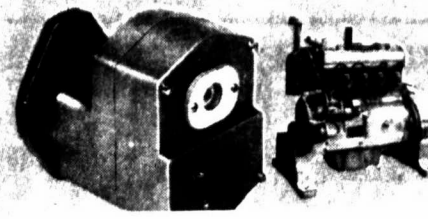


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Burglars strike Milliron Road

Most of the stolen property recovered; suspect in jail on other charges

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office and Pampa Police Department, working together, Sunday recovered the majority of items reported stolen earlier that morning from three buildings and two vehicles on Milliron Road.

The building and motor vehicle burglaries are

believed to have taken place sometime between 5 p.m., Friday, and 6:30 a.m., Sunday, according to Lt. Joe Hoard of the sheriff's office. Burglarized were Liquid Recovery Systems, 2542 Milliron Rd.; Wood Group Pressure Control, 2533 Milliron Rd.; and Brock's Weed Control, 2601 Milliron Rd.

A 1997 Ford F-350 pickup

owned by Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad was burglarized while it was parked outside G&W Services, 2510 Milliron Rd. The other vehicle burglary occurred inside the Liquid Recovery Systems shop building, Hoard said.

After business owners had discovered and reported the burglaries, a traffic stop by Pampa Police Department at

about 2 p.m., Sunday, resulted in the recovery of many of the stolen items.

"We got most of it back," Hoard said.

Recovered were three laptop computers, two rifles, software for computers, computer codes, bolt cutters, a safe, a set of keys belonging to Burlington Northern-Santa Fe, a brown briefcase, and "various small items," Hoard

said. A pistol and a 12-volt light test meter were reported stolen and are still missing, Hoard said.

Other items reported taken during the break-ins include global positioning system monitors and well testing equipment.

The vehicle involved in See **BURGLARY**, Page 3

Well permits top agenda for PGWCD

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER — The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District will consider more than 200 well permit applications at their monthly meeting here Tuesday.

C.E. Williams, the district's general manager, is recommending issuing Initial Production Permits to 38 landowners. The ones being recommended for approval are administratively complete and have been reviewed by the staff, Williams says. A few are still incomplete. There are about 160 that are expected to be denied in a house-keeping measure.

One group, the Coffee family, is requesting withdrawal of their permit request on a 25-acre plot of land.

The board will consider 161 High Impact Production Permits. These were permitted under the district's old rules and are expected to be denied to clear the books. Most of these landowners have already received Initial Production Permits that replaced the High Impact Production Permits in the new rules.

A spokesperson for the district said they had not heard back on a few of the High Impact

See **PERMITS**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lighthouse Park takes shape

From left, Andrew Smith, Gunnar Stevens and Zachary Roberts, all of For Heaven's Sake Day Care Center at Calvary Baptist Church, try out the stone bridge that is part of the new landscaping taking shape on the west side of the church, located at 900 E. 23rd Ave. The church property, which until recently was a runoff creek, was filled in with soil taken from the construction site of the new Wal-Mart Supercenter. Hills, valleys and rock formations were added, along with about 20 trees and stone pathways.

Bush: 'Still thinking' about new CIA chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House said Monday that acting CIA Director John McLaughlin was amongst the variety of intelligence-gathering services. He said he would comment further after seeing the commission's recommendations. Bush also declined to say when he will announce a new CIA chief. "Still thinking about it ... still taking a good, hard look," Bush said.

A bipartisan commission investigating the 2001 hijackings, which will release its final report this week, is expected to recommend the creation of a Cabinet-level position to oversee the nation's 15 intelligence agencies and control their budgets.

Without commenting on establishing an intelligence chief, President Bush said, "Some of the reforms are necessary: more human intelligence, better ability to listen or to see things, and better coordination

'Some of the reforms are necessary: more human intelligence, better ability to see things ...'

— President Bush

White House spokesman Scott McClellan declined to say whether the president favored creating a new intelligence post.

McLaughlin said "a good argument can be made" for such a post. But, he added on "Fox News Sunday," "It doesn't relate par-

See **Bush**, Page 3

HOME of the BRAVE

PFC Luke Anthony Bailey
Rank: Private First Class
Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Job Description: Medic, 10th Mountain Division, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry
Education: Class of 2003 Pampa High School
Deployed: Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq
Family: Parents John and Deborah Bailey of Amory, Miss., formerly of Pampa, brothers Matt Bailey, Pampa and Mark Bailey, Amarillo; and grandmother, Edna O'Neal, Pampa.

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For More Information On These Events ... Call The Chamber At 669-3241

Obituaries

Charles R. Hickman

Charles R. Hickman, age 87, of Coleman, died Friday, July 16, 2004, at Brownwood Regional Medical Center. Funeral services were to be held at 11 a.m. today, Monday, July 19, 2004, at First United Methodist Church with Dr. G. Dean Coultas officiating. Burial will follow at the Coleman City Cemetery under the direction of Stevens Funeral Home.

Charles R. Hickman was born Nov. 28, 1916, in Callahan County, Texas, a son of the late W.R. Hickman and Ida Reaves Hickman. He moved with his family to Coleman as a small child. Charles attended school in Coleman, graduat-

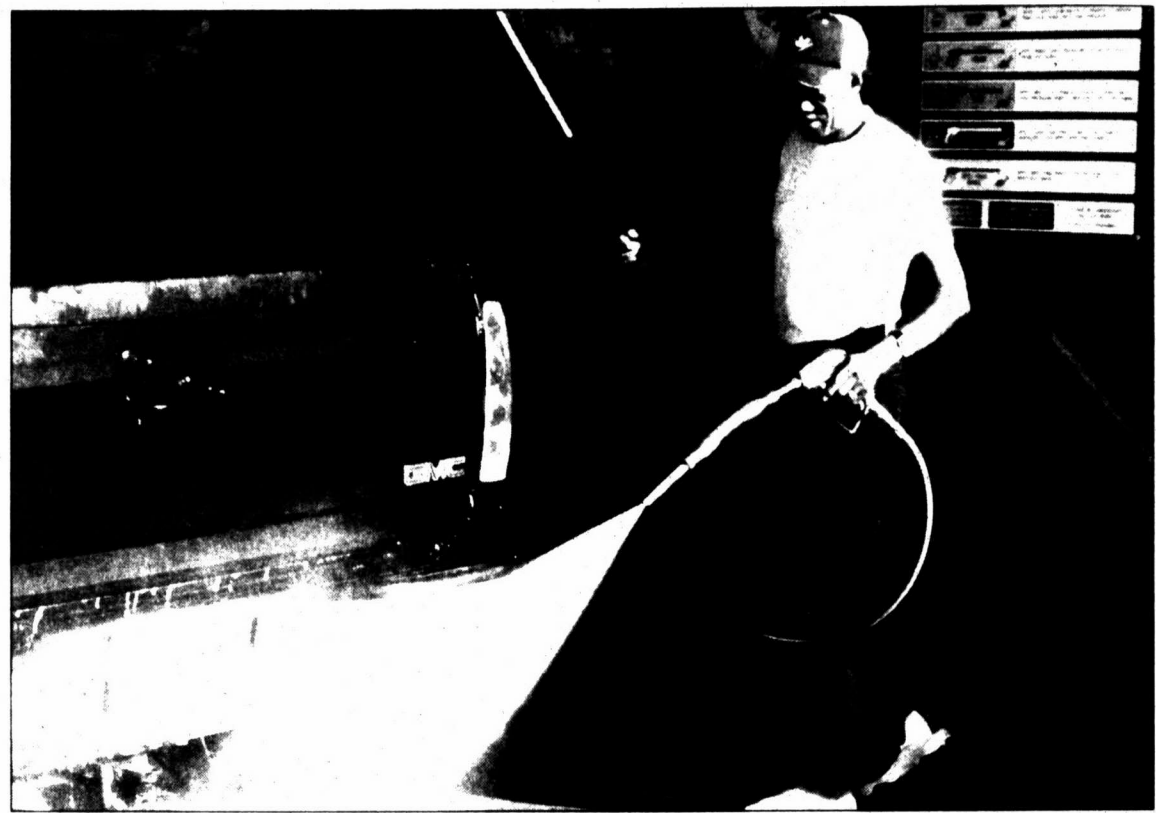
ing from Coleman High School and Texas Tech University. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army and married Jane Edmundson on March 28, 1942, in Coleman. In 1946, he went to work for Production Credit Association and retired as president in 1971. He was a member of First United Methodist Church, served as teacher for the Friendly Fellows Sunday School Class for over 50 years and served in many other capacities in the church. He was a member of the Coleman Rodeo Association and the Lions Club.

Survivors include his wife, Jane Hickman of

Coleman; two daughters, Sandra and husband Carl Prater of Pampa, Texas, and Charlotte Hickman of Coleman; four grandchildren, Wade Cypert of San Angelo, Reaves and wife Shellie Prater of Lodi, Calif., Jacob Prater of Wichita Falls, Carrie and husband Nathan Scruggs of Lubbock; and two great-grandchildren, Emma Prater and Aidan Scruggs.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Harvey Hickman and Bill Dick Hickman.

Family visitation was held on Sunday from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Stevens Funeral Home.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Earlie Johnson Jr. takes advantage of a sunny day to wash his pickup.

Augusta "Gussie" Plummer, 84

IOWA PARK — Augusta "Gussie" Plummer, 84, died Friday, July 16, 2004, at Wichita Falls. Services were scheduled at 10 a.m. today at Dutton Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Daryl Sewell, pastor of First Baptist Church of Holliday, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of

Dutton Funeral Home of Iowa Park.

Mrs. Plummer was born Sept. 17, 1919, at Potosi, to Fay Brooks and Chloe Cox Brooks. She moved to Iowa Park five years ago from Comyn. She was a homemaker and a member of Comyn Baptist Church.

Mrs. Plummer married

Jack L. Plummer on April 1, 1966, at Sonora; he died Jan. 1, 1992.

Survivors include a daughter, Glenna Barron Briggs of Holliday; a son, James A. Barron of Copperas Cove; six grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 94.
 South wind between 10 and 15 mph.
 Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 69.

South southwest wind around 15 mph.
 Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 94.
 Southwest wind around 15 mph becoming southeast.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 69.
 South wind around 15 mph.
 Wednesday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 97.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Thursday, July 15
 Theft was reported in the 300 block of South Gray. Tools valued at approximately \$20 were taken.

Friday, July 16
 Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2600 block of West Kentucky. Nothing was reported missing.

Crimes valued at approximately \$120 was taken. Burglary of a building was reported at Radcliff Electric, 519 S. Cuyler. A Snapper push lawn mower valued at \$700 was reported stolen.

Sunday, July 18
 Tamara Crystal Price, 17, Lefors, was arrested at Gwendolyn and Sumner Streets for minor in possession and failure to appear.

driver's license and was being held for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Timothy Lee Hamric, 41, Sierra Vista, Ariz., was arrested for public intoxication.

Sunday, July 18
 Lucero V. Baca, 22, 1511 N. Faulkner, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety for driving while intoxicated.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of South Faulkner. A windshield was broken and paint was poured on the hood of a car, resulting in an estimated \$1,000 to \$1,500 in damage.

Assault was reported in the 1100 block of Juniper. The incident occurred on July 15, and no information on injuries was reported.

Marques Adrian Long, 24, 1708 W. Kentucky, was arrested in the 1700 block of West Kentucky for driving while intoxicated.

Cody Nicholas Williams, 20, 1904 N. Zimmers, was arrested at 18th Avenue and Banks Street for a probation violation on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, failure to present driver's license and no insurance.

Paula Denise Baker, 42, McLean, was arrested by DPS for possession of marijuana under two ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia and open container/alcohol violation.

Disorderly conduct/language was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather.

A bicycle was reported found by a city worker at an undisclosed location at Highland Park.

A methamphetamine lab was discovered in the 700 block of Scott. Remnants of a lab were confiscated, and the hazard was removed from the area.

Nicholas Lee Brookshire, 24, 816 N. Wells, was arrested in the 700 block of West Foster for unlawfully carrying a weapon, two counts of failure to stop at a stop sign, and faulty registration.

Zachary Mears, 24, 2128 Hamilton, was arrested in the 700 block of West Foster for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to maintain insurance, and expired registration.

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

Saturday, July 17
 Shelli Lynn Brandt, 34, 336 Miami, was arrested on a bond forfeiture for a Randall County charge of theft by check.

Assault was reported in the 1100 block of Juniper. The incident occurred on July 15, and no information on injuries was reported.

Disorderly conduct/language was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather.

A bicycle was reported found by a city worker at an undisclosed location at Highland Park.

A methamphetamine lab was discovered in the 700 block of Scott. Remnants of a lab were confiscated, and the hazard was removed from the area.

Luis Medrano, 29, 624 N. Dwight, was arrested for no

Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, July 17
 5:40 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

Assault was reported in the 1100 block of Juniper. The incident occurred on July 15, and no information on injuries was reported.

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Sheriff

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Correction

In the article announcing the wedding of Cherie Sark and Robert Duke Sr., incorrect information was provided in the background information of the bride. Cherie Sark graduated from Grapevine High School in Grapevine.

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Moore wants to screen movie near Crawford

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MOORE'S FRESH Tomatoes, Lefors. Call 835-2253.

FAIRVIEW CEMETERY Assoc. will be holding their Annual Lot Owners Meeting, Wed., July 21st, 10 a.m. at the Cemetery Office.

POWER UP for Jesus Vacation Bible School. July 26-30, 6:30-9:00pm. Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, 669-6509. Children entering kindergarten thru children entering 6th grade. Please join us for lots of fun while learning God's Word.

SWEET CORN, Becky Weick will be @ M.K. Brown parking lot, 7:30 a.m. Wed. & Sat. weekly. Paul McCurley of McLean, also w/other produce. 806-966-5221.

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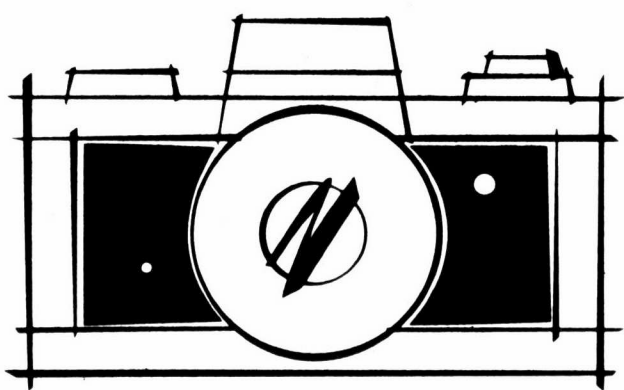
Stocks

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

Wheat	3.27	BP	55.67	-0.12	Kerr McGee	53.43	+0.14	Tenneco	12.00	-0.18
Milo	3.55	Cabot Corp.	37.50	-0.61	Limited	19.59	+0.02	CVX	95.41	+0.01
Corn	4.32	Cabot Oil Gas	42.85	+0.34	Williams	12.56	+0.08	Wal Mart	53.05	+0.40
Soybeans	6.32	Coca Cola	50.23	-0.35	MCD	28.01	+0.20	OKI	21.82	+0.02
		VLO	78.25	-0.12	XOM	45.85	+0.02	NS Grp	18.70	-0.56
		HAL	31.54	+0.04	Atmos	25.22	-0.16	New York Gold	406.45	
		Trad	37.93	-0.05	Pioneer Nat	36.56	+0.19	Silver	6.70	
		NOI	33.99	-0.16	JCP	37.88	-0.32	West Texas Crude	41.25	

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

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Burglary

Continued from Page 1

the traffic stop which resulted in recovery of some of the stolen items was searched with consent by the person in the vehicle. Some of the stolen items were found in the vehicle. The individual also provided information which led officers to search three addresses in Pampa, Hoard said.

"More items were found at each of the three places. At each place, including the vehicle, officers received consent to search

from the person responsible for those properties," Hoard said.

"The person believed to be responsible for the burglaries is in jail on other charges, but not this. There may also be others charged" in connection with the Milliron Road burglaries, Hoard said. He declined to give the name of any suspects until charges are filed.

Law enforcement officers involved in the burglary investigation included Officer Cade Logue of the police department, and Deputies Morse Burroughs, Vincent Marasco and Hoard of the sheriff's office.

"The investigation is continuing, and charges are expected to be filed," Hoard said.

Permits

Continued from Page 1

Production Permits; however, the time limit on those applications has expired.

The staff is recommending issuing 13 single well permits.

Five Initial Production Permit applications will be reviewed by the board. A spokesman for the district said today that these applications were not complete.

The board will also consider a request from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kennedy to transfer their High Impact Production Permit to Boone Pickens.

The board is also expected to discuss a rules update. With the exception of one section, the new rules were passed in May.

Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board of directors will meet at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, in the district's offices at 201 W. Third, White Deer.

Bush

Continued from Page 1

particularly to the world I live in. I see the director of central intelligence as someone who is able to do that and is empowered to do so under the National Security Act of 1947" that created the CIA.

"With some modest changes in the way the CIA is set up, the director of central intelligence could carry out that function well and appropriately," McLaughlin said.

Asked about this Monday, McClellan said, "I think he was expressing his views."

McLaughlin also said his agency has disrupted plots to mount attacks by air, sea and other methods in the United States, adding: "It's important to remember here that for these people, an attack in the United States is the brass ring."

McLaughlin took over at the CIA when Director George Tenet left on July 11.

The new post would represent the most drastic step in structuring the intelli-

gence agencies since the CIA was created after World War II.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, appearing Monday on NBC's "Today" show, said he supports the idea.

"When you take a look at how important intelligence must be for our future, you realize that the current situation is untenable."

— Sen. Dick Durbin
Senate Intelligence Committee member

When the position of director of central intelligence was created, he said, the country did not have several governmental agencies involved in that endeavor.

"I think a Cabinet-level official would be a wise idea," Woolsey said. "I wish

people would stop calling him a czar. ... With all these other agencies, I think some coordination at the Cabinet level is probably a good idea."

Two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee — Sens. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. and Dick Durbin, D-Ill. — said they would be open to considering the recommendation for a new intelligence chief.

"When you take a look at how important intelligence must be for our future, you realize that the current situation is untenable," Durbin said on CNN's "Late Edition." Chambliss cautioned against simply creating more bureaucracy.

The CIA director now has loose authority over the 15 U.S. intelligence agencies. But the commission in a preliminary report found that the director did not hold enough power because the Pentagon controls more than 80 percent of the intelligence budget.

As a result, CIA requests to other agencies are often ignored.

Filipino soldiers leave Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide bomber in a fuel truck blew it up early Monday at a police station in southwest Baghdad, killing nine people and wounding about 60 as the inferno engulfed civilians and officers waiting for their daily assignments, officials and witnesses said.

Later, the Defense Ministry said militants killed Essam al-Dijaili, the head of the military's supply department, in a drive-by shooting as he walked into his house in Baghdad.

Four gunmen drove up as al-Dijaili was carrying dinner into his home Sunday night and opened fire, killing him and his bodyguard, said Mishal al-Sarraf, an adviser to the defense minister.

"He was killed in cold blood by the evil hands of the followers of the former regime," al-Sarraf said.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi issued a decree reopening a controversial newspaper that had been closed by U.S. officials in March, sparking months of fighting between U.S. forces and fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The weekly Al-Hawza was the mouthpiece of al-Sadr's "Sadrist" movement, routinely carrying his fiery sermons on its front page along with articles sharply critical

of the U.S.-led occupation. Allawi ordered the paper reopened Sunday in an effort to show his "absolute belief in the freedom of the press," his office said in a statement.

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is the only fund-raiser the American Cancer Society sponsors in our local area.

The local "Relay for Life" is in need of a number of volunteers to form teams to walk with us on Saturday, September 11, 4 PM at Pampa's Recreation Park. Businesses, churches and other organizations are challenged to join in this fun, important, and worthwhile event.

To find out more, please join us for lunch provided courtesy of Pampa Regional Medical Center

Friday, July 23rd

NOON

Pampa Chamber of Commerce Community Room

Please contact Cherri Waites to RSVP 663-5857 or cherri.waites@triadhospitals.com

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Viewpoints

Too many think their vote doesn't count

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

The great American heroine, Susan B. Anthony once said, "Suffrage is the pivotal right." Today, voting is still one of the most significant rights extended to United States citizens. This presidential election year provides an excellent opportunity to exercise this right.

Under British rule, the American colonists were forced to pay taxes to Great Britain, yet they had no one to represent their interests in Parliament. The colonists rebelled against this policy of, "taxation without representation," fought a major war to win independence, and then founded the United States of America as a "Republic." This form of

government would allow the citizens to elect people who would then represent their interests in Congress.

For many the new government was an improvement over British rule, but not all could enjoy this new, hard-fought right. Initially, only white, male, property owners could vote. It was nearly 200 years before all American citizens over the age of 18 had the right to vote.

Less than a century ago, women could not legally vote. The Women's Suffrage Movement, led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton throughout the latter part of the 19th Century, argued women should also have a say in who represent-

ed them. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution finally granted women the right to vote.

While black men were enfranchised by the 15th Amendment at the end of the Civil War, many African Americans

still were obstructed from casting their votes in several states until the mid-1960s. A major element of the Civil Rights Movement focused on getting African Americans registered to vote and calling an end to tactics, such as poll taxes, and property ownership requirements, which

created hurdles for many blacks from being able to vote. It was not until 1965, not quite 50 years ago, that African Americans were able to freely exercise their right to vote.

During the height of the Vietnam War, Americans expressed their concern over the idea that men could

be drafted to fight in a war at 18, yet could not vote until they turned 21. With the passing of the 26th Amendment in 1971, nearly every U.S. citizen over the age of 18 could register to

Surprisingly, however, less than half of the voting age population votes. Many Americans may have forgotten the historical significance of being able to vote or believe their votes don't matter. Others neglect to register in time to vote in an election. For instance, in Texas you must be registered to vote at least 30 days prior to the election. This means if you are not registered by October 3rd, you will have forfeited your right to cast a vote for our next president on Election Day, Nov. 2, 2004.

Don't pass up your opportunity to vote. Registration is as easy as going to your local Department of Motor Vehicles. For information

about polling locations and other local election details you can contact the Office of the Texas Secretary of State at www.sos.state.tx.us or call them at 1-800-252-VOTE.

If you know you won't be in your home district on Election Day, you can still cast your vote. Just be sure to contact your county or city election official in advance to request an early or absentee ballot. Also, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) serves military and non-military citizens abroad by helping them register and vote by absentee ballot. You may contact the FVAP via email at

See VOTE, Page 5

Kay Bailey Hutchinson

U.S. Senator



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 19, the 201st day of 2004. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Twenty years ago, on July 19, 1984, Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro, D-N.Y., won the Democratic nomination for vice president by acclamation at the party's convention in San Francisco.

On this date:

In 1553, 15-year-old Lady Jane Grey was deposed as Queen of England after claiming the crown for nine days. King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen.

In 1848, a pioneer women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

In 1870, the Franco-Prussian war began.

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his "V for Victory" campaign in Europe.

In 1943, allied air forces raided Rome during World War II.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went

'I always turn to the sports page first. The sports page records people's accomplishments; the front page nothing but man's failure.'

— Earl Warren
A former chief justice

into orbit around the moon.

In 1975, the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules that were linked in orbit for two days separated.

In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza had fled the country.

In 1989, 112 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-10 crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 184 other people survived.

In 1993, President Clinton announced a compromise allowing homosexuals to serve in the military, but only if they refrained from all homosexual activity.

Five years ago: Federal officials said radar data showed the plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. dropped 1,100 feet in just 14 seconds. Senator Edward Kennedy released a statement saying, "We are filled with unspeakable grief and sadness by the loss of John and Carolyn and of Lauren Bessette."

One year ago: A chartered aircraft carrying three families to a game reserve plowed into Mount Kenya, killing all 12 American tourists and the two South African pilots on board.



Let's eliminate primary elections

The best way to greatly reduce the influence of big money in American politics is to eliminate the primary elections.

Choosing nominees in primary elections was invented as a reform to get away from those famous "smoke-filled backrooms." That was a reference to the old political machines, which were active in most large American cities. They often played a major role in choosing nominees.

As often happens with reforms, the reform has produced a greater problem than the one it was intended to

solve. It's true that money is the mother's milk of politics, but it is also true that the great money-eater of political campaign funds is advertising in the mass media, primarily television.

If you wish to seek a party's nomination in any large state, you will have to raise and spend millions of dollars. In states with large populations, there just isn't any other way to communicate with voters.

Even a congressional race these days can cost \$250,000 to \$500,000. One reason incumbents have such an

advantage is that they can raise their campaign war chest in Washington from those 40,000-plus lobbyists and special interests who live there year-round and give money to buy access, not to further good government.

The truth is that politicians are answerable to peo-

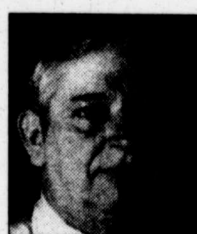
ple who get them elected, and in today's political environment, that means the rich, the super-rich and the special interests, who provide most of the money in one way or another. The average American citizen is the odd man out.

You might have noticed that whether the White House is occupied by a Democrat or a Republican, the basic foreign and trade policies remain the same. That's because big money decides the nominees for both parties. It's true that

See ELECTION, Page 5

Charley Reese

Columnist



Texas should reap gambling windfall

Interesting, isn't it, how Texas is sitting around watching from the sidelines while other states reap immense profits from Indian gaming and other gambling facilities.

The Gannett News Service reported this week that Indian gambling revenues on a national level rose a respectable 12 percent last year. Of particular local interest is that New Mexico Indian gaming revenue rose to \$611 million in 2003 over 2002, an increase of 13.3 percent. According to the New Mexico Gaming Control Board, gaming taxes in 2003 totaled \$39,108,447. That's more than just pocket

change. El Pasoans can't help remembering, mostly with regret, the income that was realized from the Tigua gambling facility at Speaking Rock before it was shut down in February 2002 by a federal court order. It was estimated that the casino injected approximately \$55 million into the El Paso economy annually. It also employed more than 400 people.

And all El Pasoans have

to do is look across the border at the Sunland Park Casino and notice that it seems to stay busy.

Indian gambling and casinos in general recently came to the fore in Texas as a possible means of helping with the school-funding crisis. It received considerable opposition and appears to be a dead issue.

And there are strong arguments, both moral and practical, against depending, at least in part, on gaming revenues to help support educa-

tion. Maybe it's a flash in the pan. It's too seductive and dangerous for those who are or could become addicted to gambling. It wastes money that could and should be used elsewhere.

But it's also unarguable that other states are cashing in on the phenomenon. One of the top winners is California, where an influx of tribal casinos boosted the state's Indian gambling revenues to \$4.23 billion, an increase of 17.6 percent. Connecticut came in second at \$2.02 billion, a 4.9 percent increase. New York went up a whopping 116.6

See GAMBLING, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Buddies Dak
off in a front

Elect

Continued fr

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www.fvap.gov at 1-800-438-V

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• Mom Mari group for m small children, 1 p.m., the last each month in room at Love Library in Pam facts, food and not included b toddlers are v more informati 2459.

• Mommy 'N port group mothers and v ing informatio feeding that r a.m., the first each month at Church, 1200 more informati 2459.

• A wide ra direct support available to lo suffering from rositis through Sclerosis As America. Serv general inform peutic equipm tional literatu lending library, cool suits, wh scooters, sup and more. For r tion, contact M



Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS

Swim friends

Buddies Dakota Thomas, Andrew Villarreal, Jake Sloan and Cody Sloan cool off in a front yard pool in the 1200 block of Darby.

Election

Continued from Page 4

There are rich Republicans and rich Democrats, but being rich, they have more in common than they have differences. Elections, as far as the rich are concerned, are about style and patronage — who gets invited to the White House, for example.

If all nominees for statewide offices and the presidency were chosen by state conventions of the respective parties, then the influence of big money would be greatly diminished. Nominees would still need big money for the general election, but at least the millions spent on primaries could be eliminated. Since the choice would be made by a finite number of elected delegates, general advertising would not be needed.

There are two fallacies about primaries. One is the assumption that the average

voter gives a hoot. Surely we can by now admit that a majority of Americans are apathetic and ignorant of the issues. This "apathetic middle," as the professionals in the campaign business call it, can only be roused by demagoguery.

'Surely we can by now admit that a majority of Americans are apathetic and ignorant of the issues.'

— Charley Reese
Columnist

It would be far better to leave the choice of nominees to those people who take a year-round active interest in politics — the party regulars, in other words.

The second fallacy is the belief that political machines were not grass-roots organi-

zations. Thomas Jefferson observed that the best way to preserve the republic was to ensure that the people could always see tangible results from casting their ballots. Grass-roots organizations empower people, because the politicians are dependent on the organizations for re-election. A return to that type of system, I believe, would produce tangible results for people instead of results for millionaires.

We should think seriously and realistically about our political system. Politics is about winning elections and distributing patronage, not about philosophy. Today, with our system so corrupted by money, the patronage goes largely to the rich. We desperately need to find a way to get the people back into the equation, but not as a mindless mob following demagogues.

Choosing nominees at state conventions would be a good first step toward empowering the people.

In light of these figures, coupled with school-funding and budgetary problems in Texas, it might not hurt to take another, fair and balanced, look at gaming as an income source.

Let's not let any potential and viable source of income elude us.

Gambling

Continued from Page 4

percent with the opening of the Seneca Niagara Casino.

Vote

Continued from Page 4

www.fvap.gov or toll free at 1-800-438-VOTE.

History is ripe with tales of elections that were decided by close margins — even a single vote in some cases — so remember your vote does count. Voting is more than a right, it's a responsibility.

Community happenings

- **Mom Mania, a support group for mothers with small children,** meets at 6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Come for facts, food and fun. Nursery not included but infants and toddlers are welcome. For more information, call 664-2459.

- **Mommy 'N' Me is a support group for nursing mothers and women needing information on breast-feeding** that meets at 10 a.m., the first Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan. For more information, call 664-2459.

- **A wide range of free, direct support services** is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-

LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com, on the Internet.

- **The Multiple Sclerosis Society offers a monthly program** for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS," "When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: A Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS website at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

- **Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center's Quality of Life Project/Palliative Care Services** offers free Music Therapy Sessions at 10:30 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays at the Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room. For more information, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 291.

Man charged with murder in teen's death

BRICK TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — The search for a 16-year-old straight-A high student who vanished last week while on her way to see her boyfriend has turned into a quest to recover her body after a 38-year-old man was charged with her murder.

Authorities did not release any information about why they had charged Jack Fuller


in the death of Brittney Gregory, or about how he and the girl may have met. Fuller, of Howell, was being held on \$1 million bail, prosecutor Robert Gasser said.

A court appearance was scheduled for Monday.

Gregory has not been heard from since the evening of July 11, when she called her mother from her father's

house saying she wanted a ride to her boyfriend's home.

Her mother said Gregory's sister would be home in an hour, but when they called back 45 minutes later, there was no answer. When her father's companion, Lori Petersen, returned home later that night, the girl was not there.



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Last Sunday I attended church as usual. After the service, another woman and I started talking and the next thing I knew, we were having lunch together.

Over lunch, the other woman told me about her life. She said that as a child she had been molested by her father and when she refused his sexual advances, he started to malign her socially, emotionally and mentally. She no longer lives in the same town with him.

I have no experience or training as a relationship counselor, and found my tongue tied over her story. What should I have said to her?

— UNCOMFORTABLE IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: The proper response would have been to acknowledge that her youth had been very difficult, but that she's a survivor and you're glad she got away from her abuser.

It is unusual for someone to reveal that much to a stranger, and had the woman confided in me I would have asked if she'd had counseling to help her deal with it. If the answer was no, I'd have recommended she get it so she could lay her past to rest.

DEAR ABBY: I desperately need some guidance because I'm afraid I'm putting myself in grave danger.

I lost my virginity when I was 16 to a boy I hardly knew. I am now 20 and off to college, and I have literally lost count of the number of men I have had sex with. Only a handful of them have actually been boyfriends. I always feel horrible and used after sex, not to mention that I am constantly worried about STDs and pregnancy since I never use protection. Yet I can't stop being promiscuous, and I can't settle down with any one person. My

self-worth has disintegrated, and sex has become meaningless to me.

Abby, please set me straight. I'm so lost and don't know who to confide in.

— SCARED AND ASHAMED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR SCARED: Thank you for trusting me with your problem. When you get to school, check in with the student health center. You need to be examined -- and treated, if necessary -- for STDs. You also need to talk to a mental health professional to understand what has been driving your sexually compulsive behavior. (Often the reasons have nothing to do with sexual desire.) You are right that your behavior could have serious consequences, physically and emotionally. So please make getting professional help your first priority.

DEAR ABBY: I met a girl at school who isn't the prettiest girl I've ever seen, but she's one of the nicest people you will ever meet. I really like her, but I'm scared to tell her how I feel. Would you please give me some advice on how to approach her?

— CONFUSED IN MARYLAND

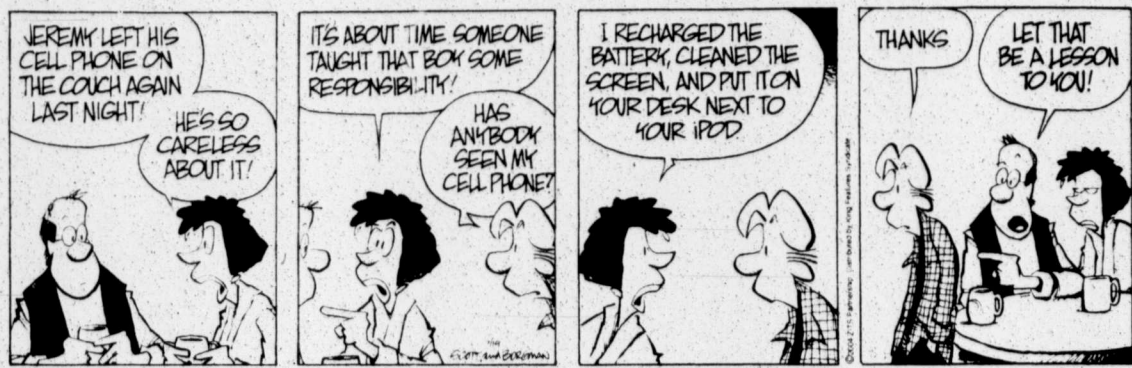
DEAR CONFUSED: The best way to "approach" someone is to simply show an interest. Say hello when you see her. If you share a class together, offer to study together. If there is an athletic event, a school play or a party, ask if she plans to attend, or would like to sit with you. You don't have to declare undying love -- just be friendly.

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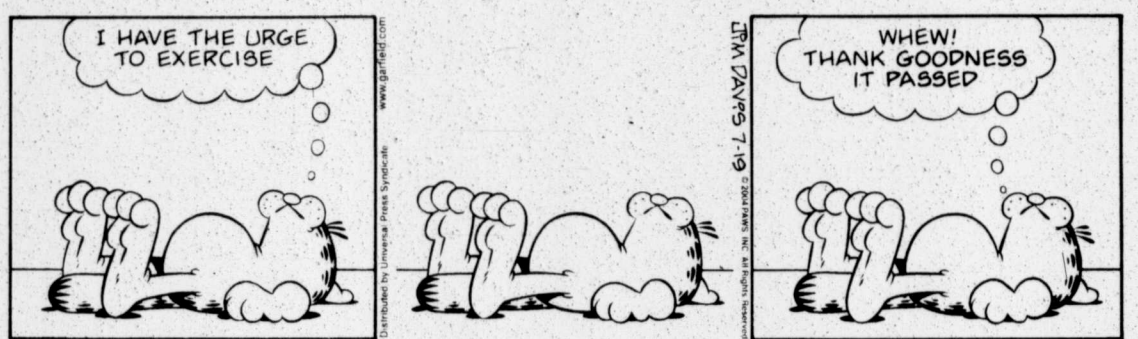
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

1 Light wood

2 Oklahoma city

6 Uncovers

11 Take as one's own

12 Pavarotti's field

13 Bigwig

14 Condensed

15 Uncommon

17 Silent okay

18 Strews

22 Clumsy one's utterance

23 Leave

27 Spot of color

29 Asian peninsula

30 Lone Star

32 Harvest

33 Jay-Z and Eminem

35 One of the "Little Women"

38 Dyeing tubs

39 Protective layer

41 Dwelling

45 Choose from the menu

46 Loses color

47 Just plain mean

48 Sets loose

STOVE DIALS
TURIN ADMIT
ANNES SAUNNA
FEEDER LEG
FUR MUTTERS
SPY BLUNTS
ALERT
COME ON FEW
RAMP SUP ARA
ALE TIMERS
TILDE KARAT
OCEAN ELITE
NOT ME STEAD

Saturday's answer

21 Watering hole that

8 Rider's game

9 Thus

10 Hour-glass fill

16 Carmine

18 Like pillows

19 Singer Natalie

20 Pinnacle

21 Watering hole that

35 Night sight

36 Financier

37 Mt. Cornell

24 Scope

25 Back group

26 Night music

40 Fishing aid

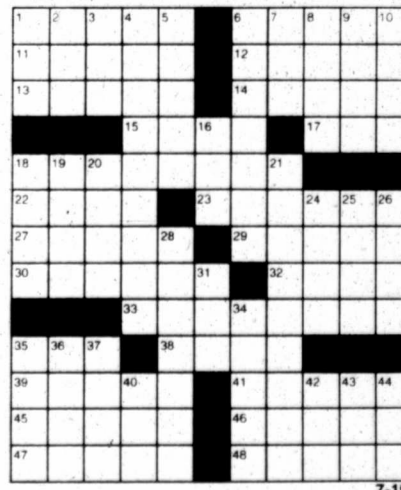
28 Roguish acts

42 Lyric poem

43 Ruby of films

44 Road curve

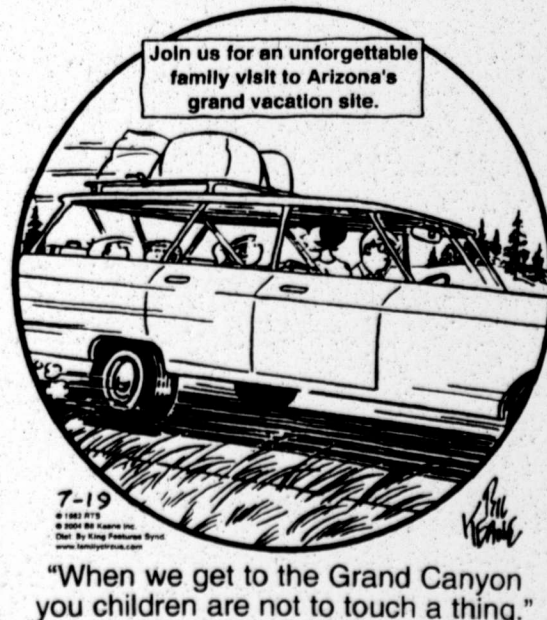
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B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



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Flo & Friends



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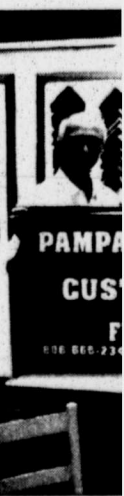
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Clay Ri Executi Pampa C

Goldcoat hand for t ting at G 2510 Mi Pictured a from left, Bob Ma Houghton Paulette Ken Rhea ers Terri Williams Williams.

A&A RV ar and owner ly received left to righ Di Di Houg



Chamber of Commerce

Dear Members,

What a summer so far! The Top O' Texas Rodeo, the High Plains Cruise event, the Pampa High School Band Carnival, the Chamber Business Expo and the Las Pampas Water Garden Tour were all fabulous events. Congratulations to all who were involved with these fun activities for a job well done. And there is still more to come ...



Rice

The Tri-State Seniors Golf Tournament is coming up the last week of July. We will kick things off with our annual reception for the golfers and their wives on Sunday, July 25th, at the Pampa Community Building and, as always, it will be hosted by the Top O' Texans Goldcoats.

In addition, the 2nd annual Quilt Shop Hop will be taking place July 29th through August 1st. Don't forget Chautauqua scheduled as always on Labor Day, which is Monday, September 6th, this year. Believe it or not, our 20th annual Country Fair is right around the corner on Saturday, October 16th. We will have an Old Fashion Country Fair this year with preparations having already begun.

It has been a tremendous year so far in many ways. Area residents have turned out in large numbers in support of all our local events, new construction is taking place and sales tax revenue is running well above projections. Let's all keep working hard together to keep the ball rolling.

Sincerely,

Clay Rice

Clay Rice
Executive Director
Pampa Chamber of Commerce



◀ Lee Rippetoe, center, owner of Rip's Barber Shop, 1224 N. Hobart, is welcomed by Goldcoats, from left, Lee Waters, June Beyer, Dick Stowers, Neil Fulton and Jerry Foote.

July Chamber Luncheon

Tuesday, July 20 @ 11:45 a.m.
In the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building
The cost for lunch is \$7.00 per person
Please call 669-3241 for reservations.
Speaker: Evan Smith, Pampa High School Principal
Sponsor: Gray County Title Co.
Caterer: Emily's Cafe

Frank McCullough, owner of Frank McCullough Insurance, 120 W. Kingsmill, center, cuts the opening ribbon with the help of Goldcoats, from left, Richard Morris, Bill Bridges, Neil Fulton, Jerry Foote, Lee Waters, June Beyer, and Dick Stowers. ▶



Welcome to our newest members

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Murphy USA #7121
201 W. 28th
Deborah Chester,
manager | Black Gold Motel &
Restaurant
12029 E. Frederic
Raj Patel,
new owner | Kyle Family
Christian
Counseling
120 W. Kingsmill,
Suite 405
Walker & Carla Kyle |
| The UPS Store
#5002
1538 N. Hobart
Steve & Gayla
Busch | | |

Goldcoats were on hand for the ribbon-cutting at G&W Services, 2510 Milliron Road. Pictured are Goldcoats, from left, Dick Stowers, Bob Marx, Di Di Houghton, Larry Baker, Paulette Kirksey and Ken Rheams with owners Terri and Ronnie Williams and Shane Williams. ▶



A&A RV and Mobile Home Park, 1708 W. Kentucky, and owner Annette Goodson-Long, center, recently received an official welcome from Goldcoats, left to right, Bob Marx, Dick Stowers, Larry Baker, Di Di Houghton and Paulette Kirksey. ▶



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◀ Attending a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Pampa Custom Framing, 107 N. Cuyler, were Goldcoats Lyndon Field, Darrell Sehorn, Charles Henry, Kerrick Horton, Troy Newton and Roy E. Morriss with owners Sue Abbott and Grady Rose and employee Kevin George.

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Sports Day



Photo by MIKE HAYNES

The High Plains All Stars are, from left to right, front row- Amber Staton and Chelsey Sims, both of McLean. Second row- Danielle Ford-Clarendon, Brandi Mays-Clarendon, Coach Daniel Ford-Clarendon, Erin Vassey-McLean, Coach Johnny Haynes-McLean, Sheri Ann Haynes-McLean, Ashley Byron-McLean, Dominique Mason-Clarendon, Head Coach Brian Byron-McLean, Maddie Wieberg-Groom and Jasie Sargent-Hedley.

High Plains All Stars win title

After dropping the first of three games to them, the High Plains All-Stars claimed the Little League Texas Section 1 Softball Championship this past Saturday with a 9-5 victory over the El Paso All-Stars. The tournament was held in Dumas.

The High Plains girls now advance to the state tournament to be held July 25-27 in Waco.

The team consists of girls ages 11 and 12 from McLean, Clarendon, Hedley and Groom.

Devers, Dragila steal show

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Veterans Gail Devers and Stacy Dragila were the stars on the last day of the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

The 37-year-old Devers became just the third U.S. track and field athlete — joining Carl Lewis and Willye White — to make a fifth Olympic team, winning the 100-meter hurdles.

Dragila, 33, the defending Olympic champion, won the women's pole vault. There were also plenty of triumphs

Sunday for the younger generation.

Allyson Felix, 18, won the women's 200 meters. Shawn Crawford, 26, won the men's 200.

Alan Webb, 21, won the men's 1,500 and will try to end a 36-year U.S. Olympic medal drought in that event.

Marion Jones pulled out of the 200 semi-finals on Saturday, citing fatigue.

Also, Regina Jacobs, who retired rather than seek her 13th national title in the women's 1,500, accepted a four-year suspension Saturday for using the steroid THG.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. burned in wreck

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A fun weekend of racing for Dale Earnhardt Jr. turned frightening Sunday when a wreck during a warmup for an American Le Mans Series race turned his car into a fireball, leaving him hospitalized with burns on his face and legs.

The ALMS said Earnhardt had second-degree burns on the insides of both legs and on his chin.

The NASCAR star, son of the late Dale Earnhardt, was flown to the University of California-Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

Armstrong, others coast to catch breath

NIMES, France (AP) — After two torrid days in the Pyrenees and with more pain lurking in the Alps, Lance Armstrong and other top riders caught their breath Sunday in the Tour de France, allowing Aitor Gonzalez to win the flat 14th stage.

Armstrong finished in 39th place alongside overall leader Thomas Voeckler. They both had the same time, meaning Voeckler

kept his 22-second lead on the five-time champion for at least another day.

Jan Ullrich, the 1997 Tour winner who had two disastrous days in the Pyrenees, placed 21st, also in the same time as Voeckler and Armstrong. The German remains 6:39 behind Armstrong overall.

Italian Ivan Basso placed 31st — still 1:17 behind Armstrong overall.

B.C. Open final round scores

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At En-Joie Golf Club	70-67-67-66—270
Endicott, N.Y.	Hidemichi Tanaka, \$144,000.00
Jonathan Byrd, \$540,000.00,	68-68-68-66 — 270
67-65-68-68—268	Notah Begay III, \$144,000.00
Ted Purdy, \$324,000.00, 69-67-	73-62-66-69 — 270
65-68—269	Vaughn Taylor, \$93,500.00 71-
Todd Fischer, \$144,000.00, 65-	66-68-66 — 271
69-71-65—270	Camilo Villegas, \$93,500.00
Robin Freeman, \$144,000.00,	65-70-67-69 — 271

AXYDLBAAXR
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three E'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.

7-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

OZ CDS PQOJY FQOFYGGJ

UBG NSWL PBC MRUJPOJH

IDWG TGHGPULRGI

— UJDDJCWDSI

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THE PRICE ONE PAYS FOR PURSUING ANY PROFESSION OR CALLING IS AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS UGLY SIDE. — JAMES BALDWIN

MORE THAN A FISH STORY

Amarillo-produced product brings home ICAST award

I spent the better part of last week at a little fishing show in the middle of the desert. Okay, it was a big fishing show in Las Vegas, but until 8 a.m. last Wednesday, I had no idea what ICAST was or what to expect when I arrived there.

ICAST is an annual fishing exposition sponsored by the American Sportfishing Association—both icons of the industry so to speak. It is where buyers from all around the world come to shop for next season's hot products. Suits and cell phones represented thousands of people and millions of dollars. Vendors did all they could to secure their share. I imagined this must be for the fishing industry what the new car show is in Detroit, MI.

Among the 1,100 or so vendors was a small group from Amarillo known as The Aksys Group, and they had with them something called Target Fisherman. The group is comprised of Target Fisherman inventors Roger and Teresa Hayes, Lloyd Brown and Pampa resident Rick Crosswhite. And within 24 hours of my arrival, The Aksys Group would go from being a little fish in a big pond to, according to some, the talk of the show. Safe to say their product, Target Fisherman, would do it for them.

Last Wednesday night, Target Fisherman was awarded the ICAST award for Best New Product of 2004-Kids Tackle. The flash bulbs and attention that followed was

nothing short of amazing. Still, I had no idea how important this award was. By 10 a.m. the next morning, I knew.

I arrived that morning only to find a television crew from the Outdoor Life Network conducting an interview with the Target Fisherman folks. People from big companies such as Zebco, Okuma, Shakespeare, Ranger Boats and others came by to congratulate them. I heard one suggest they "hang on" because things were going to get very interesting for them. Bill Dance, one of the only names I knew, stopped by because, "I'm hearing this thing is the buzz of the show." Magazines came by to both interview and sell. Within 24 hours of arriving, I learned the ICAST show was no ordinary show. And I watched as this Amarillo-based product became an overnight sensation.

It would be hard to describe to you exactly what the Target Fisherman is. All I can write is that it is a fishing gun of sorts that eliminates traditional casting. And yes, it is extremely cool. You can learn more about it by visiting www.caughtfish.com.

I now know and understand what ICAST is and what it means. Congratulations to The Aksys Group and its members. It will be fun to watch where your product goes from here.

Michael J. Stevens

Sports Editor



Horoscope for Tuesday, July 20, 2004

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, July 20, 2004:

You will have an unusually dynamic year if you are open to change and different views. Many of you will travel and see different cultures. Lifestyles. Others might go back to school to learn more. Some will have a very special person enter their life, opening new doors mentally and emotionally. You tend to get your feelings hurt easily. Be willing to discuss them, not letting hurt turn to anger and then explode. Use your strong ability to communicate. Also, tap into your moods more often. A smile goes far. If you are single, you will meet someone very easily with whom you might want to hook up. This person might be emotionally unavailable. Check him or her out carefully. If you are attached, your relationship benefits every time you take a vacation or weekend away together. VIRGO loves to chat up a storm with 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)

★★★ You have played enough! Now start focusing on the real task at hand or the business of the day. Information comes out that might have you rethinking work-related decisions. You actually might be startled or surprised, at best. Tonight: Think "exercise."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You're full of options and ideas. Others could be taken back by your suggestions, extravagance and willingness to risk. Sometimes you might even shock yourself. Others react differently to the new you. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Hang in there and watch. Bosses turn events topsy-turvy from out of the blue. You might want to be just an observer, though your perspective is likely to change. A family member could go way overboard -- or is this you? Tonight: Do your own thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Ideas fly through your mind as if you were a walking encyclopedia, which might surprise you. Brainstorm with others and test the applicability of these ideas. Be open to a friend sharing a fear or vulnerability. Tonight: Yap the night away.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Review finances with care. You could be spending in a careless and carefree manner if you're not careful. Don't persuade yourself that you are really working toward a long-term goal. Try more realism. An associate's reaction could bowl you over. Tonight: Pay bills.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You might have a lot on your plate, but you are quite capable of dealing with what comes down. A boss or superior waves you along your chosen path. Others act up or certainly manifest odd behavior. Tonight: Just ask, and expect to receive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Know when to pull back. Office gossip could be a bit overwhelming. Do your best to check out what is what by asking subtle questions. You might be surprised by a new technique or innovation. Learn to use this new system to improve your work. Tonight: Take a personal night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You know where you are heading, but others might test your limits in ways you had not thought of. Your ingenuity and another person's kind-

ness come through for you. Work with each person individually in order to achieve success. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others demonstrate their good will; meanwhile, there might be substantial uproar at home. Know when you have had enough. You might opt to stay away and focus on work for a while. Put in extra hours. Tonight: Out on the town.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ When the unpredictable occurs, you sometimes have a difficult time adjusting. You like life to be orderly and under control. Detach rather than get upset. You are in a period when you are learning to flex. Tonight: Choose a relaxing activity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Finances go up and down. You might not like what you hear and see. You need to relax and give your imagination license to think positively. Cut back any negativity. A partner or associate proves most helpful. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your unpredictability could upset many, though a family member really seems to understand. As a result, your roommates are most indulgent. Think of others before you act out. Try to explain where you are coming from. Tonight: Out and about.

BORN TODAY

Singer Kim Carnes (1945), singer Dino Esposito (1963), actress Natalie Wood (1938)

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

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Rocket recovers from All Star outing

HOUSTON (AP) — Roger Clemens told anyone who would listen that he quickly recovered from his miserable outing in the All-Star game.

On Sunday, the Rocket went out and proved it.

Clemens rebounded from his All-Star flop and won his first game in three weeks, a 5-3 victory over the San Diego Padres that snapped the Astros' four-game losing streak and gave Phil Garner his first victory as Houston's manager.

"There were a lot of distractions, but I had no excuses," Clemens said. "I don't concern myself with things like that. I was showcasing the city, and I would do it again. I have no regrets on that."

Rocked for six runs in the first inning of the All-Star game Tuesday night in Houston, Clemens had been dogged by speculation all week that his stunning debacle might affect him after the break.

So much for that. Clemens, who was 0-1 in three starts since beating Pittsburgh on June 24, retired 16 consecutive batters starting with the final out of the first and got his 321st win, moving three behind Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 12th place on the career list. Clemens allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings, striking out five to raise his career total to 4,225.

Brad Lidge got three outs for his eighth save in 10 chances, allowing

Ryan Klesko's homer before completing the five-hitter.

"He's just amazing," Houston's Craig Biggio said. "He's had (18) starts and had just one bad one. He's a gamer."

'He's just amazing. He's had (18) starts and had just one bad one. He's a gamer.'

— Craig Biggio
Outfielder, Houston Astros

The Astros remained a season-high 12 games behind NL Central-leading St. Louis. Houston faces its largest deficit in the division race since 2000, a big disappointment for a team that began the season with World Series hopes.

"As bleak as our season has been going," Houston's Jeff Kent said, "obviously we're looking for some light at the end of the tunnel."

Carlos Beltran, Kent and Biggio hit solo homers, and Adam Everett went 3-for-4 with a two-run double as Houston avoided getting swept in the three-game series. Beltran's first-inning homer was his seventh since the Astros acquired him from Kansas City on June 24, but his first in Houston.

Garner, who replaced Jimmy Williams on Wednesday, got his first win since he was Detroit's manager in 2001. He was fired by the Tigers the following spring after an 0-6 start.

"Just watching Roger Clemens pitch is something else. He's a surgeon," Garner said. "I've been watching him a long time now. But before, it's from the other side. It sure is nice to be on the other side."

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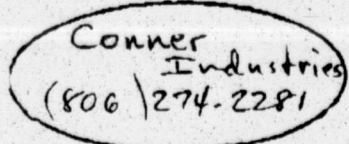
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Red Hat Dollies



Red Hat Dollies Society met recently at The Coffee Shop in downtown Pampa. Above: Helene Baumgardner, president, Betty Buckingham, phone chair, Jeane Autry, Vivian Dykes, Sidney Jackson, Dorothy Vaughn, Kay Harris, Jean Meeker and special guest Molly Vanmetre of Spring, Texas. Not pictured: Charlotte Hogan, vice president, and Shirley Nicholson, publicity chair.

CIA chief dismisses need for national intelligence official

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin says the agency has made changes since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and he sees no need for a new national intelligence chief.

'With some modest changes in the way the CIA is set up, the director of central intelligence could carry out that function well and appropriately.'

— John McLaughlin
Acting CIA director

The bipartisan commission investigating the 2001 hijackings will release its final report this week, and it is expected to recommend the creation of a Cabinet-level position to oversee the nation's 15 intelligence agencies and control their budgets.

McLaughlin said "a good argument can be made" for such a post. But, he added on "Fox News Sunday," "It doesn't relate particularly to the world I live in. I see the director of central intelligence as someone who is able to do that and is empowered to do so under the National Security Act of 1947" that created the CIA.

"With some modest changes in the way the CIA is set up, the director of central intelligence could carry out that function well and appropriately," McLaughlin said.

He also said his agency has disrupted plots to mount attacks by air, sea and other methods in the United States, adding: "It's important to remember here that for these people, an attack in the United States is the brass ring."

McLaughlin took over at the CIA when Director George Tenet left on July 11.

The new post would represent the most drastic step in structuring the intelligence agencies since the CIA was created after World War II.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, appearing Monday on NBC's "Today" show, said he supports the idea.

When the position of director of central intelligence was created, he said, the country did not have several governmental agencies involved in that endeavor.

"I think a Cabinet-level official would be a wise idea," Woolsey said. "I wish people would stop calling him a czar. ... With all these other agencies, I think some coordination at the Cabinet level is probably a good idea."

Two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee — Sens. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. and Dick Durbin, D-Ill. — said they would be open to considering the recommendation for a new intelligence chief.

"When you take a look at how important intelligence must be for our future, you realize that the current situation is untenable," Durbin said on CNN's "Late Edition." Chambliss cautioned against simply creating more bureaucracy.

The CIA director now has loose authority over the 15 U.S. intelligence agencies. But the commission in a preliminary report found that the director did not hold enough power because the Pentagon controls more than 80 percent of the intelligence budget. As a result, CIA requests to other agencies are often ignored.

The commission's final report, expected to be released Thursday, will highlight intelligence failures by the CIA and the FBI that enabled the Sept. 11 attacks to occur.

'With all these other agencies, I think some coordination at the Cabinet level is probably a good idea.'

— James Woolsey
Former CIA director

McLaughlin was quick to point out that intelligence agencies have improved intelligence-gathering and operations since the attacks. "The intelligence community of that day was for counterterrorism, 300 people spread-eagled across a dike. We now have a hundred people who do nothing but watch-listing alone," he said.

Potential attacks disrupted since then were in the early stages of planning, he said. And while al-Qaida has been weakened, the threat to America remains.

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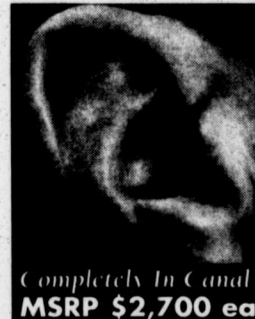
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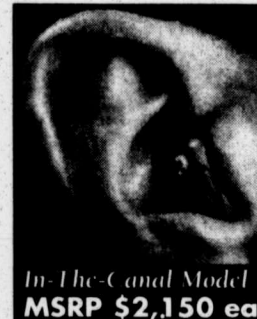
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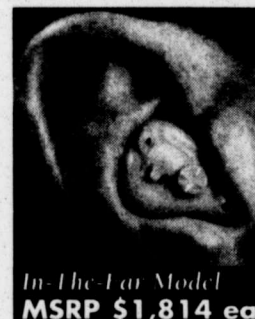
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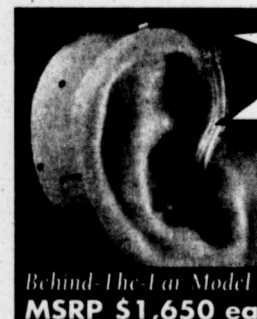
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