounds.

Unhappy with his 13-point performance in the tournament opener, Gordon said he was more mentally prepared against Nevada.

"I just sat in my room and meditated," Gordon said. "I

7th grade girls open season against Westover, Hereford

Results from the Pampa's 7th grade girls' basketball games against Hereford and Westover Park are as follows:

Results are as follows:

7th A lost to Hereford.

Top scorers: Jessica Miner

- 4 pts., April Silva - 3 pts.,

Kelby Doughty, Kamie

Doughty & Holly Winegeart -

2 pts. each

7th B lost to Hereford.

Top scorers: Tabby Courter

- 9 pts., Victoria Campbell - 5

pts., Kamy Miller - 4 pts.,

Diana Mechelay, Alex Hutto

& Karlie Novian - 2 pts. each

7th A lost to Westover. Top

scorers: Lauren Smith - 6 pts.,

Kelby Doughty - 2 pts.,

Jessica Miner & Kara Lane - 1

pt. each

7th B lost to Westover. Top

Scorers: Tabby Courter - 6

pts., Diana Mechelay - 4 pts.,

Kat Aler - 3 pts., Victoria

Campbell - 2 pts., & Paegge

Alvey - 1 pt.

Sign-ups scheduled for Dec. 1-5 Pampa Junior Volleyball League

PAMPA — Sign-ups for the Junior Volleyball League will be held Dec. 1-5 at the Pampa Middle School girls' gym from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The league is for girls in the fifth and sixth grades.

Cost is \$35 for a t-shirt, volleyball basics, games and awards. Cash only please. No personal checks.

Games, which will be played at the middle school gyms, start on Jan. 15.

Interested girls are urged to go by the gym as soon as possible to pay the sign-up fee and fill out the registration form.

Call Deanna Polasek at 669-4900, ext. 37 (daytime number) for questions.

Loose ball



(Pampa News photo by L.D. Strate)

Pampa sophomore Jaret Katara dives for a loose ball in the season opener against Amarillo High Tuesday night. The Harvesters meet Lubbock Estacado at 7:30 Friday night at the West Texas A&M Event Center in Canyon.

Racing Commission names winner for Hobbs track

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The state Racing Commission on Wednesday named Ruidoso Downs owner R.D. Hubbard and his partnership to build and operate a new horse race track and casino at Hobbs.

"There's going to be a diamond in the desert created by this process," said Commission Chairman Jack Cole, quoting a comment made by Rael during the commission's last visit to Hobbs.

The commission conducted two days of hearings last week to give the four applicants a chance to present their proposals for the track and casino.

The bidders: Hubbard, bidding under Zia Park Partners; Santa Fe art dealer Gerald Peters, under a partnership known as Hobbs Downs; Ken Newton, former owner of The Downs at Santa Fe, whose SaddleBrook Park partnership included the owners of

the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev.; and Nevada businessman Shawn Scott, who proposed a track complex under the name Lea Downs.

All four proposals called for a completed casino and track to be in operation by November 2005.

The license was granted conditionally, which means the Zia partners must be able to obtain a gaming license from the state Gaming

Control Board and must fulfill the promises they made in the winning proposal as well as meet any other requirements imposed by the Racing Commission.

"The big winners are the citizens of New Mexico, the city of Hobbs and Lea County, and, of course, the New Mexico horsemen," Cole said.

Hubbard and his partners at Ruidoso Downs argued during their presentation last week that they should be

awarded the contract for the Hobbs track — or the existing Ruidoso Downs and surrounding Lincoln County would suffer. They said having both tracks would benefit both Lea and Lincoln counties.

The Hubbard group also said its background in racing gave it an edge.

"It's a specialized business, and we speak the language," Ruidoso Downs president Bruce Rimbo told the commission.

NOV

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2003

Rebound grab



(Pampa News photo)

Pampa post Jennie Waggoner looks for a teammate after grabbing a rebound in Tuesday's basketball opener against Amarillo High. The Lady Harvesters are entered in the Frenship Tournament, which starts today in Lubbock

TCU tunes out BCS talk with conference title on the line

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — While others debate whether unbeaten TCU is worthy of a spot in the BCS, the Horned Frogs have more immediate concerns.

Specifically, a showdown with Southern Mississippi that will decide the Conference USA championship tonight.

No. 10 TCU can clinch its second straight trip to the Liberty Bowl and first outright C-USA title by beating the second-place Golden Eagles, who have won four straight games.

Still, it seems all most people want to talk to the Horned Frogs (10-0, 7-0) about is the Bowl Championship Series standings.

"Yeah, it gets tiring sometimes," said TCU quarterback Brandon Hassell, who is 6-0 since replacing injured starter Tye Gunn. "Most of the time talking to some people, that's

all they want to talk about it, and we're really focused on Southern Miss and the game we have coming up that week. Sometimes you just really don't want to talk about it after talking about it so much and hearing about it so much."

TCU (7-3, 6-0) dropped two spots in the BCS standings this week to eighth. The top six teams are guaranteed spots in the four big-ticket bowl games — Rose, Sugar, Fiesta and Orange.

Staying undefeated keeps the Horned Frogs in the mix, even if it gives them only an outside shot.

"The only thing that matters to me is beating Southern Miss," TCU coach Gary Patterson said. "We know it's not going to make any difference at all unless we go 2-0 the last week-and-a-half."

If TCU beats Southern Mississippi, only winless

SMU stands in the way of the Horned Frogs' first unbeaten season since 1938, when quarterback Davey O'Brien led TCU to its only national championship.

A loss to the Golden Eagles not only ends the BCS debate, it very well could relegate TCU to second-place in its own league.

Southern Miss finishes the season against C-USA rival East Carolina, which has won just once this season.

"I don't think it matters what they have riding on this game," Southern Miss center Jim Hicks said. "They have a lot riding on it, more so than just the conference championship. They have been high up in the rankings all year long, and we didn't pay to much attention to that because we have our goals."

C-USA championship comes before BCS for Horned Frogs

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) — Before No. 10 TCU can claim to be worthy of inclusion in the BCS, the Horned Frogs must first show they are deserving of a spot in the Liberty Bowl.

TCU can clinch its first outright Conference USA title and the Liberty Bowl bid that goes with it Thursday night by beating Southern Mississippi.

The Horned Frogs (10-0, 7-0) have a half-game lead over the Golden Eagles (7-3, 6-0), who have won four straight games.

Still, it seems all most people want to talk to the Frogs about is the Bowl Championship Series standings.

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Southern Miss won three

C-USA titles in the league's first four seasons, but none since 1999.

"This football team is really hungry and this is the position they wanted to be in," Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower said.

It has taken just three seasons in C-USA for TCU and Southern Miss to create a spirited rivalry.

"It has turned into a big rivalry, not a rivalry of hatred," said TCU defensive end Bo Schobel, who leads the conference with 11 1/2 sacks.

"We respect them as being a good football team and I think they respect us the same."

The year before TCU moved into the league, Southern Miss beat the LaDanian Tomlinson-led Frogs in the Mobile Bowl on a last-minute touchdown. The next year, with a bowl bid on the line, TCU beat

Southern Miss 14-12 in Hattiesburg.

Last season, TCU handed Southern Miss its most lopsided C-USA loss ever, 37-7, in Fort Worth, Texas.

"They embarrassed us on TV," said Southern Miss linebacker Rod Davis, who leads the No. 1 scoring and

pass defense in C-USA.

Now, the Golden Eagles get a chance to ruin TCU's dream season.

"We know they have to come through Hattiesburg before they get to the BCS or the conference championship," defensive end Terrell Paul said.

Yao leads Rockets by Warriors

HOUSTON (AP) — Yao Ming took advantage of the fatigued Golden State Warriors.

Yao scored 15 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, leading the Houston Rockets to an 85-83 victory over the Warriors on Wednesday night.

Warriors center Erick Dampier was not at his best the final quarter, and Yao could sense it.

"I felt he was low on energy. He wasn't 100 percent," Yao said. "In the fourth quarter, their energy level went down. The difference between the first three quarters and the final quarter was obvious."

Golden State, coming off a loss at San Antonio on Tuesday, took a 71-68 lead early in the fourth. Then Yao scored the Rockets' next 11 points and Cuttino Mobley hit a 3-pointer for an 82-81 lead with 1:30 remaining and Houston never trailed again.

Steve Francis, who also scored 23 points, said the Rockets' fourth-quarter plan should be obvious.

"Sometimes we almost force-feed the ball to Yao," Francis said. "We did that in the fourth quarter tonight and he made good decisions on whether to pass it back out or go in and score."

Texans' rookies on record pace

HOUSTON (AP) — The race for the league's top offensive rookie might come down to the Texans' locker room.

Andre Johnson and Domanick Davis helped breathe life into a very expansionesque Houston offense. They are on pace to become the first rookie teammates to have a 1,000-yard receiving year and a 1,000-yard rushing year. And, they've become legitimate threats who shape defensive game plans.

"If we weren't playing them, I would say they're an exciting group to watch," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "I don't like watching them play when you've got to play against them."

The early success isn't entirely unexpected from Johnson, the third overall pick in the draft who leads the team with 46 catches and 711 yards. His three touchdowns receiving are tied with Corey Bradford for the team lead.

More of a surprise has been fourth-round pick Davis, the 101st selection who struggled throughout his Louisiana State career to win a starting job. He is the league's rookie leader with 655 yards rushing, which puts him 18th overall although he only has five starts.

"We're very excited about both of them, about what they've done to this point and about what their capabilities are in the future," Texans coach Dom Capers said, while declining to offer his early take on rookie of the year.

"Those types of honors always take care of themselves. The best thing about both of those guys is they don't get caught up in all of that. They come in, give you a good day's work and do what it takes to get better."

Of course, there are other rookies competing for attention, such as Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin and perhaps Jaguars quarterback Byron Leftwich if he gets hot down the stretch.

For his part, Johnson said he's still concentrating on learning the NFL and trying to improve the Texans.

"I think my biggest thing coming into the league was not to put too much pressure on myself," Johnson said. "I'm not trying to go

out there and be the hero. I'm just playing and letting the plays come to me."

Last week, the Bills decided to attack Davis, who has three 100-yard rushing games, yet he still accounted for 101 total yards while Johnson had 122 yards receiving. Factoring out the stat-skewing final play when Johnson took a 34-yard rushing loss as he sprinted for a safety to kill the clock in Houston's 12-10 victory, the two rookies accounted for 80 percent of the offense.

The closest any running back-receiver tandem has come to achieving 1,000 yards each was 1973. The Bengals' Boobie Clark ran for 988 yards and receiver Isaac Curtis had 843 through the air.

The last time two first-year teammates made a run at the mark was 1995, when Oilers tailback Rodney Thomas rushed for 947 yards and receiver Chris Sanders had 823 yards receiving.

Houston's twosome's impact, bolstered by a revamped offensive line, is hard to ignore. The Texans' offense, ranked last in several categories in 2003, has 659 more yards and 36 more points than at this point a season ago. It's managed that despite an injury-racked defense that has been porous.

More striking is Capers' tabulation of "big plays," which he considers a pass of 25 or more yards or a run of 15-plus. Davis and Johnson have most of the Texans' 34 "big plays," compared to the Texans' 25 in all of 2002.

Davis said he'll be satisfied if the offensive rookie of the year honor comes to Houston, regardless of whether it goes to him or his teammate five lockers down.

"It really doesn't matter. As long as it's a Texan, I'll be pleased with it," said Davis, who also has 34 catches.

Not bad for a career backup drafted solely to return kicks and get a stray carry now and then.

"I do think about (the award)," Davis said. "That's why I practice, work hard, push myself and try to make things happen in a game."

NFL STANDINGS												
National Football League						Detroit		West				
At A Glance						3	7	0	.300	166	242	
By The Associated Press							W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
All Times EST												
AMERICAN CONFERENCE												
East						Sunday's Games						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Carolina at Dallas, 1 p.m.						
New England	8	2	0	.800	196	155	Seattle at Baltimore, 1 p.m.					
Miami	6	4	0	.600	177	147	New England at Houston, 1 p.m.					
Buffalo	4	6	0	.400	159	170	Jacksonville at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.					
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300	197	211	Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1 p.m.					
South						San Francisco at Green Bay, 1 p.m.						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.						
Indianapolis	8	2	0	.800	292	202	Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.					
Tennessee	8	2	0	.800	265	177	New Orleans at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.					
Houston	4	6	0	.400	174	254	St. Louis at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.					
Jacksonville	2	8	0	.200	175	241	Chicago at Denver, 4:05 p.m.					
North						Tennessee at Atlanta, 4:15 p.m.						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Oakland at Kansas City, 4:15 p.m.						
Baltimore	5	5	0	.500	212	191	Cincinnati at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.					
Cincinnati	5	5	0	.500	210	219	Washington at Miami, 8:30 p.m.					
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	179	177	Monday's Game					
Pittsburgh	3	7	0	.300	190	247	N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 9 p.m.					
West						Thursday's Games						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Green Bay at Detroit, 12:30 p.m.						
Kansas City	9	1	0	.900	306	174	Miami at Dallas, 4:05 p.m.					
Denver	6	4	0	.600	247	179	Sunday, Nov. 30					
Oakland	3	7	0	.300	190	229	Arizona at Chicago, 1 p.m.					
San Diego	2	8	0	.200	182	280	Atlanta at Houston, 1 p.m.					
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						Buffalo at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Minnesota at St. Louis, 1 p.m.						
Dallas	7	3	0	.700	181	148	New England at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.					
Philadelphia	7	3	0	.700	187	176	Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.					
N.Y. Giants	4	6	0	.400	182	223	Philadelphia at Carolina, 1 p.m.					
Washington	4	6	0	.400	193	232	San Francisco at Baltimore, 1 p.m.					
South						New Orleans at Washington, 4:05 p.m.						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Cleveland at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.						
Carolina	8	2	0	.800	198	180	Denver at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.					
New Orleans	5	5	0	.500	212	225	Kansas City at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.					
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	201	161	Tampa Bay at Jacksonville, 8:30 p.m.					
Atlanta	2	8	0	.200	177	273	Monday, Dec. 1					
North						Tennessee at N.Y. Jets, 9 p.m.						
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA							
Minnesota	6	4	0	.600	269	233						
Green Bay	5	5	0	.500	264	223						
Chicago	3	7	0	.300	172	234						

THE CL FOR 6

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ADVERTISING 1 al to be placed Pampa News, M placed through th pa News Office O

10 Lost/Found

FOUND male Bla with blue collar Mark, 669-6017.

LOST: Tool box power drills. Rew \$35 if returned inta 662-7219 and spea Bill or leave messa

Horosc

HAPPY BIRTH 21, 2003:
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Senate readies for show-down on energy bill

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attempts to derail the energy bill over a dispute involving a gasoline additive suffered a setback when the Senate's top Democrat said he would support limiting debate on the legislation.

Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Wednesday he was ready to support the broad energy legislation and will oppose attempts to block it over the issue of MTBE, a gasoline additive found to contaminate drinking water supplies.

The bill would double ethanol use, an important issue in Daschle's state where he faces re-election next year.

A Daschle spokesman, Dan Pfeiffer, said the senator will vote for ending debate on the

bill, overcoming any impending filibuster by senators opposed to the MTBE provision, as long as senators are given adequate time to debate the legislation.

"There is a lot of legitimate concern about the bill on both sides of the aisle ... (but) he will support it because of ethanol and other provisions in the bill on energy efficiency," said Pfeiffer.

Pfeiffer said Daschle had not determined how much time would be sufficient.

On Wednesday night, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and other Republicans set a parliamentary vote for Friday for ending the debate. That would force a final up-or-down decision on the 1,100-page bill, which breezed through the House on Tuesday.

Pfeiffer said Daschle hasn't decide yet whether he would

support concluding debate Friday or let it go on a bit longer. Democrats have complained they had little say in putting together the bill during 2 1/2 months of mostly closed-door negotiations between House and Senate Republicans.

Daschle told a South Dakota radio station that while he has some concerns about the bill — including the MTBE provisions — it was good news for renewable fuels such as ethanol.

South Dakota is a major producer of corn-based ethanol. The bill calls for doubling ethanol production to 5 billion gallons a year by 2012.

Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said that he's confident the legislation, which provides \$23 billion in tax breaks and contains hundreds of provisions beneficial to a broad range of energy industries, will get a substantial majority.

It would be the first time Congress has agreed on a blueprint for the nation's energy agenda since 1992.

But some Democrats as well as Republicans have made clear their distaste for the bill, especially a provision that would give makers of MTBE liability protection from lawsuits. MTBE, put in gasoline to reduce air pollution, has been found to contaminate drinking water supplies in at least 28 states.

Supporters of the liability shield argue that the contamination stems from spills of gasoline containing MTBE or leaks from underground tanks at gasoline stations and that the product itself should not be viewed as the villain.

The issue brought some heated exchanges on the Senate floor Wednesday.

When Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-

Ala., a supporter of the bill, suggested that MTBE was not a health hazard even though it fouls water so that it's not drinkable. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H. shot back, "If a person cannot live in their home (because they can't drink the water), is that not a health hazard?"

New Hampshire recently filed a lawsuit against 22 oil and refining companies, demanding that they help pay for water cleanup from MTBE pollution. But the provision in the energy bill would bar the state from going after these companies on the basis of product liability.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who opposes the energy bill because of the MTBE waiver and other issues said, "I've been for ethanol for 21 years, and I just can't do this. That's a bargain with the devil."

Michael Jackson expected to surrender on molestation warrant

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — Michael Jackson and his attorney will "choose their own time and their own place" to surrender to face child molestation allegations, a family attorney said Thursday. A friend said he was going to "fight this tooth and nail."

Investigators waited for the singer at Santa Barbara's small airport on Wednesday, along with a throng of media, but he did not appear. Jackson had left Las Vegas in his private jet Wednesday, but his whereabouts were unknown, according to published reports.

He was expected to surrender to authorities as soon as Thursday, and law enforcement officials said charges would be filed.

Brian Oxman, who has been an attorney for the Jackson family for years but is not directly representing

Michael Jackson in this case, said Thursday that Jackson and attorney Mark Geragos were working on the timing of the surrender. Geragos is also the defense attorney in the Laci Peterson murder case.

"They will choose their own time and their own place to do this," Oxman said on CBS' "The Early Show." "It will be designed to be as quick as possible from their own perspective."

A family friend, Steve Manning, told ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday that Jackson's family came to Las Vegas to support him. "He feels he's been wrongly accused and he's going to fight this tooth and nail," Manning said. "He's at war right now and he's going to use any weapon he has to fight these charges."

His arrest warrant set bail at

\$3 million and Jackson was directed to give up his passport, authorities said.

"Get over here and get checked in," District Attorney Thomas W. Sneddon Jr. advised the King of Pop at a news conference broadcast worldwide.

The 45-year-old singer was in Las Vegas when dozens of law enforcement agents swarmed his Neverland Ranch compound Tuesday to serve a search warrant.

Jackson left Las Vegas in his private jet on Wednesday, according to reports in Thursday's Los Angeles Times and Santa Barbara News-Press. He was escorted by Santa Barbara County sheriff's deputies to his own jet and flew from a private terminal at the McCarran International Airport, according to an airport security guard

the Times did not name. The News-Press said Jackson's pilot had not filed a flight plan and neither newspaper reported where the jet was headed.

Jackson is charged by the state with lewd or lascivious acts with a child under age 14, punishable by three to eight years in prison, law enforcement officials said.

Similar allegations surfaced against Jackson a decade ago, but they never led to the filing

of criminal charges and in 1994 the probe became inactive. Jackson had maintained his innocence but reportedly paid a multimillion-dollar civil settlement, and the child would not testify in any criminal proceeding.

Sneddon said this case was different because he had a cooperative victim and because of a change in state law "specifically because of the 1993-94 Michael

Jackson investigation."

Sneddon told the news conference multiple counts would be filed against Jackson "in a very short period of time," and noted that no civil case has been filed and none is expected, unlike 1993.

Sneddon would not say when or where the alleged crimes took place or how old the child was. He said an affidavit outlining the details will be sealed for 45 days.

Police blanket downtown as protesters gathering near free trade talks in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — Officers and a group of demonstrators clashed Thursday near the site of talks to create a free trade zone for North and South America. Police blanketed downtown, remembering trade-related riots in other cities.

Riot-clad officers used long batons to restrain several dozen protesters, some of whom wore surgical masks or bandannas across their mouths. Other demonstrators carried gas masks. Police estimated the number of protesters they clashed with at between 300 and 400.

Meanwhile, AFL-CIO organizers planned a noon-time rally that they said should include more than 10,000 protesters against the proposed 34-nation Free Trade Area of the Americas. They pledged that it would be peaceful.

Officers were using their batons mostly to push back the militant protesters, but occasionally used them to strike demonstrators.

In a brief flare-up, gas that smelled like rotten eggs was fired by police. A protester scrambled forward and tossed back a canister. One protester stood in front of the officers waving an American flag.

"I think we're in good shape, right now," Police Chief John Timoney told WFOR-TV. "Obviously the most difficult task ... is to maintain calm and not to overreact."

Protester Joshua Xander, 21, of Cincinnati, said the police are "totally doing

what they feel necessary. We are doing what we think is necessary — conflict of interests."

On Wednesday, negotiators approved a draft text of a free trade pact, choosing a version that allows countries to opt out of more controversial clauses of the agreement. Trade ministers were to spend two days working to finish the text, which so far speaks in generalities.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick denied that the United States was backing away from creating an agreement that would tear down all trade barriers from Alaska to Argentina, which was how the FTAA was originally conceived.

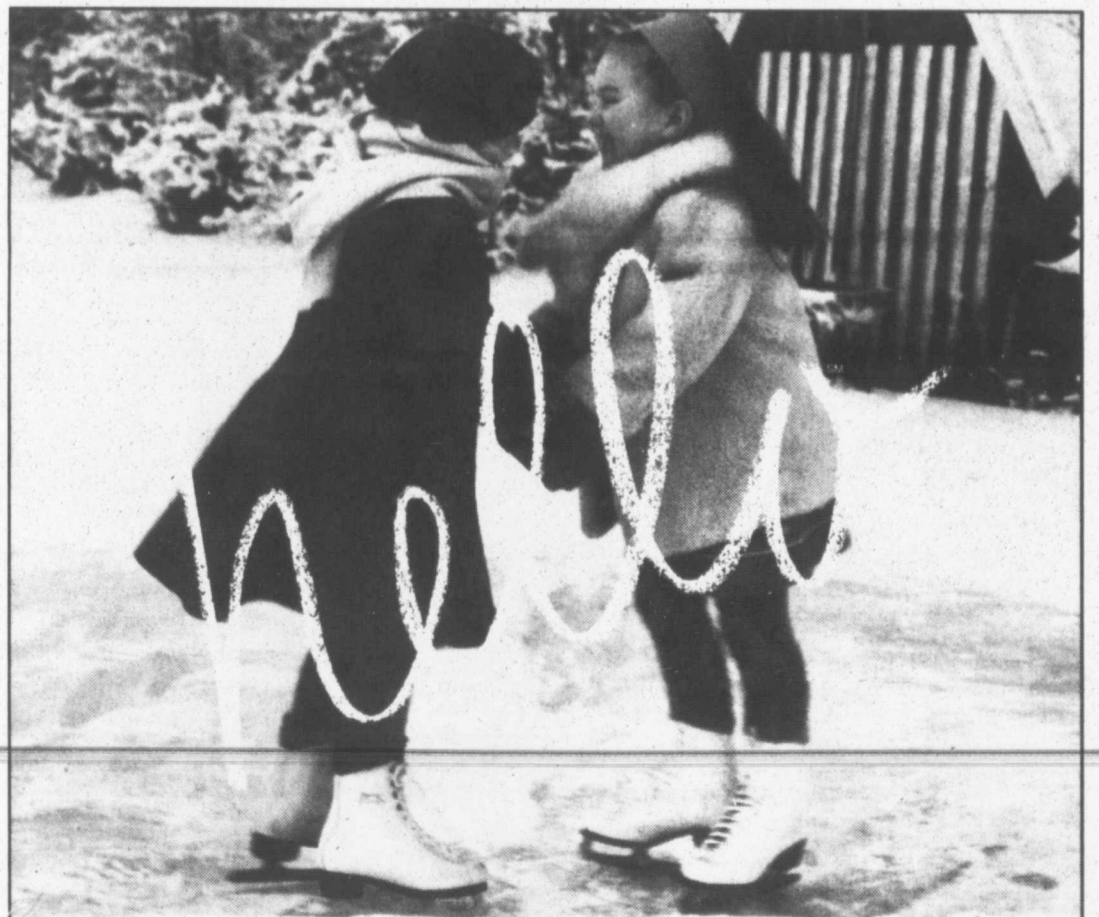
Critics of free trade agreements say they take jobs from American workers, exploit workers elsewhere and lack safeguards such as

environmental standards.

Near the hotel where the trade ministers were meeting Thursday, several hundred protesters gathered at the fence that blocked them from getting closer. They held colorful signs with slogans such as "Corporate Greed" and "FTAA Contaminates Fish."

Police had escalated their street presence because of violent demonstrations and vandalism at similar free trade meetings, including five days of riots during a 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle.

Parts of downtown Miami resembled a police state. Checkpoints with armed officers blocked pedestrians without proper credentials on several streets. Squad cars were on almost every block. Troopers searched vehicles before they could move on.



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