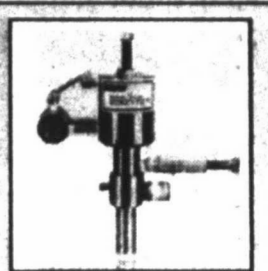


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Meth labs: Bombs in the making

By **DAVID BOWSER**
STAFF WRITER

Cooperation between the fire department and local law enforcement agencies has proven to be a boon for the citizens of Pampa — at least for those who don't have methamphetamine labs.

As Pampa police officers, Gray County deputies and Panhandle Regional Narcotic Trafficking Task Force agents raided a suspected meth lab Saturday night, the Pampa Fire Department stood by to handle the hazardous and dangerous materials after the house was secured.

Gray County Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said many of the chemicals

used in making methamphetamine are flammable and present the danger of explosion. He described a meth lab as a bomb waiting to blow up.

The fire department has become part of the war on drugs because of the hazardous materials involved and the odors those materials give off.

"Basically, it is an odor investigation," Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said. "Any time there's an odor in the city, we have to run it down. A lot of times it might be natural gas or something of that nature."

There have been several times when strong chemical odors have been reported by citizens directly to the fire department. At other times, police officers on patrol have noticed odors and

called the fire department.

"We've gotten called out on a couple of odor investigations," Powell said. "Using our monitoring systems, we found out there were higher levels of certain types of chemicals. In trying to alleviate those situations, we came upon some methamphetamine labs."

While there was obvious danger because of the chemicals involved, Pitner had reservations about the legal implications of going into a building without a warrant.

"It was kind of new to us," Pitner said. "We weren't sure how things were going to go. We weren't real sure."

Pitner has since been reassured that the odors emanating from a building, particularly if the fire department's

sophisticated monitoring equipment indicates the presence of dangerous levels of chemicals, present a danger to public safety that would allow firefighters to enter a building.

"If a police officer suspects a lab in a house because of the chemical odors," Pitner said, "then that's when they call the fire department for the HazMat team."

Then a decision is made whether to enter the building and how it should be entered.

"The fire department will enter to make the scene safe," Pitner said. "The police officers will enter for physical protection for the firefighters."

"They make sure the scene is secure (See LABS, Page 5)

May 15th election races set

By **MARILYN POWERS**
STAFF WRITER

Two school board and city commission officeholders whose seats are up for election May 15 have not filed for re-election.

Bill Jones, Place 7 representative and board secretary on Pampa Independent School District's board of education, and Jeff Andrews, Ward 2 city commissioner, did not enter their respective races as candidates. Deadline for filing as a candidate in either race was yesterday.

Candidates for Jones' seat on the school board are Kenneth Howard Cargill, Willie E. Nickleberry and Gregory Glenn Brown.

Place 6 on the school board is also up for election. In that race, Joe Martinez, board president and incumbent, is the only candidate.

Ray Boring is the only candidate for Andrews' city commission seat. Incumbent Faustina Curry is being challenged by Shirley Nicholson for her Ward 4 seat.

Early voting for school board and city commission candidates will be

(See ELECTION, Page 5)

Taking a break



(Pampa News photo by Ben Briscoe)

Bailey Beck, 8, foreground, dribbles a basketball around Josh Salazar, 19, toward the outdoor goal in Central Park. These two and several other students took advantage of the first day of spring break and warm sunny weather by playing an impromptu game of basketball.

City picks ambulance task force members

By **DAVID BOWSER**
STAFF WRITER

Two members of the Pampa City Commission, the Pampa Fire Chief and a player to be named later will represent the City of Pampa on a city-county task force seeking ambulance service.

In a special meeting Monday afternoon, the Pampa City Commission met to name four people to represent the city on the eight-person task force. Gray County commissioners met and named their members Monday morning.

Mayor Lonny Robbins, Commissioner Faustina Curry and Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell were named to the task force by unanimous vote.

Gray County Commission named County Judge Richard Peet, Commissioner Joe Wheeley, Chuck White and Peggy Coleman of the Rural/Metro Ambulance Service to the task force.

Pampa City Commission also indicated they would like someone from (See CITY, Page 5)

Police identify suspects in Spain bombing

By **JOHN LEICESTER**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Police identified five new Moroccan suspects in the Madrid train bombings, a newspaper reported Tuesday, and the death toll rose to 201.

A French investigator told The Associated Press that he had found a direct link between prime suspect Jamal Zougam and the spiritual leader of a clandestine extremist group believed involved in last May's deadly attacks in Casablanca, Morocco.

Police believe the five new Moroccan suspects took part

in the bombings, the newspaper El Pais reported, without identifying them by name. Interior Ministry spokesman Juan de Dios Colmenero said he could not confirm the report.

Investigators have focused on Zougam, a Moroccan immigrant who was arrested Saturday with two other Moroccans and two Indians.

El Pais' English edition said the Indians were released. Editors said later that those released were two Indian-born Spaniards picked up for questioning Saturday along with the five suspects, who remain in custody.

Incoming Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who was swept into power during elections Sunday, three days after the Madrid attacks, harshly criticized the Iraq war, which was supported by his predecessor, Jose Maria Aznar.

"I have said many times that the Iraq war was a great disaster, the occupation continues to be a disaster — it only generates more violence," Zapatero told radio station Cadena Ser on Monday. European Commission President Romano Prodi's remarks in an interview published in Italy's La Stampa newspaper Monday said the

U.S. approach to the war on terrorism had failed.

"On Saturday, it will be a year since the start of the war in Iraq and the terrorist threat is today infinitely more powerful than before," he said. "But Europe applies different instruments, suited to help our citizens leave fear behind: using politics and not just force, which has created further fear."

Police also said Tuesday they have detained an Algerian who allegedly talked about a terrorist attack in Madrid two months before it happened. Ali Amrous was picked up Monday in the Basque city of

San Sebastian to learn if he had advance knowledge of Thursday's terrorist attacks in Madrid, police told the AP.

Amrous was first arrested in January after a neighborhood disturbance and made the threatening comments while being questioned by police, saying that "we will fill Madrid with the dead," authorities said. They added that they doubted he was connected at a high level with any terrorist group but may have known about the attacks in advance.

He was expected to be brought to Madrid for questioning. Police said they did (See SPAIN, Page 5)

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OBITUARIES

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FOX, Ralph B. Jr. — Burial, 10 a.m., Duncan City Cemetery, Duncan, Okla.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests as of 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, March 11

Janie Smith, 35, 1105 Starkweather, was arrested at One Medical Plaza for no driver's license and failure to appear.

Saturday, March 13

A junked vehicle was towed in the 1100 block of Juniper.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1000 block of Denver. Method of entry was unknown. Taken were a satellite receiver, a Peterbilt collectible clock and prescription medication. Estimated loss was \$380.

Sunday, March 14

Criminal mischief over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 700 block of East 14th Avenue. A vehicle window was broken out. Estimated damage was \$250.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1400 block of North Charles.

Monday, March 15

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of South Farley. No forced entry was reported. Taken were a jacket and two sets of tools. Estimated loss was \$100.

Found property was reported in the lobby of the police department. A license plate was found. No location was reported.

Theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 1200 block of Garland. A pit bull was stolen.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported

in the 2200 block of Williston. The vehicle was unlocked. Approximately \$50 in change was taken.

Simple assault was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive. No injuries were reported.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1000 block of Denver. Method of entry was unknown. Taken were three prescription medications, valued at approximately \$150.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1100 block of North Duncan.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 100 block of South Osage. The incident occurred between March 13 and March 15. A pair of shears and two sets of grinders were taken. Estimated loss was \$500.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2100 block of North Nelson. The vehicle was unlocked. Nothing was reported taken.

Marlon Larue, 34, 123 N. Nelson, was arrested in the 1900 block of Gwendolyn for driving while license is suspended.

Tuesday, March 16

A possible runaway was reported in the 300 block of Miami.

A verbal domestic dispute was reported in the 100 block of South Faulkner.

Roxy Ray Spencer, 46, 609 Faulkner, was arrested at 800 S. Hobart for no seat belt, no insurance, expired motor vehicle registration and expired motor vehicle inspection.

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents as of 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 15

10:55 a.m. — A 2000 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, driven by Araceli Delatorre, 17, 1204 Willow Rd., and a 1993 Mercury Grand Marquis, driven by Annetta Laura Shawer, 30, Skellytown, collided at the intersection of

Kentucky Avenue and Sumner Street. A 59-year-old female passenger, name not reported, in Shawer's vehicle was transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Rural/Metro Ambulance. Shawer was cited for no proof of liability insurance. Delatorre was cited for no driver's license and failure to yield right of way.

AMBULANCE

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

Monday, March 15

8:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of Wells and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Red Deer and transferred one to BSA Hospice, Amarillo.

12:16 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred one to Coronado Nursing Center.

12:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Reid. No transport.

8:28 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Harvester Lanes and transported one to PRMC.

9:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Hobart and Somerville. No patient found.

10:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported one to PRMC.

Tuesday, March 16

3:45 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported one to PRMC.

FIRE

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

Monday, March 15

10:56 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Sumner and Kentucky streets.

12:52 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 800 block of South Reid.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests as of 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 15

Ada Mae Armendarez, 44, Borger, was arrested for a bond surrender on a charge of forgery, and a blue warrant to revoke parole.

Amanda Sue Wolfe, 24, McLean, was arrested for no or expired vehicle registration and failure to change address on driver's license.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the east around 5 mph after midnight. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Southeast winds around 10 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Southwest winds 5 to 15 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Thursday

night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s. Friday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Friday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s. Saturday, partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 40s. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows near 50. Monday, partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the lower 80s.

Rodeo pageant donation



(Courtesy photo)

Ken Rheams, right, and Gina Greenhouse, rodeo pageant director, discuss plans for the upcoming Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas and Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Teen pageants. Rheam's Diamond Shop, pageant sponsor, plans to donate two diamond horseshoe rings to the pageant winners. "His sponsorship and others like it are greatly appreciated by the Top of Texas Rodeo Association," Greenhouse said.

Four Baptist missionaries killed trying to help Iraqis

By EMERY P. DALESIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Four workers for a Southern Baptist missionary group who were killed in Iraq were remembered as "people who just had a great heart for helping people out."

Unidentified assailants attacked a car with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades Monday, killing the workers who were trying to find a way to provide clean water in the northern city of Mosul.

Three people were killed in the attack and a fourth died Tuesday morning en route to a military support hospital, the Richmond, Va.-based Southern Baptist International Mission Board said. A fifth person was in critical condition.

Board officials said Tuesday they have no immediate plans to pull its workers out of Iraq.

"Certainly we're concerned about safety. We will continue to evaluate the situation in every location we work in," said Clyde Meador, the board's executive vice president, at a news conference in Richmond.

The group has 5,411 people scattered around the globe, he said, but he declined to say how many were based in Iraq, citing security concerns. The group described the four as humanitarian workers answering a call

of God rather than missionaries in the traditional sense.

The board identified the dead as Larry T. Elliott, 60, and Jean Dover Elliott, 58, of Cary, N.C.; Karen Denise Watson, 38, of Bakersfield, Calif.; and the victim who died at the hospital, David E. McDonnall, 28, of Rowlett, Texas. His wife, Carrie Taylor McDonnall, 26, was in critical condition.

The McDonnalls took a break in November from studying at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, to go to Iraq on a humanitarian aid mission, Greg Tomlin, Southwestern's director of public relations, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for a story in Tuesday's editions.

Tomlin said Southwestern officials were told David McDonnall was shot twice in the abdomen and that Carrie McDonnall was shot four times. He said it wasn't clear where she was wounded.

The Elliots were scouting the best location in Iraq for a water purification project, said Michelle DeVoss of Cary, whose First Baptist Church in the Raleigh suburb was home when the Elliots returned from Honduras, where they had been missionaries since 1978.

"They were fully aware of the risk and they were just called to do it," said DeVoss, who hosted a welcome-back party at her home for the

Elliots in January.

Larry Kingsley, a church deacon, said the Elliots understood that their humanitarian work in Iraq would focus on helping human needs rather than ministering to souls.

"They knew going into Iraq, they couldn't really share their Christian faith unless somebody asked them," Kingsley said. "They were there in a humanitarian situation. ... They were people who just had a great heart for helping people out."

Watson was a detention officer with the Kern County Sheriff's Department in Bakersfield before joining the mission board in January 2003, said Bill Bangham, a spokesman for the group that coordinates missionary activities for the Southern Baptist Convention. She arrived in Iraq earlier this month to help the Elliots and others study how best to allocate the mission board's humanitarian efforts, Bangham said.

Four other Southern Baptist missionaries have died in violence overseas in the past 14 months, three slain at a hospital in Yemen in January 2003, and one killed in a bomb blast in the Philippines in March 2003.

Associated Press writer Zinie Chen Sampson in Richmond, Va., contributed to this report.

Government expands mad cow testing

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department is planning a 10-fold increase in the number of cattle tested for mad cow disease in response to discovery of the nation's first case of the disease last December.

The department announced plans Monday to test more than 221,000 animals over a

12- to 18-month period beginning in June.

Included would be 201,000 animals considered to be at high risk of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, because they show symptoms of nervous system disorders such as twitching.

Random tests also will be conducted on about 20,000

older animals sent to slaughter even though they appear healthy. Those tests are aimed at sampling cattle old enough to have eaten feed produced before 1997, when the Food and Drug Administration banned the use of cattle tissue in feed for other cattle.

The government last year conducted mad cow tests on tissues from 20,543 animals, virtually all of them cattle that could not stand or walk and had to be dragged to slaughter. After the case in December, the department initially doubled the number of animals to be tested this year to 40,000.

Agriculture Department officials emphasized that the expanded testing regime announced Monday is a one-time deal only. They said they hope to begin it in June and meet the total target over the next 12 to 18 months.

Dr. Ron DeHaven, the Agriculture Department's top veterinarian, said the need for testing in the range of 200,000 animals a year will be re-evaluated once the initial round is completed.

STOCKS

Stock prices were not available from Edward Jones by press time today.

City Briefs

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

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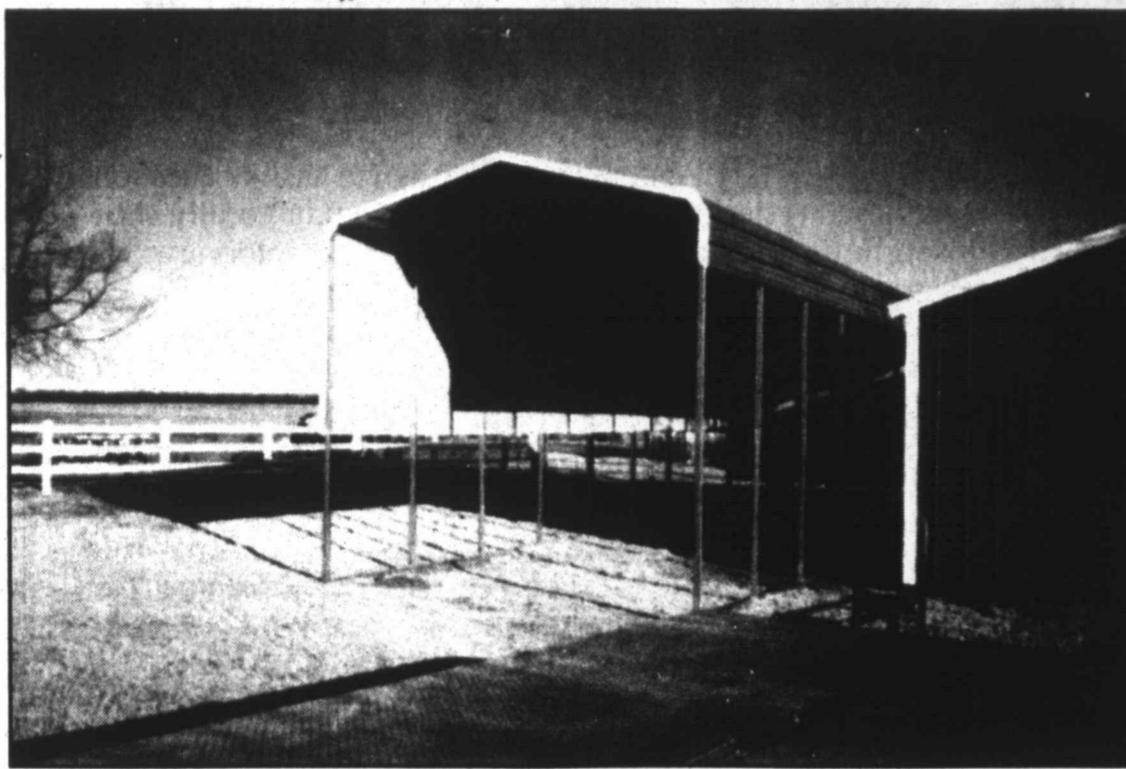
BUSINESS REVIEW

Rasco custom buildings tailored to suit client's needs

Rasco Construction, formerly Ganell Overhead Door, owned by Gerald and Joyce Rasco, is located at 1000 S. Price Rd. Rasco purchased the company from Ganell Overhead Doors on May 16, 2002.

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Rasco Construction's custom-built buildings are of varying sizes and designs. The staff builds any size custom building to the specifications of the customer.

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Selling and installing overhead doors both residential and commercial as well as the door openers to operate the door is just another of the func-

tions the trained staff at Rasco Construction provides for their customers. MID-AMERICA doors and LIFTMASTER overhead door openers may

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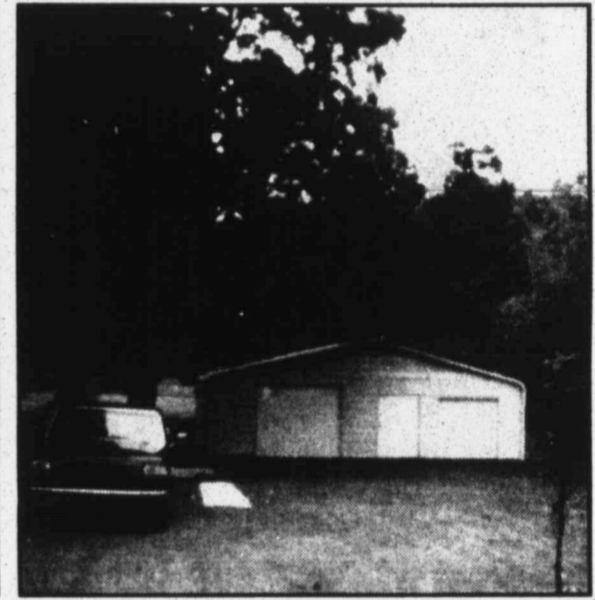
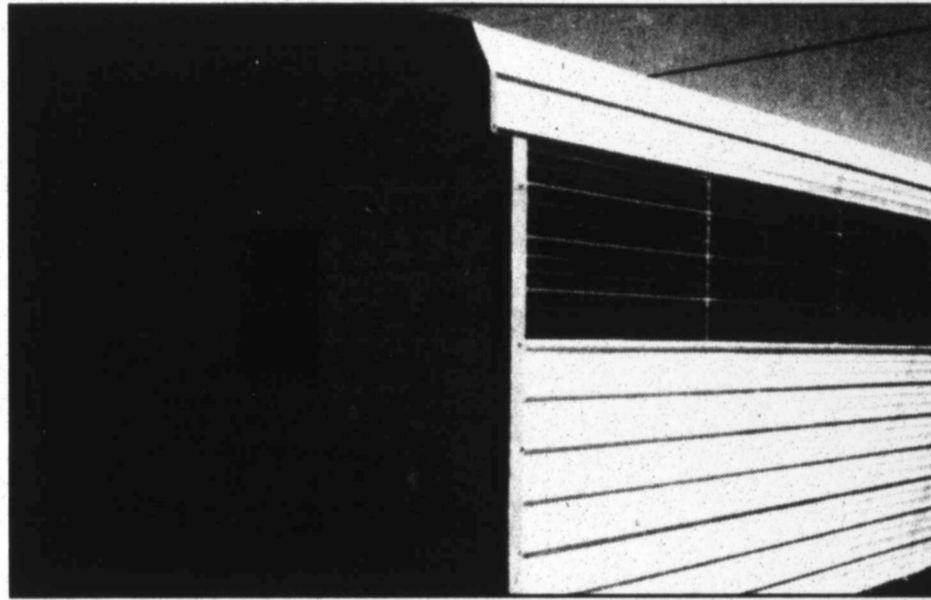
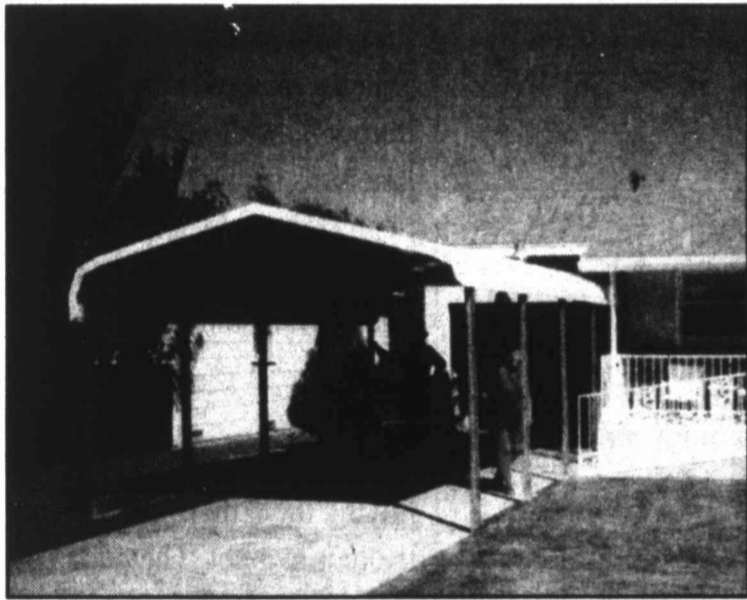
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by Rasco Construction may be seen in towns across the Texas Panhandle. The staff has traveled to almost every town in the Panhandle since the business began in May 2002.

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They would like to welcome everyone to drop by the local business to check out the services the company provides. Prospective customers may visit with the staff and determine the "perfect" storage building for their needs. Free estimates are available.

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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People

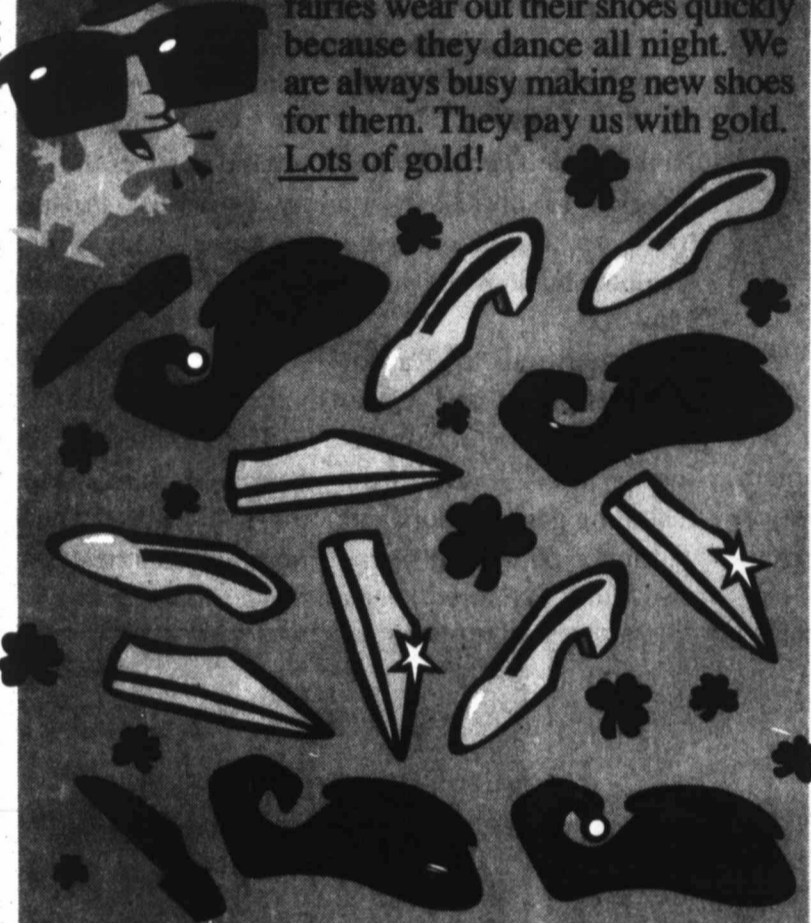
Kid Scoop.com

This Week: Leprechauns

© 2004 by Vicki Writing, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 20 No. 12

Q: How do leprechauns get all that gold?

A: We make shoes for the fairies. Silly fairies wear out their shoes quickly because they dance all night. We are always busy making new shoes for them. They pay us with gold. Lots of gold!



Leprechaun's shoe shelf has toppled. Can you match the pairs of fairy shoes?

Standards Link: Investigation: Find similarities and differences in common objects; Identify matching attributes.

Q: Why do leprechauns play tricks on people?

A: We play tricks on people who don't believe in us. We especially like to bother teachers who try to tell children that we don't exist.

Leprechaun Lips Tricky Story

Ask your teacher or a friend for verbs, nouns and adjectives. Use these words to fill in the blanks of this story.

One fine morning, I went for a walk in the woods. I tripped on a _____ . When I looked down, I saw a _____ little _____ with a green _____ .
 " _____ , " he said. "My name is _____ . I'm a leprechaun. If you want my _____ of _____ , you'll have to _____ me first!"
 I tried to _____ him, but he was too _____ for me.
 He just laughed and called out to me, " _____ St. Patrick's Day!"

Standards Link: Grammar: Identify and use nouns, verbs and adjectives in writing.

St. Patrick's Day Exclusive!

Leprechaun Lips

NEWS FLASH! We found a leprechaun to answer questions about these mysterious little people! He wouldn't really show himself to us. Mostly what we saw during the interview were his lips, oversized sunglasses and his hat.



Q: How big are leprechauns?

A: Wee folk are we. Three feet tall at most.

Can you read inches of the newspaper columns that are equal to 3 feet?

How many shamrocks can you find on this page?

Standards Link: Measurement: Use standard measurement. Reading Comprehension: Read grade-level appropriate materials.

Q: How do you catch a leprechaun?

A: It isn't easy. If you should see a leprechaun, get as close as you can without him seeing you.

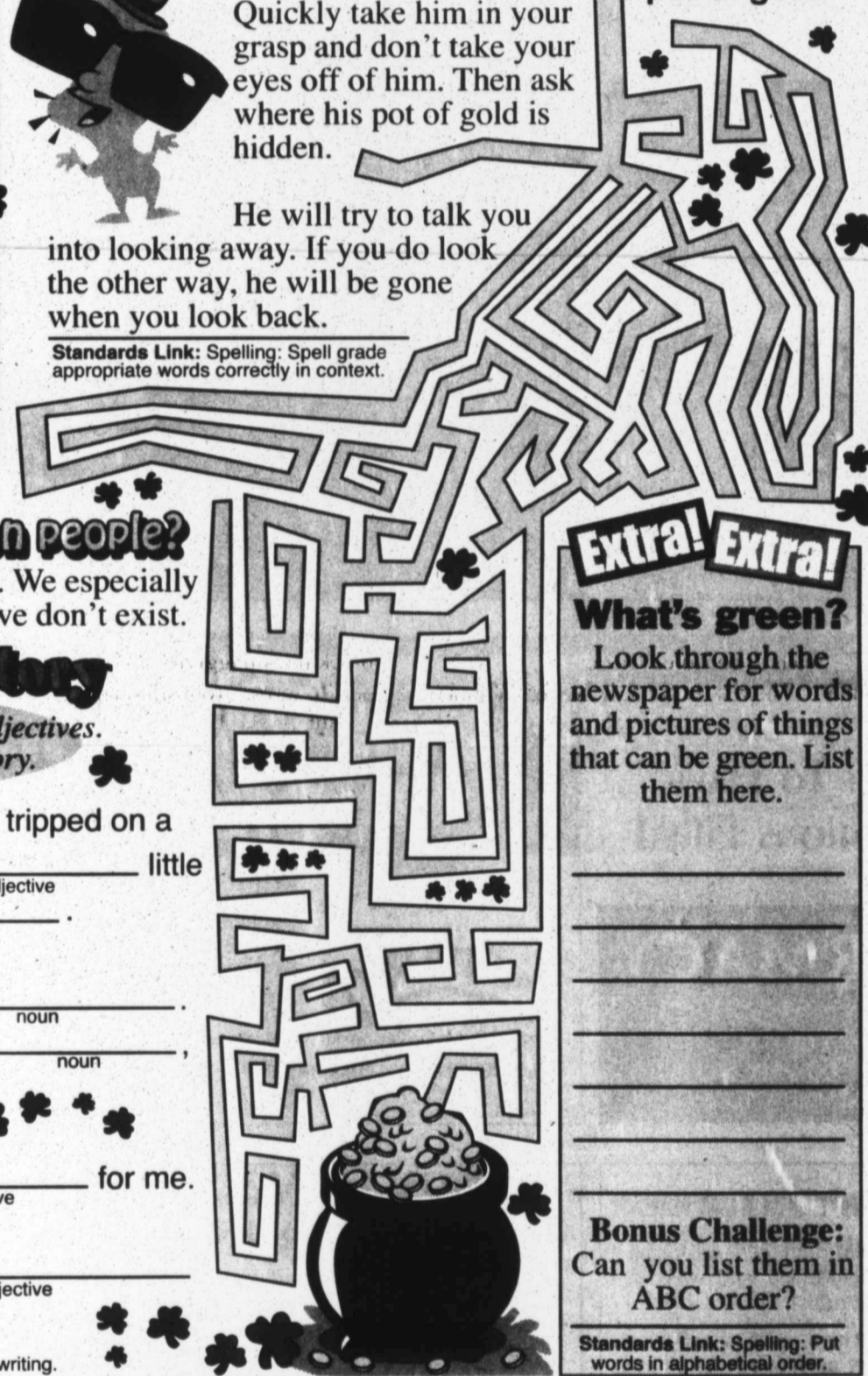


Quickly take him in your grasp and don't take your eyes off of him. Then ask where his pot of gold is hidden.

He will try to talk you into looking away. If you do look the other way, he will be gone when you look back.

Standards Link: Spelling: Spell grade appropriate words correctly in context.

Follow the path to the leprechaun's pot of gold.



Extra! Extra!

What's green?

Look through the newspaper for words and pictures of things that can be green. List them here.

Bonus Challenge: Can you list them in ABC order?

Standards Link: Spelling: Put words in alphabetical order.

Weekly Writing Corner

Leprechaun Gold

How did the leprechauns get their gold?

The leprechauns got their gold by winning the lottery in 1677. It was the biggest jackpot ever.

D.J., 6th Grade

The leprechauns got their gold by dancing their magical dance. Their dance takes them to the Gold Rush where they have a cave filled with gold in pots.

Dylan, 6th Grade

Leprechauns got their gold from goldfish. But it only happens when a rainbow hits the water.

Adam Kindergarten

Leprechauns get their gold when a rainbow appears through the clouds and there are birds singing. When the leprechauns say a magic chant, gold rains down from the heavens into a pot.

Heidi, 3rd Grade

Leprechauns trick people into giving them their gold. They store it in a pot. They don't put the pot at the end of the rainbow. They just tell you that to trick you.

Nick, 3rd Grade

The leprechauns got their gold from school. Every night when all the teachers and staff go home, the leprechauns sneak in and steal the gold that is hidden in the principal's office.

Brennan, 3rd Grade

Leprechauns got their gold from an inheritance from their rich great-uncle. The uncle got it from a magical ATM machine!

Skyler, 3rd Grade

The leprechauns got their gold by stealing it from the banks in Ireland.

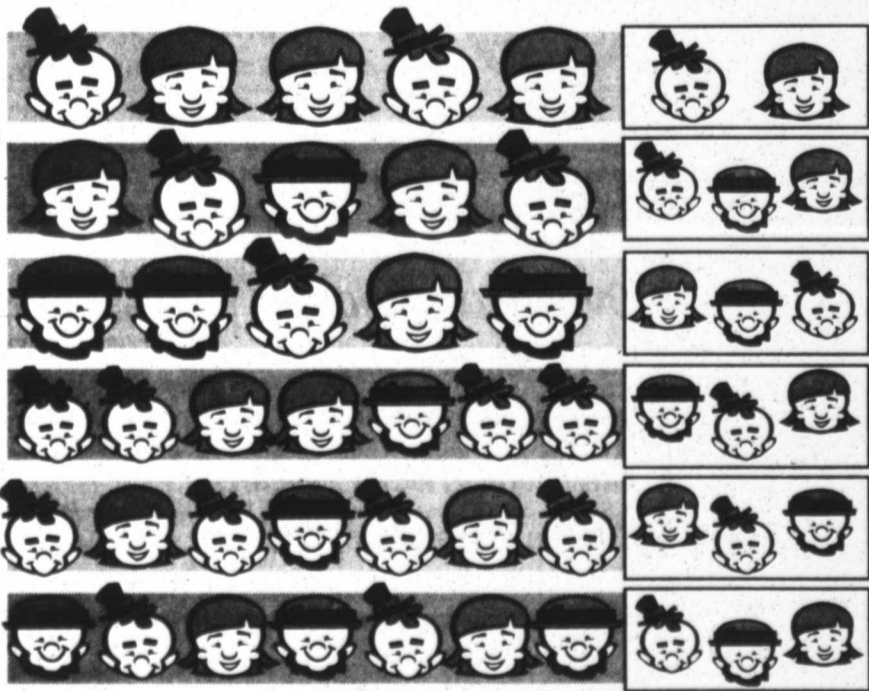
Emily, 5th Grade

I think the leprechauns ask my dog to find gold for them. My dog's name is Maddy. Maddy has a very good nose and she digs the gold out of the dirt.

Nicole, 2nd Grade

St. Paddy's Patterns

Which leprechaun comes next in each row? Circle it.



Standards Link: Writing Applications: Relate ideas of an experience.

Double Double Word Search

- LEPRECHAUN
- LAUGHED
- LOOKING
- LIPS
- GOLD
- PAY
- SHOE
- DANCE
- GREEN
- GRASP
- WOODS
- EYES
- EASY
- GONE
- ASK

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

L E P G R E E N S D
 O A O R N R O N H E
 K L T Q P I O T O H
 D P S A R G K Z E G
 D N W E S D O O W U
 A O E J Y V X S O A
 N U A H C E R P E L
 C H S M U K G I A B
 E I Y Y A S K L S Y

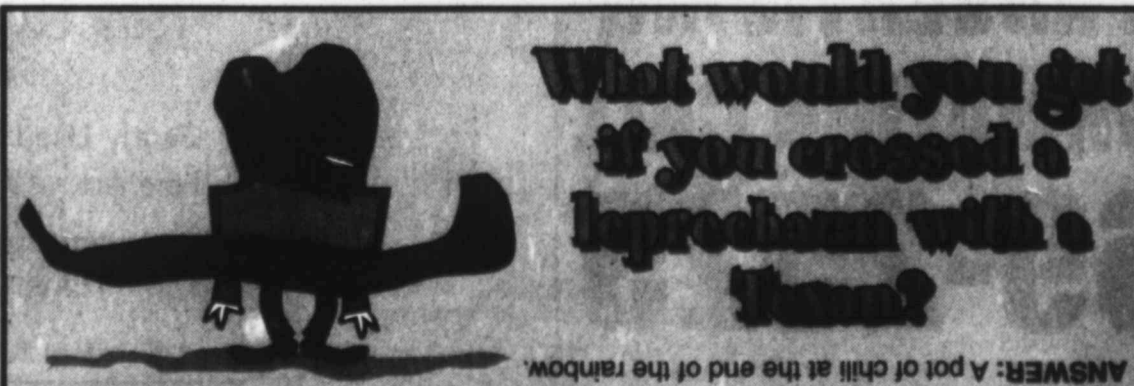
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Abbreviations

St. is an abbreviation for Saint. Clip six examples of abbreviations from the newspaper. Write the whole word for each abbreviation.

Standards Link: Word Analysis: Recognize common abbreviations.



ANSWER: A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Write On!

What's in the sky?

Look! Up in the sky! It's a ... Finish this story.

Deadline: April 11, 2004
 Published: Week of May 9, 2004
 Send your story to:

Please include your school and grade.

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Late snow storm blankets Ohio, heads to New York

CLEVELAND (AP) — Hundreds of Ohio schools canceled classes Tuesday as a precaution and some New York schools planned to close early as a late snowstorm spread eastward.

"Yesterday we were mulching, today we're doing snow," said Billy Knapp, 36, on his way to a landscaping job outside Columbus.

Most accumulations were light along the storm's track from the northern Plains toward New England.

Up to 10 inches of snow was possible late Tuesday in the snow belt east and northeast of Cleveland, and a record 18 inches fell Monday in one isolated area, around Sioux City in northwestern Iowa. Some other spots in western Iowa got 15 inches, but many towns elsewhere in state got only a dusting.

By late Tuesday morning, 6 1/2 inches had fallen in the Dayton area, closing Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to all but essential personnel. About 22,000 people work at the base.

Lesser amounts fell elsewhere in Ohio and in parts of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

"We're used to getting snow this time of year. This is no surprise," said Dave Leiko, city manager in the Ohio snow belt town of Chardon.

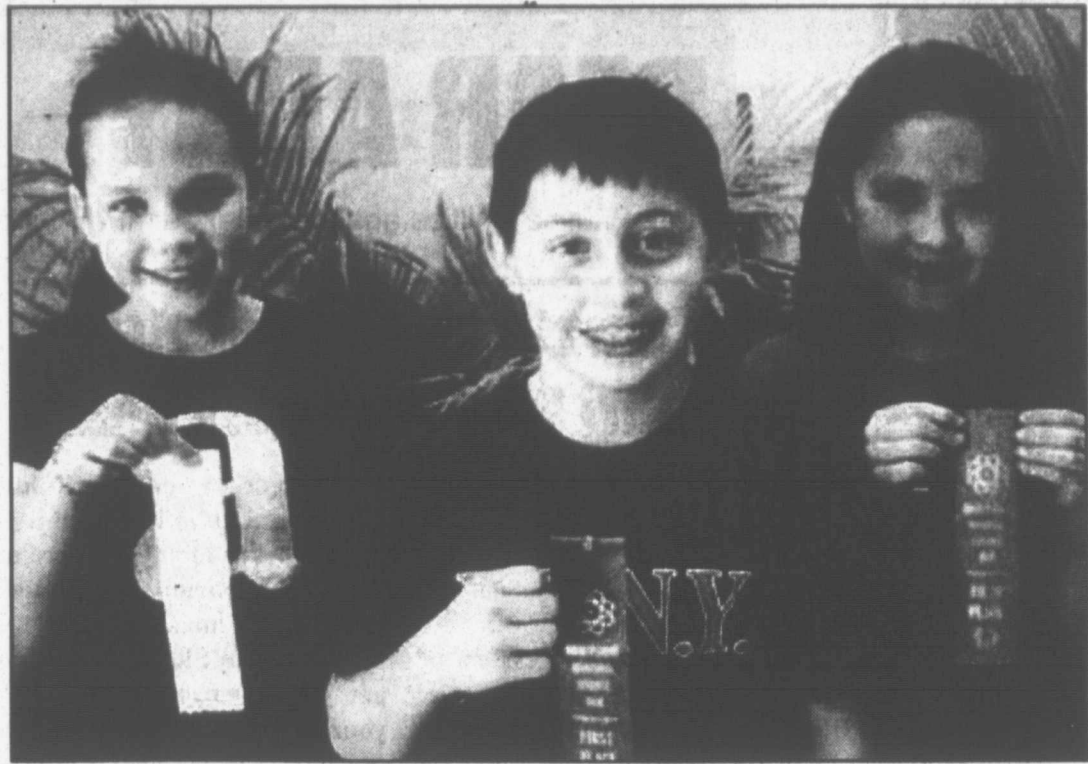
Chardon normally gets about 104 inches of snow and already has gotten more than 116 inches this season.

Up to a foot of snow was forecast in parts of New York state, and 9 inches was possible in northwestern New Jersey, disappointing people who had become accustomed to milder weather over the past week.

"When we had those few warm days, I was really looking forward to spring being here," said Peter DeFelice, owner of the Flower Box florist shop in Sparta, N.J. "But if it's going to snow, then let it snow big. A lot of people are kind of excited about it here, looking forward to a snow day. At least my kids are."

Saturday is the last day of winter.

Travis science fair winners



(Courtesy photo)

Fifth grader Alex Collins, third grader Allison Alexander and third grader Alexis Urquhart, all of Travis Elementary School, placed at Regional Science Fair competition held recently at Amarillo College in Amarillo. Alex won a blue ribbon for his engineering project, Allison a third place ribbon for her environmental science project and Alexis a first place ribbon in mathematics.

Role looms for Cairo if Israel withdraws troops

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Bush administration warms to the idea of an Israeli pullback from Gaza, U.S. and Israeli officials are trying to persuade Egypt to take on a new and major role: keeping a lid on the volatile Palestinian area.

But Egypt is setting tough terms for taking on the assignment, limiting what it is willing to do, and insisting that the transition from Israeli to Palestinian rule lead to a broader Middle East peacemaking effort.

"They could be the fall guy if it is all laid on their hands," Edward Walker, a former U.S. ambassador to Cairo who now heads the private Middle East Institute, said Monday in a telephone interview from Luxor, Egypt.

"The most they can do, or would be willing to do, is to help seal the border," Walker said. "It's not that easy to seal borders. They are being put in a very difficult situation."

But Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon said Egypt could play a very significant and positive role in securing the Rafah area, which borders Egypt.

"And it is certainly in the interest of both Israel and Egypt to keep Gaza as calm as possible," Ayalon said in a telephone interview from San Francisco.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in January announced his intention to pull out of most of Gaza as part of a larger plan to unilaterally separate Israel and the

Palestinians in the absence of a peace deal. Since then, there has been an upsurge in violence in the coastal strip.

Bush administration officials were skeptical at first of Sharon's proposal. They want Sharon to negotiate the terms of a withdrawal with the Palestinians and go on to a broader accord, including a much bigger Israeli pullback from the West Bank.

On Monday, responding to two suicide bombings in the Israeli port city Ashdod, Sharon suspended talks with the Palestinians. The State Department said peacemaking would be very difficult unless terror operations were brought under control.

The bombers in Ashdod are believed to have come from a refugee camp in Gaza and may have entered Israel by sea.

The refugee camps in Gaza are considered hotbeds of anti-Israeli sentiment, and Sharon is hardly the first Israeli leader to wish to be rid of Gaza.

The risk is great, however. Without the presence of Israeli security forces, Hamas, Islamic Jihad or other Palestinian groups that have been at war with Israel — and which Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat cannot control — might operate more freely.

The Egyptians are discussing that problem and their potential role with both American and Israeli officials. The Egyptians have ruled out policing Gaza, but they apparently are willing to guard

their side of the border and to train and equip Palestinians who would take charge of security on their side.

And, according to an Egyptian diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity, Egypt wants to make sure the withdrawal is only a first step in peacemaking between Israel and the Palestinians. Egypt does not want Sharon to merely rearrange Israeli troops in Gaza and build up Israel's presence in other parts of the territory, the diplomat said.

The Palestinians also fear that Sharon will consider a Gaza withdrawal to be a final step. The Palestinians insist that all moves be in line with the U.S.-backed "road map," which calls for a Palestinian state by 2005.

An Israeli diplomat, also discussing the situation on condition of anonymity, said Israel would be willing to quit the Rafah area, which borders Egypt, if the Egyptians made a dedicated effort to block the smuggling of arms through tunnels to terror groups in Gaza.

But he said it was questionable that Israel would leave the Philadelphia corridor at the tip of Gaza. If that area was left open to weapons smuggling, Israeli towns could be targeted by rockets and other explosives, he said.

Egypt has direct ties to Gaza. It controlled the crowded coastal strip until Israel captured it in the 1967 Mideast war. Egypt's Sinai desert is on the southern border of Gaza.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CITY

Pampa Regional Medical Center to be on the task force.

Mayor Robbins said he had talked with Norm Stephens, hospital administrator, concerning the task force, and Stephens had indicated that there were several people on the hospital staff that would be suitable. Robbins noted, however, that Stephens was out of town this week, so the commission voted to name someone from the hospital at a later date.

Robbins said he expected

the city members to meet this week. He tentatively set the meeting for Wednesday.

"We'll see if the county can join us," Robbins said.

The city commission also voted to join the county in a request for proposals in connection with the search for a new ambulance service.

Rural/Metro Ambulance Service, which presently serves Pampa and Gray County, announced last week that they planned to cease service when their contract expires in July.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

LABS

for us," Powell said. She said that the fire department has been working in cooperation with the police department for some time.

Powell said the department has been involved in such situations since she was named fire chief in 1999.

"We've seen more involvement in the last year," Powell said. "I don't know if that means there are more meth labs out there or we're just finding more of them."

While in the past, Pampa has been able to rely upon the Panhandle Regional Narcotics

Trafficking Task Force to dispose of the hazardous chemicals. Powell and Pitner are exploring the possibility of the fire department taking that responsibility over with the demise of the task force.

"We're still investigating that," Powell said.

"Our goal right now is to find a way to dispose these dangerous chemicals," Pitner said.

At least, he said, they want to be able to find a way to remove and store the chemicals until they can find a way to dispose of them.

"I think very few communities have this resource," Pitner said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ELECTION

April 28 through May 11. Early school board voters will cast their ballots at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert. The center is open between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Early city commission votes may be cast in Room 205 of City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

The May 15 election will be held at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SPAIN

not believe Amrous had any contacts with the armed Basque separatist group ETA, which the government initially blamed for the attacks.

The death toll from Thursday's commuter train attacks in the Spanish capital rose to 201 with the death of a 45-year-old woman, authorities said.

A commemorative Mass for the victims was scheduled for Tuesday night at Madrid's Almudena Cathedral.

Zougam has already been identified by a Spanish judge as a follower of Imad Yarkas, the alleged leader of Spain's al-Qaida cell, who remains jailed on suspicion he helped plan the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

The bombs were triggered by cell phones, and investigators were able to find and arrest the three Moroccans and two Indians on Saturday because a cell-phone card was found in an unexploded bomb

and traced.

Investigators scrambled to learn the scope of the operation that carried out the Madrid attacks.

A possible link between them and Casablanca gained credibility Tuesday after French investigator Jean-Charles Brisard said he has found a direct tie between Zougam and Mohamed Fizazi, a spiritual leader of Salafia Jihadia, which allegedly was behind the Casablanca attack and which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

The suicide bombings in Casablanca killed 33 people and 12 bombers.

In a telephone call with Yarkas that Spanish police monitored in August 2001, Zougam said he had met with Fizazi, who was among 87 people sentenced in Morocco last August in a trial that centered on the Casablanca attacks. Fizazi received a 30-year sentence.

The monitored call is cited in an extensive report by investigative Judge Baltasar Garzon, who is probing the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, said Brisard, who spoke with the AP by telephone. Brisard has access to Garzon's documents because he is helping to probe the attacks for lawyers representing some of its victims' families.

The Garzon document says that in the monitored phone call, Zougam told Yarkas: "On Friday, I went to see Fizazi and I told him that if he needed money we could help him with our brothers," Brisard said.

The other two arrested Moroccans are Zougam's half

brother, Mohamed Chaoui, 34, and Mohamed Bakkali, 31.

Spanish radio station Cadena Ser reported Monday that police found a witness who saw Zougam on a train that was bombed. Interior Minister Angel Acebes said authorities had no knowledge of a witness.

The radio, quoting unidentified police sources, said the witness said he saw Zougam on the train headed for Madrid's Atocha station, leaning against a door.

Both Cadena Ser and the newspaper El Pais reported that police believe Zougam actually left bombs on the train. Ibanez said there was no proof of that.

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TUESDAY • March 16, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Classmates Lower the Boom on Girl Who Has Lofty Goal

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl in the eighth grade. For my Health and Human Services class, I had to do an oral report about my future career.

I have wanted to be president of the United States since fifth grade. But when I said that, my teacher laughed at me. He told me I had very little chance of making it, although he didn't say why.

Then, "Jim," another student, started laughing hysterically and said girls aren't allowed to be president. I said, "Yeah, and I'll bet the idiots who came up with that idea were guys!" I was so upset I ran out of the room.

Now, a group of kids at school have started calling me names and spreading rumors about me. Jim even tripped me and made me bite my lip. I try to ignore them, but it's hard. They keep laughing at me, and my teacher is no help. I am losing sleep and feel horrible.

Abby, I didn't realize so much trouble could come out of revealing a dream. It's not like I am not ambitious enough. I'm in the National Junior Honor Society and my poetry has been published in the paper more than once.

I have tried talking to the guidance counselors, but they have done nothing. And when I mention my career ambition to my family, all I get from them is, "That's nice, dear."

Please respond, Abby. My dream is turning into a nightmare. -- I HAVE A DREAM

DEAR I HAVE A DREAM: Please clip this and show it to your male chauvinist teacher. Because a woman has never been president of the United States does not mean that it will never happen. Fifty years ago there was a saying, "A woman's place is in the home."

Today, more women work outside the home than in it. And this year, for the first time, there were more female applicants to medical schools than male.

Please don't let your classmates get you down. If necessary, ask your parents to get involved to stop the harassment. The people who imply that you cannot fulfill your dreams are wrong. I expect to see a woman be elected president in my lifetime -- and who's to say it won't be you? Certainly not this columnist!

DEAR ABBY: I have been going out with my boyfriend for two years. He has two boys, 7 and 9. He has been divorced from his wife for six years. We do not live together, but we would like to share the same bed when I stay overnight.

My boyfriend's 9-year-old son won't allow it. He either tries to get into the bed with my boyfriend or makes comments that he doesn't want us to sleep together. This is trying my patience.

I have tried to be understanding. Am I wrong to be frustrated with the situation? My boyfriend wants to sleep with me, too, but doesn't talk to his son about it; he just gives in. -- BUMMED IN BEVERLY, MASS.

DEAR BUMMED: Call me old-fashioned, but if you're looking for sympathy from me, you've come to the wrong place. What adults do in private is their own business. But I don't think unmarried adults should sleep together in front of children. It sends the wrong message. Children want to keep their illusions, and I think adults should let them.

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The Pampa News Comics

For Better Or Worse



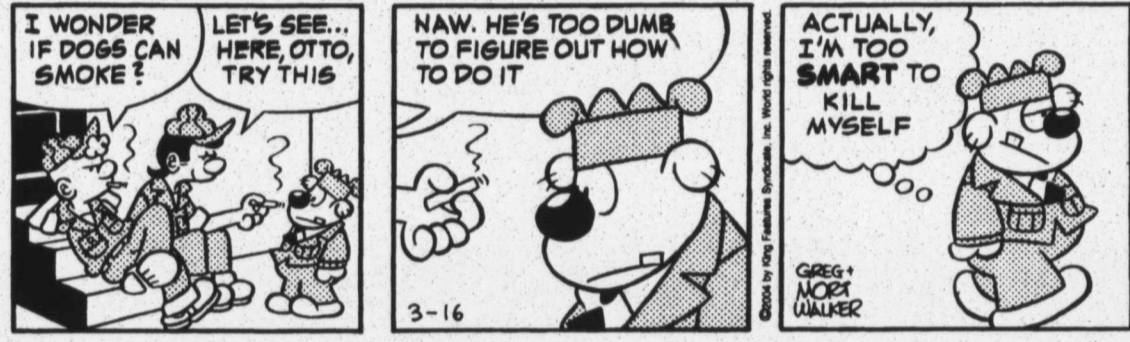
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS 43 Computer key
- 1 Boutique fixtures
- 6 Map
- 11 Parts of hearts
- 12 Not now
- 13 Long distance
- 15 Finish
- 16 Free
- 17 Porpoise's place
- 18 Oozing
- 20 Convened
- 21 Good times
- 22 Bomb part
- 23 Milk buys
- 26 Cornered
- 27 God of war
- 28 Draw
- 29 Cut off
- 30 Business gamble
- 34 Crumb bearer
- 35 Bran choice
- 36 — de plume
- 37 Golfer's hangout
- 40 Comic Kovacs
- 41 Modeling need
- 42 Appears
- DOWN 1 Track events
- 2 Be penitent
- 3 Unrefined
- 4 Family
- 5 Minor despots
- 6 Bonnie's partner
- 7 Deli choice
- 8 Under discussion
- 9 Let go
- 10 Ministered
- 14 Equips photo
- 19 Places
- 22 Worry
- 23 Kingly homes
- 24 Siderite, e.g.
- 25 Eighth planet
- 10 Ministered
- 26 Old game
- 28 Rip
- 30 Casts a ballot
- 31 Dalk
- 32 Waken
- 33 Glowing coal
- 38 Take-away game
- 39 Swindle



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



NO...

SOFTBALL

PAMPA
Pampa Department following Softball: Women's Open, Men's Church.

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Schedul able after 24 at the E now locat 200 West F Play wil of March 2

FOOTB

MIAMI Miami D former Pr David B Diego fo draft choi player t Chargers A.J. Smith

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Smith s be named profile.

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BASEB

SURPR

— We pitched fo to lead Brewers Rangers 6

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Obern with the winning t He was Brewers trade Alejandr right-han Leskani.

"I'm j my tear coaches t on me wh up," Obe

SPORTS

Stanford back on top for final AP poll

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer

Stanford returned to No. 1 Monday for the final AP men's college basketball poll of the season.

The Cardinal (29-1) had been on top for three weeks before giving way to Saint Joseph's for one week.

The poll and the NCAA tournament selection committee disagreed on the top teams. Stanford and No. 2 Kentucky were both No. 1 seeds for the upcoming tournament, but the other No. 1s — Saint Joseph's and Duke — were fifth and sixth, respectively, in the vote of the national media panel.

Gonzaga and Oklahoma State, both No. 2 seeds in the NCAA tournament, were third and fourth in the poll.

Utah State, which was passed over for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, finished tied for 25th with Boston College.

The Aggies will be the first ranked team since UNLV in 1993 to not participate in the NCAA tournament.

Stanford received 55 first-place votes and 1,771 points, 150 more than Kentucky (26-4), which was No. 1 on nine ballots.

Gonzaga (27-2) had two first-place votes, while Oklahoma State (27-3) had four.

Saint Joseph's (27-1) dropped from first to fifth after having its shot at a perfect regular season ended with a 20-point loss to Xavier in the Atlantic 10 tournament quarterfinals. The Hawks had one

first-place vote.

Duke was sixth, followed by Connecticut (27-6), which had one first-place vote, Mississippi State, Pittsburgh and Wisconsin.

Cincinnati moved up two places to No. 11 and was followed by Texas, Illinois, Georgia Tech, North Carolina State, Kansas, Wake Forest, North Carolina, Maryland and Syracuse.

The last six ranked teams were Providence, Arizona, Southern Illinois, Memphis and the tie between Boston College and Utah State.

The Aggies (25-3) finished tied with Pacific for the Big West regular season title then lost to Cal State-Northridge, which was under .500, in the conference tournament semifinals.

UNLV was 25th in the final poll in 1993 but the Runnin' Rebels were on probation and could not play in either the

NCAA tournament or the NIT. UNLV was in the same situation the previous year, when it was seventh in the final poll.

Pampa will play an El Paso team in Area soccer round

PAMPA — Pampa meets the El Paso Riverside-El Paso Austin winner on March 23 in the Area round of the boys' soccer playoffs in Odessa.

The Harvesters wrapped the regular season and the District 3-4A title last weekend with a 3-1 win over Randall.

Pampa took a 1-0 lead in the first half on a goal by Nick Robbins in the 7th minute.

In the second half, goals by Sammy Silva (51st minute) and Justin Jouett (53rd minute) sewed up the victory.

Lee Causey had a second-half goal for the Raiders. J.J. Craddock had 12 saves.

Pampa was 9-1 in district while Randall closed at 2-8.

In girls' action, Randall shut out Pampa 4-0 last weekend. Goalkeeper Chera Chavedo had 10 saves for the Lady Harvesters.

Caprock finished Pampa's season yesterday with a 1-0 victory. The Lady Harvesters tied for third place with Caprock in the final district standings.

NOTEBOOK

SOFTBALL

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department is offering the following leagues for Spring Softball: Men's Open, Women's Open, Mixed Open, Men's Church, Mixed Church.

The entry fees or sponsor's fees for teams are \$200 per team. The player's fee is \$15 per player with a minimum of 11 persons for Men's Open, Women's Open, and Men's Church, and 12 persons for Mixed Open and Mixed Church.

The entry deadline is March 17, 2004 at 5 p.m. There will be no teams added after this date.

Schedules will be available after 1 p.m. on March 24 at the Recreation Office, now located in City Hall, 200 West Foster, Room 204.

Play will begin the week of March 29, 2004.

FOOTBALL

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Dolphins acquired former Pro Bowl receiver David Boston from San Diego for a sixth-round draft choice in 2005 and a player to be named, Chargers general manager A.J. Smith said.

The deal is contingent on Boston passing a physical in Miami. The Dolphins tentatively plan to announce the trade Wednesday.

Smith said the player to be named won't be high-profile.

Boston caught 70 passes for 880 yards and seven scores in his only season with the Chargers. Teammates criticized his work ethic, and he was suspended for one game following an argument with a coach.

BASEBALL

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Wes Obermueller pitched four hitless innings to lead the Milwaukee Brewers over the Texas Rangers 6-1 Monday.

Obermueller, one of five pitchers vying for two available spots in Milwaukee's rotation, allowed two runners, on a walk and a hit batter.

Texas was held hitless until Jason Tyner's infield single in the sixth and didn't score until Jason Jones' RBI single in the eighth.

"I'm really happy with this performance," Obermueller said. "I was staying ahead of the hitters and everything was working — my two-seamer, fastball and slider. Dinner is going to be a pretty good one tonight."

Obermueller was 2-5 with the Brewers last year, winning his last two games. He was acquired by the Brewers in a midseason trade with infielder Alejandro Machado for right-hander Curtis Leskanic.

"I'm just trying to show my teammates and the coaches that they can count on me when I'm in the lineup," Obermueller said.

Lady Harvesters rout Plainview

PLAINVIEW

After rain forced officials to postpone last Saturday's game in Plainview, Garner

the Pampa Lady Harvesters managed to work in a couple of hours extra batting practice in preparation for Monday's makeup game at the Lady Bulldogs' new home field.

The extra work paid off as Pampa (9-7-1), 2-0) tagged Plainview's Erica Torres for 19 hits, seven going for extra bases in an 18-3 romp after a run-rule five inning contest.

The Lady Harvesters took the lead with a three-run second inning, added one more in the third, sent 15 batters to the plate with an 11-run fourth, and capped it off with three more in the fifth.

Plainview (5-9, 0-2) scored three times in the third off base on balls, an error and a groundout.

Pampa pitcher Nicole Clark (5-4 overall) notched her second district win against no losses, allowing

Spurs missing injured Duncan

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Tim Duncan stayed out of sight while his teammates tried to explain another loss without him. The ailing two-time league MVP remained in the safe confines of San Antonio's training room.

Duncan missed his second straight game and ninth out of 10 because of left knee irritation, and the Spurs lost 97-80 to the Golden State Warriors on

Monday night.

"We miss him a lot," said guard Tony Parker, whose 29 points provided one of few bright spots for the cold-shooting Spurs. "But I still feel that if we made some open shots we would have had a chance to win that game."

Jason Richardson scored 22 points to help the Warriors snap a season-long nine-game losing streak.

possibly do it, he'd try to get back on schedule as soon as he can," Bochy said Monday in Peoria, Ariz.

"Now, it's going to take a little bit longer than he or us had anticipated."

The easygoing Beck converted all 20 save chances last year after being signed as a free agent in June to solidify a struggling bullpen that was missing All-Star closer Trevor Hoffman.

Hoffman returned in September, and Beck, who has 286 career saves, resigned in December to serve as a setup man.

General manager Kevin Towers said he couldn't discuss Beck's problem other than to say it "possibly" was health-related.

Bonds and Wagner return to lineup; Beck leaves Padres

By The Associated Press

Barry Bonds was back in the lineup, and Billy Wagner returned to the mound.

The San Diego Padres don't know when they might have Rod Beck again.

The popular reliever left the team to deal with personal problems and is out indefinitely. He probably won't be ready by opening day.

Beck hasn't been in camp for several days and hasn't pitched in a spring training game. The last time anyone with the team heard from him was Wednesday, when manager Bruce Bochy spoke with him by phone.

"He said that he really needed to take care of some personal issues and if he could

possibly do it, he'd try to get back on schedule as soon as he can," Bochy said Monday in Peoria, Ariz.

"Now, it's going to take a little bit longer than he or us had anticipated."

The easygoing Beck converted all 20 save chances last year after being signed as a free agent in June to solidify a struggling bullpen that was missing All-Star closer Trevor Hoffman.

Hoffman returned in September, and Beck, who has 286 career saves, resigned in December to serve as a setup man.

General manager Kevin Towers said he couldn't discuss Beck's problem other than to say it "possibly" was health-related.

Pampa Shockers



The Pampa Shockers have won the Miami Mayo Tournament and the Little Dribblers Tournament in Shamrock this season. Team members are (front row, l-r) Laketon Harris, Landon Powell and Taylor Kennedy; (second row, l-r) Ryan Pearson, Cole Engle, Reid Miller, Shane Smith and Latigo Collins. The Shockers compete in the third-fourth grade division.

Lidge adjusting to success in relief role

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — What a relief it was for Brad Lidge.

Various injuries delayed the talented right-hander's arrival on the Houston Astros' major league roster practically from the time the Astros picked him in the 1998 draft as a starting pitcher.

He finally put in a full big-league season as a reliever in 2003 and established himself as a reliable seventh inning specialist who earned club-rookie of the year honors.

"Last year in relief I finally had a full, healthy season," Lidge said. "Maybe there is something to it (switching roles), but also having adjusted my arm angle, I might be

able to pitch a season as a starter too.

"But right now my mindset is to stay in the bullpen. That's a lot of fun for me and I really enjoy doing it."

Lidge's professional baseball career, while always full of promise, hadn't exactly been "fun" until his 2003 breakthrough.

Physical problems started shortly after the Astros used the 17th overall draft choice they received from Colorado as compensation for the Rockies signing away Houston's ace starting pitcher, the late Darryl Kile.

It started with shoulder tendinitis in his first Class A season, then a strained liga-

ment in his right knee the following season.

He was on the minor league disabled list twice more in 2000, the second time for good when a batted ball fractured his right forearm on June 29, 2000. He still has a metal plate on his ulna bone that sets off security wands at airports.

"I think I tried to come back from that a little too early and messed up my elbow a little bit," Lidge said, referring to a problem fixed by minor arthroscopic surgery.

"The following year I put too much pressure on my shoulder and had to have it tightened in surgery."

Spring Training

"I'm not 100 percent sure what all the issues are," Towers said. "I'm just somewhat aware of what's going on. It puts us in a tough spot because we want to be as candid as possible, but with respect to things that are going on, I want to be as confidential as I can with the information that I have."

Bonds went 0-for-1 with two walks on his late father's birthday, and the Arizona Diamondbacks rallied for six runs in the 10th inning of a 12-6 victory over the San Francisco Giants in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Bobby Bonds, who died last summer, would have been 58. His 39-year-old son said

earlier in the spring that he didn't know if he could play on his father's birthday, but Barry Bonds asked manager Felipe Alou to put him in the lineup for the first time since injuring his back last Wednesday.

"I was kind of surprised that he played, especially after he missed a couple of games," Alou said. "It's hard to tell how a guy is feeling on a day like this."

Wagner, who had been sidelined by tendinitis in his left middle finger, gave up a home run on his first pitch of the spring — to Yankees pitcher Kevin Brown.

"You know the story about the blind squirrel," Brown said. "Meet Mr. blind squirrel."

Brown went 2-for-2 and allowed four singles in four scoreless innings to lead New York over the Philadelphia Phillies 12-3 in Clearwater, Fla.

Gary Sheffield, playing with a torn ligament in his right thumb, hit his first spring homer and had four RBIs.

Wagner, Philadelphia's new closer, allowed consecutive hits to Bubba Crosby and Derek Jeter after Brown's homer. The left-hander then struck out Alex Rodriguez and retired Jason Giambi and Sheffield on infield outs.

"There was nothing on that pitch," Wagner said, referring to the fastball to Brown. "All I wanted to do was throw strikes and get a good feel."

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Duke number 1 in final women's poll

By **CHUCK SCHOFFNER**
AP Sports Writer

Add a chapter to Duke's basketball lore — a final No. 1 ranking for the women.

Duke was an overwhelming choice for the top spot Monday in the last Associated Press poll of the season. It's the first time the Blue Devils have finished at No. 1 in the women's poll, and they now turn their attention to a possible first national championship.

Coach Gail Goetsenkos' team is the No. 1 seed in the Midwest Regional of the NCAA tournament and hosts Northwestern State in the first round Sunday.

"It's an awesome accomplishment for us now that I know this is the first time we've finished No. 1," Duke's Iciss Tillis said. "I wouldn't say it was a goal because we're always trying to finish as high as we can. But it shows that all the hard work and effort has paid off."

Duke (27-3) received 43 of 47 first-place votes from a national media panel and ended Connecticut's string of four No. 1 finishes in the poll. The Huskies dropped to sixth, their lowest finish since they were 10th in the final poll of the 1992-93 season.

The solid vote for Duke came after 2 1/2 months of constant shuffling at the top of the poll. Connecticut, Tennessee and Texas also were No. 1 during that stretch and no team held that position for

more than three weeks. The six changes at No. 1 matched the most in any season since the AP poll started in 1976.

Duke began the season at No. 2 and with hopes of a repeat trip to the Final Four, then lost to Texas 85-77 in the opener.

"That was the first time I ever lost the first game of the season in anything," Tillis said. "We always win the first game. That was a huge letdown, but we learned from it and now we're playing well. We're really excited to get started in the NCAA tournament."

Duke moved to No. 1 last week and held it after beating North Carolina to win the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament. The Blue Devils finished with 1,168 points in the voting, 90 more than No. 2 Tennessee.

Purdue was third and Texas fourth, followed by Penn State, Connecticut and Louisiana Tech. Tennessee and Penn State each had one first-place vote while Louisiana Tech received two.

Kansas State was eighth, Houston ninth and Stanford 10th. It was the first top 10 ranking for Houston (27-3), which moved up rapidly after rejoining the poll at No. 25 on Feb. 9.

Oklahoma made the biggest jump, climbing eight places to 11th after beating Texas to win the Big 12 tournament. North Carolina dropped three places to 12th and Vanderbilt moved up two spots to 13th.

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

V S V I X V E E V P T Q S S B D O S
S U O A O Z S U O C B E Z H L
I O Z I B H S B Q V N O T Y S B
S U O Y B O S C L A C V S S O H
Z W B T S V S . — Z H B H L K B T I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WORSE THAN TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING, AND THAT IS TO WORK WITHOUT LIVING. — AUTHOR UNKNOWN

NCAA TOURNAMENT GLANCE

NCAA Tournament
At A Glance
OPENING ROUND
At UD Arena
Dayton, Ohio
Tuesday, March 16
Lehigh (20-10) vs. Florida A&M (14-16), 7 p.m.

EAST RUTHERFORD REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 18
At HSBC Arena
Buffalo, N.Y.
Texas Tech (22-10) vs. Charlotte (21-8), 12:25 p.m.
Saint Joseph's (27-1) vs. Liberty (18-14) **At RBC Center**
Raleigh, N.C.
Florida (20-10) vs. Manhattan (24-5), 12:20 p.m.
Wake Forest (19-9) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (23-7) **Friday, March 19**
At Kemper Arena
Kansas City, Mo.
Memphis (21-7) vs. South Carolina (23-10), 12:30 p.m.
Oklahoma State (27-3) vs. Eastern Washington (17-12) **At The Bradley Center**
Milwaukee
Wisconsin (24-6) vs. Richmond (20-12), 7:20 p.m.
Pittsburgh (29-4) vs. Central Florida (25-5)

Second Round
Saturday, March 20
At HSBC Arena
Buffalo, N.Y.
Saint Joseph's-Liberty winner vs. Texas Tech-Charlotte winner, 5:30 p.m. **At RBC Center**
Raleigh, N.C.
Florida-Manhattan winner vs. Wake Forest-Virginia Commonwealth winner **Sunday, March 21**
At Kemper Arena
Kansas City, Mo.
Memphis-South Carolina winner vs. Oklahoma State-Eastern Washington winner, 2:20 p.m. **At The Bradley Center**
Milwaukee
Wisconsin-Richmond winner vs. Pittsburgh-Central Florida winner **At Continental Airlines Arena**
East Rutherford, N.J.
Semifinals
Thursday, March 25
Saint Joseph's-Liberty-Texas Tech-Charlotte winner vs. Florida-Manhattan-Wake Forest-Virginia Commonwealth winner

Memphis-South Carolina-Oklahoma State-Eastern Washington winner vs. Wisconsin-Richmond-Pittsburgh-Central Florida winner **Championship**
Saturday, March 27
Semifinal winners **ATLANTA REGIONAL**
First Round
Thursday, March 18
At The Pepsi Center
Denver
Texas (23-7) vs. Princeton (20-7), 7:20 p.m.
North Carolina (18-10) vs. Air Force (22-6) **At RBC Center**
Raleigh, N.C.
Duke (27-5) vs. Alabama State (16-14), 7:10 p.m.
Seton Hall (20-9) vs. Arizona (20-9) **Friday, March 19**
At Nationwide Arena
Columbus, Ohio

Illinois (24-6) vs. Murray State (28-5), 12:25 p.m.
Cincinnati (24-6) vs. East Tennessee State (27-5) **At TD Waterhouse Centre**
Orlando, Fla.
Mississippi State (25-3) vs. Monmouth, N.J. (21-11), 7:10 p.m.
Xavier (23-10) vs. Louisville (20-9)

Second Round
Saturday, March 20
At The Pepsi Center
Denver
North Carolina-Air Force winner vs. Texas-Princeton winner **At RBC Center**
Raleigh, N.C.
Duke-Alabama State winner vs. Seton Hall-Arizona winner, 1:10 p.m. **Sunday, March 21**
At Nationwide Arena
Columbus, Ohio
Illinois-Murray State winner vs. Cincinnati-East Tennessee State winner, 2:30 p.m. **At TD Waterhouse Center**
Orlando, Fla.
Xavier-Louisville winner vs. Mississippi State-Monmouth, N.J. winner, 12:10 p.m. **At The Georgia Dome**
Atlanta
Semifinals
Friday, March 26
Duke-Alabama State-Seton Hall-Arizona winner vs. Illinois-Murray State-Cincinnati-East Tennessee State winner **Championship**
Sunday, March 28
Semifinal winners

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL
First Round
Thursday, March 18
At Key Arena
Seattle
Michigan State (18-11) vs. Nevada (23-8), 7:35 p.m.
Gonzaga (27-2) vs. Valparaiso (18-12) **Friday, March 19**
At Nationwide Arena
Columbus, Ohio
Kentucky (26-4) vs. Lehigh-Florida A&M winner, 7:10 p.m.
Washington (19-11) vs. Alabama-Birmingham (20-9) **At Kemper Arena**
Kansas City, Mo.
Providence (20-8) vs. Pacific (24-7), 7:25 p.m.
Kansas (21-8) vs. Illinois-Chicago (24-7) **At The Bradley Center**
Milwaukee
Boston College (23-9) vs. Utah (24-8), 12:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech (23-9) vs. Northern Iowa (21-9) **Second Round**
Saturday, March 20
At Key Arena
Seattle
Michigan State-Nevada winner vs. Gonzaga-Valparaiso winner, 3:20 p.m. **Sunday, March 21**
At Nationwide Arena
Columbus, Ohio
Kentucky-Lehigh-Florida A&M winner vs. Washington-Alabama-Birmingham winner

At Kemper Arena
Kansas City, Mo.
Providence-Pacific winner vs. Kansas-Illinois-Chicago winner **At The Bradley Center**
Milwaukee
Boston College-Utah winner vs. Georgia Tech-Northern Iowa winner, 2:15 p.m.

At Edward Jones Dome
St. Louis
Semifinals
Friday, March 26
Kentucky-Lehigh-Florida A&M-Washington-Alabama-Birmingham winner vs. Providence-Pacific-Kansas-Illinois-Chicago winner

Boston College-Utah-Georgia Tech-Northern Iowa winner vs. Michigan State-Nevada-Gonzaga-Valparaiso winner **Championship**
Sunday, March 28
Semifinal winners **PHOENIX REGIONAL**
First Round
Thursday, March 18
At HSBC Arena
Buffalo, N.Y.
Connecticut (27-6) vs. Vermont (22-8), 7:10 p.m.
DePaul (21-9) vs. Dayton (24-8) **At The Pepsi Center**
Denver
Maryland (19-11) vs. Texas-El Paso (24-7), 12:40 p.m.
Syracuse (21-7) vs. Brigham Young (21-8) **At Key Arena**
Seattle
Alabama (17-12) vs. Southern Illinois (25-4), 2:40 p.m.
Stanford (29-1) vs. Texas-San Antonio (19-13) **Friday, March 19**
At TD Waterhouse Center
Orlando, Fla.
North Carolina State (20-9) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (20-8), 12:15 p.m.
Vanderbilt (21-9) vs. Western Michigan (26-4) **Second Round**
Saturday, March 20
At HSBC Arena
Buffalo, N.Y.
DePaul-Dayton winner vs. Connecticut-Vermont winner

At The Pepsi Center
Denver
Maryland-Texas-El Paso winner vs. Syracuse-Brigham Young winner, 5:40 p.m. **At Key Arena**
Seattle
Stanford-Texas-San Antonio winner vs. Alabama-Southern Illinois winner **Sunday, March 21**
At TD Waterhouse Center
Orlando, Fla.
Vanderbilt-Western Michigan winner vs. North Carolina State-Louisiana-Lafayette winner **At America West Arena**
Phoenix
Semifinals
Thursday, March 25
Stanford-Texas-San Antonio-Alabama-Southern Illinois winner vs. Maryland-Texas-El Paso-Syracuse-Brigham Young winner

Vanderbilt-Western Michigan-North Carolina State-Louisiana-Lafayette winner vs. DePaul-Dayton-Connecticut-Vermont winner **Championship**
Saturday, March 27
Semifinal winners **FINAL FOUR**
At The Alamodome
San Antonio
Semifinals
Saturday, April 3
East Rutherford champion vs. St. Louis champion
Atlanta champion vs. Phoenix champion **Championship**
Monday, April 5
Semifinal winners

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING M...
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Pampa News, MU...
placed through the...
pa News Office On...

10 Lost/Found

FOUND brown and...
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tucky. Call 664-087...

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Foster st. area. 23...
or 662-4974.

HAPPY BIRTH

March 17, 2004
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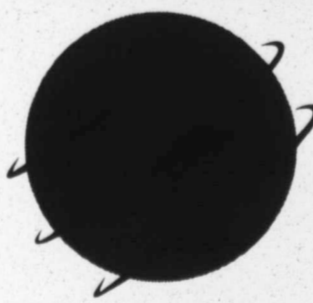
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Tonight: Work...
GEMINI (May...
★★★★ Reac...

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A wireless network lets you connect to the 'Net anywhere on your premises — in the den, in the kitchen, in the bedroom, even outdoors — no cable, no phone line, no wires! And you can take advantage of new features in home entertainment, security and more. Contact us for a complete explanation of this exciting new technology.

- Limited time offer

Call today to request the plan right for you

<p>Basic residential wireless plan & 12-month subscription:</p> <p>384k download / 128k upload always-on connection</p> <p>Free turn-key installation & computer set-up — save \$75!</p> <p>Free surge protector — you save \$20!</p> <p>5 email addresses free</p> <p>Free back-up dial-up account</p> <p>Free personal Web space</p> <p>Free 24/7 in-house tech support</p> <p>only \$39.95 per month*</p> <p>Save \$95! over standard 12-month plan</p>	<p>Premium residential hot spot plan & 12-month subscription:</p> <p>1.1mb download / 128k upload always-on connection</p> <p>Free turn-key installation & computer set-up — save \$75!</p> <p>Up to 2 additional computer set-ups — save up to \$150!</p> <p>We supply the router / firewall — you save \$90!</p> <p>Free surge protector — you save \$20!</p> <p>5 email addresses free</p> <p>Free back-up dial-up account</p> <p>Free personal Web space</p> <p>Free 24/7 in-house tech support</p> <p>only \$54.95 per month*</p> <p>Save \$335! over standard 12-month hot spot plan</p>	<p>Basic business wireless plan & 12-month subscription:</p> <p>512k download / 256k upload always-on connection</p> <p>Free turn-key installation & computer set-up — save \$150!</p> <p>Free surge protector — you save \$20!</p> <p>5 email addresses free</p> <p>Free back-up dial-up account</p> <p>Free 24/7 in-house tech support</p> <p>Web hosting as low as \$9.95/month</p> <p>only \$54.95 per month*</p> <p>Save \$170! over standard 12-month plan</p>	<p>Premium business wireless plan & 12-month subscription:</p> <p>1.1mb download / 384k upload always-on connection</p> <p>Free turn-key installation & computer set-up — save \$150!</p> <p>Up to 2 additional computer set-ups — save up to \$150!</p> <p>We supply the router / firewall — you save \$90!</p> <p>Free surge protector — you save \$20!</p> <p>10 email addresses free</p> <p>Free back-up dial-up account</p> <p>Free 24/7 in-house tech support</p> <p>Web hosting as low as \$9.95/month</p> <p>only \$74.95 per month*</p> <p>Save \$410! over standard 12-month hot spot plan</p>
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5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

FOUND brown and white basket bound on the corner of hobart and kentucky. Call 664-0875.

FOUND 2 Dachshund puppies, male and female, Foster st. area. 231-7593 or 662-4974.

13 Bus. Opp.

ABSOLUTE GOLDMINE! 60 vending machines / exc. locations. All for \$10,995. 800-234-6982.

14b Appl. Repair

APPLIANCES Broke? Call Williams Appliance Service. 665-8894.

14d Carpentry

CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / comm. Deaver Construction, 665-0447.

14d Carpentry

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347. ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

14h Gen. Serv.

THE Floor Store, 2100A Perryton Parkway, Pampa. All types flooring avail. & Jerry's Installation, all types flooring installed. Restretching & repairs. 665-4455, 664-7959

14n Painting

INT./EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

14s Plumbing/Heat

DRAIN Troubles?? THRIFT drain cleaner is the best on the market! Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes, Pampa, 665-6716 or toll free 800-649-6716 V/MC/Discl/AmEx/Debit

21 Help Wanted

IMMEDIATE OPENING for Truck Drivers. CDL required. Must pass drug test. Benefits, D.E. Chase Inc., 1445 S. Barnes. No phone calls.

Now Hiring For These Positions

Cross Guards Auditorium Workers Animal Control Shelter Worker & Life Guards *Background checks and Drug screens required Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC. 1224 N. Hobart St., NBC Plaza II, Ste. 11 Pampa, TX 79065 Phone (806) 665-2991

Larry Baker Plumbing

Heating/Air Conditioning Berger Hwy. 665-4392

19 Situations

The Alteration Shop Clothes alterations, pick up, delivery, laundry service, 8-3 p.m. 662-0932

EXPERIENCED Caregiver.

Full or part-time. Call 669-2586 and leave a message.

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

FULL Staff needed. Apply in person 2-5 p.m. Texas Rose Steakhouse. No Phone Calls.

FAMILY SERVICE DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE OPENING

Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa will hire a family man or woman to assist families in making pre-arrangements in the Pampa area. This position requires an independent, competitive, and service oriented person. Full fringe benefits are available. On a national basis, persons working in this position have established an annual income of \$40,000 per year. If you have a sales personality and desire an above average income, call 806-669-7605.

BORN TODAY

Actor Kurt Russell (1951), singer Adam Wade (1935), dancer Rudolf Nureyev (1938)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at

http://www.jacquelinebigar.com. (c) 2004 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

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Actor Kurt Russell (1951), singer Adam Wade (1935), dancer Rudolf Nureyev (1938)

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60 Household

\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. list \$550, sell \$236, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. List \$400, sell \$208, Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

95 Furn. Apts.

EFFI apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

EXTRA clean 1 bd. with appliances. Quiet neighborhood. Mature Renters Only! 665-8525

96 Unfurn. Apts.

CAPROCK Apartments Has incredible specials on 1, 2, & 3 bdrm. Starting at only \$290. 3-12 mo. lease available. * Pool * Laundry * Wash/dryer hook-ups * Club room * On-site management * SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

GWENDOLEN Plaza

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

PAMPA MANOR

SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston. Update each Fri.

NEW Mgmt! N&L Investments. 1, 2 & 3 brm., apts., duplexes, homes & commer. prop. 665-4274.

1141 Juniper CH&A. 428 N. Cuyler CH&A. Need references. 669-2080.

VERY nice clean 2 bedroom. References & deposit required. 669-1720 after 6 p.m.

701 E. 15th & Dogwood. 3/1, fenced, c h&a. \$550 mo., \$300 dep. 972-691-4551 or 469-293-5880.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

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

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

OFFICE Space, Shop Area, Warehouse & Yard.

Call 669-3279.

103 Homes For Sale

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

1301 Duncan, 3 bedroom house with apartment in back. Call 662-7118.

2 bedroom, recently re-decorated, 728 Lefors St., owner will carry with down payment. 665-4842

FOR Sale By Owner. 4 BR., 2 bath, GameRm., Glass porch. \$80,500. (806) 898-6372. Call for Appt.

LARGE 1 bedroom with carport & storage owner will carry with \$500 down. \$200 mo 665-4842.

LARGE 2 bdr., cent. heat & air, cookstove, refrig., fenced, carport, stor. bldg. Realtor. 665-4180.

LRG. 3 bdr., 2 ba., cedar closets, new inside paint, lots stor. \$36,500. Will carry 20% dn. 665-1193

MAKE Offer. 2 bdr., 1 ba., fenced yard, 1308 Duncan. As is. 620-544-9280 or 620-544-7239.

PAY appraisal value. New amenities. Move in and enjoy! 1524 Zimmers. 665-8635 Serious inquiries

115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, March 17, 2004:

You have an unusual opportunity to gain and grow in new directions this year. Often, you spend time alone evaluating what would be right. You'll enjoy this time if you do things you have always wanted to do. Some might want to develop their psychic ability; others might dedicate themselves to volunteer work. You grow in new and dynamic ways. Flex with a changing work situation. Take a class if you need to. Work with others. Curb a tendency to overindulge. If you are single, you easily meet people, but check out new people carefully. Someone might not be what he or she appears to be. If you are attached, schedule time away together. Your relationship will develop and could become a lot more interesting as a result. AQUARIUS makes a good doctor or healer for you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Once more, your imagination helps you with work and your day-to-day life. You find out that a friend or coworker thinks along similar lines as you. Start outlining the path to where you want to go. You might need a class or workshop. Tonight: Get together with a friend; pretend you're Irish!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Bosses might be vague, or could it be you? Examining the positives and negatives of a situation might be key to making a project work. Find a third person who is grounded and understands both of you. Being practical helps! Tonight: Work as late as necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Read between the lines. What

is not said could be as important as or more important than what is said. Detach from what is happening, and you'll gain a new perspective. What appears to be a reversal might not be. Tonight: Try an Irish restaurant.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Work with an associate or accountant who understands money. Generally, money slips through your hands, and you might want to change this pattern. Adjust your daily life to better handle a significant part of it. Tonight: Give a massage. Ask for a massage.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Others sometimes seem nebulous or hard to understand. It might be because you choose only to see certain characteristics. Try to take off your rose-colored glasses a little more frequently. Dip into your ingenuity for solutions. Tonight: Paint the town green.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Investigate an opportunity that will make your work more meaningful and a lot more fulfilling. Perhaps someone in your family is presenting negatives to your idea. Remember, you have to be happy, too. Tonight: Put your feet up and veg.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Your imagination goes haywire, whether a flirtation piques your interest or a brainstorming session triggers your mind. You become a source of ideas. You are willing to go through whatever you need to in order to get the end results you desire. Tonight: Pretend you are Irish.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might feel inspired to get a new home or perhaps do some landscaping in the near future. Don't raid your savings, which you might want to do. Find the most inexpensive and best way to do what you want. Tonight:

Brainstorm with a family member. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You can twist and turn trying to explain what you think or understand to someone else. Just accept ideas with blind faith. Your intuition will take you to a new dimension if you follow it. You might be thinking about a change in your look. Tonight: Enjoy a friend or friends; be Irish.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Be honest with yourself about a problem with finances. Could money be slipping through your fingers? You might need to revise your perspective of what is going on. Curb a tendency to be possessive and overuse of yourself. Tonight: Pay bills first.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your ideas are met with enthusiasm right now. Use the moment to punch through a new idea or premise. Others seem more than willing to reverse a stand and work with you. Understand what your ultimate goals are. Tonight: Spontaneous works.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Continue to maintain a low profile. Your instincts serve you well with an authority figure, a parent or the outcome of a relationship. You need to demonstrate your flexibility. You are happy when left alone to your own devices. Tonight: Head home as soon as you can.

BORN TODAY

Actor Kurt Russell (1951), singer Adam Wade (1935), dancer Rudolf Nureyev (1938)

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Settling in ...



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Karen Ellis settles in to her new position as deputy treasurer for Gray County Treasurer Lee Cornelison. Ellis was appointed to fill the position at the County Commission meeting Tuesday.

Investigators search for man suspected of two dozen Ohio highway shootings

By ANITA CHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Police on Tuesday hunted for a 28-year-old man they believe was the gunman in two dozen highway shootings that have terrorized motorists for months.

Charles A. McCoy Jr. was believed to be armed and dangerous, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office said. He lived within miles of where the gunman's bullets killed a passenger, shattered windshields, dented school buses and drilled into homes and a school.

"The key issue for us right now is to locate this guy," Chief Deputy Steve Martin said. "We believe he bought another gun."

Martin would not say what evidence led investigators to McCoy, but newspaper and television reports said Tuesday that McCoy's family gave authorities at least one of his guns.

The Columbus Dispatch,

citing unidentified sources, said McCoy's father, Charles A. McCoy Sr., gave police a 9 mm Beretta handgun that was ballistically matched to some of the bullet fragments recovered in the shootings. There was no phone listing for the elder McCoy.

Martin's office, which is in charge of the investigation, would not release any details about the case Tuesday morning.

Since May, two dozen sniper shootings have targeted vehicles and buildings around Interstate 270, which circles Columbus, and other highways. Most of the shootings have occurred since October; the latest was on Feb. 14.

Investigators filed an arrest warrant late Monday for McCoy on a charge of felonious assault in a Dec. 15 shooting that damaged a house. No one answered the phone at that house late Monday.

In the three most recent shootings, witnesses described seeing someone aiming at

them while standing next to a car. Their descriptions of the suspect and car were similar to information the sheriff's office released Monday.

The suspect is 5-foot-8, 185 pounds with brown hair and green eyes, the sheriff's office said Monday. The car is a dark green 1999 Geo Metro with a black hood.

A woman who lives next to the house where McCoy lived with his mother on a Columbus street said Tuesday that she saw him leave Monday morning after putting a couple of boxes in the trunk of a different car. Janet Taylor said it was a silver-gray, late 1980s General Motors car.

Taylor, 37, said she had always had a strange feeling about McCoy, saying he yelled at her kids and watched her while she washed dishes.

"No one believed me, he's a freak," she said.

Martin had said investigators believe the shooter is familiar with the area around I-270. Although the last four shootings were on other highways, most of those that

occurred through January were within about a 10-mile southern stretch of the interstate.

Half a mile north of that stretch, other neighbors gathered in disbelief Monday.

"I even drove other ways to avoid being in the area where most of the shootings happened, and now I find out that the suspect lives right across the street from me," said Nicole Sewald, 28, whose son attends an elementary school struck one night by the shooter.

A light was on in the McCoy's split-level house Monday but the curtains were drawn and no one answered the door. A real estate agent briefly drove up to remove a "for sale" sign from in front of the house.

"I think my husband said once that they were having trouble selling the house because the shootings in the area," resident Nicole Sewald said.

Edward Cable, whose minivan was hit by a bullet Nov. 21 as he was driving on a road near Interstate 270, said by telephone he was glad to hear a suspect was identified.

Banks to keynote SWFAS symposium in Canyon

CANYON — A presentation by a longtime archeologist is among the highlights of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Federation of Archeological Societies, April 3, in Canyon.

Panhandle Archeological Society of Amarillo (PAS) will host the event. The symposium will take place Saturday, April 3 at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Doors open at 9:10 a.m.

Larry Banks, research associate with the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Anthropology, and president of Banks Archeological Research Associates, will speak on Lithics of the Southern Great Plains. A student of the late

Jack T. Hughes, Banks received his B.A. in Geology at West Texas State University in 1961. He retired as senior archeologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1993, when he became a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Study of Earth and Man at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

He is the author of "From Mountain Peaks to Alligator Stomachs: A Review of Lithic Sources in the Trans-Mississippi South, the Southern Plains and Adjacent Southwest."

The symposium banquet begins at 6:30 p.m., Saturday, April 3 in the West Texas A&M University cafeterias Buffalo Room. Banks will

speaking after the banquet at 8:00 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$15 per person, and reservations are required, no later than March 15. The lecture is free and open to the public. For reservation information call the Amarillo Convention and Visitors Council at 806-374-1497.

The six chapters of SWFAS have a long history of archeological work in western Texas and southeastern New Mexico. Each chapter is responsible for presenting at least one paper on a topic related to the geographic area encompassed by Federation chapters.

The 2002 Symposium included presentations on rock art in Southwest Texas,

the Lost Fort of the Cimarron, archaic bison hunters on the Southern High Plains, and an excavation in northern Potter County. The 2003 meeting included reports on an 1872 battle between U.S. Cavalry and Kiowa Indians in the Panhandle.

Registration for the symposium is \$10 per person, or \$15 after March 15. Checks should be made payable to Panhandle Archeological Society.

For more information on registration, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SWFAS, 314 Hamilton, Claude, TX 79019, or e-mail swfasmeeting@netscape.net.

Hotel recommendations will be forwarded upon request.

A.M. Best affirms Modern Woodmen's A-plus rating

A.M. Best Company, an independent insurance industry rating agency, recently affirmed Modern Woodmen of America's financial strength rating.

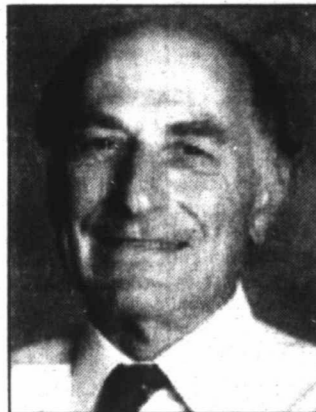
A.M. Best rates Modern Woodmen's financial stability, security and management performance Superior or A+, the second highest of 15 ratings, according to a news release from Larry R. Starnes, Pampa representative for Modern Woodmen.

With offices in Pampa, the fraternal benefit society based in Rock Island, Ill., received

the rating based on a comprehensive evaluation of the organization's balance sheet strength, operating performance and business profile. Insurers in the superior category are considered to have a superior ability to meet their ongoing obligations.

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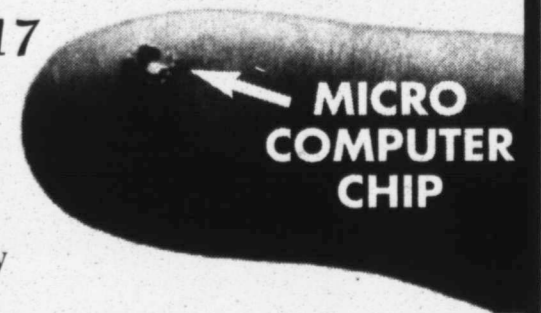
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