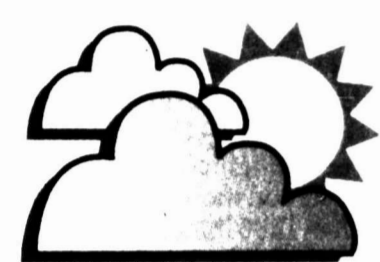


# THE PAMPA NEWS

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 Ceramics • Laminates • Hardwood • Vinyl Carpet

Today's weather



H 65 L 48

## Deaths

- Charlie Mae Browning, 95, store clerk.
- Virginia Pettit, 75, homemaker.
- Vesta W. Phillips, 88, sales clerk.
- Teddy Jean Pyron, 70, homemaker.

## Texas Today

**City won't use 'wet' plan to raze motel**  
**FORT WORTH (AP)** — The city has decided to spend \$1.1 million to demolish a dilapidated motel, three months after the Environmental Protection Agency stalled a plan to use a new and cheaper asbestos-removal method.

The City Council announced its plans Tuesday for the Cowtown Inn, which was abandoned 15 years ago and has attracted vagrants, vandals and prostitutes.

The project could begin as early as January, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in Wednesday editions.

Despite a decade of pressure from nearby residents, Fort Worth officials had balked at demolition because of the cost of removing asbestos, an EPA requirement before a building can be razed.

To save money, Fort Worth invented the "wet" method several years ago, said Brian Boerner, the city's director of environmental management. He and other city officials say spraying water on a building before and during demolition — so asbestos fibers don't spread through the air — is safe for residents and workers.

The city sought EPA approval to use the wet method on the Cowtown Inn, a project that could have set a nationwide precedent.

## Texas candidates get low rating in survey

**AUSTIN (AP)** — Sixty-nine percent of Texas candidates for Congress and the state Legislature would not answer questions on key voter issues in a study by the non-partisan Project Vote Smart, the organization reported Wednesday.

The results were compiled in a biannual "political awareness test" conducted by Project Vote Smart.

## Health care spurs post-debate round

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The topic most discussed during the final presidential debate — health care and how to pay for it — is getting another round from the Bush and Kerry campaigns on Thursday as they try to convince older Americans they know best how to treat a system that's under the weather.

Portraying Sen. John Kerry as the liberal's liberal, President Bush called the Democratic health care proposal just more big government and promoted health care savings accounts and medical liability reform as the cure. Kerry countered that people remain in charge of their care under his plan and accused Bush of blocking commonsense cost cutting while throwing the budget off balance with tax cuts aimed at the wealthy.

Following a prime-time debate on domestic and economic policies, the nation's largest lobbying group for people over 50 was providing a forum for their views. AARP, once known as the American Association of Retired Persons, was hosting Kerry and first lady Laura Bush in Las Vegas.

The president was bypassing the group's meeting to attend a Las Vegas rally with Republican governors before traveling to Reno and Central Point, Ore.



Bush



Kerry

For undecided voters, Wednesday night's debate was a chance to compare son-in-law Kerry cast himself as champion of the little guy and Bush the guardian of the wealthy, branding the president as reckless with the federal budget and the use of American force. Bush labeled Kerry a do-nothing liberal senator with questionable credibility and an insatiable appetite for taxes. A question about federal spending and deficits yielded one of their sharpest exchanges.

"You know, there's a mainstream in American politics, and you sit right on the far left bank," Bush said, charging that Kerry had voted to exceed budget ceilings 277 times.

"Being lectured by the president on fiscal responsibility is a little bit like Tony Soprano talking to me about law and order in this country," Kerry said. "This president has taken a \$5.6 trillion surplus and turned it into deficits as far as the eye can see."

Both candidates said they believe marriage should remain a union of man and woman but that gay Americans should be treated with respect. Kerry cited Mary Cheney, the vice president's openly gay daughter and an official in his cam-

See DEBATE, Page 3



## Hole-in-One hopefuls

Pampa High School Choir members, from left, Stacy Pepper, Nicole Fernuik, Dustin Elliott, Mark Williams and Brittin East, warm up for the Pampa High School Choir's Hole-In-One Shut Out this weekend. Preliminary rounds will take place at Pampa Junior High School this Saturday, Oct. 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Three golf balls will be \$5. Extra golf balls will cost \$1 each. The Finals are to be held this Sunday, Oct. 17, at Hidden Hills Golf Course beginning at 4 p.m., and will feature the top 10 contestants. The Finals grand prize if anyone should make the Hole in One is \$50,000 cash. The top 10 finalists will each receive cash prizes.

## 'Kid's Cafe' to begin at Wilson Elementary

By SKYLA BRYANT  
 News Editor

Debbie Middleton, nutrition director for Pampa Independent School District, is touting the expansion of a local program aimed at eradicating hunger among children in the school district.

October 18 will mark the beginning of a new Kid's

Cafe at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays students can eat free at the school's lunchroom.

Middleton said she sees "such a need (for the program) in the community."

Kid's Cafe is currently funded by High Plains Food Bank and Second Harvest.

Kid's Cafe has been operating at Lamar Elementary School since May 4. Children are served an evening meal at this lunchroom between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays each week.

Middleton said the program currently feeds between 75 and a 100 children per evening.

"This is a year-round program," Middleton explained, "so we don't take off (in the summer). We may take a short break at Christmas and at Thanksgiving."

The nutrition director said the program is almost entirely staffed by volunteers.

The exceptions are Verna Schroeder, cook at Lamar Elementary, and Elaine

James, the new cook at Wilson Elementary.

"The rest of our staff is supplied by Harvest House," Middleton said. "We are always in need of volunteers."

Individuals interested in volunteering may contact Carolyn Stroud of Harvest House at 665-4042.

## Official: Blasts in Baghdad kill four Americans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four American contract workers killed in bombings in the Green Zone in Baghdad on Thursday were employees of the private U.S. security firm DynCorp, two U.S. officials said Thursday.

Two State Department officials were injured, neither critically, along with another employee of the company, in a blast in a vendor's alley near the U.S. Embassy annex, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. And several Americans were injured and six Iraqis were killed in a second blast in a cafe.

Security arrangements were put

under immediate review but it is "much too early to start speculating" on whether they would be overhauled, department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

He called the bombings "awful events" and condemned the attacks. Boucher said they were the work of terrorists but he did not have solid information on their identity.

Boucher did not identify the firm that employed the contractors, but the two other U.S. officials said it was Dyncorp,

which helps provide security primarily in areas where Americans work in the Iraqi capital.

Mike Dickerson, a spokesman for Computer Services Corp., the parent company, confirmed there were several DynCorp casualties, including fatalities. He had no information on the number of casualties or their identities.

The fact that insurgents were able to penetrate Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone that contained U.S. and Iraqi government headquarters

was a serious setback to the Bush administration's campaign to pacify postwar Iraq.

Only Wednesday night, in a Washington speech, Secretary of State Colin Powell said "we are facing a difficult time in Iraq." He called the insurgents monsters but expressed confidence the U.S.-led coalition would gradually gain the upper hand.

Powell spoke optimistically of President Bush's declared global war against terror. "Every day terrorists have fewer places to hide," he said.

See BLAST, Page 3

OCT 14 2004

### Obituaries

#### Charlie Mae Browning, 95

Charlie Mae Browning, 95, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004, at Fort Worth, Texas.  
 Services will be at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, 2004, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor of the First Baptist Church, officiating.  
 Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.  
 Mrs. Browning was born March 7, 1909, in Fulton, Miss., the eldest of nine children born to Cliff and Chleo Harrison. She married W.E. Browning on Nov. 27, 1929. He preceded her in death on Dec. 5, 1986.  
 She worked at Bentley's, Behrman's and Gilbert's Ladies Wear for 18 years.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church for over 40 years, where she taught Sunday School for a number of years. She had been a resident of Pampa for a number of years before moving to Fort Worth two years ago. She was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.  
 Survivors include three daughters, Wanda Pedersen, Sondra Browning-Ott and Dolorés Fitzgerald; two sisters, Chloé Loukas and Billie June Monroe; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.  
 The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621.  
**—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).**

#### Virginia Pettit, 75

Virginia Pettit, 75, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004, at Pampa.  
 Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Paul Nachtigall, of the Highland Baptist Church, and Pastor Barry Loving, of the First Christian Church, officiating.  
 Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery in Wheeler under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.  
 Mrs. Pettit was born Nov. 2, 1928, in Vernon, Texas, to Opal and Hester Marrs. She married Carroll Pettit on Jan. 4, 1948, in



Pettit

Wheeler. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1956.  
 She was a homemaker. She was a member of the Highland Baptist Church and the Thursday Review Club.  
 Survivors include her husband, Carroll Pettit, of the home; one daughter, Lisa Pettit Crossman and husband Jim of Pampa; two grandchildren, Jennifer Crossman Clark of Pampa and Zach Crossman of Las Vegas, Nev.; one great-grandchild, Jace Clark of Pampa; and one sister, Mary Elizabeth Whitener of Wheeler.  
 She was preceded in death by a daughter, Adelia Rose Pettit in 1960; her parents, Opal and Hester Marrs; and a half-sister, Priscilla Marrs.  
 The family requests memorials be to Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, Pampa, TX 79065.  
**—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).**

#### Vesta W. Phillips, 88

Vesta W. Phillips, 88, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2004, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, 2004, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Rick Parnell, associate pastor of the Central Baptist Church, officiating.  
 Mrs. Phillips was born May 8, 1916, in Ramona, Okla. She came to Pampa in 1929 from Bristow, Okla., and was a 1935 graduate of Pampa High School.  
 She married Mitchell Phillips on April 24, 1937, in Lubbock.  
 She worked in the cafeteria at Austin Elementary School and later worked as a sales clerk for Ford's Boys Wear and Wright's Fashion. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Home Extension Club and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.  
 Survivors include her husband, Mitchell

Phillips, of the home; three sons, Danny Phillips and wife Cindy of Kaufman, Ted Phillips and wife Glenda, and Terry Phillips and wife Brenda, all of Fort Worth; one brother, Frank Conner of Pampa; two sisters, Geraldine Hassell of Tulsa, Okla., and Freddie Seitz of Pampa; eight grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.  
 The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.  
**—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).**



Phillips

#### Teddy Jean Pyron, 70

Teddy Jean Pyron, 70, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2004, at Lubbock. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Richard Bartel, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, officiating.  
 Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.  
 Mrs. Pyron, a graduate of Pampa High School, was born Sept. 14, 1934, at Asher, Okla. She married Paul H. Pyron on Jan. 20, 1961, at Pampa.  
 In 1995, after retirement, the couple moved to Mustang, Okla., and to Lubbock in 2000.  
 Mrs. Pyron was a member of Calvary

Baptist Church.  
 She was preceded in death by a daughter, Debra Ann Chase; her parents, Ted and Imogene Brown; and a brother, James L. Brown.  
 Survivors include her husband, Paul, of the home; three daughters, Terry Weatherford, Karla Chase Clanahan and Paula Pyron, all of Lubbock; a son, Richard Pyron of Florida; a brother, Bill Brown of Waco; a sister, Patricia Britton of Pampa; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.  
 The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.  
**—Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).**

### Services tomorrow

- BROWNING, Charlie Mae** — 4 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.  
**PYRON, Teddy Jean** — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel.  
**WILLIAMS, Eugene** — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Spencer, Okla.

## CITY BRIEFS

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

- 40% OFF Select Styles Of Jewelry- Making Room For Fall Arrivals. Twice Is Nice.**
- BUSINESSES GIVING** Halloween Candy on Sat. Oct. 30th, let the Pampa News know. We'll put you on the list for free! Deadline Tues. Oct. 26th, 5 p.m. List will be in the Pampa News, Fri. Oct. 29th! Call 669-2525.
- NEWSPAPER CARRIER** needed for Skellytown, Tx... Apply at The Pampa News.
- DRAIN STOPPED?** Why Wait? Call Ingram & Son Plumbing A Division Of Ace Mechanical. M12466 665-
- FAMILY MEDICINE** Center deeply regrets that we will not be able to have a Flu Vaccine Clinic this year. We only have limited number of vaccine, which will be given to our at-most risk patients, based on CDC guidelines.
- FLU SHOT** Clinic on 10/15/04 at the Meredith House has been cancelled.
- PINS & Broaches**, the latest fashion accessory at Twice Is Nice, 1541 N. Hobart, Pampa!
- PUMPKINS, PUMPKINS**, good selection of sizes, all on sale! Schaffer Grown.
- RENT OR** Sale 14x58 mobile home w/ lot, 2 br., 2 ba. \$300 + dep., \$9000 w/ good down payment. 663-9648.
- REUNION STUDENTS** and Friends of Dord Fitz, Sat. Oct. 16, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Kwahadi Kiva Indian Museum 9141 I-40 East, Amarillo.
- SHANE STOKES** with 111 points of Pampa, local winner of the Pampa News Football Power Points Game and regional winner Bill Coughron with 133 points.

### Emergency Services

#### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.  
**Monday, Oct. 11**  
 Theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the police department lobby. The incidents occurred in the 700 block of Bradley Chaps and a leather jacket were taken, for an estimated loss of \$400.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12**  
 Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 300 block of Canadian. The incident reportedly occurred between Oct. 9 and Oct. 12. Numerous firearms and three rings were taken, for an estimated loss of \$2,451.58. The firearms have been entered into the state and national crime information computer networks.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13**  
 Violation of a protective order was reported in the 2200 block of Lea.  
 Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Garland. A handgun, stereo and speakers were taken, for an estimated loss of \$515.  
 Lacy Cresky Nevins, 34, 1108 Neel Road, was arrested in the 400 block of Harlem for a probation violation on a charge of possession of a controlled substance.  
 Carl Wayne Dunn, 49, 1108 Prairie Drive, was arrested in the 1000 block of Huff for no driver's license and failure to appear.  
 Michael Nelson, 39, 1148 Varnon, was arrested in the 1100 block of Varnon on a capias pro fine for no valid driver's license.

1538 N. Sumner, collided in the 1000 block of West Randy Matson. No injuries were reported. Cook was cited for driving while intoxicated.  
 3:35 p.m. — A 2000 Chevrolet Prizm, driven by Brandi Kay Badia, 31, Amarillo, and a 2002 Chevrolet three-quarter ton pickup, driven by David Edwin Ferrel, 48, 2213 Chestnut, collided intersection of Kentucky Avenue and Duncan Streets. No injuries were reported. Badia was cited for failure to yield right of way at an intersection — stop sign.

#### Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13**  
 Michael McLean Dennis, 44, Ocala, Fla., was arrested on a probation violation for a charge of evading arrest with a vehicle.  
 Loren Dean Roby, 42, 1601 W. Somerville, was arrested on grand jury indictments for aggravated sexual assault and three counts of indecency with a child.  
 Ellis Lee Fondren Jr., 46, 1130 S. Hobart, was arrested on a probation violation for possession of a controlled substance.  
 Steve Lance Brown, 39, Amarillo, was arrested for credit card abuse and three counts of fraudulent use of identification.

#### Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Tuesday, Oct. 12**  
 7:34 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1500 block of West Kentucky.  
 11:09 a.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 1000 block of East Frederic.  
 12:01 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters respond-

ed to a false alarm in the 2800 block of Charles.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13**  
 8:51 a.m. — One unit and five firefighters took the Fire Safety House to Austin Elementary School, 1900 Duncan.  
 12:44 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 2200 block of Hamilton.  
 12:53 p.m. — Two units and five firefighters took the Fire Safety House to Community Christian School, 220 N. Ballard.  
 4:56 p.m. — Two units and four firefighters responded to the 1300 block of Duncan on a carbon monoxide check. None was found.  
 6:03 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a small fuel spill in the 600 block of East Frederic.  
 7 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a fire alarm in the 600 block of West Buckler. The call was canceled before arrival.  
 10:04 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1100 block of Terry Road. Carbon monoxide was coming from a faulty wall furnace. Firefighters disconnected the furnace and instructed the residents not to turn it on until it was repaired.

#### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.  
**Wednesday, Oct. 13**  
 12:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Hamilton and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.  
 2:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Russell and transported a patient to PRMC.  
 2:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.  
 3:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of Prairie and transported a patient to PRMC.

### Gray County Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 65. Wind chill values between 25 and 30. Northwest wind around 20 mph.  
 Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.  
 Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 76. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest.  
 Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 44. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.  
 Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 70.  
 East wind around 15 mph becoming south southwest.  
 Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. Windy, with a south wind 20 to 25 mph becoming west.  
 Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 77.  
 Windy, with a west southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph.  
 Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. Southeast wind 15 to 20 mph becoming west southwest.  
 Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 72. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.  
 Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 48.  
 Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 74.  
 Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.  
 Wednesday: Mostly sunny and windy, with a high around 72.

### Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Ansbury Grain of Pampa		Cabot Oil Gas	42.99	+0.58	Pioneer Nat	33.32	+0.47
Wheat	3.11	Coca Cola	39.74	+0.35	JCP	36.83	-0.17
Milo	3.31	VLO	41.09	+0.78	COP	83.76	+0.75
Corn	3.93	HAL	34.25	+0.47	SLB	66.27	+1.05
Soybeans	4.40	TRI	33.27	-0.09	Tenneco	11.60	-0.26
		NOL	32.81	+0.47	CVX	53.59	+0.28
		KMI	64.59	+0.69	Wal-Mart	52.46	-0.09
		XCEL	17.19	-0.07	OKE	26.24	+0.16
		Kerr McGee	57.43	+0.72	NS Grp	16.60	+0.40
		XOM	48.91	+0.43			
		Limited	23.03	-0.03			
		Williams	12.61	+0.26			
		BP PLC ADR	58.75	+0.75	New York Gold	416.05	
		Cabot Corp	37.11	+0.55	Silver	6.86	
					West Texas Crude	53.64	

### Dozens arrested in Oklahoma City drug sweep

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Dozens of people have been arrested in a raid on a drug trafficking operation that smuggled tons of Mexican marijuana into the state.  
 Guns and cash were also seized as authorities broke up an operation with ties to a Mexican drug cartel.  
 "Hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. currency bound for Mexico has been seized and documented as being collected from drug transactions in Oklahoma," Mark Woodward, Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs spokesman, said Wednesday.  
 "The Mexican cartel had created a cell of Oklahomans that they trusted. Trusted to distribute the marijuana and make sure that every dollar was collected."  
 State, local and federal officers began Wednesday arresting 62 suspects named in arrest warrants.  
 The roundup was expected to continue.  
 As of Wednesday night, about half the people named in the warrants were booked into the Oklahoma County jail on a variety of complaints, including conspiracy to traffic marijuana, unlawful use of a communication device to commit a felony, and firearms violations.  
 Most of those arrested were from Oklahoma City, mainly from the south side, Woodward said. Some are Hispanic gang members.

### Investigation

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# Investigators: Bus in fatal crash should not have been driven

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. (AP) — A tour bus that crashed along an Arkansas highway, killing 14, was in such poor condition before the wreck that it should have been kept out of service, investigators said Wednesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it found pre-existing cracks on frame rails that held up the motor in the rear of the bus.

The agency did not link the cracks to the crash, saying the cause remained under investigation. Authorities were still looking at whether the driver, Herbert Walters, fell

asleep at the wheel and planned to subpoena his medical records.

The cracks should have been discovered during an annual inspection and resulted in an "out-of-service" order, which would have required the company to fix the problem before the bus was allowed back on the road, said Gary Van Etten, the NTSB's lead investigator.

The Illinois Department of Transportation said the bus passed a safety inspection Aug. 12. A spokesman said the agency contracts with other companies to do inspections fol-

lowing a federal checklist.

"When an inspection is done, it is a snapshot in time, looking at criteria set forth in the guidelines. I can't speculate on what may or may not have happened from Aug. 12 up until (the day of the crash)," spokesman Matt Vanover said.

Van Etten did not immediately return a call for comment about the Illinois inspection.

The bus crashed along Interstate 55 about 25 miles north of Memphis, Tenn., when it failed to follow a left curve, careened off the roadway and flipped, killing Walters and 13

passengers. The accident happened in a light mist shortly before dawn.

Authorities also discovered that sheet metal had been glued and riveted to the roof, adding 600 to 700 pounds to the bus' weight. Investigators would not say whether they believe the heavier roof affected the crash.

Investigators have said 29 of the 30 people on the bus were thrown from the vehicle when much of the roof peeled away. Sixteen people were injured, six of whom were still being treated Wednesday at hospitals in Little Rock and Memphis.

## Private facility to fund gastric bypass surgery for teen

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston center that treats obesity patients has offered to donate a gastric bypass operation to a 420-pound boy who needs the procedure for a chance at a healthy life.

Obesity Surgery Specialists offered the surgery to Brandon Bennett, 16, after his health insurance declined to cover the procedure.

The surgery is scheduled for the first week of November.

Brandon had been set to have gastric bypass surgery at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston this month. That was canceled, however, when hospital officials learned his insurance company

did not cover the procedure.

The center contacted Brandon's family Tuesday after an article in Sunday's editions of the Houston Chronicle detailed his health problems.

"This young man desperately needs this surgery," said Laurie Cantrell, bariatric program director at Obesity Surgery Specialists.

Brandon is so big, he is not allowed on rides at Six Flags Astroworld. Also, Clear Lake High School often sends him home because of high blood pressure and an elevated heart rate.

Dr. Robert Marvin and an anesthesiologist have agreed to donate their time

to perform the surgery at Houston Community Hospital, pending a final medical review of Brandon's records, Cantrell said. The hospital also is donating its services. The surgery typically costs about \$25,000 and can get up to \$100,000 if there are complications.

Obesity Surgery Specialists has performed about 230 gastric bypasses in the last two years, but its doctors have not performed the surgery on an adolescent.

Brandon's father, Michael Bennett, said he has confidence in a surgical team experienced in adult surgery because his son has the physiology of a grown man. Brandon is 6-foot-2.

## Blast

Continued from Page 1

be the first time insurgents have successfully infiltrated and set off bombs in the

heart of the U.S.-Iraqi leadership of the country.

Tawhid and Jihad, the militant group of Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the blasts, saying they were "martyrdom" or suicide attacks.

## Debate

Continued from Page 1

paing, as a lesbian who probably would say being gay is not a matter of choice.

That drew a rebuke at a post-debate rally from Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife. She called Kerry "not a good man" and his reference to her daughter "a cheap and tawdry political trick."

The debate ranged over virtually the entire landscape of domestic issues and exposed deep differences:

—Kerry said a hike in the minimum wage to \$7 an hour is "long overdue," and blamed Republican congressional leadership for preventing a vote on it. Bush mentioned a Republican senator's minimum wage plan that he said he had supported.

—On the assault weapons ban that expired last month, Kerry said it was a "failure of presidential leadership" that Bush had taken no concrete action to renew the law. Kerry said the law's expiration could help put more guns in the hands of terrorists and criminals. Bush said background checks at gun shows and vigorous enforcement of existing gun laws were the way to keep deadly weapons off the streets.

—On affirmative action, Kerry said he opposes quotas but the nation has not moved far enough along to eliminate affirmative action. Bush also opposes quotas, but said he supports programs that help low- and middle-income families fund college, or small businesses get loans.

—Kerry said he would not appoint judges who would overturn the Supreme Court's 1973 abortion rights decision of Roe v. Wade.

Bush said he had no issue test for judges, and reiterated his support for the ban on so-called partial-birth abortion.

The last of the three debates offered fewer fireworks and more statistics than the two previous encounters, at times sounding like a dry dissertation on the bureaucracy. Each candidate threw out a dizzying array of figures and an alphabet soup of government acronyms.

Bush seemed to find his stride after two debates that most viewers and analysts thought he lost. He stifled most of the facial expressions that marred his first performance, ending each answer with a smile, though the camera occasionally captured him dropping it abruptly a few seconds later. After letting his voice rise to a shout during the second debate, Bush toned it down, speaking more softly.

Kerry was seen as the winner in two of three post-debate polls, while the third found the two tied.

Republican National Committee chairman Marc Racicot dismissed polls showing Kerry won the debate and described the president's performance as "extraordinarily good."

"He was in command of the facts, he was in command of the issues, he was relaxed, he was confident, and I think that's how the American people saw it," Racicot told reporters.

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# Viewpoints

## Texan's first impressions of life in England

My first impression of England to kick off my one-year study abroad program was "It's cold."

I've been fortunate to visit England several times, but now I understand why the British people love to talk about the weather. Because it's cold and often rainy - a lot. When it's sunny, it's big news. I guess if you think about it, in many ways, English weather is quite like Texas Panhandle weather - if you don't like the weather, wait a minute and it will change.

In Northern England (where I am currently living, I haven't left my flat (otherwise known as *apartment* in American) without my

umbrella (also known as *brawley* in British). Oddly, the other day as I was walking from my flat to the Business School, the wind (or *gales* in England) made me feel right at home. However, the strange thing was, when I looked up at the sky and saw a beautiful, expansive, blue, cloudless spread, somehow that didn't stop raindrops from hitting me in the face. It was bizarre - and windy.

Living in England has given me an opportunity, not only to learn a new language, but to meet people from all around the world and to hear other opinions about the USA, our government, and our way of life. I

used to tell people I was bilingual. I would say, "I speak English and Texan." But after living here for a few weeks, I realize that I really only speak Texan and that I am learning English.

In my M B A course, the director of the program divided our class of 44 students into eight small groups. My group, No. 6, has five other students besides me. We are from India, Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, England and, of course, Texas. We are made up of four men and

two women. One is Hindu, one is Buddhist, one is Christian (me) and the other three are non-religious. Needless to say, it gives me a unique world view and, hopefully, it will give me a deeper understanding of other peoples, cultures and their religions.

In the entire MBA class, I happen to be the only American. This makes things interesting, especially when American companies or world politics come up in our class lectures. Interestingly, when America

does come up in conversation, instantly the whole class looks in my direction expecting an opinion - often they get one.

The opinions I hear are interesting about Sept. 11, the war in Iraq, and other world issues. I can actually see why some Americans go overseas and start "slagging off" (as the British say instead of *criticize*) America.

Why? Because if you do, you become "objective," a more "accepted" individual. I've actually overheard a few Americans in London being and sounding anti-American. Sometimes the road less traveled by is the way to go. For me, I will strive to be respectful of

other news, of negative reactions to America, or to misinformed views, but I won't be one that turns anti-American. I'm proud to be one - and it's exciting to share my experiences with others who have never been to "the states," particularly to Texas.

With the U.S. elections only a few weeks away, many of the students are in tune with what is going on in our country. I knew the United States had a major impact on the world, but I don't think I fully understood to what extent other people look to our country as an example, as a place of

J.B. Horton  
Columnist



See ENGLAND, Page 5

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 14, the 288th day of 2004. There are 78 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Forty years ago, on Oct. 14, 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

On this date:

In 1890, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, was born in Denison, Texas.

In 1912, Theodore Roosevelt, campaigning for the presidency, was shot in the chest in Milwaukee. Despite the wound, he went ahead with a scheduled speech.

In 1933, Nazi Germany announced it was withdrawing from the League of Nations.

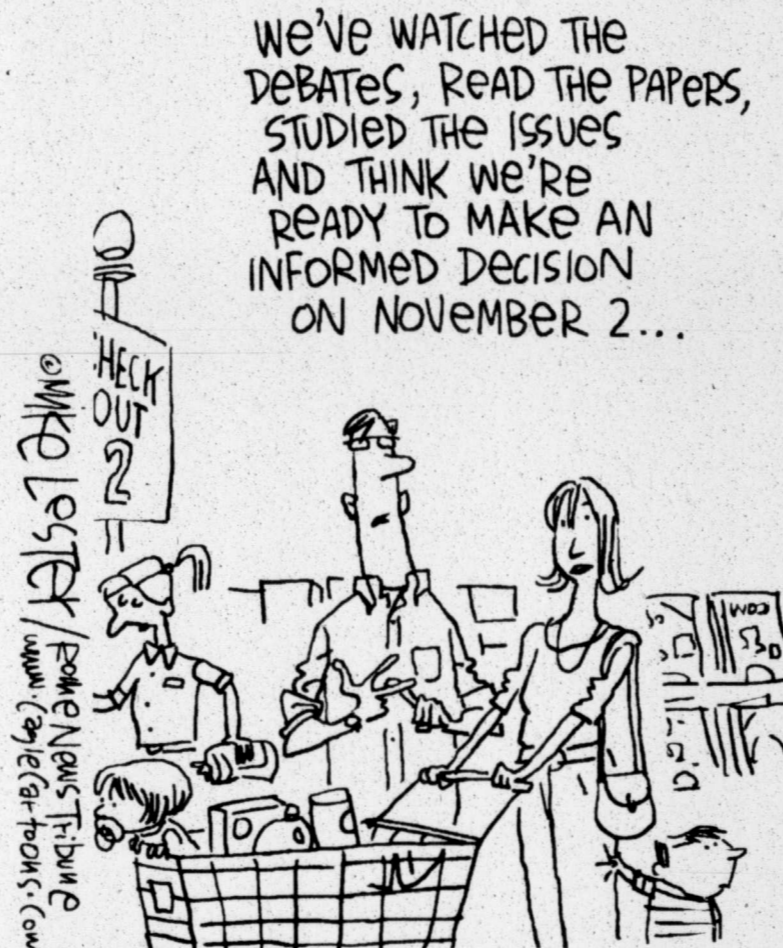
In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel committed suicide rather than face execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1947, Air Force test pilot Charles E. ("Chuck") Yeager broke the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell X-1 rocket plane over Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1960, the idea of a Peace Corps was first suggested by Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy to an audience of students at the University of Michigan.

In 1968, the first live telecast from a manned U.S. spacecraft was transmitted from Apollo 7.

In 1987, a real-life drama began in Midland, Texas, as 18-month-old Jessica McClure slid 22 feet down an abandoned well at a private day care center. Hundreds of rescuers worked 58 hours to free her.



## Our readers write

### Disappointed in conduct of fans

Dear Editor,  
I'm a big fan of high school football and had three boys play Class A high school football in Oklahoma. However, they have now graduated.  
I drove to Pampa last Friday, Oct. 8, to watch my nephew play football against the Pampa Harvesters. He is a senior and plays for the Randall Raiders. I thought it was a very hard fought game by both teams and commend them for a good game.  
I was very disappointed

in the fans. After the game and in unison shouts from the student and band section were hollering "Raider Haters." This was the most unsportsman-like conduct I have witnessed at a high school game.

The team acted very professionally and demonstrated good sportsmanship by standing together and listening to the Raiders school song. I was impressed with both football teams, but extremely saddened by the conduct of the Harvesters fans.

Mike Buchanan  
Okeene, Okla.

## Terrorism as 'nuisance' is nonsense

Sen. John Kerry has just explained, clearly and lucidly, the difference between the Democratic and Republican approaches on how to fight terrorism: He told the New York Times Magazine that, as a "former law-enforcement person," he knew that we could not wipe out terrorism, but hoped we could repress it until it became a "nuisance," not a mortal threat.  
Kerry's likely secretary of State, Richard Holbrooke, chimed in, saying the War on Terror can only metaphorically be a war, like other "wars" against poverty, drugs or crime.  
Both men believe the war against terror must be primarily a matter of law enforcement, conducted the same way we attempt, half-heartedly, to stamp out the international drug trade. To them,

a combination of global alliances and interlocking law enforcement must bring individual terror-criminals to justice, one at a time, decimating the ranks of the terror gangs just as we wiped out some of the most dangerous Colombian drug cartels.  
They see the war on Iraq as a diversion from this essentially criminal-justice function and the disruption of our relations with Germany, Russia and France as extremely bad news for a battle against terror that must rely on police activities of these three essential nations.  
The fundamental flaw: This approach fails to recognize that terrorist gangs are

only truly capable of mayhem when they're aligned with nation-states, able to use a government's resources to spread destruction globally.  
This combination of nations and gangs doesn't need weapons of mass destruction to be potent. They managed to knock down the Twin Towers and plunge the world into recession with only small knives and box-cutters.  
Without government allies, terrorists are a threat on the level of drug cartels or organized crime. They can terrorize a local area, make profits, assassinate local officials and kill the

occasional police officer - but they can't knock down buildings or throw the world into turmoil.  
Complex operations require as the empowering accoutrements of nationhood: secure boundaries to plan and train for operations; import-export trade with other nations to use in smuggling; intelligence and diplomatic contacts worldwide; foreign currency reserves. With these tools, terror gangs become global threats.  
It isn't hard to smash a gang. It is very, very difficult to topple a foreign government and then restore the country to order. But it is only by going nation-by-nation and getting rid of those regimes that sponsor and promote terror gangs that we can be successful.

Dick Morris  
Columnist



See NUISANCE, Page 5

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## Program potent weapon against DUI

When motorists fuel up on liquor, their vehicles become frightening extensions of themselves.  
Impaired drivers turn highways into danger zones, a peril that makes the Texas Driver Responsibility Program an important weapon in the battle to make the state's roads safe.  
The program, created by the Legislature last year, was delayed because the

state lacked the proper computer software to handle collection of fines.  
That problem has been solved.  
Under the new fee system, a driver with a first-offense DWI will pay \$1,000 a year for three years, a fine that doubles if the driver had a blood alcohol concentration

of .16, which is twice the legal limit, or more.  
In addition to drunken drivers, the program targets motorists with license and insurance violations.  
The Texas Department of Public Safety expects the program to generate about \$1 billion by 2008, money that will

help fund trauma centers and emergency medical services throughout the state.  
In Bexar County, the University Health System expects to receive \$1.8 million during the first year of the program.  
By punishing those who drink and drive and benefiting the institutions that help their victims, the program serves a dual purpose that should be lauded.

### Texas Thoughts

San Antonio Express-News



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## Supr Show

WASHINGTON  
The Supren Wednesday assess the m priety of sta murderers wh 16 or 17 - th ishment carri places outsid States.  
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### Classic Coke machine winner

Rodney Betts, left, along with Wal-Mart Associates, Alice Wilson and Rosalinda Bencoma stand with the vintage Coca-Cola vending machine Betts won in a fund-raising event sponsored by Wal-Mart. Proceeds from the fund-raiser went to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The vending machine was donated by Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Amarillo.

## England

Continued from Page 4

justice in the world. Being the only superpower in the world at the present time, the United States boasts of (a large part of) the entire global economy with only 4% of the world population. The U.S. elections will have a major impact on the rest of the world in two profound ways: How business is going to be run globally, and, in effect, how the world will proceed with combating terrorism. I would venture to say that if my classmates had the opportunity to vote in the U.S. elections, they all would most certainly do so. Those of us that have the privilege and the right to vote in our elections, remember, it is a right you have because of the tireless work of our founding fathers and all those who have fought to defend our freedom throughout the years. Don't take that privilege lightly — exercise your right to vote in recognition that many people around the world do not have their own voices, and realize that we are blessed to live in a free society who really does lead the free world. Your vote does count. It certainly is an honor to represent the Panhandle of Texas during this year-long study abroad program in England through Rotary International, and I plan to write a monthly column so interested folks in West Texas can experience a taste of England through a hometown perspective. I hope to also encourage other students who are interested in studying overseas to apply for a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship — it is truly an outstanding program. God bless.

J.B. Horton is a Pampa native who was awarded the 2004-2005 Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to represent the Texas Panhandle at the University of Leeds in England. For comments: e-mail J.B. at jbhorton4@hotmail.com.

## Supreme Court tackles divisive issue: Should juveniles face death penalty?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday struggled to assess the morality and propriety of states' executing murderers who killed at age 16 or 17 — the ultimate punishment carried out in few places outside the United States.

The court has outlawed executions for those 15 and under when they committed their crimes. Still, 19 states allow the death penalty for those older teenage killers.

Justices debated whether such killers are children who cannot grasp the consequences of their actions and should be kept from death row, or criminals whose executions would ensure justice for victims and deter other youths.

The justices seemed sharply aware of the world audience as they discussed whether the executions are cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Constitution.

They heard arguments in a

Missouri case involving Christopher Simmons, who at 17 kidnapped a neighbor and threw her off a bridge.

Juvenile offenders have been put to death in recent years in just a few other countries, including Iran, Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia. All those countries have gone on record as opposing capital punishment for minors.

"We are literally alone in the world," said Seth Waxman, Simmons' lawyer.

Justices repeatedly referred to arguments filed on behalf of Simmons by foreign leaders, Nobel Peace Prize winners and former U.S. diplomats.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, a moderate expected to be a key swing vote,

said that with world opinion against the punishment, "Does that have a bearing on what's unusual?"

James Layton, representing the state of Missouri, said the court's judgment about unconstitutional punishment in America "should not be based on what happens in the rest of the world."

"Is there some special reason why what happens abroad would not be relevant here?" Justice Stephen Breyer asked.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, quoting from the Declaration of Independence, said that for the United States to lead, it must "show a decent respect for the opinions of mankind." Simmons was convicted of the 1993 murder of Shirley Crook. Prosecutors say he

planned the burglary and killing. The victim, wearing only underwear and cowboy boots, was hog-tied and thrown off a bridge.

Simmons was sentenced to die, but Missouri's highest court overturned the sentence last year.

Justice Antonin Scalia, a death penalty supporter, said the court could be asked to declare juveniles too immature to face punishment of any kind.

"Why pick on the death penalty? Why not say they're immune from any criminal penalty?" he asked. "I don't see where there's a logical line."

The case has drawn intense interest. People carrying sleeping bags arrived at the Supreme Court before midnight in hopes of getting a seat for the argument. It featured a lively debate that touched on gang violence, global influence on America and scientific evidence about the development of the teenage brain.

*'Why pick on the death penalty? Why not say they're immune from any criminal penalty?'*

— Antonin Scalia  
Supreme Court Justice

## Nuisance

Continued from Page 4

President Bush began with Afghanistan and Iraq. While terrorists are still at large and causing damage in both places, they don't control either country, and can't use them as bases for global operations.

Bush flipped Libya by his aggressive and successful action against Saddam.

Now he must use a robust American presence in Iraq to intimidate Syria and Iran and to get the Saudis to be tougher on terror. Then, with a successful track record behind him, Bush (along with China, South Korea and Japan) can begin to close in on North Korea.

But this model of a War on Terror is far from the mindset and the planning of the leadership of the Democratic Party. Shortly after 9/11, Leon Furth, Al Gore's chief national-security adviser, warned against attacking Iraq and

urged a law-enforcement approach to terror in language almost identical to Holbrooke's and Kerry's.

The same misguided mindset characterized the Clinton administration's core thinking on terror — that is, the "defense" that paved the way for 9/11. It is fundamentally, deeply and unalterably wrong.

Dick Morris is a political analyst. He was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

## Calendar items

• **Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live on Stage" 2004-05 concert series** includes the following programs: Artie Shaw Legacy, Rhythm in Shoes; Southern Fried Jazz Band; and pianist Richard Glazier. Rhythm in Shoes will perform at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 26. For more information on any of these events, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631.

• **The Moms and Babies Coming Shop in Pampa** is looking for volunteers to help man the shop. For more information, call 664-2459.

• **2CARE for Moms and Babies** is conducting free car seat safety classes. Limited car seat distribution is also available through the program. For more information, call 665-5339.

• **Texas Department of Human Services** is seeking volunteers for its Texas Works Services Program. Tasks are varied and placement is based upon the volunteer's interest, capability and availability of openings. Hours are flexible. For more information, contact Beth Miller at 665-1863.

• **The Texas Department of Health** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4

p.m., Oct. 6 and 20, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and from 12:30-4 p.m., Oct. 11, City Hall, Canadian.

• **Pampa Civic Ballet will conduct** two auditions for the upcoming seasonal performance of "The Nutcracker" at 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 13 at Beaux Arts Dance Studio, 315 N. Nelson, in Pampa. PCB will be conducting auditions for the part of Clara as well as for parts for boys ages 3-14.

• **Pampa High School Choir Boosters** are planning a "Hole-In-One Shoot Out" from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 16 at Pampa Middle School. The finals will be conducted between the top 10 contestants at Hidden Hill Golf Course at 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17. The fee is \$5 for three golf balls and \$1 for extras. Cash prizes will be awarded.

• **Pampa Army National Guard reunion** is set for Saturday, Oct. 23 at the Pampa Armory. Registration will be between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. A business meeting is scheduled between 2 and 3 p.m. Dinner will be served between 6 and 7 p.m. followed by the program between 7 and 8 p.m. For more information, call (806) 274-9470 or e-mail buffaloborger@yahoo.com.

• **The Erick, Okla., Chamber of Commerce** is currently seeking applications for booth space for the community's Second Annual Roger Miller Festival slated Saturday, Oct. 23. The Roger Miller Museum will be hosting a grand-opening and benefit concert during the event with will include a petting zoo, a mechanical bull, a car/bike show, live entertainment and more. To reserve a booth space or to request an application, contact Erick Chamber of Commerce at 1-580-526-3505.

### Dobson Communications launches new scholarship; applications online

OKLAHOMA CITY — Dobson Communications Corporation today announced it is accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. Founded in 1996, the PRIDE Scholarships will be awarded to 100 graduating high school students who live in the 16 states served by Dobson. Each scholarship is worth \$2,500.

The applicant or someone in the applicant's immediate household must be a customer of Dobson Cellular Systems, Cellular One from Dobson Cellular Systems or family member of a Dobson employee. Applicants for the scholarship are required to have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Applications and details are available online at [www.dobson.net](http://www.dobson.net).

All entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, December 15, 2004 to be considered for the award.

Dobson Communications (NASDAQ:DCEL) is a leading provider of wireless phone services to rural markets in the United States.

Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the company owns or manages wireless operations in 16 states.

For more information on the scholarship program or on Dobson Communications, visit [www.dobson.net](http://www.dobson.net) <<http://www.dobson.net>>



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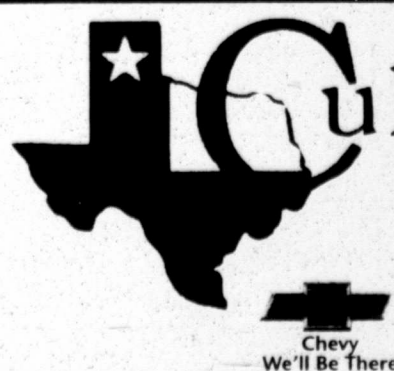
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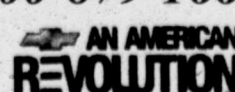
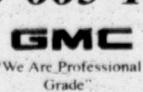


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# M.G. Dance & Gymnastics Center holds dance camp

Dance Camp was held recently at Madeline Graves Dance & Gymnastics Center in Pampa. The camp saw some 21 children participating. These students spent three days learning routines and techniques from guest teachers Alana Martin and Pat Oplotnik from OCU in Oklahoma.

The camp culminated with a MG Productions Contest followed the next day by an awards ceremony and a mini recital. Sydney Hoelting was crowned Mini Miss 2004 by Stephanie Ronquillo, Mini Miss 2003. Jenna Munsell was crowned Petite Miss 2004 by Danielle Zuniga, first place, Petite Miss 2003.

Allison Cooper was crowned Junior Miss 2004 by Alyssa Hoelting, Jr. Miss 2003, and Jacklyn Cargill was named Teen Miss 2004. Campers of the week were, Jonah Munsell, Junior Camper of the Week, and Stephanie Ronquillo, Senior Camper of the Week.



Above: (front row, left-right) Madeline Graves, Jonah Munsell, Keziah Nelson, Edy Brainard, Ashley Stark, Abbey Rios, Jessica Hiberd, Cynthia Schepp, Stephanie Ronquillo; (second row, l-r) Alana Martin, Jenna Munsell, Caylee Steward, Elysa Clements, Sydney Hoelting, Danielle Zuniga, Jacklyn Cargill, Alyssa Hoelting; (back row, l-r) Pat Oplotnik, Kimberly Curtis, Klarisse Espiritu-Santo, Ashley Williams, Allison Cooper, Abby Weaver and Monica Schepp.

## California ballot measure conflicts with another law

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California voters are taking a second whack at "three-strikes" guidelines a decade after they first passed the nation's toughest sentencing law.

Crime and punishment have always made for raw politics, and the rhetoric swirling around Proposition 66 can make it tough to sort out just what it would do.

Pass it Nov. 2, proponents say, and restore sanity to a law that has slapped life sentences on shoplifters and small-time drug users. Opponents say its passage would flood the streets with predatory criminals.

The truth, of course, lies somewhere between. In essence, Proposition 66 turns on the question of how justice should be administered: Is the goal retribution, or another chance?

"If this thing passes, you're looking at a wholesale bloodbath," said Mike Reynolds, who galvanized California's three-strikes movement following his daughter's 1992 murder.

"A bloodbath — why? We're not letting any violent people out," counters Joe Klaas, a leading supporter whose granddaughter was killed in a famous kidnapping case.

The ballot measure is among the most hard-fought of the 16 propositions that Californians will decide this year.

Polling suggests voters may opt to change current law. A poll released Wednesday shows nearly two-thirds of likely voters support the proposition.

The three-strikes law gets its name because felons can get 25-years-to-life sentences on their third conviction, provided the first two strikes were serious or violent felonies.

The ballot measure would change the law in two primary ways.

First, it would require that the maximum sentence only be triggered if a third conviction is a "serious or violent" felony. That requirement would bring California in line with the three-strikes laws of many other states.

Second, Proposition 66 would make eligible for resentencing any inmate serving life if their third strike is not "serious or violent."

Judges would reassess whether a felon is serving an unjustifiably long term.

The proposition also shortens the list of strikes by deleting felonies including criminal threats and burglary of an unoccupied residence.

Proponents say the measure achieves what voters really wanted in 1994 when, cowed by a tough-on-crime lobby that gained clout as public safety deteriorated, they passed the original three-strikes proposition. The unintended consequences, they say, were thousands of hard-luck cases forced to become life sentences.

Opponents counter that voters knew just what they were doing: locking up hardcore repeat offenders before they can rape, murder or rob again.

*'If this thing passes, you're looking at a wholesale bloodbath.'*

— Mike Reynolds  
California resident

## Florida plans to start on Everglades projects

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The state plans to start eight projects related to Everglades restoration, including building reservoirs that could ease suburban flooding and environmental damage from hurricanes, officials said Thursday.

The plans would be part of a 30-year, \$8.4 billion federal-state program to restore some of the natural water flow through the Everglades.

"Florida is strengthening its commitment to the Everglades by further accelerating the largest environmental restoration effort in this nation's history," Gov. Jeb Bush said. "Completing critical restoration projects more than 10 years ahead of schedule will save money and provide immediate environmental, social and economic benefits."

Congress has yet to fund

the full restoration, in part because of federal concerns and criticism of Florida's overhaul of water pollution laws last year.

Bush was discussing more about the state's plan at a wildlife refuge Thursday. The eight projects include ones to improve freshwater flow into Biscayne and Florida bays and to reduce dirty water flow from Lake Okeechobee.

Environmental groups said Everglades restoration was something they wanted, but they and the Miccosukee Tribe worried about the lack of public input and the potential for the state to cut regulatory corners.

Don Jodrey, an attorney for the U.S. Interior Department, said federal agencies recognized that the state can move more quickly.

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<p><b>LARGE SELECTION HALLOWEEN ITEMS</b></p>	<p><b>SATURDAY SPECIAL HAMBURGER &amp; CHIPS</b></p> <p><b>99¢</b></p>	

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OCT 14 2004

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice 95 percent of the time. However, I disagree with your comments to "Heartsick in N.Y.," the widow who said a young woman had shown up on her doorstep claiming to be her deceased husband's illegitimate daughter.

That young woman didn't ask to be born from an affair. Although I'm sure the widow is heartsick, there is no way to easily break that kind of news to anyone. It is a sad situation, but neither side is at fault. If "Heartsick" is unsure about paternity, a simple DNA test can be done to prove the truth.

—CHERYL IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR CHERYL: That's true. And that is why I advised "Heartsick" to contact her lawyer right away. However, my gut told me that something might be amiss. And here's why. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Heartsick's" letter had "con artist" written all over it. Please inform her that there are people who check the obituaries every day for the names of people who die. They get all the personal information and show up when the survivors are not thinking clearly. Pictures can be doctored, and the information about the husband being in the sports field, I'm sure, was public knowledge. It's a simple matter, with today's technology, to scan pictures and digitally alter them, even to the point of merging them with other pictures.

If the husband was clever enough to have kept his affair and the child hidden for 20 years, and he wanted to help the girl with college tuition, don't you think he'd have devised a way to provide for her financial security? And if that girl was really his daughter, don't you think she'd have been more sensitive than to have approached his widow at a time like that?

— BEEN CONNED IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR CONNED: I agree with you. There are better ways to approach someone than to tell the person the last 20 years of her marriage was a lie. And one of them is through an intermediary. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My 37-year-old husband was killed by a drunk driver. His picture appeared in the newspaper. My husband was a very handsome man who had been successful in sales.

When I returned from his funeral, I found, mixed in with the condolence notes, a letter from a woman claiming that my husband was the father of her child. She said she was willing to leave town and not embarrass us, but needed money to do so. I did not contact a lawyer -- I called the police. They contacted the FBI and the woman was caught.

It was a scam that she had used successfully before. I recommend that "Heartsick" call the police, and certainly demand a DNA test, before giving the woman anything.

— SYMPATHETIC IN HAWAII

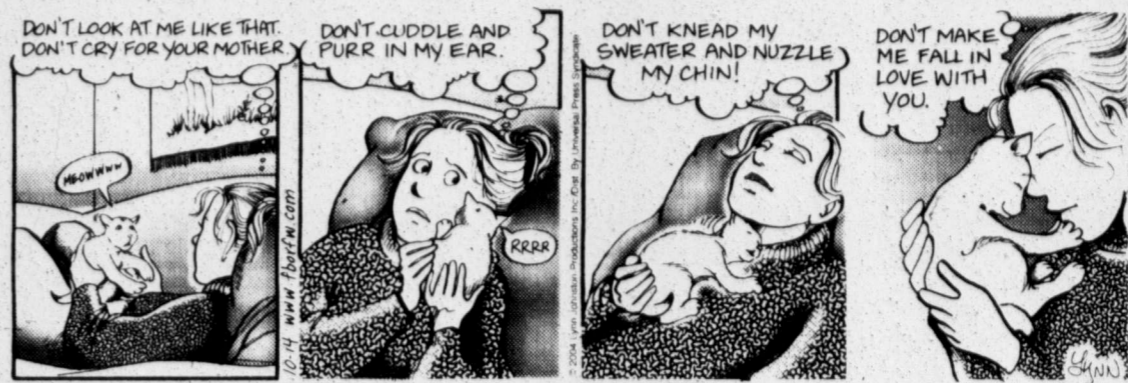
DEAR SYMPATHETIC: You're a quick thinker. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Heartsick" was right on the money. Here's how I handled the same situation after being contacted by an "adult daughter" asking me to "share something to help her remember her dad." I told her I'd be glad to. I photocopied the funeral bill and sent it to her immediately, with a request she pay her portion in cash.

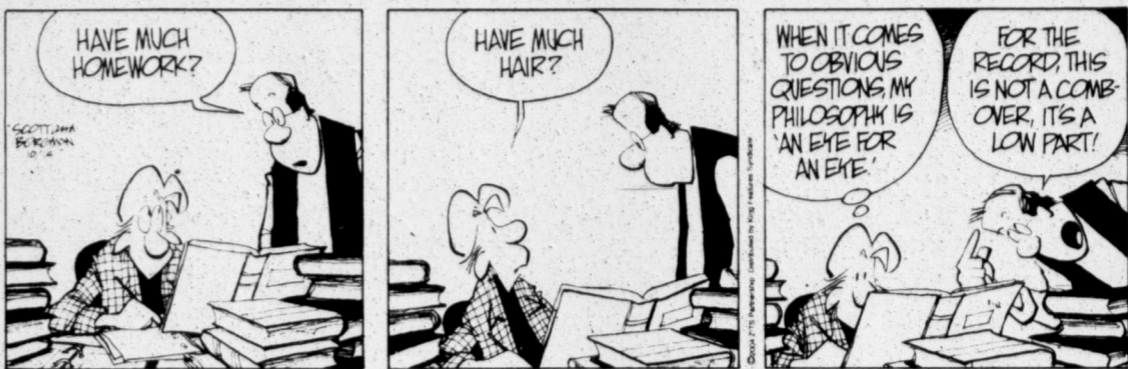
I know it may sound crass, but I never heard from her again. -- NOBODY'S FOOL, BROOKSVILLE, FLA.

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## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

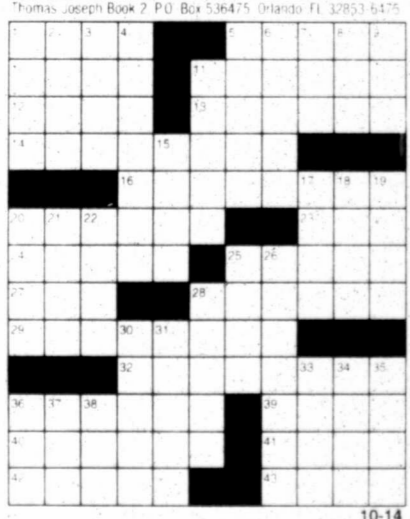
### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS                     | DOWN               |
| 1 Louver piece             | 1 Rating unit      |
| 5 Parsley serving          | 2 Long ride        |
| 10 One of a car quartet    | 3 Scope            |
| 11 Far from hip            | 4 Vine growth      |
| 12 Hymn cloze              | 5 Calamari         |
| 13 Pound                   | 6 Some shoes       |
| 14 2000 comedy film        | 7 Farm father      |
| 16 USO offering            | 8 Hot blood        |
| 20 Lightness               | 9 Hair holder      |
| 23 Had a bite              | 11 Hair holder     |
| 24 Banish                  | 15 Lug             |
| 25 River part              | 17 Sentry's order  |
| 27 Fitting                 | 18 Director        |
| 28 He's in the hole        | 19 Erode           |
| 29 Pothole patches         | 20 Generals        |
| 32 They're hard to pass    | 21 Trade show      |
| 36 Invented                | 22 "La Dolce Vita" |
| 39 Notion                  | 23 Accomplishment  |
| 40 Asylum seeker           | 24 "Stuart Little" |
| 41 Asian society           | 25 "Blue?"         |
| 42 Dianne of "Parent-hood" | 26 Kitten cry      |
| 43 Important times         | 27 "Game cube"     |



Yesterday's answer



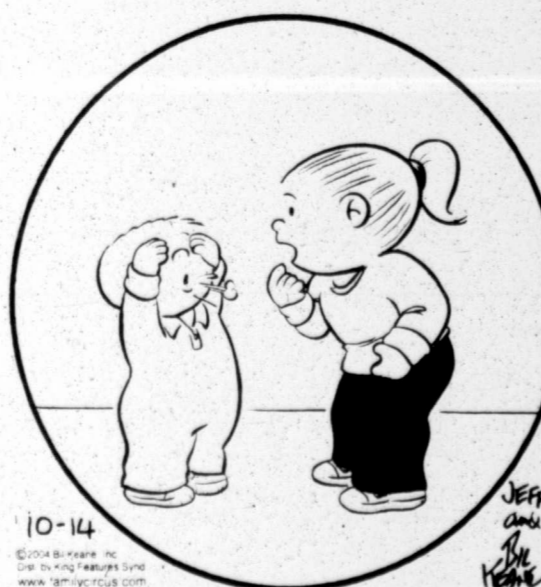
10-14

## Marmaduke



"Marmaduke is like the big stores. He gets the holiday spirit early."

## The Family Circus



"No, P.J. Cover your MOUTH when you cough."

## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie



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# Sports Day

## Harvesters head for Hostile Herd territory

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvester varsity football team continues its quest for a District 3-4A Championship. However, to go 2-0 in the district, they will need to get by a scrappy Hereford team. The Hostile Herd roughed up Caprock last week, 48-21.

Pampa Head Coach Heath Parker says, "I told our guys this is a 'Wall Game.'" To understand this, you need to know there is a room called the 'Ready Room' where players and coaches meet.

On the wall of this room is a listing of games. Games of importance and significance to the Harvesters over the years. Parker believes tomorrow night's meeting at Hereford is one of those games.

The Herd presents an interesting challenge. Parker says, "They are very similar to us." He also noted Hereford is coming off a bye week. "They have had plenty of time to study film and prepare for us."

*'They are very similar to us. They have had plenty of time to study film and prepare for us.'*

— Heath Parker  
Head Coach, PHS Football

The Pampa defense continues to impress. Holding Randall's offense in check all game long last week while holding the Raiders to just 7-points.

They will be put to the test again tomorrow night on unkind turf. Hereford's offense is big on passing and their quarterback is quick, mobile and gaining a lot of confidence.

The Pampa offense is a study in patience, effective ball and clock control. Quick passes, sweeps and short bursts up the middle. Then a pass over the middle or down the side line just to keep the defense honest.

Pampa quarterback Tyler Doughty, when called upon, has also been able to keep

opposing teams pinned deep much of the season with his short kicks.

On paper, this has all the makings of another great District 3-4A battle.

And though Hereford has had the time to prepare, Pampa is riding a wave of well-deserved confidence.

## Wounded warrior



James Coffee stares out on the field during last week's game against Randall. Coffee suffered a broken leg Oct. 8, in a game against Plainview.

## Junior Varsity hopes to continue streak

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School junior varsity football team hopes to keep its undefeated season going when they host Hereford here tonight. Kick-off will be at 7 p.m.

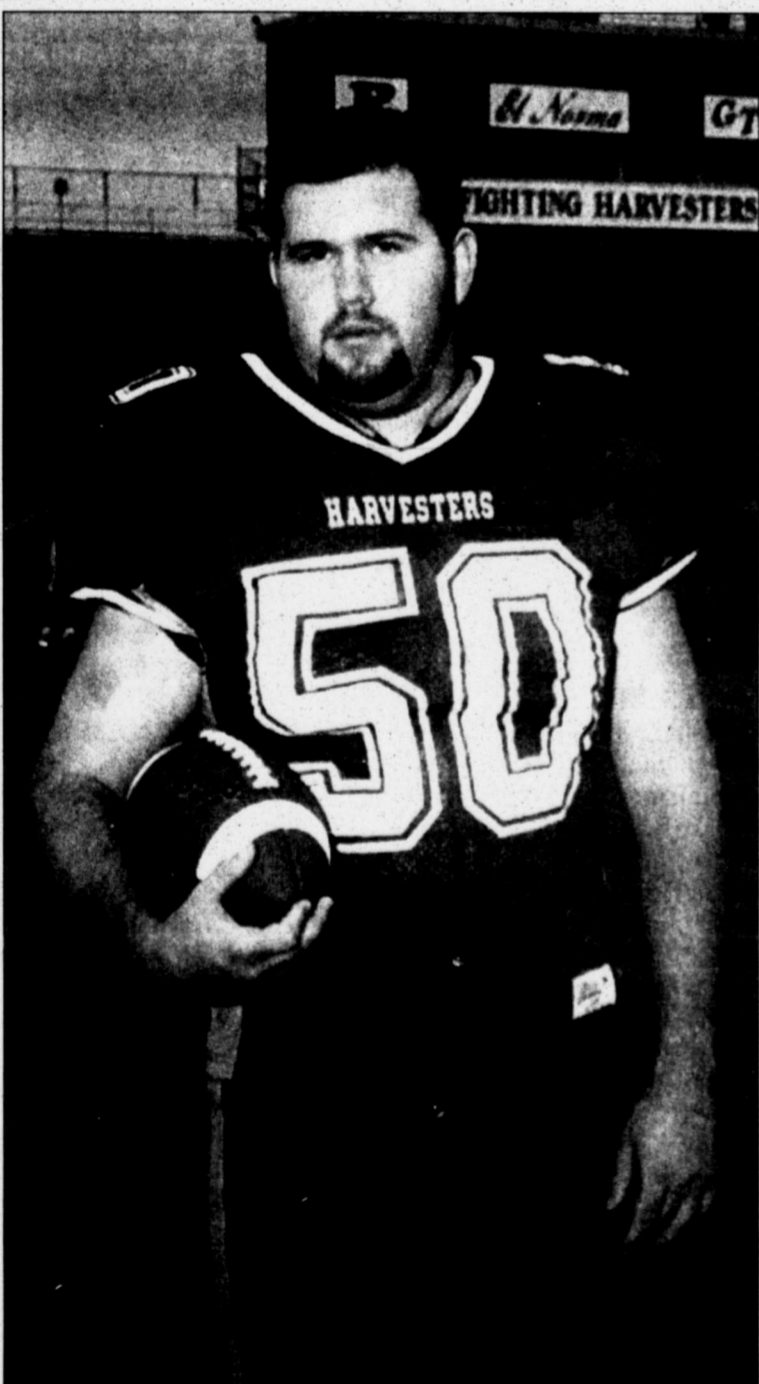
The JV squad has been impressive thus far, including a 16-0 win road win over Randall last week. The margin of victory could have been wider save for some early Harvester mistakes.

Still, you have to be impressed with this group. They are emotional. What's more, pay attention to the sideline and you will notice, they are always 'on'. Shouting encouragement and celebrating every great play as though they made it. It is like this from the first kick to the game-ending buzzer.

In addition, they have great fan support. JV games by nature do not draw a lot of spectators. This team has a good support base of parents and others who travel to cheer them on. Tonight should be no exception.

If junior varsity is, in fact the future, then the future of Pampa Harvester football looks very bright.

## Senior spotlight



Senior Tyrel Bolin is as solid as they come on either side of the ball.

## Tyrel Bolin, OL/DL

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

At 5'10", 231 pounds, Tyrel Bolin is not only stout, he is quick as well. He can create holes as well as fill them.

Tyrel Bolin  
Jersey: #50  
Player Position(s): Tackle  
Player Grade: 12  
Player Parent(s)/Guardian(s): Tonie Bolin  
School Activities/Interests: Football  
Player information provided by the PHS Football Booster Club.

### THESE COWBOYS ARE HOT

## Hardin-Simmons University: The Green and Gold Connection

One of the true advantages of my job provides is the chance to share comment or opinion twice each week. Equally, it allows me the opportunity at times, to raise awareness as well to bring to the forefront issues, topics or even people who otherwise might go un-noticed.

Let's focus on the latter. Nestled in Abilene, Texas, sits the campus of Hardin-Simmons University. HSU is a school still steeped in the Christian values its founders, an interesting mix of ministers, ranchers and merchants, put in place more than 100 years ago. It is a school focused on producing graduates ready for the world academically as well as spiritually.

It also has a pretty good little football team. In fact, these Cowboys are highly ranked and regarded. Listed at #5 in the Associated Press Division III top 25 poll this week, the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboys are 5-0 on the season. Moreover, they are 4-0 in American Southwest Conference play. Last Saturday, they rolled up 535 yards in total offense in a 38-13 win over ASC opponent, Sul Ross State.

HSU also has something of a Pampa connection. That is to say, Pampa has a connection to HSU.

Matt Epperson, a junior Flanker/Receiver for the Cowboys, played his high school ball at Tascosa.

In fact, I watched this kid blossom during my time as a Rebel Booster. Take heart, my wife and I are proud, converted Harvester fans. Okay, Epperson went to Tascosa. How does this tie-in with Pampa?

Michael J. Stevens  
Sports Editor



I know for a fact, there are at least a couple of folks here who cheer for him every week. I believe they go to as many games as they can. His grandparents, Buddy and Joyce Epperson, live here in Pampa. I have had the pleasure of meeting Joyce Epperson, all-around nice lady and avid golfer. She was in not long ago dropping off some golf results and to brag a bit on Matt.

Former Harvester standout, Derek Lewis, son of Pampa High School Offensive Line Coach, Scott Lewis, is also on the HSU Cowboy roster.

Though only a freshman this year, there can be little doubt by the time his college career is complete, the people of Abilene, Division III, the ASC and others will know this young man's name.

HSU Head Coach Jimmie Keeling, in his 15th season with the Cowboys, speaks very highly of both men. However, the first thing he will tell you is, "Both Matt and Derek are outstanding students." Then he'll move on to their football prowess. Epperson he says, "Is having a great year for us. He is a big part of what we do."

He is a big part of Hardin-Simmons University football, that's for sure." And for a team that passes as much as his does, that's quite a compliment.

Of Lewis, Keeling says, "He's a Pampa Harvester. A former All State selection among other accolades. Derek is a fine young man and a very good player. We are fortunate to have him."

Lewis is playing with the HSU JV team this season. They have a game this Monday against the Air Force JV team.

The more I learn about this school, the more I like it. Gotta love the colors. They were my junior high school's colors. Gotta love the ethics and principles this university promotes. But most of all, these Cowboys are worthy of my cheers, unlike that other team.

I told you before, I root for any team playing the Cowboys. I always have. However,

I will make an exception with the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboys.

## Dills, Parker enjoy strong performances at WTAMU Cross Country meet

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

Here are the Pampa school results from the WTAMU Cross Country Meet held last Saturday:

### Junior High School Girls

Soria Faby 13:17 1st  
Whitney Webster 15:07 23rd  
Ariel Mercado 15:49 44th  
Brittany Vick 16:25 60th  
Destiny Fitzer 16:39 66th  
Cindy Meza 16:41 67th  
Amanda Harkins 17:20 82nd  
Christian Martinez 17:41 92nd  
Allie Ramey 17:46 94th  
Vanessa Marquez 20:22 122nd  
Jessica Ramirez 20:28 123rd

Note: The junior high girls finished 8th in the meet.

### Junior High School Boys

Jack Ware 15:12 38th  
Paul Soria 15:37 42nd

### Junior Varsity Girls

Amy Adams 16:17 49th

### Varsity Girls

Heather Dills 12:50 10th  
Chelsey Knight 13:41 24th  
Tamara Trevathon 14:25 38th  
Maggie Hopkins 14:26 39th  
Holly Owens 14:48 42nd  
Jancee Norris 15:01 45th

Note: The mhigh school girls team finished 6th in the meet.

### Junior Varsity Boys

Wayne Parker 14:35 8th  
Jimmy Logan 17:16 Unk

### Varsity Boys

Matt Jimenez 13:53 27th

The next meet is scheduled for this Saturday at Canyon High School.

## Albert Pujols keys Cardinals big night

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Albert Pujols made sure the St. Louis Cardinals got off to another fast start.

Pujols homered in the first inning of the NL Championship series Wednesday night just as he did in the first round. Although he had a quiet night otherwise, he set the tone for the Cardinals' 10-7 victory over the Houston Astros.

The slugger emerged as the Cardinals' most worthy MVP candidate for his season-long consistency, and hasn't slowed down in the playoffs.

After St. Louis fell behind 2-0 in the first, Pujols — the NL MVP runner-up behind Barry Bonds the last two sea-

sons — followed Larry Walker's triple with a tying shot into the Cardinals bullpen in right field.

Pujols provided the punch again for the NL's top offensive team just like he did in Game 1 of the division series against Los Angeles when he connected off Odalis Perez. When it was time to eliminate the Dodgers, Pujols' power produced a three-run homer that broke open Game 4.

Pujols' eighth-inning single against Houston made him 7-for-18 in the postseason with three homers and seven RBIs.

See PUJOLS, Page 10

# Pampa tennis team takes two

The Harvester Tennis team posted two big wins last Saturday against Randall and again this past Tuesday night against Hereford. "The tennis team is getting stronger every time we play," said Coach Josh Freeman. "Our biggest test will come on Saturday when we play Palo Duro for the second time. This win or loss will determine if we move on to Regionals in first or second place. If we win, we will have to have a play-off against Palo Duro to determine first and second place. Getting out of district in first place matters in regard to the seeding at the regional tournament."

The Harvesters are now 6-1 in district play.

This Saturday, Pampa heads to the Austin Tennis Center in Amarillo, to take on Palo Duro. Play begins at 9 a.m.

Players of the week for the Randall tournament were junior doubles team Nick Robbins & Steven Smith and sophomore Haley Acker.

Players of the week for the Hereford tournament were sophomore Tanna Stowers and senior Mitchell Crow.

- 4,4-6,6-0
- Lacie Long(P) def. Hillary Stone(R) 6-2,3-6,6-2
- Ashlee Lucus(P) def. Nicki Maiers(R) 6-1,6-2
- Meagan Clark(P) def. Emily Mountain(R) 6-4,6-2
- Sammie Pereira(P) vs. Brittany Shea(R) called due to weather
- Shayna Armijo(R) def. Tanna Stowers(P) 6-2,6-3
- Haley Acker(P) def. Brittany Pace(R) 8-3

**Pampa 19 Hereford 0**

### Boys Doubles

- Crow/Foreman(P) def. Brown Granados(H) 8-4
- Robbins/Smith(P) def. Bullard/Miller(H) 8-1
- Gonzales/McNeely(P) def. Harris/Jesko(H) 8-1

### Girls Doubles

- Vinson/Long(P) def. Artho/Mardell(H) 8-2
- Lucus/Stowers(P) def. Rogers/Payne(H) 8-1
- Clark/Acker(P) def. DeBord/DeLaCruz(H) 8-1

### Mixed Doubles

Pereira/Fortenberry(P) def. by default

### Boys Singles

- Nick Robbins(P) def. Ryan Brown(H) 6-0,6-2
- Mitchell/Crow(P) def. Frank Granados(H) 6-3,6-4
- Michael Foreman(P) def. Matthew Bullard(H) 3-6,6-2,6-2
- Steven Smith(P) def. Matthew Harris(H) 6-1,6-2
- Adam Gonzales(P) def. Kenny Miller(H) 6-4,6-2
- Jareth Fortenberry(P) def. Markus Jesko(H) 6-0,6-1
- Landon McNeely(P) def. J. DeLaCruz(H) 8-2

### Girls Singles

- Myca Vinson(P) def. Ashley Evenson(H) 6-0,6-0
- Lacie Long(P) def. Kim Artho(H) 6-0,6-0
- Ashlee Lucus(P) def. Joselyn Rogers(H) 6-1,6-0
- Meagan Clark(P) def. Kristen Estrada(H) 6-0,6-3
- Sammie Pereira(P) def. Sydnee Mardell(H) 6-2,6-3
- Tanna Stowers(P) def. Toni Kay Payne(H) 6-2,6-3
- Haley Acker(P) def. Tiffany DeBord(H) 8-1

**Pampa 13 Randall 3**

### Boys Doubles

- Crow/Foreman(P) def. McKenzie/Keffer(R) 8-5
- Robbins/Smith(P) def. Warren/Perkins(R) 8-1
- Gonzales/McNeely(P) def. Hoover/Upton(R) 8-2

### Girls Doubles

- Vinson/Long(P) def. Pierce/Maiers(R) 8-2
- Lucus/Stowers(P) def. Stone/Mountain(R) 8-3
- Clark/Acker(P) def. Shea/Pace(R) 8-3

### Mixed Doubles

- Pereira/Fortenberry(P) def. Armijo/Garcia(R) 9-7

### Boys Singles

- Nick Robbins(P) def. Kyle Keffer(R) 7-5,6-2
- Brad McKenzie(R) def. Mitchell Crow(P) 6-3,4-6,6-3
- Michael Foreman(P) def. Erick Mastick(R) 6-3,7-5
- Steven Smith(P) def. Mykey Warren(R) 6-1,6-3
- Adam Gonzales(P) vs. Andrew Garcia(R) called due to weather
- Jareth Fortenberry (P) vs. Ben Perkins(R) called due to weather
- Landon McNeely(P) vs. Davis Hoover(R) called due to weather

### Girls Singles

- Shayna Pierce(R) def. Myca Vinson(P) 6

# Optimist commissioner



Pampa Optimist Girls Basketball commissioner Tisha Sieck, has announced sign-up dates for the upcoming season. Registration will be October 18, 19 and 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pampa Optimist Club. The league is hoping to grow from the 104 girls who played last year. The season is expected to begin early next month and conclude before Christmas. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

# Tickets for televised high school game bring pro prices

SOUTHLAKE, Texas (AP) — Tickets are moving fast — but not cheap — for Thursday's nationally televised high school football game between Southlake Carroll and Denton Ryan. Face value on the tickets is \$6, but fans have paid more than eight times that value for the sold-out game at Dragon Stadium in the Fort Worth suburb of Southlake. Mike Walloch, a Southlake real estate investor who has sold houses on eBay, put some extra tickets on the popular Web site to stunning response. "I'm really surprised people are going on eBay looking for high school tickets," Walloch said. "It's really been amazing. The people are just happy to have them." Walloch sold a pair of his \$6 tickets for \$80 and sold a single ticket for \$49.99. Tickets have sold at \$44.71 for one, \$76 for two and \$90 for three according to the eBay listings. Dallas Cowboys tickets sell for as low as \$36. Maggie Pfirman, 45, of North Richland Hills, sold two tickets online for \$76. Kickoff is at 8:30 p.m. CDT in Southlake and the game will be televised live on ESPN2.

# White touts Peterson for Heisman

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — There wasn't even a split-second of hesitation by Jason White. Asked if he or Oklahoma teammate Adrian Peterson should be getting more attention from Heisman Trophy voters, White blurted out his answer: "Adrian." The sixth-year senior has made it clear he has no need for a second Heisman Trophy. He's been through all that once before after throwing for 3,846 yards and 40 touchdowns last season. What he doesn't have is a national championship. Oddly, Peterson could be White's best asset in his quest for a national title and his biggest obstacle to winning a second Heisman. The freshman running back from Palestine, Texas, has been dominant since arriving in Norman. He's off to the best start of any Oklahoma rusher in history and proved to be a difference-maker in the Sooners' latest win over archrival Texas. "So, any Heisman attention Peterson gets, White's all for it. Heck, he even knows the kid's stats." "He's well-deserving of it," White said. "His first five games over 100 yards each game. Coming off a 225-yard game. He should be up there." Peterson's numbers are indeed impressive. He's the nation's fourth-leading rusher with 154 yards per game, and that's while splitting time with starter Kejuan Jones. He had his biggest game of the season in the Sooners' biggest game, easily outshining another Heisman hopeful in Texas tailback Cedric Benson. The 19-year-old Peterson is changing the Oklahoma offense. A pass-heavy team a year ago led by White and receiver Mark Clayton, the Sooners are relying more on the run and Peterson is making it work. He's averaging 6.5 yards per carry and is 56 yards ahead of Maurice Claret's pace through the first five games of his freshman year at Ohio State in 2002. Claret led the Buckeyes to a national title. But at the same time, every yard he gains is one White can't put on his Heisman resume, and it's already noticeable on the stat sheet. Through five games, White has 44 fewer pass attempts and is 500 yards and seven touchdowns behind last season's pace.

# Pujols

Continued from Page 9

That's just an extension of the regular season when he batted .331 with 46 homers and 123 RBIs and became the third player in major league history — joining Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams — to drive in 500 runs in his first four seasons. The Cardinals also got big contributions from Walker, Scott Rolen and Jim Edmonds. St. Louis rallied from another two-run deficit by scoring twice in the fifth. A five-run sixth inning put the Cardinals comfortably in front. Walker, thriving in his first postseason appearance in nine years, tripled, doubled and singled. He scored three times and drove in a run. Rolen had been in a 3-32 slump since returning from a strained calf on Sept. 28, an injury that forced him out of 16 games, before his game-tying single in the fifth. He also walked and scored ahead of Edmonds' three-run double that capped the sixth. Edmonds was 1-for-29 to end the regular season, taking the final day off to preserve a .301 average. He was 4-for-15 in the division series with a homer, two RBIs and nine strikeouts before busting out with two hits against the Astros.



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 DATED the 11th October, 2004.  
 BARRY PETERS JONA SMITH, Co-E for the I JONI DANIE c/o Vanessa G. Peterson Farr & Park 208 N. Pampa, Texas A-57 Oct. 1

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF ESTATE OF BENNE D. TI**  
 Notice is hereby that original lettermentary upon the estate of BENNE D. Deceased, were to SUSIE BRAS TEPE, on the 11th October, 2004, in No. 9122, pending County Court of County, Texas. All persons having claims against this estate is currently being administered are requested to present them to us within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
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# Health officials fight flu vaccine price gouging

By DANIEL YEE  
Associated Press Writer

Caught off-guard by a last-minute flu vaccine shortage, hospitals and health officials are grappling with a side-effect perhaps more virulent than the bug itself: price gouging.

Around the country, officials say some vaccine suppliers are trying to cash in on the flu shot shortage by hiking up prices for hospitals and pharmacies. A recent survey found that the vaccine is sometimes being offered for 10 times its original value.

"Shame on the people who are price-gouging," said Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "There's no room for this kind of behavior in an environment where we need to pull together as a country to protect our vulnerable populations."

Federal prosecutors could use a variety of fraud, conspiracy and other charges to pursue individuals or companies thought to be engaging in price-gouging. Some states are taking their own action.

Attorneys general in Kansas and Florida are suing Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based MedStat for allegedly trying to seek "unconscionable profits" by offering pharmacies flu shots for prices way above normal.

Connecticut officials have received numerous complaints about price gouging, state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said. He said his office is investigating and may announce action against some flu shot providers as early as Thursday.

Blumenthal said the high prices hurt the elderly, the ill and the young — those recommended for flu shots: "Obviously the shortage of a vaccine combined with these very alarming abuses make these people victims twice over because they lack the vaccine and they may be price-gouged."

The nationwide scramble for the vaccine

was triggered when Chiron Corp. — one of two firms that make the vaccine — announced it would be unable to provide the estimated 48 million shots expected this year. That's nearly half the supply federal health officials had counted on.

The remaining firm, Aventis Pasteur, can't make more vaccine in time for the flu season and it has only about 55.4 million doses available for this season, simply not enough to go around. The government is negotiating with other vaccine makers in hopes of shaking loose a bit more.

When a flu shot leaves the factory, Aventis charges \$8.50 for it, and the company says it has not raised the price since Chiron's announcement. But prices easily can rise under the existing distribution system, which allows

vaccines to travel from manufacturer to middleman before it reaches a hospital or doctor's office. Those inflated costs are then passed on to consumers.

A recent survey by the American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists indicated that the price of the vaccine went up more than four times the original market value. In some cases, the survey showed, the vaccine is being offered at \$800 or more per 10-dose vial, which is more than 10 times the original value.

"There are companies out there that buy up and speculate on drugs that they think are at short supply and turn around and resell them at 10 to 100 times the mark up," said Bryant Herring, assistant pharmacy director for Wellmont Health System in Kingsport, Tenn., which has declined flu shot offers ranging from \$65 to \$100 a dose.

"It drives up health care costs and also limits the availability for patients who may not be able to afford it or need it most," Herring added.

*'There are companies out there that buy up and speculate on drugs that they think are at short supply ...'*

— Bryant Herring  
Wellmont Health System

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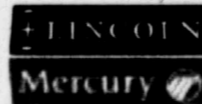
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