



Today's Weather

HIGH 72 LOW 51

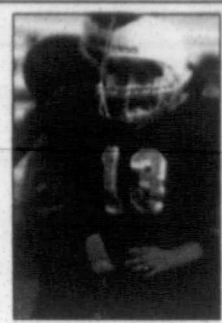
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Pampa splits with Plainview SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

Volume 101 • No. 1388

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Fire chief tells commissioners about \$79,337 grant

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Discussion items and an executive session made up the lion's share of Tuesday's Pampa City Commission meeting...

Fire Chief Kim Powell reported on a grant received by Pampa Fire Department totaling \$79,337...

The Assistance to Firefighters grant includes \$54,930 for a well-

ness and fitness program, and \$24,407 for equipment for the fire department.

The wellness funds will go toward an initial comprehensive physical exam to establish baseline information on each Pampa firefighter...

"The Universal Gym center is for Station 2," Powell said at the meeting. "We already have one for Station 1."

"The Diagnostic Clinic will do

complete workups to give us our baselines and recommendations on each fireman," she said.

Equipment to be funded by the grant includes a thermal imager, two new digital capable base stations, ventilation/forcible entry saws, ladders, distributing nozzles, and hose clamps, jackets and hoists.

"We included two new base stations because the current ones aren't digital capable," Powell said.

A portion of PFD's current budget had been allocated for equipment which may now be bought using the

grant money. The budget funds earmarked for equipment could be used to meet the city's required \$3,967 match in order to use the grant, money, she said.

The wellness and fitness program is part of a national move to keep firefighters healthy, Powell said.

"An average 105 firefighters die each year, and NFPA data shows that heart attacks are the most common type of line-of-duty deaths for firefighters," she said.

See COMMISSION, Page 3

SUVs still popular despite gas prices

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Sport utility vehicles, vans and pickups are still popular with many drivers in the Pampa area, despite the steep increase in fuel costs...

"Here in Pampa, SUVs and big diesel trucks are still selling. Our car, truck and SUV sales ratio has stayed exactly the same," said Harry Fisher Jr., finance manager of Fenton Motor Company.

"We've noticed a slight change, not a big change," said Bill Allison, owner of Bill Allison Auto Sales.

"Last week, I sold a Suburban and a Tahoe, so I'm still selling those bigger vehicles," he said.

"I think what will fall off

later on will be people who buy pickups just to ride around in and don't really need them. People with families still need vehicles like SUVs," Allison said.

"I can't say that that's the case," said Greg Boyd, owner of Doug Boyd Motor Company, when asked if SUV and pickup sales had dropped.

"Suburbans and large trucks are still a big part of our business. When gas went to \$3, we had some people asking about other vehicles, but they didn't buy," Boyd said.

Ted Hutto, owner of Quality Sales, has noticed a small shift in sales trends.

"Our smaller SUVs are up a bunch, like Explorers, Trailblazers, and GMC Envoys. Our Tahoes and

See GASOLINE Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Austin and Kathy Farrar spent between \$30 and \$40 Tuesday to fill up their full-size van. Kathy said the total represented half a tank, or "two trips to Perryton." Two other children were also riding in the van. Auto dealers say the need to have enough room to carry several persons will continue to "fuel" sales of SUVs and other large-capacity vehicles.

Fiesta Supper



Courtesy Photo

Tyson Hickman, left, Monica Johnson, Audrey Dunn and Taylor Fatheree, all high school choir members, salsa to get in the mood for the upcoming Pampa High School Choir boosters Fiesta fund-raising supper from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday in the PHS cafeteria. Adults eat for \$6 and children 12 and under for \$4. Tickets are available from any high school choir member and will be available at the door.

Library plans fall craft day

The Lovett Memorial Library plans a Halloween and Fall Craft Day at 10 a.m. Saturday in the Auditorium.

Shanla Brookshire will help children make scarecrows, black cats, pumpkins, and ghosts to celebrate fall and Halloween. Children between the ages of 3 and 8 will enjoy the program the most, according to Anne Stobbe, library director.

All the materials will be furnished and the program is free.

Also in October, The Pre-School Story Time will celebrate Halloween with a party at 10 a.m. on Oct. 25th. Costumes are optional. Other story times this fall are at 10 a.m. every Tuesday. The programs are for children from 18 months to 4 years old and they include stories and crafts.

For more information about these programs call the library at 669-5780 or visit the Web site at www.lovetlibrary.org

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Obituaries

Kenneth Joe 'Kenny' Cloud, 51

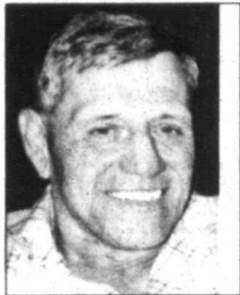
Kenneth Joe "Kenny" Cloud, 51, died October 11, 2005 in Pampa.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, October 14, 2005, at Trinity Fellowship Church with the Rev. Itony Robbins, pastor, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Cloud was born July 8, 1954, in Higgins. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1957. He married Renell Morgan on July 23, 1982, in Clarendon.

He was district manager for CDI Energy Services where he had worked for 17 years. He was a member of Trinity Fellowship



KENNY CLOUD

Church. Survivors include his wife, Renell Cloud of the home; two daughters, Angie Shaw and husband Charles, and Katie Cloud, all of Pampa; one son, Jason Naramore and wife Heather of El Reno, Oklahoma; his mother, Marie E. Cloud of Pampa; five brothers, Dennis Carmen and wife Nancy of Livingston, Guy Cloud of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Steve Cloud and wife Cathy, Bobby Cloud and wife Wanda, and Alan Cloud and wife Cecilia, all of Pampa; and two grandchildren, Kaden Shaw and Malie Shaw, both of Pampa.

He was preceded in death by his father, Homer Cloud Jr., in 1969.

The family requests memorials be to Trinity Fellowship Children's Ministry, 1200 S. Sumner, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Emma Moleta 'Corky' Huff Clark, 74

Emma Moleta "Corky" Huff Clark, 74, died Tuesday Oct. 11, 2005, in Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday Oct. 13, 2005, at Mary Ellen & Harvester Fellowship Hall with Kelsey Banister and Gordon Moore officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Clark was born June 28, 1931, in the ranch house on the Emmett LeFors Ranch in Roberts County. She had been a resident of Pampa since 2002. She was a housewife.

Survivors include two daughters, Mitzi Smith of Dickens and Nancy Kaye Morris of Channing; three sons, Ricky "Bud" Clark of Kent, Larry Don Clark of Big Lake and John Marvin Clark of Clovis, N.M.; her mother,

Audry Huff of Pampa; seven sisters, Virginia Horton, Judy Grant and Ann Banister, all of Amarillo, Norma Mitchell of Geronimo, Okla., Mellvina Stocking and Monty Schaub, both of Pampa, and Dian Smith of St. Louis, Mo.; two brothers, Rusty Huff of Pampa and George Huff of Hereford; nine grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Melvin Dean Huff in 1939; a sister, Mary Moore in 1999; and her father, Marvin Huff in 1966.

The family requests memorials be to American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Services tomorrow

Crouch, Betty Florence — Services 2 p.m. at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel.
McCurley, Faye L. Hix — Services 10 a.m. at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel.

Gray County Weather

Today: Areas of dense fog before 9 a.m. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a high around 72. East northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southeast.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. East northeast wind around 5 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 70. South southeast wind around 5 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly

clear, with a low near 51. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 77. West southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 78. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. South wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 74. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 48.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 63.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 43.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 67.

Search continues for flood victims in New Hampshire

ALSTEAD, N.H. (AP) — Linda Pelow was in her house alone when the floodwaters suddenly surrounded it.

"I grabbed the puppy and went up to the attic," she said. "It was like watching the tsunami come at me, because all of a sudden, here comes the mud."

Pelow said she did not expect to survive Sunday's floodwaters, but her house was left standing.

"I just prayed and prayed. I thought I was gone with it," she said. "I am totally the luckiest person still in Alstead."

Just as workers were making progress restoring power and getting help to flood-ravaged southwestern New Hampshire, state officials were bracing for the possibility of more floods. Rain began falling in the hard-hit Keene-Alstead area this morning, and the National

Weather Service said there could be another 3 to 6 inches in the next several days. Flood watches were announced for several areas.

"More rain could bring us back to square one," Fish and Game Lt. Todd Bogardus said. "We're doing everything we can to prepare (for it)."

The news came as rescue crews and police dogs continued searching rivers and woods for those still missing in New Hampshire. Gov. John Lynch said that two more people may be missing, which would bring the total to six. But because information was constantly changing, he and other state officials couldn't be sure.

"It's hard to be precise, in terms of exactly who the missing are, but we believe it is 4 to 6," Lynch said. "It's the result of maybe relatives, for example, calling, not being able to contact somebody in their family."

The weekend of heavy downpours left at least 10 people dead from Maine to New Hampshire.

From Friday evening through Sunday, rainstorms dumped as much as 10 inches on New England and the mid-Atlantic states. In New Hampshire, the storm dropped 10.8 inches in Hinsdale and 10.5 inches in Keene.

Lynch said the floods were the worst the state had experienced in a quarter-century.

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Four traffic stops were made. Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Kentucky and Hobart streets.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Francis and Hobart streets.

One business alarm was reported.

Welfare checks were made in the 1100 block of Alcock and the intersection of Twiford and Lefors streets.

Found property was reported in the police department lobby.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of Williston.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Rham and Faulkner streets and the intersection of Tyng and Finley streets.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 1300 block of Mary Ellen, the 600 block of South Cuyler and at One Medical Plaza.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan and the 600 block of South Somerville.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of North Nelson.

Criminal trespass was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 1000 block of Huff Road. A door and window frame were shot with a BB gun, resulting in an estimated \$700 damage.

Theft of service was reported in the 2000 block of Hamilton. Water valued at \$49.99 was taken.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby.

Unauthorized use of a

motor vehicle was reported in the 600 block of East Foster.

A gas drive-off was reported at Murphy USA, 201 W. 28th. Fuel valued at \$15.20 was taken.

Assault by threat was reported in the police department lobby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of East Francis. The incident was verbal only; no injuries were reported.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1300 block of Duncan. The incident was verbal only.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

Cedrick Parker, 18, 1072 Prairie Drive, was arrested in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive for failure to appear, speeding, two counts of no driver's license, and two counts of no insurance.

Jamelle Parker, 17, 1072 Prairie Drive, was arrested for disorderly conduct/language.

Jamie Marshall Sharp Jr., 52, Borger, was arrested at One Medical Plaza for making a terroristic threat.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, Oct. 11

Divina Pena, 36, Plainview, was arrested on a bond surrender for theft by check.

Zachary Brady Estep, 17, 521 Magnolia, was arrested for failure to attend school and failure to appear.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Oct. 11

9:42 a.m. — Two units and four personnel responded to St. Vincent's School on a fire prevention program.

1:16 p.m. — Three units

and six personnel responded to Community Christian School on a fire prevention program.

2:33 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Wells on a grease fire.

3:53 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to Hobart and Foster on a vehicle accident.

6:55 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Wells on a gas odor complaint.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

8:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of North Banks and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a nursing facility in Amarillo and transported a patient to a local nursing facility.

3:52 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of South Hobart. No transport.

5 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

9:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, Oct. 12

1:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1700 block of Holly and transported a patient to PRMC.

3:38 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of South Gray and transported a patient to PRMC.

Winter heating bills expected to skyrocket, break budgets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Winter heating bills will be a third to a half higher for most families across the country, with the sharpest increases expected for those who heat with natural gas, the Energy Department forecast today.

The department said natural gas users can expect to pay an average of \$350 more during the upcoming winter compared to last year, an increase of 48 percent. Those who heat their homes with fuel oil will pay \$378 more, or 32 percent higher than last winter.

Propane users can expect a percentage jump in their bills similar to those of fuel oil users.

In its winter fuels outlooks report, DOE's Energy Information Administration assumed a normal winter and steady progress in restoring oil and natural gas production and refinery output from the damage inflicted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

"Should colder weather prevail, expenditures will be significantly higher," the EIA said.

The agency as well as the natural gas industry said that heating costs could vary widely among regions.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offered a bit of cheer Wednesday morning, issuing a long-range winter forecast calling for warmer than normal temperatures in much of the Midwest

and Pacific Northwest.

NOAA's National Weather Service said there is a 60 percent chance of warmer than normal weather in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, north Texas, northern New Mexico and southern and eastern Colorado. States adjoining that area, plus Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii also have a chance of being warmer than usual. Other areas could be warmer or cooler than usual but no area was singled out to be especially cold.

A month ago, the EIA said natural gas prices could jump as much as 71 percent in the Midwest, where four of every five homes are heated by gas. It made no such specific assessment this time, but acknowledged that a colder-than-normal winter in the Midwest would produce significantly higher costs.

The cost of fuel accounts for about 70 percent of the price utilities charge retail residential customers, according to the American Gas Association.

EIA said it expects continued recovery of the energy system in the Gulf region in the coming months. But it said it expects a third of the Gulf's crude oil and a fifth of its natural gas to remain shut-in into December.

It also projected wholesale natural gas prices staying at about \$12 per thousand cubic feet through the winter heavy demand period, twice what it cost last winter.

Two-headed snake goes to collection

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — Angelo State University is getting an unusual addition to its collection of reptiles and amphibians: a two-headed rattlesnake.

Chris McAllister, a visiting professor of biology at Angelo State University in San Angelo, said he found the snake after turning over 400 to 500 rocks last month at a Christoval-area ranch, where he and students were scouring for interesting specimens.

While two-headed rat snakes and king snakes are relatively common, a two-headed rattler is not, McAllister said.

The tiny Western diamondback rattler, about as thick as an adult human finger, was less than a foot long and appeared to be a month old, he said.

Cop Corner

Accidents! Accidents! Accidents! This is the third installment.

Did you ever have a great day of shopping, come home, kick up your feet, and have your spouse ask, "What happened to the car?" There are lots of accidents on private parking lots and most are not too serious.

The bad thing about these accidents is sometimes you don't know who hit your car. These accidents are sometimes called "Hit & Runs." The Pampa Police Department does not generally make state accident reports for accidents on private property. The exceptions are injury and/or significant damage to structures on the property.

It took us awhile to decide on a process of documentation for people involved in private property accidents. Chief Pitner came up with the solution, a local use only, private property accident form.



LT. FRED COURTNEY

An officer will come to the scene, take as much information from the victim as possible, and put it on the form. The victim will then have documentation to show to the insurance company.

In the case where both parties are present (not a hit & run), the officer will again take both parties' information, complete the form, and give each driver a copy. The officer will not say who is at fault and the officer will not write citations for the cause of the accident.

I know you would like us to write the ticket but it is private property and traffic violations are not enforceable. Of course, there are a couple of exceptions to this rule, but that is for a later article.

Most private property accidents are the kind where the insurance companies will duke it out and pay what they will pay. It's a jungle out there at the big stores so be careful.

Cop Corner provided by Pampa Police Department

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Home Sweet Home

Report: Archdiocese ignored complaints

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Newly released records of sex abuse claims against 126 priests that are at the core of hundreds of lawsuits against

the Archdiocese of Los Angeles show that church officials for decades moved accused priests between counseling and new assign-

ments. Attorneys for 500 alleged victims and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles had previously

agreed to release the information, but lawyers for accused clergy succeeded in blocking publication, arguing it would violate priests' privacy rights.

An appellate court last month ordered the documents to be released after nearly three years of legal wrangling.

The records conform with the pattern of the abuse crisis that erupted in the American church nearly four years ago. In many cases, the church provided years of therapy to accused clergy, believing the men could be rehabilitated, then assigned them to new parishes, which often resulted in new claims against them.

The Los Angeles Archdiocese appears to have so far avoided the damaging full disclosure forced on other American dioceses by judges and grand juries. Church officials late Tuesday released summaries of their personnel records. The files a judge unsealed in the Archdiocese of Boston, where the abuse crisis began in early 2002, contained doctors' reports, memos from diocesan officials about meetings with distraught parents and other details that revealed an insensitivity to victims.

The documents enraged Catholics and forced Cardinal Bernard Law to resign as Boston archbishop.

Raymond P. Boucher, the lead plaintiffs' attorney in Los Angeles, said the newly released information was a first step, but that complete personnel files should be made public.

"The significance of these files is that they provide a little more information for the public about the church's knowledge and frankly their participation in the molestation of children, but until the (entire) files are made public, we're not going to be satisfied," he said.

Commission

Continued from Page 1

The new equipment will help bring the department's two new engines into ISO compliance and improve the city's insurance rating, Powell said.

Dr. Louis Haydon spoke on state attorney general's opinions concerning economic development corporations. A third topic of discussion was a group of citizens who are interested in establishing a Working for Progress Advisory Board.

No action was taken following a 55-minute executive session at the end of the meeting. The purpose of the session was a performance review of City Manager John Horst.

"We want to publicly express to John the good job he has been doing as our city manager," Mayor Lonny Robbins said at the close of the meeting. Thank you, John."

The hourly rate for elec-

tion workers was raised from \$6 to \$10. Borger and Spearman currently pay election workers \$10, while Panhandle pays \$12 and Perryton pays \$7, according to information provided for Tuesday's meeting.

Charlotte Lewis was approved as alternate election judge for the Nov. 8 special election.

A bid from Willborn Bros. was awarded for replacement of a city fuel system, tank and pump. The \$51,956 to be paid to the company will replace the current two underground fuel tanks with above-ground tanks, one each for gasoline and diesel, according to Finance Director Robin Bailey.

Replacing the underground tanks will eliminate the cost of fees which must be paid in order to have underground tanks, Bailey said. The cost of repairing the existing tanks instead of replacing them is estimated at \$20,000, she said.

Approximately \$45,000 will be funded by the

remainder of the Koch Financial lease purchase agreement. Budgeted expenditures in the general fund will make up the remaining \$6,956 for the equipment.

Second and final reading of Ordinance No. 1443, amending the revenues and appropriations for the city for fiscal year 2005 was passed.

The original revenue fund amount for fiscal 2005 was \$8,387,618. The revised revenue total is \$8,579,098.

The original budget for appropriations from the 2005 general fund was \$8,133,607. The final revised amount is \$9,279,953. The original Hidden Hills budget amount of \$370,106 was amended to \$444,106.

Commissioners also adopted Resolution No. 05-015 suspending the effective date of Atmos Energy Co.'s filing its Gas Reliability Infrastructure information.

Gasoline

Continued from Page 1

Suburbans are down," he said.

Car sales have also increased slightly at Quality Sales in recent months. But the total change in sales is only about three percent.

"For last month, 70 percent of our sales were trucks and SUVs. About six months ago, it was 73 percent," Hutto said.

"We do have some people who have gone from Suburbans to cars. Some have gotten smaller SUVs," he said.

"I think some people are waiting to see what happens with fuel prices," said Jerry Stecklein, a salesman at Culberson-Stowers, Inc.

"A lot of people are trying to trade in for a little smaller SUV," he said.

Others are keeping their current large passenger vehicles for family trips, but buying a smaller vehicle that gets better gas mileage for daily commuting and running errands, Stecklein said.

"They see that gas jumps from \$1.80 to \$2.80 or \$2.90 a gallon, and they end up doing something based on emotions," he said.

Hutto did the math to

show how much more an average driver is actually paying for gas compared to a year ago.

A gallon of gasoline cost about \$1.75 a year ago. The average driver travels 15,000 miles per year, Hutto said. A vehicle that gets 20 miles per gallon will need 69 gallons to go the approximately 1,300 miles per month for that average driver.

At \$1.75, 69 gallons, or a one-month supply of fuel, cost \$120.75. Today's price of about \$2.60 per gallon results in a cost of \$179.40, for a difference of \$58.65 per month.

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Viewpoints

A wink and a nod not documentary evidence

The question is not whether Tom DeLay is guilty or not guilty of the specific, bookkeeping offense for which he has been indicted. That is for the lawyers and the accountants to figure out. What is crucial is that DeLay managed to do something that is very, very wrong and highly injurious to our democracy — to fix the elections for the House of Representatives, in effect to take the ballot out of our hands.

Gerrymandering has been with us since the earliest days of the republic, when Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry drew a legislative district that looked like a salamander to get his allies elected, and the press dubbed it a Gerry-mander. But DeLay carried this per-

nicious practice to new lows.

The lines drawn by the Texas Legislature after the 2000 Census were not stacked to DeLay's liking. So the House Republican leader worked overtime to elect Republicans to the state Legislature so that they could override the map drawn in 2001 with new, even more biased district lines. His tactic worked and five Democrats were defeated in districts that wouldn't go Democratic even if Adolf Hitler were the GOP nominee.

Did he violate the letter of the law in the ways he funneled money to Washington to execute his nefarious plot? It depends on the paper trail. One has to be really, really stupid to get caught in this era of porous campaign-

finance laws. If somebody was crazy enough to send an e-mail specifying how much the Republican National Committee PAC should give to each Texas state Legislative candidate, they almost deserve what will happen.

But there probably is no such trail. Money is fungible. DeLay and his minions probably

orchestrated several corporate campaign contributions which the national Republican organization happened to use for clerical and administrative expenses which happened to free certain hard dollars which hap-

pened to be distributed where they would do the most good for the Texas GOP in the coming state elections.

Yet the result of DeLay's efforts is that we are losing our capacity to elect the House of Representatives.

Only 20 of the 435 districts are in the least sense competitive.

In the reapportionments that followed the 2000 Census, the political parties in almost every state cooperated to draw the district lines to minimize the number of incumbents who would lose their seats. As a result, the number of House incum-

bents defeated in the post-Census elections has reached an all-time low. In the elections following the 1980 census, 42 House members were defeated. In those after the 1990 election, 39 lost their seats. But after the 2000 census, only 16 members were defeated — half by other incumbents drawn into the same districts as a result of the shrinkage of the state population.

The result of DeLay's efforts is that the control of the House of Representatives has now been predetermined and taken out of the hands of the voters. No matter what happens nationally, the GOP will control the House until the 2010 reapportionment.

This massive disservice to democracy makes a mockery

of calls for increased voter turnout. What is the point when the lines have been drawn in such a way as to fix the results?

Did DeLay violate the law in siphoning contributions to his favored candidates? Maybe — but everybody does it too and it's very unlikely that any criminal action can be proven. A wink and a nod is not documentary evidence.

Does DeLay deserve to be indicted? No. In virtually every state in the nation, campaign contributions from corporations are scrubbed and laundered through PACs and state or national party organizations so that they can replace hard dollars, which are then given to can-

See DeLay, Page 5

Dick Morris

Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Oct. 12, the 285th day of 2005. There are 80 days left in the year. Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 12, 1492 (Old Style calendar; Oct. 21 New Style), Christopher Columbus arrived with his expedition in the present-day Bahamas.

On this date:

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Va., at age 63.

In 1915, former President Theodore Roosevelt criticized the concept of "hyphenated Americanism," referring to U.S. citizens who identified themselves by dual nationalities.

'When he (Columbus) started out he didn't know where he was going, when he got there he didn't know where he was, and when he got back he didn't know where he had been.'

— Anonymous

In 1915, English nurse Edith Cavell was executed by the Germans in occupied Belgium during World War I.

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the help of his gang, who killed the sheriff.

In 1942, President Roosevelt delivered one of his so-called "fireside chats" in which he recommended the drafting of 18- and 19-year-old men.

In 1960, Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev disrupted a U.N. General Assembly session by pounding his desk with a shoe during a dispute.

In 1964, the Soviet Union launched a Voskhod space capsule with a three-man crew on the first manned mission involving more than one crew member.

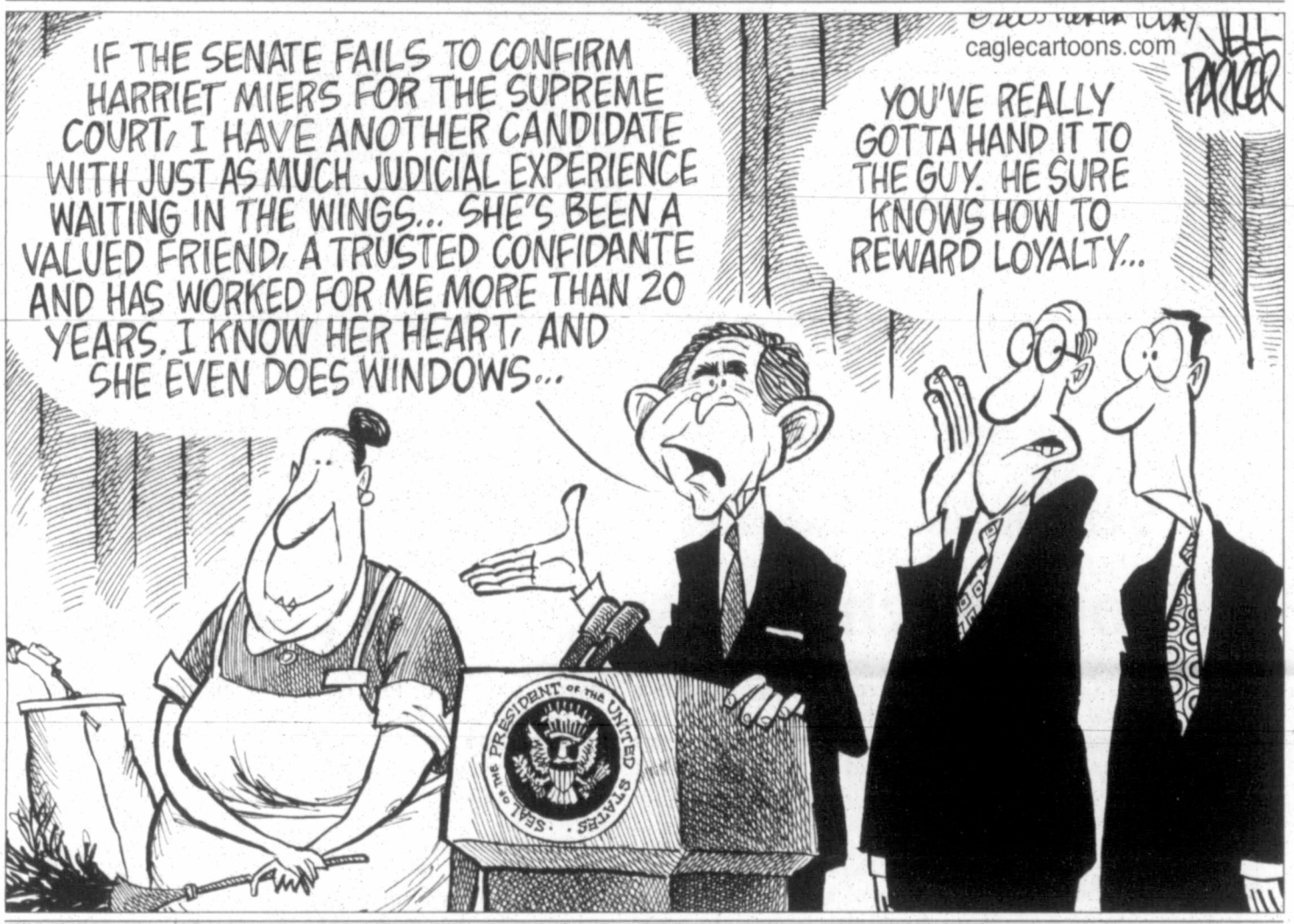
In 1968, the summer Games of the 19th Olympiad officially opened in Mexico City.

In 1973, President Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 2002, a bomb blamed on Islamic militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, many of them foreign tourists.

Ten years ago: After a 48-hour delay, the U.S.-brokered cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina went into effect.

Five years ago: Seventeen sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the U.S. destroyer Cole in Yemen. Chinese writer Gao Xingjian won the Nobel literature prize.



Terrorists must be treated as criminals

The so-called war against terrorism is unwinnable. It was designed to be unwinnable so that it can be carried on for an indefinite duration and thus support the vast military-industrial-anti-terrorism complex. The end of the Cold War scared this complex half to death. It can only survive with an enemy at the gates.

Conventional wars can be won because they are fought against governments. Either the enemy government can be destroyed or it is made to pay such a high price in casualties and assets that it will sue for peace. Either way, everybody knows the war is over. The Cold War ended when the Soviet Union collapsed and the Russians ended their occupation of Eastern Europe. We should have dismantled

the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, as they did the Warsaw Pact, and moved to a peacetime situation.

Too many people in this country, however, have a vested interest in war, and they were in desperate need of a new enemy and some dramatic event to get the people all riled up. Osama bin Laden obliged on both counts.

The war against terrorism, however, is being waged against individuals scattered around the world. When one is killed, he is replaced by another. There is not, and there never will be, anyone who can say, on behalf of all terrorists, "OK, we quit."

Most of the terrorists in the world don't even know each other.

The analogy of war is a false one. The proper analogy is simply dealing with individual criminals and

few criminal gangs. To do that, you don't have to put the nation on a war footing; you don't have to destroy or injure civil liberties at home or spend billions of dollars. You just doggedly pursue the criminals as they arise, knowing, as police forces do, that this is steady work. You will never get them all because they are replenishable.

I've often pointed to Israel as an example of the futility

of trying to shoot or bomb your way out of a terrorist problem. No nation on Earth has been more ruthless, more determined and more effective in fighting terrorists than Israel, yet after more than 50 years, the Israelis are still plagued by it. That's because they have refused to solve the political problem — occupation of Palestinian land — that gives rise to it.

Now President Bush is following their bad example. He's developed a habit of lying. He claims we were struck by terrorists because they hate our freedom and prosperity. That's not what the terrorists said, and they ought to know their own motives. They said they make war on us because of

See TERROR, Page 5

Charley Reese

Columnist



No excuse for Abu Ghraib prison abuses

■ Oct. 2
The covertly taken photos of prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq shocked the nation. They placed the United States in the same league with nations that abuse human rights, a league most Americans don't associate with their military.

Last week one of those soldiers, Pfc. Lynndie England, was sentenced to three years in prison. She was the last of nine reservists convicted in the Abu Ghraib cases. The highest-ranking was a staff sergeant. England and the others are

described as rogue soldiers who acted without direction from any higher-ups. Certainly no evidence was presented at any trial that any superior officer directed them; if there was a violation, it was omission of oversight. But it can be argued that England and the others were the exceptions by degree of an administration policy that places all detainees and prisoners in the war on terror outside of the normal rules of war.

There is no excuse for the Abu Ghraib abuses. But when an administration and its secretary of defense uphold policy that holds prisoners at Guantanamo outside the rules of law, without identification, serving indefinite terms, that implies that those prisoners are fair game for any treatment.

Sen. John McCain, whose authority to speak on prisoner abuse after years of brutal treatment as a Vietnam POW is unquestioned, favors leg-

isolation to require prisoners in American hands to be treated in accord with the Geneva Convention. But President Bush, McCain says, would veto such a measure.

Bush has portrayed the war on terror as a different kind of war, with new rules, or perhaps no rules. That, the argument goes, requires making war where all the rules are suspended.

But the American principle of the rule of law has not changed. Nor should that principle be another casualty of war, just as a sense of common decency became a casualty at Abu Ghraib.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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Times reporter testifies again to grand jury on CIA leak

WASHINGTON (AP) — New York Times reporter Judith Miller today gave prosecutors details of a previously undisclosed conversation she had with Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, adding a new dimension to the criminal investigation into the leak of a covert CIA officer's identity.

Miller testified for over an hour to a federal grand jury, the reporter's second appearance before the panel. On Tuesday, Miller turned over to special counsel Patrick Fitzgerald notes from

her June 23, 2003, contact with I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby and underwent questioning by prosecutors.

Miller's notes, according to a story published last weekend in the Times, refer to Bush administration critic and former U.S. Ambassador Joseph Wilson.

She and her lawyer, Robert Bennett, had no comment as they left the courthouse. Bennett said Miller had completed her testimony.

The prosecutors have been examining the roles of Libby, pres-

idential aide Karl Rove and others in the Bush administration in the leak to reporters of the identity of Wilson's wife, covert CIA officer Valerie Plame.

Before the June 23 Miller-Libby conversation, the Times and The Washington Post had both referred to Wilson, though not by name, in articles questioning the Bush administration's handling of pre-war intelligence on Iraq. On July 6, 2003, the Times published an op-ed piece by Wilson suggesting the Bush administration had twisted

intelligence to exaggerate the threat from Iraq's nuclear weapons program. Eight days later, columnist Robert Novak exposed Plame's identity as a CIA officer, saying his information had come from two administration officials.

Miller never wrote a story about Wilson or Plame. She testified Sept. 30 about two conversations with Libby in the days after Wilson's op-ed piece in the Times came out.

The newspaper said in a memo to its staff that once Miller's obli-

gations to the grand jury are fulfilled, The Times intends to write "the most thorough story we can of her entanglement with the White House leak investigation. It's a complicated story involving a large cast, and it has required a meticulous reporting effort — in part to chase down and debunk some of the myths kicked up by the rumor mill."

The newspaper said the "story is incomplete until we know as much as we can about the substance of her evidence."

DeLay lawyers subpoena prosecutor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Indicted Rep. Tom DeLay's attorneys are trying to compel testimony by prosecutors on their contacts with grand jurors, sending subpoenas to the Texas district attorney who normally issues them.

DeLay's defense team reversed the normal direction of subpoenas in their strategy to have the charges dismissed before trial.

The lawyers contend that the Travis County district attorney, Ronnie Earle, acted improperly with two grand juries that filed charges and one that refused to do so.

DeLay, R-Texas, was obligated to temporarily step aside as House majority leader when charged with conspiracy and money laundering in a state campaign finance investigation led by Earle. DeLay has denied any wrongdoing.

Defense attorney Dick DeGuerin said that Earle refused the subpoena delivered to his office on Tuesday, when he declined to sign a paper acknowledging its delivery. Earle countered that he voluntarily accepted it.

DeGuerin wants Earle and two of his assistants to testify, and said he would redeliver subpoenas Wednesday. Earle responded that redelivery wasn't necessary.

"It was not a properly prepared subpoena but we accepted service voluntarily anyway," the prosecutor said. He refused to say whether he would file a motion to have his subpoena dismissed.

DeGuerin also asked that grand jurors be released from their secrecy oath so they could answer questions about the prosecutor's conduct.

Earle's office said in a written statement, "Because of laws protecting grand jury secrecy, there are limitations to what we can say at this time, but we fully expect to prevail in this matter."

DeGuerin wants Earle to answer 12 questions about conversations he had with grand jurors, including whether the prosecutor became angry when a grand jury decided against an indictment of DeLay and why that decision was not publicly released.

He also wants to know the details of Earle's conversation with William Gibson, foreman of a grand jury that indicted DeLay on conspiracy charges, whose term has since ended.

"If you did nothing improper, you should not be concerned about answering these questions," DeGuerin said in his letter to Earle.

The first of three grand juries said DeLay and two political associates conspired to violate Texas election

laws; the second declined to indict, and the third accused DeLay of money laundering.

All the charges were related to allegations that corporate money was funneled to Texas legislative candidates in violation of state law.

The donations helped Republicans capture the Texas legislature, redraw congressional districts with DeLay's help and take control of the state's congressional delegation.

In a motion filed last week, the defense team said that from Sept. 29 through Oct. 3, Earle and his staff "unlawfully participated in grand jury deliberations and attempted to browbeat and coerce" the grand jury that refused to indict DeLay.

The motion said Earle then attempted to cover up and delay public disclosure of the refusal, and also "incited" the foreman of the first grand jury to violate grand jury secrecy by talking publicly about the case — in an effort to influence grand jurors still sitting.


The foreman, William Gibson, gave media interviews after the grand jury finished its work but told The Associated Press that Earle did not ask him to discuss the case.

"That's a bunch of (expletive) there," Gibson said. "That man did not talk to me."

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2,225 in for life for crimes committed as kids

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are 2,225 people serving life terms in prison without parole for crimes committed as children, most of them in a handful of states where judges don't have the discretion to impose lighter penalties.

A report being released Wednesday by Amnesty International USA and Human Rights Watch found that a surge in violent crime in the late 1980s and early 1990s led to tougher sentencing laws and a jump in the number of juveniles sent to prison for the rest of their lives.

Pennsylvania has the most such inmates (332), followed by Louisiana (317), Michigan (306) and Florida (273).

All four states have laws making life without parole mandatory for certain crimes and don't allow judges to lighten sentences.

"Kids who commit serious crimes shouldn't go scot-free," said Alison Parker, senior researcher for New York-based Human Rights Watch.

"But if they are too young to vote or

buy cigarettes, they are too young to spend the rest of their lives behind bars."

The groups say the sentence amounts to cruel and unusual punishment for criminals who may not be mature enough to grasp the consequences of their actions.

They want the United States to abolish the penalty, which is allowed in 43 states but imposed in only a handful of other countries.

Earlier this year, the Supreme Court ruled that executing juvenile killers was unconstitutional, based in part on international sentiment that youths are less culpable than adults.

Dianne Clements, president of the Houston-based Justice for All, a victims' advocacy group, said taking away life-without-parole sentences would remove a strong deterrent to crime.

"Judges don't legislate, legislative bodies do. They legislate based on the will of the people, and that will says life without parole is an appropriate punishment," she said.

According to the study, which ana-

lyzes state and federal data, 93 percent of youth offenders sentenced to life without parole were convicted of murder. Fifty-nine percent had no prior convictions and 16 percent were 15 or under, factors that in states where judges are given flexibility could result in lesser sentences.

In 1990, 2,234 children were convicted of murder, of which 2.9 percent were sentenced to life without parole.

By 2000, even though the number of youth killers had dropped to 1,006, life-without-parole sentences had increased to 9 percent of the total.

The report attributed the increase to a spike in youth crime rates that resulted in tougher state sentencing laws that were passed and more vigorously enforced in the 1990s.

Pennsylvania was among them, giving its prosecutors the power to file charges against youth offenders in adult court.

William Schulz, executive director of Amnesty International USA, said the figures show a need to give judges flexibility.

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Let Our Family ...
Take Care Of Your Family

Terror

Continued from Page 4

our one-sided support of Israel, our military presence in the Persian Gulf, and now our occupation of Iraq. They said that if we will correct those policies, they will stop attacking us.

In his recent White House remarks about Iraq, on every single occasion Bush used the word "terrorist" instead of "insurgent." The majority of people fighting

us in Iraq are not terrorists. There are some, mainly the suicide bombers, but the majority of them just oppose our occupation of their country. Attacks against an opposing army cannot be called acts of terrorism. Only attacks against civilian targets qualify as acts of terrorism, and that's true whether the civilians are killed by a suicide bomber or an American airplane or an artillery piece.

The president and his band of pro-Israel neoconservatives grossly misled the American people into a

war that, even were we to win it (and we won't), will not benefit the American people one iota. It's good to see that more and more Americans are catching on to the fact that our government was not honest with us.

It's too bad the Democratic Party is in such a sorry shape, with spineless opportunists and left-wing ideologists, that there is no good alternative party for the American people to turn to.

DeLay

Continued from Page 4

didates while soft money pays for all other expenses. But Tom DeLay stands guilty of a greater offense, one not punishable by the rule of law: He has subverted American democracy. The lower House of

Congress, intended by the framers of our Constitution to be the body that best reflects the ebbs and flows of public opinion, is no longer really democratic. (The Senate remains susceptible to national opinion swings, since even DeLay has not figured out how to gerrymander state lines.)


Tom DeLay does not deserve to be indicted. But he should be condemned for

failing to exercise that quality of restraint and deference to public opinion that is the hallmark of a leader in a democratic society. He sublimated the needs of democracy to those of partisanship. He has done his bit to make America a banana republic.

—Dick Morris was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Pet of the Week

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 55-year-old female who competes in triathlons for fun, fitness and health. I consulted my doctor because I was having foot pain. When I told him I was a runner and was preparing for a marathon race, his response was, "At your age, you could hardly call it a race." I was shocked. I repeated the insulting comment to my husband, who has never supported me in this nor attended my races. He replied, "Well, you don't actually consider yourself an athlete, do you?" I am so offended that I want to dismiss both my doctor and my husband. I just finished a race with 5,000 women. Every one of them was fabulous and serious, no matter how old or what they looked like. It was the spirit of the sport that mattered. At what age does one stop being an athlete? -- **OLDER ATHLETE, EUGENE, ORE.**

DEAR OLDER ATHLETE: When one becomes a couch potato -- perhaps like your husband. According to Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (11th Edition), an athlete is "a person who is trained or skilled in exercise, sports, or games requiring physical strength, agility or stamina." And whether your husband chooses to acknowledge it or not is beside the point. As for your doctor, I'd say his attempt at humor was demeaning, and he should practice his profession only if he's wearing a muzzle. I wouldn't blame you if you "laugh" your way to another doctor who practices preventive medicine by encouraging, and supporting, his patients' fitness regimens.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 18 years -- 13 of them unhappily. We have three teenage children. I have filed for divorce twice, but allowed my husband to talk me out of it both times -- "for the sake of the kids" and his own emotional health.

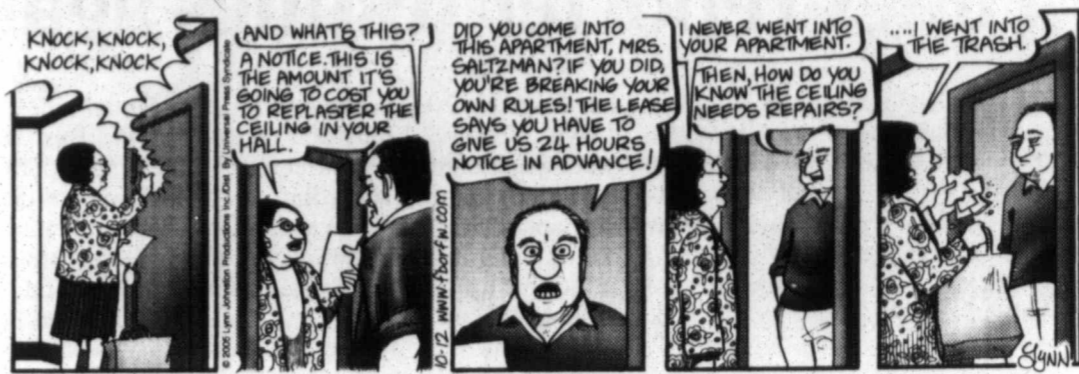
He has panic attacks and is verbally and emotionally abusive. I want this divorce more than I want to breathe. I feel I deserve some happiness, too. Please help me. I have been to counseling. My counselor agrees that I need to do this for me, but my husband will use every kind of emotional blackmail at his disposal. Any advice you can give will be greatly appreciated. -- **MISERABLE IN NORTH CAROLINA**

DEAR MISERABLE: You have paid good money to a licensed professional counselor, and have been told that for the sake of your own emotional well-being you need to move on. Don't you think it's time to follow through on the advice you paid for? If you decide to move forward, I urge you to continue with counseling during the divorce process. It will help to guilt-proof you and your children from what you know will follow. A divorce may be best for everyone concerned -- including your husband, once he eventually realizes it.

DEAR ABBY: My son, a rodeo cowboy, wants to know the proper etiquette for a groom wearing a cowboy hat during the wedding ceremony. The ceremony will take place next July in a small Methodist church in Kansas. He really wants to wear his cowboy hat. Can he? -- **SUZIE IN SMACKOVER, ARK.**

DEAR SUZIE: Hats have become a standard part of many men's wardrobes in recent years, and the rules for wearing them have become less rigid. According to "Emily Post's Etiquette" (17th Edition), "hats can be left on ... at religious services, as required." However, your son should check with the clergyman who will be officiating at the ceremony, just to be sure it's acceptable in his or her church.

For Better Or Worse



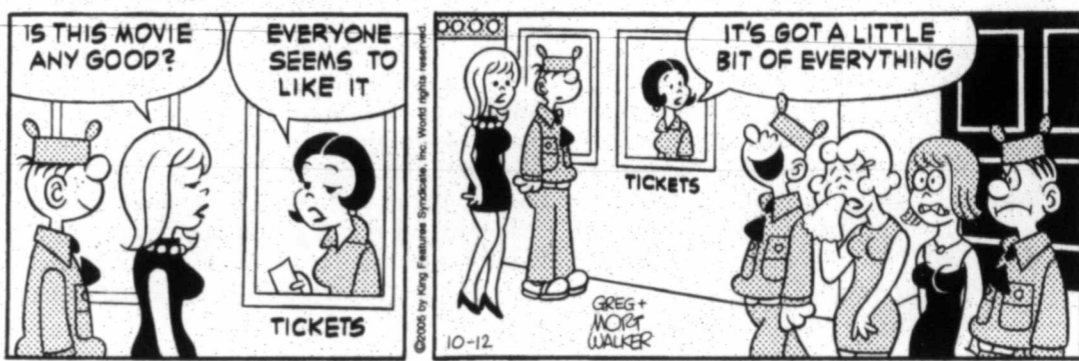
Zits



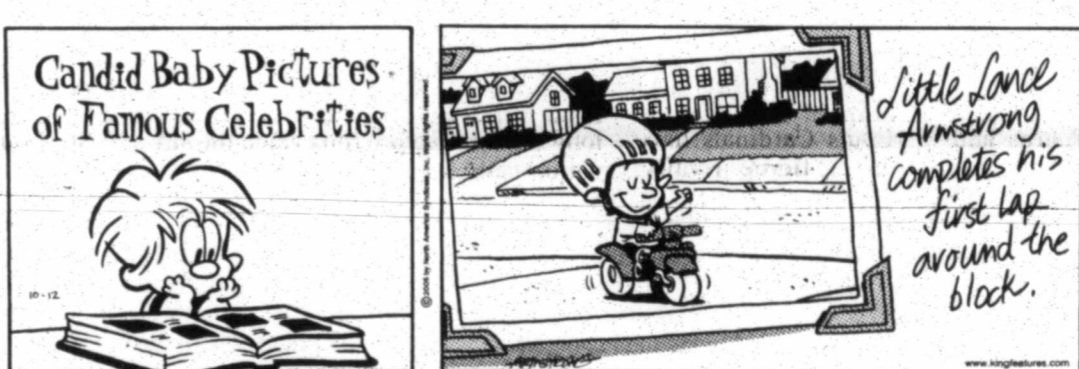
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

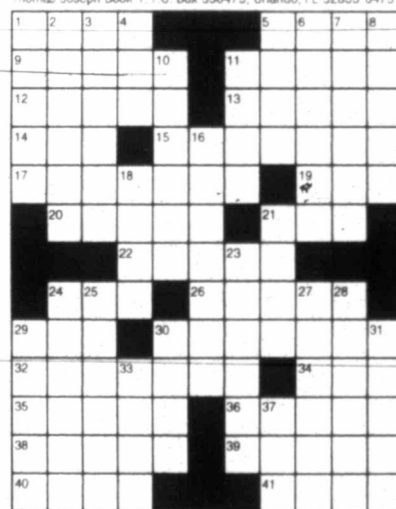
- ACROSS**
- 40 "Small-ville"
 - 1 Need name
 - 5 Still life fruit
 - 9 Cheering loudly
 - 11 Heat home
 - 12 Poet Neruda
 - 13 Set — for (try to catch)
 - 14 "I — Rock"
 - 15 Chinese pooch
 - 17 Large number
 - 19 Bound Ranch head
 - 20 Skillet
 - 22 Happen
 - 24 Cork sound
 - 26 Nada
 - 29 Ed McBain's "Death"
 - 30 Former NFL commissioner
 - 32 Area inside the 20-yard line
 - 34 TV spots
 - 35 Ready for battle
 - 36 Friend of Natty Bumpo
 - 38 Boorish
 - 39 Baseball's Satchel
- DOWN**
- 1 Bolivian city
 - 2 One of the Musketeers
 - 3 Blue hue
 - 4 — El (Superman's Krypton name)
 - 5 Core
 - 6 Enter-tainer Kitt
 - 7 Second-longest river
 - 8 Tatter
 - 10 More promising
 - 11 Primary atrics
 - 16 Distant topic
 - 18 Bound bearer
 - 21 Muppet prawn
 - 23 Scrutinize
 - 24 South Dakota capital city
 - 25 Gary of "Sid and Nancy"
 - 27 Calm
 - 28 Gen-atics
 - 29 Train
 - 30 Gang-ster's
 - 31 German steel city
 - 33 Gusto
 - 37 Glasgow denial



Yesterday's answer

- 10 More promising
- 11 Primary atrics
- 16 Distant topic
- 18 Bound bearer
- 21 Muppet prawn
- 23 Scrutinize
- 24 South Dakota capital city
- 25 Gary of "Sid and Nancy"
- 27 Calm
- 28 Gen-atics
- 29 Train
- 30 Gang-ster's
- 31 German steel city
- 33 Gusto
- 37 Glasgow denial

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Marmaduke

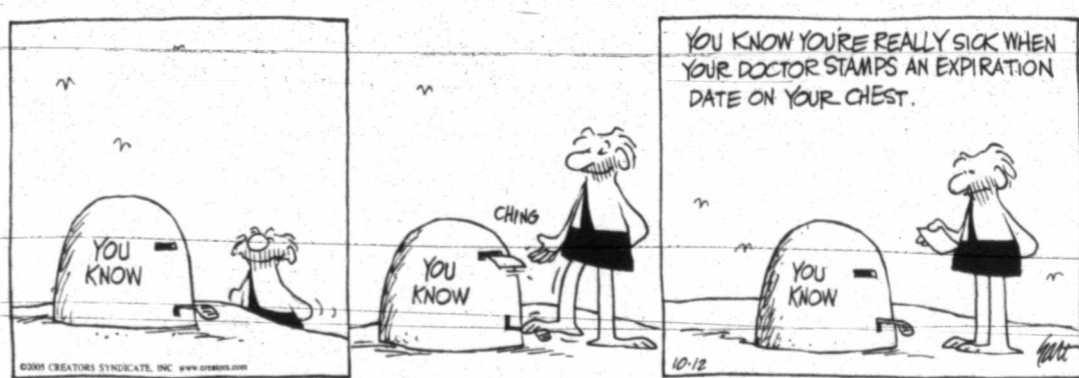


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

7th grade splits with Plainview

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Junior High School 8th grade football teams split with Plainview Tuesday. The A-team edged Plainview in a close one on the road, 14-13, while the B-team fell at home, 24-6.

A-team

Pampa scored all of its points in the first half of Tuesday's game, while Plainview got on the board late in the fourth quarter. Plainview went for a two-point-conversion near the end of the game which would have given them the win, but the attempt was thwarted by a hustling Nathan Smith who tackled the Plainview QB for a loss, sealing the Pampa win.

Alex Clendening started the Pampa scoring with a 33-yard pass to Braden Hunt for a touchdown. Gabriel Rodriguez added the extra point.

Clendening later hit Mitchell Kilgo with a 21-yard TD pass.

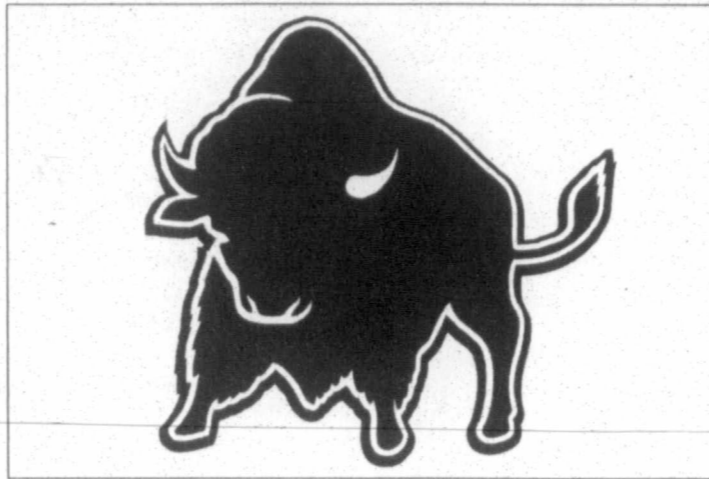
The A-team ups its record to 2-4.

B-team

Plainview proved too much for Pampa to handle Tuesday with the only scoring for the hometown team coming on an 18-yard TD pass from Anthony Allen to Zach Shaw.

Pampa 7th and 8th grade football is back on the field Tuesday against Borger.

WTAMU Midnight Madness postponed; new test program allows Friday practice



CANYON, Texas — West Texas A&M University men's and women's basketball will not be having Midnight Madness after all, as an experimental one-year NCAA rule change allows the teams to conduct a regular practice Friday and the WTAMU coaches will try it out this year. A fan-based event to tip-off basketball season will be rescheduled for early November, closer to the beginning of the season. The WTAMU basketball teams will begin practice Friday for their upcoming seasons, which begin in mid-November.

The women's season-opener is Nov. 18 at the Adams State College Classic at Alamosa, Colo., while the men open the season a day earlier on Nov. 17 at Oklahoma

Panhandle State University at Goodwell, Okla. The Lady Buffs and Buffs' home openers are on Nov. 25-26 with the SBC/Coca-Cola Thanksgiving Shootout.

The Lady Buffs finished the season with a 21-9 record, losing in the quarterfinals of the NCAA-II South Central Regional Tournament to Washburn, who went on to win the Region and the NCAA-II National Championship. WTAMU reached the 20-win plateau for the 18th season under head coach Bob Schneider, including the last three years.

The Buffs finished the season with a 16-14 overall ledger, WTAMU's 12th-straight winning season under head coach Rick Cooper and 19th-consecutive winning season overall. The Buffs came up short in their bid to win their LSC-record sixth conference crown. WTAMU was making their ninth appearance in the LSC Final, including three in the last five years, as the Buffs were due to win the conference crown according to pattern after hoisting the trophy in 2001 and 2003.

NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

No fightin' words when Cardinals and Astros get together

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Want some trash talking? Get excited about a good feud? Looking for fans who'll die the other team?

Well, you've come to the wrong series.

For all their familiarity, the Houston Astros and St. Louis Cardinals have hardly developed a fierce rivalry. Even though they're meeting again for the National League championship, relations between the teams are largely cordial.

Check out these fightin' words: "They're a good bunch of guys," Cardinals shortstop David Eckstein said. "It's hard to dislike them."

Game 1 of the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night at soon-to-be-demolished Busch Stadium, marking the first NLCS rematch since Atlanta faced Pittsburgh in 1991-92.

Clearly, this isn't Middle America's version of Yankees-Red Sox. In fact, it's not even close to being the best rivalry in the NL Central — that distinction belongs to the Cardinals-Cubs.

"That's at a different level because of the fans," Eckstein conceded. "I don't know that you'll find a

Cardinals fan who says he hates the Astros more than the Cubs."

But, when it comes to performance on the field, the Cardinals and Astros are at the top of their league. In fact, there are many similarities between the teams.

Both have deep starting rotations. Both have dominating closers. Both have versatile offenses that can go long or manufacture runs when the situation calls for it. And both are making a habit of playing in October.

"On the field, it's a classic," St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said. "We play the game the same way."

St. Louis has six playoff appearances over the past decade, reaching the NLCS four times and the World Series a year ago with a seven-game victory over the Astros — a memorable series that was overshadowed by Boston's comeback win against the Yankees in the ALCS.

The Cardinals stayed alive when Jim Edmonds hit a game-winning homer in the 12th inning of Game 6. St. Louis closed out the series by beating Roger Clemens in Game 7.

Houston is making its sixth playoff appearance in nine years and looking to reach the World Series for the first time in franchise history. The Astros made a breakthrough last year by

beating perennial nemesis Atlanta — their first postseason series victory. They knocked off the Braves in the opening round again this year, winning the final game in an 18-inning marathon.

Then again, the Astros still have some catching up to do against the Cardinals, one of baseball's most revered franchises.

St. Louis followed up last year's NL pennant — the 16th in franchise history — by going 11-5 against the Astros this season on the way to 100 wins and a runaway victory in the Central Division.

Houston finished 11 games back, but managed to pull out the wild card after falling 15 games under .500 early in the year.

"It's not really going to be a rivalry until we start beating the Cardinals a couple of times," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "When they go home mad, then it will be a rivalry. Right now, it's kind of one-sided."

But he acknowledges the parallels between the teams, right down to the makeovers both underwent since their first meeting in the NLCS, changes brought on by frail health and monetary decisions.

See WORDS, Page 8

Angels 3, White Sox 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Scot Shields was so tired he had to splash water on his face just to stay awake in the bullpen.

Hard to blame him: The Angels were playing in their third time zone in three days after yet another overnight flight. Still, they looked plenty fresh on the field thanks to Paul Byrd and a couple of reliable relievers.

Byrd pitched effectively in a pinch, Garret Anderson homered and baseball's most frequent flyers edged the Chicago White Sox 3-2 on Tuesday night in the opener of the AL championship series.

"These last 48 hours have been a blur," Los Angeles manager Mike Scioscia said. "We were fortunate to hold on."

The Angels were supposed to be more than a little jet-lagged. Sunday night, they were on the East Coast, playing the Yankees. Monday night, they were back on the West Coast, beating New York. Now, they're in the Midwest, with no off-day until Thursday.

"We're all tired from the last three days, but we put all that behind," closer

Francisco Rodriguez said. "How are you going to feel tired, especially in the playoffs?"

Seeking their first World Series berth in 46 years and first championship since 1917, the White Sox got another outstanding outing from Jose Contreras but couldn't manage much offense.

The Cuban right-hander worked into the ninth inning, but lost for the first time since Aug. 15, ending his nine-start winning streak.

Chicago had won eight in a row dating to the regular season, but fell short against a travel-weary Los Angeles team.

"As I said before the game, I don't believe they would be tired. As soon as you put a uniform on, you forget about pains," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "It was to our advantage, all the traveling stuff, but they showed us and they showed everybody that that's not the truth."

Recovering from strep throat, Jarrod Washburn is slated to pitch Game 2 of the best-of-seven series for the Angels on Wednesday night against All-Star starter Mark Buehrle.

Stars 3, Coyotes 2

DALLAS (AP) — Jussi Jokinen scored the first goal of his NHL career to break a tie late in the second period and Mike Modano added a short-handed goal midway through the third period, lifting the Dallas Stars past the Phoenix Coyotes 3-2 Tuesday night.

Dallas peppered Phoenix's rookie goaltender David LeNeveu with 11 shots in the first period, but he allowed only one goal by Antti Miettinen. The Coyotes went on the attack in the second period, tying it early on Denis Gauthier's goal.

But with 1:01 left in the second, LeNeveu was beaten by Jokinen with a shot from a sharp angle. Coach Wayne Gretzky's club couldn't recover, falling to 1-3, including 0-3 on the road.

The game turned for good midway through the third period with Phoenix on a power play. Instead of tying it, the Coyotes failed to get off a shot. In the closing seconds of the advantage, Dallas' Philippe Boucher popped the puck out to start a two-on-none chance that Modano and

Brenden Morrow executed perfectly on LeNeveu, playing his second NHL game and first on the road.

Phoenix went 0-for-6 on the power play and had just wasted 20 seconds of a 6-on-3 skating advantage when Paul Mara beat Stars goalie Marty Turco with 12.3 seconds left. The Coyotes didn't threaten again, though.

LeNeveu stopped 20 shots. Turco made 23 saves.

The goals for Jokinen and Modano provided a nice pairing of new and old for the Stars.

Jokinen, a native of Finland, has been among the top prospects in the Dallas organization for several years. He scored five goals in the preseason to solidify his spot on the roster.

After being held without a shot the first two games, he broke that barrier in the first period. His goal came on the second shot of his career.

Modano, the Stars' franchise leader in every significant scoring category, also got his first goal of the season. He added an assist on Jokinen's goal.

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MICHELLE'S MILLIONS

Wie's debut means more for her than it does for women's golf

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
Associated Press

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP) — The sports marketplace works in mysterious ways, but there is nothing mysterious about the appeal of a 6-foot-tall teen who hits a golf ball over 300 yards and wants to play against the men more than she does the women.

There's even less mystery about where the \$10 million or so in Michelle Wie's bank accounts came from: Those five swooshes she was wearing on her 16th birthday Tuesday should make that fairly obvious.

Nike clearly believes she's the female version of Tiger Woods, and will likely soon be investing even more millions in TV commercials to make sure the world believes the same thing. It worked with Woods, and there's no reason to believe it can't work with the photogenic Wie.

With all that behind her, you might think her coming out party at the Samsung World Championship this week would be a momentous event for women's golf.

It's not, but don't blame Wie for that.

The problem is, women's golf is still just women's golf. Most players on the LPGA Tour have the charisma of a 2-iron, play is often so ponderous that it's excruciating to watch and the courses are set up so easy that every

hole is a driver and wedge to the green. Wie can't do anything about that, even with Nike's help.

'It's still going to be my goal to be able to make the cut, to be able to compete in the PGA events and to one day play in the Masters.'

— Michelle Wie
LPGA Golfer

Where she will generate excitement is the same place Sorenstam managed to get noticed — playing against the men. Wie's decision to turn pro probably cost her any short term chance of playing in the Masters, but there are plenty of tournaments like the John Deere Classic more than eager to give her a sponsor invite.

Wie made it clear Tuesday that she wants to gain distance, gain consistency and challenge the best players in the world — who all happen to be men.

There's nothing sexist about that. It's just reality, one that Wie seems to understand well.

"It's still going to be my goal to be able to make the cut, to be able to compete in the PGA events and to one day play in the Masters," Wie said.

Nike is counting on just that because no matter how well Wie does on the LPGA Tour, it won't be enough.

Wie draws eyeballs, but she won't be drawing many of them on the LPGA Tour. She is not expected to join the tour until she turns 18, leaving her only eight tournaments a year to increase the visibility of women's golf. The rest of the time, Wie will be accepting sponsor exemptions to play against the men or playing in Asia.

The few LPGA tournaments she does play will likely do better, but so far Wie has proven more of a curiosity than a draw who can bring in huge crowds like Woods or boost TV ratings.

Besides, people have already seen her competing in LPGA majors as a 13-year-old, so what is more compelling about her doing the same thing at the age of 16?

Woods, in some ways, had it easier. He also had the help of the world's richest shoemaker, but he also had the PGA Tour as his stage and he used it well.

It was Nike that trumpeted Woods' arrival with the "Hello World" commercials following his pro debut in 1996.

AFCA Division III Poll

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Linfield (Ore.) (34)	4-0	993	1
2. Mount Union (Ohio) (6)	5-0	961	2
3. Rowan (N.J.)	5-0	895	4
4. Hardin-Simmons (Texas)	5-0	859	6
5. St. Johns (Minn.)	6-0	856	5
6. Ithaca (N.Y.)	5-0	759	7
7. Wis.-Whitewater	5-0	753	8
8. Occidental (Calif.)	5-0	665	9
9. Trinity (Texas)	5-0	637	10
10. Delaware Valley (Pa.)	5-0	625	11
11. Con.-Moorhead (Minn.)	5-0	555	13
12. Wis.-La Crosse	3-1	496	15
13. M. Hardin-Baylor (Texas)	3-1	435	3
14. Hobart (N.Y.)	5-0	412	17
15. Coe (Iowa)	5-0	367	20
16. St. John Fisher (N.Y.)	5-1	308	18
17. Bridgewater (Va.)	3-1	277	19
18. Johns Hopkins (Md.)	5-0	262	22
19. Wash. & Jefferson (Pa.)	5-1	250	21
20. Monmouth (Ill.)	6-0	205	25
21. North Central (Ill.)	5-0	190	NR
22. Wheaton (Ill.)	4-1	173	23
23. Thiel (Pa.)	5-0	168	NR
24. Wabash (Ind.)	5-0	122	NR
25. Carthage (Wis.)	4-1	120	12

Dropped Out (Last weeks rank): Wooster (Ohio) (15), Wis.-Stout (16), McDaniel (Md.) (24)

Others Receiving Votes: Augustana (Ill.), 110; Union (N.Y.), 97; Wesley (Md.), 86; Wis.-Stout, 47; Ferrum (Va.), 44; Salisbury (Md.), 42; Wooster (Ohio), 41; St. Olaf (Minn.), 40; Trinity (Conn.), 37; Central (Iowa), 21; Christopher Newport (Va.), 17; McDaniel (Md.), 15; Hampden-Sydney (Va.), 15; Elmhurst (Ill.), 13; Whitworth (Wash.), 11; Alma (Mich.), 10; Cortland St. (N.Y.), 4; Wis.-Oshkosh, 3; Capital (Ohio), 3; John Carroll (Ohio), 1.

AFCA Division II Poll

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Gr. Valley St. (Mich.) (15)	6-0	615	1
2. North Dakota (10)	7-0	610	2
3. Valdosta St. (Ga.)	6-1	562	3
4. Sag. Valley St. (Mich.)	6-0	547	4
5. South Dakota	7-0	530	15
6. Texas A&M-Kingsville	5-1	471	8
7. Bloomsburg (Pa.)	7-0	469	10
8. Albany St. (Ga.)	4-1	397	12
9. East Stroudsburg (Pa.)	5-1	389	14
10. West Texas A&M	7-0	362	16
11. Northwood (Mich.)	6-1	359	15
12. St. Cloud State (Minn.)	6-1	322	18
13. Washburn (Kan.)	6-1	274	25
14. Arkansas Tech	5-1	255	7
15. Tuskegee (Ala.)	5-1	251	19
16. Shepherd (W.Va.)	7-0	239	21
17. Presbyterian (S.C.)	6-1	231	23
17. North Alabama	5-1	231	22
19. Michigan Tech	5-1	190	9
20. Pittsburg St. (Kan.)	5-2	189	20
21. Northwest Missouri St.	5-2	170	15
22. Tarleton St. (Tex.)	5-1	160	24
23. Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	4-2	57	11
24. St. Augustines (N.C.)	7-0	44	—
25. Central Arkansas	5-2	33	—

Mulder ready for Game 2 after bullpen session

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark Mulder's successful bullpen session on Tuesday solidified the St. Louis Cardinals' rotation for the NL championship series.

The 16-game winner, who took a line drive off his left biceps in his division series start, was cleared to pitch in Game 2 after throwing more than 40 pitches the day before the Cardinals began their NLCS rematch against the Houston Astros.

Mulder was encouraged by his progress after throwing with less success on Monday.

"It's gotten better every day," Mulder said. "I didn't really have any complications."

Unless Mulder has a setback on Wednesday, the Cardinals will go with the same top three they used to sweep the San Diego Padres in the first round: Chris Carpenter (21-5), Mulder (16-8) and Matt Morris (14-10).

Manager Tony La Russa is counting on Mulder, a top of the rotation pitcher the Cardinals lacked in the postseason last year, to be ready.

"If he's good to go, he's the guy we want to pitch in

Game 2," La Russa said.

This year's pitching staff has been a major upgrade for the Cardinals, who won their first ERA title since 1969, and it's been especially true in the postseason. Carpenter missed last year's postseason with a biceps injury and Morris was pitching with a bum shoulder that required offseason surgery, leaving the Cardinals to open each playoff series with 11-game winner Woody Williams.

Still, La Russa made clear his affection for last year's rotation, which did get St. Louis to its first World Series since 1987 before getting swept by the Red Sox.

"I would never disrespect last year's team," La Russa said. "This is a brand new year and we have a really good shot."

Jeff Suppan (16-10), one of two starters who wasn't used in the first round, is the probable starter for Game 4 instead of Jason Marquis (13-14). Pitching coach Dave Duncan said Marquis' ability to throw on successive days was a major factor in the decision to leave him in the bullpen for now.

Words

Continued from Page 7

Albert Pujols had another huge year, but he's the only one in the St. Louis lineup to reach 100 RBIs. He had a lot more help last year, but injuries to Scott Rolen, Larry Walker and Reggie Sanders forced the Cardinals to be more creative with their offensive production.

"We do the little things," said first-year Cardinal Mark Grudzielanek, who wasn't around for last season's power display. "I've never seen so many squeezes in my life."

The pitching staff also picked up the slack. The Cardinals got a huge season from Game 1 starter Chris Carpenter (21-5) and backed him up with offseason acquisition Mark Mulder (16-8), Matt Morris (14-10) and Jeff Suppan (16-10) round out the rotation. Jason Isringhausen had 39 saves.

The 2004 Astros also featured a prolific offense, built around Carlos Beltran, Jeff Kent and the remaining "Killer B's" — Lance Berkman, Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell.

But Beltran and Kent were lost in free agency. Berkman had to come back from offseason knee injury and Bagwell is only a shell of the once-fearsome slugger, limited to pinch-hitting after shoulder surgery. Morgan Ensberg is the only Houston hitter with 100 RBIs.

Like the Cardinals, Houston's pitching helped fill the void. Wednesday starter Andy Pettitte (17-9), Roy Oswalt (20-12) and the ageless Clemens (13-8) claimed three of the top seven spots on the NL's ERA list. Brad Lidge (42 saves) is one of the game's best finishers.

Now, if they could just build up a little anger toward each other.

"It's not a rivalry of hatred. It's a rivalry of mutual respect," Berkman said. "We enjoy competing against these guys."

Getting on track



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

The Lefors track is a mosaic of patchwork, crevasses and potholes. A problem school officials intend to fix. Learn how they plan to remedy the current situation and how you can help in Sunday's Sports Day.

National Basketball Association Preseason Standings

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS					Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Denver				
Atlantic Division					Minnesota				
New Jersey	1	0	1.000	—	Portland	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	1/2	Seattle	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	1/2	Utah	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	1	.000	1	Pacific Division				
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1	L.A. Lakers	1	0	1.000	—
Southeast Division					L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	1/2
Miami	1	0	1.000	—	Phoenix	0	0	.000	1/2
Orlando	1	0	1.000	—	Golden State	0	1	.000	1
Charlotte	0	0	.000	1/2	Sacramento	0	1	.000	1
Atlanta	0	1	.000	1	Wednesday's Games				
Washington	0	1	.000	1	Utah at Toronto, 7 p.m.				
Central Division					San Antonio vs. Philadelphia at Columbia S.C., 7:30 p.m.				
Cleveland	2	0	1.000	—	Chicago at Memphis, 8 p.m.				
Detroit	1	0	1.000	1/2	Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8 p.m.				
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	1	Orlando at Houston, 8:30 p.m.				
Chicago	0	1	.000	1/2	Charlotte vs. Atlanta at Birmingham Ala., 8:30 p.m.				
Indiana	0	1	.000	1/2	Seattle at Portland, 10 p.m.				
WESTERN CONFERENCE					Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.				
Southwest Division					Golden State vs. L.A. Lakers at Honolulu, 1 a.m.				
Dallas	1	0	1.000	—	Thursday's Games				
Houston	1	0	1.000	—	Milwaukee at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.				
Memphis	0	0	.000	1/2	Washington vs. San Antonio at Salem N.C., 7:30 p.m.				
New Orleans	0	0	.000	1/2	New Jersey at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.				
San Antonio	0	1	.000	1	Utah at Indiana, 8 p.m.				

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Oct. 6, 2005:

You gain through your many different talents and assets. Maximizing your people skills comes into play this year. You have ways of making others feel comfortable. Sometimes, frustration can occur when dealing with others financially. You find that associates and partners have different goals. Agree to disagree. In some cases, you might break your financial ties. You will prosper in either case — don't worry. If you are single, your desirability is clear. The question is, What type of relationship do you want? Then decide with whom you would like to relate. If you are attached, you will need to manage your finances in a way that you both are comfortable with. You will tend to splurge but also make more money. SCORPIO can be very possessive.

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)
★★★★ Your temper could easily get the best of you, causing you to run around with your tail between your legs. Do whatever you need to do to not explode, and deal with a situation appropriately. Try as hard as you can to understand a key person. Tonight: Just say yes to another's request.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take a hint from Aries' message, because you could find yourself in a similar predicament. If dealing with an Aries, watch out; it could be quite a hot exchange. Let others reveal their thoughts. Keep judgments to yourself right now. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Focus on each project, conversation or call today. You might find yourself holding back anger. Express yourself in a way that others can hear. You might be surprised by the response you get. Tonight: Consider your negative emotions and how to clear them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your imagination clears out problems and difficult people. Though someone might be outright aggressive and difficult, your humor can help you deal with this person. Do not personalize what others are saying. Tonight: Still on a romp.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Anchor in with full knowledge of what is important to you. Communications can run amok, but you can charm your way through any hassle. Telling someone you care should be done in a very personal way. Tonight: Treat someone to some Leo hospitality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be more vested in a communication or meeting than you realize. Awkwardness merges with a haziness. You cannot be too clear or direct. Sugar goes much further than vinegar. Use your charm. Tonight: Out with a favorite person at a favorite place.

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WANTED: Class A CDL Truck Driver. Drug Screening Required. Apply in person at: West Texas Landscape 120 S. Hobart. Please No Phone Calls!

FRONT OFFICE/INSURANCE team member needed for a busy healthcare office! Only friendly, upbeat, self-starters need apply. Fax resume to (806) 665-0537

PAMPA Country Club is now taking applications for a bartender & part cook. Please pick up applications in person.

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Apply in person at 1404 Hobart. Age 16-105 year old we will hire!

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21 Help Wanted

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Westair Gas and Equipment, L.P. in Pampa, Tx. Is seeking a warehouse/inside sales person. The qualified person must be able to pass a drug test, physical and background check. He/she must be able to lift up to 70 lbs. A minimum Class B CDL is a plus, but not required for this position. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc., which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance, a great 401K plan along with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small one. If you are looking for stability and a future come join our team. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa @ 740 W. Brown or you can call 806-665-2351 for more information.

CITY OF Skellytown Sanitation Dept. is seeking full time Truck Driver. \$9.50 per hr. Employee medical benefits, retirement program. Requires: CDL, good driving record, drug test, & references. Must apply before Oct. 17th at 204-4th st., 806-848-2477.

TEXAS Rose needs Full Staff. Apply in person before 2-5 pm., ask for manager.

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21 Help Wanted

OUTREACH Health Services has an immediate opening for attendant in Pampa area. 40+ hrs, Mon.-Fri. Also opening in Lefors area, 15 hrs., Mon.-Fri. Please contact Regina Perry, 800-800-0697.

FULL Time Position Available. Must be self-motivated, dependable, good customer service skills & be able to lift 50lbs. Fork lift experience preferred. Benefits available. Pre-employment drug testing required. Apply in person @ West Texas Landscaping 120 S. Hobart

Westair Gas and Equipment, L.P. in Pampa, Tx. Is seeking a warehouse/inside sales person. The qualified person must be able to pass a drug test, physical and background check. He/she must be able to lift up to 70 lbs. A minimum Class B CDL is a plus, but not required for this position. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc., which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance, a great 401K plan along with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small one. If you are looking for stability and a future come join our team. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa @ 740 W. Brown or you can call 806-665-2351 for more information.

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21 Help Wanted

DELIVERY Driver, needed part-time. Good driving record, neat & clean. Apply HEARD-JONES.

NOW taking applications for Cook and Waitstaff. Apply in person Dos Caballeros, 1333 N. Hobart.

PAMPA Nursing Center needs RN Weekend Supervisors. Apply 1321 W. Kentucky, 669-2551.

Need LVN For 2-10 Shift McLean Care Center Call 806-779-2469 ask for Administrator Billy Ray Johnston

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Fire safety

Courtesy Photo
 In recognition of Fire Prevention Week this week, Pampa Firefighters visited St. Vincent de Paul School and talked to students about fire safety. The highlight of the visit was when the students were taken outside and given a tour of a fire truck with whistles blowing and lights flashing. Pictured are the children and firefighters.

Senate looks at stock Frist accumulated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over a period of four years, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist accumulated stock in a family founded hospital chain that produced tens of thousands of dollars in income — all outside the blind trusts he created to avoid a conflict of interest, documents show.
 The stock was held in a family partnership largely controlled by Frist's brother, Thomas, who founded HCA Inc. along with the senator's late father.
 Frist, R-Tenn., has long maintained that he could vote on health care legislation and still own HCA stock because he placed his shares in Senate-approved blind trusts.
 However, ethics experts say a partnership arrangement shown in documents obtained by The Associated Press raises serious doubts about whether the senator truly avoided a conflict.
 While there have been no allegations of impropriety in Frist's having shares outside the voluntary blind trusts, federal prosecutors and the Securities and

Exchange Commission are investigating Frist's sale of HCA stock from his blind trusts.
 Frist ordered the stock sold June 13, and all sales were completed by July 1. The value of HCA stock peaked on June 22 and then gradually declined. On July 13, it dropped 9 percent.
 Reports to the SEC showed insiders sold about 2.3 million shares of HCA stock worth at least \$112 million from January through June 2005.
 Frist has denied that he had any insider information before the stock sale and pointed out that he has not held any position in the company.
 The stock outside Frist's Senate blind trust was accumulated by a family investment partnership started by the senator's late parents and later overseen by his brother. Thomas Frist served as president of the partnership's management company and as a top officer of HCA.
 The senator's share of the partnership was placed in a Tennessee blind trust between 1998 and 2002 that was

separate from those governed by Senate ethics rules. Frist reported that Bowling Avenue Partners, made up mostly of nonpublic HCA stock, earned him \$265,495 in dividends and other income over the four years.
 Edmond M. Ianni, a former Wilmington, Del., bank executive who established blind trusts for corporate executives, questioned why the senator's brother was able to manage assets "when the whole purpose of a blind trust is to ensure lack of not only conflict of interest but appearance of conflict of interest?"
 Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, said she doesn't believe the Senate trusts or the Tennessee trust insulated Frist from a conflict because the senator or his brother was advised of transactions and could influence decisions.
 "What I find most appalling is the Senate calls it a qualified blind trust when it's not blind," Clark said.

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Miers endorsed by Gonzalez

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales asserted today that Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers would bring "a unique brand of experience" to the high court and that critics will feel comfortable when they get to know her.
 Gonzales, himself once considered a leading candidate for a vacancy there, said there is "nothing unique or earth-shattering" about Miers' nomination and said people should give her time to say who she is and what she believes.
 President Bush "has a wonderful track record" in naming judges, Gonzales, a long-time Bush aide and confidant, said in an interview on ABC's "Good Morning America." He said the Miers nomination "is consistent with that model."
 "She is a person who believes in judicial restraint, understands the proper role of a judge," Gonzales said. "She is uniquely qualified. She will bring a diversity of experience."
 "She is going to bring, in my judgment, a unique brand of experience to the court that will strengthen the court," Gonzales added when asked about criticism, much of it from conservative Republicans, that Miers lacks

legal stature for the job.
 As confirmation hearings commence, likely in November, people will have a chance to learn more about Miers, who succeeded Gonzales in the position of White House counsel, he noted.
 Gonzales said he shares Bush's confidence in Miers' confirmation prospects and predicted that the controversy will fade after people have had an "ample opportunity" to hear from her.
 He also reiterated Bush's statement that Miers was not asked to state her views on the Roe v. Wade decision giving women a constitutional right to abortion.
 "There is no litmus test at the White House," Gonzales said.
 Asked in an interview on FOX News Channel's "Fox & Friends" about criticisms of cronyism from some Democrats because of her longtime friendship with Bush, Gonzales said, "I don't think you should be disqualified from being considered for an important position simply because you have a relationship with the person making the decision on who to nominate. You have to look first at a person's qualifications."

Greenspan promotes flexibility

WASHINGTON (AP) — The country's ability to weather a surge in energy prices is the latest example of how economic flexibility helps prevent serious recessions, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said today.
 Greenspan said an environment of maximum competition has been the driving force in spurring the type of flexibility that has allowed the country to withstand a number of shocks over the past two decades with only two mild recessions.
 "The impressive performance of the U.S. economy over the past couple of decades, despite shocks that in the past would have produced marked economic contractions, offers the clearest evidence of the benefits of increased market flexibility," Greenspan said in remarks to the National Italian American Foundation.
 Wall Street investors have given Greenspan credit for the economy's good performance during this time period for his skillful han-

dling of a number of economic shocks, from the stock market crash of October 1987, just a few months after Greenspan took office, to the rate cuts he engineered during the height of the Asian currency crisis in 1998.
 While Greenspan mentioned these events in his speech, he ascribed the economy's ability to avoid steep recessions to overall market flexibility rather than good policies at the Federal Reserve.
 "Most recently, the flexibility of our market-driven economy has allowed us, thus far, to weather reasonably well the steep rise in spot and futures prices for oil and natural gas that we have experienced over the past two years," Greenspan said.
 "Although the business cycle has not disappeared, flexibility has made the economy more resilient to shocks and more stable overall during the past couple of decades," he said.
 Since Greenspan took office in August 1987, the

U.S. economy has undergone only two mild recessions, one in 1990-91 when oil prices surged after Iraq invaded Kuwait and the most recent one in 2001 when the bursting of the stock market bubble helped push the country into a downturn.
 As he did in a speech on the same topic on Sept. 27, Greenspan said it was important to understand that the long stretches of economic stability can create other problems.
 "To be sure, that stability, by fostering speculative excesses, has created some new challenges for policymakers," he said.
 While Greenspan did not elaborate, he in recent months has been warning about risks borrowers could face after an extended period of extremely low interest rates.
 "He has warned that some homeowners who used exotic interest-only loans to buy their homes could be in trouble as interest rates start rising."

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