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Pampa

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New fire chief unanimous choice

13-year local veteran gets job.

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Kimmie 'Kim' Powell is making a bit of gender history in Pampa today as she takes over as the city's new fire chief — a promotion from her battalion fire chief post she has held for the past several years.

Though they cited "many good applicants" in the city manager and commission's search for a replacement for retired Fire Chief Claudie Phillips, it was a unanimous vote Tuesday for Powell.

The new chief, married to Tyson Powell and the mother of four children, has 13 years on the local department. She holds an associate degree in Fire Technology from Frank Phillips College, a Master Firefighter Certificate from the State of Texas and has attended numerous management courses at the National Fire Academy in

Emmitsburg, Maryland.

There was much praise by commissioners for Powell, who was recommended for the \$40,000-a-year job by City Manager Bob Eskridge.

"The city manager made a wise choice," said Mayor Bob Neslage after the vote. "There were a number of good candidates. Chief Powell has a great deal of leadership ability and will do an outstanding job. She has my 100 percent support."

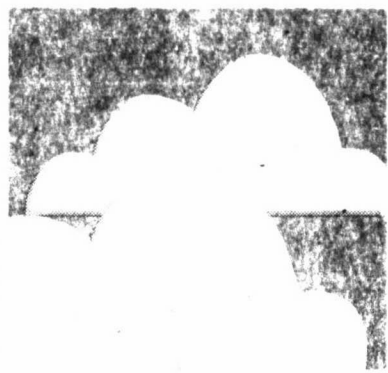
That was the sentiment echoed by Commissioner Jeff Andrews who praised the continuing education of Powell and others at Pampa Fire Department.

Commissioner Bob Dixon said, "I think it is wonderful we had a candidate in our own department to promote to chief. It gives others something to aspire to."

Once the initial group of candidates was narrowed to four, (See CHIEF, Page 5)



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)
Newly-chosen Pampa Fire Department Chief Kim Powell (left) gets a handshake of congratulations from Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris after the city commission's vote was taken.



High today 63
Low tonight upper 30s
For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — Continuing Education Classes at Clarendon College; C.N.A. Class will be from Apr. 5-16 at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The cost is \$41. Med-Aide Update Class will be Apr. 17 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost is \$10, it is open to those who need their yearly license update. The FUN Workshop will be Saturday, Apr. 24, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Includes Fence Post or Table Leg Candle Holder Making, Floral Arranging, and Furniture Stenciling. Cost is \$25 plus supplies, pick up supply list in advance.

MOUNT PLEASANT (AP) — Grammy Award-winning country singer Ray Price has been arrested on a marijuana charge near his Texas ranch, police said. Price, known for such hits as "For the Good Times" and "Release Me," was arrested Friday during a road stop in the south side of this Northeast Texas city, police said. He was fined \$200 after pleading no contest to one count of possession of drug paraphernalia, said municipal court spokeswoman Teresa Seay. He also posted \$500 bond on one count of marijuana possession, she said.

- Annie Mae Jones, 94, retired housekeeper.
- Jessie M. Loveless, 78, homemaker.
- Joyce Jean Patton, 66, homemaker.
- Kim Lewis Sewell, 43, member United Association of Pipettiers-Welders.
- Jerry Lee Swaney, 56, electrician.

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NRCS official McDonald ends 30 years of service

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

At the Gray County Court House Annex on the east side of Pampa, it is a time of endings. It is a time of beginnings.

"The time comes, I guess, to turn over the reins," said Lee McDonald of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

After three decades in government service,

McDonald is retiring. His last day is April 2.

Born and reared in Quitaque, James Lee McDonald grew up on a farm.

"My parents bought a drug store about the time I left home," McDonald said.

"They ran Pioneer Drug for a while."

McDonald left Quitaque after graduating from high school there in 1962. He tried barber school for a while, but in the fall of 1963, he enrolled in Clarendon Junior College. After Clarendon, he went to Texas Tech University where he earned a bachelor's degree in vocational agriculture.

"I'm a certified ag teacher," he grinned. "I haven't been in a vocational ag classroom since."

He did teach for a while, but he taught science, not agriculture.

But it was while he was still at Texas Tech that he started his career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, then known as the Soil Conservation Service. He was a student trainee in the summer of 1966 in Crowell. The following summer, after graduating from Tech, he worked full time for the agency until school started in Flower Grove, south of Lamesa.

(See RETIRE, Page 2)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)
Lee McDonald takes a last look around his office in the Gray County Court House Annex. Behind him is a poster from his alma mater.

Ft. Elliott senior dies in rollover

A popular high school senior at Ft. Elliott High School, Jana Ja'Nae Goad, was killed in a one-car rollover Monday night. Her funeral will be Friday at 2 p.m. at the Fort Elliott High School Gym in Briscoe with burial in Wheeler Cemetery.

Goad, 17, of Briscoe, was headed home from a high school baseball game when the accident occurred on FM 3303 about two miles from her home, according to DPS Trooper Johnny Carter.

She was the daughter of Mike and Melody Goad of Briscoe where she had been a lifelong resident. She was one of 11 members of the senior class.

Goad, who was alone in the car, apparently drove off the right side of the road and then over corrected, the trooper reported. The teen's late model white Mustang then went off the road on the left and into an embankment.

Carter said the right front bumper hung in the dirt which caused the car to roll end-over-end twice before coming to a stop.

The trooper said the teenager, who was not wearing her seat belt, was ejected from the automobile.

A medical helicopter arrived on the scene but Goad was declared dead before an airlift could be made, according to Justice of the Peace Brady Meadows.

Goad participated in school sports including basketball, volleyball and golf.

Wright Funeral Home in Wheeler is in charge of services.

Election called off due to no opposition

There will be no election for seats on the Pampa City Commission. No one filed to run against Mayor Bob Neslage or City Commissioners Robert Dixon and Jeff McCormick.

This is the second time this slate of candidates has had no opposition, according to City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers. Deadline for filing for a place on the ballot was March 17 and Monday was the deadline for filing as a write in candidate.

Since there are no contested races Jeffers said the City Commission will call off the election, which will save the city \$500.

Prairie dog to be studied for threatened list

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to begin a nine-month study to see if the black-tailed prairie dog should be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The government had been petitioned by the National Wildlife Federation's to list the black-tailed prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species.

Kevin Mote, a biologist who until this month headed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's research into the prairie dog in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, said people either loved or hated the prairie dog.

"I happen to work with those who love

them," Mote said. "But it's probably the most controversial conservation issue that we have in this state."

The black-tailed prairie dog is still a non-protected, non-game animal in the State of Texas. They can be shot, poisoned or otherwise destroyed, but that may change depending on the outcome of the study.

The wildlife group also asked for a moratorium on poisoning and hunting prairie dogs on public land with some sort of federal government oversight on private land.

While Texas Parks and Wildlife officials said they have been studying prairie dogs since the petition was filled asking that the rodent be listed as endangered, Mote said he hasn't been doing any formal

research recently.

"Mainly, what I've been trying to do is work with private land owners to figure out some middle ground," Mote said.

There is a problem, he said, both real and perceived.

"In some cases, it's a perceived problem, and in some cases, it's a real problem," he said.

There is competition between prairie dogs and livestock and agricultural practices.

"Some places, prairie dogs are poisoned and killed simply because it's part of tradition," Mote said. "I don't think there is any one right or wrong answer to this situation. It's like any other controversy. It depends upon what side of the fence you stand on."

Mote said he's tried to take the middle ground.

"We live in a modern world," he said. "You've got to play with the hand that was dealt."

Prairie dogs were first reported by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in what is now Nebraska as they explored the west in 1804. They termed the animals ground rats, barking squirrels and, finally, prairie dogs. Prairie dog towns then covered a vast area in a region of the plains extending from present day Texas north into Canada and from Kansas and Oklahoma west into Arizona.

According to environmentalists, prairie dog numbers have dropped in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas in the last few

(See PRAIRIE DOGS, Page 2)

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

JONES, Annie Mae — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
LOVELESS, Jessie M. — 10:30 a.m., Oak Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church, Amarillo.
POSTMA, Wilmer Ramsey "Bill" — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
SEWELL, Kim Lewis — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Texola Cemetery, Texola, Okla.
SWANEY, Jerry Lee — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

ANNIE MAE JONES
 Annie Mae Jones, 94, of Pampa, died Sunday, March 21, 1999. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Fairview Cemetery with Frankie Lemons, minister of McCullough Street Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Mrs. Jones was born Sept. 22, 1904, at Naples. She married Mion Porter in 1922 at Naples; he died in 1963. She later married Bubba Jones; he also preceded her in death. She had been a Pampa resident since 1985, moving from Memphis. She was a housekeeper.
 She was preceded in death by two sons, James Conley, in 1988, and Tom Young, in 1999.
 Survivors include a son, Vivian Porter of McKinney; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

JESSIE M. LOVELESS
AMARILLO — Jessie M. Loveless, 78, died Tuesday, March 23, 1999. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in Oak Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church with Chuck Garrison, of the church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Colonial Funeral Chapel of Amarillo.
 Mrs. Loveless was born at Chattanooga, Tenn. She married James W. Loveless in 1937 at Chattanooga; he died in 1976. She moved to Texas in 1949 from Tennessee. She was a homemaker and a member of Oak Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church.
 She was preceded in death by a son, Jesse James Loveless, in 1981.
 Survivors include two daughters, Christine Elaine Cotter and Bena E. Kenyon, both of Amarillo; a son, Johnny David Loveless of Amarillo; four sisters, Margie Reece and Margaret Harris, both of Oceanside, Calif., and Alice Hopkins and Edith Smith, both of Dallas; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Oak Dale Pentecostal Holiness Church, 2700 S. Hill, Amarillo, TX.
JOYCE JEAN PATTON
 Joyce Jean Patton, 66, of Pampa, died Tuesday, March 23, 1999. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with the Rev. James Martindale, pastor of First Baptist Church of McLean, officiating. Burial will be in White Deer Cemetery at White Deer under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.
 Mrs. Patton was born April 9, 1932, at Pampa and had been a lifelong Pampa resident. She married E.H. Patton on Sept. 2, 1949, at Groom. She was a homemaker.
 She belonged to First Baptist Church of Howardwick.
 Survivors include her husband, E.H., of the home; a daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Boyd Hutchinson of Pampa; a brother, Buddy Patton of Pampa; two granddaughters, Jamie Groomer of Amarillo and Lori Giles of Pampa; and two great-grandchildren, Taylor and Jarrod.

The family requests memorials be to National Kidney Foundation, 5920 Amarillo Blvd. West, Amarillo, TX 79106.
KIM LEWIS SEWELL
BORGER — Kim Lewis Sewell, 43, brother of a Pampa resident, died Monday, March 22, 1999. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Texola Cemetery at Texola, Okla., with the Rev. Joseph Kennedy, pastor of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Minton/Chatwell Funeral Director of Borger.
 Mr. Sewell was born at Shamrock. He had been a Borger resident since 1957, moving from Stillwater, Okla. He graduated from high school at Borger in 1973 and attended Lamar University, Austin Community College, Southwest Texas State University and Frank Phillips College. He held an associate of science degree from Amarillo College and belonged to St. Peter's Episcopal Church and United Association of Pipefitter-Welders.
 Survivors include his parents, Dr. I.Q. and Viva Sewell of Borger, and two brothers, Randy Byrl Sewell of Texola, Okla., and Dr. Ron Hendrick of Pampa.

The family will be at the Sewell residence, five miles east of Borger on Hwy 152, and requests memorials be to Kim Sewell Scholarship Fund at Frank Phillips College in Borger.

JERRY LEE SWANEY
TATUM — Jerry Lee Swaney, 56, died Monday, March 22, 1999, at Longview. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa. Burial will be under the direction of Rader Funeral Home of Longview.
 Mr. Swaney was an electrician for H.B. Zachary for 25 years.

Police report

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

Tuesday, March 23
 Timothy Joe Broadbent, 18, 436 Graham, was arrested on charges of minor in possession, failure to appear and warrants.
 Randall L. Williams, 43, 321 E. Brown, was arrested on charges of violation of protective order.
 Jody Ernest Grubb, 39, 2628 Evergreen, was arrested on charges of indecent exposure.
 Touni L. Archie, 35, 407 E. Browning, was arrested on warrants.
 Jennifer Winegeart, 20, 321 N. Wells, was arrested on warrants.
 Dustie M. Quisenberry, 18, was arrested on charges of assault causing bodily injury.
 Theft was reported in the 100 block of South Ballard.

Fires

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

Tuesday, March 23
 10:36 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to a false alarm at One Medical Plaza.
 7:19 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to a grass fire at Gray 6 and Gray 1.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 23
 Natasha Kay Miller, 22, 1200 E. Kingsmill, was arrested on charges of theft of property by check.

Stocks

| | | | |
|--|----|----------|----------|
| The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa | | | |
| Wheat | NA | 65 11/16 | dn 3/16 |
| Milo | NA | 66 5/16 | up 3/8 |
| Corn | NA | 37 13/16 | up 5/16 |
| Soybeans | NA | 37 1/16 | up 1/16 |
| | NA | 38 1/2 | up 1/8 |
| | NA | 32 15/16 | up 13/16 |
| | NA | 36 3/4 | up 1/2 |
| | NA | 42 9/16 | up 3/16 |
| | NA | 90 5/8 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 23 1/8 | NC |
| | NA | 38 1/2 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 38 1/16 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 44 7/8 | up 5/16 |
| | NA | 8 1/2 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 57 5/16 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 30 1/16 | up 3/4 |
| | NA | 56 | up 1 |
| | NA | 20 7/8 | up 13/16 |
| | NA | 89 3/4 | dn 3/4 |
| | NA | 39 11/16 | up 15/16 |
| | NA | 283 7/8 | up 7/16 |
| | NA | 5 04 | |
| | NA | 15 34 | |
| | NA | 87 1/16 | dn 5/16 |

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, March 23
 9:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 10:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 5:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Columbia Medical Center for a patient transfer to the 1200 block of North Wells.
 7:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of North Sumner and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.
 9:14 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of North Lefors and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Emergency numbers

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Ambulance | 911 |
| Crime Stoppers | 669-2222 |
| Energas | 665-5777 |
| Fire | 911 |
| Police (emergency) | 911 |
| Police (non-emergency) | 669-5700 |

Calendar of events

"THE PROMISE"
 "The Promise" will be held Saturday, Mar. 27 and Sunday, Mar. 28, 7 p.m. each night at the First Baptist Church Auditorium, 203 N. West. It is presented by First Baptist Church Music Ministry. For ticket information call 669-115.
PANHANDLE PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD
 Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild will meet at 6:30 p.m. March 25 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. For more information, call (806) 669-0568 or 665-4718.
SINGLES DANCE
 Pampa Area Singles Dance, featuring Karaoke Country with Dee O'Kelley at M.K. Brown Auditorium on Mar. 27 from 7-11 p.m. Pot luck, \$5, no-smoking or alcohol. For information call 665-0219.
HERITAGE ART CLUB
 Once again, the Heritage Art Club is having their Art Show on Saturday, Mar. 27 from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., and Sunday Mar. 28 from p.m. to 4 p.m. Public is invited, no charge.
DESK AND DERRICK CLUB
 The Desk and Derrick Club of Pampa will meet Thursday, Mar. 25 at the Pampa Country Club. Social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 7 p.m. For reservations please contact Linda Slaybaugh at 669-3225 or 669-7884 by 10 a.m. on Thursday.

City briefs

YARD WORK. Call Wade Gardner. 665-2386. Adv.
BY POPULAR DEMAND Kracker Jack will be back 3-26, 27th, at Sunset Bar & Grill. Adv.
JOHNSON FENCE Repair old fence or build new. Plus odd jobs. Free estimates, 665-3368. Adv.
CALF FRIES. Thurs. 7 p.m. Moose Lodge. Members & guests. Adv.
LADIES, LADIES - The Hollywood Playboys will be at Sunset Bar & Grill, Apr. 1. \$5 admission. Reserv. 669-0959. Adv.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RETIRE

McDonald taught science there, covering all the grades from seven to 12, before moving to Anton a year later, where he taught high school biology, physical science and physics for two years.

In June, 1970, he returned to his work with the NRCS, moving first to Memphis then to Mount Pleasant then to McKinney, near Dallas.

"In June, 1977, we moved to Pampa, and I've been here ever since," he said.

McDonald laughed that he thought he'd left all the East Texas rains behind him until he got to Pampa.

"That summer, every playa in the Texas Panhandle was full of water," he said.

He admitted that he hadn't seen it as wet in the panhandle since, until last winter.

"Then it dried up last summer," he shrugged.

"Around here the weather changes daily. If you like boredom, you need to go to another part of the world."

Over his more 30 years in the conservation service, McDonald said there has been tremendous changes in land tillage, implements and the way soil is prepared for cropping. The physical erosion fighting methods have become more sophisticated and irrigation water management has become more efficient.

"Tail water has gone by the wayside," he said.

Center pivot irrigation systems have replaced flooding rows of crops, and CRP grasses have slowed wind erosion and enhanced wildlife species in the county.

But the NRCS has also changed.

"There's been a major change in the way we deal with farmers and ranchers," he said.

McDonald said he has also been blessed with good people as Soil and Water Conservation District directors.

"We've had an excellent group of ranchers and farmers serving on the board," McDonald said. "I've enjoyed working with them through the years."

"We've had a very good working relationship with farmers and ranchers across Gray County."

He says he's proud he's been able to provide the government assistance that is available.

"I used to like to say 'I'm with the government and I'm here to help you,'" he said. Now, he's not so sure.

Where once McDonald said he felt like he was performing a service to landowners, those feelings have changed.

Beginning with the 1985 Farm Bill and with each subsequent Farm Bill passed by Congress, he said it

seems like more and more restrictions have been placed on landowners.

"They have to comply if they want to keep their Farm Support Payments which most folks really need to keep operating," he said.

Where McDonald used to provide technical assistance to help farmers and ranchers, he said, he feels now that much of the work is more regulatory in nature.

"There's more regulation and less assistance," he said.

McDonald admitted that the NRCS in the midst of major downsizing and restructuring. Where each county once had a conservation agent, McDonald will be replaced by someone who will be responsible for several counties. The agents in each county will be part of a new team strategy.

McDonald said the changes in the agency played a part in his decision to retire, but he said he will miss the camaraderie of the Gray County Court House Annex where he offices.

"We've had an excellent working relationship throughout the court house annex," he said.

He praised the county agents with whom he's worked over the years and the Farm Service Administration staff next to his office as well as others at the annex.

But as now, he said, he will have time to spend with his family, especially his grand daughter. And there will be time to work on a business he's had for several years.

It was in 1968, that McDonald married Katie Blackstone of Lazbuddie. Today, she teaches Home Economics at Pampa High School. Over the years, the couple had three girls and a boy.

Stacie and her husband Jimmy Leary are in show business in Los Angeles. Sherrie, a Registered Nurse at Texas Tech University Medical Center, lives in Lubbock with her husband Sean George and their daughter, Zoya Nicole. Kim McDonald is a senior at Texas Tech. McDonald's son, Kirk, is a landscape architect in Austin.

In addition to his family, McDonald plans to spend some time building and expanding a business he bought earlier this decade.

"I'm going to work at Mc's Carwash full time," he said.

He's also got some plans to expand his operation.

"I'm not retiring, just changing jobs," he laughed.

In March, 1992, he bought the car wash on Hobart Street in Pampa.

"Now, I'm going to make it a full time operation," he said. "It's been needing it."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PRAIRIE DOGS

years. They are reportedly extinct in Arizona.

Mote said that prairie dogs can no longer occupy millions of acres of rangeland.

"We have to find a way to conserve this species in a way that is acceptable to agricultural producers," Mote said. "Do I have the answer to that? No, I don't."

The plight of the prairie dog, if there is one, is different from other endangered and proposed endangered species.

"It's not really an issue like most endangered species where it's hard to find these animals," Mote said. "They're everywhere. It's the way that they're fragmented."

As prairie dog towns become smaller and further apart, he says, disease and predation become more important to their survival.

The National Wildlife Federation claims that urban encroachment and agriculture have cut prairie dog habitat from more than 100 million acres to less than 700,000 acres.

"It's not a matter of saving the last prairie dog," Mote said. "It's a matter of restoring the prairie dog ecosystem into a functioning community."

Even the National Wildlife Federation admits that there are an estimated 12 million prairie

dogs in the United States, but they claim there were 1.5 billion in 1970.

Although there have been instances of prairie dogs carrying such diseases as bubonic plague, Mote said such diseases have not always been a part of the prairie dog ecosystem.

"It hasn't," he said. "This was introduced, I believe, around the turn of the century."

Mote said that his agency is trying to come up with a solution that could head off listing and still provide conservation efforts.

"While the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is not for listing the species," Mote said, "we are promoting a pro-active, cooperative project like the lesser prairie chicken working group to try to preclude the need for listing the species."

However, he said, there are points in the petition that are valid.

"The High Plains ecosystem does depend on the presence of the prairie dog simply because they evolved as part of this ecosystem," Mote said.

"Historically, there are reports of prairie dog towns a 100 miles wide by 250 miles long. That's hard to get people to imagine."

There are still thousands of prairie dog towns, he said, but those towns average only about 50 acres in size.

"Fifty acres of a prairie dog town is not the same as half a million acres of prairie dogs,"

he said. "It effects the other wildlife. It effects the whole ecosystem, including water and nutrients. It effects everything about the place we call home on the High Plains. That's difficult to get people to understand. It's not a popular position to take but unfortunately, those are the biological facts."

There are moves in different states, mainly northern states, to form an interstate working group concerning the prairie dog.

While the same species is found in the Lone Star State as in other states, Motes said, other states have more public land than Texas does.

"They have a lot of prairie dog issues on public land," Mote said. "I think a lot of the argument, how this got started, is that we're spending millions of dollars each year to save the black-footed ferret. Black-footed ferrets rely solely on black-tailed prairie dogs. At the same time at the same agencies that are trying to save the black-footed ferret, they're killing what it depends on, and that's the black-tailed prairie dog. It's kind of a dog chasing its own tail. It's a vicious circle. It doesn't make much sense."

But the black-tailed prairie dog may not be Mote's concern any longer. He transferred earlier this month to the central part of the state. Now he's studying Golden Cheeked Warblers.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Cloudy today with a 30 percent chance of rain, a high of 63 and winds from the southeast at 10-20 mph. Tonight, cloudy with a low in the upper 30s and northeast winds at 10-20 mph. Tomorrow, a high of 60. Yesterday's high was 52; the overnight low 35.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS — Panhandle — Tonight, cloudy with a low in the mid 30s. Northeast wind 10-20 mph. Thursday, partly cloudy with a high in the upper 50s. Northeast to east wind 10-20 mph. Extreme Southern Panhandle/Low Rolling Plains — Tonight, mostly cloudy and windy. A chance of showers or thunderstorms. Low around 40. Thursday, cloudy with a slight chance of rain. High upper 50s to lower 60s. Permian Basin/Upper Trans Pecos — Tonight, cloudy. Areas of drizzle and fog after midnight. Low in the mid 40s. Thursday, cloudy with drizzle and fog. A slight chance of rain. High in the lower 60s. Concho Valley/Edwards Plateau — Tonight, becoming cloudy. A chance of showers, or thunderstorms. Low in the lower 50s. Thursday, cloudy. A slight chance of showers. High in the mid 60s.

Far West Texas — Tonight, mostly clear. Low in the lower 50s. Thursday, partly cloudy. High in the lower 80s. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — Tonight, becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 35-50. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms. High in the 60s mountains to near 80 along the Rio Grande.

NORTH TEXAS — Tonight, cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows 46 north to 58 south. Thursday, cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. High 64 north to 69 south.

SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Tonight, mostly cloudy. A chance of showers or thunderstorms mainly east and central. Some storms possibly severe. Locally heavy rain possible north central and east. Lows in the 50s to around 60. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Some storms possibly severe early. High in the 60s, except 70s west. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Tonight, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms. Low in the mid 50s north, mid 60s south. Thursday, cloudy with rain likely, showers and thunderstorms

south. Highs in the 60s north, lower 70s south. Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Plains — Tonight, becoming mostly cloudy with areas of fog developing. Lows 60 to 65. Thursday, mostly cloudy with a chance of showers or thunderstorms. Turning cooler in the afternoon. Highs in the 70s.

BORDER STATES

NEW MEXICO — Tonight, increasing cloudiness northeast with a slight chance for drizzle, light rain and areas of fog. Partly cloudy southeast with fair skies west. Lows in the 20s to mid 30s mountains with 30s to mid 40s at lower elevations. Thursday, mostly cloudy and cooler east with areas of morning fog and a chance for drizzle and light rain. Partly cloudy west with a slight chance for showers south central and southwest. Not as warm west. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 60s mountains and northeast with upper 50s to mid 70s elsewhere.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, mostly cloudy. A chance of showers central and chance of showers and thunderstorms south. Lows mid 30s northwest to mid 40s southeast. Thursday, a slight chance of morning showers southeast, otherwise partly cloudy. Highs upper 50s to lower 60s.

Pampa Citizens on Patrol gets new base

Pampa's Citizens On Patrol has a new home of its own thanks to the generosity of one of its members.

The volunteer group has been based in the Gray County Red Cross Chapter building since the COP's beginning in 1995. Ruth Sloan, one of the group's members, offered the use of a house she owns after it became vacant earlier this year.

Members moved their records and equipment into the house in February, and the new base is now fully operational.

"I think it's a mush better environment for the COP's. I'm proud of what they've been able to accomplish," said Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris.

Pampa's Citizens On Patrol program was begun with the guidance and support of the late Chuck Flemings, former Pampa police chief, and Donny Brown, a former corporal with Pampa Police Department, after

they learned of a similar program in Fort Worth.

Citizens On Patrol may be considered "Neighborhood Watch on Wheels."

Members patrol the community on their vehicles to serve as extra eyes and ears for the police department. A base operator coordinates communications between members and with police personnel by radio and telephone.

COP's are not law enforcement personnel and have no more authority than any private citizen. They look for suspicious and criminal activity and report any incidents to the police department. The group's activity has been credited with influencing rates of thefts and other property crimes in the city.

Members of the COP's must take an eight-hour training course and complete eight hours of riding with police officers before they can become a member of Citizens On Patrol.



Above are (left-right) Dick Wells, Mike Rummerfield and Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris at new base.

They must also complete, before the end of their first year as a patroller, the 42-hour Pampa Citizens Police Academy, which meets one night a week for 14 weeks.

Pampa Citizens Police Academy is the forerunner of the COP program, and was

modeled after academics in other Texas cities including Fort Worth.

It's intended to give local citizens a better understanding of laws and law enforcement. There have been more than a dozen academies held in Pampa.

Citizens On Patrol member's activities include searching for missing children and adults; traffic control during parades and at events such as the Fourth of July fireworks display and the Top O' Texas Rodeo; documenting vandalism such as graffiti and glass breakage; noting city code violations; and doing external visual checks of homes of vacationers, and homes and businesses which have reported problems such as trespassers, vandals or harassment.

In addition to Sloan's donation of the use of the house as a new base, the COP program has also received donations from the following local businesses:

- Computer Systems and Technologies - computer system and software
- Perfex Energy Consultants - antenna pole
- Frank's True Value Hardware - hardware for antenna pole
- Albertson's - disposable camera

ER Chemical Toilet - Formica for wipe-off bulletin board

Ceramic Emporium - camera and drinking cups

Pepsi Co. - soft drinks

COP's are hoping to obtain additional donations to get the following items on their "wish list":

- Cleaning supplies, camcorder, TV, VCR, microwave, large Pampa map, 35 mm camera and film, additional radios and antennas, copier, office supplies, window blinds, portable generator, white and pale blue exterior house paint and painting supplies, kitchen stove, bulletin boards, picture frames.

Pampa residents interested in attending the next Citizens Police Academy or Citizens On Patrol training may contact Pampa Police Department during regular business hours at 669-5700. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the COP program may also contact the department at 669-5700.

Cattle feeders and European Union face off

Local cattle feeders said this week they support a move by U.S. trade representatives to retaliate against the European Union for not opening their markets to U.S. beef.

The United States, already in a bitter trade fight with the European Union over bananas, is preparing a new list of sanction targets to retaliate against Europe's refusal to allow the sale of American beef treated with growth hormones.

A spokesman for Amarillo-based Texas Cattle Feeders Association said late Monday they are pleased that the U.S. Special Trade Representative is becoming more aggressive in dealing with the European Union.

"It's a shame they couldn't be more aggressive years ago," said Neal Odom of McLean Feeders.

Odom said the European Union has used the issue of growth promotants, a practice long approved in the U.S., as a trade barrier since 1989, to keep U.S. beef out of the their countries for the benefit of their agricultural industries.

"The EU is trying to make use of growth promotants a safety issue," said Neal Odom of McLean Feeders. "It is not a safety issue."

He said it has been and is being used by the Europeans as a trade barrier for their own political purposes.

The preliminary retaliatory target list covers more than \$900 million in European imports, primarily farm products. The sanctions, which would effectively double the price of the products in the American market, would go into effect at the latest by early July, according to the Associated Press.

Peter Scher, America's trade negotiator on agricultural matters, said the list covered European agricultural imports to the United States as well as some manufactured goods.

(See EU, Page 10)

Extension Service sponsoring 'Walk Across Texas' fitness program

It's never too late to take action for better health say members of the Family and Consumer Science task forces formed in 13 panhandle counties who are sponsoring "Walk Across Texas" programs this spring. The local program

will begin at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28 at the high school track and will end May 22. An awards program will be held May 27. The Gray Co. goal is 40 teams. Prizes will be awarded to the teams that walk or ride the greatest distance.

Teams compete only within their own county for prizes. Come join the fun!

Walk Across Texas is an effort to bring public awareness to the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle. The Texas

Agriculture Extension Service is sponsoring the program in almost every area of the state including the panhandle, according to Donna Brauchi, FCS district director in Amarillo. "This year, many counties in our area will be offering this health enrichment program," Brauchi explained.

Family and Consumer Science agents in Armstrong, Carson, Dallam, Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham and Randall Counties are urging residents and businesses to participate in the Walk Across Texas challenge beginning in late March.

Teams for the 800-mile walk, or the average distances from most points in the panhandle to the lower reaches of Texas, can be formed from neighborhoods,

workplaces, churches and organizations. The teams may have up to eight walkers and/or four runners. The program's planners have selected South Padre Island as the "imaginary" destination this year.

The miles do not have to be walked as a group and participants never have to leave their neighborhood. The miles may be walked within an eight-week period, adding miles during work breaks, lunch or anytime. A bike category has been created and will consist of four bikers to a team.

Registration consists of selecting a team captain, choosing a team name and having fun, said Joan Gray, FCS agent in Gray Co. and a member of Extension's FCS Planning Committee.

(See WALK, Page 10)

Art Show



(Community Camera photo)

(From left) Faye Nichols, Mary Stevens and Cona Mays are members of the Heritage Art Club and are preparing for the Art Show at the Chamber of Commerce Building on Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28.

Texans see rise in cost of median-priced homes

COLLEGE STATION — Texas had a rise in the cost of median-priced homes, according to the March issue of "Trends," a monthly statistical report from the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.


Austin's January median price topped the state at \$121,000 — a 5 percent change from a year ago. Fort Bend was second with \$111,200 followed by San Marcos (\$110,000) and Montgomery Co. (\$109, 600). Paris had the lowest median price — \$45,000. Homes sold by Multiple Listing Services in the state's major markets had an overall median price of \$92,000 — a 3 percent increase from January 1998.

According to "Trends," the state's metropolitan MLSs sold 9,341 existing homes in January. Houston led the state with 2,578 sales, an 11 percent increase from 1998. Austin followed with a 924 sales, a 27 percent increase.

The January inventory of unsold existing Texas homes was 4.6 months, 21 percent fewer than

January last year. Austin had the smallest inventory at three months. The estimated days-to-sell a Texas home was 70 days in January, 21 percent fewer days than a year ago.

These and other real estate statistics can be found on the Real Estate Center's website at <http://recenter.tamu.edu>.



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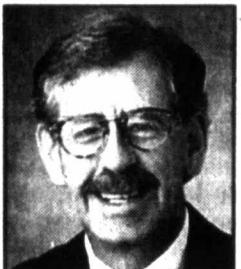
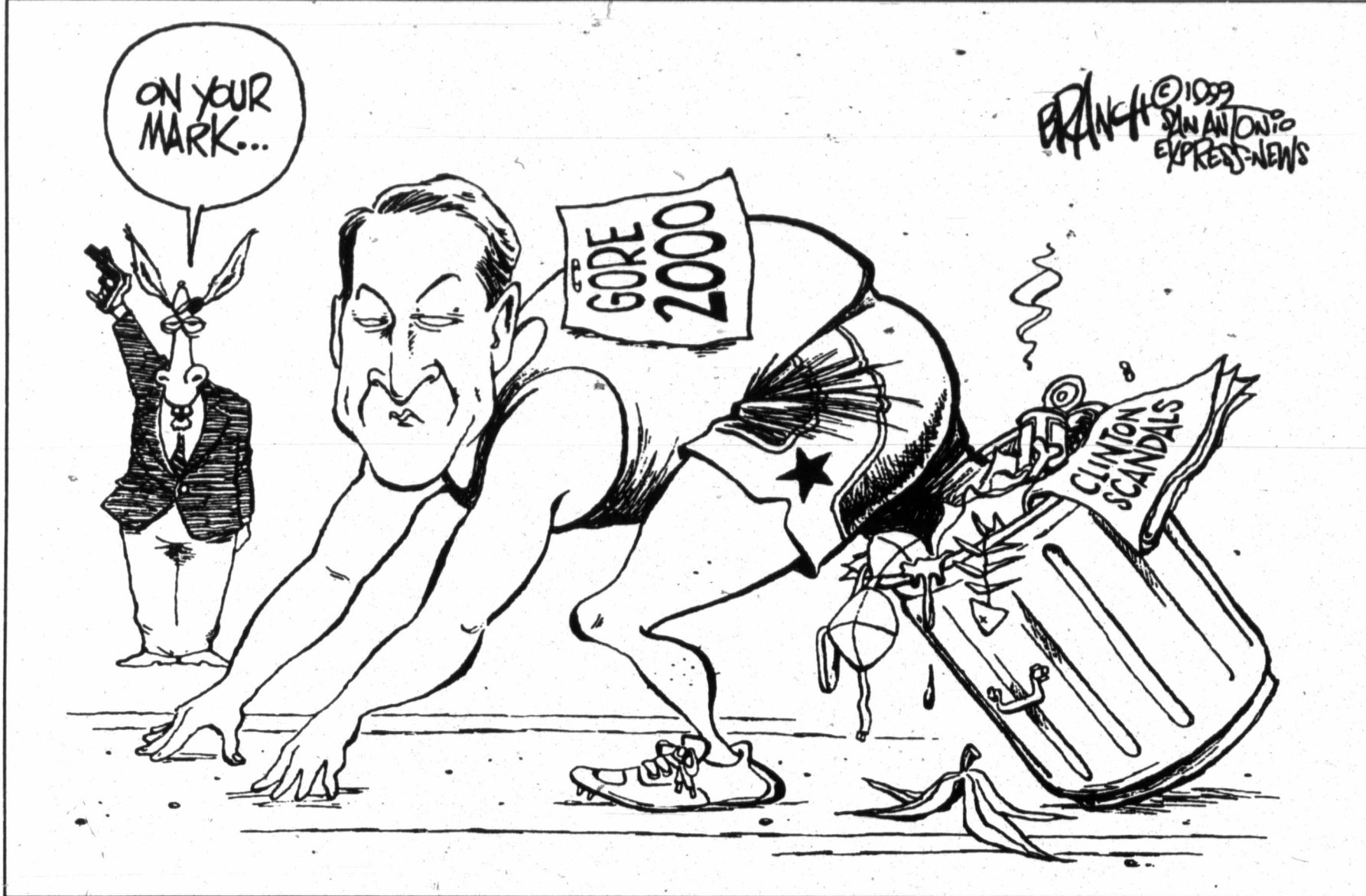
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At the State Capitol
 with
 State Sen. Teel Bivins

Deregulating electric industry

You come home from work on a cold winter day, flip on the lights and adjust the thermostat. These actions, repeated by millions of Texans every day and night, are second nature to us. Electric power has become so central to our lives and so reliable that it is taken for granted rather like the air we breathe.

For the entire history of the electric utility industry, electric power has been a regulated monopoly. But, just as times have changed for the airline industry, the trucking industry, the banking industry and the telecommunications industry, changes are coming to the electric industry. The movement to deregulate the generation of electric power has taken hold on both east and west coasts with deregulation bills being passed this decade in a host of states — California and Massachusetts being the leaders among them. Now Texas is becoming part of this trend.

Proponents of deregulation argue that competition and market forces can do a better job of setting prices for electricity than a state-appointed board sitting in Austin, Texas. They propose that the generation of electric power be deregulated and open to competition while the transmission and distribution of electric power be maintained as a regulated monopoly.

The concept sounds relatively simple; however, as many other public policy issues, implementation of such a change is vastly complex. During the interim between the 1997 and 1998 sessions, I served on the committee that looked in-depth into the issues related to electric utility restructuring. This session, Lt. Gov. Rick Perry appointed me to a special Senate committee whose only charge is to deal with the issue of electric restructuring.

I come to this job with somewhat conflicting emotions. On the one hand, as a conservative, I am philosophically disposed to get government out of our lives and off our backs whenever possible. As a general rule, I do believe that the marketplace is a better arbiter of prices than bureaucrats. On the other hand, I have witnessed the deregulation of the telephone industry in Texas and have been unable to discern significant economic benefits. It seems that the main thing telephone deregulation has given Texans are a host of irritating phone calls from telephone marketers during suppertime. Therefore, the standard by which I will judge any electrical restructuring bill is whether all classes of customers will be able to achieve meaningful benefits. Most especially, any legislation must ensure that rural residential users benefit and not bear the burden of the cost of deregulation which only benefits their urban cousins.

Sen. David Sibley (R-Waco) is the author of Senate Bill 7, the electric utility restructuring bill. I voted this bill out of committee because I believed it satisfied my two principle criteria. The bill would allow electric utility cooperatives and municipally-owned utilities to opt into competition when and if they decide. For all investor-owned utilities in Texas the earliest date that competition can begin will be Jan. 1, 2002. On that date, those utilities rates will be frozen and reduced by five percent. That rate will then become the "price to beat." At that time, anyone who wants to market electric power that meets the operating criteria of an independent system operator may market power to retail and small commercial users. Investor-owned utilities cannot compete for customers within their service area but they would be allowed to compete for customers outside their service area on this date. The investor-owned utility can compete for customers within its service area after five years or after it has lost 40 percent of its retail and small commercial customers to competitors. This is how the transition would take place from a regulated to a competitive market.

In order to ensure robust competition in the electric utility generating business, the bill would prevent any one generator from owning more than 20 percent of the generating capacity within a power region. Also, each current investor-owned utility would have to auction off 15 percent of its generating capacity on the wholesale market to companies seeking to market to retail and small commercial users.

With the generation of electricity deregulated but transmission and distribution being maintained as regulated common carriers, the rural residential user will have an equal opportunity to compete for electrons at competitive prices. Another feature of the bill would allow customers who choose to aggregate into groups to increase their bargaining power with the companies that generate power. Whole cities could organize into a buying group, for example, or all the members of an association such as the American Association of Retired Persons could organize or be aggregated into a buying group.

Electric utility restructuring is probably the most complex issue, with the possible exception of public school finance, that I have dealt with in my tenure in the legislature. I have only scratched the surface in the myriad of issues that must be addressed to make a successful transition from a regulated to a competitive market. After two years of study on this issue, I have come to the conclusion that competition in the electric utility generating market can ultimately benefit all classes of Texas consumers including the rural residential user. Because of the safeguards for reliability built into the law, it is my belief that Texans will still be able to come home from work, flip on the lights and adjust the thermostat using electricity provided by the generator of their choice at a more competitive price.

Missile defense idea pure folly

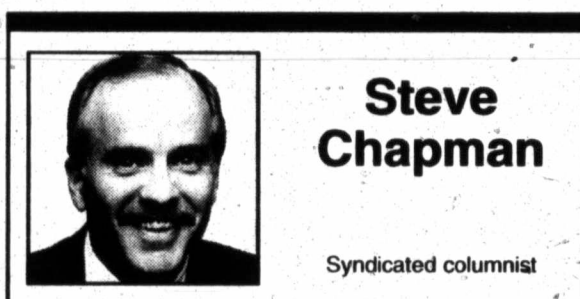
Conservatives are fond of pointing out the mistakes liberals commonly make in dealing with social ills: placing too much faith in good intentions, thinking you can solve problems by throwing money at them, and failing to foresee unintended consequences that end up making things worse instead of better. But liberals are not the only ones prone to such folly. On the subject of missile defense, conservatives are committing exactly the same errors.

Recently, both the Senate and the House voted to endorse the deployment of a national anti-ballistic missile network — "as soon as technologically possible," if the Senate gets its way. The measures don't actually begin the deployment of anything, but they were hailed by Republicans and their allies as a major step toward the vast shield they have long advocated. President Clinton, who had balked at previous congressional efforts to force a decision, retreated after getting a couple of amendments that struck the GOP as too vaporous to oppose.

The impetus for the vote was a report last summer by a bipartisan commission headed by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. It warned that such rogue nations as North Korea and Iran are working to develop long-range ballistic missiles and could have them sooner than U.S. intelligence agencies had previously thought. If and when that happens, everyone agrees, it would be nice to have a way to defend against them. Thus, the new commitment.

Contrary to what many people in Congress think, though, identifying a threat is not the same thing as devising a solution. If you're going to get cancer, it would be nice to have a cure. But taking unproven or discredited potions is not likely to keep you alive, and it may divert you from treatments that could help.

Advocates of missile defense have adopted one of the more bankrupt tactics of social reformers — acting as though anyone who



Steve Chapman
 Syndicated columnist

opposes their particular remedy opposes any remedy. As in: If you criticize Social Security, you must not care about old people. The supporters would rather not be bothered by the shortcomings of the defensive system we are trying to build.

One flaw is technological. Some \$100 billion in expenditures have yielded nothing terribly promising. The Pentagon has carried out 15 tests of its high-altitude interceptors, in carefully controlled conditions, and 13 have been strikeouts.

That's without facing an adversary trying to outwit them. But any country with the technological ability to manage the difficult feat of making a long-range ballistic missile will have the means to devise cheap countermeasures that will render our defensive system useless. Hitting a bullet with a bullet is hard enough. But the national missile defense will first have to figure out which is the real bullet among the hundred phony ones headed its way.

The Rumsfeld commission report has been cited as proof of the need to get started erecting an anti-missile network. But panel member Richard Garwin, a scientist at IBM and Columbia University, disagrees. "No defensive system under consideration can neutralize these threats," he writes. "It would be foolhardy to base our security on a 21st century Maginot Line."

His reference to the Maginot Line is apt. Just as the Wehrmacht defeated the French strategy

by simply going around this supposedly impregnable barrier, rogue nations armed with nuclear, chemical or biological weapons can easily circumvent a missile defense — say, by smuggling them into the United States in ships, private planes, rental trucks or briefcases.

Then, there is the unintended but almost certain consequence a missile defense would have: causing the Russians to hang onto thousands of intercontinental ballistic missiles they promised to dismantle in the START 2 agreement. The Chinese may also figure that the best antidote to an American defensive system is to build hundreds of new missiles designed to overwhelm it. In the end, the nuclear threat to American security will be larger and less manageable than ever.

So how can we defuse the danger posed by outlaw regimes? Through old-fashioned but proven methods: Negotiating to dissuade them from developing long-range missiles, as we did in steering North Korea off the nuclear path; carrying out pre-emptive strikes if they build launch sites; and leaving no doubt that the use of such a weapon against us will ensure their immediate and total destruction. This last approach was sufficient to keep the peace during the 40-year nuclear standoff with the Soviet Union, a much more formidable antagonist than any on the horizon now.

Advocates of missile defense have carried the day in Congress with visions of an invisible Astrodome that can easily ward off any attack from our most determined enemy. But as conservatives used to tell liberals, wishing doesn't make it so.

Note to readers: In my recent column lamenting the names some colleges use for their women's sports teams, I said that Virginia Commonwealth University calls its women the Lady Rams. Mike May, director of sports information there, informs me that last fall the school dropped the "lady." My apologies and compliments to VCU.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
 Today is Wednesday, March 24, the 83rd day of 1999. There are 282 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On March 24, 1949, at the Academy Awards, "Hamlet" won best picture of 1948 and its star, Laurence Olivier, best actor; Jane Wyman won best actress for "Johnny

Belinda"; "Treasure of Sierra Madre" won best director for John Huston and best supporting actor for the director's father, Walter Huston.

On this date:
 In 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

In 1882, German scientist Robert

Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

In 1883, long-distance telephone service was inaugurated between Chicago and New York.

In 1934, President Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1944, in occupied Rome, the

Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.

In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

In 1958, rock-and-roll singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army in Memphis, Tenn.

Government should stay out of NCAA

A federal judge has barred the National Collegiate Athletic Association from using a minimum score on the Scholastic Assessment Test to determine eligibility to play college sports on the grounds that it discriminates against blacks.

There is much wrong with this decision. First, for the record, the federal government should not be involved in anyway in college sports, but we all know, now that the Constitution has been tossed in the trash can, the federal government involves itself in every aspect of our lives.

Secondly, the judge is saying blacks are inferior, though he resorts to Orwellian language to hide it. If the NCAA says nobody with black skin can play college sports, that's racial discrimination. If it gives one test to blacks and another test to whites, that's racial discrimination. But if it says all people of all colors must score at least 51 percent correct answers on the same test conducted under the same conditions, that cannot possibly be racial discrimination. One requirement applies to all equally. If that isn't a definition of nondiscrimination, what is?

How then does the judge arrive at his decision that it is racially discriminatory? More black test-takers failed to score 51 percent than white test-takers. Now that's the fact. Where the judge goes wrong is that he draws the



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

wrong inference from the fact. The obvious and logical inference — which is backed up by the results on many different tests over many years — is that blacks, on the whole, do less well than whites, on the whole, at taking tests.

Why that is so need not concern us, except that we can eliminate the excuse of blaming it on the test being culturally biased. That is nonsense, a mere ploy to avoid facing the truth. That might be true of a test given in English to recent refugees from Tibet, but it cannot be true of a test given to people who have shared the same language, the same country and the same culture for two centuries, and in some cases nearly four centuries.

To make his illogical conclusion, the judge employs this language: The practice (of requiring the same minimum test score for all applicants regardless of race) "harms black students' chances of being declared academically eligible."

Well, only if they can't make the score. That's like saying that requiring all heavyweight boxers to weigh, say, 180 pounds or more "harms the chances of 120-pound people to be declared eligible to fight in the heavyweight division." Well, of course it does. The heavyweight division is for people 180 pounds or heavier; college athletics are for people who can score 820 out of a possible 1,600 points on the Scholastic Assessment Test. The average SAT score, by the way, is 1,017.

Let's remember that the purpose of college is not football or basketball but education. College sports are an extracurricular activity, or should be anyway. One plays sports for the fun of it while one becomes educated. The SAT is a well-validated indicator of a student's likely success or failure in college academic studies.

There are exceptions to the rule on both the high-score and the low-score sides, but it is a well-validated test.

And note, such is the decay and decline of this country that even requiring answering only 51 percent of the questions correctly is deemed to be too great a burden. In fact, nobody should go near a college who can't answer a minimum of 70 percent of the questions.

This decision is just another example of political corruption.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CHIEF

Commissioner Faustina Curry said the decision became more difficult, but it was Powell who in the end came out on top. "She'll make a great chief," the commissioner added.

In an interview after the meeting, Powell gave much of the credit for her rise through the ranks to Phillips who she said encouraged firefighters to continue their education in the field.

While she gets her feet on the ground, Powell says she plans no immediate changes saying, "Chief Phillips left us with a really good fire department."

She is the only woman on the 31-member fire department.

Phillips, who retired last month, returned to his former home in Lubbock to be closer to family.

The new chief says she was bitten by the fire-fighting bug when she was a teenager growing up in Lefors where she volunteered as a member of that fire department.

Her parents are Robert and Karen Lake who now live in Pampa.

In addition to her work, Powell takes time to serve as the Pampa Lion's Club president but it is her children who provide her with the majority of her "hobby" time.

"They are all very active," she said of her daughter and three sons who range in age from 7-to-15-years old. They are Tosha, Jason, Brett and Tye Powell.

Texas round up ...

Union leaders: Where are the jobs?

AUSTIN (AP) — Leaders with the United Steelworkers of America have accused the nation's largest producer of agricultural tires of taking \$30 million in tax incentives to build a Brownsville plant it isn't even interested in opening.

Titan Tires announced in 1996 its plans to build a new off-the-road tire plant in Brownsville — a one million-square-foot facility that would create hundreds of jobs. The company said at the time that the plant would be operational in 18 to 24 months.

USWA officials suggested at a capitol press conference on Tuesday that Titan president Maurice "Morry" Taylor's principal use of the Brownsville facility has been as a club to try to break up strikes at the company's plants in Des Moines, Iowa, and Natchez, Miss.

Mike Bolton, a union leader at the Des Moines plant, said when union workers refused to give in to Taylor's demands, the Titan president ordered four big presses loaded onto a truck.

"He paraded them in front of our people and said these presses are going to Brownsville. He said that's where your equipment is going, and that's where your jobs are going," Bolton said.

But the machinery hasn't actually shown up in Brownsville, he said.

Union officials showed a videotape they said was taken in January inside the Brownsville plant — pictures mostly of an empty building.

"He's got a \$30 million junkyard in Brownsville. That's what he's got," said Leo Bradley, president of the USWA local in Natchez. "We're not here in opposition to the plant in Brownsville. We're here to say, 'Watch out for this guy.' He's running a scam."

Wireless phones donated to DISD to improve safety, communication

DALLAS (AP) — The dozens of portable classrooms situated behind W.E. Greiner Middle School are more than a hop and skip from the principal's office; not to mention the nearest telephone.

But on Tuesday, teachers at the city's largest middle school became the first in Dallas to be outfitted with cellular phones to connect them to either the school office or a 911 operator in case of emergency.

Southwestern Bell has donated 500 phones and 360,000 minutes of local airtime to the Dallas Independent School District to improve communication and safety on the campuses.

"We have 49 portable classrooms and communication is an issue," Principal Lynn Dehart said. "If teachers have any kind of problem or emergency or if they just need to contact a parent or an administrator, this is a means to do it."

He said the phones can also be used as a discipline tool.

More than 130 other elementary, middle and high schools in the Dallas area will receive phones and airtime.

Before having a phone, she said she had no immediate access to the front office or school security.

Having phones in the classroom is not a first, it's just a first for the portable buildings, said Southwestern Bell Wireless spokeswoman Leigh Anne Crow.

Other schools around the state — including some in Austin, Houston, Wichita Falls and Beaumont — participate in Classlink Texas, she said. As part of the program, various wireless service providers around the state award schools with five phones each plus 150 minutes a month for general use.

Justice conditionally approves SBC-Ameritech merger

WASHINGTON (AP) — SBC Communications' planned merger with Ameritech Corp., which

would create the nation's largest local telephone company, has been conditionally approved by the Justice Department.

The department's action Tuesday removed a big hurdle to the merger, but it still must be approved by the Federal Communications Commission, which is reviewing the deal.

Valued at \$57 billion when it was announced in May, the merger would unite two local Bell companies that control 57 million phone lines spread through 13 states.

The Justice Department approved the merger as long as the companies sell cellular properties in each of 17 markets. Once that is done, SBC also can proceed with another deal to buy the cellular telephone operations of Comcast Corp.

SBC and Ameritech have agreed to the condition and will sell one of two cellular properties in each of those markets in Illinois, Indiana and Missouri. Markets include the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and St. Louis, the Justice Department said.

"Without these divestitures, consumers would have paid higher prices or received lower-quality services," said Joel I. Klein, chief of the antitrust division.

Consumer groups and long-distance companies wanted the Department of Justice to block the merger, arguing it would thwart local phone competition and thus the prospect of lower prices. They'll continue to pursue that option at the FCC.

The FCC, which has expressed doubts about companies' need to get big to compete, hasn't ruled out any options, including imposing conditions on the merger or blocking it. SBC and Ameritech, however, are confident the FCC will approve the deal.

San Antonio-based SBC Communications Inc. and Chicago-based Ameritech, supported by major telephone unions, said the merger would be good for consumers and competition.

Harris County may sell toll roads to a nonprofit agency

HOUSTON (AP) — Harris County officials are considering a proposal to sell the county's toll roads to a nonprofit agency for more than \$2.1 billion.

Details of the proposal have not been firmed up, but such a deal would take the county out of the toll-road business and put it in the hands of a new, quasi-governmental agency.

County Judge Robert Eckels told the Houston Chronicle that Commissioners Court members were briefed about the proposal last week. The court is expected to assign county budget officer Dick Raycraft to review the proposal and make recommendations.

The plan would create a nonprofit agency that would take over the ownership, operation and maintenance of the county's 84 miles of toll roads — the Sam Houston Tollway and Hardy Toll Road. The agreement would likely contain a clause limiting the agency's ability to raise tolls.

The agency would sell \$2 billion in new bonds, the proceeds of which would be used to pay off the county's nearly \$1.6 billion in toll-road bond debt. The county would also get at least \$500 million in cash.

Once the agency pays off all its bond debt — probably midway through the next century — the toll roads would be turned over to the state.

The county's financial advisers proffered the idea, which was suggested to them by outside investment firms. Those investors would stand to make a large profit from the new bond issues.

If the county were to agree to the proposal, it would receive a large amount of cash, which Eckels said could be used to roll back property taxes to ensure financial stability.



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

The family of new Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell (third from left, back row) was on hand to hear city commissioners vote unanimously to promote her to the top spot. In front are sons Brett and Tye, while (others from left are) daughter Tosha, husband Tyson and son Jason.

Equipment taken; reporters flee Kosovo

NEW YORK (AP) — With NATO bombardment looming, Yugoslav authorities confiscated Western television transmission equipment today and reporters fled the troubled province of Kosovo for safer ground after being threatened.

A TV transmission facility at a Belgrade hotel was shut down by government officials who removed equipment while ordering personnel to stand against a wall, said Eason Jordan, president of newsgathering and international networks for CNN.

The facility was operated by the European Broadcasting Union and used by CNN and other U.S. television networks, including-run television, said Sandy MacIntyre, managing editor of APTN's field operations.

Some reporters were leaving Kosovo as the situation deteriorated there, said CBS spokeswoman Sandra Genelius. CBS

was waiting to decide whether its reporter, Allen Pizzev, would stay, she said.

CNN's Brent Sadler reported being threatened by officials when he and some colleagues transmitted a report today from the Kosovo capital of Pristina. One of the gun-toting men held two bullets in his hand, pointed at CNN personnel and said, "these bullets are for you," Jordan said.

Sadler finished his report anyway and when he emerged from the facility, all four tires on his vehicle had been slashed. Sadler was staying in Kosovo, Jordan said.

CNN reporter Christopher Burns left Yugoslavia after authorities told CNN that his life may be in danger. Officials have been denouncing CNN on Yugoslavian television as "a factory of lies" and ran a picture of Burns, Jordan said.

"It's just a dreadful situation," he said. CNN is particularly susceptible to trouble because its reports are telecast in Yugoslavia, he said.

APTN reporters have elected to stay in Kosovo.

| | |
|---|--|
| CINEMA | |
| 2 nd Week | |
| Baby Geniuses (PG) | |
| Fri. & Sat. 7:20 & 9:10 Sun. thru Thurs. 7:20 Sat. & Sun. Matinees 2:00 | |
| 2 nd Week | |
| Carrie 2 (R) | |
| Fri. & Sat. 7:15 & 9:15 Sun. thru Thurs. 7:15 Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:45 | |
| 3 rd Week | |
| Cruel Intentions (R) | |
| Fri. & Sat. 7:15 & 9:15 Sun. thru Thurs. 7:15 Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:45 | |
| 2 nd Week | |
| Deep End Of The Ocean (PG-13) | |
| Fri. & Sat. 7:10 & 9:20 Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10 Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:40 | |



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Scrap-Paper Correspondent Saves Money and the Earth

DEAR ABBY: My message to "Sick of Scraps," the woman who wrote you to complain about receiving letters from her longtime friend, "Ellen," on odd pieces of paper is: Guess what! Your friend Ellen has become a "green senior" — an older environmentalist. By recycling odd pieces of paper, she's doing her part to conserve forests and her own resources. Go through your junk mail, select a letter with a clean side, and write her back!



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

ANOTHER GREEN SENIOR, HELENA, MONT.
DEAR GREEN SENIOR: The responses to "Sick of Scraps" letter have been varied and interesting. Some readers thought she was petty and mean-spirited. Others read more into it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Sick of Scraps" said she and her friend were both in their 70s, and it really struck a chord with me, as I, too, am in my 70s.

I can identify with "Ellen." We were Depression babies, and if she was raised as I was, we were taught to "waste not, want not." I, too, use odds and ends of paper to write notes — even though I have pretty stationery. I recycle wrapping paper, pressing it with an iron to use it again. (My children and grandchildren tease me about it.) I also drape paper towels on a rack to reuse if they've been used only to wipe up water.

Like so many people, we were

very poor during those years, and the lessons learned then I shall take to my grave. One of the things that really bothers me today is the waste, not only of materials, but of food.

I'm always delighted to hear from a friend, regardless of what the message is written on. "Sick of Scraps" is fortunate to have had such a cherished friendship for 36 years.

DEAR ABBY: "NANNY" FROM NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

DEAR NANNY: I applaud your sense of priorities, not only about the value of friendship but also the importance of preserving your assets. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: As the publisher of a frugality newsletter, I see a lot of scrap-paper correspondence. For most who do this, it's a harmless little penny-pinching habit, but for others, it is a signal that all is not well either mentally or financially. I'd recommend that your reader gently comment on her friend's

scrap-paper letters and see what kind of response she receives.

Intense frugality at this stage of life may signal several distressing possibilities: The woman may have real financial problems or imagined fears of outliving her money. Either situation could cause an obsessive type of scrimping. Or, if this is an abrupt change in personality — apparently she has enjoyed nice stationery in the past — it may be a warning sign of a mental deterioration that should be investigated.

Thrift is certainly commendable and we encourage it, but its sudden appearance in an extreme form in someone of this age needs further looking into.

EDITH FLOWERS KILGO, "CREATIVE DOWNSCALING," JONESBORO, GA.

DEAR EDITH: Thank you for pointing this out, and also for the suggestion that Ellen's friend "gently comment" about the scrap-paper letters to see how her friend responds. It certainly couldn't hurt. You have added some valuable insight. Readers: Stay tuned; more on this subject tomorrow.

Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Horoscope

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1999
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) ***** It's no-holds-barred fun and flirtation today. Everyone you encounter has a smile for you, and those who don't will soon succumb to your infectious charm. Pursue a creative project, adding your personal touch will make the end result perfect. Tonight: Ooh, la la!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ***** More calls and messages may come into your home than usual, but you'll have no problem fielding them. In fact, you might enjoy the hectic pace! Use your intuition and listen to your inner voice, which is exceptionally clear and on target. Tonight: With friends at your place.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ***** A boss or higher-up likes you more than you know, although his cranky behavior might not immediately reflect this. Be your talkative, inquisitive self, your humor and attitude are contagious! Run errands, catch up on correspondence. Tonight: Make a few follow-up phone calls.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ***** Money matters are highlighted. Asking questions and making inquiries benefits you if you're making a major purchase. You feel more on top of your game. You won't find if you don't seek! A friend at a

distance could be irritable. Don't worry — he'll get over it! Tonight: Check an investment online.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ***** You're in fine form, shooting the breeze with many entertained admirers. At work, check some of your flirtiness at the door if you want to impress the boss! What you do and say will be noticed, and therefore scrutinized. Put your best face forward. Tonight: Do whatever your heart desires.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***** You'll want to reach out, but might feel shaky when it comes to a partner or another at a distance. Don't let frustration make a bigger deal of this than need be. To your surprise, once you make that call or write that letter, a wave of relief will wash over you, regardless of the response you get. Tonight: Sawing logs.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ***** You're adored, maybe more than you want to be. As flattered as you are, you're focused on work and on making a dream real. If others don't fit into that plan, you might not have use for them today. That's not cold — that's disciplined! You can play tomorrow or another day. Tonight: Someone finally coaxes you out.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ***** You might be more inclined to chase a romantic interest or have fun than to take responsibility at work or at home. You won't get out of it, however! If you opt to goof off today, plan to catch up at the office later if you want to stay on top of tasks. A higher-up may check up on you! Tonight: Nose to the grindstone.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ***** The world is your oyster, and you'll enjoy traipsing around on a mid-

week break or day trip. If you can't escape the office, you'll at least get a lot done quickly. Imagination and inspiration are high. You can make long-lasting friendships today. Tonight: Dance class.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** As attracted as you might be to a particular friend or paramour, his frivolous chatter or continuous questions could quickly bother you. He won't understand if you lash out, so don't! Instead, arrange some time alone to realign your head. Tonight: Research stocks or financial trends.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ***** A family member clearly wants to part you from some of your hard-earned cash. Can you deal with this properly? The best course is to table any discussion for a later time or, preferably, date. Chances are, another's plan won't seem quite so attractive then — even to him. Tonight: Enthralled with a partner.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ***** Don't expect what you say to come out as you meant to say it! A peculiar, wide-of-the-mark energy surrounds communication. If there's something you must convey, write it down first so you can see what it looks like in tangible form. Tonight: Working late.

BORN TODAY
Singer Aretha Franklin (1942), singer Elton John (1947), comedienne Mary Gross (1953)
For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

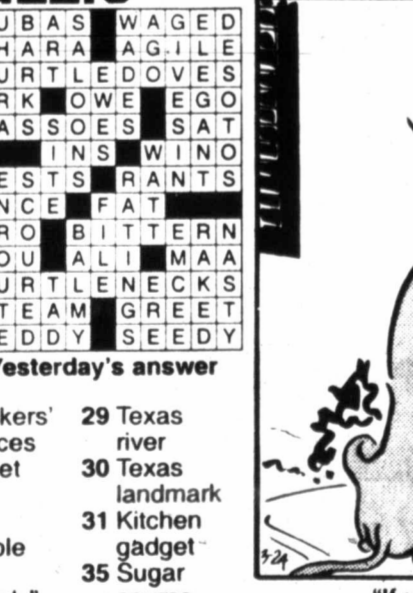
Crossword Puzzle

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**
ACROSS 42 Boulder
1 Best man's pal
6 Virginia of tennis fame
10 Happen again
11 Gives the boot
12 Nautical call
13 Lustrous gems
14 Innuendo
15 Kind of clef
16 Actress Gardner
17 Engine part
18 Stan Getz plays one
19 Deeply in love with
22 Nest
23 Breathing aid
26 African stork
29 Knee protector
32 Female rabbit
33 OSS successor
34 Draw out
36 Desire
37 Confectioner's plant
38 "Olympia" painter
39 Portents
40 Kind of wave
41 Aching

DOWN
1 Publisher Katharine
2 Comeback
3 Ottawa anthem
4 Give the boot
5 "The A-Team" star
6 Use a sponge
7 Swift horses
8 Perry's assistant
9 English county
11 Math equations
15 "The Way"
17 Trucker's devices
20 Target
21 Vat
24 "I'm unable to comply"
25 West African
27 Nonsense
28 Be a fink
29 Texas river
30 Texas landmark
31 Kitchen gadget
35 Sugar source
36 Bide one's time
38 Peaks: Abbr.

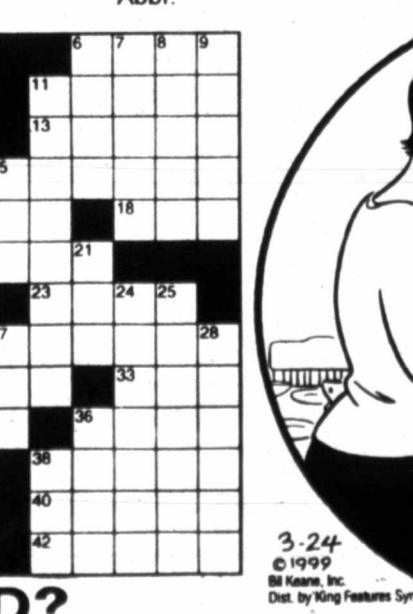
Yesterday's answer
17 Trucker's devices
29 Texas river
30 Texas landmark
31 Kitchen gadget
35 Sugar source
36 Bide one's time
38 Peaks: Abbr.

Marmaduke



"If you're looking for a dinner invitation, it's in the mail."

The Family Circus



"Billy, run out to the sandbox and bring me some spoons."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



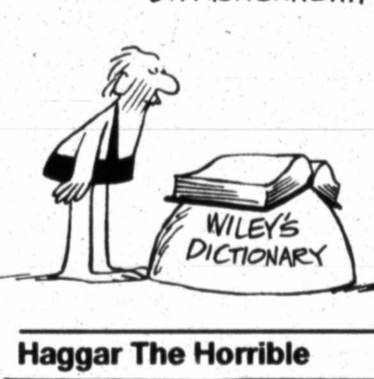
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



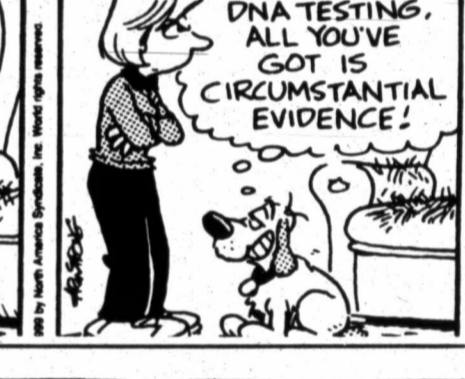
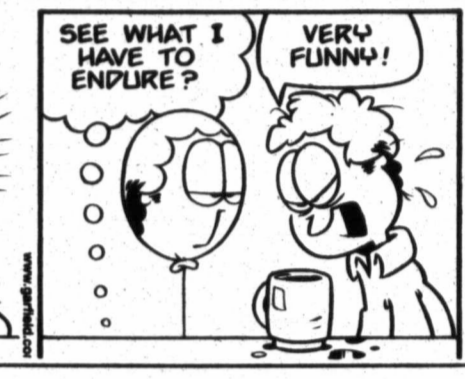
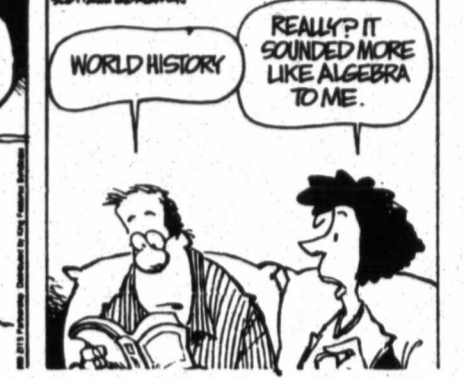
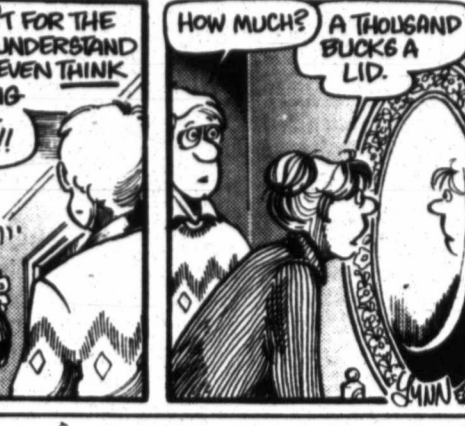
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Notebook

GOLF

PAMPA — Results of a Seniors 4-Man Scramble held at Hidden Hills last week are as follows:

First place: Bill King, Oscar Sargent and Preston Cox.

Second place: Elmer Wilson, Charles Terrell, Walden Haynes, George Gambin and Rex Courter.

Third place: Willie Nickelberry, Jim Bridges, Calvin Lacy and Everett Butler.

Fourth place: J. T. Lamberson, B.F. Dorman, Jerry Davis and Norman Allen.

BASKETBALL

GROOM — Groom's Randy Yelverton has resigned to become girls' basketball coach at Sanderson.

Yelverton was the head coach in boys' and girls' basketball, cross country and golf at Groom. He was also an assistant in football.

Yelverton guided both Groom boys' and girls' teams into the playoffs this past season.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson sat out the closing minutes of several recent San Antonio Spurs games because one of his teammates was more effective.

On Tuesday night, the former NBA MVP watched the end of the game from the sidelines because his work was already done.

Robinson scored 17 points in 28 minutes and sat out the entire fourth quarter of the Spurs' 112-82 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Robinson failed to score more than 10 points in any of his previous three outings and averaged just 7.0 points during that slump. Against Denver, he was 7-of-10 from the field, made all three free throws, had nine rebounds and blocked four shots.

"I made some shots today," Robinson said. "I got my 10 shots, but making seven makes you feel a whole lot better. And it wasn't like I had a lot of dunks. I had the same shots I've been missing lately. It feels better to put the ball in the hole."

The Spurs got 19 points from Tim Duncan and combined for a season-high 12 blocked shots.

"The first time we played them in Denver this season, I said this was our toughest matchup," Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups said. "They have three 7-footers on their team, and two of them are in the game at all times."

"If you beat Tim Duncan off the dribble, you have David Robinson in the paint waiting for you. There's no room down there. If our outside game is not on, it's going to be tough to beat them."

The Spurs dominated the game as much with their defense as their scoring, holding the Nuggets to 37.5 percent shooting (33-of-88).

"We didn't push the ball up the court (in the third quarter) like we did in the first half," said Nuggets guard Nick Van Exel, who led Denver with 18 points. "We didn't play both ends of the court. We got in a half-court game with them, and in a half-court game, they're awesome."

Denver's Antonio McDyess, who scored 23 and 29 points in this season's two previous meetings with San Antonio, was shut down most of the game. He made his first three shots, then missed nine of his next 10, winding up with 10 points on 5-of-14 shooting.

"I thought the team did a good job on Antonio McDyess," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's a great talent. There's no one player who can stop him."

Johnny Taylor and Eric Williams added 14 points each for Denver, while San Antonio reserve Jaren Jackson had 13 points.

It was the Spurs' eighth straight victory over the Nuggets and their 11th win in the last 12 games.

Playoffs end for Pampa

PAMPA — Pampa's playoff run in girls' soccer ended at the hands of Wichita Falls Rider in the Class 4A regional semifinals at Harvester Stadium.

The Lady Harvesters had notched playoff wins over El Paso Parkland (2-0) and El Paso Ysleta (1-0) before falling to Rider by the score of 7-0 on Tuesday.

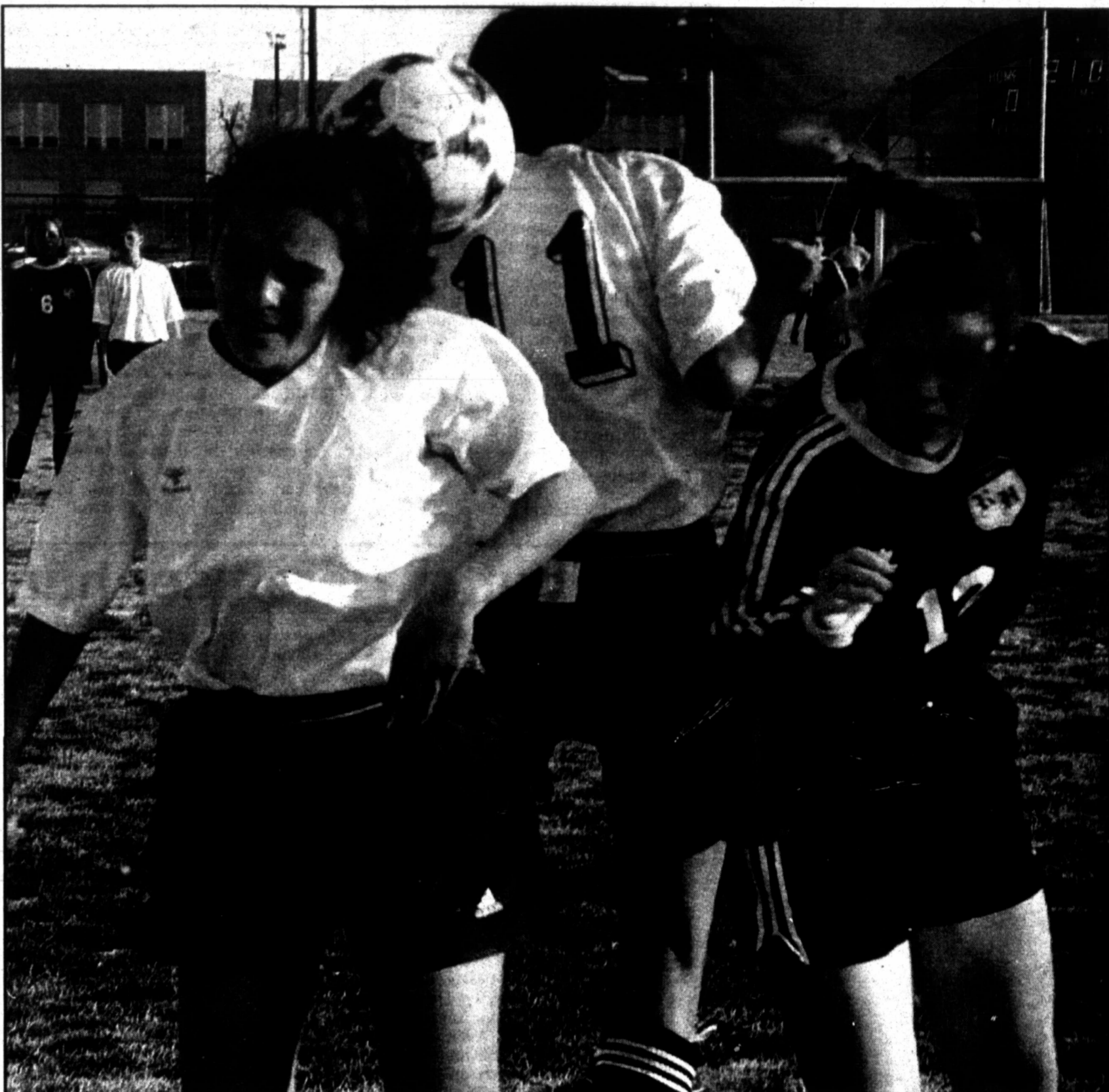
Rider, which has been to the playoffs every year since starting its program in 1993, just had too much firepower for the Lady Harvesters. The Lady Raiders scored 3 goals in the first half and 4 more in the second half.

Freshman goalie Samantha Ford had 10 saves, making some outstanding stops, but Pampa wasn't able to contain the Rider onslaught. Six different players figured in the Rider scoring as Amber Walker led the way with 2 goals.

Pampa had to battle the more-experienced Rider squad without star senior Jessie Maddox, who had sustained a broken leg in last Friday's match against Ysleta. Maddox, a two-time all-district player, was on crutches and on the sidelines encouraging her teammates throughout the match.

The Lady Harvesters finished the season with an 11-8 record and had never gone beyond the first round of the playoffs before this season.

Rider at 19-7-1 advances to meet Denton Ryan for the regional championship.



Pampa's Annette Botello (left) and Danielle Maratinez (11) battle Wichita Falls Rider's Christina Lane for control of the ball during Tuesday's regional semifinal match.

Lady Harvesters rout Hereford in district softball game

HEREFORD — The Pampa Lady Harvesters routed Hereford 15-0 in six innings Tuesday at the Deaf Smith County Complex. Pampa extended its win streak to five and improved to 5-1 in district and 8-2 overall in girls' softball.

Pampa took a 2-0 lead in the first on three walks and aggressive baserunning by Stephanie Cameron and Lisa Dwight.

Hereford would be unable to advance a baserunner beyond first base in their first three innings at bat.

Pampa failed to score in the second inning, but plated one run in the third on two singles to bring the score to 3-0.

The Lady Harvesters added two runs on three hits in the fourth. With one out, Cali Covalt got things going with a single. Then, after a second out, Cameron delivered the only extra base hit of the game, an RBI triple scoring Covalt. Dwight followed with an RBI single to increase Pampa's lead to 5-0.

The Lady Whitefaces collected their first hit of the contest in the fourth with two outs and a runner on first who had reached on an error. The final out of the inning came on a 1-5 ground out.

The Lady Harvesters added four runs on three hits and two errors to build their lead to 9-0 after five.

The Herd with one out loaded the bases in the bottom of the fifth, but a 5-2 force out and a 4-3 ground out ended their only serious threat.

In the sixth, Pampa exploded for six runs on five hits, a walk, and an error to stretch the lead to 15-0.

Hereford had one batter reach on a walk with two outs, but a 1-3 ground out ended the inning and the game.

Hereford's Monica Dominguez surrendered 13 hits, issued 7 walks and struck out one.

For Pampa, Kimberly Clark gave up just two hits while striking out seven and walking five for the shutout.

Stephanie Cameron paced the Lady Harvesters, going 4 for 4 with a triple and three singles. Cali Covalt was 3 for 3 with

three singles. Lisa Dwight added two singles. Cassi Scott, Lisa Kirkpatrick, Kristi Walling and Kelsey Yowell each had one sin-

gle. The Lady Harvesters host Canyon at 1 p.m. Saturday at Optimist Park.

Harvesters edge Plainview, 9-8

PLAINVIEW — Pampa outlasted Plainview 9-8 in high school baseball action Tuesday afternoon.

Pampa (9-7) has now won 6 of its last 7 games.

"We beat a pretty good team," said Pampa head coach Dennis Doughty. "We hit the ball well and got some good pitching."

The winning pitcher was Brent Coffee, who improved his record to 3-2. Casey Owens came on in relief in the sixth to pick up the save.

Amos Valmores was Pampa's leading hitter with 3 hits in 3 times at bat. Greg Lindsey and Jesse Francis were both 2 for 3 at the plate while Owens was 2 for 5.

Lindsey and Valmores each had triples. Pampa had 8 hits while Plainview had 12. Pampa was

charged with 5 errors and Plainview 2.

The Harvesters travel to Canyon for a 4:30 p.m. game on Friday.

On Saturday, Pampa's 1948 baseball team will be honored in a pre-game ceremony shortly before 1 p.m. Saturday at Harvester Field.

Yanks to dedicate Joe D. monument

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — The New York Yankees will honor Joe DiMaggio by erecting the fifth monument at Yankee Stadium and will dedicate it on April 25 prior to a game against Toronto.

DiMaggio, who died on March 8, already has been honored with a plaque at the ballpark, dedicated to him by Mickey Mantle on June 8, 1969.

The Yankees have monuments to manager Miller Huggins (dedicat-

ed May 30, 1932), Lou Gehrig (July 4, 1941), Babe Ruth (April 19, 1949) and Mantle (Aug. 24, 1996). All monuments have been dedicated following the death of the men they honor.

The monuments to Huggins, Ruth and Gehrig originally were in center field, in the field of play, but were moved to Monument Park, behind the left-field fence, when the stadium was remodeled in 1974-76.

Pampa gymnasts bring home the gold

ODESSA — The Competition Team members from Gymnastics of Pampa recently participated in the West Texas Championship in Odessa, where the Level Five Team won the first place trophy and several team members won gold medals.

Morgan Meharg became West Texas Champion in the 11 year old and up Level Five's. Her outstanding 36.2 All Around was the highest of the meet and was for the gold. This was Meharg's third meet to score over a 36.0 and to score the highest All Around of the meet.

Meharg also became West Texas Champion on floor exercise, 9.35, uneven bars, 9.25 and vault, 8.7. She finished third on balance beam with an 8.9.

Alyssa Bromwell was Pampa's highest level competition in Odessa. She competed in the Level Seven, 11-12 year olds and finished with a 33.60 All Around for the bronze medal. Bromwell's outstand-

ing bar routine earned a 9.1 and the silver medal. She also placed fourth on vault, 8.9, sixth on floor exercise, 8.35 and sixth on balance beam.

Another Level Five, 11 year old competition was Amy Youree. Youree had a solid floor routine, 9.05 for the silver, and beam routine, 9.0, for another silver medal. She earned fourth on bars, 8.4, and fifth on vault 8.35. Youree's All Around score of 34.8 was good for the silver medal.

In the Level Five, 9 and 10 year olds, Lacie Long and Brittany Warminski tied as West Texas Champions on floor exercise with outstanding 9.1 scores.

Long earned the silver medal in the All Around with a 34.5. She also won silver on bars, 8.65 bronze on beam, 8.9 and sixth place on vault, 7.85.

Warminski improved her All Around score several points for a 32.7 and fifth place. She also finished fifth on bars, 8.55 and fifth on beam.

Also competing for Pampa in the 9 and 10 year olds Level Five's was Michaela Scroggins. In only her second Level Five meet, Michaela improved her All Around by four points. She finished ninth on floor exercise with an 8.25 and scored a 7.7 on beam, 7.5 on bars and 6.6 on vault. Her All Around score was a 30.05.

Pampa's Level Four competitors were Angela Mechelay, who had the highest All Around score in level four competition, and Jerica Timmons. Angela's excellent balance beam routine earned a 9.25 and a blue ribbon. She also earned on bars, 8.45, and on floor, 8.25. Her 6.9 on vault received a ribbon. Her 32.85 All Around was good for a ribbon. Jerica earned on floor, 8.35, on beam, 7.65 and on bars, 6.7. Her 28.5 All Around received a ribbon.

The Gymnastics of Pampa Team members will now host their Annual Recital scheduled for late May.

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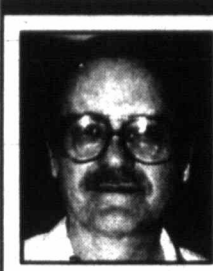
Young Bulls display basketball skills

Basketball is still hanging around and not just at the college and NBA level. Hoops is going strong in Pampa's City Leagues and at the Kids Club. There's also a group of fourth-grade youngsters who are drawing some attention around the area.

The Pampa Bulls just returned from Spearman where they won the championship trophy in a tournament. The team consisted of Trent Young, Tyler Hall, Zac Ammons, Michael Robinson, Chase Harris, Lekeith Towles, Ryan Goldsmith and Bradley Johnson. The Bulls were coached by Mando Ramirez and Kerry Ammons.

"We had a height disadvantage throughout the tournament, but these young men played with big hearts and a lot of quickness," Ramirez reported. "We're very proud of them as they represented Pampa well throughout the tournament."

The Bulls opened the tournament with a win over Perryton in a low-scoring game which featured tight defense from both sides. Trent Young paced the Bulls in scoring with 17 points and his 3-point shot at the buzzer gave Pampa its first lead at half-time.



L.D. Strate
Sports Editor

Tyler Hall was one of the heroes in the semifinals against Gruver. Tyler had two steals late in the fourth quarter that led to an 18-16 Pampa win.

Trent and teammate Chase Harris led the Bulls' scoring attack in the championship game against Spearman. Trent and Chase had 10 points each in a 28-23 victory and Michael Robinson chipped in 8. Ryan Goldsmith, Zac Ammons, Lekeith Towles and Bradley Johnson turned in top-notch defensive performances.

The Bulls aren't going to rest on their laurels. They're going after another first-place trophy in the Perryton Tournament this weekend.

Carter Sand & Gravel sponsors the Bulls.

Mando Ramirez is a longtime coach in the Optimist Leagues and one of my favorite people. He always refers to me as "young man." I like that.

After just one visit, The Palace Theater in Canadian is going to be one of my favorite hangouts. The place is so clean you could almost eat popcorn off the floor.

Speaking of Canadian, Julie Dawson won all-around cowgirl honors at a Tri-High School Rodeo held last weekend in Hereford. Julie, a Canadian High School student, had 21 points and finished in the top five in three events (goat tying, pole bending, breakout roping). She placed 10th in barrel racing.

Flashback, 1967: Lefthander Jim Lang threw a 5-hit shutout as Pampa defeated Lubbock High 1-0 in a high school baseball game. Catcher Larry Stephens, who had 2 of Pampa's 4 hits, scored the game's only run when he crossed home plate on a groundball error in the third inning.

Stars slip by Coyotes

PHOENIX (AP) — In a rugged, fast-moving game, Dallas hit harder and moved quicker than Phoenix.

Brett Hull, Jere Lehtinen and Joe Nieuwendyk gave the Stars a 3-0 lead early in the third period, and they held on for a 3-2 victory over the Coyotes on Tuesday night.

Hull scored unassisted midway through a five-minute power play that Jeremy Roenick of the Coyotes brought on with an elbow that sent Dallas scoring leader Mike Modano to the ice and cut Modano's left eyebrow. In addition to a major boarding penalty, Roenick drew a game misconduct.

From that point, the Stars outworked the Coyotes until Keith Tkachuk scored on a rebound with 2:22 to play and assisted on a goal by Rick Tocchet 54 seconds later.

"It was the best effort from our team throughout the lineup in a long time," Nieuwendyk said. "Maybe it was Modano going out early. Maybe everyone had to tighten ship a little. I thought our defense played extremely well."

Ed Belfour had 26 saves to tie New Jersey's Martin Brodeur for the NHL lead with 32 victories and help Dallas hold an opponent to three goals or less in its 26th consecutive road game, the longest such streak since Detroit had 30 in a row in 1952-53.

This time, it wasn't close until Tocchet scored with 1:28 to play. The Coyotes stormed the Dallas net several times as the seconds ticked down, but couldn't keep their five-game unbeaten streak alive.

"I honestly don't think they outplayed us that bad," Tocchet said. "Outside of a few isolated incidents, it was just a matter of Dallas knows how to win and we don't."

In the only other NHL games, it was Pittsburgh 5, Chicago 2, and New Jersey 1, Buffalo 1.

The Stars all but wrapped up the Pacific Division title, reaching 100 points for the third straight year with 12 games left to surpass their franchise record (109), set last season.

Phoenix, the second-best team in the Western Conference, has 80 points with 11 games to go. One more loss would guarantee the Stars a tie for the division crown.

"We can't let this team come back on us late in the third period, but we've played a lot of games, and maybe our guys are tired," Guy Carbonneau said. Modano's immediate future

was uncertain. Coach Ken Hitchcock's reaction after seeing his star center was to hold him out for the next three games of a four-game road trip.

Nieuwendyk said Modano was too far from the puck to be a legal target for Roenick.

"It was a total cheap shot; I think everybody saw that. That's why he got thrown out," Nieuwendyk said.

"It was a violent check," referee Stephon Walkom said. "I believe from viewing it, the impact from the boards caused the injury."

Coach Jim Schoenfeld said the ejection robbed his club of momentum.

"We were having our way with them until Jeremy was given the five-minute major, which is a call I disagreed with," Schoenfeld said.

With 2:35 left in the power play, Hull scored by poking the puck through a logjam around the crease.

Lehtinen made it 2-0 on a wraparound late in the second period, and Nieuwendyk scored on a breakaway 1:18 into the third.

Penguins 5, Blackhawks 2
At Pittsburgh, the Penguins took care of Chicago early. The Blackhawks, playing just hours after captain Chris Chelios was traded to Detroit in a deadline deal, fell behind 5-0 halfway through the game.

Jaromir Jagr scored a goal and assisted on two others to raise his NHL-leading point total to 110. The Penguins stretched their unbeaten streak to 5-0-3 and Jagr extended his point-scoring streak to eight games.

Alexei Kovalev ended an 18-game goal drought with his first since Feb. 13.

Devils 1, Sabres 1
Miroslav Satan scored on a backhand from in close with 3:37 to play to give Buffalo the tie in New Jersey.

The Sabres had some anxious moments in the final minute of overtime when goalie Dominik Hasek was involved in a goal-crease collision with New Jersey's Brendan Morrison.

Morrison seemed to land on "The Dominator's" head and neck on the ice during an odd-man rush by the Devils. The goalie kicked his legs and waved his arms after the collision, but he eventually got up and finished the game.

A backhand by New Jersey's Scott Niedermayer went into the net just seconds after the final horn.

Bliss takes Baylor job

WACO, Texas (AP) — Dave Bliss, the former Southern Methodist basketball coach who became the winningest coach in New Mexico history, was named Tuesday to rebuild the faltering program at Baylor.

Bliss, 55, led the Lobos to a 246-108 record over the past 11 seasons, winning at least 20 games in 10 seasons. New Mexico went to the NCAA tournament seven times during his tenure and advanced at least into the second round the last four years.

"I appreciated every one of those 18,000 people who came religiously to those basketball

games. This isn't about anything that New Mexico doesn't have. Quite the contrary. I'm really grateful I had 11 terrific years there. But there's other adventures in life," Bliss said.

Still, he found plenty of criticism in Albuquerque. That, combined with a lucrative Baylor contract — reportedly worth \$600,000 a year, double his New Mexico deal — probably were the reasons for Bliss' decision, New Mexico athletic director Rudy Davalos said.

"He's got to move on, and we've got to move on," Davalos said.

Baylor officials did not disclose terms of Bliss' contract.

Philadelphia drops out of Hershiser hunt

By The Associated Press

Orel Hershiser is still looking. Hoping to find a spot in someone's rotation, Hershiser on Tuesday told the Philadelphia Phillies he had better offers.

"It became apparent that we were not the first choice, so there's no sense prolonging it," Phillies general manager Ed Wade said in Haines City, Fla. "I'm disappointed. I would have liked to have added him."

Last month, Hershiser rejected the Phillies' first offer and instead signed a minor league contract with Cleveland. On Sunday, the Indians told the 40-year-old pitcher that he wasn't likely to make the team.

Wade resubmitted his offer, but was rebuffed. The Atlanta Braves and Chicago Cubs are said to be interested in Hershiser, 11-10 with a 4.41 ERA last season for San Francisco.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Denny Neagle threw 32 strikes in 58 pitches — his longest outing of the spring — in a "B" game for the Cincinnati Reds.

The left-hander's four innings against a Minnesota Twins lineup that included a smattering of big leaguers showed Neagle is headed in the right direction as he recovers from shoulder weakness.

He hasn't thrown in a regular spring game and almost certainly is headed for the disabled list to start the season.

"I was encouraged today. I was very pleased," general manager Jim Bowden said. "I certainly

think this was a step in the right direction."

Cincinnati also agreed to a nonguaranteed minor league contract with infielder Carlos Baerga, the 30-year-old three-time All-Star waived by St. Louis Cardinals on March 17.

"He's in bad shape," Bowden said. "That's why he was released by the Cardinals. He's not in shape at all. He's going to start the year at Indianapolis and we're going to try to get him in shape."

In Jupiter, Fla., the Baltimore Orioles said Cal Ripken left the team to be at the bedside of his gravely ill father, who has been battling lung cancer since October. It's not known whether he will be the Orioles while they play in Cuba on Sunday.

Cal Ripken Sr., 63, began receiving chemotherapy treatments after doctors found a tumor on his lung.

"Everyone in baseball has a mentor, and he was mine," Orioles manager Ray Miller said of Cal Sr. "He indoctrinated me in the Oriole Way."

In games:
Rangers 4, Royals 3

At Dunedin, Fla., David Wells finally made his first spring start for the Blue Jays, allowing two runs and two hits in five innings. Ivan Rodriguez and Todd Zeile hit consecutive homers in the sixth off loser Bill Risley.

Indians 15, Astros 5

At Winter Haven, Fla., Roberto Alomar went 4-for-5 with two RBIs and Cleveland scored eight runs in the fifth. Omar Vizquel

had two hits and two RBIs as the Indians got 22 hits off six pitchers.

Reds 13, Twins 2

At Fort Myers, Fla., Jeffrey Hammonds keyed a six-run third inning with a three-run homer, and Jason Bere remained perfect in three decisions this spring, allowing two runs and five hits in five innings. Loser Travis Baptist gave up six runs — two earned — four hits and six walks in 2 2-3 innings, and Frank Rodriguez was pounded for six runs and nine hits in two innings.

Orioles 7, Expos 3

At Jupiter, Juan Guzman had his best outing of the spring, allowing one run and three hits in five innings and striking out five. Will Clark hit a two-run double in a four-run third and scored on Albert Belle's double off starter Javier Vazquez.

Royals 5, Phillies 2

At Haines City, Jeff King hit his first homer of the spring, a two-run shot in the seventh. Philadelphia's Carlton Loefer allowed one hit in six innings.

Mets 3, Braves 2

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Melvin Mora hit a game-winning home run off Kevin McClintch in the 10th. New York took a 2-0 lead, helped by a pair of John Smoltz wild pitches, but Brian Hunter and Marcus Giles hit solo homers in the fifth off Bobby Jones.

White Sox (ss) 9, Giants 5

At Scottsdale, Ariz., Kevin Beirne pitched four strong innings and Jeff Liefer homered for the third time this spring.

Brewers 12, Cubs 4

At Mesa, Ariz., David Nilsson hit a grand slam in the seventh inning and drove in another run. Chicago Cubs reliever Terry Adams was scratched pending results of an MRI.

Diamondbacks (ss) 14, Angels 5

At Tucson, Ariz., Jay Bell and Travis Lee hit three-run homers and Tony Batista added a solo shot. Angels starter Ken Hill gave up six runs, four hits and four walks in three innings.

Yankees 9, Pirates 2

At Tampa, Fla., Bernie Williams homered, doubled and drove in five runs for New York. Chad Curtis also homered for New York and Al Martin connected for Pittsburgh.

Tigers 7, Devil Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Fla., rookie Gabe Kapler went 3-for-4 and drove in three runs for Detroit.

Kapler's two-run triple highlighted a six-run outburst against reliever Albie Lopez in the sixth inning. Detroit has won four in a row and seven of eight.

Diamondbacks (ss) 5, White Sox (ss) 4

At Tucson, Ariz., Izzy Molina hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning and Arizona beat Chicago in a game between split squads.

Molina homered off Bryan Ward. Ernie Young also homered for Arizona.

Josh Paul hit a three-run homer for the White Sox off Andy Benes. Magglio Ordonez also homered, making him 19-for-38 with 15 RBIs this spring.

Muhammad Ali rips Holyfield-Lewis outcome

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Muhammad Ali became the latest to question the controversial draw in the recent title fight between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, calling the result "the biggest fix in fight history."

In a letter to Senate Commerce Committee chairman John McCain, R-Ariz., Ali said he was humiliated that the sport "had sunk to its lowest levels" and added "it was clear to all who watched that the deciding victor of the match was England's Lennox Lewis."

The draw in the heavyweight unification title fight between Holyfield and Lewis on March 13 in New York sparked investigations by a New York City grand jury, a New York state Senate committee, the New York State Athletic Commission and the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

McCain, a boxing fan, introduced a bill earlier this year which would restrict coercive option contracts by which promoters control a boxers' career, such as contracts forcing a boxer into a long-term deal in exchange

for a shot at a world title. McCain named the bill for Ali.

"As the former three-time heavyweight boxing champion of the world, I believe I have the credibility to say Lennox Lewis won this bout without question and should have been named the clear and decided victor," Ali wrote. "What occurred once the 12-round event concluded will surely go down in the boxing annals as the biggest fix in fight history."

In the letter, Ali added his support to McCain's bill, which is

aimed at protecting boxers from exploitation and requiring more openness from promoters about their financial dealings.

It would require promoters and organizers of major boxing events to disclose more financial information and to inform state boxing commissions of charges, costs and fees they take out of a boxer's purse. Identical legislation passed the Senate last October by voice vote, but the House did not take up the measure before the session ended.

Scoreboard

| COLLEGE BASKETBALL | | | | |
|---|----|-----|------|--------|
| National Invitation Tournament | | | | |
| At A Glance | | | | |
| By The Associated Press | | | | |
| All Times EST | | | | |
| At Madison Square Garden | | | | |
| New York | | | | |
| Semininals | | | | |
| Tuesday, March 23 | | | | |
| California 85, Oregon 69 | | | | |
| Clemson 79, Xavier 76 | | | | |
| Championship Round | | | | |
| Thursday, March 25 | | | | |
| Third Place | | | | |
| Oregon (19-12) vs. Xavier (24-11), 5 p.m. | | | | |
| Championship | | | | |
| California (21-11) vs. Clemson (20-14), 7:30 p.m. | | | | |
| PRO BASKETBALL | | | | |
| National Basketball Association | | | | |
| At A Glance | | | | |
| By The Associated Press | | | | |
| All Times EST | | | | |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Miami | 18 | 7 | .720 | — |
| Orlando | 19 | 8 | .704 | — |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 11 | .560 | 4 |
| New York | 15 | 12 | .556 | 4 |
| Washington | 10 | 15 | .400 | 8 |
| Boston | 8 | 16 | .333 | 9 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 5 | 20 | .200 | 13 |
| Central Division | | | | |
| Indiana | 18 | 7 | .720 | — |
| Milwaukee | 15 | 10 | .600 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 15 | 11 | .577 | 3 1/2 |
| Cleveland | 13 | 11 | .542 | 4 1/2 |
| Detroit | 14 | 12 | .538 | 4 1/2 |
| Toronto | 12 | 13 | .480 | 6 |
| Charlotte | 9 | 15 | .375 | 8 1/2 |
| Chicago | 8 | 18 | .308 | 10 1/2 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |

| Midwest Division | | | | |
|---|----|-----|------|--------|
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Utah | 20 | 6 | .769 | — |
| Houston | 17 | 9 | .654 | 3 |
| San Antonio | 17 | 9 | .654 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 12 | .538 | 6 |
| Dallas | 9 | 18 | .333 | 11 1/2 |
| Denver | 7 | 19 | .269 | 13 |
| Vancouver | 5 | 21 | .192 | 15 |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| Portland | 21 | 5 | .808 | — |
| L.A. Lakers | 19 | 9 | .679 | 3 |
| Seattle | 13 | 11 | .542 | 7 |
| Phoenix | 13 | 13 | .500 | 8 |
| Sacramento | 11 | 16 | .407 | 10 1/2 |
| Golden State | 10 | 15 | .400 | 11 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 2 | 22 | .083 | 18 |
| Monday's Games | | | | |
| Indiana 90, Washington 86 | | | | |
| New Jersey 106, Toronto 87 | | | | |
| Atlanta 80, New York 71 | | | | |
| Houston 110, Sacramento 100 | | | | |
| L.A. Lakers 96, Dallas 93 | | | | |
| Milwaukee 115, Detroit 86 | | | | |
| Phoenix 89, Vancouver 84 | | | | |
| Seattle 92, Philadelphia 76 | | | | |
| Tuesday's Games | | | | |
| Orlando 86, Charlotte 78 | | | | |
| Cleveland 113, Boston 86 | | | | |
| Utah 84, Miami 81 | | | | |
| San Antonio 112, Denver 82 | | | | |
| Toronto 113, Chicago 90 | | | | |
| Wednesday's Games | | | | |
| Portland 79, Golden State 77 | | | | |
| Chicago at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Detroit at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Indiana at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Houston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Miami at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Washington at Seattle, 10 p.m. | | | | |
| Philadelphia at Vancouver, 10 p.m. | | | | |
| New York at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Golden State at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Thursday's Games | | | | |
| Cleveland at Orlando, 7:30 p.m. | | | | |

| Toronto at Houston, 8:30 p.m. | | | | |
|---|-----|------|-----|--|
| San Antonio at Denver, 9 p.m. | | | | |
| Phoenix at Portland, 10 p.m. | | | | |
| BOWLING | | | | |
| HARVESTER LANES — PAMPA | | | | |
| Ladies Trio League | | | | |
| Team | Won | Lost | | |
| www.pct.net.com | 61 | 39 | | |
| Ward's Tree Service | 59 | 40 | 1/2 | |
| Chaney's Cafe | 56 | 43 | 1/2 | |
| Schiffman Machine Co. | 55 | 45 | | |
| Holmes Sports Center | 52 | 47 | 1/2 | |
| Southwest Collision | 51 | 48 | 1/2 | |
| Jernigan Tax Service | 50 | 49 | 1/2 | |
| Knowles Tax Service | 50 | 50 | 1/2 | |
| Hall's Construction | 49 | 51 | | |
| K B Machine | 46 | 54 | | |
| Regional Eye Center | 43 | 45 | | |
| Team | | | | |
| High game: Kelly Fishburn 193. High handicap game: Rosa Lee Hendricks 247. High series: Kelly Fishburn 529. High handicap series: Tony Coleman 664. | | | | |
| Individual | | | | |
| High game: Schiffman Machine Co. 483. High series: Schiffman Machine Co. 1,383. High handicap game: K B Machine 669. High handicap series: K B Machine 1,874. | | | | |
| TRANSACTIONS | | | | |
| Tuesday's Sports Transactions | | | | |
| By The Associated Press | | | | |
| BASEBALL | | | | |
| CLEVELAND INDIANS—Traded Off Jim Bevelthold to the Houston Astros for a player to be named. | | | | |
| KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Released RHP Pete Smith. | | | | |
| NEW YORK YANKEES—Signed LHP Trevor Wilson to a minor-league contract. | | | | |

| National League | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| NL—Promoted Ricky Clemens from executive director of public relations to vice president for public relations and marketing. | | | | |
| CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with 2B Carlos Baerga on a non-guaranteed minor-league contract. Optioned RHP Manuel Barrios to Indianapolis of the International League. Reassigned OF Damon | | | | |

Department of Housing and Urban Development offices slams IG

By CASSANDRA BURRELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bureaucrats abandoned the polite language they normally use in public when one of the nation's top housing officials used a Senate panel hearing to call a government investigator reviewing his department "destructive."

Deputy Housing Secretary Saul Ramirez said Tuesday that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has been working hard to root out waste and mismanagement and no longer deserves being labeled a "high-risk" agency.

He said department Inspector General Susan Gaffney has taken a "destructive, attack approach" to HUD despite its improvements.

"HUD simply has not been treated in an evenhanded manner," he told members of the Senate Banking Committee's panel on housing and transportation. "The perception that there's chaos at HUD is really erroneous."

But Gaffney called Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo "a very ambitious man" who sees her work as an obstacle to his political future rather than someone who simply wants to help repair the department's tarnished reputation.

"He obviously has higher ambitions," Gaffney told the Senate

Banking Committee's panel on housing and transportation. "I think he looks at me as a threat, as a problem."

During a sometimes acrimonious hearing, Gaffney said HUD has made improvements, but staffing cuts and an overly ambitious, sweeping attempt at management reform have stumbled — and may have led to more waste.

HUD has been a favorite target of suspicion by some Republicans in Congress, who see it as an example of big, inept and wasteful government agency.

"The current state of HUD operations is of great concern to this subcommittee," Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., said. "Before Congress authorizes any additional funding, we must determine the level of risk at HUD."

Clinton administration officials, however, are quick to claim that HUD's designation as a "high risk" department stemmed from the influence peddling scandals of the Reagan administration.

Ramirez said the department has no objections to independent reviews by Gaffney's office or the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm. But he called the "high risk" label "somewhat arbitrary" and "indefensible."

A GAO report released Tuesday said HUD has made credible progress, and that it was "not realistic to have expected that HUD

would have fully or even substantially implemented the reform efforts and seen evidence of their success in the two years since our last report."

GAO investigator Judy England-Joseph said it's too soon to tell whether reforms are working, but the department appears to be going in the right direction. "I'd like to see them stay the course," she said.

Meanwhile, Sen. Phil Gramm said he wanted to find out whether political pressure from the Clinton administration derailed planned audits of housing programs to uncover possible criminal wrongdoing in Baltimore, New Orleans and San Francisco.

"We are going to have intensive oversight hearings on this matter," said Gramm, R-Texas, the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. "We're going to ask for all documents, all memos, all computer records related to the decision not to undertake these criminal audits."

Gaffney said HUD officials told her that any federal investigation could spark problems because all three cities were headed by black Democratic mayors. Several black leaders and the U.S. Conference of Mayors criticized the process used to choose the cities at the time.

The audits were never performed, Gaffney said. Investigators later refocused the probe and considered conducting investigations into housing programs in several other areas, including North Texas and Long Island, she said.

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States band together to save prairie chicken

Officials in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas and Colorado have joined together to form a joint venture to help save the Lesser Prairie Chicken from extinction.

Two of the few populations left of this once abundant fowl are in the Texas Panhandle. The bird, which once could be found in abundance in the Texas Panhandle, had been decimated in recent years. The largest populations in the Eastern Panhandle are in Wheeler and Hemphill Counties.

Kevin Mote, a wildlife biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, had for the last two years chaired the Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group.

"When we talk about populations, we're not talking about a group of birds that just live on one ranch," he says. "The technical term is metapopulation. There is an interbreeding groups of birds in these general areas."

There are two distinct metapopulations of these birds in the panhandle. One in the northeast and one in the southwest panhandle.

"In the northeast panhandle, it's statistically stayed pretty much level," Mote says. "They've been pretty stable for the last 10 or 20 years."

In the southwestern panhandle where it is much drier, the precipitation is not as reliable and there is a lot more habitat conversion from ranch land to cotton farming, that population has not done as well. It's shown a steady decline.

In any one given year, in any one given area, disease may be a factor, he says, but if habitat is there in sufficient quantity, these birds will be able to rebound.

"In Texas, we do have the majority of the prairie chicken habitat and a majority of the prairie chicken populations," Mote says.

Oklahoma has a few of the birds. Kansas has some, Mote says. Extreme southeastern Colorado and the eastern one-fourth of New Mexico also have some. The cooperative effort formed by these states was to pool strategies and information to save the prairie chicken.

"The Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group was designed to be a proactive partnership for rare species conservation, specifically targeting the Lesser Prairie Chicken," Mote says.

On Feb. 7, 1995, biologists, researchers and interested parties met in Amarillo to discuss their concerns over the lesser prairie chicken populations. Later that same year, Oct. 6, 1995, but totally unrelated, Mote says, the Biodiversity Legal Foundation of Boulder, Colo., petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the prairie chicken as threatened.

Because of a moratorium on listing activities at the time, nothing was done, Mote says.

On Aug. 14, 1996, Jerry Brabender with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service called a meeting in Oklahoma City of all interested stakeholders, primarily the five state wildlife agencies, a few federal agencies and some private organizations to discuss what could be done to reverse the decline of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. Brabender also outlined a process by which potentially they could preclude the need to list the prairie chicken.

Mote says it's taken a while to get the group active is because of the efforts to contact every person or organization that needs to be or wants to be involved and to try to get them all to agree on what needs to be done.

"Let me tell you," he says, "it's difficult to get three biologists to agree on when to go to the bathroom, let alone how to conserve a species in five states."

He says that is why it's taken a while to write the document that will guide the conservation effort.

The first objective is to establish a working group to guide conservation efforts on a regional basis. The second objective is to establish the apparent status of and monitor population habitat changes. Three

is to develop and implement management guidelines. Four, provide information and education and technical assistance. Last is to increase knowledge of prairie chicken biology.

Funding has also been a problem. "Our funding is coming from a variety of partners, wildlife agencies, federal agencies," Mote said.

The Western Governor's Association is helping with fund raising activities. There are also industry grant funds, and funding is coming from private organizations and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation put up \$300,000 to improve communications, establish demonstration areas as educational tools, cost share improved range management practices with private land owners and seek answers to applied research questions.

In Texas, Mote says, they've been using a landowner incentive program to help landowners manage the habitat for the rare species.

Some 99 percent of CRP land southwest of Lubbock went into weeping love grass to prevent wind erosion, but Mote says that in order for the land to conform to the needs of the prairie chicken, the forage needs to be more diversified.

"It's a monoculture, one grass stand," Mote says.

Consequently, the state has initiated a landowner incentive program and allocated a \$100,000 over a five year period to landowners in the panhandle just to work on developing this diversity. They've implemented a burning program, decreased competition of the love grass and opened up some areas. They went in with a no-till drill and interseeded native grasses, forbs and shrubs.

"On the High Plains, habitat is native range," Mote says. "If we can't do anything else, we can restore, manage and conserve native prairie. It's as simple as that. You build it, and they will come. To me, it is a very rewarding thing to do."

Mote admits that he hasn't had much success with his native grass program.

"Drouth has kind of held me back the last couple of years," he says. "I know that seed is still out there just waiting to poke it's head up above the dust."

Animal populations will fluctuate from year to year, but the grass may be the most important aspect of saving the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

"There are as many theories about what happens to declining populations of animals as there are people in the world," Mote says. "When it comes right down to it, it's loss of habitat."

Odyssey of the Mind



(Special photo)

One of seven award winning Pampa teams that participated in the regional Odyssey of the Mind competition in Lubbock, the following students are from Austin Elementary: Christopher Smith, Chase Brewer, Joe Whiteley, Jack Mackie, Katie Holmes, Morgan Ketchersid and Myca Vinson.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

EU

The new target list will be pared after an April 21 public hearing which will be held to allow American companies to make a case that certain products should be excluded from the final sanctions list because of potential harm to U.S. businesses.

The American beef industry said it is losing \$500 million in sales annually because of Europe's refusal to abide by WTO rulings that there is no scientific justification for Europe's ban on imports of American beef produced with cattle-fattening hormones.

European officials have resisted sales of hormone-treated beef, claiming fears about possible long-term health consequences.

The growing trade tensions between the United States and the 15-nation European Union, America's largest trade partner, are coming at a time when the administration is under heavy

political pressure because of a skyrocketing American trade deficit.

"The U.S. has gone through the proper channels," Odom said. "The Europeans keep thumbing their noses at the commission. The time is now to do this. The EU hasn't left us any alternative."

The new target list is in addition to \$520 million in European products targeted in the earlier trade fight involving European restrictions on banana shipments by American companies.

In the banana fight, the United States wants to impose 100 percent tariffs on a variety of European luxury items ranging from Scottish cashmere sweaters to fancy French handbags.

The administration put the punitive tariffs in effect earlier this month on a conditional basis while an arbitration panel of the World Trade Organization determines whether the \$520 million damage claim by U.S. banana companies is justified.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

WALK

Each member of the team will keep track of their own miles completed on a weekly log form. They will then report their miles to their team captain each Monday. The team captain will turn in the team's weekly totals in to the Gray Co. Extension office

by Wednesday of each week. "Official maps" that will indicate the walkers' position if traveling from Pampa to South Padre Island will be posted at the County Extension office and other various locations.

To participate, call 669-8033 or come by the Gray Co. Extension office at the Annex Building (Hwy 60 East) to pick up a registration packet.

CC to hold annual judging contest

CLARENDON — More than 1,600 students are expected to gather at Clarendon College on Saturday, March 27, for the annual Clarendon College Judging Contest. According to Jerry Hawkins, CC Agriculture Department chairperson, 4-H and FFA judging teams are expected from all over the state as well as from Colorado.

The contest is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Contest categories include livestock, horse, poultry, dairy, crops, range and pasture, entomology, land, farm management, ag mechanics, cotton, meats, wool and wildlife.

For more information about the contest, call Jerry Hawkins at (806) 874-3571.

Amarillo Heart Group

Agustin Cabrera-Santamaria, MD and Staff of the Amarillo Heart Group will be relocating to 916 N. Crest Rd. Suite 102 effective April 1st, 1999. To make an appointment call 665-3595 or 1-800-355-5858

Study to explore fragmented land issue

COLLEGE STATION — As more and more people move to small acreages in the country, more and more wildlife, it is feared, are up against the wall with no place to go.

"The No. 1 threat to wildlife in Texas is fragmentation," said Dr. Bob Brown, Texas A&M wildlife and fisheries sciences head.

Fragmented land, he said, occurs when larger parcels of land are developed in smaller amounts for different purposes — development into new subdivisions or office sites, for example. That interrupts the wildlife population's normal routines and decreases the availability of supplies for their basic needs — food, water, cover and space.

A buck during mating season may need several square miles to find females with which to mate, Brown noted. If a development is built in the middle of the area formerly covered by the buck, that decreases the chance that he will breed and continue to sustain the population.

Likewise, Brown said, "You might have a pond the size of a bedroom that has the right kind of food and cover for ducks, but no duck will land there because it is too small."

Brown said it's time for Texas to inventory fragmentation by county, determine the sociological and economic reasons for it, study the impact on wildlife and consider incentives to help residents better manage wildlife, agriculture and natural resources on such land.

To address that need, Brown hopes that an interim study will be funded by the legislature as part of the Texas A&M University Agriculture Program budget.

What already is known is that from 1985-95, rural land parcel size decreased in Texas by four

percent. Parcels in South Texas, East Texas and the Trans-Pecos regions decreased by 11 percent to 14 percent.

He cited fragmentation causes as the declining agriculture economy, increasing number of baby boomers seeking country property near cities for commutes or for retirement or weekend retreats, federal inheritance tax laws that often force heirs to sell portions of land to pay taxes, and perhaps heirs who are given land but chose to sell it because they are simply not interested in farming, ranching or wildlife.

"Our interest is not to slow, stop or change any of that," Brown said. "But we want to help landowners deal with what happens to the ecology when land is fragmented."

Land fragmentation has far-reaching implications toward endangering wildlife, said David Langford of San Antonio, executive director of the Texas Wildlife Association, a 14-year-old, 5,000-member group dedicated to conserving wildlife habitat on private land.

"The incentives are all wrong. Right now the taxing system and the value systems — the whole system is geared toward forcing people into breaking up big pieces of land," Langford said. "We have

to figure out a way to change that, and the first step is to have reliable data."

Brown said interest in land fragmentation stems from a 1996 Environment and Natural Resources Policy Summit at which attendees — from landowners to environmentalists to agricultural producers to consumers — pointed to fragmented land as a major concern facing Texas.

Yet no data exists on how serious fragmentation is, he said, because such figures are maintained independently by appraisal districts in each county. Also, no one has pinpointed why some people are selling land or why others are buying it.

"We'd like to know, for example, if someone is buying land and needs to derive an income from it through agriculture or if they just want a place to walk around on," Brown said. "And counties need to know that as well for economic purposes. If it is not going to be used to make money, then will the local feed or hardware store go out of business as more land is fragmented?"

But the biggest concern from Brown's perspective is the impact

on wildlife. Wildlife experts are concerned with whether the shrinking amount of land available to animals is causing more inbreeding, for example. With fewer animals to select from, animals will breed with others more closely related and that weakens genetic diversity.

If that could be determined through animal blood sampling for DNA testing, he said, wildlife researchers might then be able to discover ways to bring animals into locations or to develop habitat corridors to connect fragmented land making it easier for wildlife to meet needs.

"Through all of this study, we would naturally look for educational opportunities, to find ways to get people to work together for the benefit of the wildlife," he said.

Brown envisions doing pilot studies in a couple of "hot spots" in Texas where land fragmentation is apparent, studying human motives and ecological impacts. That effort would be used to develop a larger, statewide study, he hopes, that would seek additional funding in coming years.

"That would give us a snapshot in certain parts of Texas," he said.

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