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HIGH
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LOW
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See expanded weather on Page 2

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SEE PAGE 9



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Thursday, April 12, 2007 Volume 103 • No. 6 50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1.25

CRMWA report: Lake Meredith up 1.33 feet

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

PLAINVIEW -- Lake Meredith is up 1.33 feet for the first quarter of this year, according to Kent Satterwhite, general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

As of Wednesday, he reported to the CRMWA board of directors, the lake level was 55.063 feet. While this is four feet lower than a year ago, it at least is the reversal of a lower trend that began in mid-sum-

mer 2005.

"The lake now contains 113,360 acre-feet of water," Satterwhite said during the water authority's quarterly meeting here Wednesday.

Of those 113,360 acre-feet of water, 39,917 acre-feet are available to be withdrawn for use by the water authority's 11 member cities, including Pampa.

During the first quarter of this year, Satterwhite said the amount of water in Lake Meredith increased 6,910 acre-feet. About 16,163 acre-

feet of water flowed into the lake. Satterwhite estimated evaporation losses at 3,207 acre-feet.

He said 6,046 acre-feet of water had been pumped from the lake and 7,547 acre-feet of water had been pumped from the water authority's well field in Roberts County. The lake water and groundwater are mixed before being sent down an aqueduct to the member cities.

Ute Lake, which feeds into the Canadian River and on down to Lake Meredith, is full and near its release

level, Satterwhite reported.

The tornado that hit Logan, N.M., in March didn't damage the CRMWA salinity control facility there, but hail with the storm caused moderate damage, including cracking the window on two CRMWA vehicles.

The wife of Jerry Osborn, one of the officials with the salinity project, was caught out in the storm in her pickup and suffered minor injuries

See WATER, Page 3

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IS IT TIME TO ROLL OVER YOUR NEXT EGG?

Fire damages garage, 2 cars

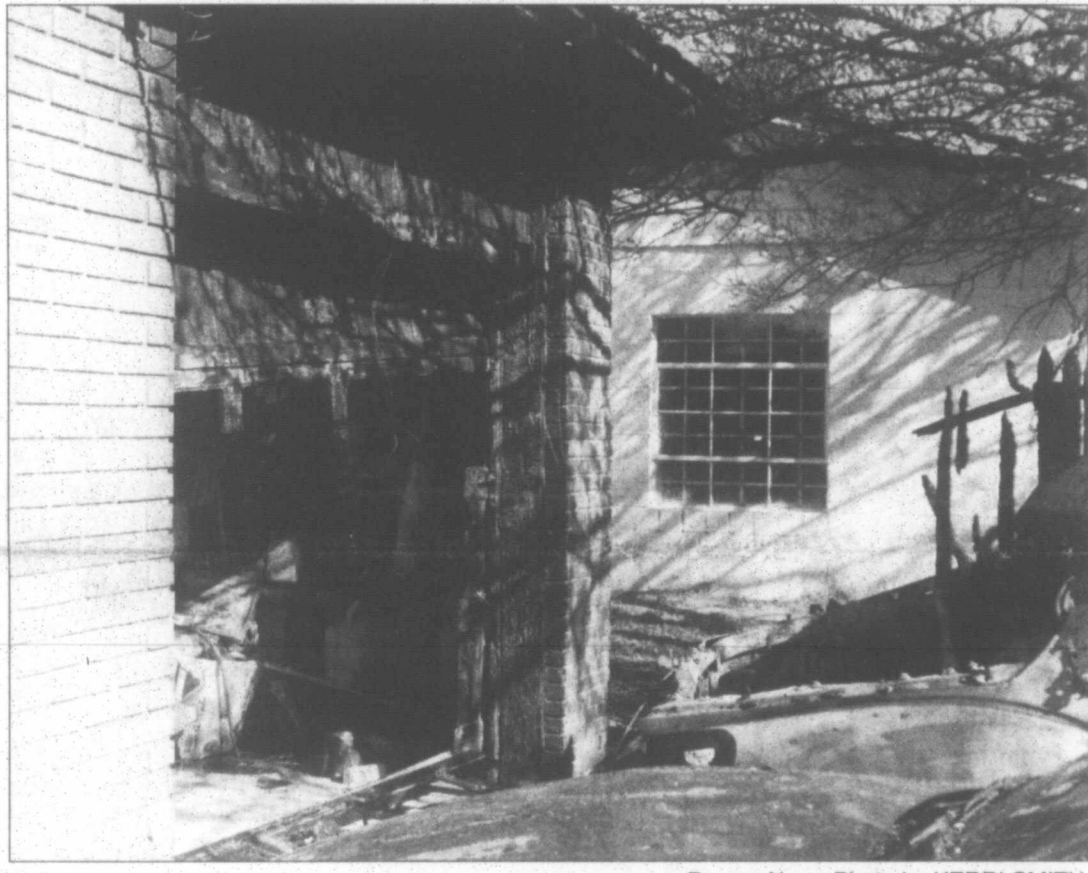
By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Pampa Fire Department dispatched five units and 10 personnel to a structure fire at 4:20 p.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of Somerville.

Upon arrival, the occupant of the home was fighting the fire and firefighters quickly put out the blaze. Two vehicles and a garage were damaged by the fire.

Fire Marshall Keith Fisher said the cause is believed to be a car battery shorting out or jumper cables.

"The resident had jumper cables going from a Dodge Durango to an Oldsmobile Achieva in front of the garage," Fisher said. "Because of all the damage, we aren't exactly sure what



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Two vehicles and a garage were damaged in a fire in the 600 block of Somerville Wednesday afternoon.

See FIRE, Page 3

Dress code meeting scheduled Tuesday open to the public

The committee formed by the Pampa Independent School Board to study dress code will host another meeting, which is open to the public, to discuss the issue of dress code in public schools. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Pampa High School library.

Committee Chair and School Board Member Derrell DeLoach said that everyone is invited and he hopes anyone who has an opinion or suggestion about the subject will attend.

Water park proposed for city

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

A new water park could be in Pampa's future.

During a work session following the Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday afternoon, Shane Stokes, Pampa's community services coordinator, laid out a proposal for a new water park.

"It seems as though swimming pools are on their way out except for competitive swimming and exercise programs," Pampa City Manager John Horst told the commission. "The majority of people in the summer enjoy a water park where water sprays on them and they can splash around."

Stokes presented three options for the commission's consideration. The first was upgrading the existing pool, such as adding a

water slide.

The second option is a splash park with sprays of water.

"It's basically a concrete slab and has water features that spray out," Stokes said.

The third option is a water park.

"It's the most popular and, obviously, the most expensive," Stokes said.

A lot of towns the size of Pampa and smaller, such as Sunray and Snyder, are building water parks, he said.

Stokes said \$50,000 could add some features to the existing municipal swimming pool.

"From there you go up to the splash park or spray ground," he said. "That's in the range of \$200,000 to \$300,000."

See PARK, Page 3

8,932 pounds of pot seized

HEBBRONVILLE — Department of Public Safety troopers seized nearly four-and-a-half tons of marijuana Monday afternoon after stopping a tanker truck in Jim Hogg County.

The 8,932 pounds of marijuana is valued at \$4.5 million and was packed in 864 bundles. The truck, bearing fictitious markings, was stopped heading east-bound at 4:30 p.m. Monday on Highway 285, about three miles east of Hebbbronville.

Laramore heads up Tralee Crisis Center

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Dee Dee Laramore has just completed her first month as the executive director of Tralee Crisis Center, but her path to that position began more than a quarter of a century ago.

Laramore was a staff writer for The Pampa News when she met and interviewed Travis Plumlee, a hospital social worker who had a dream of helping rape victims and battered

women and children.

In 1984, Plumlee's vision became reality as Tralee Crisis Center for Women, Inc. opened in Pampa. The name of the non-profit center is taken from the first three letters of Plumlee's first name and the last three letters of his surname.

Seventeen or so years later, Laramore was offered the directorship of the center. At the time, she was on her second term of employment at The

Pampa News, having worked there from 1979 to 1992 and then returned in 2000. She was offered the job of editor of the paper at the same time as the Tralee position, and decided to remain at the newspaper, where she was editor for three and one-half years, until July 2005.

"I wasn't looking for a job," Laramore said of the offer of the cen-

See TRALEE, Page 3



Laramore

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Join us for our April Chamber Luncheon to be held Tuesday, April 17th at 11:45 in the MK Brown Room. The menu will include Salisbury Steak, Corn, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cherry and Apple Cobbler provided by Peggy's Place. Pam Dalton will be speaking on the Gray County Relay For Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Call the Chamber office at 669-321 for reservations ... \$8.00 per person.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		
Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny

Friday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Increasing clouds, with a high near 48. North-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Friday Night: A chance of rain before 11 p.m., then a chance of rain and snow between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m., then a chance of snow after 3 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. North-northwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 38. East wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 44. South-southeast wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

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Obituaries

Reba Louise Cullum Gilmer, 48



Gilmer

Reba Louise Cullum Gilmer, 48, a long-time Pampa resident, died March 28, 2007, in Maryland. Celebration of life services are scheduled at 4 p.m. Sunday at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1657 in downtown Pampa.

Mrs. Gilmer was born June 29, 1958, at Havre-de-grace, Md., to the late

Leland L. Cullum and the late Caroline F. Holcomb. She belonged to Women of the Moose, chapter 1209, of Aberdeen, Md.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Gloria

Solomon; and by two brothers, Robert Miller and Edward Cullum.

Survivors include her husband, Billie L. Gilmer; a daughter, Caroline Ledford of Pampa; three sons, Johnny Bailey of Pampa,

and Toby Gilmer and Jimmy Gilmer, both of Canadian; four sisters, Rosemary Brown of Virginia, Patricia Gullion and Judy Sawyers, both of Maryland, and Marsha Knell of Pampa; and a number of grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to VFW Post 1657.

Margaret Florine 'Maggie' Lindsey, 66



Lindsey

Margaret Florine "Maggie" Lindsey, 66, of Krum died Sunday, April 8, 2007, at Cottonwood Manor surrounded by her loving family.

She was born July 27, 1940, in Pampa, the youngest of 11 children, to Grover Cleveland and Annie Mae (Anglin) Austin. She married William "Bill" Lindsey on Dec. 30, 1963, in Denton. She was the owner and operator of Maggie's Beauty Salon in Denton for over 30 years.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, April 11th in the chapel of DeBerry Funeral Directors. Mike Bishop officiated. Burial followed at Jackson Cemetery in Krum.

Maggie is survived by her husband, Bill of Krum; three daughters, Kebby Mitchell and husband Kent of Dallas, and Jamie Free and Julie

Farmer, both of Denton; two sisters, Shirley Austin of Denton and Mary Ray of Pampa; one brother, Butch Austin of California; five grandchildren, William "Kerby" Lindsey and wife Holly of Corinth,

April Taylor McGavock and husband Brian Saxon of Carrollton, Dustin Clearman of Krum, Taylor Farmer of Midlothian and Collin

"Woody" Farmer of Denton; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews; and other, family and friends.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Maggie Lindsey to Cottonwood Manor, 2224 North Carroll Blvd., Denton, TX 76201 or to Southern Care Hospice, 5800 North I-35, Suite 200, Denton, TX 76207.

DeBerry Funeral Directors in Denton was in charge of arrangements.

Alan Lee Rovner, 64

SKELLYTOWN — Alan Lee Rovner, 64, died Tuesday, April 10, at Amarillo. Services are pending with Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger.

Mr. Rovner was born Sept. 4, 1942, at Los Angeles, Calif. He had been

a resident of Skellytown for seven years and belonged to River of Life Church.

He was an automobile salesman and a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Rovner, of the home; two sons, Michael

Rovner of Orange County, Calif., and Samuel Rovner of Glendale, Ariz.; five daughters, Marlene Sisson, Elaine Rovner, both of Simi Valley, Calif., Jamie Rovner, Shoshannah Rovner, both of Glendale, Ariz., and Rachel Hedglin of Pampa; two step-

sons, Michael Walden of California and Mark Walden of Skellytown; a stepdaughter, Dana Whetstone of Amarillo; a brother, Martin Rovner of Simi Valley, Calif.; a sister, Ina Carol Pechacek of Lake Havasu, Nev.; and 10 grandchildren.

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Eleven traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 600 block of North Sumner.

An accident, involving \$200 in damages and one arrest, was reported at the intersection of Hobart and 21st streets.

Abandoned vehicles were reported in the 1500 block of North Banks and the 1000 block of Prairie.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1900 block of North Banks.

Calls concerning animals were reported in the 1000 block of North Nelson, the 1000 block of South Christy, the intersection of Lincoln and Sumner, and the 2600 block of Dogwood.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 100 block of North Nelson, the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 600 block of Somerville.

Welfare check was made in the 400 block of Pitts.

Found property — a purse and contents — was reported in the 2100 block of North Christy.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1100 block of South Wells and the 1100 block of South Christy.

Lost property was reported in the police department lobby.

Civil matters were reported in the police department lobby, the 600 block of

Naida, the 500 block of North Sumner and the 500 block of Doucette.

Warrant service was attempted at one location.

Criminal trespass was reported in the police department lobby, the 100 block of East Harvester and near the intersection of Ripley and Hobart streets.

A suspicious person was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart and the 700 block of North Dwight.

A 911 hang-up call was reported in the 1300 block of Hamilton.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 1900 block of North Christy and twice from the 100 block of East Harvester, where two arrests were made.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Warren where a tire valued at \$150 was slashed; in the 2400 block of Evergreen; in the 1200 block of Christine; in the 2100 block of Coffee where a vehicle was egged; in the 1700 block of Coffee where a vehicle was keyed resulting in an estimated \$200 damages; and in the 800 block of West Francis where a vehicle was scratched.

Consumption of alcohol by a minor was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester.

An assault was reported in the 2400 block of Charles.

A gas drive-off was report-

ed at Allsups, 1900 N. Hobart, where \$79 worth of gas was stolen.

Thefts were reported in the police department lobby where a wallet worth \$20 was reported stolen; in the 600 block of Doucette where a video camera of unknown value was stolen; and in the 2800 block of Charles.

Burglary was reported in the 600 block of Doucette.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2000 block of Charles where glasses, CDs, DVDs, change and a gift certificate were stolen. Total estimated value of the items is \$985.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accidents today.

Friday, April 6

3:42 p.m. — A 1994 Ford Ranger driven by John Caleb Plaster, 24, of 641 Naida, and a 2001 Nissan X-Terra driven by Nina Kay Turk, 43, of 2208 N. Christy, collided in the 300 block of West Harvester. There were no reported injuries. Plaster was cited for following too closely and no proof of insurance.

Wednesday, April 11

6:45 p.m. — A 2001 Mitsubishi Eclipse driven by Clifton Frank Stewart, 43, of 1040 W. Sirroco and a 2002 Ford F150 driven by Glendon Lee Marshall, 73, of 2109 Dwight, collided at the intersection of North Hobart and West 21st. There were no reported injuries. Stewart left the scene and was later cited for failure to yield right-of-way at a stop sign and accident involving damage to a vehicle.

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

Wednesday, April 11

8:55 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Hamilton on an investigation.

4:04 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2600 block of Evergreen on a gas odor.

4:20 p.m. — Five units and 10 personnel responded to the 600 block of Somerville on a structure fire.

Thursday, April 12

5:08 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2300 block of Comanche on a medical assist.

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Denver Dyer
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"No - Keep separation of church and state. Religion should be taught at home."



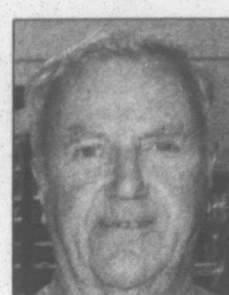
Mary Tilger
Administator
Ovilla, Texas

"Yes - I would like for them to teach that."



Faustina Curry
Retired city
commissioner

Only if it is taught as literature."



Bobby Marler
Retired
Jordan Unit

"Yes - If it's an elective and is taught as non-denominational."

Park

Continued from Page 1

Water parks can cost from \$1 million to \$10 million, depending upon the features.

Stokes said the first thing

that would need to be done, if the commission wanted to pursue such a project, would be to hire a planner or designer to do a study.

"They would come to Pampa and look at our pool and see if our pool could handle features like the fountains and the slides," Stokes said.

A study would also narrow the cost estimate, he said, and determine what could be done. He estimated that a study would cost about \$10,000.

The total cost of any of the projects would depend upon a variety of scenarios.

"If we're looking at 20 to 30 years out of our pool,"

Stokes said, "it would probably be feasible to do something to the existing pool. If we're looking at 10 more years for the pool, you might want to spend the money on a water park."

That would probably mean building a new pool in addition to the fountains, slides and other entertain-

ment facilities.

He said Saginaw, near Fort Worth, recently built a water park with a pool, beach and river around it for \$2.2 million.

Sunray has a small water park, Stokes said, with water features and a pool. Their water park was an estimated \$1.5 million.

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Tralee

Continued from Page 1

called me. I thought, 'When you get called twice, you need to respond.'"

Her previous employment helped prepare her for the Tralee position.

"All the years that I spent at the paper helped me see all the needs in the community and all the ways that people here respond to those needs," Laramore said. Her newspaper work also helped her learn how to deal with the public, supervise staff and express herself.

Laramore also worked for eight years at Hospice of the Panhandle, where she was marketing director and wrote grants.

"It gave me the non-profit back-

ground," she said of her hospice work. The knowledge she gained about applying for grants is being put to use at Tralee.

"The only way we're funded is through grants and donations," Laramore said. "We don't charge the people we serve."

Her supervisory skills can be exercised on the 15 employees and approximately 20 volunteers at the center. Working with volunteers is not totally new to her, either, since she was a volunteer at Tralee for four years in the 1980s.

The center consists of a main office at 310 S. Cuyler, a shelter, transitional housing and a resale shop. Laramore will administer almost one-half million dollars in grants and donations annually.

Laramore has a high school diploma plus one year of college during which

she took journalism classes at Amarillo College.

"The rest of it is life experience, or the school of hard knocks," she said of her education.

"I want to bring stability and strong leadership to this agency," Laramore said. "That was something the board said they were seeking. I'm glad to be here and I see great things ahead."

"My goal is to meet the challenges head-on, knowing that if even one person gains enough strength from us to leave an abusive situation, if a seed is planted that will break the cycle of violence in even one child's life, if one rape victim finds healing and courage to go on, we will have achieved a victory," she said. "That is what keeps Travis' dream alive. And I'm so proud to be a part of it."

Water

Continued from Page 1

from broken glass, Satterwhite said.

Satterwhite said the chloride levels in the lake remained similar to those of the previous quarter, but high bacteria counts were detected in March at the marina near a comfort station. The National Park Service found a hole in one of their comfort station waste lines and a new line was installed, he said.

In other business, the board approved an expenditure of \$21,351 to rebuild a damaged pump in the Roberts County well field. The money will come out of a replacement fund and won't change the water authority's budget, Satterwhite said.

Satterwhite said it would cost \$38,827 to replace it. The pump was damaged by a power surge.

The board also approved \$68,000 for a used 2002 motor grader. Satterwhite

said that their current motor grader is a 1987 model. He said a new one would cost between \$135,000 and \$165,000.

"It would make next year's budget look pretty ugly," Satterwhite said.

But the City of Amarillo had a motor grader they were about to return to the manufacturer on a buyback program, and they offered it to CRMWA for what the company was going to give them. CRMWA officials said the Amarillo motor grader had less than 5,000 hours on it and appeared to be in good shape.

"It won't change the budget," Satterwhite said, "and it will make next year's budget much more palatable."

The board also approved the purchase of a 73-acre parcel of water rights in Roberts County for \$33,069. Satterwhite explained that the 300-foot wide strip was inadvertently left out of a survey and was needed to meet Panhandle

Ground Water Conservation District rules concerning well set backs from property

lines. He said it was an area close to the proposed Phase III well site and had good water.

No more purchases of water rights are expected, he said.

Chad Pernell, deputy general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, told the board that there would be no net increase in power charges this year from Southwestern Public Service as part of a rate case agreement.

The board also designated CRMWA's records clerk, Kelly Tull, as the water authority's Records Management Officer.

They heard from Wayne Beninger, chief operating officer of PetroSearch Energy Corp., concerning the water flooding of an old oil field west of Miami in Roberts County; a legislative update from John C. Williams, a consultant to CRMWA; and a report from the National Park Service.

Jerry Carlson and Benny Kirksey represent Pampa on the CRMWA board.

Fire

Continued from Page 1

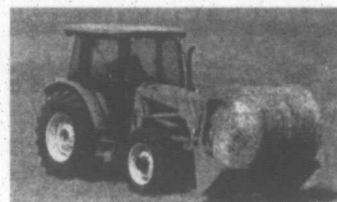
happened to start the fire. It looks like the jumper cables may have been the cause or maybe the battery shorted out. The Durango caught on fire causing the front of the garage to catch on fire. The other vehicle was also damaged."

Fisher said there were no injuries at the scene.

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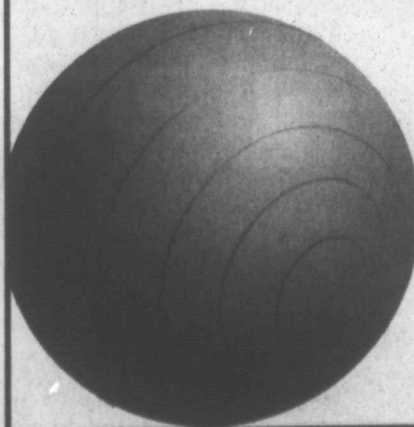
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Viewpoints

Diversity, political correctness trump at universities

It seems diversity and political correctness have long occupied (or preoccupied) higher academia at college campuses and universities nationwide, and apparently it's a trend that isn't going away judging by a press release from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute's Collegiate Network which recently shined the light on this hysteria with its "10th annual Campus Outrage Awards."

The network published its first through fifth place winners in the media release. The following is lifted directly from that submission:

"First Place: The College of William & Mary — In October 2006, President Gene Nichol secretly ordered the removal of a cross from the college's chapel because non-

Christians allegedly found it offensive. Pres. Nichol then allowed a "Sex Workers Art Show," featuring topless women and former prostitutes, to take place on campus, claiming that it is "not the practice and province of universities to censor or cancel performances because they are controversial." But apparently it is Nichol's job to censor Christian symbols on William & Mary's campus. Under pressure from conservative groups, donors, and pundits, Nichol consented to the cross' return to the chapel in early March 2007.

"Second Place: The University of California, Berkeley — In protest of a federal law prohibiting students with drug convictions from receiving federal aid for college, Berkeley's student government unani-

mously passed a bill that provides \$500 scholarships to students with prior drug convictions. Subsidizing illegal drug use among students — only at Berkeley!

Skyla Bryant

Third Place: Johns Hopkins

University — The university is currently trying to shut down "The Carrollton Record," the campus' only conservative newspaper. In May 2006, the Record printed a story that reported on a university-funded appearance on campus of a pornographic movie director. The university then confiscated 300 copies of the newspaper that were distributed in student housing, and the fol-

lowing semester, instituted a new policy restricting distribution of publications to a few selected areas on campus.



It turned out, however, that these rules applied only to The Record. So, the Johns Hopkins Administration has no problem funding the appearance of a pornographic movie director but does object to this event being brought to the attention of a wider audience by the intrepid reporters of The Record. JHU officials seem to oppose censorship except when the student press exposes its follies.

"Fourth Place: The University of Michigan —

One day after Michigan voters approved an initiative banning affirmative action in university admissions, President Mary Coleman delivered a speech, promising to devote the "full focus" of the University of Michigan to "defending diversity" and fighting the initiative in court. Between Election Day and December 23, 2006, the day when the ban on affirmative action took effect, the administration pushed through as many minority applications as possible. Who cares what the people of Michigan think? President Coleman and her ivory tower cohorts know better!

"Fifth Place: San Francisco State University — College Republicans found themselves in hot water following an anti-terrorism rally during which

participants stepped on makeshift Hezbollah and Hamas flags. The university stepped in to investigate the incident after a student filed a formal complaint, accusing the College Republicans of "attempts to incite violence and create a hostile environment," and "actions of incivility." Contrast this to the reaction of administration officials when a group of Arab students attacked a College Republican get-out-the-vote rally in 2004, screaming, "You and the Jews want to kill all the Muslims!" These radical Arab students were not punished while the College Republicans were brought up on formal charges. Why is the SFSU administration so sympathetic to America's sworn enemies?"

Exactly.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, April 12, the 102nd day of 2007. There are 263 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began as Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

On this date:

In 1606, England's King James I decreed the design of the original Union Flag, which combined the flags of England and Scotland.

In 1776, North Carolina's Fourth Provincial Congress adopted the Halifax Resolves, which authorized the colony's delegates to the Continental Congress to support independence from Britain.

In 1862, Union volunteers led by James J. Andrews stole a Confederate train near Marietta, Ga., but were later caught. (This episode inspired the classic Buster Keaton silent comedy "The General.")

In 1877, the catcher's mask was first used in a baseball game, by James Tyng of Harvard in a game against the Lynn Live Oaks.

'The world is quite right. It does not have to be consistent.'

— Charlotte Perkins Gilman
American economist-feminist
(1860-1935)

In 1934, "Tender Is the Night," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published in book form by Charles Scribner's Sons (it had been serialized in Scribner's Magazine).

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Ga., at age 63; he was succeeded by Vice President Harry S. Truman.

In 1955, the Salk vaccine against polio was declared safe and effective.

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man to fly in space, orbiting the earth once before making a safe landing.

In 1981, the space shuttle Columbia blasted off from Cape Canaveral on its first test flight.

In 1983, Chicagoans went to the polls to elect Harold Washington the city's first black mayor.

Ten years ago: Undaunted by a cache of explosives found on his travel route, Pope John Paul II plunged into a peace mission to Sarajevo, wading into crowds and declaring, "Never again war."

Five years ago: Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law ignored growing demands for his resignation because of the sex scandal engulfing the church. (Law ended up resigning in December 2002.) Secretary of State Colin Powell's trip to the Middle East was marred by a suicide bombing in Jerusalem that claimed six victims.



Tools to help you manage junk e-mail

Last week, I covered some basic strategies that will help reduce the amount of junk e-mail in your inbox. This week, I've listed some of the best spam-stopping software available for you to download and/or purchase. But before I jump right into that review, let me spell out some very important terms you will hear when choosing the right solution — black-lists, white-lists, and heuristic scanning.

Black-Lists

In the beginning, it was easy to stop most junk e-mail (and annoying friends, for that matter) by simply adding their e-mail addresses to a "banned" list in your e-mail program. If any messages come from a banned address, the message is immediately erased or moved to another folder

without you having to lift a finger. In most cases, you never even knew they sent you a message. Back in the old days of the Internet, we called such processes "bozo filters."

Spammers (junk e-mailers) are much smarter these days, though. Most times, the "from" address attached to a piece of junk e-mail is bogus. It doesn't exist. Spammers do that on purpose to avoid being buried in an avalanche of hate-filled replies from angry recipients. Sometimes, they use legitimate addresses of OTHER people when sending their messages. I know the horror of that experience

personally ...

White-Lists

As you can probably guess, white-lists are the opposite of black-lists. They include the addresses of people you

WANT to receive e-mail from. However, that's just it. You will ONLY receive e-mail from those people. Anyone else will be filtered out. While this method guarantees a spam-free inbox, it's draconian approach will most likely result in the deletion of legitimate messages.

Most programs using white-lists automatically import your address book to speed up the process. And, of course, you can hand-

enter as many addresses as you like. Some programs even allow automated "challenge questions."

In other words, if the system receives a message from an unlisted individual, instead of blindly deleting it, a message is automatically sent back asking for a "verification of existence." The original sender need only respond to that reply for you to get a notice asking if you want to include them in your white-list. Since most spam addresses are bogus or never checked by humans, you are virtually assured that any replies you receive are from non-spammers.

Heuristic Scanning

Many spam-blocking programs ignore the e-mail address altogether and concentrate, instead, on the con-

See E-MAIL, Page 5

Eric Spellmann
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

April 1

San Antonio Express-News on peace in the Middle East:

No conflict has been the object of more diplomatic investment than the one between Arabs and Israelis. And no conflict has proved to be more intractable and delivered such negligible returns.

Nevertheless, hope springs eternal. And what look like small steps in the right direction may lead to the long-

sought-after path to peace.

The first stride is a renewed effort by the Bush administration to jump-start peace efforts. Shuttle diplomacy by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice led to the second stride the decision of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to consult biweekly.

Contact between the Israeli and Palestinian governments has been nonexistent since the extremist group Hamas won parliamentary elections last year. The leaders aren't negotiating the road map to peace, but they are at least talking.

The third stride comes from last week's Arab League Summit in Riyadh, where Saudi King Abdullah II revived a 2002 peace plan. At this point, it's a take-it-or-leave-it ultimatum rather than a diplomatic overture. But the vocabulary is one of peace rather than war.

These advances may turn out to be inconsequential, as nearly every other effort at Arab-Israeli peace has been. But any news of potential life in peace talks is far better than news of death and war.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Toby Keith to hold golf tourney, Colbert salutes hockey team

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Country singer Toby Keith announced the charity golf tournament he sponsors will once again benefit the families of children fighting cancer.

Keith said Wednesday the fourth annual event will begin with an auction and party in downtown Oklahoma City on April 27, and continue with the golf outing the following morning.

"We throw a great party with this event every year to support these kids in their battle with cancer," Keith said. "Soldiers come in all sizes."

Items expected to be auctioned off are a trip to see Keith in concert in Las Vegas, memorabilia from Garth Brooks, Sammy Hagar and Bob Seger, and sports memorabilia autographed by Tiger Woods and baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle.

The proceeds will benefit Ally's House, an organization named after the daughter of Keith's original bandmate Scott Webb. Allison died in August 2003, one month before her third birthday, from a form of kidney cancer called Wilms' tumors.

Keith and his foundation have raised more than \$1.1 million to benefit the charity, which he helped establish. It helps pay for medical bills, prescriptions, housing, transportation, toys, food, clothing and other expenses for families of children with cancer.

Keith was voted favorite male artist in

the country music category at the American Music Awards last year. He is among the nominees for top male vocalist at the Academy of Country Music Awards next month.

Keith and his foundation have raised more than \$1.1 million to benefit the charity, which he helped establish. It helps pay for medical bills, prescriptions, housing, transportation, toys, food, clothing and other expenses for families of children with cancer.

DETROIT (AP) — Stephen Colbert used a video montage to pay tribute to the Saginaw Spirit following a season in which the minor league hockey team and the fake news analyst became improbable, kindred spirits.

The Spirit, who play in the Ontario Hockey League, were bounced from the first round of the playoffs April 1 by the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds to finish 44-21-0-3.

Colbert, the host of Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," used a segment entitled the "Sport Report" (both with silent Ts) on Wednesday to salute the team that named its mascot Steagle Colbeagle the Eagle in his honor early in the season.

Colbert introduced the video montage, which featured snippets of segments the host aired over the season, by calling the team the "pride of Michigan, home of the brave."

"Whenever your favorite team loses there's plenty of blame to go around, folks," the host said Wednesday. "The refs blew a ton of calls in these games. Not once did they penalize the Greyhounds for scoring. That's gotta be five yards."

Red Cross



COURTESY PHOTO

Valorey Foreman, youth coordinator with the Eastern Texas Panhandle Chapter of the American Red Cross, has several members of the chapter's youthful volunteers gathered around her. Pictured with her are Michael, Summer, Matthew, Benji and Sierra. The youth recently participated in a community fund-raiser and a CPR/First aid program.

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E-Mail

Continued from Page 4

tent of the message. Searching for specific keywords, these filters can "recognize" spam and delete it more accurately without having to create white- or black-lists.

The only downside (you knew that was coming, right?) lies in the intelligence of the software. For instance, if I set up a heuristic scanner to delete any e-mail message containing the word "breast," I would probably stop a lot of spam. However, if a family member wrote me an important message about her mammogram results, I might never get it. See what I mean?

(Note: The most popular red-flag-generating word in heuristic circles today is "Viagra." Sorry, Pfizer.)

So, what's the solution? I recommend software that combines white-lists with heuristic scanning. By creating a white-list with all of your friends entered, they can send you messages containing ANY words that might fail the heuristic test. And, the heuristic scan will catch most of the other culprits. Make sure you choose a product that does NOT automatically delete suspected spam. The risk of a "false positive" is just too high.

Software to Check Out
 The one piece of spam-

stopping software that has received the most accolades is Cloudmark's Desktop (http://www.cloudmark.com). Using a peer-to-peer setup (similar to Kazaa), this software is constantly updating its "database" of spam terms based on votes from its customer base. (i.e., If enough of us receive the same junk e-mail and report it as such to the Cloudmark system, we have protected all of the other customers). By the way, Cloudmark calls its cus-

tomers SpamFighters. Some other products to check out include: Qurb, recently bought by Computer Associates (http://www.qurb.com); Goodbye Spam (http://www.goodbyespam.com); and SpamCatcher (http://www.mailshell.com). Remember, though, that the cheapest and most low-tech solution is to change your e-mail address once every two years or so ... See you in Cyberspace!

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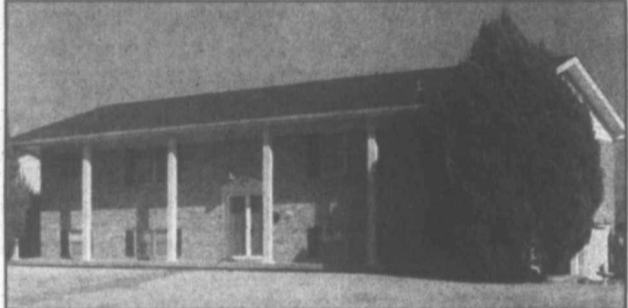
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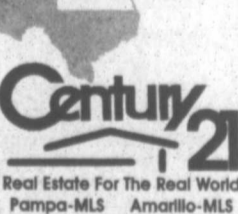


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LITERARY ICON

Vonnegut dies at 84

NEW YORK (AP) — In books such as "Slaughterhouse-Five," "Cat's Cradle," and "Hocus Pocus," Kurt Vonnegut mixed the bitter and funny with a touch of the profound.

Vonnegut, regarded by many critics as a key influence in shaping 20th-century American literature, died Wednesday at 84. He had suffered brain injuries after a recent fall at his Manhattan home, said his wife, photographer Jill Krementz.

Vonnegut's more than a dozen books, short stories, essays and plays contained elements of social commentary, science fiction and autobiography.

"He was sort of like nobody else," said fellow author Gore Vidal. "Kurt was never dull."

'He was sort of like nobody else. Kurt was never dull.'

— Gore Vidal
Author

A self-described religious skeptic and freethinking humanist, Vonnegut used protagonists such as Billy Pilgrim and Eliot Rosewater as transparent vehicles for his points of view.

He lectured regularly, exhorting audiences to think for

themselves and delighting in barbed commentary against the institutions he felt were dehumanizing people.

"He was a man who combined a wicked sense of humor and sort of steady moral compass, who was always sort of looking at the big picture of the things that were most important," said Joel Bleifuss, editor of In These Times, a liberal magazine based in Chicago that featured Vonnegut articles.

Some of Vonnegut's books were banned and burned for suspected obscenity. He took on censorship as an active member of the PEN writers' aid group and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The American Humanist Association, which promotes individual freedom, rational thought and scientific skepticism, made him its honorary president.

Ohio man charged in connection with bomb plot

By MATT LEINGANG
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted a U.S. citizen on charges of joining al-Qaida and conspiring to bomb European tourist resorts and U.S. government facilities and military bases overseas.

Christopher Paul, 43, of Columbus, trained with al-Qaida in the early 1990s, the indictment issued Wednesday says. The indictment says he told al-Qaida members in Pakistan and Afghanistan that he was dedicated to committing violent jihad.

Paul is charged with providing material support to terrorists, conspiracy to provide support to terrorists and conspiracy to use a weapon of mass

destruction.

Fred Alverson, spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Columbus, said Thursday that he couldn't comment further on the case.

Federal prosecutors planned to hold a news conference later today.

Paul was in the Franklin County Jail late Wednesday after a U.S. District Court hearing was postponed until his attorney, Don Wolery, could be present. Wolery did not immediately return a message seeking comment this morning.

The indictment says Paul traveled to Germany about April 1999 to train co-conspirators to use explosives to attack European and U.S. targets, including government buildings and vacation spots frequented by American tourists.

It does not address specific resorts or buildings that might have been targeted, but it gives U.S. embassies, military bases and consular premises in Europe as examples.

Paul was born Paul Kenyatta Laws. He legally changed his name to Abdulmalek Kenyatta in 1989, then to Christopher Paul in 1994, according to the indictment.

Two other Columbus men have been charged in federal investigators' terrorism investigation. Lyman Faris was sentenced in 2003 to 20 years in prison for a plot to topple the Brooklyn Bridge. Nuradin Abdi, accused of plotting to blow up a Columbus-area shopping mall, is awaiting trial on charges including conspiring to aid terrorists.

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Hospice plans volunteer appreciation

April is National Volunteer Appreciation month, and in celebration BSA Hospice staff will say "thank you" to more than 60 Pampa area volunteers during a special program Saturday.

The volunteers will be treated to lunch at Red River Steakhouse in McLean.

The theme for the 19th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon is "Volunteers - Priceless Treasures" - a fitting description for such a special group.

Volunteers will be treated to lunch and a program recognizing their years of service and accomplishments.

Janet McCracken, Pampa area volunteer coordinator, says she can put a measure to the importance of her volunteers.

McCracken calculates that in 2006 Pampa area volunteers contributed 2,219 hours for a cost savings to the program of \$38,943. She adds, "the volunteer's monetary contribution to the organization is huge, but the loving care given to our hospice patients and the steadfast support to our staff is priceless."

For more information about BSA Hospice volunteers, call McCracken at (806) 665-6677.

Events calendar

Panhandle Elementary School in Panhandle will be the location for a public meeting about a wastewater discharge permit amendment requested by Pantex. The meeting, sponsored by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, will get underway at 7 p.m. today.

The 2007 "Fang-Tastic" Rattlesnake Hunt is slated Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Waurika, Okla. The event is being sponsored by Waurika Fire Department and will include James White and the Outlaw Handlers of Granbury; a butcher shop with snake meat, rattlers and hides; a photo booth for pictures with a live diamondback; a carnival; and more. For more information, call (580) 228-2553 or log on to www.rattlesnake-hunt.com on the Internet.

St. Francis Catholic Youth Organization of Amarillo will hold a steak dinner and dance to raise funds from 6-8:30 p.m. Saturday in St. Francis Catholic Church Hall. Tickets are \$15 per person. Tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance. For more information, call (806) 226-5018.

Amarillo Alumnae Panhellenic Association will host a rush or recruitment meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday in the library of Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2525 Wimberly, Amarillo. The meeting is open to all Panhandle-area high school senior

women and college undergraduates interested in membership in any national sorority. Participants will receive rush packets and deadlines. For more information, call (806) 352-3767 or (806) 358-4880.

BSA Hospice will offer a free volunteer training and community education class Monday through May 2 at the BSA Hospice office conference room in Pampa. The class will be conducted from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. To find out more or to register, call 665-6677, (806) 274-9111 or 1-800-658-6985.

The deadline to enter a Christian Fine Arts Society-sponsored free poetry contest is April 21. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 1012 Beechwood Dr., Nappanee, IN 46550; or enter online at www.freecontest.com.

The Comprehensive Breast Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinic: April 23, Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have a friend I'll call Jessica who has a major drinking problem. She is aware of it and asked me to help her because she's too embarrassed to get help from strangers. I am trying hard to help her without acting like a parent, but it's not easy. Jessica says she doesn't need to stop drinking entirely, just limit herself to no more than two drinks. This makes sense to me. Two weeks ago, Jessica came to my house with a bottle of vodka. She had two drinks that I found out later were double-shots. Before long, she began acting very drunk, and I told her she was cut off. She seemed fine with it, but an hour or so later, I heard her in the kitchen and caught her drinking straight from the bottle. I became very frustrated and poured it all down the sink. When Jessica realized what I was doing, she began sobbing and got very angry. She stayed that way for the next two hours until she finally passed out. The next morning, when I told her what she did, she was amazed and apologized, and said I did the right thing. But a few days later, Jessica partied with some other friends and got so drunk she fell and hurt her wrist. Please help me, Abby. I don't know what to do and neither does Jessica's family. She will die from this if she doesn't get help. She's only 21, and her whole life is ahead of her. — **WORRIED SICK IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

DEAR WORRIED SICK: You need more help than anyone can give you in a letter -- and so does Jessica and her family. The fact that she is in your kitchen chugging vodka straight from the bottle speaks volumes. She's an alcoholic in denial. Please urge

Jessica's family to start learning all they can about the disease of alcoholism -- because it IS a disease. An excellent place for them -- and you, by the way -- would be the Al-Anon Family Groups. They are a 12-step fellowship of men, women and children whose lives have been affected by the compulsive drinking of a family member or friend. They provide literature in 30 languages and have support groups almost everywhere. The toll-free phone number is (888) 4-ALANON, and the Web site is www.al-anon.alateen.org. Once the family understands more about Jessica's problem, they may want to stage an intervention to divert her from her self-destructive path. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) could do her a world of good. Part of the process of healing is admitting to strangers that she has a problem she can't handle by herself. The members will understand that fact because they all share the same problem. AA members are men and women who have found a solution to their drinking problem. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. It's supported by voluntary contributions made by its members and groups. And if Jessica is afraid that if she admits that she's an alcoholic the word will be spread, her fear is groundless. Members observe personal anonymity at the public level, preferring to emphasize principles rather than personalities. To find an AA meeting, look in a local phone directory or newspaper, or visit its Web site: www.aa.org.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Grassy

1 Helpers: plant

Abbr.

6 Elephant of story

11 Recap

12 Merge

13 Sandra's "Speed" co-star

14 Book part

15 Get off the subject

17 Ran into

19 Unoriginal

20 Beatles descriptor

23 Mysterious

25 Utah ski resort

26 Collectible item

28 Japanese plane

29 Truck fuel

30 Bizarre

31 Fragrant tree

32 "You there!"

33 "It's Like That" rappers

35 Wash-room fixture

38 Laundry units

41 Downloadable reading

42 Mark replacers

43 Noted oil tycoon



Yesterday's answer

1 Invite

2 Haul into court

3 Alternative to cash

4 Casserole

5 staple

6 Italian dessert

7 Put up

8 One of the Brontës

9 Auction signal

10 Put away

11 Cat breed

12 Not seem out of place

13 Passover

14 Belts

15 Hip

16 Goofed

17 Mob

18 Study

19 action

20 Grimace

21 "Grows in treat

22 "Brooklyn"

23 Junist

24 Fortas

25 Lush

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28 One in the hand

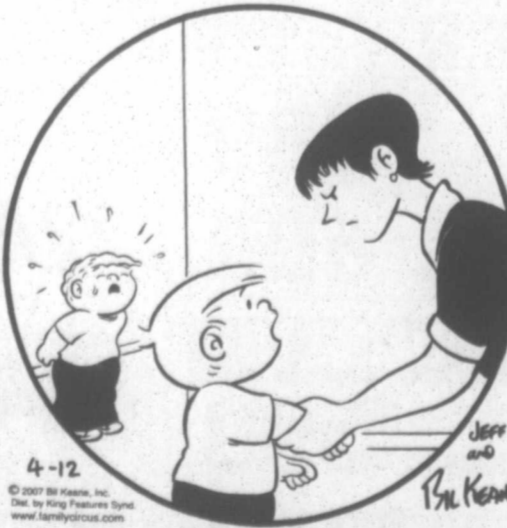
29 Compass dir.

Marmaduke

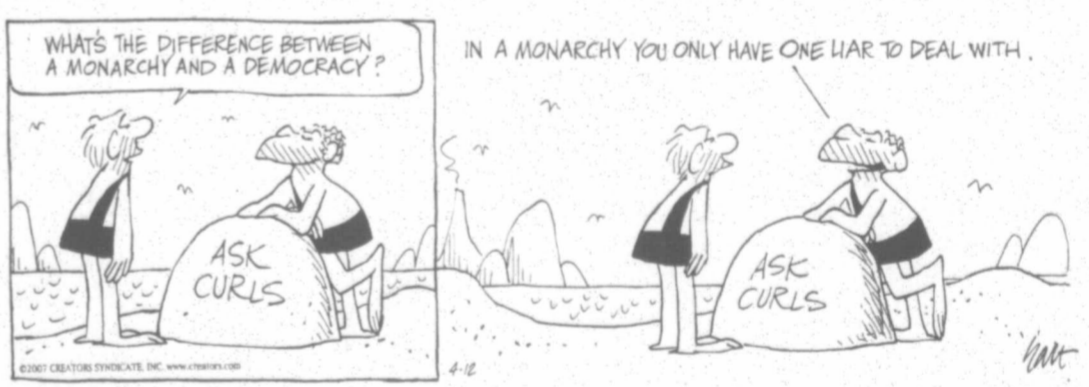


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



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Sports Day

Harvesters get first strike in district



Pampa News photos by JORDAN REAGAN

With a record of 2-3 on the season, senior Brett Ferrell gave up ten runs in the first four innings as starting pitcher during Tuesday's game against Randall.

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

The Pampa Harvesters got their hands dirty, after having a clean record in district, until their 13-1 loss to the Randall Raiders on Tuesday. Pampa dropped their record to 17-6-1 overall and 4-1 in district.

The Harvesters committed six field errors to cost them the game, against two errors by Randall.

As starting pitcher, senior Brett Ferrell was in for four innings, in which he faced 26 hitters, had two strikeouts, three walks, and gave up 10 runs - five in the second inning and five in the fourth.

In the third inning, Ryan Funderburg hit a home run with empty bases to bring Pampa their only run of the game.

Senior Bradley Johnson took over pitching in the fifth and sixth innings, and had one strikeout, two walks and allowed no runs on nine hitters.

In the seventh inning, Colden Fortenberry pitched, facing seven hitters with one strikeout, two walks, and three earned runs.

The Harvesters now have the second spot in district behind Randall (5-0) and are one game up on Caprock (3-2).

Pampa will host the Dumas Demons (2-3) in district action at 1 p.m. Saturday at Harvester Field.

Next Friday, April 20, the Harvesters will host Caprock.



Senior James Coffee stepped up to the plate in the second inning of Tuesday's game, but was outed on his way to first base.

Josh Hamilton powers Reds past Diamondbacks

By The Associated Press

Josh Hamilton is enjoying every minute of his new major league career. Opposing pitchers are hoping his enthusiasm will soon wane.

The Cincinnati outfielder, who sat out three seasons as he struggled with cocaine addiction, homered for the second straight game, leading the Reds to a 3-2 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Wednesday night.

"It's still hard for me to describe how fun it is to be here," said Hamilton, who also doubled to start a rally. "I mean, I'm just so happy to have an opportunity. I feel so blessed to be here."

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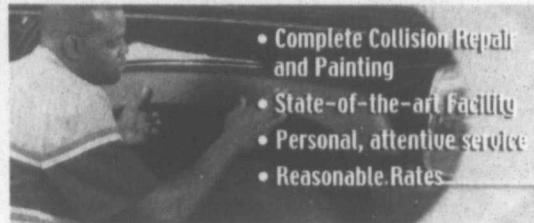
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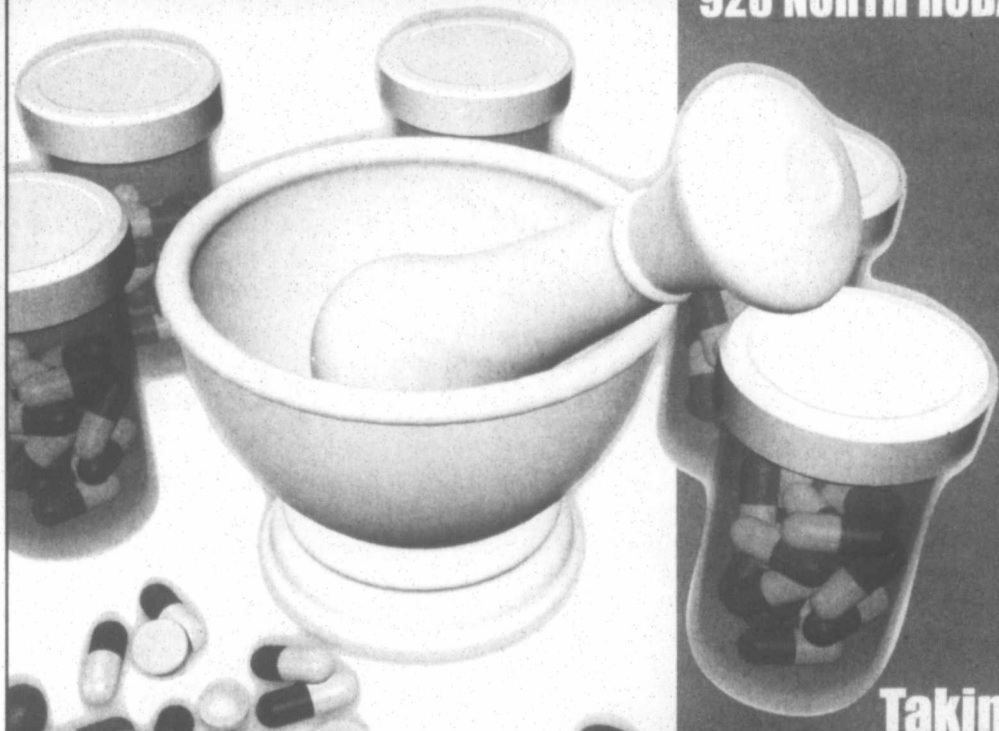
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SATURDAY 8:30-1:00

Signing on



Varsity softball catcher, Logan Winkelman signed on with McLennan Community College in Waco Wednesday at Pampa High School. Pictured here are: (Standing, L-R) Logan's grandfather, Bob Green, father Tom Winkelman and mother Kristie Boles. (Sitting, L-R) Sister, Lauren, and Logan Winkelman.

Dice-K, Ichiro, and Felix Hernandez, too

By The Associated Press

Fenway Park was the place to be, and not just because of the first matchup in the major leagues between Daisuke Matsuzaka and Ichiro Suzuki.

In his first start as a 21-year-old, Felix Hernandez didn't allow a hit until J.D. Drew's leadoff single in the eighth inning and finished with a one-hitter, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night.

So much for Dice-K's home debut for the Red Sox. "That's fine for me when the guys all talk about him," Hernandez said. "I just go out and do my best."

Three days past his 21st birthday, Hernandez (2-0) struck out six and walked two in his third career complete game in 45 starts. He hasn't given up a run in 17 innings this season.

"With all the hype going into this game with

Matsuzaka and Ichiro," Seattle manager Mike Hargrove said. "I kept in the back of my mind that people better not overlook our guy."

In other American League games Wednesday, it was: Minnesota 5, New York 1; Los Angeles 4, Cleveland 1; Tampa Bay 6, Texas 5; Detroit 4, Baltimore 1 in 12 innings; Toronto 7, Kansas City 4; and Chicago 6, Oakland 3.

Matsuzaka (1-1) allowed three runs and eight in seven innings, striking out four and walking one. Suzuki went 0-for-5, with four of those at-bats coming against Dice-K.

"He's a hitter that I've wanted to face since my days in Japan," Matsuzaka said, "so, compared to the other batters, I may have been a little more conscious of his at-bats."

In Japan, Suzuki was 8-for-34 (.235) against Matsuzaka, including strikeouts in his first three at-bats.

Rank	Player	Score
1st Place - 63	O.K. Lee, Bob Swope, Pollie Mae Millican, Jack Davis	
2nd Place - 64	Jim Brashears, Jerry Davis, John McGuire, Duane Cash	
3rd Place - 64	Ronnie Wood, Gerry McCabe, Oscar Sargent	
4th Place - 65	Roy Don Stephens, Jim Ashford, Joe Magry, Bob Young	
Closest to pin #6	Nathan Lancaster	
Closest to pin #15	Howard Musgrave	

Team	Score
Pampa High	366 376 742 406 1148
Telissa Sealy	88 88 176 93 269
Taylor Bell	90 91 181 98 279
Shelby Wisdom	95 96 191 102 293
Shelby Rose	93 101 194 113 307
Rikki Beesley	113 106 219 116 335
Palo Duro High	386 404 790 411 1591
Angela Potts	87 95 182 99 281
Beatrice Dominguez	91 104 195 104 299
Alyssa Arreondo	106 108 214 102 297
Tanisha Bailey	102 97 199 104 298
Samantha Warren	130 137 267 137 367
Dumas High	366 379 745 406 1151
Kelsey McSpadden	80 87 167 94 267
Carissa Jones	89 98 187 100 287
Shande Wieck	91 93 186 99 285
Lyndi Vaughan	106 101 207 113 320
Brian Jannon	109 114 223 113 336

Pictured here is the Pampa girls golf team after taking 3rd place at district. (Top Row, L-R) Coach Josh Blackmon, Shelby Rose, Rikki Beesley and Shelby Wisdom. (Back Row, L-R) Telissa Sealy, Taylor Bell and Julie Schuneman.

Girls golf swings to 3rd place at district

The Pampa Girls Golf team finished district 3-4A ending in 3rd place.

Only 10 strokes behind the 2nd place team going into the final round, the girls finished their third round of district at Palo Duro Creek Golf Course in Canyon with

a team total score of 1148.

"The girls played well considering the high winds and slow greens," coach Josh Blackmon said.

As one of the top six individuals at district, Telissa Sealy earned a spot in the regional tournament in San

Angelo on April 23-24.

Sealy and teammate Taylor Bell were also honored as part of the 2nd Team All-District Team.

Shelby Wisdom was honored as part of the Honorable Mention All-District Team. "I am very proud of all

these girls," coach Blackmon said, "They have given their all, all year long and it has paid off."

Results are as follows:
Varsity-Telissa Sealy- 93 (3 day total- 269)
Taylor Bell- 98 (3 day

total- 279)

Shelby Wisdom- 102 (3 day total- 293)

Shelby Rose- 113 (3 day total- 307)

Rikki Beesley- 116 (3 day total- 335)

Julie Schuneman- 132 (2 day total- 245)

'As innocent today as we were back then': Yearlong Duke rape case collapses

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Nearly a year after calling the rape accusations he and two Duke lacrosse teammates faced nothing but "fantastic lies," David Evans again stood before the cameras and proclaimed his innocence.

This time, there was no room for doubt.

A few hours earlier, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper hadn't just dismissed all the remaining criminal charges against Evans, Reade Seligmann and Collin Finnerty. He took the extra step of declaring the players innocent — the victims of a "tragic rush to accuse" by a rogue prosecutor who could be disbarred for his actions.

"This case shows the enormous consequences of

overreaching by a prosecutor," Cooper said.

The attorney general took over the case in January from Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, after the state bar charged Nifong with several ethics violations tied to his handling of the case. On Wednesday, Cooper said the state's investigation into a stripper's claim that she was sexually assaulted at a team party last spring found nothing to corroborate her story.

The investigation, he said, "led us to the conclusion that no attack occurred."

The dismissal brought an abrupt end to a yearlong case that heightened long-standing racial tensions in Durham and ignited a debate of race, sex and class at the private, elite university.

The woman is black and attended nearby North Carolina Central University, a historically black school; all three Duke players are white.

In the uproar over the allegations, Duke canceled the rest of the team's 2006 season, the lacrosse coach resigned under fire and a schism opened between faculty who supported the athletes and those who accused them of getting away with loutish frat-boy behavior for too long.

"It's been 395 days since this nightmare began. And finally today it's coming to a closure," said Evans, his voice breaking at one point. "We're just as innocent today as we were back then. Nothing has changed. The facts don't change."

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, April 13, 2007:

You might accomplish much more than you even could hope for or dream of this year. Focus on your long-term desires and your ability to zoom in on what you want. Friendship might be instrumental to making your year work. Listen to your instincts, as often a subconscious side will open up. You could try another approach or do something totally different this year. Put on the hat of an explorer if need be. If you are single, your best bet is meeting people through your friends. Otherwise, you might want to approach potential sweeties with care. Suitors might not reveal all the facts about themselves. If you are attached, you make waves and open up to new possibilities. The two of you will enjoy yourselves much more together. PISCES understands more than you know.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ***** If you get into the spirit of the day and perhaps some folklore about the "13," you might turn this day into a party rather than a concern. Spontaneity leads to joking and good times. What you say could break through a problem. Tonight: Push as hard as you can.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** A friend really lets others know what he or she thinks. You might be a bit aggravated, but you need to take care of your responsibilities first. Someone might have a way of enticing you down a certain path. Tonight: Lighten up. Start the weekend with a smile.

***** Investigate and get more information before you make key decisions. You might want to think through a decision far more carefully than you initially were inclined to. You have a smile that makes many a pushover. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Work with each individual and don't get caught up in details. You might want to rethink a situation. Explore and get facts on your own. Understand what might be going on around you or happening with someone at a distance. Tonight: Let your imagination help you escape from the mundane.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** Others continue their monopoly on your life. You might wonder how to change gears or do something very different. Your personality doesn't draw everyone into your camp. It seems as if you need to visit others' worlds. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** Sometimes you cause yourself trouble. You might like detailed work. You might want to rethink your day. Remain open in the morning. You could want to revamp your plans. Network in the afternoon. Tonight: Greet the weekend with a smile.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You could become a touch overwhelmed by what heads in your direction. Use your imagination and creativity. Sometimes you might want to renegotiate your choices. Think positively about a project. Tonight: Ask others for that extra push.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** Your vision of what might work needs testing. You could easily tumble into a brainstorming situation.

Understanding proves to be very helpful and might point to a new direction and opportunity. Tonight: Let your hair down.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** Listen to your sixth sense. This morning, return calls and schedule meetings pronto. You might want to rethink a decision more carefully. Handle the basics. You'll come to a new understanding. Tonight: Head home early if possible.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** Treat yourself and those around you to a special breakfast, perhaps be naughty and add a few extra calories. Turn the "13" into a day with fun sharing. Share folklore. Keep talking and sharing. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** You are all smiles. Use the morning carefully, when you'll feel empowered. By the afternoon, you will be good and ready to start the weekend. If you can take a long lunch, do. Catch up on news. Tonight: Allow yourself to break the bank — a little.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Dedicate the morning to quiet matters. You do feel better than you have in a while this afternoon. Whether asking the boss for a raise or pushing some other cause forward, use your magnetism. Tonight: As you like.

BORN TODAY
Third U.S. president Thomas Jefferson (1743), actor Edward Fox (1937), chess player Gary Kasparov (1963)

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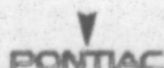
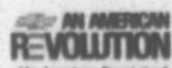


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