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See expanded weather on Page 2

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### Pet owners should check animals after food recall

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Pet owners should be on alert by a recent precautionary pet food recall by Menu Foods, which makes pet food for 17 of the top 20 North American retailers. The recalled food is limited to "cuts and gravy" style food in cans and pouches manufactured between Dec. 3, 2006, and March 6, 2007.

These foods may have contributed to the deaths of 10 animals, nine cats and one dog, due to kidney failure.

This company received several complaints from consumers that their animals got sick and died as a result of eating their product. Although that has not been substantiated, Menu Foods decided to recall the foods due to these deaths coinciding with the introduction of an ingredient from a new supplier that was used in the manufacturing process. The ingredient is wheat gluten, which is apparently used for protein.

Pampa Veterinarian Ron Easley

said he has no confirmed local cases of illness or kidney failure due to animals eating these products.

"We do not have all the pieces of the puzzle yet, so this problem is still in its early stage," Easley said. "If anyone has a pet that has an unexplained illness, they should take that animal to the clinic immediately. To check for kidney problems, we can take blood and urine and if it is caught early enough, this may be treatable."

Easley gave the symptoms of kid-

ney failure in animals as loss of appetite, increased water intake, frequent urination, lethargy, possible vomiting and oral ulcers.

He also said that his office had received a fax from the lams Company saying they would pay for a diagnostic work-up on an animal that is possibly sick from their food. But every time his office has tried to call and ask questions regarding the fax, the line has been busy.

See FOOD, Page 3



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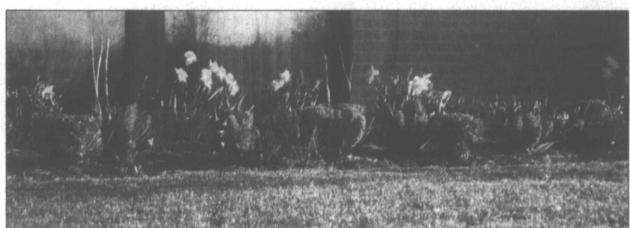
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Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH

Today is the first day of spring and signs are visible all over town. Bradford pear trees located downtown display their white blossoms. Colorful flowers adorn the dental office of Dr. William Buck on West 28th Street.



### First day of spring wakes up colors of Mother Nature

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Today is the first day spring and signs are popping up all around town. Bradford pear trees are filled with while blossoms, bright yellow daffodils are blooming and the weather is warming up and rain is in the forecast this week.

The occurrence of the vernal equinox is what technically signifies the start of spring, typically falling on March 20 or

According to Wikipedia, the word "equinox" comes from Latin meaning "equal nights." On this date, sunrise and sunset are about 12 hours apart everywhere on Earth. This is due to the sun being directly above the equator and spending an equal amount of time above and below the horizon at every location on

For everyone on the Earth, the sunrise is at 6 a.m. and sunset at 6 p.m. If this happens at a different time, it is because of different time zones used by different

This occurrence is also known by different names other than vernal equinox. Some refer to it as spring equinox, March equinox, first point of Aries, Pisces equinox and also Northward equinox.

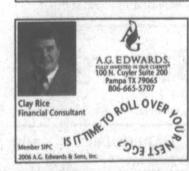
The sun is not moving, the Earth is the object actually moving. As Earth revolves around the sun, the top half, called the Northern Hemisphere, becomes tilted more toward the sun as winter turns to

See SPRING, Page 3

### Tralee training class rescheduled

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By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

A series of training classes sponsored by Tralee Crisis Center has been rescheduled to begin April 9, with registration due by April The training was originally scheduled to

run March 19 through May 28. The sessions

are for anyone wishing to volunteer to help

victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. Newly-trained volunteers will have a choice of duties, said Lyn Ledbetter, a staff member at the center. Volunteers are needed to make direct contact with victims, work in

move large items. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, and must provide three references.

the office, work in the resale store, work in

the warehouse, make household repairs and

Classes will meet from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. once each week during the training period. Training will be provided by Tralee staff and by representatives of law enforcement, the judiciary system and the medical profession.

Interested individuals may register by calling 669-1131 or by sending their name, address and telephone number to Tralee Crisis Center, P.O. Box 2880, Pampa, TX 79066-2880. Each applicant will be provided with a registration form to be completed and returned by April 6.

Tralee Crisis Center serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Gray, Carson, Childress, Collingsworth, Donley, Hemphill, Roberts and Wheeler counties. Volunteers work in their county of residence, although they may request another county in which to volunteer, Ledbetter

### **PISD** to meet Thursday

By KERRI SMITH Staff Writer

Independent Pampa School District will hold a regular board meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday to discuss and possibly approve polirevisions on an extracurricular contract, bids for fall sports equipment and canceling the May 12 school board election order.

The board will discuss and possibly approve policy revisions to employment practices in regard to educator term contracts.

They will also consider making changes to policies on class rankings, admissions and students' rights and responsibilities.

The student code of conduct may have changes and additions added to it if the board votes to approve them. An extracurricular contract and an amendment regarding fighting and bullying may be added.

Bids for football, volleyball and cross country sup-

See PISD, Page 3



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#### NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday

Friday









Partly cloudy

Partly cloudy Partly cloudy

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 70. Northnorthwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of rain and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Rain and thunderstorms likely. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60

Saturday: A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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### Actor's dad dies in prison

DENVER (AP) — Actor Woody Harrelson's father, Charles Harrelson, died in the Supermax federal prison where he was serving two life sentences for the murder of a federal judge in Texas, officials said today.

Charles Harrelson, 69, was found unresponsive in his cell on March 15 and apparently died of natural causes, said Felicia Ponce, a Bureau of Prisons spokeswoman in Washington.

Ponce did not know the cause of death. Fremont County Coroner Dorothy Twellman did not immediately return a call.

Charles Harrelson was

Wood Jr. outside his San Antohio home. Prosecutors said a drug dealer hired him to kill Wood because he did not want the judge to preside at his upcoming trial.

Charles Harrelson denied the killing, saying he was in Dallas, 270 miles away, when Wood was killed.

He was transferred to Supermax, the highest-security federal prison, after attempting to break out of an Atlanta federal prison in

Other inmates Supermax, about 90 miles south of Denver, include Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, Oklahoma City bombing Park bomber Eric Rudolph.

### **Obituaries**

Barbara Floyd Davis, 52, of Pampa, died March 21, 2007, at Amarillo. Services pending are with Carmichael-Whatley

Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Davis was born March 7, 1955, at Pampa, to Roy and Elsie Floyd. She married Scotty Davis on Nov. 4, 1978, in Wheeler mother,

County. worked for Texas Department Criminal Justice Baten Unit for 11 years.

Mrs. Davis was a Methodist. She was preced-

ed in death by her



Davis

**Barbara Floyd Davis, 52** Hartman Floyd.

Survivors include her hus-Scotty band, of the Davis, home; her father, Roy Floyd of Pampa; a stepson, Darrell Davis of Dallas; and a Terry brother,

Glenn Floyd of Amarillo. MEMORIALS: Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center, 1500 Wallace Blvd.,

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Amarillo, TX 79106 -Sign the online regisbook www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

### **Dennis Wayne Taylor, 53**

Dennis Wayne Taylor, 53, of Pampa, died March 21, 2007, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

6, 1953, at Pampa. He was employed by Sullins Plumbing Crall and Products.

Mr. Taylor was preceded Mr. Taylor, a graduate of is death by his parents, Pampa High, was born July Gordon and Opal Taylor; a

brother, Gordon Earl Taylor; and a sister, Vickie Taylor. Survivors include his step-

Pampa; and a sister, Kathy Schiffman of White Deer.

**MEMORIALS:** A favorite

-Sign the online regisbook ter mother, Margaret Taylor of www.carmichaelwhatley.com.

### **Emergency Services**

#### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Six traffic stops were made. One traffic stop in the 900 block of South Hobart resulted in an arrest for unlawful transport of persons for pecuniary benefit.

A traffic complaint was received from the intersection of Alcock and

Hobart streets. Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1300 block of West Somerville, the police department lobby and the

1900 block of Duncan.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of Magnolia, the 1000 block of Fisher, the 300 block of South Gillespie, the 2400 block of Mary Ellen, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill, the 1800 block of North Faulkner, the 300 block of Jean, the 2200 block of North Wells, the 2100 block of Mary Ellen, the 900 block of East Twiford and the 1200 block

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Highways 60 and A civil matter was reported in the

police department lobby. One suicide attempt was reported. Warrant service was attempted on

one occasion, and resulted in at least three arrests. A suspicious person call was

Kingsmill. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of Duncan.

received from the 500 block of East

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson, the 1600 block of North Christine, the 1000 block of South Wells and the 1600 block of West Kentucky.

Harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North Russell and the 700 block of North Frost.

Harassment and terroristic threats

were reported in the police department lobby.

Assault was reported in the 800 block of East Kingsmill, the 1200 block of Darby and at One Medical

Sexual assault was reported in the police department lobby.

One burglar alarm was reported. Fraud was reported in the 1000 block of East Scott.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of South Nelson. A bicycle valued at \$200 was taken.

Theft was reported at Wal-Mart Supercenter, 2801 Charles. An assortment of items with total estimated value of \$66.02 were taken. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of Duncan. Nothing was taken in connection with the incident.

#### Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today. Tuesday, March 20

Edrey Molina Picazo, 23, of Canton, N.C., was arrested in the 900 block of South Hobart by Pampa Police Department for unauthorized transportation of persons for pecuniary benefit.

Sammy Devron Laury, 33, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Oklahoma by PPD for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana, evading arrest/detention and occupying a residence without water.

Nathan Williams, 29, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Oklahoma by PPD for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana, possession of more than one gram but less than four grams of a consubstance, trolled arrest/detention and occupying a residence without water.

Aaron Samuel Lewis, 27, of Amarillo was arrested in the 500

block of Oklahoma by PPD for possession of less than two ounces of marijuana, possession of more than one gram but less than five grams of a controlled substance, evading arrest/detention and occupying a residence without water.

#### Fire

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

Tuesday, March 20

3:13 p.m. – One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of 19th and Duncan on a vehicle accident that involved a hazard material spill.

#### **Ambulance**

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Tuesday, March 20

7:22 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of West Somerville and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

12:16 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Perry LeFors Field.

6:01 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Veterans Administration Medical Center in Amarillo.

7:39 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Highway 70 about seven miles north of McLean and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

11:55 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to University Medical Center in Lubbock.

Wednesday, March 21 5:29 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to

### House committee approves proposed \$150.1 billion

House budget-writing committee approved a proposed \$150.1 billion state spending plan for the coming two years today, much of it accounting for growth in public educa-

AUSTIN (AP) — The tion and health and human services.

The budget proposal now moves to the full House, where it's expected to be debated late next week. Then the Senate gets its crack at it.

Committee voted 24-2 in favor of the bill.

"We passed a good budget," said Republican Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa, chairman of the committee. "We're proud of what we

Rep. Sylvester Turner, a Houston Democrat, after voicing concerns about a children's health insurance funding bill of his that hasn't yet been approved, was present at the appropriations meeting but did not vote on the spend-

The House Appropriations simply cannot do it," Turner said.

> In total, the spending plan includes state money and federal money allotted to Texas. The state general revenue portion of the \$150.1 billion proposal amounts to \$75.5 billion.

The overall proposal represents a 3.8 percent increase over the \$144.7 budget for the 2006-07 biennium. The 2008-09 proposed spending amount does not include \$14 billion for school property tax cuts, approved as part of a school funding plan last year. That's "With all due respect, I included in another bill.

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### Raid nets drugs, stolen property; 3 arrested

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

A quantity of marijuana, money, crack cocaine and stolen property was found during a drug raid conducted Tuesday night that resulted in three arrests by Pampa Police Department.

Members of the department's Special Response Team, as well as other officers and the Precinct 2 constable, executed a search warrant at 544 Oklahoma at 9:09 p.m. Tuesday. Upon their arrival, three occupants of the house attempted to evade the officers but were apprehended.

Approximately \$2,000 in cash, more than one gram of crack cocaine and an undetermined quantity of marijuana were found by officers in the residence.

"The cash is believed to be the proceeds from sales of illegal drugs," said PPD Assistant Chief Dennis Burton.

Sammy Devron Laury, 33, and Nathan Williams, 29, both of Pampa, and Aaron Jamel Lewis, 27, of Amarillo were arrested and booked



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS This house at 544 Oklahoma was the scene of a

Three arrests made by a

deputy over a three-hour

period beginning late

Monday and ending early

Tuesday were made in the

area of the house at 533

Oklahoma, Burton said.

Those three persons were

each charged with posses-

sion of more than one gram

County sheriff's

the past."

Gray

drug raid Tuesday night that netted a quantity of drugs, cash, stolen items and three arrests. into Gray County Jail at where multiple search warrants have been conducted in

about 9:30 p.m. Each was charged with evading arrest/detention, occupying a residence without water, and possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. Williams and Lewis were also charged with possession of more than one gram but less than four grams of a controlled substance, a felony offense.

"The investigation was

initiated by citizen combut less than four grams of a plaints," Burton said. "This controlled substance. is a known drug house, "Other arrests have been made in the area for the same type of offense in the last few weeks," Burton said.

"Narcotics officers are taking steps to have nuisance abatement procedures done concerning the house. They are working with the county attorney's office," Burton said. "We hope to have the house demolished so it can't be used as a drug house anymore."

Two other individuals at the house at the time of the search warrant were not charged with any offenses.

"The investigation is continuing, and other arrests are anticipated," Burton said. Williams is reportedly the

owner of the house, he said. All three remained in jail as of press time in lieu of bond. Laury's total bond was set at \$5,000, Williams' at \$8,000 and Lewis' at \$9,500,

according to jail records. "We appreciate the input from the public. If they have more information concerning narcotics, they can call the police department at 669-5700 or Crime Stoppers at 669-2222," Burton said.

troversy, standing by embat-

Alberto Gonzales and insist-

ing that the firings were

appropriate. White House

spokesman Tony Snow said

that in offering aides to talk

to the committees privately,

Bush had sought to avoid the

would result from public

hearings with Rove and oth-

"The question they've got

to ask themselves is, are you

more interested in a political

spectacle than getting the

truth?" Snow said of the

overture Tuesday that was

relayed to Capitol Hill by White House counsel Fred

"media spectacle"

ers at the witness table.

General

that

Attorney

### **COP CORNER**

A year ago Gray County was recovering from a wildfire that consumed around 500,000 acres of land. This year it was raining on that anniversary.

As a first responder and a member of the Gray County Emergency management team, I feel it my duty to get everyone thinking about the weather

We have already had one, possibly two tornados touch down in the county. Neither did any damage.

We have witnessed the destruction wrought by tornados in the past few weeks and the grief they have caused. Start planning what you are going to do in the event of threatening weather.

Get a few essential supplies together, a couple of jugs of water, candles, and the like. (Just a few things to tide you over if the power is out a day or two.) Find that one interior place



Courtney

in your home that will afford you protection against flying debris, which seems to be the biggest cause of death from tornados.

arrangements Make with friends and neighbors that have underground shelters to sit out the storm with them. Above all, don't believe that "it" can't happen to you. I will always remember that big black funnel - June 8, 1995.

Cop Corner is provided Police Pampa Department and Lt. Fred Courtney.

## House panel approves subpoenas for top Bush aides

**By LAURIE KELLMAN** Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -A House panel today approved subpoenas for President Bush's political adviser, Karl Rove and other

top White House aides, set- tive law decided to compel ting up a constitutional showdown over the firings of eight federal prosecutors.

By voice vote, the House Judiciary subcommittee on commercial and administrathe president's top aides to testify publicly and under oath about their roles in the firings.

The White House has

refused to budge in the con-

www.menufoods.com/recal 1. Brands are listed and if clicked, the actual packaging information will be list-

the phone number set up by Foods, 1-866-895-Menu

Fielding.

"There must be accountability," countered subcommittee Chairwoman Linda Sanchez, D-Calif.

The Senate Judiciary Committee scheduled a vote Thursday on its own set of subpoenas, with Democrats complaining that the threat of force is the only way to get a straight answer from the White House.

"The White House is in a bunker mentality - won't listen, won't change," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "I believe there is even more to come out, and I think it's our duty to bring it the subject.

The House subcommittee today approved, but has not issued, subpoenas for Rove, former White House Counsel Harriet Miers, their deputies and Kyle Sampson, Gonzales' chief of staff, who resigned over the uproar last week.

The panel also voted to compel the production of documents related to the firings from those officials and Gonzales, Fielding and White House chief of staff Joshua Bolton. Fielding a day earlier refused to provide Congress internal White House communications on

### Food

Continued from Page 1

A few of the cat foods recalled are Eukanuba, Iams, Loving Meals, Nutriplan, Nutro Max, Science Diet Feline Savory

Cuts, Sophistacat and Special Kitty. A few of the dog foods

recalled are Companion, Hill Country Fare, Mighty Dog Pouch, Nutro Natural choice, Ol' Roy, Pet Essentials and Presidents Choice. For a complete list of

recalled products, go to the

Web

ed as well.

For more information call

Continued from Page 1

spring. The bottom half, known as the Southern Hemisphere, becomes tilted away from the sun.

The beginning of spring for people in the United States is the beginning of autumn for people in Australia and the southern parts of Africa and South America.

Folk tales from various European countries claim that on the day of the vernal

believe that the pull of gravity is more equal on this day because the sun is directly overhead, but there is no scientific evidence of this.

According to the Web site www.wxdude.com, the egg legend apparently got its start in 1945 when a reporter for Life Magazine wrote a story about a Chinese ritual in which people stood eggs on end on the first day of spring, which they observed in early February.

In 1983, approximately

equinox, one can balance an together on March 20 to egg on its end. Some balance eggs and an article about the event appeared in the New Yorker magazine. One year later, 5,000 New Yorkers repeated the tradition on the first day of spring and the egg legend

This Web site is quoted as saying, "The truth is that if you can get a raw egg to balance upright on the vernal equinox, you can get it to balance any other day of the year ... so don't spread this unscientific rumor or you'll end up with egg of

100 New Yorkers got

your face."

## **PISD**

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Continued from Page 1

plies and equipment have been received. Board members will discuss and possibly approve the bids as presented.

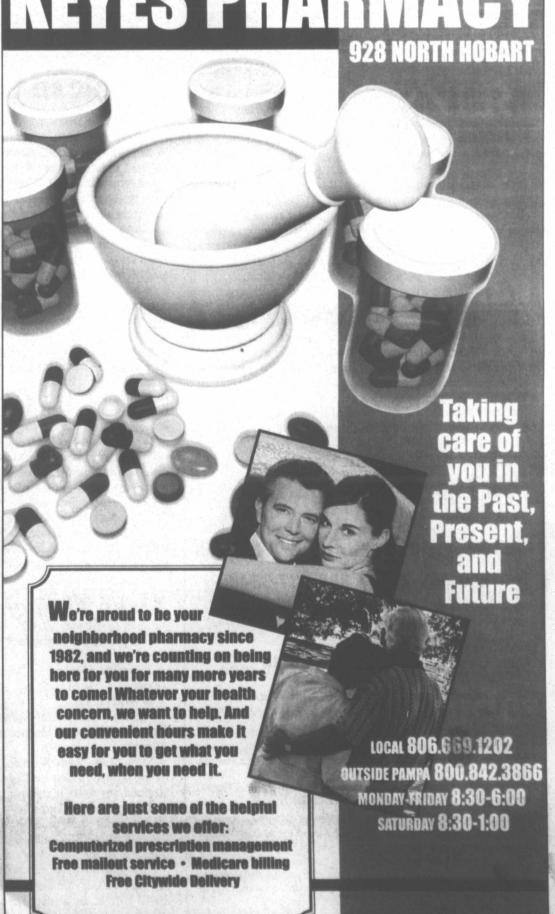
cellation of the May 12 school board election order. This is due to only one candidate filing in each posihold an election.

In Place 6, Joe Martinez re-filed for his position and

Also on the agenda is an was unopposed. Mark action calling for the can- McVay filed for Place 7, after Greg Brown did not seek re-election. McVay is also unopposed.

The board meeting will tion, so it is not necessary to be held at Lamar 1234 Elementary, Nelson.





# Viewpoints

# Making sense: Who hates America?

If you believe the media hateful country? and the cry-baby left, the entire world hates the United States of America. I don't believe that. The reality of it is they don't hate us; they just love our money and wish they could get their hands on more of it. That's all the rest of the world ever cared about.

Sure, a lot of the French hate America, but they hate every nation that isn't France.

Lefties across the globe hate America because they are insanely jealous of our prosperity and our standard of living, but they are not anything like a majority.

Ask yourself this: If America is so hateful, why does half the world want to come here to live in such a

If you really want to know who really hates America don't look abroad. Look right here in the United States for the real hate-America crowd, look at the left-wing crazies who run the Democrat party.

Think about it. America is at war. Tens of thousands of Americans in the armed forces are fighting that war, and more than 3,000 of them gave their lives battling the terrorists sworn to destroy this nation.

Yet aside from Osama bin Laden and his crew of merciless killers, the people most dedicated to seeing the United States defeated in a battle for the future of the world are the liberal Democrats now feebly trying to run the Congress.

You really have to hate America and its people to lust after the defeat of your own country.

Sure, they don't come right out and say it. They cover their tracks by calling a headlong

Michael

Reagan

Columnist

and

shameful dash for the exits "redeployment, their way

of saying

cut and run. They say they fully support our troops, while they mutter about cutting the funding for them and leaving them defenseless far away from home.

winning the war in Iraq

begins to take hold, they Medical Center charging refuse to recognize any of the signs of progress. Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid and the despicable John Murtha announce to the nation that we are losing the war, and moreover, can't possibly win

> You really have to a t e America to stand on the sidelines, root for an

umph and do everything you can to make sure we lose a

If you want to know who really hates America look at the Democrats who jumped As the new strategy for on the media bandwagon to attack Walter Reed Army

that they have not given good medical care to our wounded troops coming back from a Iraq when they are fully aware that these wounded heroes received the finest medical care ever given to anyone, soldier or civilian, in the entire history of the world.

Thousands of wounded members of our armed forces who would have died of their wounds in previous wars are alive today as a result of the medical care available at Walter Reed and other armed services hospi-

But what do we hear from the likes of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid? Praise for the great care the Army and Navy have provided for the

wounded and disabled? No. Instead we hear allega-

tions that slyly suggest that the conditions in substandard living quarters are in actuality symptoms of poor medical care being given to our troops. That's a flat-out lie, and you have to hate America to tell it.

The fact of the matter is that those veterans forced to live in substandard quarters and receiving extraordinary medical care were victims, not of the Army, but of the federal bureaucracy which operates under rules and restrictions dictated by the Congress when it was under the control of the Democrats.

Moreover it was the Congress which allowed

See **REAGAN**, Page 5

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### Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 21, the 80th day of 2007. There are 285 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 21, 1685, composer Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany.

On this date:

In 1804, the French civil code, or the "Code Napoleon" as it was later called, was adopted.

In 1806, Mexican statesman Benito Juarez was born in Oaxaca

In 1907, U.S. Marines arrived in Honduras to protect American lives and interests in the wake of political vio-

> Never lose your temper with the press or the public is a major rule of political life."

Dame Christabel Pankhurst English suffragist (1880-1958)

In 1946, the United Nations set up temporary headquarters at Hunter College in New York.

In 1957, President Eisenhower and Prime British Minister Harold Macmillan began a four-day conference in Bermuda.

In 1960, some 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on demonstra-

In 1965, more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

In 1979, the Egyptian Parliament unanimously approved a peace treaty with Israel.

In 1985, police in Langa, South Africa, opened fire on blacks marching to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville shootings, killing at least 21 demonstrators.

Ten years ago: President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin wrapped up their summit in Helsinki, Finland, still deadlocked over NATO expansion, but able to agree on slashing nuclear weapons arsenals. A suicide bomber blew himself up in Tel Aviv, killing three Israeli women.

Five years ago: President Bush began a four-day trip to Latin America. Marjorie Knoller, whose two huge dogs had mauled neighbor Diane Whipple to death in their San Francisco apartment building, was convicted in Los Angeles of second-degree murder; her husband, Robert Noel, was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter. (A judge later threw out the murder conviction against Knoller, replacing it with manslaughter, but the murder conviction was reinstated by an appeals court.) Alexei Yagudin won the men's title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Nagano, Japan.



### People in the skunk works know what's going on

How is it that it took ans. What a laugh that is. reporters from The Washington Post to discover the bad conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center? The answer is simple. The reporters didn't go there for a photo opportunity. They went to look, to ask questions and to listen to patients and their families.

Here was a bad situation ments. sitting right under the eyes and noses of the president, the vice president, the presidential candidates, Congress, congressional committees and their overblown staffs, and yet they all profess they didn't know about it.

Well, of course they didn't. In the first place, they only went there for publicity purposes. In short, they weren't really interested in finding out anything. They were interested in demonstrating to the media that they "cared" about the veter-

You'll never find out anything negative if you have your staff phone ahead and say: "Mr. Bigshot wants to visit some of your patients on such and such a day at such and such an hour. Please

make the arrange-Charley Reese Anybody who was Columnist ever in the Army

knows what happens when inspections are pre-announced. There is an abnormal cleanup in preparation for it.

When Harry Truman was in the Senate during World War II, he drove to defense plants in his secondhand car, unannounced, and talked to workers long before their bosses knew he was in town. Truman, one of America's great public servants, was

personal publicity. The bosses couldn't get away with burying him under puffery because he already knew what the problems were before he asked his first question.

I'd say

prob-

one of the safest bets in the world is that similems exist

other Veterans Affairs facilities. Already the Bush administration plans to cut \$2 billion from the VA budget. The VA has long been treated like an unwelcome cousin in Washington. The standard procedure not only in the U.S. but in every country is to welcome the warriors home then, after the parade, forget about them.

American government per se is not a bad institution,

interested in the truth, not in much less an evil one. But the problems of government are always in the details. Congress can conceive of a good program and fund it. The problems will arise in its administration. It's never enough to have a sound strategy and tactics. You have to have sound execution. People down in the skunk works have to do their jobs correctly.

Most of our politicians have such an elevated view of themselves these days that they think it's beneath their dignity to go into the skunk works and talk to the people actually doing the labor. They prefer to talk to the generals or to the top civilian officials.

It didn't take me any time as a young reporter to realize that public officials, unless they were stupid, were never going to tell me anything that wasn't in their self-

See REESE, Page 5

### THE PAMPA NEWS

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### Texas Thoughts.

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

March 12

Austin American-Statesman on amends from the House for insured drivers:

State Rep. John Smithee, chairman of the House Insurance Committee, has stepped up with legislation to protect Texas motorists who file a legitimate claim under their auto policy against losses inflicted by uninsured motorists but face an insurer reluctant to pay.

Smithee, R-Amarillo, isn't proposing any radical change in House Bill 2013. In fact, he's just trying to restore the law as it was practiced until late last

Scheduled for a hearing today before Smithee's committee, the bill is necessary because of a Texas Supreme Court decision on Dec. 22. The Brainard decision, named after one of the plaintiffs, said insurers weren't obligated to pay an uninsured or underinsured motorist's claim until a court had ruled on who was liable and determined the damages. Also, the court said, the insurer was not obliged to pay the legal fees of a policyholder who had to sue to collect.

Consumer groups said the practical effect of the court's 7-0 ruling will be to give insurers enormous incentive to deny such claims, forcing policyholders to either settle for much less than their losses or to try to find a lawyer to sue the insurer. Insurers defended the

decision, arguing that most such claims would continue to be paid without dis-

Smithee said he just wants to restore the law as it was before the court's decision, eliminating the "wasteful and futile" step of forcing policyholders to get a court judgment first on liability.

As pointed out here before, Texas motorists are required by state law to carry minimal amounts of liability insurance in case they injure others or damage property in an automobile accident. But too many motorists some estimate about 25 percent don't carry coverage. That's why motorists are strongly encouraged by the state to buy additional coverage against uninsured

See AMENDS, Page 5

### Republican Women



**COURTESY PHOTO** 

Top O' Texas Republican Women's Club recently installed the following officers for 2007: Ann Franklin, president; Kerrick Horton, vice president; Barb Hahn, secretary; Bobbie Nesbit, treasurer; and Pat Kennedy, PAC treasurer. Meetings are at 11:30 a.m. every third Wednesday of the month at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

### **Amends**

Continued from Page 4

motorists, motorists who don't have enough insurance and hit-and-run drivers.

Having obeyed the law by buying auto insurance and gone one step more by spending more of their own money for protection against those

who don't, Texas motorists with a claim shouldn't then have to choose between settling for much less than their loss or fighting a court case if they can find a lawyer willing to help, one who might take a big bite out of whatever they win.

Smithee's bill in effect would overturn the court decision: A motorist filing a claim under uninsured motorist coverage would not have to wait for a court judgment on liability or loss. Insurers would be

required by law to act in good faith in making a settlement offer. And the policyholder unnecessarily forced to go to court could recover attorney fees from the insurer.

Smithee has a good bill that will protect the rights of Texas motorists who buy necessary insurance while putting no undue burden on insurers who sell it to them. We hope the Legislature will pass it.

### Reese

Continued from Page 4

interest to tell. Therefore, I never

invested my time with the clerks and other workers who knew what was really going on. When I asked a politician a question, I already knew

Investigating is not molecular biology. Congressional committees wasted much time talking to them. I ought to fire their high-priced Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802

lawyers and sons and daughters of big contributors and hire themselves some retired cops who know how to ask questions. Then they might learn what's really going on in govern-

-Write to Charley Reese at P.O.

### Events calendar

• The late registration deadline for the next nationwide ACT exam is Friday. The early registration deadline was March 9. Students who missed the early deadline will be charged an additional fee. The test will be administered April 14. To find out more, contact your high school counselor or log onto www.actstudent.org on the World Wide Web.

• The Comprehensive Breast Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: Tuesday and April 23, Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest. Participants will receive a lowcost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

 Pampa Chapter of Ducks Unlimited will meet March 30 for a "ruffling of feathers" at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Ballard. The price of admission is \$35 for singles or \$45 for couples. The fee to sponsor a couple is \$270. For more information, call 663-

· S.T.A.R. will sponsor a free "Back in Control" parent training from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 31 at 1500 S. Taylor in Amarillo. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Some CEUs will be available. To pre-register or for more information, call (806) 359-2005.

· Ten white flowering trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation throughout the month. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, "Arbor Day" and "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Free Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by March 31. For more information, check out the foundation's Web site at www.arborday.org on the Internet.



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## Reagan

Continued from Page 4

Walter Reed medical center to be

scheduled to shut down in 2010 just three years from now - putting it in that category to deprive them of adequate funding.

You really have to hate America to attack – for purely political reasons – a system of medical care that is saving huge numbers of Americans. They have no shame. -Mike Reagan, the eldest son of

the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

### Hawaian officials honor bounty hunter and wife

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HONOLULU (AP) Hawaii lawmakers honored TV bounty hunter Duane "Dog" Chapman and his wife, Beth, for getting crooks off the street.

The state House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a resolution honoring the couple for their work at capturing criminals.

Duane Chapman is the star of the Hawaii-based A&E reality series "Dog the Bounty Hunter," which follows his exploits in apprehending people who have avoided arrest.

"I hate to say this, but for felons and ex-cons, I'm their president. What I do, they shall follow," Chapman said after receiving a commendation at the state Capitol. "I'm the poster child for rehabilitation in America."

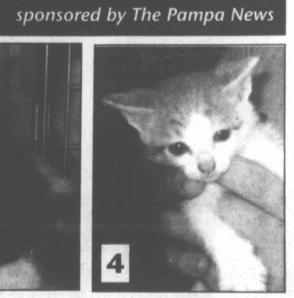
commendation comes as Mexico seeks the extradition of Chapman and two colleagues on charges that they made an illegal arrest in the country in 2003. A separate resolution before the Legislature urges

Mexico to drop its efforts. Before he hunted fugitives, Chapman was a member of a biker gang and was convicted in 1977 of being an accessory to murder. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

## Pets of the Week...









### **OUR SELECTION THIS WEEK PROVIDES A WIDE** RANGE OF BREEDS AND PERSONALITIES

1. ANNIE is a 2 1/2 year old, red Cocker Spaniel. She is a wonderful house dog - good manners & house broke. Annie digs.

2. BRIDGET is a young adult black Schnauzer. Bridget will add so much love to your family. 3 & 4. PERKY, MISSY, AMY are female kittens. So playful and full of love.

5. MIDNIGHT LADY is a female year old black Lab. She is spayed, microchipped and vaccinated. Midnight Lady loves to play. She'll be a loyal companion.

## Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I saved a poem that I read in your column years ago, and now for the life of me, I can't find it. It was about looking at yourself in the mirror and realizing how important character is, rather than the opinion of others. Can you tell me where to find it? My daughter is popular at school, but she was caught cheating on an exam, and I want to give it to her. - NANCY IN **NEW JERSEY** 

**DEAR NANCY:** I'm very familiar with the poem you're looking for. It was a favorite of my mother's and part of a collection of letters, poems and essays that had special meaning for her. It became part of the Dear Abby Keepers Booklet. For your convenience, I'm reprinting it today. Read on:

> THE MAN IN THE GLASS (Author Unknown)

When you get what you want in your struggle for self

And the world makes you king for a day, Just go to a mirror and look at yourself And see what THAT man has to say.

For it isn't your father or mother or wife Whose judgment upon you must pass, The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life

Is the one staring back from the glass.

Some people might think you're a straightshootin' chum

And call you a wonderful guy. But the man in the glass says you're only a

If you can't look him straight in the eye.

He's the fellow to please, never mind all

For he's with you clear to the end, And you've passed your most dangerous

If the guy in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years

And get pats on the back as you pass, But your final reward will be heartache and

If you've cheated the man in the glass.

My Keepers Booklet can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Keepers, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. The booklet is inspiring, positive, and a quick, easy read for anyone who needs a "lift."

DEAR ABBY: The husband of a close friend of mine is graduating from the state police academy. She's throwing him a party, and we're invited. Could you please suggest an appropriate gift for him? I'm stuck. -- A READER IN THE EAST

DEAR READER: How about a St. Christopher's medal? He's sure to be doing a lot of "traveling."

#### For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



#### **Beetle Bailey**





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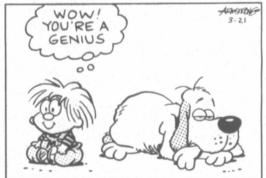
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### **Crossword Puzzle**

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#### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS **DOWN** 1 Job for 1 Gun Poirot creator 2 Diva's 5 Docking spots piece

11 Test type 3 Bad thing 12 Broad to criticize street 4 Moose's 13 Musical cousin flourish 5 No-frills

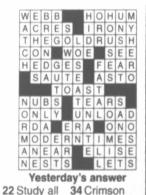
14 Trio plus 6 History quartet 15 Road 7 Workout goo 8 Blasting 16 Cotton seeders

17 VCR button 19 Jotting spot 22 Academy attendee

**24** Map ratio 26 Paella base 27 Door sign 28 Take on 30 Crow 31 Cat call

32 Whatsoever 34 Raised 35 Drill part 38 Burning 41 Uncouth 42 Mariner 43 TV's Trebek 44 Some cars 45 No longer

fizzy



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stuff 25 Composed 9 Shade 29 John 38 Canyon 10 Ready to Clayton's critter alias 39 Worker, 16 Obtain 30 Michael e.g. 18 GI carrier 40 Young Jackson 19 Vatican hit buck letter 20 Pub pints 33 Fake ID 41 Battle of users, Britain 21 Impression

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### Marmaduke



"It's not unusual for him to be mobbed by his fans on a walk."

"And look, Grandma! There's the SECOND robin of spring, and

the THIRD, and ...

By Bil Keane

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

B.C.



#### Haggar The Horrible



#### **Peanuts**



### Flo & Friends





3-21







# Sports Day



**Britteni Rice** Senior Co-Player of the Year 1st Team All-District



**McKensie East** Senior 2nd Team All-District

### Lady Harvesters make 3-4A All-District teams

In just a short time following the conclusion of their 2006-07 season, two of the Harvesters were announced as 3-4A All-District team members.

Britteni Rice, who currently holds the career scoring record at Pampa High School, was named Co-Player of the Year, sharing the title with Meagan Coats of Palo Duro.

Rice and her fellow Co-

Player of the Year also made 1st Team All-District.

McKensie East, who proved to be a valuable assett under the goal this season was named as a 2nd Team All-District member.

Apart from All-District honors, Rice also made TABC All-Region and All-State teams and will play in the TABC All-Star Game in San Antonio on May 4.

## Yao Ming leads **Rockets past Pacers**

HOUSTON (AP) -Yao of 13 overall. Ming had 32 points and 14 rebounds and went 12-for-13 from the free-throw line to help the Rockets to an 86-76 victory. But he also coughed up six turnovers, most of them Indiana steals coming after Yao tried to put the ball on the floor.

"The way to cut down turnovers is to limit the dribble," said Yao, who hit 10 of 17 shots. "You have to give them (the Pacers) credit. They have a good steal team, particularly stealing from the big guys."

Yao has been wearing tape around the middle and ring fingers on his shooting hand since dislocating his middle finger against Boston on March 7. He dismissed that as a reason for his sloppiness.

"That's not a good excuse," Yao said.

When Yao kept the ball high and simply turned and shot, he was virtually unstoppable. He's expecting a long film session with Houston assistant coach Thibodeau Tom Wednesday to examine his mistakes.

"If I get the ball in my shooting range, I'm just going to face up and shoot it," Yao said. "It's hard to block my shot and if I get the offensive rebound, I can easily put it back in."

Jermaine O'Neal scored 25 and grabbed nine rebounds for the Pacers,

O'Neal took a hard foul in the fourth quarter and had X-rays after the game on his left knee. O'Neal missed three games after an MRI last week revealed a sprain. Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said O'Neal was "very doubtful" to play in San Antonio on Wednesday.

Tracy McGrady added 20 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds for the Rockets. McGrady's problem wasn't his ball-handling, but his shooting — he finished 7for-21 and made only one 3-pointer all night.

"I was so frustrated on the offensive end," he said. "I couldn't get anything to fall."

The one 3-pointer McGrady did hit was a big one, ending a string of 12 straight misses for Houston in the fourth quarter. The shot gave the Rockets a 70-67 lead with 7:33 to go.

"I told myself in the fourth quarter that if it was going to be close," McGrady said, "it was up to me to really get us easy baskets and try to take over the game."

Yao added two baseline jumpers over the next minute to give Houston a 74-67 lead.

O'Neal dunked with 6:06 left to cut Houston's lead to five. He tried for another dunk with 4:43 to go, but hit the floor hard after he was fouled by Shane who have dropped eight Battier. O'Neal limped straight road games and 12 around for a few seconds.

### **Basketball banquet tickets** available until Friday

The Pampa Harvesters and Lady Harvesters will be honored next week with two seperate banquets held at the Knights of Columbus and Briarwood Church. Ticket information is listed below:

Girls Basketball Banquet March 28th, 7 p.m. Place: Knights of Columbus Cost \$10, Meal catered by Randy Dunn For ticket information contact Shelly Teichmann by Friday March 23rd.

Boys Basketball Banquet March 29th. 7 p.m. Place: Briarwood Church - Family Life Center Cost \$10, Meal catered by Randy Dunn For tickets contact Sandy Clark at the PHS Athletic Office 669-6830 by Friday March 23rd.

### **Devils flame out in Toronto**

By The Associated **Press** 

The New Jersey Devils took a beating, and then lost the game. Their Atlantic Division lead could be next.

They limped into Toronto having dropped three of four and the skid got worse with a 2-1 loss to the Maple Leafs on Tuesday night.

"We had plenty of chances," Devils forward Jay Pandolfo said. "We hit at least three posts, maybe four. We can't keep our heads down after this loss.'

Cam Janssen had to keep his up all night, because the Maple Leafs were looking for him. In the last meeting between the teams on March 2, Janssen leveled All-Star defenseman Tomas Kaberle with a late hit that left Kaberle with a concussion and drew the New Jersey enforcer a three-game sus-

Toronto sent out Wade Belak to deliver some more Ottawa 4, St. Louis 2.

"I came out and just kind of yelled at him and he looked at me, and it was time to go," Belak said. "My job is protect players like Kabby. He's not expected to go out there and fight. That's my job and I'm fine doing it."

The fight was high spirited and lasted about 90 seconds. It gave a jolt to both teams, but the Maple Leafs made the most of it.

"I think everyone in the building was tired after that one," Maple Leafs coach Paul Maurice said. "But probably not as sore."

The Devils haven't won at home in a month and hold a slim two-point lead over the hard-charging Pittsburgh Penguins in the Atlantic.

In other NHL games, it was Montreal 1, Boston 0; Columbus 5, Chicago 2; Florida 4, Philadelphia 1; Tampa Bay 4, the New York Islanders 3 in overtime;

### Raffle Tickets



Kendrick Carey and Cyndal Boyd sell a raffle ticket to benefit Pampa Special Olypmics to Marsha Richardson. Pampa Special Olympics Booster Club is selling raffle tickets for a set of Callaway (or equivalent) golf clubs, \$300 and \$150 in Pampa Bucks and a hand made afghan. The booster club will be selling at United, Hastings and Wal-Mart on March 31. Drawing will be held on April 14.

MARCH 19TH - 22ND 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM at the OPTIMIST PARK

ages 5 - 15 · boys & girls

\$40 T-Ball & Pitching Machine \$65 Babe Ruth League \$50 All Other Leagues

For more info call 669-3397

A Pampa United Way Agency

### Wood and Prior could start season on DL

By The Associated Press

Kerry Wood and Mark Prior could start the season on the Chicago Cubs' dis-

threw 25 pitches off a mound Tuesday at the Cubs' springtraining complex in Mesa, Ariz. On March 11, he strained his right triceps while pitching against Milwaukee, and it's unclear whether he will be ready for the start of the season.

"Until we get him back out there and get him on a schedule, you just don't know," pitching coach Larry Rothschild said. "Hopefully he could, but it has to work for the team and it has to be in his best interests."

was just 1-2 with a 4.12 ERA last year and has a 12.00

ERA in three spring training appearances. If he's on the active roster, it most likely would be as a one-inning reliever.

The 26-year-old Prior was Wood, coming back from 1-6 with a 7.21 ERA last a torn right rotator cuff, year when his season was cut short by a strained right shoulder. He is 0-1 with an 18.90 ERA in two spring training appearances, allowing seven runs and eight hits in 3 1-3 innings with five strikeouts and no walks.

"How many innings has he pitched?" manager Lou Piniella asked Monday. "You need 25 or so innings. In fairness to the person, is he going to be ready?"

In Tampa, Fla., the New York Yankees said Andy Pettitte is expected to miss his scheduled start for on The 29-year-old Wood Friday because of back

"I don't anticipate it being

a major problem," manager Joe Torre said. "He just got a little tightness. It seems to be pretty straightforward."

Pettitte first experienced the back problems while working out Monday, and his scheduled bullpen session Tuesday was canceled. Torre said that Pettitte should be ready for the start of the season if he is able to make a final spring training start next week.

"It kind of stiffened up after I got done," Pettitte said. "I left here and I was like, 'Don't worry about it. I'm good.' Then last night, my back just locked on me. I was still pretty locked up this morning. I loosened up a

In Vero Beach, Fla., manager Grady Little's 2008 option was exercised by the Los Angeles Dodgers.



LIONS CLUB



### DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

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Not surprisingly, the result was lopsided.

Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard each scored 24 points, and the Mavericks hit the 55-win mark for the third straight season by beating the Knicks 92-77 Tuesday night.

Jason Terry added 15 points for the Mavericks, who pulled away from the banged-up Knicks early in the second half and improved the NBA's best record to 55-11. They have won three in a row after losing consecutive games for first time since starting 0-4.

"I think offensively we're explosive. I think we can score with the best of them," Nowitzki said. "I think even though we're a slower team now than we used to be with (Don Nelson), defensiveminded, we still have a lot of offense out there."

Erick Dampier had 10 points and 13 rebounds, and Howard grabbed 10 boards half after getting poked in

as the deeper Mavs wore down the Knicks and shot 53 percent from the field. Reserve Jerry Stackhouse scored 10 points.

"As far as wearing them down, we just stick to our game plan," Howard said. "If they get tired, they get tired. We're going to keep coming.'

Dallas improved to 2-0 on a six-game road trip that opened Sunday with a victory at Eastern Conferenceleading Detroit. Mavericks visit Cleveland, right behind the Pistons in the East standings, on Wednesday.

Eddy Curry had 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks, who are playing without the injured Jamal Crawford, David Lee and Quentin Richardson, and have lost three of four.

In addition, New York Stephon point guard Marbury left with about 5 1/2 minutes remaining with what looked like an injury to his left arm; Channing Frye missed most of the second the right eye; and Curry played through a back problem that forced him to miss the morning shootaround.

"Channing and then Steph, I was just trying to figure out who was I going to put in and how were we going to play," Knicks coach Isiah Thomas said.

Frye was diagnosed with a corneal abrasion and will be re-evaluated Wednesday. Marbury said he could have returned.

New York missed a number of shots around the basket and shot only 36 percent as the extra workload some players are facing seemed to be taking its toll. Marbury was 2-of-10 from the field two games after a 3-for-13 showing.

Nate Robinson was the only other Knicks player in double figures with 19 points. Reserve Renaldo Balkman had 10 rebounds but was only 3-for-10. Curry was 4-of-12 from the free throw line.

"I don't think it was them. I think it was us tonight," Marbury said. "We were just making mistakes. We had a lot of mistakes tonight."

The Knicks are a halfgame behind New Jersey and Orlando for the eighth and final playoff spot in the East. The Knicks are 1-2 on a four-game homestand that ends Thursday against Portland.

Before the game, Dallas owner Mark Cuban again talked of how he considered selling the team last summer. Good thing he didn't, because he would've gotten rid of a team that looks like a title contender. The Mavs have won 55 games in five of the last six seasons, and should have no trouble surpassing the franchise-record of 60 victories.

Not that the Mavs care much about racking up a gaudy regular-season record after last year's loss in the NBA finals.

"I think we've got the second highest number of wins since I've taken over," Cuban said, "and that and a quarter leaves me searching for another 50 cents to buy some coffee."

## **Defending champion** Maryland falls

By The Associated Press

With all five starters returning. Maryland was all set to make a run at a second straight NCAA championship.

It wasn't enough to keep the Terps from falling into Mississippi's trap and the defending NCAA champions never got out.

Ole Miss (23-10) used its stifling defense to steal the ball 15 times and score 42 points off 29 Maryland turnovers, and the Rebels upset the No. 2 seed Terrapins 89-78 in the Dayton Regional on Tuesday night.

"It's a different animal, the expectations, the pressure you put on yourself, or that the media places on you each and every time they name," mention your Maryland coach Brenda Frese said. "When you're a winner and a champion those are the expectations you want when you are a dominant program."

Armintie Price scored 28 points to lead the Rebels, who were blown out by the Terps 110-79 at a tournament Bahamas in the November.

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"This time we were trying to win a championship, we were playing for bigger and better things, so we were more focused," Price said.

Mississippi will play No. 3 Oklahoma in the Dayton Regional semifinals. The third-seeded Sooners beat 78-47 Marquette Monday.

Maryland wasn't the only No. 2 seed to fall on Tuesday. Vanderbilt was upset by No. 7 seed Bowling Green 59-56.

Amber Flynn scored 19 the Mid-American for Conference champion Falcóns, who face No. 3 seed Arizona State on Saturday.

Bowling Green (31-3) is the first team from the MAC to reach the round of 16.

## Why Danny Ainge spent \$30,000 to watch a college game

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

Thanks to the sparkling play of a few freshmen who otherwise would have been riding the NBA pine this season, college basketball has rarely looked better. But that only begins to explain why Celtics boss Danny Ainge paid \$30,000 recently for a seat to watch the Big 12 tournament.

That wasn't the price printed on the ticket, but rather the amount NBA commissioner David Stern fined Boston after Ainge wound up sitting next to the mother of Kevin Durant, Texas' sensational freshman, for the conversation after saying, "Hi."

You'd think both the NBA and the NCAA would encourage such a chat. Ainge knows plenty about playing at the next level and slightly less about running an NBA team (judging by his record as a general manager, anyway, but that's a column for another day). And since her son will have to decide sooner rather than later whether to leave college for the pros, league floors most nights

Wanda Pratt could benefit from the advice. But, no.

In order to maintain the elaborate fiction that college is more than a way-station for the most talented high school ballplayers, Stern whacked the Celtics for "excessive contact" between a team executive and the family of a surefire lottery pick who hasn't yet declared for the draft.

To prove he was serious, the commissioner followed that up a few days later by docking NBA icon and Bobcats part-owner Michael Jordan a cool \$15,000 just for mentioning Durant during an interview. Still, conchampionship game against sidering how much time and Kansas, and didn't end the energy Stern invested to get the NBA players' union to sign off on a minimum-age requirement two years ago, Ainge and MJ should be glad they didn't get hit any hard-

The rule states players must be at least 19 and a year out of high school to be eligible for the draft. It was designed to combat the perception that his league was filling up with spoiled brats and that the product on was a long way from finished. The jury is still out on both counts, but the rule has been a bonanza for college basketball and its annual showcase, the NCAA tour-

It's the least the NBA can do for what amounts to a free minor-league system.

"The caliber of play is better than it's been for some time now, and it makes it easier to plan. Now," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun chuckled Tuesday, "if they could only extend it to two years."

Calhoun's program, like North Carolina, Duke and a handful of other traditional powers that compete for the best players, has been devastated by underclassmen leaving for the NBA.

If those kids had gone to school for four years, the way most did before Kevin Garnett made the leap from high school to the NBA in 1995 — the first time in 20 years a player did so successfully — this would have been Calhoun's starting lineup this season: Rudy Gay, Boone, Andrew Bynum, Charlie Villanueva and Marcus Williams.

"And if I've got the order right," the coach continued, "they went No. 8, 7, 12, 10 and 21 in the first round of the last few drafts. We've got 15 kids in the NBA right now, and I'm a great believer that when a guy is ready, he should go.

"Durant certainly looks like he can go, and the Ohio State kid, Greg Oden, looks like he can go, too. But Ben Gordon is scoring what, 22 points a night in the NBA now, and he wasn't ready coming out of high school or after one year in college. Emeka (Okafor) is a force in the pros, but he wasn't even rated in the top 100 high school recruits when he

Calhoun can tick off a dozen reasons why he thinks a season or three in college is better for every player more coaching, more polish, more maturity, even a better safety net.

showed up."

"I can name a whole bunch of kids who came in here and elsewhere thinking 'one-(season)-and-done,' but if you're averaging 9 or 10 points a game in the Big East - and we're certainly one of the best conferences out

there — it certainly doesn't certify you as NBA-ready.

"Some people think that's a problem, that a kid's stock drops suddenly and then what does he do?" Calhoun said. "In my mind, it says he needs more work. ... And without getting hokey, college is still the best thing that happens in most of their lives."

There are exceptions, to be sure, players who were physically and emotionally ready for the big time, beginning with Garnett and extending through Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady to LeBron James, who got into the league just under the

applies to just about everywanted to make an impact, his next project should be changing the NBA's rookiecontract provisions. Right now, a player drafted by a club is locked into a lowwage deal - relatively speaking — for three years before he can test his real market value. More than a few underclassmen still leave before they should to get a head-start on their serv-

In the meantime, though, the college game is getting its legs back, the spring in its step provided by youngsters like Durant, Oden, Brandon Wright of North Carolina and Taj Gibson of Southern California. Any or all of them might be playing in the NBA next season, but the message is already filtering down through the ranks. Calhoun said nearly half of the top 100 high school juniors have already committed to colleges, about double the usual number at this time of the year.

Back in the early 1990s, when Jerry Tarkanian turned UNLV into a national power But the minimum-age rule by taking chances on kids with borderline academic body else, and if Stern really and behavioral issues, he defended the practice this

"Believe me," he'd tell reporters, "one year of school is better for any kid than none."

Who knew then Tark was just ahead of his time?

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at ilitkeap.org

### Astros look for improved hitting from Everett

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) There isn't much room comes to Adam Everett's fielding.

However the Houston Astros would like to see a bit more from the shortstop at the plate this season.

Everett, who signed a one-year, \$2.8 million contract in January, had a .990 fielding percentage with just seven errors last season. That percentage is the fourth best all-time in a season for a National League shortstop.

He hit .239 with six home runs and a career-high 59 for improvement when it RBIs in 2006, but the Astros think a few tweaks could improve those numbers.

> "Adam's trying to get the ball up the middle," said manager Phil Garner. "He's trying to stay on the ball a little bit longer and that's what we want him to do and that's what he's trying to do this spring.

Garner denied that Everett's hitting was a concern, but did say that they have had conversations with the 30-year-old this spring about what they're looking for from him this year.

"I think it will make him a better hitter and that's what we want him to do," Garner said. "If he'll do it consistently, he'll end up being a much better hitter so that's why we ask him to do it."

Everett is 4-for-29 with one home run and five RBIs this spring.

Though no one doubts that Everett will remain Houston's starter at shortstop, he could get a little

push from new acquisition Mark Loretta, Loretta, who is a career .299 hitter, will likely be Craig Biggio's backup at second base, but can play several infield positions including short-

He started two recent spring games at shortstop when Everett was held out as a precaution because of his lower back and got the nod in a third game when Everett didn't make the trip to play the Dodgers.

### **Buckeyes convinced** they're better than last time against Volunteers

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - When Ron Lewis' name was announced at Ohio State's winter graduation Sunday, there was a loud roar from the thousands packed into St. John Arena.

Lewis is the big man on campus after his clutch 3pointer forced overtime against Xavier last Saturday. Now, the Buckeyes, who won that game 78-71, are on their way to San Antonio for a regional semifinal game Tennessee against Thursday night.

"It was great. It was fun," Lewis said Tuesday of getting his diploma. "They gave me a little ovation, and Archie Griffin also gave me a little shout-out."

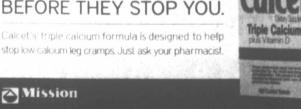
Lewis' life has changed a lot, and not just because a two-time Heisman Trophy winner acknowledged him.

"It's been a whirlwind," he said. "Before all this happened, people don't really know you. Now you come back after two days and people just want to meet you and tell you congratulations and thank you for hitting the shot. I don't know how many people have come up to me and just said thanks.'

Lewis' clutch 3-pointer with 2 seconds left capped the Buckeyes' comeback from nine down with under 3 remaining. minutes Freshman point guard Mike Conley then scored 11 points in the extra period to lead Ohio State (32-3) to the win and now the Alamodome for its showdown

Tennessee (24-10).

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bettye Cree Reid, Deceased were issued on March 16,2007, in Cause No. 9354, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas, to: Raymond E. Reid II.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescri-

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bed by law. c/o Gene Thompson Attorney At Law P.O. Box 1461 Pampa TX 79066-1461

Dated the 16th day of March, 2007.

Gene Thompson Attorney for Raymond E. Reid II State Bar No. 19909720 P.O. Box 1461 Pampa, TX 79066-1461 Telephone: (806)665-8408 Facsimile

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are a good cause and an excellent invest-

ment. Do for yourself more often. Let go

of futile challenges, separating what is

worthwhile and what isn't. If you are

single, you have much more to offer than

you are aware. People want to become

much closer to you. If you are attached,

spend more time relaxing with your

sweetie. Don't play Don Quixote, fight-

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with others. You change your tune.

\*\* Your possessive side emerges with

possibility after possibility. At the same

time you hit obstacle after obstacle. The

chips might appear to be down, but don't

think you cannot hurdle over any prob-

\*\* Step back and take your time. You

don't need to give anyone any answers.

Communication could be stalled for now,

but not for long. Keep opinions to your- ride.

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the show. Tonight: A vanishing act

\*\*\* Others continue to look to you for

answers and direction. You might not

feel good about what comes up. Know

when to pull back. Others seem aggra-

vated by your dedication. You might

have to deal with domestic problems as a

result. Tonight: Feeling pressure, and

\*\*\* Though you might have the best

intentions and want to see a situation

more completely, you cannot. You are

inspired and nurtured by someone you

care about. Think in terms of gains. You

have a way and style that make a big dif-

ference. Tonight: Relax to music, if you

\*\* A partner or other close associate

- business or personal - could be test-

ing his or her limits, perhaps not con-

sciously. A risk, friendship and/or

romance could be tested to the max. Your

best bet is to pull back and do little.

\*\*\* You might want to rethink a

decision, though you might not be able to

buck someone else's ideas. You open up

to new possibilities. You could be over-

whelmed by a family member who is on

the warpath. Tonight: Go along for the

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Tonight: A close encounter.

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could start if someone plays holier-than-

thou. Don't worry. Tonight: Do only

\*\*\* Creativity demands your atten-

tion. Your perspective might change sub-

stantially if you take in information.

Once more, be very careful with spend-

ing. Someone might disappoint you on a

promise or a matter you feel strongly

about. Tonight: Let your imagination

\*\* You might be on the warpath far

more than you realize. What you do to

change directions or make a decision

could mark this period as significant.

Walk away from negativity and say hello

to positive actions. Tonight: Stay close to

\*\*\* You could be challenged to say

something you would prefer not to. Your

words really don't fall on receptive peo-

ple. You visualize and create. Touch base

with feelings that might be a touch

explosive. Tonight: Have a clear mind

Actress Lena Olin (1955), musician

George Benson (1943), pantomimist

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669-3755 aft. 5pm.

FOR sale: CKC Reg. Rottweiler puppies. weeks old, fe. Dewormed, Borger. 806-274-0209 FOR Sale 3 male Bassett Hound puppies. AKC reg-

istered. \$250 each. 662-

3254 or 662-3266 PUREBRED Yorkie pup pies for sale. Males only \$400 each. Call 669-3923. leave message.

free female Pit Bull/ Boston Terrier /Golden Retriever puppy to good home, 665-2195

#### 89 Wanted To Buy

WANTED to buy home workshop tools: table saw, lathe, band saw, & router. 806-835-2375.

95 Furn. Apts.



All real estate advertised erein is subject to the ederal Fair Housing Act, which makes it ille gal to advertise "any preference, limitation, o discrimination because of race, color, religion sex, handicap, familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limita tion, or discrimination State law also forbide discrimination based or these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All per sons are hereby in formed that all dwelling advertised are available on an equal opportunity

#### 96 Unfurn. Apts.

CLEAN 1 bdr., stove, re frig., completely renovat ed, new carpet. All bills paid. 669-3672, 665-5900 LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. avail. Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

THE Schneider House, now leasing apts. Seniors or disabled, utilities included. Stop by 120 S. Russell or call 665-0415.

#### 98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK up rental list from Gray Box on front porch of 125 S. Houston, Pam-

NICE home, 3/2/2 liv. areas, 30 miles form pampa. 806-358-3756

#### 99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

#### 102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

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

DOWNTOWN

WAREHOUSE

eaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823. offices-reception area

space for rent. Utilities &

office

conference room. Outside city limits, 66-5264

### rent/lease. 6500 sq ft. 806-886-5754

103 Homes For Sale Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314

3 bdr., 1 ba., livingroom, den, fireplace. New carpet & paint. \$42,000. 664-0379 after 3pm.

I WILL FINANCE! 103 Burdett 2 bdr., 1 ba. Skellytown Call 669-6995, 440-1698 Bad Credit Ok!

I WILL FINANCE! 1100 Terrace 317 Miami 1333 Garland All 2 bedrooms Bad Credit Ok! 669-6995, 440-1698

Owner Will <u>rınance</u> E/Z Terms 1333 Garland 2 bedroom, 1 bath New carpet & paint 416 Lefors 2 bedroom, 1 bath Call Joe 806-336-1740 or

OWNER Will Pay The Closing Costs! 4/5 bedroom house on Lynn st. \$99,900 obo. 664-0909.

Milton

806-790-0827

WHITE Deer, clean 3 bdr., 1 ba., hardwood floors. Extra lot. Close to sch. \$27,000, 883-5941

### 104 Lots

1.47 Acre Tract near Pampa Country Club. Call Quentin Williams Realtors, 669-2522.

PANHANDLE: Home sites in city limits, great for commuting. Various sizes. Great school and community. No mobile homes. 537-3498.

#### 113 RV Parks RED DEER VILLA RV

2100 Montagu W. 669-1122. Big Rigs Welcome! 115 Trailer Parks

TUMBLEWEED Acres,

Storm Shelters, fenced,

stor. bldg. avail. 665-

RANCH & STORAGE

### 0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos

2003 Toyota Highlander Limited 4x4, white, 39K mi. 662-5837 or 665-3379 Leave Message.

### 122 Motorcycles

Tour Del. 2 windshields 2 muff. sys. Warranty till 2010. \$9,995. 669-2076.

99 Harley D. Ultra Classic Police. 62k mi. New belt/fork seals. Top shape! \$10,800. Fred 662-3141.

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## 0 S ш HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday,

March 22, 2007:

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### Dental awareness



Some first grade and kindergarten students from St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Pampa recently visited Dr. John Sparkman's dental office as part of Dental Awareness Month. Above: Gabriel Terrazas, Max Renteria, Daniela Tamayo, Yaquelin Recendiz, Jennifer Rios, Brendan Akins, Jastein McGahen, Juan Carlos Castillo, Lillibeth Renteria, Jesus Soto, Talon Akins, Burkely Unruh and Natalia Renteria.

### Manure becomes fertilizer alternative

By JAMES HANNAH

Associated Press Writer

NEPTUNE, Ohio (AP) — A growing number of farmers and entrepreneurs are turning dung into dollars.

Manure sales are up, as more grain and vegetable farmers turn to animal waste as an alternative to higherpriced commercial fertilizer, say state agriculture regulators. The market also has grown because of the emergence of large livestock farms which generate an abundant supply of manure.

"Back in the late '80s, I was told you'd never sell manure," said Kevin Elder of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "Today, there are a large number of farms that broker it, that sell it to grain farmers.'

was licensed to buy and sell large izer, for example, has more than douamounts of manure. Today, there are bled in the past four years, in part north of Dayton.

30 — with 48 more in the process of because of the rising cost of natural getting permits.

In neighboring Illinois, 12 companies have sought permits to haul manure since certification began in

In Iowa, with its many livestock operations, manure hauling businesses flourish. The number of certified commercial haulers there increased from 1,385 in 2005 to 1,447 last year.

Ben Puck, who has operated a hauling business in Iowa for 28 years, said sales for his services have increased as much as 15 percent in the past year, primarily because of large livestock

The skyrocketing price of commercial fertilizer is making manure more In 2003, only one person in Ohio attractive. The price of nitrogen fertil-

gas needed to make it.

Manure generally costs about \$50 less an acre than commercial fertilizer, said Gene Tinker, animal feeding operations coordinator for the lowa Department of Natural Resources. Actual savings would depend on the type of commercial fertilizer a farmer had been using.

Stricter environmental regulations have nudged some livestock farmers into the manure market. Runoff from large livestock operations can harm water quality and aquatic life in the vicinity.

"It came almost out of necessity," said Matt VanTilburg, who has combined a manure business with raising corn and soybeans on the family farm near Neptune, a village about 60 miles

## Blanco won't seek another term

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Speculation about Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco's political future swirled for months amid criticism about the sluggish pace of the state's hurricane recovery.

Blanco ended the rumblings Tuesday by announcing she wouldn't seek a second term this fall, becoming the rare incumbent governor who had a chance at re-election and passed.

Blanco, Louisiana's first woman governor, said her exit will enable her to get her initiatives through an upcoming legislative session without having to worry about political considerations.

"I am doing this so we can work without interference from election year politics," she said at the Governor's Mansion. She announced her decision in telephone calls to legislative leaders, in a meeting with her cabinet secretaries and in a letter to her staff.

Blanco was seen as so politically weakened by hurricanes Katrina and Rita that Democratic powerbrokers questioned behind the scenes whether she was re-electable or whether she should step aside to give another Democratic candidate a better chance at the post.

Her staff denied that the governor succumbed to political pressure or was stepping aside so that popular Democratic former U.S. Sen. John Breaux might enter the race.



### N-Korea refuses to join nuclear talks until frozen funds released

North Korea

boycotted the

six-nation talks for

more than a year

after Washington

blacklisted the tiny,

privately run Banco

Delta Asia on

suspicion the funds

were connected to

money-laundering

or counterfeiting.

But U.S. officials

announced Monday

that the money

would be

transferred to a

North Korean

account in Beijing,

saying it was up to

the Monetary

Authority of Macau,

a Chinese territory,

to release the funds.

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Talks on disarming North Korea's nuclear program remained stalled Wednesday, stuck over a dispute on when \$25 million of Pyongyang's funds will be released from a Macau bank.

North Korea said it would not take part in the six-party negotiations in China's capital to meet goals outlined in a landmark Feb. 13 disarmament agreement until the money was

"I can't say with confidence how long it will take for the money to be transferred as North Korea wants, or what kind of technical obstacles remain," said South Korean envoy Chun Yung-

He told reporters it would be difficult to hold a planned meeting of the heads of the delegations "if North Korea insists that it cannot take part in negotiations before they confirm the transfer ...'

Planned group talks were called off Tuesday, with \* some participants holding bilateral meetings instead, when North Korea said it would not take part until the money was in its account.

North Korea boycotted the six-nation talks for more than a year after Washington blacklisted the tiny, privately run Banco Delta Asia on suspicion the funds were connected to money-laundering or counterfeiting.

But U.S. officials announced Monday that the money would be transferred to a North Korean account in Beijing, saying it was up to the Monetary Authority of Macau, a Chinese territory, to release the funds.

The authority has declined to say if it will improve relations. announce when the funds have been released. "I have no instructions from my superiors regarding when the money will be tributed to this report.

transferred," Wendy Au, a spokeswoman for the authority, said Wednesday.

Japan's chief delegate, Kenichiro Sasae, said he was still optimistic of progress once the transfer dispute was resolved.

"As soon as the current problem, which is a technical issue, is resolved, I believe things will start moving forward," he told reporters.

"I hopes talks among the heads of the delegations will resume, paving the way for progress on the discussions on the denuclearization issue," he said.

The setback comes as the two Koreas, the

U.S., Japan, Russia and host China are trying to fine-tune a timetable for North Korea's disarmament under the February agreement.

Under the deal, North Korea is to receive energy and economic assistance and a start toward normalizing relations with the U.S. and Japan, in return for beginthe ning disarmament process.

North Korea would ultimately receive assistance equivalent to 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil if it fully discloses and dismantles all its nuclear programs.

The Chosun Sinbo, a pro-North Korea paper in Japan, said the North Korean "delegation is maintaining a position that returned funds should be directly confirmed in order for the BDA issue to be finally resolved."

The negotiations have also complicated been Pyongyang's strained ties with Tokyo.

North Korea is upset at Japan's insistence that the two nations settle issues related to Pyongyang's abduction of Japanese citizens in the 1970s and '80s before taking steps to

Associated Press writer Bo-Mi Lim con-

