

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
46
LOW
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See expanded weather on Page 7

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SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA NEWS

Sen. Duncan encouraged by solidarity in Austin

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Pampa's state senator said he was happy to see his constituents coming together in Austin earlier this week.

Texas Sen. Robert Duncan said that for the first time the entire region came together from his West Texas District.

"The good thing in West Texas is we really are all pretty homogenous in the things that we need," Duncan said. "We don't compete that much with each other on the basic policy issues facing the state or appropriations issues. So, it is important to

have everybody together to come here and show strong support for their legislators who are down here fighting the cause. It was a good day. I think that we will benefit from that when it comes down to the tough debates that start occurring about mid-March and end at the end of May."

Monday and Tuesday were Panhandle and South Plains Day in the Texas Legislature.

"We had folks from Amarillo, Lubbock, Brownfield, Plainview and Tulia working together," Roberts said.

Six representatives from Pampa, including officials from the city, chamber of commerce and economic development corporation, journeyed to the State Capitol to meet with state legislators.

"We had, I would say 300 to 500 people here from the Panhandle all the way down to Lamesa and Brownfield," Duncan said.

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner, part of the Pampa delegation, said there were about 500 people at the reception in the Bob Bullock Museum Monday night.

"We had planned for 500 to 600,"

Pitner said.

Wednesday was Rolling Plains Day in Austin with delegations from Wheeler, Donley, Collingsworth, Briscoe, Hall, Childress, Motley, Cottle, Foard and Hardeman Counties.

"These are folks we see a lot out in the district and folks that came here to try and press on issues that are important to West Texas, like water, public education and higher education," Duncan said. "It was great to have the gallery full of folks from home and we introduced those folks."

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KofC annual Polish sausage dinner Sunday

The Frank Keim council of the Knights of Columbus of Pampa will host their 55th annual Polish sausage dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The menu consists of Polish sausage, Polish cole slaw, red beans, potato salad, barbecue sauce, apricots, desert and tea or coffee.

The secret recipe for the Polish sausage was brought to this country from Poland more than 130 years ago by the great-grandparents of two of the council's members. The recipe is kept locked up from year to year and is only used in preparation for the annual dinner.

The Knights of Columbus do not make the sausage themselves, but it is made to their strict specifications. Several taste testings are done to ensure the proper quality of the sausage before it is served at the dinner.

The proceeds from this fund-raiser are used for the

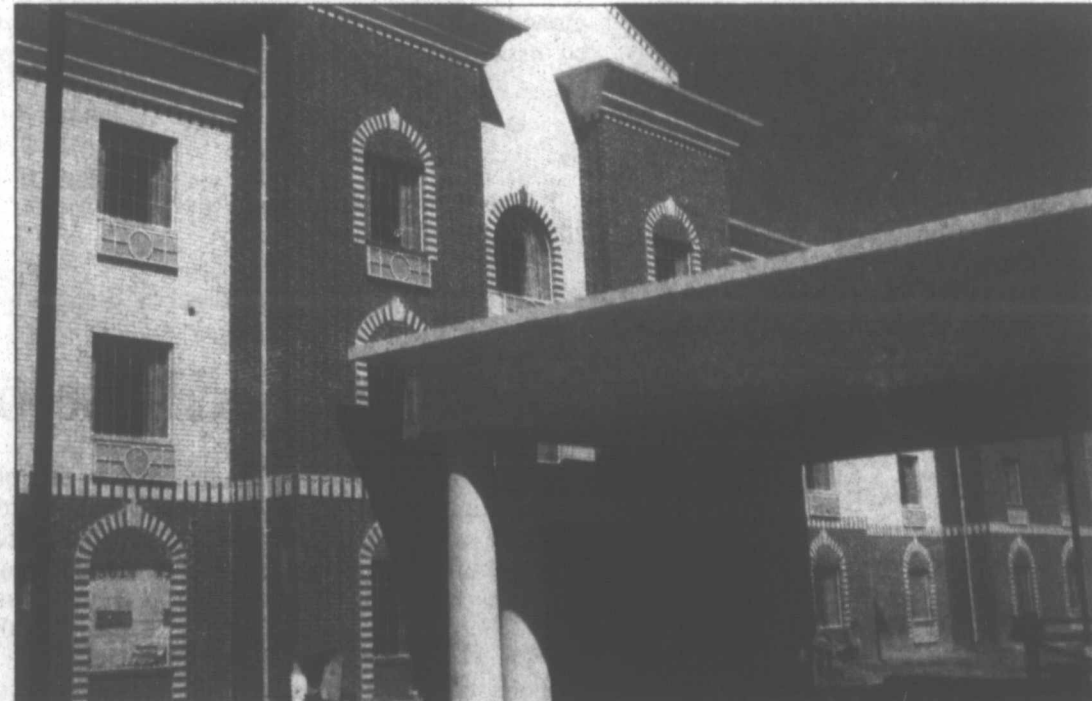
See POLISH, Page 3

Wall came tumbling down



The south wall of the new CVS building came tumbling down Thursday, but it was intentional. Ramone Ramirez, left, and Juan Ramos from Bobby Lee Construction in Dallas picked up the pieces to be hauled off. Ramirez said the concrete did not set correctly so they had to knock down the wall and start over. The outside shell should be complete in 4 to 5 days.

Opening soon



The new Holiday Inn Express just north of the hospital will open soon, according to owner Niren Patel. The three-story hotel will have 69 rooms, meeting rooms, an indoor pool and exercise room. Patel has hired about 10 people to work the front desk, maintenance and laundry areas of the hotel.

Thornberry votes against bill to deny secret votes

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry voted against a House bill that would deny workers a secret ballot in union organizing elections.

"Workers have a right to join a union or not to join a union, Thornberry said. "I certainly support that right. But, their decision should be a choice they make of their own free will, not under pressure."

Current law says, when a union seeks to organize a workplace, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) conducts a secret ballot election if the employer, the employees, or the union request one. However, under H.R. 800, a union becomes certified if the majority of a workplace's employees sign check cards.

H.R. 800 would also prohibit a secret ballot election if a majority's signatures are collected.

"The right to a secret ballot is a basic, essential right in a democracy. There is no reason this right should not be available to workers when they are deciding whether joining a union is in their best interests."

Thornberry is a supporter of H.R. 866, a bill which would guarantee union workers the right to a democratic, secret ballot election conducted by the NLRB while also prohibiting unions from using the "card check" process which can lead to worker intimidation.

If H.R. 800 makes it to his desk, a veto by President Bush is expected.




West Texas Landscape

West Stone

23rd Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and 2006 Citizen of the Year Award

March 8 • 7:00pm at the MK Brown Auditorium • Tickets are \$25 a person
For more information or for tickets call the Chamber office at 665-1063 or email to chamm@pampa.com
This year's theme is "It's a Year of New Things" • Special award to the Pampa Business Speaker • Janna Kiehl with the Amarillo Better Business Bureau • Topic • Customer Service

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday  Partly cloudy	Sunday  Sunny	Monday  Mostly sunny
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Saturday: Partly sunny, then gradually becoming sunny, with a high near 46. Wind chill values between 13 and 23 early. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 23 and 28. North-northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.
Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 64. West-northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south-southwest.
Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 36. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.
Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anebury Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	4.45
Milo	6.80
Corn	7.64
Soybeans	6.38

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

OXY	46.14	-0.37
BP PLC ADR	60.36	-0.70
Cabot Corp	44.44	+0.25
Celanese	28.37	+0.07
Cabot Oil Gas	66.88	-1.20
Coca Cola	46.58	+0.06
VLO	57.73	-0.24
HAL	31.28	-0.06
TRI	49.03	-0.08

KML	105.80	-0.02
XCEL	23.37	-0.17
Anadarko	39.66	-0.32
XOM	70.66	-0.33
Nat'l Oilwell	69.53	-0.92
Limited	26.49	-0.43
Williams	26.42	-0.47
MCD	43.90	-0.20
Atmos	31.30	-0.10
Pioneer Nat	38.54	-0.29
JCP	79.96	+0.01
COP	65.43	-0.52
SLB	63.17	-0.25
Temoco	24.14	-0.21
CVX	67.00	-0.60
Wal-Mart	48.06	+0.17
OKE	42.05	-0.11
New York Gold	665.10	
Silver	13.65	
West Texas Crude	62.00	

AAA: Retail gas up

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas motorists faced surging retail gasoline prices for the fourth week in a row, according to a survey released Friday.
 The weekly AAA Texas gas price survey found regular-grade gas prices rose an average of 13 cents to \$2.28 per gallon. The national pump price average rose 12 cents to \$2.41 per gallon.
 The most expensive gas was found in Amarillo, where regular grade rose an average of 14 cents to \$2.40 per gallon. The cheapest gas was in Corpus Christi, where it averaged \$2.20 per gallon, a 12-cent increase.
 "Retail gasoline averages in Texas are about 25 cents per gallon higher this week than what motorists were paying only a month ago," said Rose Rougeau, spokeswoman for AAA Texas. "Much of the increase at this time of year is a seasonal phenomena related to the switchover from winter to warm weather gasoline.
 Plus, the higher cost of crude at \$61 a barrel has played a role in the higher prices."
 These are average per-gallon prices of regular, self-serve gasoline in Texas metro areas and the change from last week, according to today's AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch:
 Austin-San Marcos — \$2.263, up 11.7 cents
 Amarillo — \$2.403, up 14.2 cents
 Beaumont — \$2.260, up 13.7 cents
 Corpus Christi — \$2.204, up 12 cents
 Dallas — \$2.277, up 11.6 cents
 El Paso — \$2.323, up 13.9 cents
 Fort Worth — \$2.278, up 12.1 cents
 Galveston-Texas City — \$2.273, up 14.1 cents
 Houston — \$2.256, up 12.7 cents
 San Antonio — \$2.211, up 12.6 cents
 Texarkana (Texas only) — \$2.292, up 11.9 cents

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

JOHNSON, Delbert D. — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
SATTERWHITE, Mike — Graveside services, 11 a.m., Higgins Cemetery, Higgins.

Delbert D. Johnson, 82

Delbert D. Johnson, 82, of Pampa, died March 1, 2007, at Pampa.
 Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with Pastor Bob Banks, of Bible Church of Pampa, officiating.
 Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of

Pampa.
 Mr. Johnson was born May 10, 1924, at Cromwell, Okla., and had been a Pampa resident since 1946.
 He married Aline Driggers on Nov. 23, 1946, at Vernon; she died Jan. 19, 1991.
 He was the owner and



Johnson

operator of Johnson Home Furnishings. He was a member of the Bible Church of Pampa.
 He was preceded in death by a son, Donald Johnson; a brother and sister-in-law, Phillip and Bessie Johnson; and a sister-in-law, Billie

Johnson.
 Survivors include three daughters, Linda Gauthier of Palestine, Mary Scott of Gatesville and Patty Harlan of Pampa; one brother, Robert Johnson of Little Rock, Ark.; eight grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.
 —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Mike Satterwhite, 42

RAVIA, Okla. — Graveside services for Mike Satterwhite, 42, of Ravia, Okla., will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3, 2007, at Higgins Cemetery with Gordon Lawson officiating. Burial will follow under the direction of Hughs Funeral Home of Canadian, Texas.
 Mr. Satterwhite passed away Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, in Ravia, Okla.
 Mike was born on May 24, 1964, in Canadian,

Texas, to Mr. Don Satterwhite and Mrs. Tex Carr Satterwhite. He was a 1982 graduate of Arnett High School. He moved to Ravia, Okla., in 2004 from Higgins, Texas.
 Mike worked as a farmer and ranch hand. He loved farming and ranching and was an avid collector of Die Cast Tractors and equipment. In fact, he began driving tractors at age 7.
 Mike was a member of the

Church of Christ in Higgins, Texas, where he was baptized on Nov. 7, 1976. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Carl and Madeline Satterwhite and grandfather, Elbie C. Carr.
 He is survived by his parents, Don and Tex Satterwhite of Higgins, Texas; one grandmother, Evelyn Carr Dickinson of Canadian, Texas; one sister, Donna Stubblefield and husband Randy of Pampa,

Texas; one nephew, Ty Stubblefield of Pampa, Texas; two nieces, Mandy Cross of Pampa, Texas, and Shelly Bragg of McKinney, Texas; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.
 The family suggests memorials be made to West View Boys Home, P.O. Box 553, Hollis, OK 73550-0553 or a favorite charity.
 You may send condolences online at www.hughs-funeralhome.com.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
 Eleven traffic stops were made.
 A traffic complaint was reported in the 100 block of South Cuyler.
 Accidents were reported at Highway 60 and Dwight, the 200 block of Russell and the 1200 block of Christine.
 A stolen vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of Wilcox.
 An abandoned vehicle was reported near the intersection of Barnes and McCullough.
 Calls concerning animals were received from the 800 block of Scott, two calls from the 900 block of East Frederic, the 400 block of Roberta, the 1200 block of East Browning, the 1000 block of Somerville, the 700 block of North Zimmers, the 2100 block of Lynn, the 900 block of Wilcox, the 500 block of Gillespie, the 700 block of Barnes, the 700 block of Russell, the 1700 block of Beech, the 1100 block of North Sumner and the 400 block of Elm.
 Lost property was reported in the police department lobby.
 Found property was reported near the intersection of Lincoln and Faulkner. A Ronald McDonald House charity box was found. No value was listed.
 A violation of city ordinance was reported in the 1800 block of Lynn.
 A welfare check was made in the 2800 block of Charles.
 A sex offender registration was made in the police department lobby.
 911 hang-ups were reported in the 1400 block of Williston and the 700 block of North Hobart.
 Warrant service was attempted at one location.
 A missing person was reported in

the 1400 block of Somerville.
 Suspicious persons were reported in the 100 block of Houston and in the 800 block of North Nelson.
 Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of East 17th, the 1900 block of North Banks and in the 200 block of Tignor.
 Domestic disturbances were reported in the 900 block of South Faulkner and in the 1200 block of East Foster which was a verbal dispute only with no injuries.
 Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson with minor injuries. No medical attention was needed.
 Assault - family violence was reported in the 200 block of Tignor with minor injuries. No medical attention was needed.
 Assault was reported in the 100 block of South Sumner.
 A sexual assault was reported in the 2400 block of Charles.
 A terroristic threat was reported in the 100 block of South Sumner.
 Two alarms were reported.
 Theft was reported in the 2500 block of Rosewood, in the 600 block of North Sumner where a \$1,200 diamond ring was stolen and in the 300 block of Canadian where a social security card and a W-2 form were taken.
 Theft and theft of service was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart where a wheelchair was stolen and services, having a vehicle painted, were not performed after the money had been paid. Total estimated loss for these were \$1,150.

Thursday, March 1

7 a.m. — A 1998 Mazda Familia, driven by Kristopher Carl Hammarbeck, 23, of Amarillo, and a 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe driven by Miguel Arturo Flores, 20, of 321 S. Henry, collided in the 1300 block of West Wilks. Both drivers were transported to Pampa Regional Medical Center with possible injuries. Flores was cited for no driver's license. Hammarbeck was cited for failure to maintain a single lane.
Sheriff
 Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.
Thursday, March 1
 Guillermo Leyva, 23, of Sapulpa, Okla., was arrested by GCSO for bond forfeiture-money laundering.
 Sergio Mauricio Ortiz, 22, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.
Thursday, March 1
 7:01 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to Highway 60 and Dwight on a vehicle accident.
 10:13 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Alcock on a hazardous material call.
 1:41 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Juniper on a lifting assist.
 3:18 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1200 block of South Sumner on a gas leak.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

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HELP WANTED Mon-Sat. 2am-7am. Apply before 11am Mon-Sat., Sisters Spudnut, 800 W. Foster.

Sex abuse reported at second youth jail

AUSTIN (AP) — A Texas Youth Commission investigation found that a correctional officer sexually abused three girls imprisoned at a youth jail in Brownwood, but the officer has not been charged yet, officials said.
 Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, D-Mission, alluded to reports of inmate abuse at the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Facility this week as state leaders discussed the commission's future.
 Outraged lawmakers are debating an overhaul of the commission's leadership in response to allegations of a sexual abuse coverup at the West Texas State School in Pyote.
 The agency's former executive director resigned last week. On Thursday, the TYC board followed Gov. Rick Perry's advice and hired Ed Owens, the deputy director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, as acting executive director.
 However, a committee of powerful law-

makers still planned to meet this morning to discuss senators' demands that the governor fire the board and name a conservator to oversee the agency.
 Hinojosa mentioned the Brownwood case as evidence that the Pyote case may not be isolated.
 A former inmate and former guard at the facility in Brownwood, about 120 miles northwest of Austin, say their reports of the correctional officers' suspicious behavior and sexual abuse of a teen girl went ignored by jail officials in 2003 and 2004.
 But the facility's former superintendent, Daniel P. Humeniuk, said officials conducted an investigation and ultimately turned over their findings to police.
 "On the surface, they all look bad. They all look like cover-ups," he said. "But we weren't covering up."
 Humeniuk, who retired in 2006, said the investigation was stymied in 2004 when the alleged victim refused to cooperate.

Astronaut won't face charge of attempted murder in case

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Florida prosecutors charged an astronaut today with trying to kidnap a romantic rival, but they declined to file an attempted murder charge recommended by police.

Lisa Nowak, 43, was formally charged almost a month after she was arrested at an Orlando airport parking lot.

Police have said the Houston mother of three had raced 900 miles in her car from Texas to Orlando on Feb. 5 to confront a woman she saw as a rival for another astronaut's affections. She donned a wig and trench coat, then sprayed a chemical into the woman's car when she wouldn't let Nowak in, police said.

In addition to attempted kidnapping to intent to inflict bodily harm, state prosecu-

tors charged Nowak on Friday with burglary with a weapon and battery.

A spokesman for Nowak's attorney declined to comment because he hadn't seen the charges. Nowak is free on bond with an ankle tracking device.

Nowak believed Colleen Shipman was romantically involved with Navy Cmdr. William Oefelein, a pilot during space shuttle Discovery's trip to the space station last December, according to police. After the confrontation, Shipman drove to a parking lot booth for help.

Nowak had been a top astronaut who flew on Discovery last summer and won praise for operating the shuttle's robotic arm. NASA relieved her of all mission duties after her arrest.

8 students killed when twister hits high school in Alabama

By **STEPHEN MAJORS**
Associated Press Writer

ENTERPRISE, Ala. (AP) — A violent storm system ripped apart an Alabama high school as students hunkered inside and later tore through Georgia, hitting a hospital and raising the death toll to at least 20 across the Midwest and Southeast.

Eight students died when a tornado struck Enterprise High School, Mayor Kenneth Boswell said Friday. The teenage victims were all in a wing of the school that took a direct hit as the tornado blew out the walls and roof.

"It was in a split second that we sat down and started to cover ourselves before the storm hit," said 17-year-old Kira Simpson, who lost four friends to the storm. "Glass was breaking. It was loud."

"It's like a bad dream. I have to keep reminding myself that it actually happened," she said.

As the massive storm system swept into Georgia, another tornado apparently touched down near the Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, 117 miles south of Atlanta, blowing out the windows, tossing cars into trees and killing at least two people, said Buzz Weiss of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

Doctors, nurses and volunteers had worked into the night to evacuate dozens of patients.

"It was controlled chaos," said Dr. Tim Powell, an anesthesiologist.

Six more people were killed in the town of Newton, Ga., including a child, and several homes were destroyed, Fire Chief Andy Belinc said early today.

"It's just a blessing, frankly, that we didn't have more fatalities than we did," Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue said after viewing the damage today. He declared a state of emergency in six counties, clearing the way for state aid.

The burst of tornadoes was part of a larger line of thunderstorms and snowstorms that stretched from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast. Authorities blamed tornadoes for the deaths of a 7-year-old girl in Missouri, 10 people in Alabama and nine in Georgia, and twisters also damaged homes in Kansas.

President Bush planned to visit two of the storm-damaged areas on Saturday, the White House said. The destinations were still being worked out Friday with governors in the affected states.

As the storm swept out to sea off South Carolina on Friday, the Coast Guard searched for six people on a small boat who had sent a distress call overnight saying they were taking on water.

In all, the National Weather Service received 31 reports of tornadoes Thursday from Missouri, Illinois, Alabama, Georgia

and Florida, plus a report today of a waterspout near Cartaret, N.C.

The normal peak tornado season is April and May, but weather service meteorologist Dennis Feltgen said tornadoes can occur at any time.

At Enterprise High School, officials had been watching the storm Thursday as it swept through southern Missouri and headed into Alabama. The students were preparing to leave for the day when the sirens started up and the lights went out.

Teacher Grannison Wagstaff was with them.

"I said 'Here it comes. Hit the deck,'" he told CBS's "The Early Show" Friday. "I turned around and I could actually see the tornado coming toward me."

As the students scrambled for shelter, a section of roof and a wall near 17-year-old senior Erin Garcia collapsed on her classmates.

"I was just sitting there praying the whole time," Erin said. "It sounded like a bunch of people trying to beat the wall down. People didn't know where to go. They were trying to lead us out of the building."

"I kept seeing people with blood on their faces."

Outside, debris from the school was strewn around the neighborhood, where cars were "flipped" or "tossed" atop each other. Searchers pulled the final body, a boy, from the high school's wreckage around 1:30 a.m. Friday, assistant superintendent Bob Phares said.

The mayor said officials had yet to determine where the school's students would attend classes for the rest of the year. He appeared drained as his staff and National Guard crews tried to assess the damage at dawn and search the torn-up neighborhoods for more victims.

"You take it methodically," Boswell said. "You prioritize, and you move on."

At least one other person was killed in Enterprise, a city of about 23,000 some 75 miles south of Montgomery. Another died across the state in rural Millers Ferry, where trailer homes were flipped and trees toppled, officials said.

In Sumter County, Ga., home of former President Jimmy Carter, Sumter Regional Hospital was in shambles Friday morning. Officials weren't sure whether the people injured and the two reported dead in town were inside the hospital when the storm struck, Weiss said.

Near Newton, about 50 miles to the south, Marvin Hurst was home with his wife and 31-year-old son when the storm hit and the house "exploded." Only a few sections of rear wall were left standing.

"It's just by the grace of God that we got out," Hurst said.

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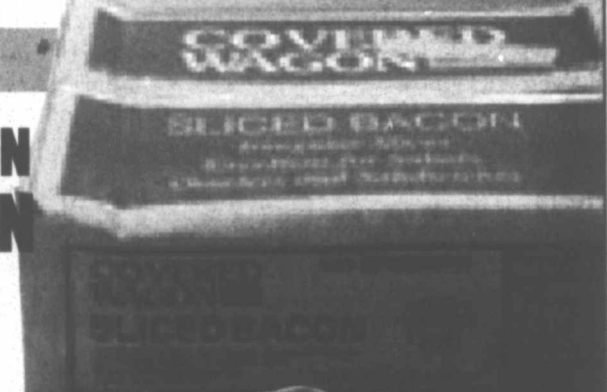
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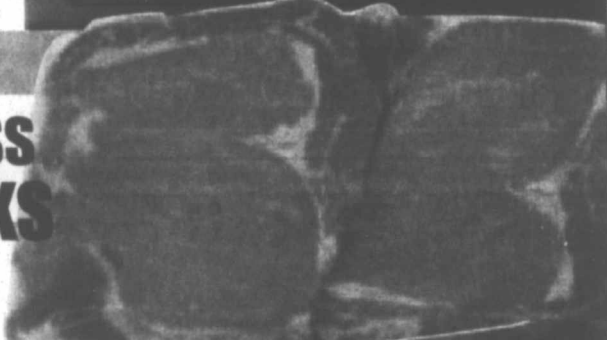
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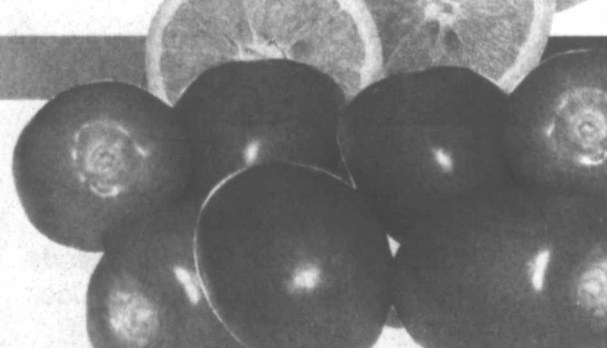
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Polish

Continued from Page 1

charitable activities, scholarships and seminarian support by the Knights of Columbus.

The dinner is at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 318 N. Cuyler.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling Wes Hukill at 665-3786 or Jim Lummus at 669-0468.

Tickets will also be available at the door for \$8 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 11.

Children under the age of 6 eat free if dining in. Take-out plates and bulk sales on all items are available.

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Viewpoints

A clever income tax scheme for all Americans

"Let me get this straight. You've developed a fool-proof scheme to dramatically reduce your taxes."

"You got it. I've been working to perfect it for a long time, but, boy, does it work."

"Get to it then."
"In the old days, I dreamed of getting rich. I started my own business and worked my tail off. It was then I learned I had silent partners."

"Silent partners?"
"Yes, the local, state and federal governments. They considered every dollar of profit a dollar of taxable income. When I realized how much my taxes were, I nearly ate my checkbook."

"But of course. When you were an employee, many taxes were hidden from you.

When you become self-employed, all those taxes became painfully visible."

"Precisely. My employer had paid half my Social Security and Medicare taxes. My employer paid my workers' compensation, health insurance and other benefits. I had no idea that the total cost of employing me was roughly 30 percent more than my salary."

"At least 30 percent."

"Now I know that Social Security and Medicare eat up 15.3 percent of my income. Add in federal, state and local taxes and my total rate is shocking. The income I earn beyond \$31,000 is taxed at 44.67 percent. Income beyond \$75,000 is taxed at 47.67 percent."

"Serves you right for being 'rich.'"

"Good one. I never understood why I was punished for making more. If I generated \$100,000 in income, for instance, the taxes I'd pay on the first \$50,000 would be roughly half as much as on the second \$50,000. The higher my income, the higher the percentage taken by my—"

Tom Purcell
Columnist



"Silent partners? That's the breaks in a progressive system."

"But why not encourage people to earn more? Why not a flat tax that rewards hard work? Then people work harder, earn more and pump more back into the economy. The economy

booms and the government gets higher receipts on lower tax rates. It's not rocket science."

"You're speaking common sense, but when did common sense ever have anything to do with America's tax code?"
"Well, I got tired of working twice as hard to keep half as much. So I stopped working hard altogether. I started working part-time. My revenue fell to half what it normally was."

"Half! That's no good."
"But it was great! I got an old car and a cheaper place to live. I spent more time at the library. Life was better than ever. And then I got an unexpected gift from my silent partners!"

"A gift!"
"Yes, a tax refund, the first I'd gotten in years. Because my income was down to half, my tax burden dropped significantly. It was then that I stumbled into my tax-reduction scheme."

"Go on."
"According to The New York Times, the top 20 percent of income earners paid 67.1 percent of all federal taxes. But families in the bottom 40 percent paid no federal income tax — yet they still received money back from the government."

"I'm listening."
"That's when it hit me. I'd worked so hard for so many years. I spent thousands on

CPAs, trying to minimize my taxes to a reasonable amount. But the key to low taxes was right under my nose all along: just earn less!"

"Very clever."
"I know it's selfish of me to earn less. I know it's bad for the economy and the government. But that is what my silent partners have encouraged me to do."

"I hate to admit it, but your ideas are oddly sensible. Where to from here?"
"I'm still perfecting my scheme, but next year I have big plans. My goal is to earn nothing!"

"Nothing?"

"We all have our dreams."
—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 2, the 61st day of 2007. There are 304 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 2, 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

On this date:

In 1793, the first president of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, was born near Lexington, Va.

In 1807, Congress outlawed the importing of slaves to the United States, effective the following year.

In 1836, the Republic of Texas formally declared its independence from Mexico.

In 1899, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state was established.

In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship as President Wilson signed the Jones-Shafroth Act.

In 1933, the motion picture "King Kong" had its world premiere in New York.

'Nothing ever really sets human nature free, but self-control.'

—Phyllis Bottome
English writer
(1884-1963)

In 1939, Roman Catholic Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was elected pope on his 63rd birthday; he took the name Pius XII.

In 1943, the World War II Battle of the Bismarck Sea began; U.S. and Australian warplanes were able to inflict heavy damage on a Japanese convoy.

In 1965, the movie version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "The Sound of Music" had its world premiere at New York's Rivoli Theater.

In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a strict code of ethics.

Ten years ago: It was revealed that Vice President Gore had raised millions of dollars for the 1996 campaign through direct telephone solicitations, and that some of the calls were made on special phones installed in government buildings for that purpose.

Five years ago: Eleven Israelis were killed in a Palestinian suicide bombing in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox neighborhood. Rioting spread as the death toll in India's religious strife reached 408.

One year ago: President Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a landmark civilian nuclear cooperation deal in New Delhi. A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-packed car into American diplomat David Foy's car in Karachi, Pakistan, killing Foy and three others. The Senate voted to renew the USA Patriot Act. "Killer nurse" Charles Cullen, who'd killed at least 29 patients, was sentenced in Somerville, N.J., to spend the rest of his life in prison.



World will be different place by summer '08

Land o' Goshen, holy mackerel and my goodness gracious, folks, but we are facing 20 months of a presidential campaign. We're going to learn more than we want to know about this large field of candidates.

Money is the problem. These candidates have to raise so much money, they probably figured that the sooner they started, the better off they would be.

Personally, I'm glad my TV got zapped by lightning. I think I'll put off getting it repaired for about 18 months.

It's useless to speculate about who's ahead this far out. One thing we all ought to start thinking about, however, is some way to take money out of the equation.

Our present system means we will have as a president the candidate with the largest satchel full of political IOUs. It also means that

the candidates will be forced to spend their time begging for money rather than thinking about ways to solve the nation's problems.

The feather I always float (columnists can't afford balloons) is to abolish the primaries.

That's what runs up the costs. Primary elections are one of those reform movements that went sour. The original idea was to let the people choose their candidates, rather than the political bosses in the proverbial smoke-filled rooms.

Well, all too often these days people don't show much interest in primaries, and far fewer people smoke. It would be much cheaper to let the political parties choose delegates to state

conventions. That way, presidential candidates would only have to campaign with the delegates rather than squandering millions of dollars in television advertising.

We might even get to the point where no candidate would have a majority by the time the national convention rolled around.

Those of you too young to have seen a national convention when the nomination is still up for grabs have missed out on what used to be one of the most exciting dramas in American politics. The present system nullifies the national convention, which has turned into a staged television production, the outcome already known before it begins.

The majority of

Americans fall into what professional campaign managers call the apathetic middle. On the other hand, there are those who love politics and play the game full time. Since they have the interest and tend to know more about the candidates and the issues, they should be the ones who choose the nominees. A state convention system would allow them to do so.

At the same time, it would be an open system. Anybody who wanted to could run for the job of delegate. This system would restore the political parties as being grassroots organizations.

The present system ends up giving us a choice between Tweedledee and Tweedledum, both the choice of the very rich in this country.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.



Charley Reese
Columnist

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Feb. 19
El Paso Times on recent airline discomforts:

After a couple of recent incidents of passengers being stuck for hours on parked airplanes, renewed demands are being heard for the airlines to adopt standards for customer service.

On Dec. 30, thunderstorms caused American Airlines and American Eagle to divert more than 100 flights bound for Dallas-Fort Worth. About 5,000 passengers were left effectively imprisoned on the planes, some for as much as eight hours.

There were accompanying horror

stories of everything from foul toilets to a flight attendant who, when an elderly woman said she was hungry, had the temerity to sell her a snack box for \$4.

More recently, this week hundreds of JetBlue passengers were trapped on their planes for as many as 11 hours during a winter storm at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. That's ridiculous.

Airlines need to realize that it's not a question of air carriers affording passengers the privilege of flying. It's a matter of passengers paying for a service, and rightfully expecting that service to be carried out in the most customer-friendly manner possible.

The airlines have a voluntary code of conduct, according to a recent

Associated Press story, that says if there are extraordinary delays, the airlines will make "reasonable efforts" to meet passenger needs. The JetBlue and American "efforts" certainly don't seem to rise to the "reasonable" level.

The time for people to be marooned on planes should be reasonable, for instance, a maximum of one hour. If it's longer than that, the plane should return to a gate or passengers should be conveyed to the terminal.

It's about time for Congress to weigh in on behalf of passengers, to hold airlines to terms of conduct when it comes to customer service.

Passengers should not be at the high-handed "mercy" of the airlines. Airlines exist for the convenience of passengers, not the other way around.

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Religion

Service to the church ...



COURTESY PHOTO

Central Baptist Church of Pampa recently honored Rick and Amy Parnell for 25 years of service with the church. Besides honoring the couple with a reception, Central Baptist gifted the Parnells with an Alaskan cruise with Bill and Gloria Gaither. Mr. Parnell joined the staff of Central Baptist as minister of education on Feb. 1, 1982. Mrs. Parnell taught for the local school district until retiring and continues to serve as church pianist at Central Baptist. Their two sons, Ryan and Kyle, both graduated from Pampa High School.

Loving enough to be mean ...

What happens in your church if one of your members has an adulterous affair? What is done concerning the gossiping slanderer in your church? What about the person who won't get a job? What about the teenager who gets drunk on the weekend? What about the adult who gets his/her second DUI or DWI?

What about the little old lady/man who uses their telephone as an instrument for spreading gossip? What about the member who cheats others in business deals? What about when either one of your young unmarried church girls, or the girlfriend of one of your young unmarried church boys, comes up pregnant? What if one of your members announces that they are gay?

Did you know that the New Testament contains a list of sins that necessitate corrective discipline by the church body on an unrepentant member? Check these verses out.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11. "I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people — not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with any who claim to be fellow believers but are sexually immoral or greedy, idolaters or slanderers, drunkards or swindlers. With such persons do not even eat."

Romans 16:17-18. "I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. 18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people."

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 10-11. "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us.

... For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: 'Anyone who is unwilling to work shall not eat.' We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such

Mike Sublett
Hi-Land Christian



people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat."

Titus 3:10-11. "Warn divisive people once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them."

Here then is the list: Sexually immoral, greedy, idolaters, slanderers, drunkards, swindlers, those who stir-up division, those who won't work and busybodies.

So what happens in your church? My prayer is that your church never faces any of these sins on the part of a member. However, it is

very likely that you have or are or will encounter one or more of these sins by a member in your church. In these difficult situations, we prove whether we are a "cheap talk" Christian/church or a "real deal" Christian/church. If we do nothing, if we do not love the brother or sister enough to confront them with their sin, then we are just a cheap talk Christian or a cheap talk church.

Now if the person genuinely repents, PTL! Then we simply forgive them and then the leadership helps develop a recovery plan, so that their reputation and influence within the congregation can be rebuilt.

But what if they claim to be a Christian and yet don't repent when confronted? The scriptures are clear: Don't associate with, do not even eat with, keep away from and have nothing to do with. Why do these seemingly mean things? To save a soul from damnation.

For more biblical information, read Matthew 18:15-20; 2 Corinthians 6; Acts 5:1-11.
God bless.

Church briefs

Calvary Assembly of God, 1030 Love, will host services with Ron Palermo March 9-11 at the church. Services will begin at 7 p.m. March 9 and 10 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. March 11.

River of Life Assembly of God Church in Skellytown will host "Oral Roberts University Worship Extraordinary Tour" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

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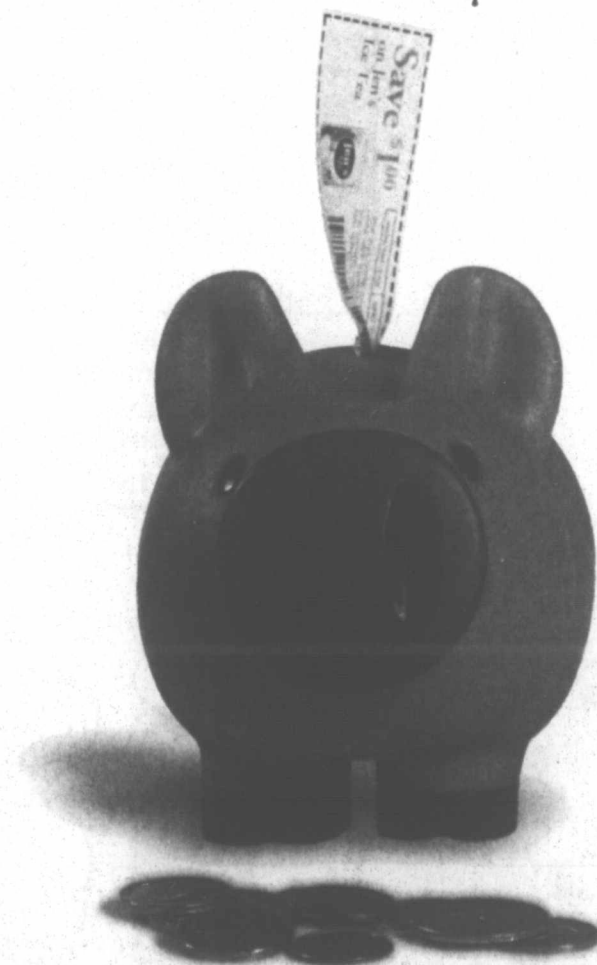
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"O God, Our Help In Ages Past"

Isaac Watts wrote this hymn in 1719 as a paraphrase of Psalm 90. It was originally called "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," but in 1738, John Wesley changed the first line from "Our God" to "O God," thinking that it would be easier to sing. During Watts' time, religious freedom was severely limited in England, and he was considered a radical churchman since he wrote many hymns that did not directly quote Bible passages. This hymn was born out of his dissatisfaction with the church music of his day which consisted of metrical psalms that were grim and ponderous.

Ref: Center for Church Music

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have a co-worker who is always picking at everyone's food. At lunch or at break time, people hurry to eat before "Sam" comes into the lunchroom because he goes around helping himself to everyone's food. He doesn't even ask permission first. People have told Sam it's all they have, but it doesn't faze him. He just finds a way to joke about it. These employees don't want to speak up because Sam is their supervisor. Sam also creates a problem for the people in the front office. He goes to the front office every day and takes the candy they set out for customers and fellow employees to enjoy. He fills his pockets full and returns to "visit" several times a day until the candy is gone. This has gone on every single day for the past three years. Human Resources refuses to get involved. How can I stop this? Sam is my co-worker and friend, and I'm the type of person who cannot hurt his feelings. How should I handle this? -- HUNGRY IN MADISON HEIGHTS, MICH.

DEAR HUNGRY: Sam's behavior is extremely inappropriate, and if he's been pigging out on everyone's candy for three years, I'm surprised his doctor hasn't told him he has to cut back on the sugar and fat. He will continue this behavior until enough people -- and that includes you -- gather the courage to tell him "NO!" firmly and consistently enough that the message gets through. As to the employees in the front office, their candy should be kept out of sight in their desk drawers and taken out and offered only to those customers and employees with whom they want to share it.

DEAR ABBY: I am currently a senior in high school and having the time of my life. But with only a couple of months until

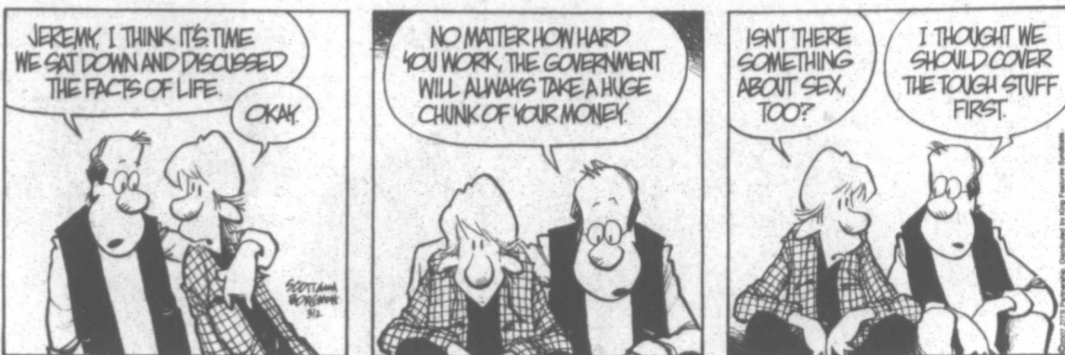
graduation, I can't get past the fact that this will soon be over, and we'll all go our separate ways. Everyone's talking about where they're going to college, and how exciting it's going to be when they get there. Everyone except me, that is. I didn't get into the schools I really wanted to go to. I'm just happy being in high school. It's all I ever think about, and I get incredibly depressed thinking, "Oh, this will be our last Easter together," or, "It sucks that this is our last high school prom." I don't want it to end, and I know the closer graduation comes the more I'm going to get freaked out about it. I try my best to make the most of every day and enjoy it while it lasts, but I'd be a liar if I said I wasn't sad about it. Am I the only one going through this? -- ERIC IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR ERIC: Of course you're not. There are big changes coming in the lives of every member of your senior class, and not everyone welcomes change without some degree of anxiety or even sadness. Please don't let these feelings ruin your present. Although you may not be attending "your college of choice," you will be meeting new people, learning new things -- and who's to say that you can't transfer to another school in your junior year if you apply yourself and do well? I am sure that if you discuss this with a trusted teacher or school counselor you will be assured that your feelings are typical of many seniors -- and excitement and challenges await you in the months and years to come. That's something to look forward to, not something to be afraid of. Trust me.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin

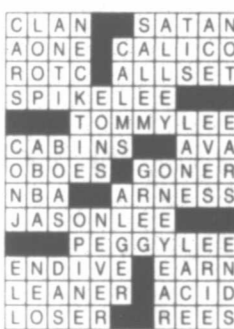


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

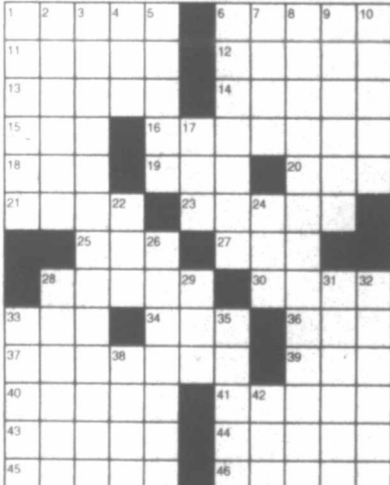
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Friend of Wendy
 - 1 Runway worker
 - 46 Like some paper output
 - 12 Like a hermit
 - 13 Locker art
 - 14 Singer Ronstadt
 - 15 Kitchen vessel
 - 16 Fancy homes
 - 18 Shade nothing
 - 19 Golf's Trevino
 - 20 Golf support flap
 - 21 Profound cat
 - 23 Invited
 - 25 Arts-funding org.
 - 27 Long swimmer
 - 28 Kick in
 - 30 Dollop
 - 33 Island gift
 - 34 Parents, informally
 - 36 Verb for you
 - 37 Settle through discussion
 - 39 Droop
 - 40 Caruso, for one
 - 41 Beside
 - 43 Fuse
 - 44 Roulette bet
- DOWN**
- 1 Did cartographer's work
 - 2 Jim Palmer
 - 3 "It was nothing"
 - 4 Outback bird
 - 5 Jacket flap
 - 6 Blue-gray cat
 - 7 Lamb's pen name
 - 8 "Mum's the word"
 - 9 Verily
 - 10 Stop
 - 17 Briny Shell-game need
 - 22 Beer game
 - 24 Bash sight
 - 26 Gauntlet maker
 - 28 Peaceful
 - 29 Greek cross
 - 31 Grove item
 - 32 Pleaded
 - 33 Beamed
 - 35 Beatles drummer
 - 38 Staff symbol
 - 42 Singer Reed



Yesterday's answer

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Sports Day

Leal rises to the occasion at state meet

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

State qualifier Richard Leal wrestled in Austin this past weekend after working his way up through tough district and regional competition.

In the first round, Leal defeated Jordan Dorris out of San Antonio McArthur, advancing to the second round.

Next, Leal wrestled Erick Spjut from the

Woodlands, and was defeated in the second period.

Spjut would go on to win the State Championship in the 119 weight class.

In the consolations, Leal took on Donovan Vanderbilt from Houston Fairbanks in a tough match-up.

Vanderbilt, who gained five of his points in the final 30 seconds when Leal was trying to throw him for

a fall, won 13-2, and went on to place 3rd in state.

"We obviously would have liked to continue winning, but sometimes you give it all you have and still fall short of your goal," coach Josh Cadenhead said.

Leal finished his senior season 35-6, his high school career with 101 wins and under 25 losses, and plans to continue wrestling in college, possi-

bly in New Mexico or Colorado.

Next month, Leal will travel to Germany to wrestle on the USA wrestling team, and will be overseas approximately seven days.

"I am very proud of Richard and all his accomplishments in his high school career," coach Cadenhead said, "He is a dedicated wrestler whose leadership will be missed next year."

JV baseball defeats Borger

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

In baseball action in Borger Thursday night, the Harvester JV defeated the Bulldogs 8-4.

Jeremy Busse pitched for 3 1/3 innings with four strikeouts, and Heath Skinner pitched for 2 1/3, also with four strikeouts.

Leading offensively, Busse brought in three runs,

followed by John Luke Covalt with two and Braden Hunt with one.

Jeremy Maxwell, Mitchell Killgo and Casey Tremble helped out by each batting in two runs.

Improving to an overall record of 2-0, the JV will play again today at 2 p.m. against Canyon at the Hereford Tournament.

Girls soccer team loses out to Caprock

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

In an important match against Caprock on Wednesday, the girls soccer team fell short of their expectations.

The game took place on the day following their tied-up match against Borger on Tuesday, so lack of recovery time played a factor in their

5-0 loss to Caprock.

The game was originally scheduled to be played last Saturday, but 65 mph winds kept most outdoor sports in the Panhandle from being played.

The girls played their defense well through most of the first half, but with 5 minutes remaining until half-time, Caprock put one in,

making the score 1-0.

Though the girls were behind, their half-time score could still be seen as an improvement, as it was 5-0 the first time they played Caprock.

In the second half, weariness kicked in for the Lady Harvesters as Caprock topped off the game with four more goals, making the

final score 5-0.

"We were just not able to do things that normally we can do because the girls were just so worn out," coach Trent Davis said, "It is very difficult in the game of soccer to play two games one day after the other."

The girls will play Canyon at 12 p.m. Saturday in Pampa.

Harvesters still have chance at playoff berth

By **JORDAN REAGAN**
Sports Editor

After defeating Borger 2-0 on Tuesday, the Harvester boys soccer team found out firsthand what it feels like to lose by 2.

The following day, the boys faced Caprock in Pampa, and were defeated 2-0.

"I'm not sure if we were dead-legged coming off the Borger game," coach Byron

May said, "But we won't get into the playoffs that way."

A playoff spot is still in the picture for the Pampa boys, as they are currently tied for the last spot with Palo Duro and Randall.

All three teams must play one another one more time in order to determine who will take the playoff spot.

The Harvesters will play again Saturday at 2 p.m. against Canyon in Pampa.

6 killed, 29 injured after bus carrying college baseball team drives off Atlanta highway ramp

ATLANTA (AP) — A charter bus carrying a college baseball team from Ohio plunged off a highway ramp early today and slammed into the pavement below, killing six people, injuring 29 and scattering sports equipment across the road, authorities said.

The bus, carrying the team from Mennonite-affiliated Bluffton University, toppled off the Northside Drive bridge onto a pickup truck on Interstate 75 shortly before dawn, police spokesman Joe Cobb said.

"It looked to me like a big slab of concrete falling down," said truck driver Danny Lloyd, 57, of Frostburg, Md. "I didn't recognize it was a bus. I think when I saw the thing coming, I think I closed my eyes and stepped on the gas."

The impact broke his windshield, pushed his truck into the concrete and wrecked the front bumper,

but Lloyd wasn't injured.

Four students, the bus driver and the bus driver's wife were killed, said police Maj. Calvin Moss.

Nineteen students — three in critical condition — were being treated at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Dr. Leon Haley said. He said all but two students were awake and talking this morning, and doctors were checking them for broken bones.

"All things considered, they are pretty calm," Haley said. "They are very aware of what's going on."

Three other injured people were taken to Piedmont Hospital, and seven were taken to Atlanta Medical Center, Haley said. Officials at the three hospitals said 28 of the 29 were college age, and the age of the other injured person could not immediately be determined.

Piedmont hospital spokeswoman Diana Lewis said the

team's coach, James Grandey, 29, was in serious condition and expected to improve.

"This is a profound and tragic day in the life of Bluffton University," school President James Harder told reporters Friday morning in Ohio.

Classes were canceled, and the school called off other sports trips that had planned during next week's spring break, Harder said. He said he had no details on the identities of those killed and injured.

"This is deeply impacting all of our students, faculty and staff. We know these people on a first-name basis," he said. "For now we're pulling together and supporting each other as best we can."

On campus, students and residents of the community filled the school's basketball gym to grieve together and learn more about what had

happened. Some wiped away tears as they came in. The university, with about 1,150 students 50 miles south of Toledo, is affiliated with the Mennonite Church USA.

The baseball team had been scheduled to play its first game of the season in Sarasota, Fla., Saturday against Eastern Mennonite College of Harrisonburg, Va., and it had eight more games scheduled in Fort Myers, Fla.

Cobb said the bus was southbound on I-75 when it crashed about 5:30 a.m. The driver may have mistaken an exit ramp for a lane, he said. It was dark at the time, but the weather was clear.

When the bus went off the bridge and landed on its side in the southbound lanes of the interstate.

Five fire trucks were at the scene as firefighters pulled crash victims through the roof of the bus. Baseball equipment bags littered the

scene after the crash, and luggage spilled from the vehicle when it was set right side up.

There was blood on the overpass near where the bus went over.

When the bus was righted, it was clear that all the windows on the driver's side had been shattered, and there was considerable damage on the front of bus and on the roof above driver's seat.

Calls Friday to the charter company, Executive Coach Luxury Travel Inc., of Ottawa, Ohio, were not immediately returned.

Bluffton University assistant football coach Steve Rogers said he was working out in the weight room with members of the football team around 6 a.m. when they saw news of the bus crash on television. When they saw the markings on the bus, "that's when reality hit everybody," he said.

"Nobody knew what to

say or what to feel," he said.

His players started calling friends on the baseball team, trying to reach some by cell phone. "It hits home harder than it would if it had happened at a bigger school. Everybody knows each other," he said.

The worst part is waiting to find out who was injured and who was killed, Rogers said.

"It's going to rock the school for awhile," Katie Barrington said Friday morning at the university bookstore.

At a chapel service the night before, students had offered a prayer for their sports teams and other students to travel safely over spring break, said Barrington, a junior from Brooklyn Heights, Ohio.

"Sometimes you take that stuff for granted," she said.

City of Pampa begins signups for softball leagues

The City of Pampa Recreation Department will offer the following leagues for Spring Softball: Men's Open, Mixed Open, Women's Open, Men's Church, Mixed Church.

All leagues are open to players age 16 and up.

The entry fees or sponsors

fees for teams are \$200 per team, per league.

The players fee is \$15.00 per player with a minimum of 11 persons for all Open Leagues, and 12 persons for all Mixed Leagues.

The entry deadline is March 14, at 5 p.m.

There will be no teams

added after this date.

Play will begin the week of March 26.

Roster forms, fact sheets and bylaws are available at the Recreation Office at City Hall Room 204 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday or may be downloaded from the

city's Web site, www.cityof-pampa.org.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Spring Softball Leagues, please contact the Recreation Office at 669-5740 during business hours.

Smyth's presence felt in two games

By **The Associated Press**

Ryan Smyth made a big impression in two games. Unfortunately, both were losses.

Lee Stempniak's power-play goal 25 seconds into overtime gave St. Louis a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over New York on Thursday night in Smyth's

debut on Long Island.

Smyth, acquired from Edmonton on Tuesday, assisted on Mike Sillinger's first-period goal, and played a key role in Marc-Andre Bergeron's second-period score. After the net was knocked off its moorings, Smyth used his skate to push it back in place just before Bergeron's shot deflected in.

"Blakey (Jason Blake) said he ran into it when he tried to stuff a shot," Smyth said. "I just tried to put it back on."

Smyth was also conspicuous by his absence in Edmonton, where the Oilers fell 5-0 to the Minnesota Wild. It was the second straight listless performance from the Oilers since essen-

tially giving up the playoff pursuit with Smyth's trade to the Islanders.

Third-string goalie Josh Harding stopped 30 shots for Minnesota, Pavol Demitra and Marian Gaborik had two goals and an assist apiece, and Branko Radivojevic also scored.



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Virginia takes ACC lead with win over Hokies and loss by North Carolina

By The Associated Press

It's been a long time since Virginia was in charge of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

With one game left in the regular season, Virginia is the surprise leader of the ACC after Sean Singletary scored 17 points and the Cavaliers beat Virginia Tech 69-56 Thursday night.

The Cavaliers (20-8, 11-4), picked to finish eighth in the preseason, wound up 8-0 in league play at their new John Paul Jones Arena and took a one-game lead over the Hokies, Boston College and No. 8 North Carolina, which lost at Georgia Tech. The Cavaliers need only

to win their regular-season finale at Wake Forest on Saturday to claim their first ACC title since 1995.

"It means we've come a long way," Singletary said of the opportunity few thought Virginia could achieve. "If we can get this win Saturday, it will just be icing on the cake."

Losing consecutive road games in the conference for the first time in three years, the eighth-ranked Tar Heels (24-6, 10-5) missed a chance to hold onto a share of first place.

"We were just so bad defensively in the first half, but I still go back and say that just because you're open

doesn't mean you make shots, and they made shots," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said. "At halftime, I felt we were extremely lucky to be down seven."

North Carolina will finish its regular season this weekend when it hosts No. 18 Duke.

"Hopefully, this will get us fired up for the Duke game," Tar Heels guard Marcus Ginyard said. "I mean, that's what everybody wants."

In the other Top 25 games, it was No. 2 UCLA 53, No. 13 Washington State 45; 85, No. 6 Memphis 78, UTEP 67; Utah State 79, No. 10 Nevada 77, OT; and

Washington 85, No. 23 Southern California 70.

Five conference tournaments were also in action.

In the Atlantic Sun's first round, it was Belmont 79, Gardner-Webb 61; Campbell 90, Jacksonville 85, OT; ETSU 77, Stetson 61; and Lipscomb 85, Mercer 49.

In the Big South semifinals, VMI beat High Point 91-81, and Winthrop topped North Carolina-Asheville 79-60.

In the Missouri Valley first round, Drake defeated Evansville 101-96 in OT, and Indiana State edged Illinois State 68-65.

In the Northeast Conference first round, it

was Central Connecticut State 79, St. Francis, N.Y. 61; Sacred Heart 100, Wagner 68; Quinnipiac 78, Fairleigh Dickinson 77; and Mount St. Mary's, Md. 78, Robert Morris 61.

In the Southern Conference quarterfinals, Davidson 78, Chattanooga 68; Furman 73, North Carolina Greensboro 71; Appalachian State 78, Western Carolina 59; and College of Charleston 77, Georgia Southern 66.

In Charlottesville, J.R. Reynolds and Mamadi Diane added 13 points each for the Cavaliers.

"Today the key was just playing hard and playing

defense more than anything," said Diane, who had managed just 10 points total in his last three games. "The offense just came."

The win provided a bit of redemption for Virginia, which was blown out 84-57 by the Hokies three weeks earlier.

Coach Dave Leitao said he shied away from the revenge angle in talking to his team and anyone else that would listen this week, but "obviously it lived in their mind-set, it lived in their spirit and they brought in a very workmanlike atmosphere today," he said.

LeBron James misses to seal win for Mavs

DALLAS (AP) — LeBron James already had zipped down the baseline and thrown down a dunk so impressive that his teammates — who've certainly seem him do some amazing things — were awed by it. He'd already twisted his way around fellow All-Star Josh Howard during a one-on-one breakaway. And he'd made 15 of his other 23 shots.

That's why it was so hard to believe how cold he turned in the final 13.7 seconds against the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night.

James missed a pair of free throws, then two 3-pointers, letting the Mavericks hang on for a 95-92 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers, extending Dallas' latest winning streak to a club-record-tying 14.

"We were fortunate enough to win it," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said.

James had 39 points, five assists and three rebounds,

plus shut down Dirk Nowitzki over the final five minutes. Cavs coach Mike Brown called it James' second-best performance of the season. James himself acknowledged it was "the best I've felt in a while."

"I wanted to be focused and our team could tell," he said. "I tried to be as aggressive as possible."

And it still wasn't enough, not against a team that's won 21 straight at home.

"They have a lot of weapons. They're definitely the favorite in the West," James said. "We played a good game, but it doesn't make me feel good because we lost. We aren't happy to just come close."

In other games, Portland routed Charlotte 127-90; and Seattle edged the Los Angeles Clippers 77-75.

In the showdown of MVP contenders James and Nowitzki, the difference between winning and losing was balance.

The Mavericks got 24

points from Nowitzki, 20 from Jason Terry and 17 from Howard, plus 10 each from Jerry Stackhouse and Erick Dampier. Even DeSagana Diop chipped in a season-high eight.

With Cleveland's second-leading scorer Larry Hughes out with the flu, James' four fellow starters combined for 22 points. That included zlich from center Zydrunas Ilgauskas in 19 minutes and 11 from Hughes' replacement, Sasha Pavlovic.

Nowitzki and Terry each scored 10 in the fourth quarter. However, Nowitzki was 0-for-3 with two fouls and a turnover, plus a 24-second violation for the team, over the final 5:11, once James got in his way.

Dallas led 92-82 with 4:08 left following a 3-pointer by Terry, but James answered with a 3 of his own. He later added a three-point play to get Cleveland within three with 41 seconds left.

After a defensive stand by the Cavaliers, James

streaked for a layup, but Nowitzki shoved him out of bounds so hard James went sprawling into the third row of seats behind the basket. Once he gathered himself, he missed both foul shots.

Cleveland got the ball back out of bounds at mid-court and James quickly put up a 3. The rebound bounced back to him and he had another chance to set up and shoot for the tie, but again came up short.

"I got good looks on both shots," James said. "I'll take those looks any day."

Dallas already had streaks of 12 and 13 wins this season, so hitting 14 seems like a natural progression. The Mavs have lost only twice since Dec. 11 and just came off a perfect February that earlier Thursday earned Nowitzki and Johnson the Western Conference player and coach of the month awards.

The bid for No. 15 comes at home Saturday night against Orlando.

Stars defeated in overtime at Florida

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Panthers no longer fear overtime.

Olli Jokinen scored a power-play goal in overtime as the Florida Panthers defeated the Dallas Stars 2-1 on Thursday night.

Jokinen's shot from the point beat Mike Smith at 2:11. It was the third consecutive overtime win for the Panthers. The Panthers, who started the season 0-13 in overtime, have been in overtime in five of their past six games.

"I was just looking for a shooting lane," Jokinen said. "I just shot for the net because I knew Marty (Gelinias) was there to screen

him and the goalie never saw anything."

Jozef Stempel also scored for Florida. Ed Belfour stopped 33 shots.

"Overall, it was one of the better games we've played," Jokinen said. "It was a solid team game. Everybody showed up. That's what we need the rest of the year if we want to go anywhere."

Darryl Sydor scored a goal for Dallas and Smith had 34 saves. The loss snapped a three-game win streak for the Stars.

"The way the team has been playing lately, I think tonight's effort is one we'd like to have back," Smith said. "I just lost sight of (the

puck) for a minute. He has a pretty hard shot."

Dallas scored its first goal at 8:59 of the third period. Sergei Zubov brought the puck down the right side. Sydor took Zubov's pass from the right circle and his shot from in front beat Belfour to tie the score at 1.

"We gave them a break on that power play in overtime," Dallas coach Dave Tippett said. "Eddie (Belfour) made some big saves but I thought (Smith) made big saves, too."

Florida took a 1-0 lead on Stempel's power-play goal at 5:38 of the second. Stempel won a faceoff and shot the puck back to

Jokinen. Jokinen passed to Jay Bouwmeester at the point. His shot deflected off the stick of Stempel in front and past Smith.

"We still have a little hope," Stempel said. "We've got nothing to lose, just go out there and try to win."

Notes:...Dallas made its first trip to Florida since the 2003 season... Stars LW Niklas Hagman played his first game against his former team. Hagman played in 263 games at Florida from 2001-2005. He was traded to the Stars on Dec. 12, 2005... Eric Lindros returned to the Dallas lineup after missing six games with a lower-back injury.

Baseball wants more information about Matthews allegations

By NANCY ARMOUR

AP National Writer

Baseball has some questions for Gary Matthews Jr., too.

Major League Baseball officials want more information on allegations the Los Angeles Angels' outfielder received human growth hormone from a pharmacy that's part of a widespread steroid investigation.

"We're looking into it," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said Thursday. "I know our people are going to contact the Albany district

attorney."

Four more people are expected to surrender in Albany, N.Y., on Monday as part of the investigation into an illicit steroid distribution network that may be responsible for Internet sales of performance-enhancing drugs nationwide. Though Matthews, former baseball star Jose Canseco and former heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield were reportedly among the customers, district attorney P. David Soares has repeatedly said physicians and distribu-

tors, not users, are his focus.

Eight people in three states already have been arrested, and as many as 24 could face felony charges by the time the investigation is over. According to court records, some of those already charged are facing multiple counts of criminal sale, attempted criminal sale and conspiracy to sell controlled substances for trying to get doctors to write prescriptions for patients they didn't see.

The other indictments remain sealed until defen-

dants appear in Albany County Court.

"My interest is in shutting down the faucet," Soares said, "and not just putting cups under the faucet catching drips."

In Orlando, Fla., where raids took place earlier this week, four defendants waived extradition. However, their attorneys requested they be released on bond, fitted with global tracking monitors and allowed to turn themselves in to New York authorities.

Orange County Judge

Mike Murphy denied the bond request but said if New York authorities did not pick up the defendants by March 8, he would reconsider bond.

Federal and state agents raided two pharmacies in Orlando on Tuesday in connection with the investigation. An Albany County grand jury also has indicted the two owners of Applied Pharmacy Services in Mobile, Ala., according to the Times Union of Albany, which first disclosed the investigation.

Matthews, Canseco and

Holyfield allegedly were on Applied Pharmacy's customer list, the Times Union said. And SI.com reported that Matthews was sent Genotropin, a brand of synthetic growth hormone, in August 2004.

The drug, which came from Applied Pharmacy, was sent to the address in Mansfield, Texas, of one of Matthews' former minor league teammates, according to the Internet site.

Matthews has declined to answer specific questions about the allegations.

Lee says new passing system will look like NFL offense

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — When David Lee was last at Arkansas, his quarterback was Matt Jones — a future NFL receiver as effective with his feet as with his arm.

Now Lee is back as the Razorbacks' new offensive coordinator, and the passing game he inherits has the same problem.

"We've got to catch up with the rest of our offense," Lee said Thursday.

Arkansas went 10-4 last season and made it to the

Southeastern Conference championship game, but the Razorbacks' quarterbacks and receivers lacked experience, and they lost their last three games. Running back Darren McFadden, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, could only do so much.

That's where Lee comes in. He was hired from the Dallas Cowboys' staff to replace the departed Gus Malzahn — and he'll be the latest coach to try to bring some much-needed balance to Arkansas' run-heavy

offense.

"I want that shot to go back to Atlanta again (for the SEC title game) with a passing game and see what happens," Lee said.

Lee returns to Arkansas for a third tour of duty — he was on the Razorbacks' staff from 1984-88 and 2001-02. He was an assistant for the last four seasons with the Cowboys.

Lee worked with quarterbacks with the Cowboys, and Dallas quarterback Tony Romo helped the team to the

playoffs last season. Lee was the quarterbacks and full-backs coach during his first stint at Arkansas, and he was the quarterbacks coach in 2001 and 2002.

The Razorbacks hired Lee in January during a tumultuous week that included Malzahn's departure to join the staff at Tulsa and freshman quarterback Mitch Mustain's release to transfer. Lee's first order of business has been to scrap the passing portion of Arkansas' playbook last season.

In its place, Lee says, will be something similar to what NFL teams use.

"If you guys ever watch pro football, that's how it's going to be," Lee said.

There are plenty of differences between college football and the pros, of course — from player time commitment to recruiting.

"Up there, we get to pick 'em," Lee said. "We don't like 'em, we cut 'em and go buy another one."

That's not an option for Arkansas, though. The

Razorbacks' roster is pretty much set for next season. There's plenty of talent on hand, but the keys to the passing game are largely unproven.

With Mustain gone, Casey Dick is the clear choice at quarterback. At receiver, Arkansas will have Marcus Monk, the school's career leader in touchdown catches. But nobody else on the team had more than 19 catches last season.

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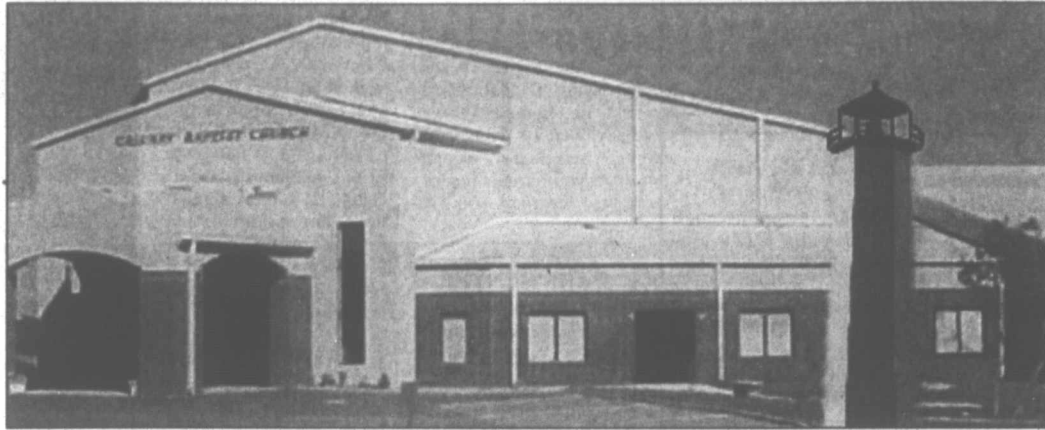
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Calvary Baptist Church

Church name: Calvary Baptist, 900 E. 23rd, 665-0842. Also known as The Lighthouse on 23rd Street.

Minister: Pastor Richard Bartel.

Services: Sunday — 8:30 a.m.
Television broadcast on cable channel 5,
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages,
10:45 a.m. morning worship service, 6
p.m. evening worship service.

Activities: Hosts one of Pampa's largest and most exciting Vacation Bible Schools with more than 200 children attending, usually in late July. Calvary also has many music programs, youth activities and camps and other activities throughout the year.

Members: 300 in attendance each Sunday.

Denomination: Southern Baptist.

How long here: Calvary just celebrated their 75th anniversary.

Goals: Just finished building "Lighthouse Park" to be used and enjoyed by Pampa residents. Considering building a family life center and activities building.

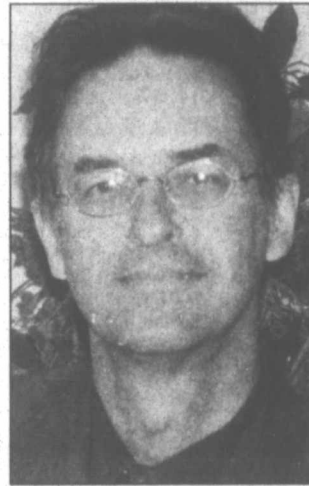
Other activities: Church operates a food pantry which provides free food to needy residents. Also operates "For Heaven's Sake Day Care," a full service child care facility open 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The church provides school supplies to needy families in August.

Main goal: To be a lighthouse to Pampa, to be a place where hurting people can seek help and strength through a relationship with Jesus Christ and to be a place where they can grow in their faith and fellowship with other believers.

Church message: Jesus Christ is the answer to eternal life and He is the solution to our everyday struggles and problems. Calvary Baptist wants to lead people to a faith in Jesus Christ.

Responsible parties: Pastor Richard Bartel, Music Minister Gary Jameson, Youth Minister Mike Laurence, Children's Director Sherry Etheredge.

Information: Calvary Baptist is a family oriented church, ready serve your entire family, ranging from small children and youth to adults of all ages. Our church has been one of the fastest growing churches in the past 15 years because of our relevant sermons which apply to everyday issues, our contemporary music and worship style and our ministries to teenagers and children. Come experience the excitement and see why lives are being changed at "The Lighthouse on 23rd Street."



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Ronnie and Randy Holmes



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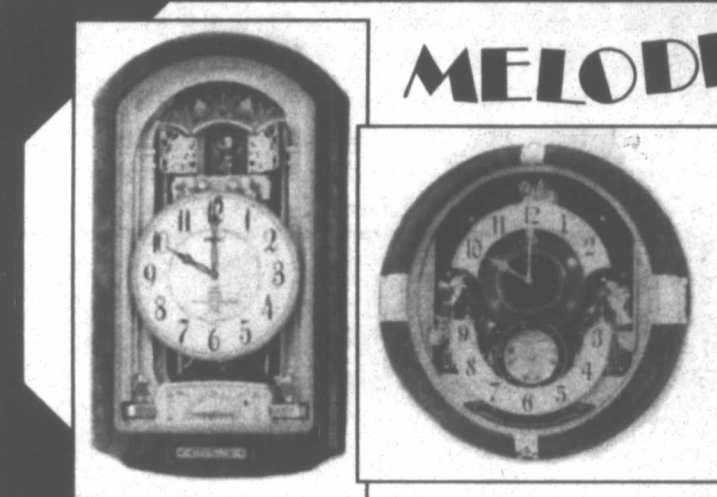


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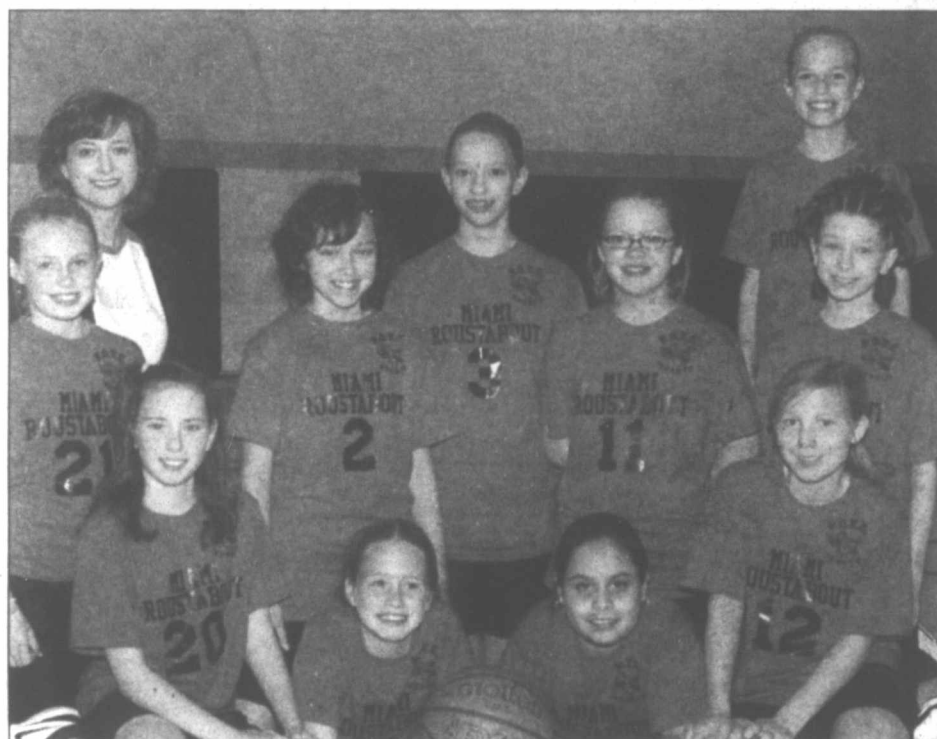
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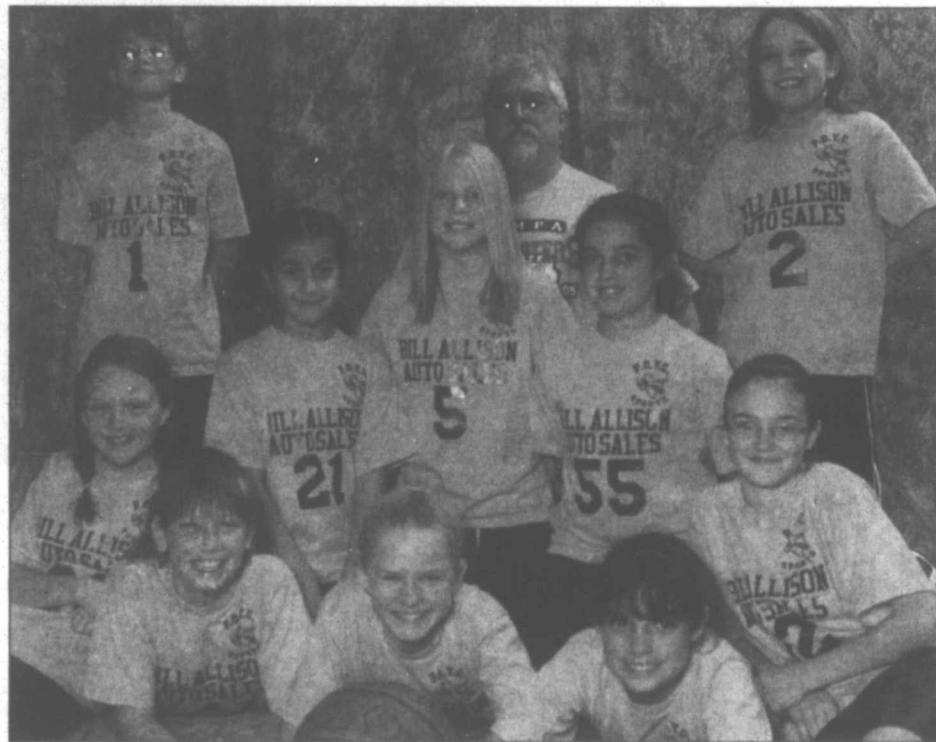
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Optimist Club News:

Registration for Pampa Optimist Baseball/Softball 2007 for boys and girls from five to 15 years of age will be held March 5, 6, 7 and 8 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Optimist Club, according to Optimist Baseball Commissioner Kevin Davis.

Tryouts and addition registration will be held March 19, 20, 21 and 22, Davis said.

"We plan to have eight different leagues this season," Davis said. "We offer T-ball for boys and girls five and six years old. The softball pitching machine league is for girls seven through nine. The baseball pitching machine age for boys is seven and eight.

"The Cal Ripken League has two divisions," Davis continued. "The nine and 10 year olds will have kids pitch from the same distances they used in the pitching machine league. The 11 and 12 year olds will compete on 70 foot base paths and a 50 foot pitching mound. We offer fast pitch softball for girls 10 to 12 and a senior league for girls 13 through 15.

"The Babe Ruth League," Davis explained, "is for boys 13 to 15 years old. They play pretty much the same rules that high schools play except we have a mandatory requirement in all leagues that everybody plays at least

two innings and a time at bat in every game."

Playing fees requested are \$40 for T-ball and pitching machine leagues, \$60 for Babe Ruth and \$50 for all other leagues. Last year more than 700 players played on 57 teams.

"We have had inquiries from Perryton, Lefors, Clarendon, Miami and other communities interested in being involved in our program this year," Davis said. "We are hoping to set up a schedule where we can play out of town teams in several leagues."

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Sure Shots!

AT

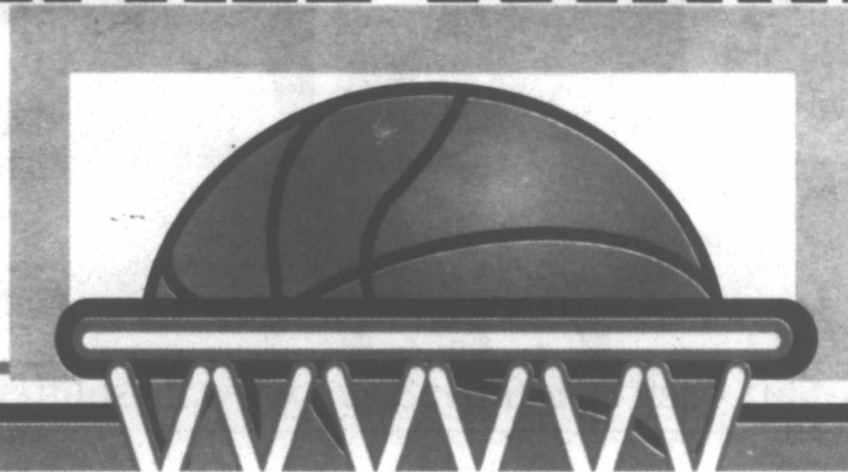
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Bino Facio - coach, Blayne Troxell, Ceygan Jameson, Justin Velasquez, Ryan Smith, Drew Facio, Dallon Poole, Corey McCarn, Cory Ponce-Nickerson, Trey Wiggins



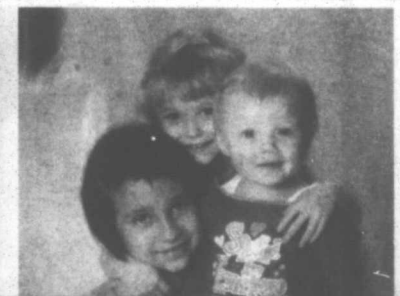
'Stangs **5th & 6th grade**

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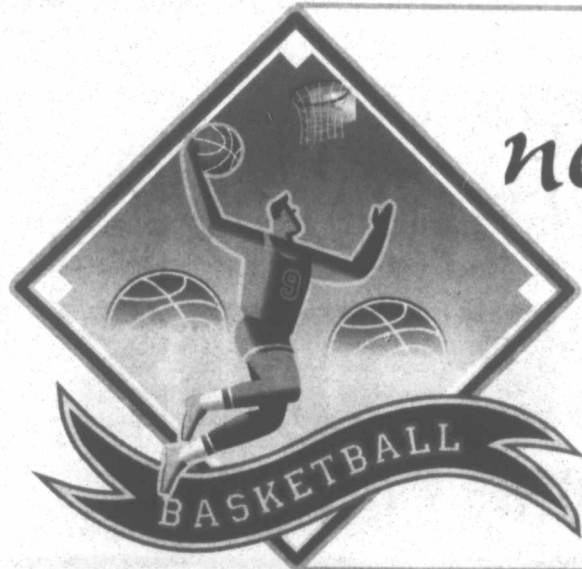
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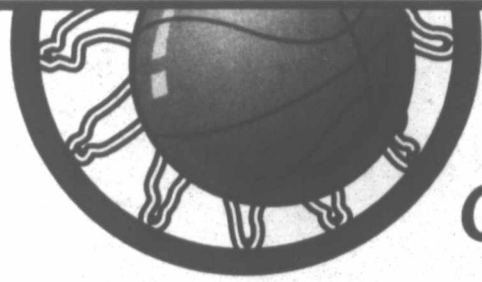
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Sonics
5th & 6th grade

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Mavericks
5th & 6th grade

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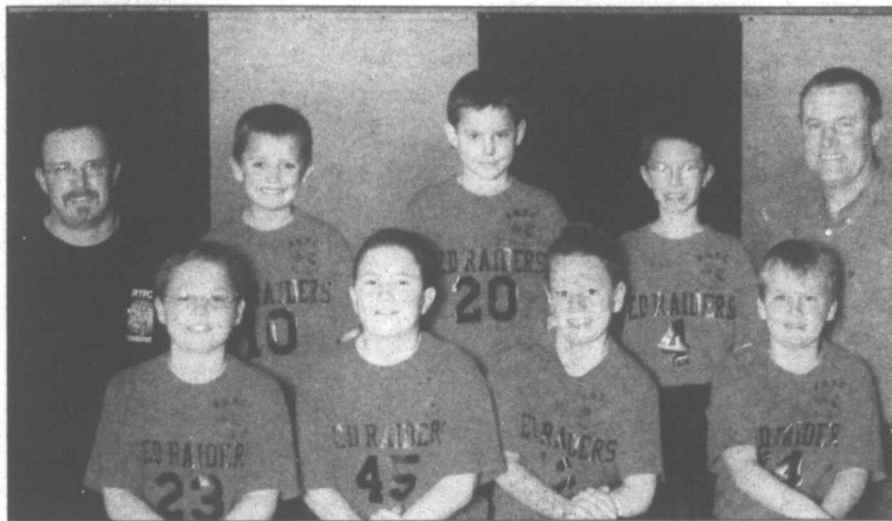
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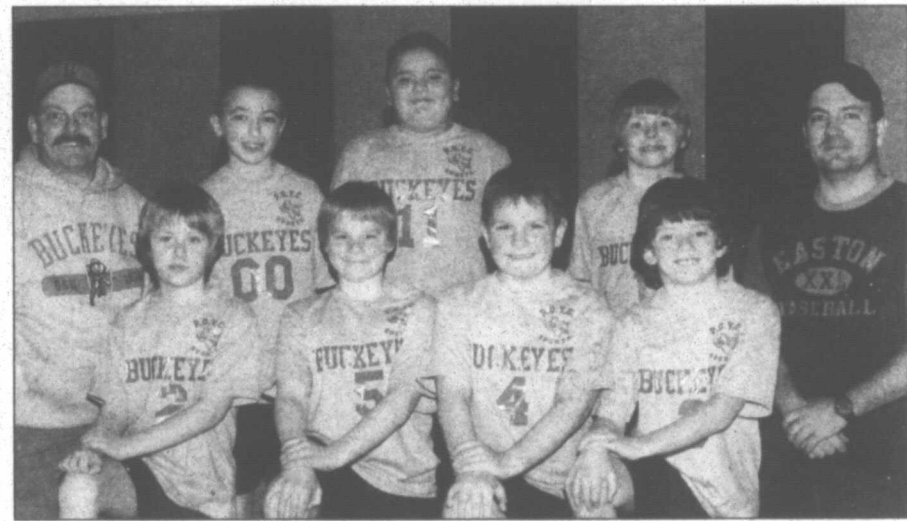


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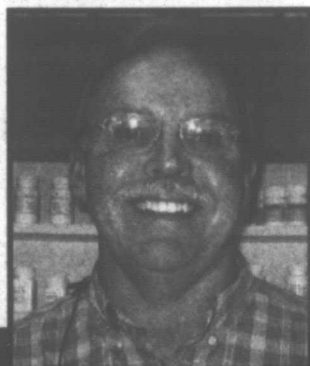
Red Raiders 3rd & 4th grade

Scott Troxell - coach, Tyler Whitson, Cody Beyer, Rhett Harden, Colton Thompson, Paden Watson, Cason Troxell, Jonathan Doyle



Buckeyes 3rd & 4th grade

Guy Green - coach, Austin Miranda, Landon Taylor, J.C. Allen, Solan Wilson, Cade Engle, Jordan Green, Derrick Maxwell



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Cowboys

3rd & 4th grade

Harry Fisher - coach, Ashton Robison, Yancie McCuiston, Josh DeLoach, Colton Jefferis, Aaron McKinney, Alec Hendricks, Zach Beedy



Aggies

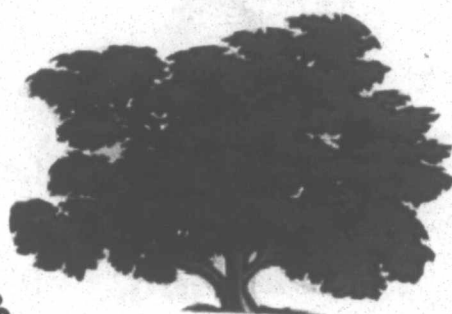
3rd & 4th grade

Joe Mechelay - coach, David O'Rear, Michael Mechelay, Jacob Brown, Nathan Furgason, Bryson Burrell, Chase Cree, Andrew Smith

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HOOP



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