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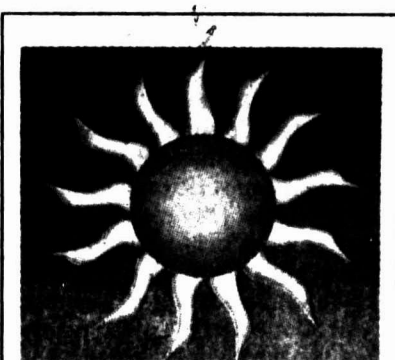
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High today 74
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 For weather details see Page 2

Drainage, gazebo on meeting agenda

PAMPA — Drainage and gazebo funding for the Dr. V.E. von Brunow Park are to be considered at the Thursday meeting of the Pampa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Also on the agenda will be a review of the water bill donation fund and Lions Club park slide. Bimonthly meetings will be discussed. The meeting is at 5:30 p.m. at the city commission Chambers on the third floor of the Pampa City Hall.

- Pearl Voltmer Barron, 105, former teacher.
- Una McClenny, sister of a Canadian resident.
- John Albert Phelps, 84, retired lab tech at Cabot.
- Joyce Pool, 55, Amarillo resident.
- Robert L. Ragsdale, 85, former owner of Ragsdale Aviation.
- Ellen L. Swindle, 95, retired manager PHS cafeteria.
- Willie Mae Wheeler, 84, former post mistress.

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Police seek two suspects in city holdups



Thomas and Valerie Peterson

Police were searching for a Pampa couple today in connection with a string of robberies and attempted robberies.

Warrants were issued Monday for Thomas Peterson, 36, and his wife, Valerie Cole Peterson, 41, charging them with aggravated robbery.

Peterson is accused of robbing the Family Dollar Store at Frederic and Barnes Monday afternoon. He has also been accused of trying to take a purse from a woman in the Wal-Mart parking lot Monday afternoon.

Peterson is also accused of robbing the Bell Mart convenience store, 1020 E. Frederic, Sunday night. A man matching Peterson's description also attempted to rob Gas N Stuff, 225 Brown, earlier in the evening Sunday.

Carson County officials said today they would like to question Peterson in connection with the robbery of the Allsup's Store in White Deer Monday.

The couple was reported in Lubbock Monday night, authorities said. They are believed to be driving a blue and white 1985 Oldsmobile four-door sedan.

Officers said a man matching Peterson's description robbed the Family Dollar Store of about \$220 in cash about 2 p.m. Monday.

Police said a man of similar description grabbed the purse of a woman in the parking lot at Wal-Mart about 1 p.m. The woman, officers said, held on to the purse strap and was dragged across the

(See SUSPECTS, Page 2)

Miami ISD eyes lawmakers to see if funding changes

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

MIAMI — School officials here continue to take a wait-and-see attitude regarding a proposed lawsuit disputing the state's school funding system.

Earlier this year, Miami Independent School District's board of education voted to join the Texas School Coalition, a group of Texas school districts, in a lawsuit against the State of Texas. The proposed litigation challenges the state's school finance system, known as the "Robin Hood law" because the law takes funds from rich school districts and redistributes the money to poorer school districts.

"The Texas School Coalition is watching the legislature to see what it will do, to see if legislators will address the problem," said Allan Dinsmore, Miami school superintendent. Dinsmore reported the progress of the lawsuit at a recent Miami ISD school board meeting.

"I expect if nothing is done, they will file the lawsuit toward the end of the (77th Legislature) session," Dinsmore said. TSC attorneys had originally planned to file the lawsuit in February.

He said TSC representatives have been discussing concerns about the school finance law with government officials in Austin.

"Now that the legislature is into redistricting, they (TSC) don't think much will happen," Dinsmore said.

(See MIAMI ISD, Page 1)

The road back ...



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

The Stowers family today has returned to normal after their ordeal with Toxic Shock Syndrome. They are, from left: Janet, Kelly, Shawn and Richard.

Teenager battles back after near-fatal illness

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Staff Writer

For almost four weeks, Pampa teenager Kelley Stowers remained in a coma as medical experts fought to save her from the ravages of Toxic Shock Syndrome and Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

"It's funny that both of the diseases our daughter had were 'syndromes,'" commented Richard Stowers, Kelley's father. "You know they put 'syndrome' on things they don't really know what causes them."

Finally, Dr. Eric Levy at Northwest Texas Hospital pinpointed the center of the massive staph infection that threatened to claim Kelley's life — in fluid surrounding her heart.

Medical personnel and Kelley's family witnessed an immediate change for the better after Dr. Levy filled seven

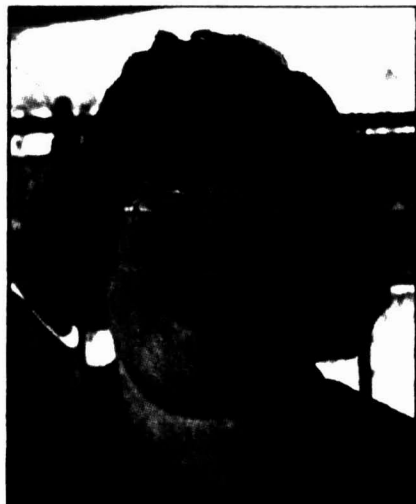
(See TEENAGER, Page 3)



(Special photo)

Kelley Stowers relaxes with Dr. Eric Levy, the doctor who saved her life, shortly before leaving Northwest Texas Hospital after 31 days in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit.

Quite frankly... What should we do about the violence in public schools?



"They need to allow prayer back in school, listen when students make threats and take them more seriously."
 — Heather Fisher



"They should allow students to openly pray for each other in the schools and allow volunteers to go on campus as observers."
 — Nora Lisa Martinez



"Put the Ten Commandments back on the wall and prayer back in the schools."
 — Zip Swaney



"We should go back to the old system when parents were basically in charge of what went on in the schools."
 — Tom Turner



"It needs to start at home with the parents. The parents need to have more legal freedom in the use of discipline."
 — Debbie Cagle



72nd Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet And Citizen Of The Year Award April 10th 7:00 PM In The MK Brown Auditorium - Tickets \$20 Per Person - Guest Speaker: Marsha Sharp, Lady Raiders Head Coach

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

BARRON, Pearl Voltmer — 10:30 a.m., United Methodist Church, Sigourney, Iowa.
RAGSDALE, Robert L. — 11 a.m., Emmanus Catholic Church, Austin.
SWINDLE, Ellen L. — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.
WHEELER, Willie Mae — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

PEARL VOLTMER BARRON

SIGOURNEY, Iowa — Pearl Voltmer Barron, 105, a former Pampa resident, died Sunday, March 18, 2001, at Manor House Care Center in Sigourney. Services will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday in Sigourney United Methodist Church with the Rev. Danny Lemons officiating. Graveside services will be at 3 p.m., Thursday in Fairview Cemetery at Pampa with the Rev. Todd Dyess officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Holm Funeral Home in Sigourney.

Mrs. Barron was born July 23, 1895, near Sigourney, to David H. and Nellie Blaise Voltmer. She graduated from Sigourney High School in 1913 and from the State University of Iowa in Iowa City in 1922. She taught school in rural Keokuk County, Clarksville, Iowa, at McKinley in Cedar Rapids, Searsboro, Iowa, as well as Child Care Center in Torrence, Calif. She married Thomas Barron on June 6, 1927, at Sigourney; he died Feb. 10, 1959.

She lived in Texas for 18 years prior to moving to Searsboro. She returned to Sigourney in 1960.

A member of First Methodist Church of Pampa, she was an affiliate member of Sigourney Methodist Church and belonged to United Methodist Women and Sigourney Women's Club. She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Rodney; a sister, Nell Voltmer; and six brothers, Frank, Albert, Carl, Earl, Edward and Walter Voltmer.

Survivors include several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. today at the funeral home in Sigourney.

The family requests memorials be to Sigourney Public Library.

UNA MCCLERNY

AMARILLO — Una Traylor McClerny, sister of a Canadian resident, died Sunday, March 18, 2001. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in Paramount Terrace Christian Church with the Rev. Mark Zimmerman officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Memorial Park Funeral Home.

Mrs. McClerny belonged to Paramount Terrace Christian Church.

Survivors include two sons, Jim B. Cook of Amarillo and Gary D. Cook of Wichita Falls; two sisters, Laverne King of Amarillo and Genevieve Webb of Canadian; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

JOHN ALBERT PHELPS

John Albert Phelps, 84, of Pampa, died Tuesday, March 20, 2001. Services will be at 10 a.m., Thursday in First Baptist Church with Dr. Randy White, pastor, and the Rev. John Glover, associate pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Mr. Phelps was born Jan. 12, 1917, at Bellevue, Texas. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1937, moving from Bellevue. He married Billie Phipps on Nov. 17, 1946, in Pampa. He had been a lab technician for Cabot for 25 years, retiring in 1982.

He was a member and Deacon Emeritus of First Baptist Church and member of Everyman's Bible Class. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II, serving in China, Burma and India on B29 aircraft.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Wayne Phelps.

Survivors include his wife, Billie, of the home; two sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Heidi Phelps and Paul and Pamela Phelps, all of Pampa; a sister, Eugenia Bray of Loveland, Colo.; four grandsons, Brian Phelps and Brent Phelps, both of Lubbock, Jason Phelps of Amarillo and Jonathan Phelps of Pampa; and two great-grandsons, Jacob and John Paul Phelps, both of Amarillo.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065; First Baptist Church Missions, 203 N. West, Pampa, TX 79065; or Alzheimer's Association, Panhandle Chapter, 2200 W. 7th, Amarillo, TX 79106.

JOYCE POOL

AMARILLO — Joyce Fichtler Pool, 55, died Friday, March 16, 2001. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in Paramount Terrace Christian Church with Brent Ashby, minister of pastoral care at the church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Rector Funeral Home.

Mrs. Pool, born at Erick, Okla., grew up in Shamrock, but lived most of her married life in Amarillo.

Survivors include her father, Ernest E. Fichtler of Canyon, a sister, Judy Kuebler of Rinard, Iowa; and a brother, Johnny Fichtler of Canyon.

ROBERT L. RAGSDALE

AUSTIN — Robert L. Ragsdale, 85, died Thursday, March 15, 2001. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Emmanus Catholic Church with Father Richard McCabe and Father Patrick Ragsdale officiating. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery. Arrangements are under the direction of Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home of Austin.

Mr. Ragsdale was born Feb. 23, 1916, at Yoakum, Texas, to Robert L. and Ethel Mae Johnston Ragsdale Sr. Inspired by barnstormers in the 1920s, he knew that he wanted to fly. He built his first airplane when he was 12 and still has that airplane on his ranch in Dripping Springs. He attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock and studied mechanical engineering. One day while hitchhiking to town, he accepted a ride with Pearle Baird who became the first name in his flight log, his first legal passenger and finally in,

July 1940, his wife.

In 1941, he and Pearle moved to Austin where they owned and operated Ragsdale Flying Service, training flight instructors and pilots for the University of Texas and St. Edward's University. In 1958, the business was renamed Ragsdale Aviation, providing aircraft sales and service to general aviation. Operations were expanded to Houston, San Antonio and Dallas. They sold their final aviation operation in 1984 and retired to enjoy their airplanes, their ranch and their friends. Pearle died in 1993.

Both Bobby and Pearle were active in civic affairs. Bobby served as King Brio XI of the Austin Symphony League as well as a member of the Seton Northwest Development Board, original director and past president of Austin Community Foundation, member and past director of Austin Rotary Club, former chairman of the Board of Austin National Bank and director of Austin National Bank prior to the merger with NationsBank. On May 13, 1995, he was honored by St. Edward's University with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Jim, in 1992.

Survivors include a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Iris Ragsdale of Pampa; their family, Bill and Jan Ragsdale of Pampa and their sons and families, Jerome and Melissa Ragsdale and daughters, Aubrianna and Emilee of Lubbock; Joseph and Ande Ragsdale and their daughter, Alexandria, also of Pampa; and Peggy Davis, Jerry Davis and their sons, Jeff and Chris Davis, of Austin; He is also survived by a sister-in-law, Guadalupe Ragsdale of San Antonio; her family, Michael and Nancy Ragsdale of Walnut Creek, Calif., Father Patrick Ragsdale of San Antonio, Jim Ragsdale of Austin, Jane and Gary Judd of Amarillo and their daughter DeeDee Judd, also of Austin.

The family requests memorials be in lieu of flowers to Emmanus Catholic Church Building Fund or to St. Edward's University.

ELLEN L. SWINDLE

Ellen L. Swindle, 95, of Pampa, died Monday, March 19, 2001, at Shamrock. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with Pastor Paul Nachtigall of Highland Baptist Church officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Swindle was one of 12 siblings born to George Daniel and Louisa Cossey on April 3, 1905, in Tecumseh, Okla. She married Emmett M. Swindle on Feb. 10, 1923, at Abilene, Texas. He preceded her in death on Aug. 1, 1956. She had been a Pampa resident for over 60 years.

She was an employee of Pampa Independent School District for 27 years as manager of Pampa High School cafeteria before her retirement. She remained a loyal Harvester supporter. She was a member of Highland Baptist Church. Her faith and love for her family and friends are her legacy.

She was preceded in death by two sons-in-law, David L. Shelton, Sr., and Bob Shoulders; and by six brothers and three sisters.

Survivors include two daughters, Joyce Shoulders and Glyndene Shelton, both of Pampa; three grandchildren, Michael L. Shoulders, David L. Shelton, Jr., and wife Tammy, all of Amarillo, and Pat Ellen Chambers and husband Kenneth of Dawn; two great-grandchildren, Katie Sue Shelton of Amarillo and Kenny Chambers and wife Renae of McLean; two great-great-granddaughters, Haley Chambers and Devin Chambers of McLean; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Zella and O.T. Adair of Lake Arrowhead and Isabell Davis of Odessa; and nieces, nephews and many loving friends.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

WILLIE MAE WHEELER

Willie Mae Wheeler, 84, of Pampa, died Monday, March 19, 2001, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with Jim Reyna, minister of McLean Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Wheeler was born May 13, 1916, at Finley, Okla. She married Albert "Pete" Wheeler on Jan. 20, 1934, at Antlers, Okla.; he died Feb. 23, 1999. She had been a Pampa resident since the early 1960s. She was post mistress of Kelton Post Office and owned-operated Keys Market in Pampa and Wheeler's Market in Kelton for several years. She was a member of Mary Ellen and Harvester Church of Christ.

She was preceded in death by a brother. Survivors include two daughters, Voncile Nolen of Casper, Wyo., and Joan Madeen of Rhome; a son, Josh Wheeler of Pampa; nine grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	2.58	Columbia/HCA	37.30	up 0.21
Milo	3.11	Eaton	61.89	up 0.09
Corn	3.46	Halliburton	41.46	up 0.85
Soybeans	3.59	KMI	53.00	up 0.36
		Kerr McGee	68.76	up 1.20
		Limited	16.02	up 0.30
		McDonald's	26.06	dn 0.32
		Exxon Mobil	82.35	up 1.09
		New Atmos	23.36	dn 0.34
		XCEL	27.80	dn 0.40
		NOI	39.88	up 0.88
		OKE	41.19	dn 0.47
		Phillips	17.14	up 0.44
		Phillips	55.95	up 0.43
		Pioneer Nat.	17.85	up 0.65
		SLB	64.90	up 1.44
		Tenneco	2.96	dn 0.06
		Texasco	67.97	up 0.81
		Ultramar	36.59	up 0.59
		Wal-Mart	48.85	up 1.47
		Williams	42.74	up 0.30

The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:

Occidental	24.75	dn 0.09
Fidelity Magln	105.47	dn 0.27
Puritan	18.13	

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

BP Amoco	48.94	dn 0.27
Celanese	17.60	NC
Cabot	30.40	dn 0.23
Cabot O&G	29.55	up 0.55
Chevron	50.40	up 1.34
Coca-Cola	46.59	dn 0.19
New York Gold	260.70	
Silver	4.33	
West Texas Crude	26.32	

SUSPECTS

parking lot. The would-be robber got away with nothing in the purse snatching.

Sunday night, too, was matched with success and failure for the man police believe to be the same robber.

Officers said a man matching Peterson's description walked into Gas N Stuff on Brown about 7:30 p.m. Sunday night with his hand in the pocket of his green and tan jacket, threatening the clerk as though the robber had a gun in his pocket. The clerk on duty told police that when he found out the robber was unarmed, he refused to give the rob-

ber any money. The would-be robber then fled.

Within minutes, officers said, a man in a green and tan jacket walked into the Bell Mart on Frederic, brandishing a fire iron, and took an undetermined amount of money. The two women on duty at Bell Mart told police officers that the robber fled on foot.

Authorities said today that they believe the robber in each case was the same and that a woman was in a nearby car waiting for him at the time of the robberies.

Late Monday, Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman issued warrants for the arrests of Peterson and his wife on charges of aggravated robbery.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

MIAMI ISD

House Speaker Pete Laney and Acting Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff have said that they plan to appoint an interim commission to study school finance after the legislative adjourns.

"That will take two years of study," Dinsmore said of state officials' plans. "Programs will be cut and schools will be closed by that time. We want something quicker."

If lawmakers take action during the current legislative session, Dinsmore predicts it will be too small to be effective.

"They may increase the equalized wealth level from \$295,000 (per student) to \$310 or \$320,000," he said. "That's a tiny band aid. That's a band aid for a finger, about all that is."

In his other reports to the school board, Dinsmore said that a MISD student activities survey revealed some student interest in adding soccer and swimming to the school district's sports program.

"The majority of students have a full plate right now," he said.

Of the 96 surveys sent out, 61 were returned. Of those, soccer and swimming were the top two choices to add to the school district's extracurricular activities with soccer getting the most votes and swimming next.

"Swimming would be hard since we don't have a swimming pool," he added.

Board members asked cheerleader sponsors to further develop proposed changes in the school's cheerleading program

and bring their proposals back to the board.

Sponsors are suggesting changes in fund raising and increasing the number of cheerleaders at the junior high level.

A check for \$10,448.16 was presented to the school board from the Roberts County Appraisal District representing the school district's portion of funds left over from the previous budget year. Board members also heard the results of the appraisal district's audit. Dinsmore said the audit was "fine."

At the request of Board President Troy Manley following the recent school shootings in California and elsewhere in the nation, Dinsmore presented a general outline of the school district's school safety procedures.

"I presented it in general terms in the open meeting of the board, showing basically that Miami ISD had an emergency safety plan in the event of something happening like it did in California," Dinsmore explained. "We discussed (the plan) in detail during the executive session."

Board members also approved a bloodborne pathogens exposure control plan, as mandated by HB2085 through the state's health and safety code. Through the plan, all school district employees that could be exposed to blood or body fluids can receive a series of hepatitis B inoculations at the school district's expense. Those who do not want the shot series can sign a waiver. The shots cost the district \$80 each, Dinsmore said.

"It's another unfunded mandate," he said.

Following an executive session, board members reopened the meeting and voted to extend all teacher contracts for the coming year. Dinsmore said some contracts are on a probationary basis depending on the respective teacher.

In other action, the board approved adopting the Textbook Committee's recommendation to adopt all textbooks on the conforming list and to release of bids for two Suburbans for route vehicles, a 15- to 24-passenger school bus, and a pickup for the vocational-agriculture department.

Eight students were recognized as state qualifiers in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America parliamentary procedures competition: Taryn Adcock, Julie Davenport, Kalen Gardner, Chris Hallmark, Jennifer Hutchison, Kaylie James, Ean Miller, and Bridgett Murray.

Board members also recognized three Miami basketball players who made All-District: Zach McDowell, Lance Patterson, and Jimmie James.

Board members Rick Tenant and Diane Wheeler were unable to attend the meeting. The school board meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Houston will rename city's Dallas Street

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston city officials couldn't bear to build a multimillion-dollar convention center hotel on Dallas Street.

So they're renaming part of the street.

The city on Monday revealed plans for a 24-story hotel between the new sports arena and an enlarged George R. Brown Convention Center. The hotel and convention center expansion will cost \$630 million.

Under the current grid, the hotel would have a Dallas Street address. Once thoroughfares on the east side of downtown are rerouted around the new construction, however, the city plans to make the patch of pavement in front of the hotel part of nearby Lamar Street.

"We don't need to give our competition any publicity," said Jody Tollett, director of the city's Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department.

The rest of Dallas Street, which runs through downtown in Texas' largest city, will retain the name of the state's second-largest city. Hilton will operate the hotel.

Police report

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

Monday, March 19

- A runaway was reported in the 1000 block of South Christy.
- The theft of \$45 was reported in in the 1000 block of South Banks.
- A burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace.
- An attempted robbery was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart.
- A forgery was reported by a man from Skellytown.
- Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1000 block of North Duncan.
- A robbery was reported at the Family Dollar Store at Frederic and Barnes.

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Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 20

- 2:23 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Mary Ellen and Georgia and transported one to PRMC.
- 2:25 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported two patients to PRMC.
- 4:34 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 2400 block of Rosewood and transported one to PRMC.
- 9:20 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to PRMC for a transport to Baptist St. Anthony West.
- 10:37 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of North Zimmers and transported one to PRMC.

Tuesday, March 21

- 2:35 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded east on Highway 60 and transported one to PRMC.
- 3:54 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

Fires

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

Monday, March 19

- 2:32 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 1300 block of West Kentucky on a medical assist.
- 4:43 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 2400 block of Rosewood on a medical assist.
- 10:53 p.m. - One unit and three firefighters responded to the 500 block of North Nelson on a lifting assistance.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, mostly sunny. Highs around 74. South to southwest winds 10 to 20 mph. Tonight, mostly clear. Lows around 42. South winds 5 to 15 mph. Wednesday, partly sunny. Highs around 80. South winds 10 to 20 mph.

STATEWIDE — With a mid-week warming trend expected, the first day of spring Tuesday brought clear to partly cloudy skies across most of the state.

Early-morning temperatures on Tuesday ranged from the upper 30s in the Panhandle and South Plains of West Texas to the 40s and 50s elsewhere.

It was 39 degrees at Amarillo and 57 at El Paso.

Winds were mostly light and variable from the west and northwest at less than 10 mph.

Skies were mostly clear across West Texas under the influence of a cold, dry northerly flow aloft persist across the region, the National Weather Service

said. Skies were expected to remain mainly partly cloudy, with daytime highs warming into the 60s to lower 80s.

By Wednesday, a warming trend will boost highs into the mid-90s along the Rio Grande, with 70s to 80s elsewhere.

Lows overnight should drop to around freezing in the north and west, with 40s and 50s in central and southern sections of the state.

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TEENAGER

syringes with the germ-filled liquid.

Soon she had improved enough to be brought out of the medically-induced slumber that had held her in its grip for approximately a month.

As she became more conscious, Kelley also became aware of the toll on her once-strong body.

Her mother Janet Stowers believes the intensive training from swimming and weight lifting helped Kelley survive the ordeal.

"If her body hadn't been so strong, I don't think she could have made it through this," Janet said.

"It hit me when we (Kelley and the physical therapist) were throwing a ball back and forth," Kelley said. She remembers being surprised by her weak arm muscles. "I used to have so much strength from lifting weights."

When she tried to walk, Kelley would collapse as her leg muscles gave way, even when family and medical staff supported her on both sides.

"It was hard for her to learn to walk again," Janet said. "I think Richard thought it would be right away."

Kelley fought to focus her eyes on friends who came to visit her in the hospital. An eye patch on one eye helped.

"Sometimes I would see three of them," she said. "Sometimes it was just two of them."

Before the toxic shock set in, Kelley had been a competitive swimmer. Now she could barely move around in the hospital swimming pool during physical therapy sessions.

She became terribly discouraged when her parents brought her beloved flute to the room, she couldn't produce enough air to play a note.

She remembered looking at her arms and thighs, reduced to skin and bones after losing 50 pounds, and thinking, "I look anorexic!" She remembers half-way liking

her fashion model thinness.

Still unable to hold down enough food to help her gain back all the weight she had lost, Kelley had to rely on a feeding tube for nourishment.

She examined the myriad scars from the IV lines and blood tests. "I had dots all over my hands, like freckles," she said.

Her doctor, Eric Levy, tried to prepare Kelley for the difficult road of recovery ahead.

Janet had prayed for — and received — patience during the days and weeks of waiting for her daughter to get well.

"Now it's your turn to spell 'patience,'" Dr. Levy told the teenager.

"I know how to spell it," Kelley shot back. "It's spelled G-O — H-O-M-E — N-O-W!"

Finally, the teenager progressed enough to go home.

She was appalled by all the equipment going with her to her house.

"I was really upset when I understood I would have to use a nebulizer (breathing machine) for the next two years," she said. "To me that would be all through high school. I couldn't believe all the stuff I would have to take."

"The stuff" included a negative pressure device to stimulate deep breathing while Kelley slept. She called it "the turtle" because it looked like a turtle on her chest.

"They said you could put stickers on it. I said, 'yeah, skull stickers like death,'" the feisty teenager said. "It was like an iron lung. That's what it reminds me of."

Then there was the "weed whacker" a precursor to loosen secretions from Kelley's lungs. And of course, the feeding tube and oxygen equipment.

"At first I just wanted to be back at the hospital," Kelley said. She couldn't decide whether to sleep in her room or in the den. Either way, the hated equipment followed her, reminding her of what she had been through.

Shortly before Christmas, Kelley's doctors removed the feeding tube if she promised to

drink a calorie-loaded concoction called "Scandy shakes." She described the drink as "nasty."

About a month after her release from the hospital, Kelley said she began to walk in a normal way, although her balance was still a little shaky.

"It was hard going from swimming and lifting weights to sitting up and having to lift your legs where you wanted them to go," she said.

In addition to the physical problems, Kelley's illness had also prevented her from attending six weeks of school.

"What worried me was how was I going to make all that up," she said.

Through credit by exam tests, Kelley soon made up all that she had missed.

And two months later, she was back with the swim team. She even went to the regional swim meet with the team — but instead of competing, she served this time as the team manager.

"That was a hard thing," Kelley remembers. "With the time I had before I got sick, I could have gone to the state meet."

Another year passed, but Kelley did get to compete in the state UIL swim meet this February in Austin. And, as a junior, she still has another year to participate.

"We can't help but wonder if she hadn't been sick what would her times have been today," Richard said.

A now-healthy Kelley reflected on what her near-brush with death has meant to her.

"I take care of myself and I don't take things for granted," she said. "It's hard sometimes because I've grown up so much more than my friends. They're more concerned about things that I think 'what will it all matter?' I don't think my friends really understand what I went through. They don't know what it's like to really value life until you've almost lost it."

Janet said she's had to fight being over protective and not

react too strongly when Kelley comes down with flu-like symptoms, as she did last September.

Richard said Kelley's experience has changed his way of thinking. He'll never be able to see another parent's sick child without remembering what he and Janet experienced. He said he's more able to show his emotions, but it's still hard for him to show his affection.

"There's always the 'what if,'" he said. "What if I would have never again had the ability to hold her. What if I would never see her get in and go out of a pool again."

He remembers being sobered by the outpouring of love from friends and co-workers throughout Kelley's illness.

"I remember seeing Wayne Stribling just before he was diagnosed (with brain cancer) and he asked about Kelley," Richard said. "And the last time I saw him was just before the benefit (before Stribling died) and he didn't think about himself. He just asked, 'How's our girl?'"

"One of the best things that came out of this is my friendship with the doctors," Kelley added, especially with Dr. Levy, known for his abrupt manner.

"We could always tell her condition by the look on his face," Janet said. "If he came in with a smile on his face, it was a good day. If he was grumpy or grouchy, it wasn't a good day."

Once when Dr. Levy was talking to her, Kelley blurted out, "Are you any good?"

Without pausing on his way out the door, the doctor responded, "If I wasn't you wouldn't be here."

"Well, don't get huffy," Kelley said.

He stuck his head back through the door and said, "I want to be invited to your graduation."

Kelley answered, "We only get a couple of tickets."

"Well, I want to be invited anyway."

When the spunky teenager was getting ready to go home, Dr.

Levy told her mother, "You take care of my girl."

Janet replied, "When 'your girl' gives me trouble, I'll call you!"

Disturbed when Kelley cried from frustration as she fought to regain the abilities sapped by the illness, Dr. Levy promised her a helicopter ride if she'd quit crying.

"Can I take my brother?" Kelly asked. "I don't know about your brother, but I'll get you a ride on the helicopter," he said.

Kelley's brother Shawn emerged as the silent hero through all his sister's trials. What should have been "his year," where he would graduate as salutatorian of the 2000 Pampa High School graduating class, became lost in the drama surrounding Kelley's life and death struggle.

"Just look at this window of

time here," Richard said. "This is Shawn's senior year and he's caring for himself while I'm going to work and Janet's staying in Amarillo."

"He kept his grades up and went to school," Janet added with pride.

"And he had to take care of the dogs," she said, pointing to two hopeful Schnauzers with paws and noses pressed to the Stowers' den window.

Kelley's parents also praised the doctors and nurses who devoted themselves to saving their daughter.

"To me, Northwest Texas Hospital has the best nursing staff and doctors anywhere," Janet said.

"The doctors can take credit for a lot of things, but I know it was God that brought her through this," Richard added.

Southwest's Kelleher to resign as CEO

DALLAS (AP) — Herb Kelleher, the wisecracking, chain-smoking New Jersey native who co-founded Southwest Airlines nearly 30 years ago and came to personify the company, said Monday he will resign in June as chief executive and president of the nation's largest low-cost carrier.

Kelleher, 70, will remain chairman of the Dallas-based airline's board with a new 3-year contract but will hand over much of his daily decision-making power to two longtime associates.

James F. Parker, 54, the airline's vice president and general counsel, will become chief executive and vice chairman of the board. Executive vice president Colleen C. Barrett, 56, will become president and chief operating officer.

Bush: "No short-term fixes" for energy woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation is facing the most serious energy shortages since the 1970s, the administration said Monday, and President Bush declared there are "no short-term fixes."

Bush gave no recipe for dealing with the immediate power problems in California that threaten to spill into other parts of the country, nor the growing concern about another spike in gasoline prices this summer. Underscoring the worries, rolling blackouts swept across California on Monday for the first time since January.

Informant says Gotti behind murder of man who hit mobster's son

NEW YORK (AP) — An informant told the FBI that associates of John Gotti murdered a neighbor of the mobster 21 years ago after the neighbor accidentally killed Gotti's 12-year-old son, according to a published report.

The neighbor, John Favara, disappeared on July 28, 1980, four months after Frank Gotti was killed while riding a bike near his home.

A story in Monday's Daily News by former News reporter Jerry Capeci, adapted from Capeci's Web site, ganglandnews.com, said an account of Favara's murder was pieced together from documents and law enforcement sources. Gotti has been theorized as being behind the disappearance, but no one has ever been charged.

It said an informant told the FBI shortly after Favara disappeared "that the individual responsible for (the child's death) was killed recently at Gotti's direction, and Gotti wanted a solid alibi of not even being in New York at the time this killing took place."

Gotti — now serving a life sentence in federal prison — and his wife, Victoria, were in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., at the time Favara disappeared, the report said.

Favara was shot, beaten and abducted after he left work on Long Island and his body was disposed of in the Atlantic Ocean, inside a barrel filled with concrete, the News said. Favara's car was crushed to destroy any evidence, it said.

Of the nine men involved in either the abduction-shooting or the disposal of the body, the story said, four are in prison and two are dead.

Bruce Cutler, Gotti's attorney, was out of town Monday and not available for comment.

The Brooklyn U.S. attorney's office on Monday said there was no federal case involving the allegations in the News report.

Andrew Weissman, head of the its criminal division, said there had been reference to Favara's disappearance in another, unrelated mob trial. But he added that even if details of the paper's report could be proven, it would be unlikely that Gotti would be prosecuted since he already is in prison for life without possibility of parole.

Once the nation's most powerful gangster as head of New York's Gambino crime family, Gotti, now 60, was sentenced to life in prison for racketeering and murder in 1992. He recently was moved to a federal prison hospital in Springfield, Mo., for treatment of throat cancer.

Favara had received death threats in the months after the boy died. He had planned to sell his home and leave the city, but disappeared three days before he was due to close on the deal, the newspaper said. He was 51.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony



(Special photo)

Top O' Texas Gold Coats recently welcomed owner Carol Martin and Diana Yates of On Eagle's Wings and Copper Kitchen as new Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce members. Above: Lee Waters, Neil Fulton, Jim Davidson, June Beyer, Joe L. Lowry, M.D., Charlene Morriss, Kerrick Horton, Chuck White, Ronnie Holmes, Ken Rheams, Pat Montoya, Bob Marx, John Warner along with Martin and Yates.

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Hip Replacement Recall

On December 8, 2000, Sulzer Orthopedics announced the recall of approximately 17,000 InterOp brand artificial hips because of a manufacturing defect. According to Sulzer, the defect can cause a failure of the implant shell to bond with surrounding bone, resulting in severe groin pain, inability to bear weight on the affected leg and other problems.

Your doctor may have received a letter in your case from Sulzer.

If you believe you may have been affected by this product and are interested in talking to an attorney about your legal rights concerning Sulzer Orthopedics, please call

Paul H. LaValle, P.C. Attorney
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THE Pampa NEWS

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Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: Austin American-Statesman on Texas coin: The state wants your two-bits worth. Yes, anybody can play when it comes to designing the Texas-theme 25-cent piece to be issued by the U.S. Mint in 2004. A thoroughly populist design process is planned here in Texas, the Friendship State.

Designs for 50 different "tails" of quarter coins whose "heads" will continue to bear the familiar profile of George Washington are being selected by the U.S. Mint ("Serving America since 1792"). Fifteen state coins already are circulating. Roughly every 10 weeks from 1999 to 2008, a new quarter will be issued. The quarters emerge in the order that the states joined the union. Texas, which became the 28th of the United States in 1845, gets its quarter in 2004.

Gov. Rick Perry has charged a 15-member committee with selecting designs that show what makes the state special. The committee wants help. So, 2001 will be the "year of the quarter" in Texas. Get out your pencils or computer imaging devices and think about what symbols speak to you of your homeland.

Most of the 15 members of the Quarter Dollar Coin Advisory Committee assembled from around the state for their third meeting last week at the Capitol. They decided to fling the design gates open wide.

The committee figures thousands of Texans have worthwhile ideas. They'll be invited to submit these in a statewide contest to be sponsored by the Texas Numismatic Association. The association of coin dealers and collectors will promote the contest during its convention in Fort Worth in May, according to Gary Hill of Grand Prairie, a member of both the association and the committee.

Schoolchildren will take a shot at designing a coin next fall in a process outlined by advisory committee member John Paul Batisse of Austin. Because teachers already have plenty of extra duties, he said, the coin-design curriculum project should be short, sweet and fun for the kids.

Informal coin design competitions already have been held in several cities, noted the committee chair, Bob Estrada of Dallas. That's fine — lots of designs and lots of publicity can only help, he said. The numismatic association will narrow the field, the state committee will narrow it further, and then Perry will select two designs. The U.S. Mint has the final say.

West Texans inquire regularly what the Texas design will be, said committee member George Snead of El Paso. If they want to start sketching, they should first consult the design criteria under "programs" at www.usmint.gov.

State seals and state flags are "not considered suitable" for the design, the mint says. But other icons are. The mint specifically mentions the Texas Lone Star as a good one. Outlines of a state's geographic shape are OK, as are flora and fauna. So if you're thinking of pecan trees, bluebonnets, longhorns, mockingbirds, armadillos, horned toads or the state vegetable (sweet onion) no problem. Symbols shouldn't be particular to any one part of the state (the Alamo, the HemisFair Tower and Padre Island sand dunes may get shut out here).

Designs should not be "likely to offend," religious, commercial or particular to any sports team. They shall "maintain a dignity befitting the nation's coinage." A few states cluttered up their designs so badly that one Texas committee member declared them "yuck." Connecticut has gotten good reviews for its Charter Oak design. But Austin's Treaty Oak, disfigured by a herbicide-armed tree hater some years ago, may be an improbable contender in the symbol sweepstakes.

When the state recently put symbols on its auto license plates, the transportation department selected images of a mounted cowboy, oil rigs and space shuttles.

"Texans love history," says one of the historians on the committee, Larry Oaks of Austin, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission. Trying to portray the state's colorful past elegantly and simply will be a challenge likely to appeal to many, he adds.

Get busy. The eyes of Texas are upon y'all.

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A dream that 'defied description'

All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.

— Edgar Allan Poe

Remember the 1980s television show, "St. Elsewhere," about a group of doctors in an old teaching hospital? "St. Elsewhere" and "Hill Street Blues" were about the only two TV programs I watched during that busy time of raising kids.

I'll never forget that shocking last episode of "St. Elsewhere" when the writers revealed that everything that had happened to the characters for the previous few years occurred only in the mind of an autistic child as he gazed at snow swirling in a crystal ball.

For centuries philosophers have pondered life's meaning. It's their job to question the unanswerable on the chance that there is an answer.

Cogito, ergo sum. "I think therefore I am," explained Descartes, a Renaissance savant. In other words, if he didn't exist, how could he be thinking about whether he existed or not.

Do you wonder sometimes if you're just walking around in someone else's dream — or nightmare? If they wake up, will you just go "poof" and disappear?

In my family, it was a morning ritual to discuss our dreams after we got up in the morning. My mom studied a lot about dreams and their meanings and she shared that interest with her three daughters.

Men seem to be less concerned about these images of slumber than women. Whenever we began talking about dreams, one man I knew would just snort and dismiss the whole conversation by stating emphatically, "My dreams defy description!" And he wasn't kidding.



Dee Dee Laramore
Staff writer

My dreams are in vivid Technicolor, but other people have told me they only dream in black and white. I wonder why. Does the brain of color and black and white monitors like a television set? Do some people just remember in black and white?

Scientists theorize that dreams are the brain's way of cleaning itself as we sleep. They can chart the electrical storms that take place in the REM (rapid eye movement) portion of sleep where dreams occur.

Psychiatrist Sigmund Freud says dreams are the path to a person's subconscious — our deepest thoughts and feelings. He based most of his therapies on psychological problems revealed through dreams and even wrote a book about the interpretation of dreams.

Perhaps truth lies in both theories. For most of my life, from early childhood until I turned 30, nightmares plagued my sleep. Those dreams turned out to be the keys to solving fears that ruled my waking moments.

Dreams can signal feelings of insecurity. Remember the Maidenform bra commercial where the woman says "I dreamed I was ... in my Maidenform bra." The advertising cam-

paign was based on a universal dream of being caught out in public in various states of undress. The dreamer is acutely aware of the problem, but everyone else seems to be oblivious.

I've dreamed of being in a huge dark room trying to climb a rickety ladder that I feel is going to fall apart at any moment. My daughter says she has inherited an old recurrent dream of mine where my teeth fall out.

My husband Vic has told me of dreaming he was flying, not in an airplane, but with arms outstretched. This dream indicates the person is confident of his abilities. I envied Vic, because I had never had such a dream.

Until a few months ago... I dreamed I spread my arms out and lifted gently in the air and I wasn't afraid. I soared around the town looking down on the roofs of the houses below me, noting how small the people were and how trees looked from above. I was a tiny bit worried about landing, but I even accomplished that. It was like a parachutist coming down out of the sky and taking a few running steps before stopping.

Early this morning I had a dream that "defied description," but I'll share a little bit with you. I was in a small car full of journalists driving on a busy street in Ireland. We passed another car filled with balloon people. A sack flew out of the back of the car and inflated into three more balloon people, including one that looked just like John Travolta. For some reason, the thought of motorists running into a balloon John Travolta was hilarious to me. I started laughing, really laughing, the tears running, knee-slapping kind of laugh. I laughed so hard I woke myself up.
Go figure, Freud.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 20, the 79th day of 2001. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 8:31 a.m. EST.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 20, 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.

On this date:
In 1413, England's King Henry IV died.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published.

In 1896, U.S. Marines landed in

Nicaragua to protect U.S. citizens in the wake of a revolution.

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1976, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup.

In 1981, former girls' school headmistress Jean Harris was sentenced in White Plains, N.Y., to 15 years to life in prison for slaying "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. She served almost 12 years.

In 1987, the Food and Drug Administration approved the sale

of AZT, a drug shown to prolong the lives of some AIDS patients.

In 1990, Namibia became an independent nation, marking the end of 75 years of South African rule.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed and more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing sarni, a poisonous gas, were leaked on five subway trains.

In 1999, Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland and Brian Jones of Britain became the first aviators to fly a hot air balloon around the world without stopping.

Ten years ago: A U.S. jet fighter

shot down an Iraqi warplane in the first air attack since the Gulf War cease-fire. April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Saddam Hussein had lied to her by denying he would invade Kuwait.

The Supreme Court ruled employers could not adopt "fetal protection" policies barring women of childbearing age from certain hazardous jobs.

Five years ago: A jury in Los Angeles convicted Erik and Lyle Menendez of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings of their millionaire parents.

Texas sayings better than wonk jargon

A friend in Texas has shared some Texas sayings, and I'm happy to pass them along. The most colorful and creative use of the language always comes from the common folks, though Will Shakespeare and Charles Dickens have contributed their share.

In Texas, a stingy person is "tighter than bark on a tree." To describe a not-overly intelligent person, you would say, "The engine's runnin' but ain't nobody drivin'."

A person who talks but doesn't deliver has "a big hat, but no cattle." A Georgia politician once described former President Jimmy Carter as "a good bugler but a poor performer." A conceited person "thinks the sun come up just to hear him crow." A talkative woman "has tongue enough for 10 rows of teeth."

To describe a lack of rain, "It's so dry the trees are bribin' the dogs." "This ain't my first rodeo" means I've been around awhile. "They ate supper before they said grace" is a way of describing unmarried lovers.

"You can put your boots in the oven, but that doesn't make them biscuits," which means that what you say doesn't change what something is.

At one time in the South when someone started acting in a pompous manner, you



Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist

would say, "Climb down off that big white horse." To be angry was to "have the reds." To go on a bender was to "get red-eyed and rowdy."

An ex-convict of my acquaintance once said, after describing a humiliation, "But I ain't a dog, I'm a man among men."

Much of language is born in the military, and, as new phrases or words arise, others become obsolete. We know that "to buy the farm" means to die, but few people would know that "Adam and Eve on a raft" means eggs on toast. "GI" means Government Issue. The Purple Heart, a decoration awarded to someone who is wounded, was called "the slow badge" in Vietnam.

In frontier days, a man who had been shot or stabbed might elicit the comment, "You could-

n't store shucks in that guy's body." A bow-legged man "couldn't trap a pig in a one-foot ditch." A shifty-eyed person might be described as having "skim-milk eyes."

Another old saying was, "He was born lazy and reared tired." "Hookworm hustle" also described a lethargic person, but since few, if any, people in paved-over America have been infected with hookworms, it has become meaningless.

From firearms comes the phrase "lock, stock and barrel." These are three components of a rifle. To "shoot your wad" is to have no effect. It refers to people who, in the excitement of battle, loaded their muskets with powder and wad but forgot to put in the lead ball. "Hitting the nail on the head" refers to frontier shooting matches when the target was often a nail driven into a board.

My father liked to use Coca-Cola bottle caps for a target. He could hit them, too, with his pistol from about 40 feet out.

"Broadside" refers to a volley of cannons on a sailing ship. "Scalping" tickets comes from the earlier meaning of the word, which was literally to take a person's scalp as a trophy.

It's sure a pleasure to see policy wonks and their jargon replaced by Texans. Wahoo!

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Mom Discovers Teen Sitters Are Few and Far Between

DEAR ABBY: I just finished the letter from the emergency room nurse regarding the dangers of leaving children home alone. While she is justified in her reaction, she apparently has no children of her own, or she wouldn't have made the comment, "How difficult would it be to find a teen-ager who would be willing to earn a few dollars to be with Amber for a few hours after school?"



Abigail Van Buren
 SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

I'll tell you how difficult it is: Impossible! As a university instructor, I am in the fortunate position of having flexible part-time hours. Two years ago, I was offered a full-time position that I had to turn down. Why? Because I couldn't find anyone to care for my daughter two hours a day, three days a week. I sent letters to every high-school counselor, community college and university child development department in my area. I offered \$8 per hour, well above minimum wage. Guess how many replies I got? None! Guess where I live? Los Angeles. If I can't find one teen-ager for a few hours a week in this metropolis of more than 9 million, I can only imagine how difficult it must be for parents who live in smaller cities. Thankfully, I had a choice.

FRUSTRATED IN L.A.

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Sometimes child-care resources are right under our noses. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am proud to work

at my local YMCA in Tucson, Ariz. My advice to the mother who leaves her 10-year-old daughter home alone after school — and to any other parent with a similar problem — is to contact the local YMCA. The YMCA is the largest child-care provider in the United States. We have formed collaborations with schools and churches nationwide to provide child care for any parent who needs it. We offer financial assistance for those who can't afford it, and we are virtually everywhere in the world.

The YMCA provides proactive programs for kids at risk — swimming lessons, sports programs, exercise classes, teen leadership, Youth and Government, Black Achievers, etc. While the YMCA began for Christian men (Young Men's Christian Association), we offer programs for men, women, and boys and girls of all ages. We are nondenominational and welcome everyone. Our programs are based on teaching honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. We build strong kids, strong families and strong

communities. Thank you, Abby, for letting me pass on the word.
 KAT HAFNER, TUCSON

DEAR KAT: Thank you for reminding me about the wonderful services the YMCA (and YWCA) provides. It is celebrating its 150th birthday this year. There are 2,372 YMCAs throughout the United States and facilities in 120 countries. Readers, to locate the nearest Y, call 1-888-333-9622, or visit the Web site at www.ymca.net.

Before this topic is put to rest, I must correct some misinformation contained in the letter from the emergency department nurse on Feb. 8. She stated that it is against the law in Pennsylvania for children under age 12 to be left alone. Several readers have written to inform me that there is no such law in the Pennsylvania criminal code. When complaints are received about children at home alone, they are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the maturity of the child and the preparation the parents have made for emergencies that might arise in their absence.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2001

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

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) *** Unexpected developments with a friend take you in a new direction. You might not expect a friend to react in such a different way. You get so many calls and requests that you could become overloaded. Centering on what you must do helps you make decisions. Tonight: Join friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** Just when you thought everything was under control, information comes out that indicates otherwise. Use your shrewd senses of direction and organization. You see many options. Make sure that you want to spend your money a certain way. A little discipline goes a long way. Tonight: Work late.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) *** Others seek you out for answers and feedback. You could easily become overloaded. Remain sure of what you want from a key matter. Curb a tendency to rain on your own parade or create abnormal pressure in a situation. Open doors rather than closing them. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) *** Listen carefully to someone who has feedback that could disappoint you. You find others acting strangely or

doing something unanticipated. Your sixth sense comes through for you as you sort out obligations and messages. You know what to do. Tonight: Let another talk. Listen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) *** Someone who carries a lot of weight in your life becomes unusually demanding. You might have had enough. Speak your mind, even if another gets confused. You might need to change your plans to get what you want. A partner acts up. Tonight: Just hang in there.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) *** The focus is on accomplishment, but you could find doors closed. How you see another could change because of the confusion he inadvertently triggers. Keep communication going, with an eye to the long term. Concentrate. Tonight: Run errands on your way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) *** Deal with someone directly. A co-worker might mess up an important job or instructions. Stay on top of details, but don't get pulled in by another's emotions. Tonight: Let your ingenuity speak.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) *** Deal with basics. Your sense of direction supports another in a financial plan. Avoid a tendency to take risks and push your luck. Understand your limitations and discuss them openly. Be willing to break a long-term pattern. Tonight: You can't change another's bad mood.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) *** Attempt to clear out work and get ahead. You could have unexpected developments that you need to work with. A difficulty involving another leads you in a new direction. Understand what

is going on with a co-worker. Others pitch in. Tonight: Forget work when you leave the office.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) *** Recognize where another is coming from. You might want to handle a situation differently when you realize how "stuck" this person is. Relax and know that you have the energy and follow-through that you need. Try not to send a mixed message. Be as clear as possible. Tonight: Out and about.

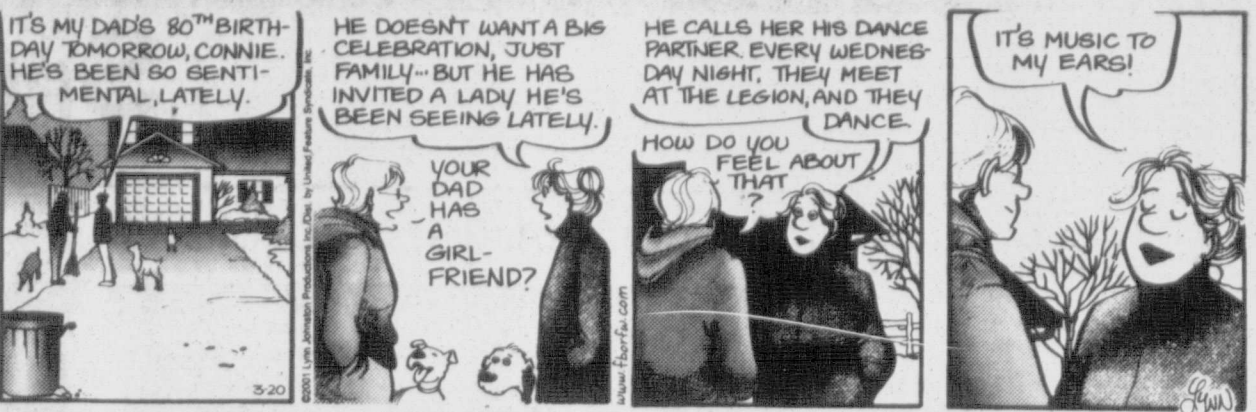
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) *** You know what to do, but you could have difficulty getting energized once you start. Someone weighs heavily on your thoughts. Don't get too distracted, or you could make a financial mistake. Curb any wild risks. A child or loved one won't give you good advice today! Tonight: Do only what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) *** You might not mean to confuse another, but you are doing just that! Sort through information carefully and review a decision. You might want to sleep on any precedent-making acts or issues. You could be overly uptight or worried. Tonight: Curl up with some reading material.

BORN TODAY
 Actor Timothy Dalton (1944), actor Gary Oldman (1958), actor Matthew Broderick (1962)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$3.99 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



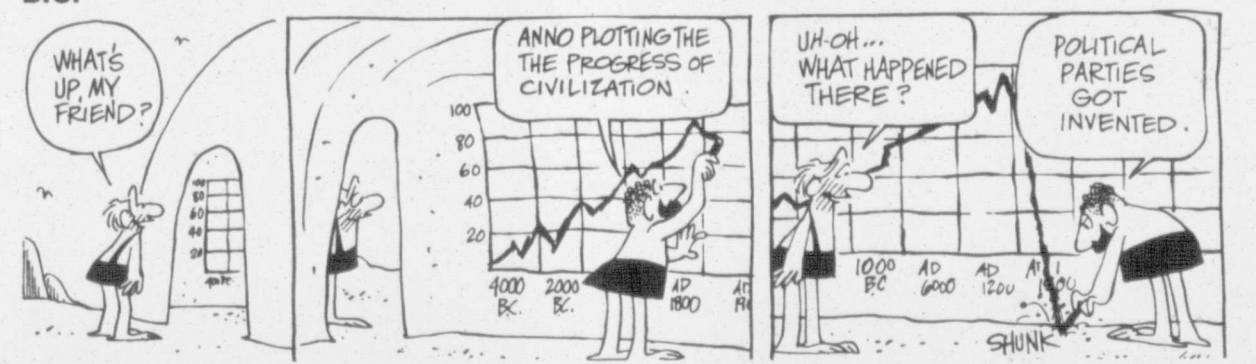
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Twosomes | 1 Copier need |
| 6 Singer Cruz | 2 Earlier |
| 11 Underway | 3 Des Moines native |
| 12 Church answers | 4 Fishing aid |
| 13 Makeup kit items | 5 Sound systems |
| 15 Historic time | 6 Superhero accessories |
| 16 "Norma" signers | 7 Earth-bound bird |
| 20 Hockey's Bobby | 8 Omitted |
| 21 Fish eggs | 9 Bound to be punished |
| 22 Desist | 10 States |
| 23 Harvest goddess | 14 Uncommon |
| 26 Ashtray items | 19 "Jurassic Park" beast, in brief |
| 27 Pinnacle | 22 Campus area |
| 28 Lingerie buy | 23 Party snacks |
| 29 Diarist Anais | 24 Embodiment |
| 30 Car rental freebie | 25 Magazine extension |
| 34 Had lunch | 26 More audacious |
| 35 Dawn goddess | 28 Rude fellow |
| 36 In the past | 30 Staggerers |
| 37 Musket user's needs | 31 Homer's wife |
| 40 Modern messages | 32 Choreographer de Milie |
| 41 Borders | 33 Sheriff's group |
| 42 Tennis great Monica | 38 Game cube |
| 43 One of Malcolm's TV brothers | 39 Lyric poem |

STUMPED?

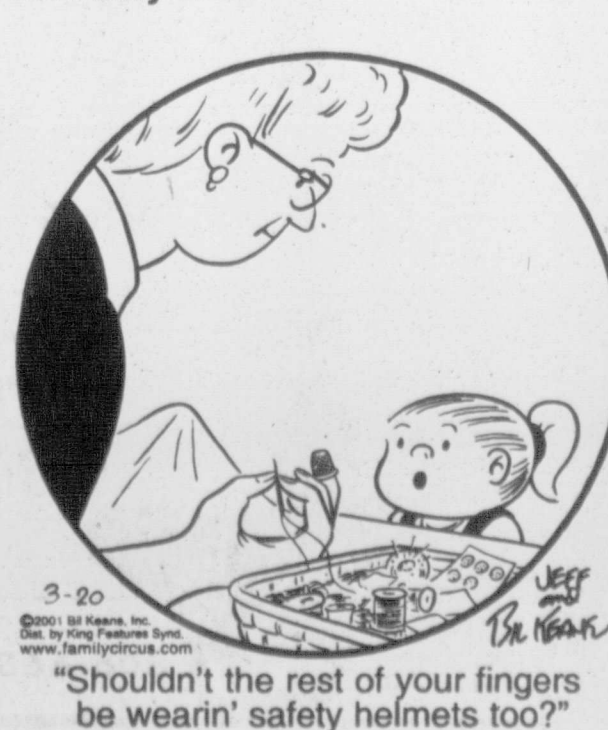
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"We got that for the birds."

The Family Circus



"Shouldn't the rest of your fingers be wearin' safety helmets too?"

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SPORTS

Notebook

BASEBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa Optimist Youth Club will be holding sign-ups and tryouts for Optimist Baseball-Softball 2001 today through Wednesday for boys and girls 5 to 15 years of age.

The sessions will be held from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. each day at the Optimist Building at 601 E. Craven.

Each player is encouraged to bring a glove, tennis shoes and a light jacket.

Players in the 5-6 T-Ball League, 7-8 Pitching Machine League and 7-9 Little League Softball will not be required to try out, but will need to sign up.

Players in the other leagues will only be required to try out if they were not on a team in that league last year.

A playing donation of \$35 will be requested for the younger groups, \$45 for the middle age groups and \$60 for Babe Ruth Baseball. Scholarships are available. No child will be turned away. Everybody will be assigned to a team.

Volunteers will be needed to manage and coach teams in the leagues.

"We are particularly excited because Amarillo and Canadian have indicated that they would like to participate in our program this season," Warner said. "I have had several contacts from four teams in Amarillo who would like to be a part of our 9-10 Cal Ripken League if they can obtain a release from North Randall County. If they cannot secure a release, they intend to form their own league and will play our teams on a home and home basis. These games will not count toward league standings in Pampa."

PAMPA — The Pampa Harvester Baseball Booster Club will hold a meeting at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the high school athletic building.

Interested persons are invited to attend.

BURKBURNETT — Pampa finished fourth in the Boomtown Classic, dropping its last two games Saturday in the baseball tournament.

The Harvesters dropped a 9-1 decision to Wichita Falls Rider in the first game.

Randy Tice, Evan Miller and Jered Snelgroves each had a single for Pampa.

Tice, Kyle Francis and Shawn Strate all saw action on the mound.

In the second game, Wichita Falls Hirshi posted a 3-2 victory.

Tyson Moree led Pampa hitters with a pair of singles. Adam Wright, Kyle Francis, Michael Galloway, Wes Martin and Tice had one hit each.

Kyle Keith and Ryan Zemanek pitched for the Harvesters.

Pampa opens District 3-4A play today, hosting Palo Duro at 4:30 at Harvester Field.

SOFTBALL

PAMPA — The first adult slow-pitch softball tournament of the year will be held at Recreation Park on Saturday, March 24.

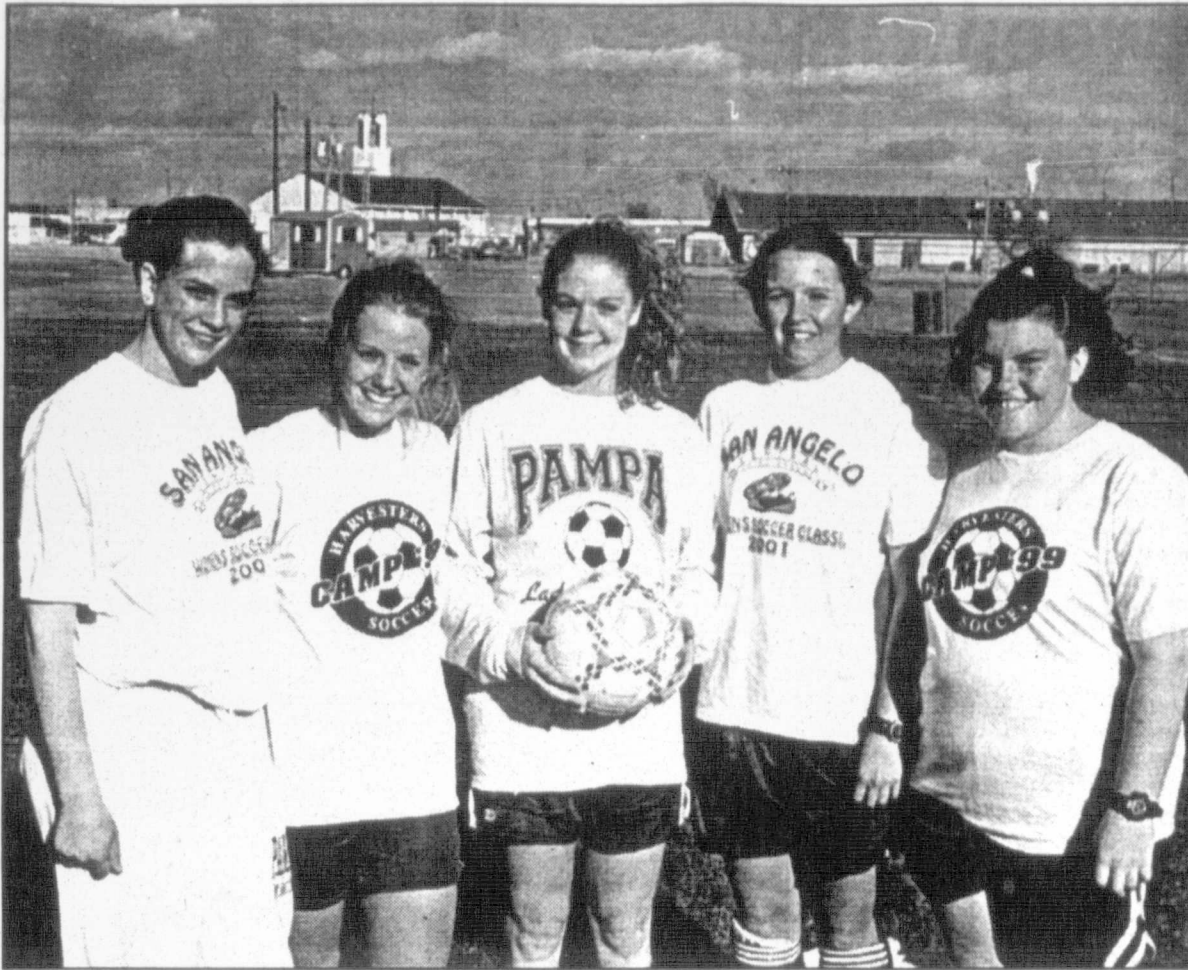
The 16th annual U.S.S.A. Early Bird Tournament will offer Mens C-D and Mixed C-D Divisions.

This tournament is a qualifier and State Tournament berths will be awarded.

Entry fee is \$100 for sanctioned teams and \$120 for non-sanctioned teams. Entry deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (same time as Spring Softball Leagues deadline).

Contact the Recreation Office at 69-5770 to enter.

Soccer seniors, co-captains.



(Special photo)

Seniors and co-captains on the Pampa girls' soccer team this season are (from left), Heidi Amundsen, senior; Misty Northcutt, junior co-captain; Cassie Meadows, senior co-captain; Sarah Porter, sophomore co-captain and Tina Vance, senior. The Lady Harvesters meet San Angelo Lakeview at 4 p.m. today at Lubbock Coronado in the area round of the playoffs.

Bailey named 11-12 Cal Ripken Commissioner

PAMPA — Pampa Optimist Youth Club announced that Nathan Bailey has been appointed Commissioner of the 11-12 Cal Ripken Baseball League.

Married to Robin, they have two daughters, Brianna 14, and Natasha 12. Bailey is a lay minister, preaching at the Wells Street Church of Christ twice a month. He is also involved in the church's prison ministry at the Baten Unit.

Bailey is controller for United Medicorp, Inc. He has served as the Optimist Secretary-Treasurer for the last two years. He coached Optimist Little League softball for three years, coached T-ball for Kids Inc. in Amarillo and coached American Legion baseball in Borger.

Sign-ups and tryouts for Optimist Baseball-Softball 2001 will be March 19, 20, and 21 at Optimist Park.

"I thank kids learn a lot about life's lessons from participating in team sports and having a lot of fun at the same time," Bailey said.

Bailey will be assisted by Sandy Carr. She had coordinated baseball and softball for Miami for the last two years and is one of the founders of the Miami Area Youth Organization. A mother of three, Jonathan, Aaron and Shelby, she is employed as a legal assistant. She is married to Ron Carr, who has coached Optimist basketball for three

years, Optimist baseball for two years and one season of Optimist football.

Judy Warner will serve as the Secretary and Player Agent of the league for the third year. She and her husband, John, have four children and six grandchildren. She is a past president of the Pampa Altrusa Club, a past president of the Pampa Jaycees and serves on the Child Protective Services Board, the Tralee Crisis Center Board and the Traffic Commission for the City of Pampa.

Serving his 15th year as Umpire-in-Chief will be Grandview farmer Melvin Wills. This will be his 20th year as an umpire. He has coached Optimist baseball for three years and has been a member of the Pampa Optimist Club for 18 years.

Wills is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Groom. He and his wife, Sue, have one son who played Optimist football, basketball and baseball. They are expecting their first grandchild in September.

Wills, a 1958 Pampa High graduate, for several years was a member of the Groom Lions Club and on the Grandview-Hopkins School Board.

FirstBank Southwest teller Kim Holden completes the Board of Directors as the Head Scorekeeper. She previously served a term as the Assistant Commissioner of the 9-10 Cal Ripken League.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Looking for anyone, who was employed by Chevron USA, formerly Gulf Oil Corporation, and worked the Oil Fields in the Pampa and Spearman, Tx. area between 1937-1978 or remember working with Thomas J. Hill.

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1-800-222-2766



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- Canadian - Canadian Equity Coop • 806-323-6428 • 11:00-12 noon
- Pampa - Watson's Feed & Garden • 806-665-4189 • 1:00-2:00 p.m.
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Sports Scene

SOFTBALL
PAMPA — Pampa's girls softball team opened District 3-4A play Monday with a 12-6 win over Palo Duro at Optimist Park.

Winning pitcher was Stephanie Clark, who gave up 5 hits while striking out 4 and walking 4. Clark also led Pampa at the plate with a double and single.

Other Lady Harvesters with hits were Morgan White (double), Lindsey Narron (triple), Cali Covalt (single), Charity Nachtigall (single) and Shauna Broaddus (single).

Stephanie Cameron at shortstop was outstanding on defense. Clark spoiled a Palo Duro hit when she snared a line drive above her head.

K. Kirsch's double was Palo Duro only extra-base hit.

K. Amadi was the losing pitcher. She gave up 5 hits while striking out 4 and walking 2.

GOLF

PAMPA — The first round of the District 3-4A Girls' Golf Tournament was held Monday at the Pampa Country Club course.

Borger grabbed the first-round lead with a 377, six strokes ahead of second-place Randall. Pampa stands fourth at 395, four strokes behind third-place Hereford.

Pampa's Courtney Locknane is in a three-way tie for second in the medalist standings with an 86.

Other Pampa scores were Annie Sims 98, Megan Shannon

105, Michelle Haley 106 and Krissy Holman 116.

The Pampa boys' team competed in the Amarillo Relays last weekend at the Amarillo and Tascosa Country Clubs.

Led by Anthony Tiedt's two-round total of 167, the Harvesters finished seventh with a 682. Daniel Heuston followed with a 168, Mitch Schilling had a 174, Cory Fowler 176, and Craig Stout 180.

Amarillo High had a 631 to win the team title.

FISHING

FRITCH — While fishing for walleye on a blustery Saturday morning, Kelly Jones of Fritch landed a behemoth bass, setting a late record for largemouth bass at Lake Meredith Recreation Area.

The fish was taken to CJ's Bait Shop to be weighed on certified scales and came in at a whopping 12.25 pounds, was 25 inches long, and had a girth of 20 inches. This broke the previous record fish, weighing 11.61 pounds caught at the Big Bass Bonanza Tournament on May 6 2000 by Jarrell Long of Amarillo.

Kelly used a Rattlin Rogue lure and caught the fish in about six feet of water in the Bugbee Canyon area. When asked about catching the fish, Kelly said: "I'm a guide on the lake and I never dreamed of catching a bass that size!"

And the best part of this story is that Kelly released the fish back into the lake, so others could have a chance at landing "the big one."

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 PAID Nursery Worker position avail. If interested, fill out appl. Trinity Fellowship, 1200 S. Sumner, or call Sheila 669-6995.

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 LOOKING for someone to work every Saturday. Must be 18 yrs. Apply at Bartlett's Ace Hdwe., 500 W. Brown.
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 FUN IN THE SUN Travel the U.S.A. making the money if you at least 18, free to travel, and can leave immediately. Call Tara at 888-720-2127 8 am-4 pm March 19th-23rd, EOE.

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 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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21 Help Wanted
 WE ARE THE FASTEST GROWING VALVE COMPANY IN WEST TEXAS. We have doubled our employee base in the past two years - and we are STILL growing. Come join a winning team. UNIVERSAL VALVE CO. Now hiring EXPERIENCED VALVE TECHNICIANS. Salary DOE. 3501 W. Industrial, Midland, TX (915) 689-6341
 ATTENTION Owner-Operators Regional heavy oil transporter needs owner-operators who live within 75 miles of the Pampa/Borger area for year round haul. Earn 70% of gross revenue and safety bonuses. Must be 23 yrs. of age with Class A CDL with X endorsement and clean driving record. For more information call 1-800-725-3635.

21 Help Wanted
 NOW Hiring, Part-Time LVN willing to work weekends. Please come by 916 N. Crest to apply 665-0356.

21 Help Wanted
 ST. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle has the following positions open: FT 3-11 LVN & CNA, PT 3-11 CNA, PRN LVN'S & CNA's all shifts. Apply in person or call Andi @ 537-3194.

21 Help Wanted
 ABSOLUTELY free info! Earn online income \$2,000 - \$5,000 mo. www.budget4life.com.

69 Mjsc.
 ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

80 Pets & Suppl.
 CANINE and Feline grooming. Boarding. Science diets. Roysce Animal Hospital, 665-2223.
 PET Patch, 866 W. Foster, 665-5504. Grooming by Mona, fresh, salt fish, sm. animals, supplies. Beef 'N' More dog & cat food.
 BLUE & Red Heeler puppies for sale, \$50. 665-7369 or 886-7033.
 FOR Sale: Registered Shih-Tzu puppy, 4 months old, female, shots, \$250. 669-0729

95 Furn. Apts.
 1 bd gar. apt near high school, bills paid, 665-2635 after 5:30 pm or 669-6853 daytime.
 1 or 2 bedroom References 669-9817
 BEAUTIFULLY furnished 1 bedroom starting at \$335. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 3 & 6 mo. leases. Pool, laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149. Open Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4.

96 Unfurn. Apts.
 CAPROCK Apts., 1, 2, 3 bdrm starting at \$249. We pay water & gas, you pay elec. 3 & 6 mo. leases. Pool, washer / dryer hook-ups in 2 & 3 bdrm, finelaces. No application fee. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149. Open Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4.
 GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1 & 2 bdr. water incl., 3-6 mo. lease, 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

97 Furn. Houses
 LRG. 1 bdr, carpet. Small down, owner will carry or \$200 mo. + deposit. 1416 E. Browning. 665-4842.
 98 Unfurn. Houses
 PICK up rental list from Red Box on front porch of Action Realty, 707 N. Borger. Update each Friday.

99 Stor. Bldgs.
 TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.
 102 Bus. Rent. Prop.
 OFFICE Space for rent, 3 months free rent. 669-6841.
 STREET front office, 620 sq. ft. \$450/mo. 120 W. Kingsmill, Combs-Worley Building, 669-6841.

103 Homes For Sale
 HOUSE for sale 1032 Sir-roco, \$49,500. 3-2-2 & office. 669-1030.
 House for sale in Miami 4 Bedroom Call 665-1891
 LARGE 1 bedroom, carpet. Small down, owner will carry. 1416 E. Browning. 665-4842.
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 2 bedroom, inside remodeled, nice yard. 728 Le-fors. OWC w/ small down. 665-4842.

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 204 S. Hoyns, Fritch, Tx., 3/2 dining, lge family, rm, 3 car gar., 3-60' x 120' lots. (806) 857-3025.
 FOR Sale by Owner - 3 poss. 4 bdr. cm. lot, storm shelter, shed, apt. in rear. 1301 Garland. If interested call Cleave or Carla Purdy 665-9536 or Cleave at work 669-2541.
 Home for sale or lease by owner. 421 Jupiter, Brick 3/2 l. with CH&A, very clean. Call 669-7029.

103 Homes For Sale
 1976 Olds Regency, mini condition, 23,000 miles, new Michelin tires, 806-323-6214 aft. 7 p.m.
 1995 Suburban-loaded Under 80k mi., \$15,000 Exc. Condition! 669-3405 lv. message

103 Homes For Sale
 88 Ford F150 Lariat Supercab w/ fiberglass top-per. Nice! Loaded. \$4500. 665-5419.
 1990 Kawasaki side-by-side jet ski & trailer, \$2500. Call 806-665-3861 aft. 5 p.m.

103 Homes For Sale
 1051 N. Price Rd. Former Skating Rink Lot 125 ft. x 300 ft., building approx. 12,800 sq. ft., heat & air, 3 rest-rooms. Broker Participation invited. Salamy Real Estate 376-7055

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~ Business Review ~

Leathers available at Hiway Package



Sabrina Smith's father Gene Daniels and her daughter Haley Rex models selections from Antelope Creek Leathers. (Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

Hiway Package Party Shop, owned by Sabrina and Alan Smith, is now a division of Antelope Creek Leathers and is offering a full selection of leathers in the local store.

Located on West Highway 60, the local store just recently began selling the wide selection of leather products.

Motorcycle jackets, vests, chaps, hats and gloves are in stock at the local store.

Children's leathers are also available to the public.

Antelope Creek Leathers originated out of Borger, said Sabrina Smith.

The leathers are available in a wide range of sizes from extra small to 3X-large.

Dew rags are carried in stock in the store.

The Smiths have owned the local business since Oct. 31, 1999.

Alan Smith has been a resident of Pampa for 24 years while his wife, Sabrina, moved to the community 13 years ago.

Carrying a complete line of liquor, the Smiths also carry a wide selection of wine and

beer in a large assortment of brands. Mixes and snack items are also available at the local store.

A drive-through window at the store is a convenient feature for the customers.

Sabrina Smith said the local store often draws out-of-town customers who are in town overnight on business or driving through as well as their regular local customers.

The couple stocks a wide selection of soft drinks as well as cigarettes for their customers. They also sell lottery tickets.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. They are closed on Sunday.

Four major credit cards are taken at the local business. They are Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

Owners of three other local businesses, Alan and Sabrina Smith stay very busy.

They also own Suntrol Tint and Glass, A&S' Auto Sales and GL Mini Mart.

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