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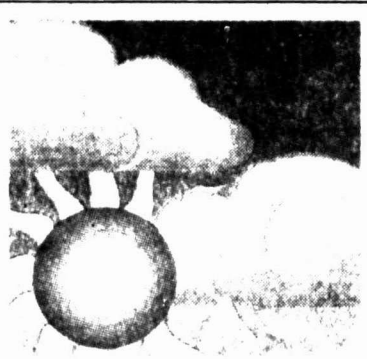
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Pampa

Vol. 92 No. 85 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1

Pampa Cyber Net
Internet Power for the New Millenium
Dialup or dedicated T-1, and high speed



High today mid 90s
Low tonight 70
For weather details see Page 2

PAMPA — Winners in the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association window decorating contest have been announced by Clay Rice, president of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. First place — Computer Solutions. Second place — Tarpleys Music Co. Third place — Bob Clements.

AUSTIN (AP) — Two teenage boys wanted for questioning in the shooting deaths of one of the youth's parents have been found dead.

Authorities did not immediately know if the shooting deaths of Shawn Adam Miller, 16, and a 13-year-old who was not immediately identified, were homicide or suicide.

Travis County Sheriff Margo Frasier said it appeared that either both boys committed suicide or one boy killed the other before killing himself. A note was found in one boy's pocket, but Frasier did not reveal its contents.

Officers began searching for the boys Monday after Miller's parents, Mark, 49, and Linda, 42, and were found shot to death in their rural Travis County home.

Authorities found the boys' bodies after Mark Miller's 1989 Volvo station wagon was spotted on the side of a road in neighboring Bastrop County.

The teens' bodies were found about 200 feet away. Also found was a .410-gauge shotgun, similar to one of the guns used to kill the Millers.

- Olin "Ray" Hardy, 72, golf course consultant.
- Robyn Pennington, 34, homemaker.

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Editorial 4
Sports 7

You're Careful Behind The Wheel
Are You As Careful Choosing Your Car Insurance?

Don't trust just anyone to insure your car. See me.
Mark Jennings Agent
1615 N. Hobart
665-4051

Sales tax hit with largest drop to date

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Another drop in city sales tax receipts — the largest during the current economic downturn — is reported this month as figures reflecting May sales have been released at City Hall.

Pampa's returns are down 19.74 percent from May a year ago, a figure that translates into an almost \$31,000 shortfall based on last May's collections of \$156,899, according to Finance Director John Horst.

"I find this very puzzling," he said. "It's our biggest drop yet ... a tremendous drop. I certainly hope we have some kind of recovery soon."

Horst said he has "only visited with one local merchant since we got the report and he said his business certainly was off from last year. We've never seen this (sales tax drop) like this before. I just don't know what to say. We have a lot of oil-related industry here but I don't think that can be all of it."

"It seems like everyone in the Panhandle is down from last year," Horst said, as he leaned through reports from other area cities that also reflect May figures.

(See TAX, Page 2)

That's not me on police video, defendant says

A Pampa man claims he's not the man on a video tape made by Pampa police officers during a reported drug buy.

Asmad Rashard Sessions, 19, charged with delivery of a controlled substance, claims he's not the man in the video tape made by law enforcement officers during a drug sting in 1997.

During a pretrial motion hearing today before 223rd District Judge Lee Waters, Sessions' lawyer, Harold Comer of Pampa, said his client would take the stand to deny that he is the man in the tape made by officers.

Comer filed a motion to prevent several law enforcement officers from taking the stand as witnesses in the trial, set for July 28, because, Comer said, the witnesses could be interpreted by a jury as indicating that Sessions has a juvenile criminal record, something

(See VIDEO, Page 2)

Passport changes told 185 applied here last year

Gray County District Clerk Gave Honderich has announced some changes for people who are applying for passports in a hurry.

Procedures for local residents who aren't in a hurry to get their passport remains the same. They can still take a passport picture to the District Clerk's office, fill out the paperwork and have it sent off. The Department of State said such applicants should receive those passports within 25 business days.

Honderich said her office handled 185 applications last year and will possibly do more than that this year, partially because of a lot of applications so far this summer.

For those in a hurry, applicants must travel to Houston to obtain a passport from the U.S. State Department's Passport Agency. That agency is now requiring appointments and will no longer accept

(See PASSPORT, Page 2)



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

Khouri Lott, 3, fishes in her pocket for rodeo parade candy Saturday while she and her family, mom and dad Roy and Carrie Lott, and little brother, Kyndan Lott, 9 months, watch the Top O' Texas Rodeo parade. The family is from Lefors.

Rodeo results ...

Top O' Texas Rodeo Association announced results from Saturday's PRC A rodeo as follows:

Wrangler Bullfight
(sponsored by Wrangler, Wayne's Western Wear and Bowers Ranch)

Rob Smets, first place; Greg Rumohr, second place; Dustin Brewer, third place.

Mutton Busting
(sponsored by Carla and Randy Norris)

Cody Davis, first place; Joseph Slatten, second place; Chrissy Dittiro, third place.

Steer Wrestling
(sponsored by Northgate Inn)

Brandon Turner, first place, 8.9 seconds; Ricky Huddleston, second place, 9.2 seconds; James Reeves of Pampa, third place, 9.4 seconds; Shawn Johnson, fourth place, 9.6 seconds.

Bareback Riding
(sponsored by First Bank Southwest)

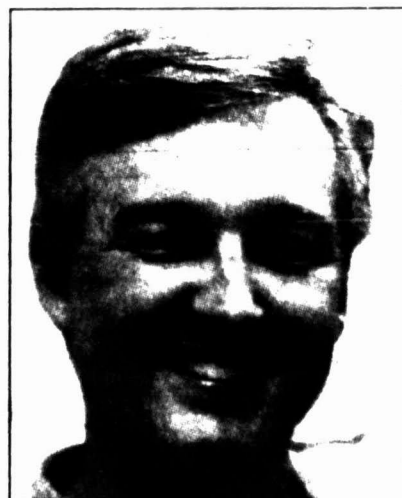
Jon Brockway of Mansfield, first place, 85 pts.; Troy Thomson of Dublin, second place, 83 pts.; David Browder of Tucuman, N.M., third place, 79 pts.; Kirby Berry of Weatherford, 76 pts.; and Miles Bell of Amarillo, 76 pts., fourth place; Payne Dabler of Andover, Kan., sixth place, 75 pts.

Calf Roping
(sponsored by Larry Baker Plumbing)

Scot Meeks of Richmond, first place, 9.6 seconds; Bruce Gibbs of Olney, second place, 9.7 seconds; Monty Mohon of Gladewater, third place, 9.9 seconds; T.J. Good of Elida, N.M., fourth place, 10.1 seconds; Clift Kirkpatrick of

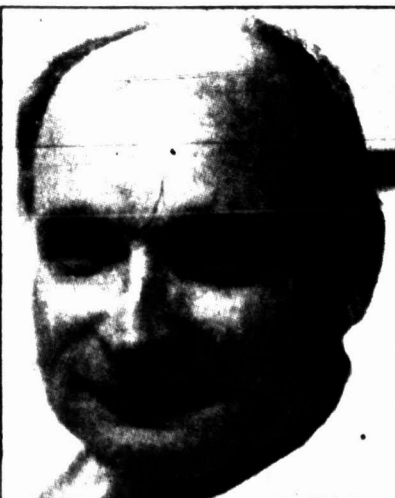
(See RODEO, Page 2)

Quite frankly... Should the U.S. continue to fund space exploration?



"Yes. We've gotten much more out of it for our quality of life than we've invested."

-- Riley Kothmann



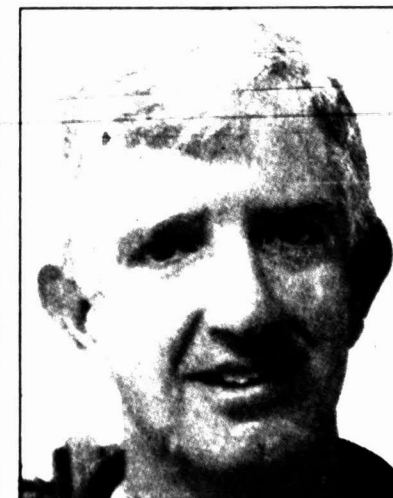
"Yes, it's the best money we ever spent because of the dividends we have received."

-- Lewis Meers



"Yes, because of the technology it has spawned and because it has made our lives better."

-- Roger David



"Yes, we all need to be reminded what advantages that we've gained over the last 30 years."

-- Richard Stowers



"Yes, because of the potential to continue to improve technology and to improve our national defense system."

-- Jerry Foote

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The Panhandle Country Call Today For More Information
SHOPPER 806-669-2525

JUL 20 1991

Daily Record

Obituaries

OLIN 'RAY' HARDY

GRANBURY — Olin "Ray" Hardy, 72, died Sunday, July 18, 1999. Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in The Chapel in Clovis with the Rev. Dick Ross officiating. Burial will be in Mission Garden of Memories under the direction of Muffley Funeral Home of Clovis.

Mr. Hardy was born at Dawson. He married Wanda Wallace in 1955 at Tucumcari, N.M.; she died in 1996. He was a golf course consultant, designing and building 13 golf courses including courses at Ruidoso, N.M., Pampa, Muleshoe, Tulia, Austin and Colonial Park Country Club in Clovis. He built the front nine holes in 1964 and the back nine holes in 1970.

He was a golf pro in Clovis, Wilcox, Ariz., Tulia, Muleshoe and Shamrock. He was a member and past officer of Professional Golf Association and supported the Clovis High School golf team.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during World War II.

Survivors include two daughters, Gerri Falco of Denver, Colo., and Jan Orio of Albuquerque, N.M.; a son, Dan Hardy of Florida; a sister, Frances Vanderhoeven of Santa Ana, Calif.; a brother, R.B. Hardy of Waco; and six grandchildren.

ROBYN PENNINGTON

6666 RANCH — Robyn Pennington, 34, died Tuesday, July 6, 1999. Burial was July 10, 1999, in Houston, Miss.

A local memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 24, 1999, at the First Baptist Church of Panhandle.

Survivors include her husband, Shane, and a daughter, Saige.

The family is at the home of her husband's parents, Arthur and Annelie Pennington near Canadian.

Police report

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

Monday, July 19

Donna L. Phillips, 18, Farmington N.M., was arrested on a warrant for no driver's license.

Terrence Wayland Tillman, 26, 1136 Prairie Drive, was arrested on charges of public intoxication.

Samuel L. Lynn, 45, 404 N. Somerville, was arrested on charges of assault by threat.

Phone harassment was reported in the 400 block of East Foster.

Domestic assault was reported in the 400 block of North Somerville.

Assault was reported in the 200 block of West Craven.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of West Kentucky.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 300 block of Roberta.

Sheriff's Office

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

Monday, July 19

Jeffrey Young, 26, 118 W. Albert, was arrested on a warrant for theft.

Billy Davis Morrow, 27, 1124 S. Wells, was arrested on warrants charging endangering a child and terroristic threats.

Ambulance

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

Monday, July 19

8:29 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Somerville and Kingsmill; no transport.

3:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported one to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

8:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of West Craver; no transport.

Fires

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

Monday, July 19

9:36 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Frost on a smoke scare.

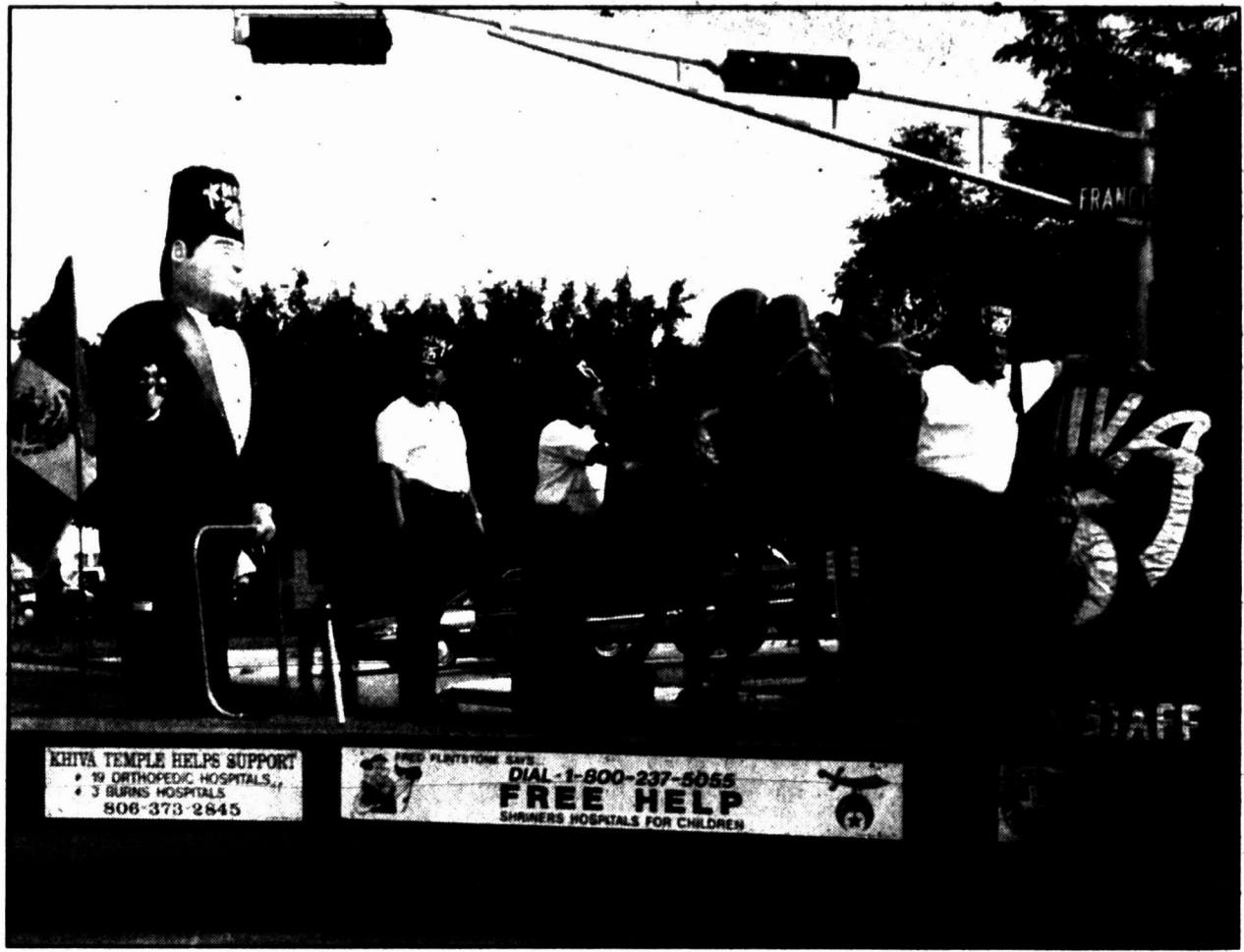
10:50 a.m. — Two units and three personnel responded west on Highway 60 on a grass fire.

11:57 a.m. — Three units and seven personnel responded to the 1900 block of Grape on a good intent call.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa		Coca-Cola.....63 9/16 up 3/8	
Wheat.....2 07	Milo.....2 53	Columbia/HCA.....24 1/8 up 1/2	Enron.....85 3/4 up 7/16
Com.....2 92	Soybeans.....3 26	Halliburton.....45 5/16 dn 7/16	IRI.....4 13/16 dn 1/16
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation:		KNE.....21 3/8 dn 5/8	Kerr McGee.....52 13/16 up 1/4
Occidental.....19 15/16 up 3/16	Magellan.....133 09	Limited.....44 5/8 dn 1	McDonald's.....43 1/16 dn 3/8
Pantun.....21 03	The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:		Mobil.....102 3/8 dn 3/16
Amoco.....116 5/8 dn 1 3/8	Arco.....91 5/16 dn 1 1/16	New Atmos.....25 1/4 dn 3/16	NCE.....37 5/16 dn 1/8
Cabot.....24 1/8 dn 3/16	Cabot O&G.....18 9/16 dn 1/16	Phillips.....46 5/16 dn 1/4	Pioneer Nat. Res.....11 up 1/16
Chevron.....94 1/4 dn 1/8	Williams.....43 5/8 up 1/8	SLB.....62 5/8 dn 5/8	Tenneco.....24 5/8 up 3/16
		Texaco.....65 3/4 dn 3/8	Ultramar.....25 1/16 up 3/16
		Wal-Mart.....47 9/16 dn 1/2	West Texas Crude.....20 60

Emergency numbers	
Ambulance.....	911
Crime Stoppers.....	669-2222
Energas.....	665-5777
Fire.....	911



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

What would a parade be like without Shriners? Luckily, the folks watching Saturday's annual Top O' Texas Rodeo Parade didn't have to find out. In addition to the float, Shriners were also busy buzzing about in their miniature autos.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TAX

- They include:
- Borger — Down 11.39 percent or \$22,579.
 - Perryton — Down 23.63 percent or \$24,000.
 - Miami — Down 37 percent or \$488.
 - Canyon — Down 14 percent or \$6,500.
 - Amarillo — Down .13 percent or \$4,000.
 - Hereford — Down 9.27 percent or \$7,756.
 - Canadian — Down 32.6 percent or \$10,000.
 - Clarendon — Down 11.92 percent or \$2,000.

Horst was pretty much at a loss for words regarding the report. "I don't know what to say, really," he

said. "It's very interesting that all (in our area) are down."

And glancing through the statewide report, Horst said, "I see a lot of minuses."

But overall, Texas showed a 2.2 percent in sales tax receipts, he said.

With the fiscal year winding down toward its Sept. 30 end date, Horst says the \$160,000 in city budget cuts made earlier this year should keep the budget in the black.

Meanwhile, as Horst works on the 99-00 fiscal year budget, he says he'll budget anticipated sales tax revenue even lower than he did this year which he said was "a conservative figure."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

VIDEO

that a jury by law cannot consider except under certain circumstances.

"It will require bringing before the jury things that they should

JFK, Jr. sister, Caroline out of seclusion

BRIDGEHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Caroline Kennedy left the seclusion of her summer home for a morning bicycle ride with her husband today as authorities searched the ocean off Martha's Vineyard for the wreckage of her brother's airplane.

"Good morning," Ms. Kennedy told a surprised police officer before heading out with her husband, Edwin Schlossberg. She spoke to no one else, and did not acknowledge reporters and others gathered outside the house on eastern Long Island. The flag outside the home flew at half-staff.

The hour-long outing, one day after the couple's 13th wedding anniversary, was the first time Ms. Kennedy had been seen outside the house since returning from a trip out West on Saturday, the day after Kennedy's plane disappeared.

On Monday, Ms. Kennedy was visited by her uncle, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, and he was glimpsed shooting basketball with her children — Rose, 11, Tatiana, 9, and John, 6. He had spent the week-end on Cape Cod with the rest of the Kennedy clan.

A convoy of about 10 cars was seen leaving the residence Monday evening. It was not known who was in the cars or where they were headed.

The relatively modest-looking Kennedy-Schlossberg house is in a beach resort where homes have multimillion-dollar price tags and sightings of the rich and famous are common.

(See more JFK, Jr. stories on Page 3)

VIDEO

not consider," Comer said. District Attorney John Mann told the court that he had been trying to find someone to testify as to the identity of the man on the video tape, but he has been unable to get any one from the neighborhood to testify.

"For three weeks," Mann said, "my office has been trying to get people to come forward in the neighborhood where this occurred to identify the defendant in the tape."

Mann said the people in the neighborhood did not want to get involved, and that many of them feared reprisal. He said he is continuing to try to find others who will testify as to who is on the video tape, but he may not be able to find anyone other than law enforcement officers who are willing to take the witness stand.

Comer said the prosecutor

already had three officers who were present at the reported sale of drugs and no other witnesses were needed.

Mann told the court the additional witnesses were to be called only if Sessions took the stand and testified that he was not the man on the video tape.

Waters granted the motion preventing the prosecutor from calling the witnesses until after the state presented its case during the trial. If Mann wants to call the witnesses, a hearing would have to be held outside the presence of the jury, Waters said.

The charges against Sessions stem from an undercover sting operation in 1997. Sessions is accused of selling cocaine to undercover officers about 9:30 p.m., Oct. 29, 1997, in the 1000 block of Prairie.

City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

ARE YOUR tomatoes looking sick? If they are, bring us a sample and let us diagnose your problem for you. Watson's Garden Center.

HAIR STYLIST & Nail Tech needed at Kim's Mane Attraction. Many walk-ins to build your clientele. Come by & see our clean professional salon! Coronado Ctr., call Kim 669-0527.

JUBILEE CARPET Cleaning-prices starting at \$29.95, quality cleaning. 665-5901.

NEW SHIPMENT Garden Bells and Chirches at Watson's Garden Center, 125 N. Somerville.

REMEMBER WHEN your Pampa News Carrier collects, does the carrier have his/her cards & hole punch? If not, don't pay. Thanks, Circulation Dept.

PHYSICAL THERAPY- Pampa PT now accepting Medicare / Firstcare. 665-3668.

SILVER CREEK Collection Final Reductions!! 60-70-80% Off!! Glass display case \$350. 1221 S. Houston, M-F 1:30-5:30 p.m.

TIRED OF big super stores? Clint & Sons Smokehouse homemade smoked sausage, ribs, brisket, turkey. Daily lunch specials, deli sliced lunch meats & cheeses. Fancy dry-aged freezer beef & pork. 1421 N. Hobart, 665-2825.

TOP OF Texas Quick Lube-Come by and see our great new look at 1807 Alcock. \$21.95 oil change, ladies day Thurs., seniors everyday. We now fix flats. 665-0959.

VEGGIE TOWN Values, Calvary Baptist Church VBS July 20-24. Information, 665-0842, 900 E. 23rd.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RODEO

Post, fifth place, 10.2 seconds; Matt Carlson of Sweetwater, Okla., sixth place, 10.5 seconds.

Double Mugging

(sponsored by Signal Fuels) Cammie Woodward, Garrett Scribner, Michael Craig, first place, 27.3 seconds; Whitney Oxley, Eric Cochran, Hank Douglas, second place, 27.7 seconds; Jeffrey Burkes, Kenny Chambers, Brock Crockett, third place, 31.1 seconds.

Saddle Bronc Riding

(sponsored by Dorman Tire & Co.) Casey Smith of Stephenville, first place, 80 pts.; Brook Bearden of Stephenville, second place, 73 pts.; Bryan Whitney of Bursleson, third place, 72 pts.; Lance Kelly of Australia, fourth place, 71 pts.; Matt Reed of El Dorado, Kan., fifth place, 67 pts.; Neal Daniel of Vernon, sixth place, 61 pts.

Barrel Race

(sponsored by Subway & TCBY Treats) Kay Blandford of Sutherland Springs, first place, 15.98 seconds; Beth Cannon of Newcastle, Okla., second place, 16.04 seconds; Tamara Reinhardt of Lakin, Kan., third place, 16.09 seconds; Kim Green of Big Spring, fourth place, 16.15 seconds; Jill Batencourt of Guthrie, Okla., fifth place, 16.18 seconds.

onds; Deborah Mohon, of Gladewater, sixth place, 16.19 seconds; Vicki Rienhardt of Marshall, seventh place, 16.20 seconds; Kody Himes of Stanton, eighth place, 16.23 seconds.

Bull Riding

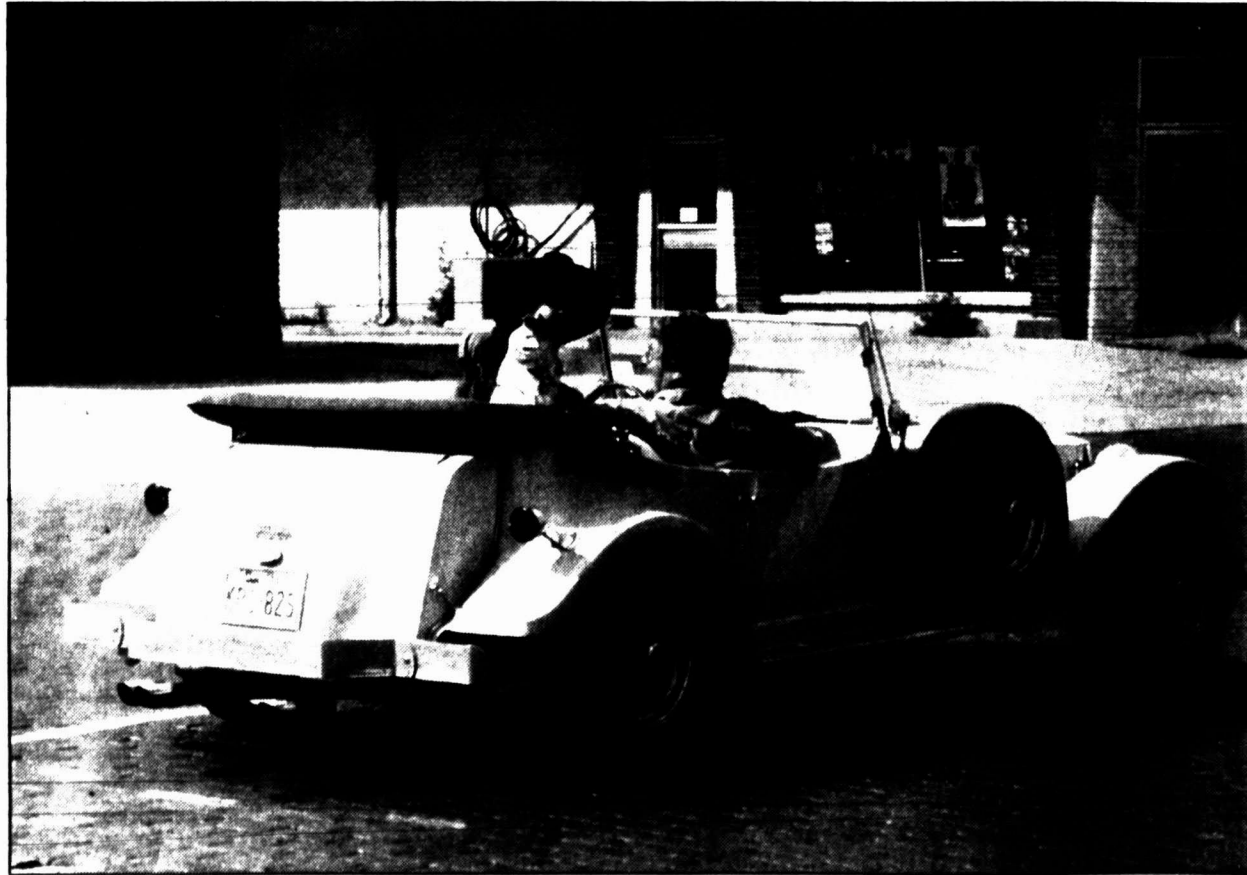
(sponsored by National Bank of Commerce) Spud Whitman of Plains, Kan., first place, 83 pts.; Jeremiah Wilder of Combine, second place, 82 pts.; Wayne Tasaka of Dodge City, Kan., third place, 80 pts.; Larry Mynarcik of West, fourth place, 79 pts.; Pete Hesson of Dodge City, fifth place, 74 pts.; Lonnie Carpenter of Colwich, Kan., sixth place, 73 pts.; Rusty Burford of Balch Springs, seventh place, 69 pts.; Jay Brunner of Canton, eighth place, 67 pts.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PASSPORT

walk-in applicants for normal requests. There will be exceptions made only when a verifiable emergency can be documented.

Appointments are made through an automated phone system, already in use at New York, Miami, L.A., Washington D.C. Stamford and Chicago. The Houston number is 1-713-751-0294. It operates 24 hours a day seven days a week.



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

Speciality cars and big waves were all part of the weekend's rodeo parade through downtown Pampa. The event is sponsored by the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Partly sunny today with a high in the mid 90s and south winds at 15 mph. Tonight, mostly clear with a low of 70 and southeast winds at 5-10 mph. Tomorrow, partly sunny with a high in the mid 90s and south winds at 15 mph. Yesterday's high 92; the overnight low 70.

PANHANDLE — Tonight, a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, otherwise mostly clear. Low in the mid 60s. South wind around 10 mph. Wednesday, partly sunny with a high near 90. South wind 10 to 20 mph.

STATEWIDE — Widely scattered showers and thunder-

storms are expected to spread farther inland from the Texas coast during the day as a warming trend continues around the state.

Early-morning temperatures today dropped into the 60s to low 80s. Readings included 74 degrees at Tyler, 64 at Dalhart, 75 at Childress, 82 at Galveston, 70 at Junction, and 79 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Rockport and Houston.

Winds were generally light and southerly at 5 to 15 miles an hour.

Some light fog developed from Houston to College Station, but visibilities remained above five miles. Some showers were scattered along the Gulf coast, but most of the rain remained off-

shore. Later, showers and thunderstorms were expected to move inland over the Coastal Plains, including Corpus Christi to Galveston Bay. Afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms should form in West Texas.

Easterly and southeasterly winds will continue across the state with highs from the 80s to middle 90s and overnight lows in the 60s and 70s inland and near 80 along the coast. Some 50s could occur in southwestern mountains.

Another tropical wave is expected to produce more significant rains across South Texas by early Wednesday morning.

Divers return to ocean in search of JFK, Jr's plane

By ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press Writer

AQUINNAH, Mass. (AP) — Divers returned to the ocean off Martha's Vineyard today in the search for John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane, and the Federal Aviation Administration acknowledged it was asked to locate the aircraft less than a half-hour after it vanished from radar.

The Navy divers had been given a list of 15 submerged sites to examine by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, up from nine sites. State police divers returned to water later in the morning.

"The divers are systematically examining targets and moving on," said Greg Hernandez, a spokesman for NOAA, which had two sonar-equipped ships scanning the ocean floor for signs of the plane's wreckage.

The FAA said the call for the airplane's location, from an airport employee on Martha's Vineyard, was merely a request for information and had no sense of urgency.

Any delay in the rescue effort would be moot if Kennedy, his wife and sister-in-law died on impact. New radar data showed the plane was diving at a rate up to 10 times normal just before it disappeared from radar.

Also today:

—In Bridgehampton, N.Y., Caroline Kennedy, and her husband, Edwin Schlossberg, left their summer home for a hour-long bicycle ride. It was the day after their 13th wedding anniversary and the first time she had been seen in public since her brother died. A flag at her house was lowered to half staff.

—A newspaper reported that the airplane's registration papers had washed ashore Saturday at beachfront property owned by Kennedy and his sister.

On board the plane were Kennedy, 38; wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33; and her sister Lauren Bessette, 34. Kennedy, the pilot, planned to drop off his sister-in-law on Martha's Vineyard and then continue to his cousin's wedding in Hyannis Port.

An employee of the Martha's Vineyard airport telephoned an FAA station in Bridgeport, Conn., at 10:05 p.m. Friday — 25 minutes after the plane went off radar screens. Adam Budd made the call at the request of an unidentified couple who had come to the airport to meet Lauren Bessette.

Budd said: "Kennedy Jr.'s on board. He's, uh, they wanna know, uh, where he is," according to the FAA.

Budd asked if the agency could track the airplane. But the person at the FAA station questioned Budd repeatedly about who he was and finally told him: "We don't give this information out to people over the phone."

Budd gave up and added: "It's not a big deal."

No action was taken until a 2:15 a.m. Saturday phone call to the Coast Guard by a Kennedy family friend.

FAA officials said they responded appropriately to Budd's call, and that his tone did not indicate he was worried about the plane.

"It's policy not to provide that sort of information over the phone," Eliot Brenner, an FAA spokesman, said today of the request for information on the plane. "There was no sense of urgency conveyed. It was a request to track an aircraft."

An employee of the Martha's Vineyard airport telephoned an FAA station in Bridgeport, Conn., at 10:05 p.m. Friday — 25 minutes after the plane went off radar screens.

The plane registration papers washed up Saturday on Vineyard beachfront property owned by Kennedy and his sister, the Cape Cod Times reported today, quoting unidentified sources close to the investigation.

The soggy papers, turned over to state police that day, did not include Kennedy's name but did have the plane's tail number, the newspaper said. The plane was registered to a corporation named Random Ventures Inc., located at Kennedy's New York City address.

State police reached today by The Associated Press would not confirm the papers had been found.

Radar information showed that Kennedy's Piper Saratoga II dropped 1,100 feet in 14 seconds Friday evening as it approached Martha's Vineyard — equivalent to 4,700 feet per minute, a speed some experts said was nearly 10 times normal.

"The normal rate of descent you're shooting for as a pilot is 500 to 700 feet per minute for passenger comfort," said Warren Morningstar, spokesman for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

The Piper's drop was more like "a dive, not a descent," added Drew Stekette, the group's senior vice president.

Robert Pearce, the National Transportation Safety Board's chief investigator in the case, was reluctant to characterize the rate of descent as unusual.

"There are various normal rates and it's difficult to try to compare at this time," he said Monday.

But other aviation experts said the high-performance, single-engine Piper generally cannot handle a descent faster than 1,500 feet per minute. A gauge in the plane reads out a maximum of 2,000 feet per minute.

The cause of the drop was unknown.

The six-seat Piper, equipped with a 300-horsepower engine, took off from New Jersey at sunset in haze that reduced visibility to about three to five miles, according to other pilots who flew at the time.

The NTSB said the plane was inspected June 28, less than three weeks before the crash. On July 13, maintenance was performed, including an adjustment of the aircraft's magnetic compass.

The victims' families broke their silence Monday.

"We are filled with unspeakable grief and sadness by the loss of John and Carolyn, and of Lauren Bessette," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, John Jr.'s uncle.

"John was a shining light in all our lives, and in the lives of the nation and the world that first came to know him when he was a little boy."

A statement from Carolyn Bessette Kennedy's parents said: "John and Carolyn were true soul mates and we hope to honor them in

Growing number of pilots who like to fly at a moment's notice

FAIRFIELD, N.J. (AP) — Every chance he gets, Jim Sullivan hops into his four-seat Piper Cherokee and takes off on quick trips, flying anywhere he can get in an hour or so.

"Fly down to Washington to go to the aerospace museum. Fly to Hyannis to have lunch," said Sullivan, 62, of Paramus.

Scores of others take their planes weekly from the Essex County Airport to the Vineyard, Nantucket, the Hamptons. They avoid the crowds, come and go when they want and go fast.

"Any place you'd go in a car," said Chris Porta, 18, who's working toward a pilot's license. "It just saves time."

John F. Kennedy Jr., whose Piper Saratoga went down in the Atlantic last Friday while flying from this northern New Jersey town to Massachusetts, was one of a growing number of well-off Americans who are relying on private planes to get them around as quickly and hassle-free as possible.

Experts credit a strong economy, relaxed product liability laws and Americans' need to get places faster and on their own terms for a resurgence in the private plane industry.

"It's the freedom," said Shelly Snyder Simi, a spokeswoman for the General Aviation Manufacturers' Association in Washington. "Everybody's time is valuable."

Sales in the general aviation industry, which makes personal and corporate jets, reached a 15-year high in the first quarter of 1999. Ms. Simi said the industry sold 2,220 private aircraft last year, more than double the 928 planes in 1994.

It's been five years since Congress passed a law which kept people from suing manufacturers for alleged defects in planes more than 18 years old. The change brought the struggling makers of Cessnas and Pipers back into the industry and increased plane production, experts said.

The majority of new plane owners are likely to be middle-aged, white men with enough freedom and wherewithal to make their own schedules, Simi said.

Kennedy, 38, obtained his pilot's license last year and took trips nearly every weekend, frequently with his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy. On Friday, he left work to meet his wife and her sister, Lauren Bessette, before flying to Massachusetts. He was to drop off Lauren Bessette in Martha's Vineyard and then head to Hyannis Port for cousin Rory's wedding on Saturday.

The plane crashed in the sea miles before it reached the Vineyard. Kennedy, his wife and sister-in-law are presumed dead.

Pilots have criticized Kennedy, a relatively inexperienced pilot, for taking off on a night flight into hazy weather. But others said pilots occasionally push their luck when they're on a tight schedule.

"If you really want to go someplace and you feel highly motivated, you're going to try to do it. It's only human nature," said Peter Cruz, who owns a Beechcraft Bonanza at the Fairfield airport.

"They call it gotta-go-itis," said Sullivan. "It affects your judgment."

Cruz, a retired chemical salesman from North Caldwell, used to take his plane to make two or three out-of-state appointments a day. He and his wife have flown the plane to South Carolina and Florida on vacation.

"It's the convenience of it, to be able to come and go as you need to," he said.

But convenience doesn't come cheap. A low-level single-engine plane costs way more than most luxury cars — from \$125,000 to \$400,000, says Simi.

JFK Jr., media, rapt audience: It's an enduring triangle

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The excited chatter began as soon as the black-and-white television set, sitting precariously atop a metal cart, was wheeled into the classroom. Television! During school!

It was Nov. 22, 1963, and TV was an uncommon school presence. We second-graders quickly learned this was not a treat, but an introduction to a national tragedy that would resound throughout our lives: The president had been killed in Dallas.

The incident also was a primer on both the power of television and of the Kennedy clan, so well suited to each other. The Kennedys were masters of sound bites and photogenic smiles and hand-wringing tragedy, prerequisites of TV fame.

From childhood to the weekend's sad events, John F. Kennedy Jr. has adhered to the formula. Nudged forward by his mother, young "John-

John" broke hearts when he raised his tiny hand in a salute to his father's passing coffin.

Although John and sister Caroline were sheltered from the limelight during their youth, the adult son emerged a full-blown star and another kind of heartbreaker.

He easily could have become an actor, his handsomeness rivaling that of a Brad Pitt. JFK Jr. didn't go that route (his mother was said to disapprove even of his participation in amateur theatricals) but managed to draw the camera anyway.

He did not shrink from high-profile dates or public rows with actress Daryl Hannah, to the delight of TV tabloids. And he caused a paparazzi stir by regularly shedding his shirt to skate, jog or sunbathe.

Was he flirting with us en masse? It seemed that way at times. Or was it possible he was simply trying to live his life, regardless of the public?

Television used JFK Jr. with and without his direct participation. In an episode of the

NBC comedy "Seinfeld," he was portrayed as the ultimate stud and the unseen object of

It was Nov. 22, 1963, and TV was an uncommon school presence. We second-graders quickly learned this was not a treat, but an introduction to a national tragedy that would resound throughout our lives: The president had been killed in Dallas.

Elaine's (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) lust.

When Jerry Seinfeld visited "The Tonight Show" last year to mark the end of his series, Kennedy made a good-natured appearance. He recalled a defendant exclaiming, "You were on Seinfeld," when the episode aired during his prosecutor days.

He graced "Murphy Brown," Candice Bergen's sitcom, playing himself. His speech to the 1988 Democratic National Convention was a highlight. When Jackie Kennedy Onassis died, cameras eagerly

searched out her son's grief. Every appearance carried a reminder of Camelot and a

promise: More lay ahead for him because so much came before. There was a perception that — despite his legal career, a move into magazine publishing and marriage to Carolyn Bessette — he somehow had yet to succeed, to "settle down," to fulfill his destiny by running for office.

After all, his father was a U.S. senator by his age, 38; JFK Jr.'s political magazine, George, has been struggling despite its own high celebrity quotient. That makes the son, in a way, a perfect pop-culture

American voters decided JFK was their man, choosing him over his Republican opponent — Richard Nixon —, with the 5 o'clock shadow and uneasy manner.

The Kennedy administration's domestic and international policies proved a good TV fit as well. Kennedy energized the space program, bequeathing to us the stirring image of an astronaut planting the U.S. flag on the moon.

He fanned the flames of the Vietnam conflict, which seeped into our living rooms and became part of the 1960s and '70s destabilization of

icon, one allowed undiminished fame without great achievement.

His father benefited in his own way from such superficiality.

Family patriarch Joseph Kennedy had insisted on acting lessons for his candidate son, one news report recounted. He knew it would take a media-savvy individual to play the statesman in this modern era.

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He fanned the flames of the Vietnam conflict, which seeped into our living rooms and became part of the 1960s and '70s destabilization of

American culture. The revolution, of course, was televised. TV has proved as eager to capitalize on JFK Jr.'s sex appeal and celebrity as on his tragic past. Last week, the HBO comedy "Sex and the City" did just that.

In the episode, hotshot public relations executive Samantha (Kim Cattrall) falls out of favor with Manhattan society after being caught in a clinch with a powerful matron's husband.

Nothing can restore her position — until Kennedy Jr. discovers her slaving away on a construction project for charity and offers her his hand. The simple gesture (with an actor seen in silhouette as JFK Jr.) instantly restores Samantha's status.

It was funny because it seemed so possible, coming from a man with the authority and influence of a media star, if not of a president.

That, at the very least, was his birthright.

Calendar of events

PAMPA CHESS CLUB
The Pampa Chess Club meets every Tuesday night at Yummie's Pizza in the Pampa Mall at 7:30 p.m. We offer casual yet competitive games, free instruction, and a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact James A. Shook at 669-0227.

TOASTMASTERS
The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at the Furr's Cafeteria.

PAMPA PRISON MINISTRY
The Pampa Prison Ministry meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call Bob Andersen 665-4252 or J.B Walker at 669-2266.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR
Pampa Chapter No. 65, Order of the Eastern Star, has changed their meeting nights from the first and third Tuesdays to the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at 420 West Kingsmill.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule - seven days a week - two meetings a day - noon till 1 p.m. no smoking, and Tuesday

and Thursday 8-9 p.m. call 665-9702 for information.
TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Womens Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays.
For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

SKELLY-GETTY-TEXACO RETIREES CLUB
Skelly-Getty-Texaco Retirees Club

will meet at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22, at Senior Citizens Center.
PAMPA AREA SINGLES DANCE
Pampa Area Singles Dance and Potluck Dinner will be July 24. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the dance will be from 8-11 p.m. Cost will be \$5 per person.

Entertainment will be Mike Porter. For more information, call 665-0219.

HARRINGTON HOUSE
The 1999 tour season for Harrington House, 1600 Polk Street in Amarillo, is currently underway. The house is open to tours from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays through mid-December. Each tour, limited to four people over 14 years of age, is 50 minutes long. For more information or to arrange a tour, call (806) 374-5490.

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1st Run
Lake Placid (R)
2 Shows Nightly 7:10 & 8:55
Daily Matinee 1:55
3rd Week
Big Daddy (PG-13)
2 Shows Nightly 7:00 & 8:00
Daily Matinee 1:45
3rd Week
Wild Wild West (PG-13)
2 Shows Nightly 7:00 & 8:05
Daily Matinee 1:45

VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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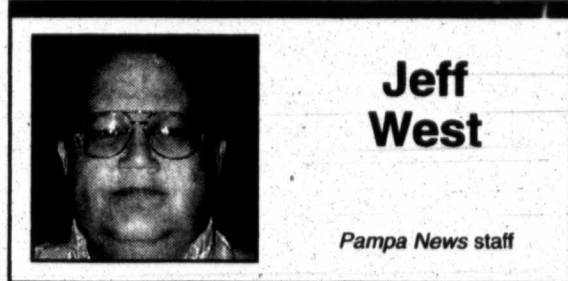
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I like and enjoy most people

You know how sometimes you work and work on something and it still never comes out right, no matter how hard you try? And then other times no matter how often you screw something up it still comes out great. I've had a lot more experience with the first than the second but when the second happens it can be pretty amazing.

Maybe I should explain. One of my favorite Peanuts cartoons shows Linus telling Lucy he wants to be a doctor. She told him he couldn't be a doctor because doctors had to love mankind and he didn't. He replied that he loved mankind, it was people he couldn't stand. I'm just the opposite, I hate mankind in general, even though I like most people, one-on-one, or in small groups, for limited amounts of time. Which may explain why I have a limited number of good friends. Oh, don't get me wrong, I am on friendly terms with a lot of people. Quite a few I would even call friends. But you know the difference between a friend and a good friend? A friend will wish you luck if you say you've got to move, a good friend will be there with empty boxes.

Those kind of friends have been few and far between for me. Count 'em on one hand probably. The first real friend I found in junior high school. For you younger readers that's



Jeff West
Pampa News staff

like middle school without the political correctness. He was my best friend. I don't remember how or exactly when we met but there we were. When we graduated from High School together he was still my best friend.

Well, then life got in the way, we both went in the army, and he got married to a girl he'd never even introduced me to. A little while later we were stationed in the same country and he invited me to come stay at their home. She seemed so good for him and was so nice to me (not an easy thing to do for your husband's school buddies I understand) that I decided she was my favorite wife.

Well, he did well in the army (they did well, really) as he did most things, so he re-upped as the say and I tried to find something that fit

my talents. O.K. I was trying to find some talent that fit me but let's not nit-pick here.

We saw each other a few times over the years, I got Christmas cards, forgot to send mine, forgot to write, didn't visit as often as I should have when they were near-by, forgot to call very often, are you sensing a pattern here?

He e-mailed me the other day that he was coming to Amarillo and wanted to see me. I'm not sure why. I still thought of him as my best friend but he actually had a life. Did well in the army, did well with his heart surgery (better than me there, too), still married to my favorite wife, raised three great kids who have never been to jail, has a great paying job. I was a little apprehensive. Would we have anything to talk about?

He is still my best friend. It was as if we'd been apart for vacation. Then she was there, my favorite wife. I'm not his friend she puts up with, I'm her friend, too, and she is mine.

When Wayne and Garth from "Wayne's World" met someone they think of as great they bow and say "I am not worthy." I understand that now. But when you're with real friends, they make you feel that you are.

Be good to one another and be good to yourselves.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
 Today is Tuesday, July 20, the 201st day of 1999. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon.

On this date:
 In 1810, Colombia declared independence from Spain.
 In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States began holding sessions in Richmond, Va.
 In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a Canadian province.
 In 1881, Sioux Indian leader Sitting Bull, a fugitive since the Battle of the Little Big Horn, sur-

rendered to federal troops.
 In 1942, the first detachment of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps — later known as WACs — began basic training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.
 In 1944, German officials tried to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb at his Rastenburg headquarters. The explosion only wounded the Nazi leader.
 In 1944, President Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term at the Democratic convention in Chicago.
 In 1951, Jordan's King Abdullah was assassinated in Jerusalem.
 In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a success-

ful first-ever landing on Mars.
 In 1977, a flash flood hit Johnstown, Penn., killing 80 people and causing \$350 million in damage.
 Ten years ago: President Bush called for a long-range space program to build an orbiting space station, establish a base on the moon and send a manned mission to the planet Mars.
 Five years ago: Bosnian Serbs rejected an international peace plan sponsored by the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany.
 One year ago: Russia won an \$11.2 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to help avert the devaluation of its currency. A smoky fire aboard the

cruise ship Ecstasy just two miles from the Florida shore forcing its return to port.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 69. Video artist Nam June Paik is 67. Rockabilly singer Sleepy LaBeef is 64. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) is 63. Actress Diana Rigg is 61. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 56. Country singer T.G. Shepherd is 55. Singer Kim Carnes is 53. Rock musician, Carlos Santana is 52. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols) is 43. Actress Donna Dixon is 42. Actor Frank Whaley is 36. Rock singer Chris Cornell is 35. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 33. Actor Reed Diamond is 32. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 21.



Inside the Beltway
with
Rep. Mac Thornberry

Budget surplus need careful management

It was just a few years ago that people were predicting the federal government would be running budget deficits as far as the eye could see.

So a recent announcement that the budget surplus will be bigger than most anyone thought naturally left a lot of politicians falling all over themselves trying to take credit for the news.

But you and I both know that the size of the surplus has less to do with Washington than with the economy, and the hard-working men and women who take care of their families and pay their taxes day in and day out.

Yes, Congress has been able to hold the line on spending somewhat. And yes, we've been able to cut some taxes. But as I've pointed out, government is still bigger than it's ever been before, and taxes are still higher than at any time since World War II.

Arguing over what to do with the surplus is nearly as tough as arguing how to reduce the deficit. It has a lot to do with how much government you want in your life — something I'll talk more about next time. I believe we should set aside every dime collected for Social Security and make sure these dollars are not spent on any other government program. We'll still have a \$1 trillion surplus over the next 10 years in the rest of the budget for other priorities, like lowering taxes and shoring up our national defense.

The bottom line is that we can't manage the surplus like we've managed the government over the past 30 years. If we do, we'll be squandering an opportunity we've waited a generation to achieve, and worrying less about who gets the credit than who gets the blame.

Thought for today

"They that defy the tempest to gratify avarice and luxury, deserve shipwreck."

—François de Salignac de la Mothe Fénelon

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Gore's dim view of the suburbs

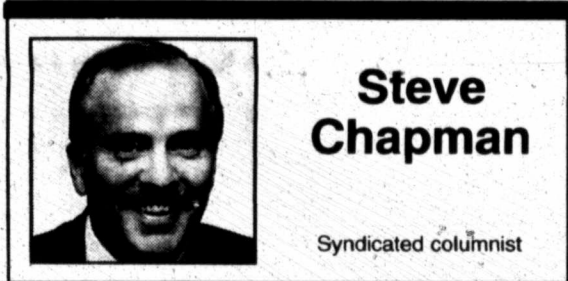
Every country has its problems. Third World nations, from Mexico to India, have them in profusion: desperate poverty, life-threatening air pollution, high unemployment, decrepit cities jammed with people living cheek by jowl, filthy drinking water, rampant disease, crime, high infant mortality and many more. But the United States is afflicted with its own woes. Like what? Well, according to Vice President Al Gore, like the absence of sidewalks and presence of traffic congestion in our suburbs.

If you could take anyone living in a squatter camp on the outskirts of Cairo and drop him into a perfectly ordinary American suburb, he would assume he had been transported to heavenly paradise without the inconvenience of dying. Clean air and water, social order and peace, spacious homes, tidy lawns, cars in every garage, broad and uncrowded streets — to 90 percent of the world's people, American suburbia would look awfully good.

But human beings are prone to discontent, finding fault in the most unlikely places. Suburbanites tend to be tolerant sorts: They have nothing against cities, though they prefer not to reside in them. Many urbanites, however, not only don't want to live in suburbs — they don't want anyone else to live there either.

Suburb haters will find ample common ground with Gore, who shamelessly romanticizes traditional cities and decries "ill-thought-out sprawl" that has "turned what used to be friendly, easy suburbs into lonely cul-de-sacs," built "fast and heedlessly by bulldozing flat an ecosystem." The result is a desolate and blighted landscape.

In his customary tone of earnest gravity, he blames suburban sprawl for traffic congestion that not only causes exasperation but threatens



Steve Chapman
Syndicated columnist

the stability of the American family. "Too often," he asserts with a straight face, "if a parent wants to read a child a bedtime story, their only choice is to do it from a cell phone while they're stuck in traffic." He even blames it for the rise of road rage.

Not wanting to alienate all the voters who live in the suburbs, Gore stresses that he intends only to improve the "livability" of suburbs. But his obvious distaste for the sort of development increasingly chosen by Americans leaves no doubt that his real aim is to enforce his own vision of how people should live. He wants the federal government to provide expensive subsidies to protect green space, block sprawl, expand public transit and promote more government planning, giving Washington a bigger role in decisions that communities have traditionally made themselves.

Now, there is nothing to stop individual suburbs or groups of suburbs from buying land or development rights to preserve open land, and many do. But they can do that, and pay for it, without being pushed by Washington. There is no particular reason the citizens of Chicago should have to help foot the bill for green space they will never see in surrounding suburbs that have generous resources of their own.

Self-government is a lot like breathing

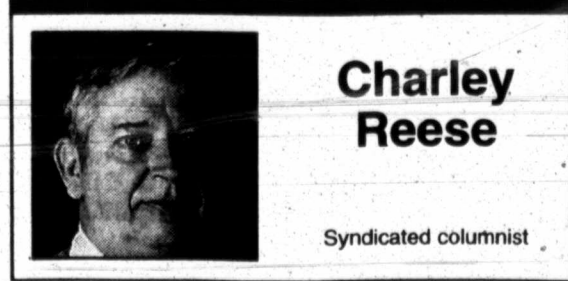
It's too early to waste time trying to predict the 2000 presidential election or to pay any attention to the polls.

Polls reflect what people are thinking at the time they are polled. What will determine the outcome of the 2000 election is what people are thinking in November 2000.

There's no way to predict that because what will come to pass between now and then is unpredictable. Will the economy be good or in the tank? Will the United States be at peace or at war or on the brink? Will one candidate stumble and another start to soar? What disasters will befall us? What unexpected good fortune? There's no telling.

If you are of a mind to be involved, just pick a candidate, call his or her local campaign office and volunteer. People actually have a greater chance to influence events during the primaries than they do in the general election; where the choice is, for all practical purposes, narrowed to two candidates. You don't even have to be a registered voter or old enough to vote to work in a political campaign.

I recommend it, if for no other reason than it's a good learning experience. It's a chance to see up close how the system really works, as opposed to how theory says it should work. You will also meet some interesting people, since campaigns attract folks who are capable of having convictions and who generally care about their community and the country.



Charley Reese
Syndicated columnist

When I was a hired gun in the political wars — during one of my absences from journalism — I observed that the volunteers seemed to really enjoy themselves. Being in a campaign is somewhat like being in a theatrical production. You become part of the group, and camaraderie develops that often leads to friendships and, now and then, marriages.

As with a play, there is a definite drama that reaches a climax in a definite time period. Election nights always bring tears to the people closest to the campaign — either tears of joy or tears of heartbreak. All your long months of effort are judged by the voters in one day and pronounced either a success or a failure.

That's a virtue. Much of what we do in life produces indeterminate results. Sometimes we are never certain if the results we were striving for were really achieved or, if they were, whether it was because of our efforts or luck or

some other factors. But there is nothing ambiguous about a political campaign. It's win or lose, and on a day it is certain.

Sometimes people on the losing side go through sort of withdrawal symptoms. They become discouraged: They cancel their subscriptions to political magazines, vow to ignore the news and tell their friends they are going to take up star-watching or gardening. I have done that myself, and more than once.

But, for most, they come back, for politics is addictive. It is the essence of citizenship, the essence of self-government, the essence of the whole idea of trying to control one's own political destiny.

It would be a good thing if more Americans got involved in political campaigns. George Orwell, the English writer, told the truth when he said: "In our age there is no such thing as keeping out of politics. All issues are political issues."

Yes, there are a lot of negatives — sleazy candidates, sleazy campaigns — but the way to deal with negatives is to replace them with positives — honest candidates, honest campaigns: Everything boils down to people. If good people get into politics, then politics will be honorable.

Self-government is like breathing, a never-ending task. A nation of apathetic and passive people is like a person with defective lungs. It will die.

Men of Apollo 11 moon mission receive prestigious aviation medal

By PAUL RECER
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the day that marked the 30th anniversary of the first landing on the moon, the men of Apollo 11 received the prestigious Langley Gold Medal for aviation today and were praised for an "astounding" mission that united the nation.

Neil Armstrong, who commanded Apollo 11 and the first man to walk the moon, Edwin A. "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins "blazed a path farther than any we have known," said Vice President Al Gore in ceremonies at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum.

On July 20, 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin landed the Apollo lunar module they called Eagle on the moon's Sea of Tranquility. Hours later, Armstrong descended a ladder and became the first to walk the lunar surface. Collins remained in lunar orbit aboard the command ship, Columbia.

Gore, speaking at ceremonies staged beside the Apollo 11 command ship, said the astronauts accomplished their mission with what would now be regarded as primitive equipment.

The Apollo 11 onboard computer, he said, had less than one thousandth the memory storage of a modern handheld electronic organizer and could hold data equal to only about one-twentieth of a typical floppy disk in modern computers.

"It is even more astonishing that their mission was pulled off with the technology that was available then," said Gore.

The Langley Gold Medal, named for American aviation pioneer Samuel P. Langley, had been awarded only 21 times previously. The

first recipients were Wilbur and Orville Wright in 1909.

Gore noted the Apollo 11 triumph came during a time that the United States was racked by demonstrations against the Vietnam War, by assassinations of Martin Luther King and Robert F. Kennedy, and by urban riots.

Hours later, Armstrong descended a ladder and became the first to walk the lunar surface. Collins remained in lunar orbit aboard the command ship, Columbia.

Apollo 11, he said, gave a new sense of unity. "We came together, transformed by the mission you undertook," he said. "Family and communities came together to watch with fear and pride."

Gore told Armstrong that "with your first step onto the Sea of Tranquility, you brought tranquility to us here at home."



(Pampa News photo by Kate B. Dickson)

Every parade needs a clown and this fellow was just what the doctor ordered Saturday as he carried the Colors as part of the Top O' Texas Rodeo parade in downtown Pampa.

GOP leaders pledge to pass \$792 billion tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite some dissension from moderate Republicans, House GOP leaders pledged today to round up enough votes to pass a 10-year, \$792 billion tax cut Wednesday.

"I expect to have the votes," Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said after a closed-door meeting this morning of House Republicans. "This is the big event of the week."

Shortly before Armey spoke, several GOP moderates said they still believe the tax cut is far too large. Even though the \$864 billion tax cut approved last week by the Ways and Means Committee is being reduced to \$792 billion, some moderates are working on an alternative of about \$500 billion.

Up to 20 House GOP moderates may oppose the bill, for reasons ranging from concern about reducing public debt to worries that it is not clear enough for people to understand.

"There are a number of moderate Republicans who are not prepared to vote for the \$792 billion package at this time," Rep. Michael Castle, R-Del., told reporters Monday night. "But I favor tax cuts. I want to go forward with good tax cuts."

Castle said his bill is "a work in progress" and did not offer details, but he said it could be ready as early as today and would contain many of the same themes as the current House bill.

As it stood Monday, the House tax cut included a 10 percent across-the-board reduction in income tax rates, repeal of estate and alternative minimum taxes, breaks for education and health care and cuts in capital gains taxes.

Another moderate Republican, Rep. Ray LaHood of Illinois, predicted the larger bill "will not pass" if GOP leaders try to ram the measure through this week.

Aside from the internal House difficulties, Senate budget rules appear to require that the tax cut be no higher than \$792 billion to avoid a filibuster that would delay the measure indefinitely.

The Senate bill differs greatly from the House: it would reduce the bottom 15 percent tax bracket to 14 percent, expand individual retirement accounts and 401(k)s and also include breaks for education and health care. It does not eliminate the estate tax or cut capital gains taxes.

President Clinton has threatened to veto any tax cut approaching \$800 billion, contending it would jeopardize the solvency of Social Security and Medicare and spending for programs ranging from education to defense.

"Yes, America should get a tax cut, but we should save Social Security and Medicare first, and we ought to do it in a way that allows us to pay off the debt" and continue to invest in other programs, Clinton said Monday night, speaking before labor leaders at a Democratic National Committee fund-raiser.

Clinton helped GOP lawmaker switch parties

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton helped persuade Rep. Michael Forbes of New York to defect from the Republican Party but "it was not a hard sell," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said today.

Forbes, a moderate who was elected to Congress in the 1994 Republican landslide, announced his switch to the Democratic side Saturday, saying the GOP had become captives of extremists.

Forbes visited the White House before Congress' July 4 recess and met with chief of staff John Podesta. The congressman said he wanted to talk with the president, and Podesta took him to the Oval Office for a conversation that ran nearly an hour. The president also spoke with Forbes by telephone once more before his decision and then again after.

Forbes told Clinton his switch was a difficult decision but "he was just more comfortable with where the Democratic Party was" on issues such as the patient's bill of rights and tax and budget issues, Lockhart said.

"It was not a hard sell," the spokesman said. "I don't think the president tried a hard sell. But he certainly made it known that the Democratic Party welcomed him, welcomed independent thinking, the big tent we've talked about."

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Sunny Delight
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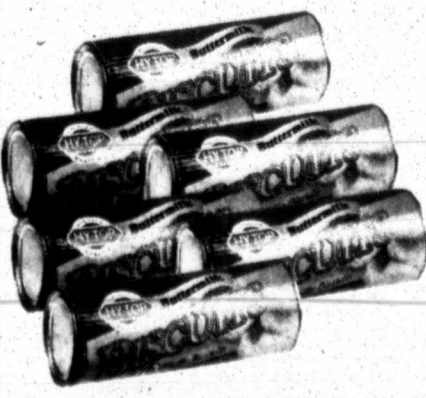
Better Valu
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\$1



Kraft
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Dinners
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2 for \$1



HY-TOP
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6 for \$1



Del Monte
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Woman Searches for Way To Warm Man's Cold Feet

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating a man for two years. He's the love of my life. I'm in my late 20s and he's in his late 30s. We get along perfectly. We live together and spend most of our free time together.

I have been bringing up the topic of marriage lately because I'd love to start a family, but in order to do so I need a commitment. He says he loves me and that I am his world, but "marriage" scares him.

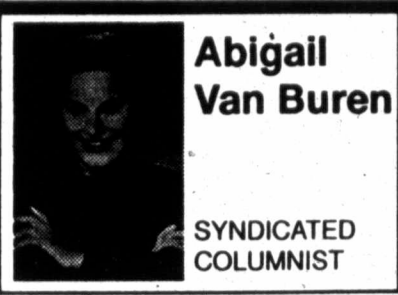
The other day I proposed and gave him a diamond ring. He was shocked, to say the least, and didn't answer me. The only thing he said was that he was afraid of getting hurt again. Abby, I don't know what to do. I love him, but I have made it clear I won't wait forever. He knows how I feel. What should I do? My biological clock is ticking.

LOST IN LOVE

DEAR LOST: Ask him, "Are you more afraid of losing me, or more afraid of being hurt?" Give him a deadline, and if he's still "uncertain," face it — he's not for you.

P.S. It's perfectly proper to ask him to please return the ring.

DEAR ABBY: This is in response to "Had it in San Diego," who complained about the unruly behavior of her nephews. You replied, "Imagine when the 6-year-old must be in a structured environment such as school."



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Well, Abby, I teach first grade and can tell you what happens. When it's time to open the reading book, point to the words and follow along, the well-behaved child will do just that and will soon be reading. The poorly behaved child may look elsewhere, spin his book or make faces. He will need more direction and will probably be learning delayed, even though he may be quite able.

The well-behaved child will take turns, follow school rules, and interact positively with other students and adults. The poorly behaved child may hit others, throw tantrums or damage school property, which will result in many telephone calls home, detention, referrals to the principal and other negative consequences.

Students who are successful in first grade are usually the successes in fifth grade. They have developed good school habits.

If I could give parents one piece of advice, it would be: Teach your children what "no" means. Do not give in! Your child needs self-con-

trol, language and effort to achieve success.

A TEACHER WHO CARES ABOUT THE FUTURE

DEAR TEACHER: Thank you for a compelling letter. Extremely bright children may act out because they are bored. And, of course, a child who consistently misbehaves should be evaluated to rule out attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD). I hope your letter will serve as an admonition to parents who shrug off their children's misbehavior as "kids will be kids."

Children need to be prepared before they are thrust into a classroom environment, but they cannot know what they have not been taught. Among the lessons they should master are respect for other people, sharing, making good use of spare time, how to channel their aggressions and how to tolerate a degree of frustration.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby's "Keepers," P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 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)

★ ★ Clarity becomes confusion. Abundance marks negative as well as positive events. With extremes ruling, sarcasm happens whether you mean it to or not. Honor a short fuse. Take a walk or break if need be. You're only human and you, too, have limits. Tonight: Do what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★ ★ ★ The best intentions run amok. You might have a difficult time with problems that seem to crop up from every direction. Another's sarcasm, topped with confusion, could push you over the line. Take a break, walk or write feelings down, rather than explode. Tonight: A boss or VIP reverses course.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★ ★ Take your time. Don't push too hard. Your energy, patience and tolerance are limited — just like everyone else's. News from a distance makes you shake your head. Regroup. Be careful what you say to a co-worker who disappoints you. Honor your own resources. Tonight: How about a night off?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★ ★ ★ ★ Your ability to find solutions helps you wade through a maze of confusion. You might not always be comfort-

able with what comes up. Misunderstandings run rampant. Be especially careful with financial commitments. You could go way overboard. Make your needs top priority. Tonight: Dance away stress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★ ★ You may be working with others who are difficult and/or not communicating well. You can plead your case or ask for support, but you'll probably be ignored. Count on being the major driving force in your world. Others give you flak; you could become testy and sarcastic! Who can blame you? Tonight: Vanish fast!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★ ★ ★ Listen to others who present a determined argument. Be careful how you verbalize what you want. Somehow, others see you as sarcastic or misinformed. Fortunately, this will pass. Don't hold grudges. Remain communicative. Take action; claim your power. Tonight: Share today's war stories with a pal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★ ★ Make absolutely no financial commitments. There could be a backfire. Another's tightness could affect you. Give a decision a day or so; the picture could change. Unexpected news involves a child, risk or new flirtation. Listen to feedback. Quickly drop any illusions! Tonight: Avoid spending unwisely.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★ ★ ★ You are in better shape than most. The moon beams you into a position to deal with the snafus of the day. Be careful about unleashing sarcasm on someone in charge. Be honest with yourself about a needed change on the homefront. Work toward that. Tonight: Your

smile does wonders.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★ ★ Everything seems so out of whack that pulling into your own space and handling what you must is best. Unexpected news surprises you, but recognize that you might be overly tired and fatigued. Don't allow another to push you beyond your limits. Tonight: Cocoon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★ ★ ★ Stay focused on what you want — no one else can, right now! A friend can be overly assertive, in your opinion. Look past what is happening. Think about the importance of your objectives. Refuse to take confusion and sarcasm personally. Tonight: Where your friends are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★ Pressure intensifies; you may feel like throwing in the towel. Don't. Avoid sharp words if possible. This will pass. Others find you touchy and unpredictable. Trying to find solutions doesn't work. Just let go. What you hear could change radically in the next few days. Tonight: Nose to the grindstone.

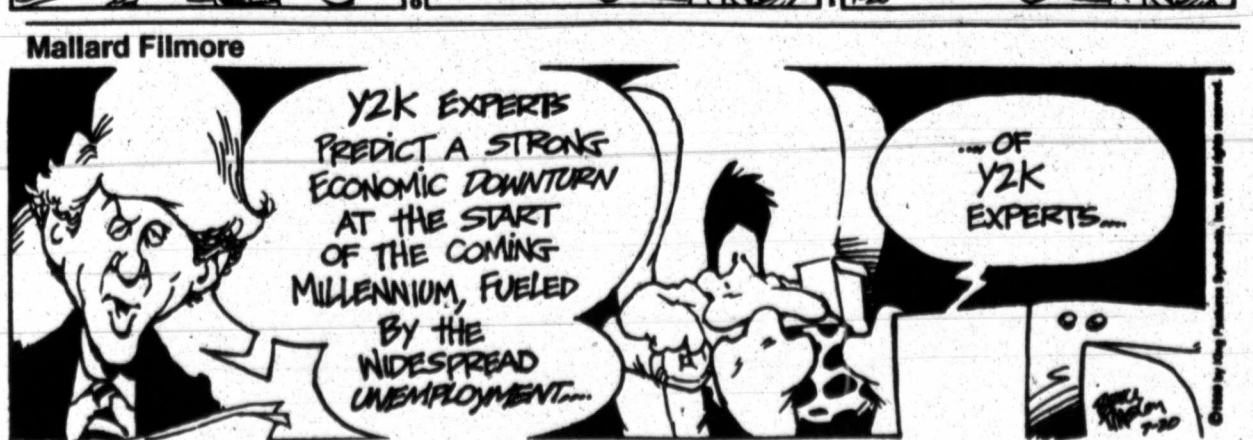
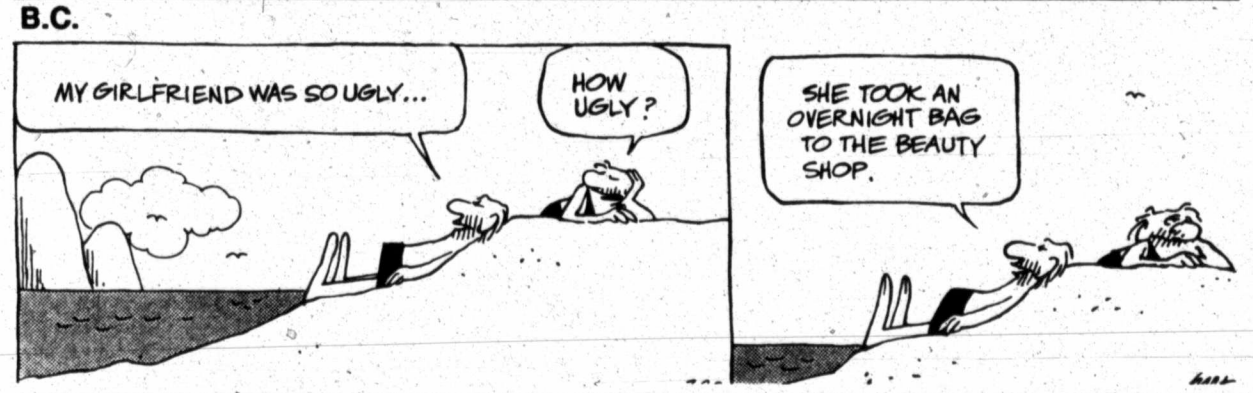
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★ ★ Accept feedback from others. If you listen rather than react, you'll gather unusual information. Read between the lines. Take an opportunity to break a pattern. Question decisions carefully; postpone them if possible. More facts could still be forthcoming. Tonight: Escape to the movies.

BORN TODAY

Actor Jon Lovitz (1957), actor Robin Williams (1952), U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno (1938)

For Better or For Worse



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Plateau's kin

1 Saga

5 Accumulate

10 Matinee stars

12 "48 HRS" actor

13 "Perry Mason" actor

15 Conceit

16 Ron of baseball

17 Miss Piggy, self-referentially

18 Choose

20 Last Stuart ruler

21 Auctions

22 Super-market carriers

23 Caribbean resort

25 Yon thing

28 Tricks

31 Gushing review

32 Wall painting "got it!"

35 Crooner Tormé

36 Lid

37 "Perry Mason" actress

40 Pot contributions

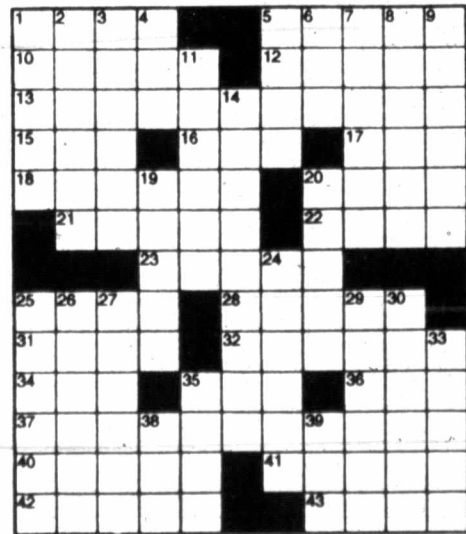
41 Thesis

42 Survives

SWAM	CABOT
PAPA	AMECHE
AGOG	LITTER
CORRALS	ABA
ENTICES	GAS
TEDE	BORE
SPOTS	BENDS
CANE	FOR
ORE	FROGMAN
RAT	JAMAICA
EDISON	MARS
REMARK	OMIT
SENDS	TIDY

Yesterday's answer

14	Browser	29	Get away
19	Thrill	30	Libra's symbol
20	Lower	33	Met activity
24	Coarse fabric	35	Church service
25	Of the clan	38	Put on the line
26	Fidel's home	39	Sandwich choice



STUMPED?

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

Marmaduke



"Okay... It's cooling off now, the sun is going down."

The Family Circus



"We should've stayed inside at the computer. THOSE megabytes weren't from 'skeetos!'"

SPORTS

Notebook

FOOTBALL

LUBBOCK — The East shut out the West 22-0 Saturday night in the Six-Man Coaches All-Star football game at Lowrey Field.

Groom's Wyatt Weinheimer caught two passes for 38 yards for the West. Groom's Josh Evenson was also on the West roster.

The East scored twice from the air. Tradd Strawbridge complete a 14-yard TD pass to Stan Ball in the first quarter. Travis Pruitt tossed 16 yards to Shane Mallory in the fourth quarter.

The East added another score in the fourth quarter on a 5-yard run by Damien Jackson.

Jackson, of Trinidad, was named the game's most valuable offensive player. He rushed for 147 yards on 23 carries.

East linebacker Joe Kosthia of Gordon was named the game's most valuable defensive player.

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK — Cade Morris of Lazbuddie and Joe Burns of Whitharral scored 10 points each to lead the North to a 44-42 win over the South in a Six-Man Coaches Association boys' all-star basketball game last weekend at Monterey.

Ricky Waddell of Zephyr had 11 points to pace the South. Danny York of Mullin chipped in 9 points.

Fort Elliott's Tanner Smith played for the North and scored 5 points. Miami's Chester Hutchinson also saw action for the North.

Halftime score was 17-15, the South's favor. The North went up by five (27-22) after three quarters.

CYCLING

PIAU-ENGALY, France (AP) — Lance Armstrong lost some of his lead in the Tour de France today but remained in command following a victory by Spain's Fernando Escartin in the 15th stage.

Escartin made an early breakaway in the Pyrenees as cycling's most famous race briefly dipped into his home country.

The Spaniard moved into second place in the overall standings, 6 minutes, 19 seconds behind. Armstrong led by 7:44 before today's stage in which he finished fourth.

Switzerland's Alex Zulle, riding for Banesto, finished the stage in second place, and French climber Richard Virenque was third.

BASEBALL

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Ben Grieve hit a two-run homer and Ryan Christenson added a solo shot as the Oakland Athletics withstood homers by Larry Walker and Dante Bichette to beat the Colorado Rockies 10-5 Monday night.

Olmedo Saenz had a two-run double and Tony Phillips and Jason Giambi each added RBI doubles for the A's.

Giambi also had a sacrifice fly and Ramon Hernandez drove in a pair with a single and sacrifice fly, helping Oakland improve to an AL-best 11-6 in interleague play.

Roberto Ramirez (1-1), recalled from Triple A Colorado Springs before the game, lasted just two innings and Colorado lost for the 11th time in 12 road games.

Ramirez allowed six runs and five hits, including Grieve's first homer of the year off a left-hander. Grieve came into the game with just four hits in 49 (.082) at bats against lefties.

Tim Worell (2-1) picked up the win with two scoreless innings in relief of starter Mike Oquist, who gave up five runs and six hits in 4 1-3 innings. Oquist was pitching for the first time since July 4.

Pampa turns back Seminole in extra innings

PLAINVIEW — Heath Miller did not start the game for the Optimist 11-12 Bambino All-Stars in their contest with Seminole in the West Texas State Tournament, but he finished it off for his teammates.

The teams were tied at 10-all at the end of the regulation six innings Monday.

With runners on second and third in the top of the seventh, Miller sent a deep fly ball to center to score the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly. In the bottom of the seventh, he came on to pitch. He allowed no runs or hits and walked just one to be credited with a save as Pampa pulled out an 11-10 victory.

The Pampa All-Stars struggled, but as good teams usually do, found a way to win. Mateo Campos sent the second pitch of the game soaring over the right field wall for a 1-0 Pampa lead.

In the second inning, Pampa wasted a double by Keaton Hutto. Consecutive doubles in the third inning by Seth Foster and Tyler Doughty followed by a passed ball and a wild pitch added two more runs to make the score 3-0 in Pampa's favor.

Bambino Baseball

Campos started for Pampa and cruised through the Seminole lineup until the ninth batter singled and the leadoff batter doubled him home in the third inning. A fine throw by Foster after an errant pitch by Campos caught a runner trying to steal home to end the inning with Pampa up 3-1.

Seminole took the lead with four runs in the fourth inning. Tyson Hickman relieved Campos. He hit the first batter, walked the second and gave up a booming home run to center in the third. A walk, a single and another hit batter brought Doughty to the mound. Doughty walked in a run, but struck out the next two batters to leave Pampa behind 5-3 after four innings.

Pampa erupted for seven runs in the fifth inning to regain the lead. Campos reached base on an infield single and Shea Brown walked. Foster singled Campos home with Brown stopping at second. A single by Doughty scored both runners with Foster hustling home from first. Doughty took second

on the throw to the plate. Jake Craig singled to score Doughty, took second on the throw home, went to third on an overthrow and scored when the catcher threw wildly to third base.

After a strikeout, Eric McClure walked and stole second. He took third on an infield single by Miller. Miller alertly went to second on the throw to third trying to get McClure. Both runners came home on a double by Campos. Doughty mowed Seminole down in order in the bottom of the fifth to give Pampa what looked to be a safe 10-5 lead.

After their bats boomed in the fifth, Pampa went out meekly in order in the sixth. Rickey Gattis came in to pitch the bottom of the sixth for Pampa. He struck out the first batter and an error and three base on balls brought Campos back to pitch. Campos struck out the first batter and had two strikes in the second when he hit the batter to force in a run. He walked the next batter, putting the winning

run on first base.

The next Seminole batter followed with a double which went under the left field fence tying the score — a break for Pampa since the runner on first was off with the crack of the bat and might have scored the winning run. Campos stiffened to strike out the last batter.

In the deciding seventh inning, Eric Kingcade was hit by a pitched ball. Christopher Moody was sent in as a pinch runner. McClure doubled to right center field sending Moody to third and setting up Miller's sacrifice fly. Moody tagged up to third and scored what turned out to be the winning run on Miller's blast. McClure also tagged up and went to third. He scored an insurance run when Brown doubled up the middle.

Things were tense for Pampa in the bottom of the seventh. The first batter flied to Hickman patrolling left field. The second batter hit a high popup which Campos grabbed at shortstop. Miller walked the third batter. The next batter hit a sharp, bad hop grounder to the right side

which Kingcade knocked down and, although hurt on the play, flipped to Campos covering second for his second consecutive game-ending force out.

Campos with two runs scored and three hits — which included a double, home run and three RBI — led the Pampa 13-hit attack. Doughty scored twice, singled, doubled and had three RBI. Foster had two hits, including a double and one RBI. He scored two runs.

The winning pitcher was Campos and Miller earned the save. Campos allowed one earned run and three hits. He struck out seven and walked five. Doughty struck out four and walked one. He allowed no runs or hits. Hickman permitted four runs on two hits. He walked two and hit two batters. Gattis allowed no earned runs while striking out one and walking three.

Pampa faces Andrews, who defeated Lockney 11-0, in the early game at 6 Wednesday night. The winner of the West Texas State Bambino Tournament advances to Springdale, Ark. for the Southwest Regional Bambino Tournament.

T-ball team



Pampa Communications and Satellite team was a member of the T-ball (5-6 year-old) baseball league in the Pampa Kids & Youth Club this summer. Team members are (front row, from left) Blake Sark, Jacob Day, Roper Barr, Chris Harris and Cali Gibson; (middle row, from left) Erick Lewis, Cole Wilson, Tyler Fry, Brennan Dickinson and Garrett Ericson; (back row, from left) Eugene Polasek (assistant coach); Jonathan Polasek, Madilyn Shult, Danielle Zuniga and Jeanna Zuniga (coach). Not pictured is Bob Ericson (assistant coach).

Rangers outslug Giants

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — When rookie starter Ryan Glynn failed to get out of the fifth inning despite a four-run lead, the Texas Rangers bullpen seemed to be in for a long night.

But Esteban Loaiza gave his bullpen buddies a break, going the final 4 2-3 innings to help the Rangers to a 14-7 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Monday night.

"When I came in, the manager (Johnny Oates) said he wanted me to go hitter to hitter and get out fast," said Loaiza, who picked up his first victory of the season. "He said he wanted me to finish, and that's what I wanted to do, to do the best job possible."

The Rangers fell behind when Glynn allowed a three-run homer to Barry Bonds in the first inning. After the Rangers rallied, Glynn took a 7-3 lead into the fifth, but did not qualify for the victory because he was lifted after issuing consecutive walks with one out.

Glynn knew Oates wanted him to throw strikes, and when the rookie didn't, Oates took him out.

"To be the pitcher we want him to be, he's got to throw more strikes," Oates said. "If you throw the ball over the plate, you've got a chance. If you walk 'em, you have no chance."

Loaiza (1-1) gave up four runs and five hits to pick up his first victory since beating Detroit on Aug. 31 last year.

"He threw strikes in the game when we had a lot of runs," Oates said. "I can live with strikes. You can't get outs unless you throw strikes."

Scoring plenty of runs didn't hurt, either. The Rangers' previous three victories were one-run thrillers, so they gave themselves a break with a 17-hit attack.

Rookie Ruben Mateo had a career-high four hits and Mark McLemore had three hits and three RBIs.

"It was good to see the bats come alive," Oates said. "We got behind early, then we did good things to get back in it." Ivan Rodriguez also had three hits. Juan Gonzalez, Rusty Greer, Lee Stevens and Mateo drove in two runs apiece to help the Rangers to their fourth victory in five games.

"We have one of the best offensive teams in baseball," Gonzalez said. "Tonight everybody saw it. We need that kind of offense every night."

San Francisco has dropped five of six after winning 10 of 12. Texas came back against Giants starter Chris Brock (6-8) with a two-run first inning. Greer had an RBI single and Gonzalez added a run-scoring double.

The Rangers knocked Brock out of the game with one out in the second. McLemore tied it 3-3 with an RBI single, then Rodriguez gave the Rangers the lead for good with a run-scoring single.

"I didn't have very good stuff," Brock said. "You have to chalk it up to just one bad game and go on."

Gonzalez, the first batter faced by reliever Felix Rodriguez, hit a sacrifice fly to make it 5-3. Mateo's two-run double in the third extended the lead to 7-3.

Umpires are in a muddled mess

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball's major and minor league umpires are in a muddled mess.

While some American League umpires are trying to rescind their resignations, disgruntled minor league umpires postponed a decision on a strike date until today at the earliest.

Two high-ranking baseball officials, speaking on the condition they not be identified, said Monday they were told some AL umpires either attempted to rescind their resignations or discussed the possibility with the AL office.

AL president Gene Budig declined comment. Umpires union head Richie Phillips said: "You'll have to talk to them about that."

Phillips said last week that 57 of the 68 major league umpires had resigned, effective Sept. 2, and that he expected most of the remaining nine members of his union to do the same. Two umpires who were hired during the 1979 strike are not union members.

Phillips hasn't released a list of the umpires who are quitting.

Commissioner Bud Selig isn't expected to respond to the resignations until perhaps later this week. His advisers said he will accept the resignations and instruct his staff to hire new umpires to complete the season and officiate the postseason.

Umpires think that by walking out at the season's most critical time, they will put pressure on baseball to negotiate a new labor contract to replace the deal that expires Dec. 31.

Minor league umpires who

claim to have formed a union — management has refused to recognize it — didn't set a strike date during their two-hour conference call. Phillips said they will hold another conference call Tuesday, but he didn't know if a strike date would be set then.

"We talked over a lot of issues," he said. "As far as decisions and strategies, they deferred any decision until sometime (today)."

Nineteen umpires from 16 minor leagues, a group headed by Mike Billings of the Triple-A International League, issued a statement calling conditions "deplorable."

"The Minor League Umpires Union supports the major league umpires, but certainly does not exist for that purpose," said the statement, released by Phillips' office.

Billings said issues included salary: \$4,500 for first-year umpires in Rookie League and \$12,500 for starting umpires at Triple-A. He compared that to the American Hockey League, which pays starting linesmen \$41,000.

Minor league umpires get \$15-\$20 in meal money, he said, a \$2 decrease from last year. AHL officials get \$62 in meal and tip money.

He also said that while AHL officials get private rooms at Marriotts and Hiltons, minor league umpires are "ordered to sleep two to a room in second-rate motor lodges."

Pat O'Conner, a vice president with the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the governing body of the minors, refuted some of Billings'

complaints. "There are inaccuracies in the numbers that are designed to mislead public opinion," O'Conner said.

O.M. I. Water Dogs



The O.M.I. Water Dogs competed in the 7-8 (Coach-Pitch) year-old league this season in the Pampa Kids & Youth Club. Team members are (front row, from left) Dylan Hendrix, Corban Brown, Rebecca Taylor and Amanda Evans; (middle row, from left) Crystal Collis, Alex Torres, Tyler Alexander, Travis Hagerman and Amber Adams; (back row, from left) coach Johnny Ferguson, Mikala Furgason, Samantha Turley and coach Gary Turley. Not shown is Christopher Portillo.

Coaching legend is dead at 80

HOBBS, N.M. (AP) — Ralph Tasker, one of the winningest and most revered coaches in high school basketball history, has died following a battle with cancer. He was 80.

Tasker, who had his final birthday just four days before his death at home Monday, was fighting pneumonia at the end, said longtime friend and assistant Don Abbott of Farmington, who drove to the Tasker home Sunday to be with the coach.

When he retired in 1998, Tasker had the third-best high school coaching record in history.

"He basically changed the way the game of basketball was played," said Abbott, who had known Tasker since playing for him at Hobbs High School in the mid-1950s.

"He made better coaches out of all his opponents because of his ability to get the best out of them as well as out of his own teams. He is well respected all over — not only among high school coaches, but college coaches have used some of his innovations," Abbott said.

And Tasker had a personal touch that fostered devotion in his players. Ross Black was a junior in 1949 when Tasker coached Lovington to a state championship.

"He was the ultimate in commitment and dedication, not only to the game, but in particular to the players," Black said by phone from his Lovington home. "I came from a broken home," Black said. "A lot of people find a way to go bad in those circumstances. I was headed that way until I met Ralph Tasker."

Tasker's teams were best known for their defense, especially the full-court press, which forced countless turnovers and fueled the famous Hobbs fast break.

Russ Gilmore, who became the Hobbs basketball coach in May 1998 when Tasker retired, said he had heard of Tasker's Eagles when he was a child growing up in Kansas.

"It's because of him and what he built here, that's why I'm here," Gilmore said. "The tradition is so long and storied here, most of these kids want to grow up and be a Hobbs Eagle basketball player. It's just kind of expected."

Jim Hulsman, who coaches basketball at Albuquerque High School, says Tasker was the first to push New Mexico basketball into the limelight.

"New Mexico was virtually unknown basketballwise up until Ralph Tasker took that job at Hobbs," Hulsman said. "He started going into this type of press-type defense and the rest of the state had a hard time handling it. Tasker started putting stats on the board that you couldn't miss nationally."

BASEBALL

National League

At A Glance

By The Associated Press

All Times EDT

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	57	37	.606	—
New York	54	40	.574	3
Philadelphia	50	41	.549	5 1/2
Montreal	34	55	.382	20 1/2
Florida	35	58	.376	21 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	55	37	.598	—
Cincinnati	51	39	.567	3
Pittsburgh	46	46	.500	9
St. Louis	46	47	.495	9 1/2
Milwaukee	45	46	.495	9 1/2
Chicago	43	47	.478	11

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
San Francisco	51	42	.548	—
Arizona	49	45	.521	2 1/2
San Diego	47	44	.516	3
Los Angeles	42	49	.462	8
Colorado	41	50	.451	9

Sunday's Games

Toronto 3, Atlanta 2
Boston 11, Florida 9
Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 6, Montreal 0
Detroit 9, Cincinnati 8, 10 innings
Kansas City 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Houston 2, Cleveland 0
Minnesota 5, St. Louis 2
Milwaukee 5, Chicago White Sox 4
Oakland 3, Colorado 2
Seattle 8, Arizona 7, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 6, Los Angeles 5, 10 innings
Texas 5, San Francisco 4
San Diego 6, Anaheim 3
N.Y. Mets 8, Baltimore 6

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Philadelphia 16, Tampa Bay 3
Toronto 8, Atlanta 7, 10 innings
Los Angeles 12, Pittsburgh 7
Detroit 7, Cincinnati 6
Montreal 6, N.Y. Yankees 4
N.Y. Mets 4, Baltimore 1
Florida 10, Boston 7
Kansas City 10, Chicago Cubs 2
St. Louis 8, Minnesota 4
Houston 3, Cleveland 2, 11 innings
Texas 14, San Francisco 7
Chicago White Sox 10, Milwaukee 8, 12 innings
San Diego 4, Anaheim 1, 10 innings
Seattle 7, Arizona 5
Oakland 10, Colorado 5

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Scoreboard

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All Times EDT

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB	
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Oakland	47	45	.511	5
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103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., 1531 N. Nelson, new paint, tile, wallpaper. Marie, Century 21, Realtor, 665-4180.

3 houses for sale. Owner w/ carry w/\$800 down. Reasonable mo. payments. 665-4270 tv. message

4 bdr., 2 ba., cent. heat/air, woodburner, dishwasher, etc. 665-4842

Jim Davidson, Realtor Century 21-Pampa Realty 669-1863, 669-0007 www.homeweb.com

Bobbie Nisbet Realtor 665-7037

BRICK 3 bdr., 1 ba., c h&a, 2 sheds, 1140 Cinderella. 669-6988.

BY Owner, 2718 Cherokee, 3 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., 2 car gar., new roof, new soffit & paint, new gar. door & opener, fr., utility rm., new Maytag dishwasher, RCA satellite dish & receivers convey. \$68,500. 669-7632.

FSBO 3-1-1 Brick Doll House Completely redecorated inside. All new appl. & floor cov. 2128 N. Zimmers. 665-6534

Gail W. Sanders Corral Real Estate 665-6596

Century 21 More POWER to you: For All Your Real Estate Needs 669-0007

SPACIOUS 4 bdr. home. Lovely yard with cellar. Bargain! 2312 Cherokee. 665-8249, 669-1480.

105 Acreage
GRAY Co., 10 acres, near Lefors off Tumbleweed Rd. 8.64% interest. \$141/mo. Owner finance. Forest America Group 1-800-275-7376.

114 Recre. Veh.
Bill's Custom Campers 930 S. Hobart Pampa, Tx. 79065 806-665-4315

1998 Wanderer 22' Travel Trailer \$9500.00 665-9394

'79 Holiday Rambler mini mth., fully self cont., slps 6, micro., new carpet/upholstery, Koehler gen., refrig. air, 73 I/O boat, 2624 W. Kentucky, 669-7085

115 Trailer Parks
TUMBLEWEED ACRES
Free First Months Rent Storm shelters, fenced lots, and storage units available. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos
CULBERSON-STOWERS
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Used Cars
West Texas Ford Lincoln-Mercury 701 W. Brown 665-8404

Bill Allison Auto Sales Your Nearly New Car Store 1200 N. Hobart 665-3992

Quality Sales 1300 N. Hobart 669-0433 Make your next car a Quality Car

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Chamberlain Motor Co. Hwy. 287 E. Clarendon 806-874-3527 Jerry Don Mackie

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92 Ford Explorer 4x4 Eddie Bauer, sunroof, CD, leather, low miles. 1130 Williston, 669-2346.

121 Trucks
84-Ford 1/2-ton pickup, stretch cab, super nice, new motor. \$4,295 obo. 1985 Olds \$900. Fiber-glass boat, 6 cyl., 3 carbs \$2500. 82 Chevy pickup \$2200. 665-3138.

122 Motorcycles
CYCLE Shop. Motorcycles, ATV flats fixed. Tire Sale. 817 N. Cedar, 274-2230.

124 Tires & Access.
OGDEN AND SON
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Power Stroke Diesels 94-99 50 h.p. & 107 ft. lbs. torque. 1-2 MPG better mileage \$245.95 computer chip. 1-800-873-2447 www.gocoastal.com

125 Parts & Access.
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99 Stor. Bldgs.
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B & W Storage 10x16 10x24 2200 Alcock 669-7275 669-1623

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Names in the News

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Will Smith and Mike Tyson have signed up to face-off as presenters of "The Source Hip-Hop Music Awards," airing in August on UPN.

The awards show, created and produced by The Source music magazine, is to include performances by Sean "Puffy" Combs, Master P, DMX & Ruff Ryders and Nas.

Other scheduled presenters at the Aug. 18 ceremony in Los Angeles include Lauryn Hill, Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott, model Tyson Beckford and Vince Carter of the Toronto Raptors.

LENOX, Mass. (AP) — Dick Clark's dream of celebrating all of American music under one roof has hit a snag. The roof is gone.

The National Music Foundation has agreed to sell its 63-acre compound in Lenox to the Shakespeare & Co. theater troupe for \$5.1 million, officials of both groups said Monday.

The foundation moved to the property amid great hoopla in 1993 with plans to build a \$30 million music center. But with the property sale, it will have no immediate way to advance its vision.

Clark, the host of "American Bandstand," is the foundation's board chairman and a leading contributor. He wasn't available for comment Monday, according to a staffer at Dick Clark Productions.

Foundation President Gloria Pennington said raising money to maintain and develop the campus would be difficult.

"We're looking at a different way to implement the mission," added Programming Director Thomas Heany.

For now, the foundation will work through its offices in New York, focusing on providing lesson plans for music teachers via the Internet.

LONGVIEW, Wash. (AP) — Folks in Longview can't wait for Robert De Niro and Cuba Gooding Jr. to show up and begin filming their next movie.

Forget the glamour — they just want the cash.

"This will be phenomenal income to the whole community," said Frankie Sherer, director of sales for the DoubleTree Inn in neighboring Kelso, which has rented 75 rooms to 20th Century Fox production crews.

Officials hope De Niro and Gooding's film, "Navy Diver," pumps as much into the local economy as the recent film "Snow Falling on Cedars," which generated \$1.5 million and employed 200 people.

As many as 900 locals could be hired here to depict scenes in New York's Harlem neighborhood and a U.S. Navy base. A June casting call drew 1,600 applicants, most of them from Portland, Ore., said Emily Dunlap, extras casting director for Portland-based Background Action.

Set construction for "Navy Diver" is to start next week. The biggest project is a full-scale naval station — 14 buildings and two piers — to be built near Rainier, about 50 miles north of Portland, Ore.

The structures will be destroyed when filming is complete.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Producer Norman Lear says he will fund a scholarship for comedians with physical disabilities.

The first winner will be announced at the 17th Media Access Disability Awards on Oct. 24, Fern Field, co-founder and co-chairman of the awards, announced Monday.

The scholarship will help pay for classes, demo reels, transportation, union dues and other expenses, Field said.

Lear helped produce such breakthrough sitcoms such as "All in the Family" and "Maude" as well as the films "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "The Princess Bride," among others.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Pint-sized Olympic gold medalist Dominique Moceanu has back-flipped out of the upcoming U.S. Gymnastics Championships.

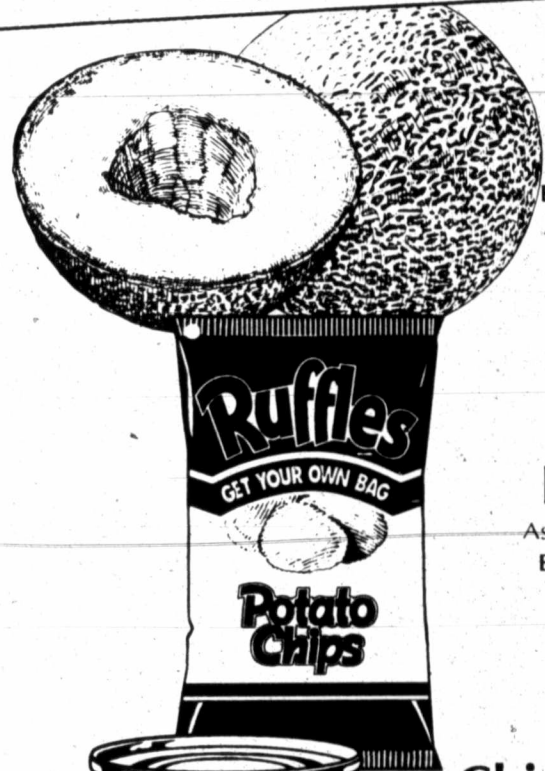
Moceanu will have arthroscopic surgery on her right knee next month in Houston, preventing her from competing in the August 25-28 meet in Sacramento, Calif.

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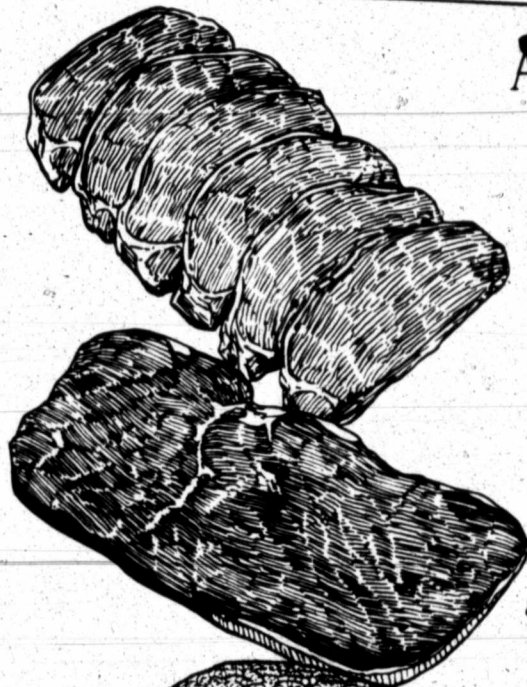
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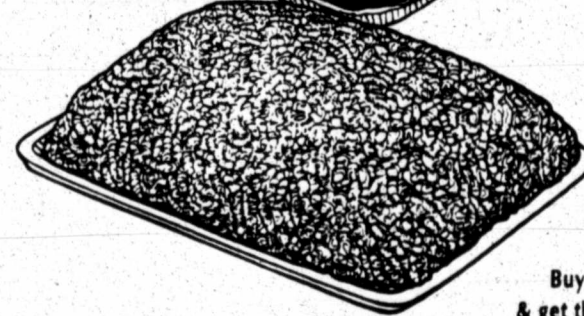


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Campbell's, 10.75 oz.
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Ground Round
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A+ Spring Water
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Assorted Varieties, 64 oz.
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Albertsons White Bread
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Light or Cocktail, 11.3 oz.
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