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Pampa

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PEDC official disagrees with Federal Reserve speaker

Pampa's economic development director doesn't think much of a new idea to tax local subsidies for new businesses.

The national economy is a casualty of the economic war among cities in this country, according to Melvin Burstein, a Minnesota lawyer. Speaking at the Federal Reserve Bank's urban conference on economic

development this month in San Antonio, Burstein said business incentives such as tax abatements hurt the economy.

"Business creates jobs," Burstein said, "not government."

He said there is a bill pending in Congress that would tax subsidies offered by communities wanting to attract new business. "Congress should end this eco-

nomie war by taxing the subsidies," Burstein said.

His only complaint about the bill in Congress was that it did not tax subsidies such as tax abatements and deferred taxes at a high enough rate.

"Most tax abatements are good," Pampa Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Bill Ready

said today. "What you are doing is abating taxes that would not be there otherwise. If a business does come in they have employees, payroll taxes and cash injections in the community. Otherwise you have a raw piece of land with nobody paying taxes."

Jeff Moseley of the Texas Department of Economic Development agreed with

Burstein that such subsidies might be poor economic policy, but he didn't see them ending any time soon.

Moseley said economic development is accomplished at the local level, not the national level.

He termed such tax incentives a necessary evil.

"It would be nice if we didn't (See ECONOMY, Page 2)

High today in the lower 90 degree range.
Low tonight in the mid-60s.
For more weather details, see Page 2.

PAMPA -- The Top O' Texas Stock Show Association will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Pampa High School Ag Room for a potluck supper. RSVP Sharon James at 665-5946.

LEFORS -- Both the Lefors Independent School District Board of Directors and the Lefors City Council have meetings tonight.

The school board will meet to discuss the revised substitute teachers list. They will also review a depository contract and discuss personnel matters.

City leaders will meet to hear an update from Jarrett Atkinson of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission on a state grant for water improvements. They will meet again Thursday evening to discuss gas bills from Dyngy Midstream, the company that wholesales gas to the city.

FRITCH -- The Lake Meredith Aquatic and Wildlife Museum reopened.

The museum was closed briefly for repairs, according to Frances Mack, museum director.

"We have moved the displays that were in the Aquarium room into the Exhibit Hall and are excited about the new arrangement," Mack said today.

The Aquarium Room will be closed until repairs are complete, Mack said.

Julian Rojas Acevedo Sr., 71, father of a Pampa resident.

Elizabeth R. 'Betty' Hermesmeier, 57, Groom homemaker.

Michael G. Loner, 42, Groom resident.

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(special photo by Judy Elliott)
Taking advantage of cooler early morning temperatures 4-year-old Bailey Wichert gives her dog Duffy a ride. As the sun warmed, Bailey headed for her baby sitter's and her parents, Rodney and Gerilyn, headed for school. Both parents are teachers at Pampa High School.

Museum to spend Evening Under the Stars

White Deer Land Museum Foundation will sponsor its annual fund-raiser, "Evening Under the Stars IV," from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday in the street fronting the museum at 112-116 S. Cuyler in downtown Pampa.

The evening will begin with a social hour at 7 p.m., salsas and dips prepared by foundation and advisory board members will be served.

Chefs for the evening will be John Lee Bell and John Chaney assisted by Bret Bell and Lance DeFever, according to museum officials.

The team will serve smoked brisket with traditional accompaniments of potato salad, beans, relishes and

rolls. Dessert will be star cookies prepared by Anita

During intermission two

Area artist shows at White Deer Land Museum
The pastels of Rhonda Bailey Dittfurth of Higgins will be at the White Deer Land Museum gallery starting Wednesday. Dittfurth is a 1978 graduate of Stinnett High School and is a 1982 graduate of West Texas State University with a degree in journalism and mass communication.

Dittfurth has studied under Amy Winton and Janie Hathoot. She regularly shows her works at the Naturally Yours Gallery in Lipscomb and has exhibited at NBC Bank in Pampa and at the Museum of the Plains in Perryton.

Her work entitled "The Promise" will be auctioned at the White Deer Land Museum benefit street dance on Saturday.

Urbaneyzk.
Bill Arrington's "Rocking Chair Cowboys" and John Mann's "Magic City Cowboy Band" will perform Bob Willis western-swing style music

garden accessories will be auctioned off -- a brown bear bench and an outdoor wood-burning fireplace called a chiminea, museum officials said. A painting by Rhonda

Bailey Dittfurth and the centerpieces used for the table decorations will also be auctioned.

The White Deer Land Museum, which will be open for tours during the evening, will feature "The Red River War, 1874-75" display in the exhibit room and the pastel paintings of Rhonda Bailey Dittfurth, daughter of Joe and Nell Bailey of Pampa, in the art gallery.

Admission will be \$15 per person. Tickets are available from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the museum, museum officials said. Proceeds will go to the White Deer Land Museum Foundation for the benefit of the museum. For more information, call (806) 669-8041.

World War II couple to celebrate 52 years of marriage come September

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Former members of the military forces who were stationed at Pampa Army Air Field while receiving pilot training during World War II gathered in Pampa last week for the annual reunion. The former trainees, along with their spouses and family members, were in Pampa to reminisce about times long ago and to visit with old friends.

One of the highlights of the reunion was a segment on "How we met", in relation to the couples who attended the reunion.

A Pampa girl, Naomi Exline Pishioneri, was working at the Pampa swimming pool in 1945. She was a senior in high school.

"One day three soldiers

from the base came to the pool. One was Al Pishioneri. We met and had an interesting conversation. He came in quite often. After a period of time he started to come to my home on Garland. The family liked him and enjoyed his company," said Naomi Pishioneri.

She said before he left Pampa for Lubbock Army Air Base, where he would be discharged, he told her he had a brother who flew with the U.S. Navy, who might like to correspond with her. "Since I never wrote to boys first, I told him that if he (the brother) would write to me, I would answer his letter," she said.

After a period of time, she received a letter from him and she answered it. She said they corresponded for almost a year. Al's brother, Bruno,

traveled to Texas during this time frame to meet her, staying about two weeks in Pampa. The couple continued to write regularly after his departure.

She said the two young people found a deep attraction for each other and were soon engaged.

In July, 1947, Bruno sent for her, and she went to Hillwood City, Penn., where she stayed with a family member.

On Sept. 3, the couple was married, and moved into the house that they still call home. They have two children, a daughter, Cynthia, and a son, Michael. On Sept. 3 the couple will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary.

While the Pishioneri couple was unable to attend the reunion this year to tell their story in person, they sent it to be shared as those in attendance told their stories.

Californian back in jail

WHEELER -- A convicted felon who moved to California is serving 10 years today in a Texas prison for probation violation in Wheeler County.

Melvin Hill was convicted in 31st District Court in Wheeler County of possession of a controlled substance in 1989. He had been brought back to court for probation violation once and had his probation continued.

Hill moved to California and did not report to the court nor did he his pay fines, court costs or probation fees since 1994.

Judge Grainger McIlhany, senior judge of the 31st District, sentenced Hill Wednesday to the full 10 year sentence given during his original trial.

McIlhany was the original presiding judge in the case, according to court records.

Wheeler County grand jury indicts 9

WHEELER -- A Wheeler County grand jury indicted 11 this month on charges ranging from arson to drug charges.

Juan Benavides, 54, of Shamrock, was indicted on three counts of attempted murder.

Pamela Deltour, 27, of Shamrock, was indicted for tampering with government records. James Wayne Hogan, 24, of Shamrock, was indicted on charges of driving while intoxicated, third offense.

Craig I. Jaje, 39, of Aurora, Colo., was indicted for possession of a controlled substance. Christopher Rivas, 29, of Phoenix, Ariz., was indicted for possession of a controlled substance.

Randy Smith, 45, of Perryton, was indicted for theft.

Floyd Willie Scales, 24, of Shamrock, was indicted for arson.

Sibyl Clark of Wheeler, was indicted for theft.

Lewis Robert Arrowood of Tempe, Ariz., was indicted on charges of forgery.

Bugging out



Amy Adams, 9-year-old daughter of Shane and Diane Adams of Pampa, busied herself Saturday at the Pampa Car Show at Coronado Center by pulling bugs off the radiator of a 1934 Ford belonging to Delbert Wilson of Childress. Ed Ringaring of ALCO, president of the Coronado Center Merchants Association, today termed the car show a success. He said this year's car show raised \$600 for Meals on Wheels.

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AUGUST 23 1999

Bret weakens as it tracks west over rural Texas

RIVIERA, Texas (AP) — A blustery shadow of its former self, Hurricane Bret was downgraded to a tropical storm today as it plodded across a sparsely populated swath of southern Texas.

The storm, the biggest hurricane to strike Texas in nearly 20 years, continued to drench the region with thunderous squalls today, but no injuries were reported since Bret made landfall about 6 p.m. Sunday in sparsely populated Kenedy County.

Jesse Salinas rode out the storm in Sarita — the county's only town — at the home of his neighbor, Margarita Learma. Wind shook the 50-year-old house and blew beneath its pier-and-beam foundation, but spared it major damage.

"It sounded like a big jet engine was coming down on top of us. It was very scary," Salinas said.

There was little structural damage elsewhere in the town of 460 people, but power lines and trees were down, including several large trees around the courthouse square.

Rainfall up to 10 inches had been reported this morning, with radar estimates up to 25 inches in some areas, and flooding was expected, the National Weather Service said. There was still a chance of isolated tornadoes.

Damage was substantial in Falfurrias, about 60 miles southwest of Corpus Christi, Mayor Michael Guerra said.

The eye passed over the town of about 5,800 residents about 3 a.m., ripping roofs from homes and businesses, he said. Up to 90 percent of the town had no electricity, he said.

"We have a lot of debris and live power lines in the roads, and we've had four convenience stores lose the canopies from their gas pumps. And some of the less-structurally sound buildings have lost roofs and windows," he said.

Power outages also were reported from the state's southern tip near Brownsville and McAllen to the counties surrounding Corpus Christi, said Jessica Mahaffey, spokeswoman for Central Power and Light Co. in Corpus Christi. The company serves much of South Texas.

"The winds are still howling out there," Ms. Mahaffey said. Repair crews have been working as wind conditions permit, and would be joined by others today, she said.

Workers from federal and state agencies gathered this morning to move into the storm-blown areas to assess the damage.

As of 10 a.m. CDT today, Bret, downgraded to a tropical storm, had top sustained wind of 45 mph and some higher gusts, the National Hurricane Center said. The former Category 4 storm made landfall with wind blowing at 125 mph.

On Sunday, Bret unleashed its power on the deserted Padre Island National Seashore, 70 miles south of Corpus Christi, before continuing into desolate, sparsely populated ranch land.

This morning, the center of Bret moved across rural southern Texas, going west-northwest at 5 mph. It was expected to turn westward toward Mexico.

Thousands of residents from Brownsville to Corpus Christi had fled north and west as the

hurricane approached. Windows throughout the region were taped and boarded in anticipation of the worst storm since Hurricane Allen, another Category 4 storm that struck roughly the same area in 1980, causing \$55 million in damage.

"I think it was overpublicized," said Ralph Huff, who defied conventional wisdom — and an evacuation order — and stayed in his cinder block home overlooking Baffin Bay, just east of this small agricultural town. His phone and power were still working late Sunday.

Even though the storm's center passed less than 10 miles to the south, "there wasn't even any storm surge," he said.

The 125 mph wind, with gusts blowing even higher, extended 40 miles out from the storm when it first hit land. Forecasters feared possible tornadoes, a foot or more of rain and a storm surge that could approach 10 to 15 feet as it moved over land.

Before the tightly focused storm made land, National Weather Service forecaster Jim Hoke said it had "clear potential of producing major disaster." He compared the storm to Hurricane Andrew, which battered Florida in 1992.

As Bret arrived, whitecaps crashed into Corpus Christi's seawall and palm trees along the coast bent and frayed with the gusts. A few surfers in Corpus Christi even took to the storm-fed waves.

For those who fled, shelters were set up inland in San Antonio, and hotels offered discounts for evacuees with proof of residence.

Beanie Baby Raffle



(Community Camera photo by Jennifer Scoggin)

Pampa High School's Safe and Drug Free Schools Advisory Board members will raffle off Beanie Babies at Wal-Mart on Saturday. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward the Red Ribbon Week at Pampa High school. Beanie Babies were donated by Julie's Hallmark. Above with Beanie Babies are Karla Howell, PHS counselor; B. J. Minyard, PHS student; and Marisol Silva, PHS student.

Go straight, come clean: D-FY-IT



The Pampa News will be publishing a special edition this fall to greet the new millennium and say goodbye to the old.

Veterans Salute

is to be a part of this edition. We want to recognize all the men and women that have served or are presently serving in the Armed Forces. There is no charge for this. What you'll need to do is bring in a photo taken during the years of service (example to the left) and the information listed below. Deadline for photos and information is August 26th. Photos may be picked up after September 20th. Join with the



Pampa News in **Saluting Our Veterans.**

Name.....

Branch of Service.....

Rank.....

Years Served.....

or if Presently Serving

Year of Enlistment.....

If War Time, Name of War.....

Honors.....

Location of Boot Camp.....

Special Memory (due to limited space this must be brief).....

.....

Phone.....



Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literacy Council office will be open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. For more information, call 665-6000.

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.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON

Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center will offer Volunteer Training for people interested in working with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other crime victims. Training sessions will be from 6-9 p.m. beginning Tuesday, Aug. 24 at TCC, 310 S. Cuyler. For more information, call Diane Wells at 669-1131 or 1-800-658-2796. RSVP by Aug. 17.

LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Guided tours of Lovett Memorial Library will be conducted from 1-5 p.m. and from 6-9 p.m. each Wednesday throughout the month of August. Find out what the library has, where it is and how to use it. For more information, call 669-5780.

PAS DANCE

Pampa Area Singles will hold a potluck dinner and dance Aug. 28 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the dance will be from 8-11 p.m. Entertainment will be by Dee O'Kelley (Karaoke Country). Cost is \$5 per person. The event will be alcohol and smoke free.

NR SEMINAR

The Institute for Natural Resources will sponsor a seminar, "The Craving Brain: Chocolate, Addictions, Mood and Appetite," from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Radisson Inn in Amarillo and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 16 at Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock. The seminar is approved for RNs, LVNs, LPNs, pharmacists, dietitians, DTRs, psychologists, social workers and counselors. The program is worth seven hours to nurses and six hours to other professionals. Tuition is \$59 for participants who preregister and \$72 at the door. For more information, call (510) 450-1650.

DON AND SYBIL HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and BSA Health

System will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic Aug. 30, at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, Inc., 916 N. Crest, and Sept. 13 at First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along

with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 359-4673, (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

The Gray County Red Cross would like to thank the following people and businesses for their donations towards our First Annual Fun Day: Top of Texas Ice Co., Dollar General, Homeland, Hastings, Briarwood Church, Donna's Country Candles, Knight of Columbus, Pampa Fire Department, National Guard, City of Pampa, Pampa Optimist Boy's Club, Pampa Police Department, Macedonia Baptist Church, Alco, Bill Hildebrandt, Assembly of God Church, Perryton Equity of Canadian, KGRO-KOMX Radio Station, Sirloin Stockade, Peggy's Place, Hoagies Deli, Jay's Drive In, Subway, Dyers BBQ, Clint & Sons, Black Gold, Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

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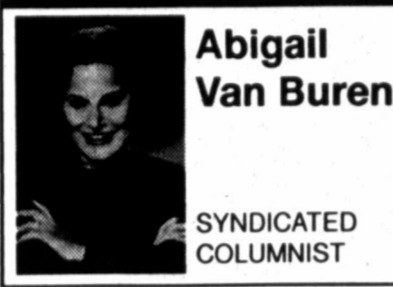
Adults Who Volunteer Make Grand Friends for Youngsters

DEAR ABBY: You have encouraged adults to volunteer as mentors to young people. I'm writing to describe a program in our community that may serve as a model for others.

The program is called "Grandfriends." It's a partnership between our local senior center, which recruits the seniors; a local middle school, which selects the students; and our local hospital system, which provides funding for after-school activities. In other communities, the seniors might be recruited through a church, synagogue or other organization.

A counselor at the middle school identifies students who might benefit, then matches each student with a senior based on interest profiles each has filled out. The seniors and students are introduced at an after-school get-together. After that, they meet one-on-one after school once a week or so and do whatever the two of them want to do — shopping, going for a snack, going to a game, doing homework, working on a computer or just talking. Once a month, we hold an after-school get-together at the school, featuring some type of craft project, often with a community service theme. (Last February, we made valentines to send to veterans.) We also organize group tours to local points of interest.

The real magic of the program is the one-on-one bond that forms between the students and seniors. I urge other communities to explore this idea.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

Abby, I would be happy to respond to anyone who would like information on starting such a program in his or her community.

JANE RADATZ,
CO-COORDINATOR,
GRANDFRIENDS PROGRAM,
POWAY, CALIF.

DEAR JANE: Active seniors are an untapped resource, able to offer wisdom, humor, talent and love to young people who need it. I am sure that variations on the "Grandfriends" program are available in many cities. However, if there is none, those who are interested in starting one should send a business-size (No. 10) self-addressed stamped envelope to: Grandfriends, 18402 W. Bernardo Drive, San Diego, CA 92127.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in reference to your column on tattoos. I am a scientist, and it disturbs me that no one seems to be aware of the medical reasons for not getting

tattooed. The dye used contains iron salts. These, when subjected to the high magnetic field on an MRI, generates heat — which can burn the flesh. Therefore, when you have a tattoo, you are eliminating an important medical tool for diagnosing problems.

Abby, please alert young people to an important consideration before getting tattooed.

T.R. NEWMAN,
PORT RICHEY, FLA.

DEAR MR. NEWMAN: With pleasure. According to my source, there are vegetable-based dyes and iron-based dyes used in tattooing. Wise consumers should determine what kind of material they will be getting. That way they can warn their doctor or MRI technician in advance, and there will be no surprises or unpleasant reactions in the middle of a procedure.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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

Horoscope

TUESDAY, AUG. 24, 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)

**** Welcome to the pressure cooker! You have a lot of ground to cover. Fulfillment appears on the horizon; financial opportunities knock and a relationship heats up. As you attempt to take an overview, you'll know which way to go. Tonight: Yellow money alert!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Others make demands that you might not be in the mood to meet. The fur flies. Is this new? Be extremely careful that another doesn't take a comment personally. Clear your desk. Maintain responsibilities. An associate is there for you. Tonight: Burning the midnight oil.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Reach out for others; clear out whatever work you can. A phone call distracts you; concentration could be difficult to achieve after that. Your intuition is off. Curb negativity; opt to observe. Others are full of get-up-and-go. Accept an invitation. Tonight: Make calls.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

**** Build on existing foundations. Don't let the unexpected rock finances or partnerships. Ask for feedback. Recognize when you've hit a dead

end. You see another in a different light. Tension is high; get some exercise. Tonight: Go for togetherness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

**** Let others express their ideas. You have to tip your hat to another's incredible imagination—Your high magnetism tempers more volatile personalities. A family member needs to chill out. Work offers many rewards if you stay focused. Tonight: Deal with a reversal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Work is inspirational if you can let another play a larger role. Conversations have a harsh tone and feelings could be hurt. Refusing to see the big picture only adds to the emotionalism of the moment. Accept a family member's point of view. Tonight: Off to the gym.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

**** You might have the best intentions, yet others misread you. This could be costly just when you wanted to simplify your life. A partner who has been most inviting changes his tune when you least expect it. Keep communication open. Tonight: Go where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Sometimes you need to slow down; a hard overtone could offend a boss or authority figure. Events in the near future remind you not to take others for granted. Don't assume that your way is the only way, or you'll receive a bit of a jolt. Tonight: Grocery shop.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Saying yes is always easier than saying no. However, you could be downright angry over another's uproar. Though you understand, on a higher plane, what is going on, enough is

enough. Keep the paths of communication clear. Tonight: Out and about — forget the gym.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

**** Money rules your world; you understand and manage it better than most—However, others have ideas that you simply don't agree with. What is wrong with a clear "No"? Claim your power, no matter how others push. Pursue goals, but avoid risks. Tonight: Do your own thing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** Your personality can skip over negativity or difficulty. Listen carefully to an outraged boss or partner. The true test is whether you can pull back and not take things personally. Deal with problems on the homefront. Don't postpone the inevitable. Tonight: Top dog.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Take a deep breath rather than pushing others away because of frustration. Concentrate on work. Handle one matter at a time, and you'll succeed. Confusion surrounds communication. Don't shut down. Laughter will soon replace frustration. Tonight: Play ostrich.

BORN TODAY

Actor Steve Guttenberg (1958), actress Marlee Matlin (1965), former boxer Gerry Cooney (1956)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000. \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



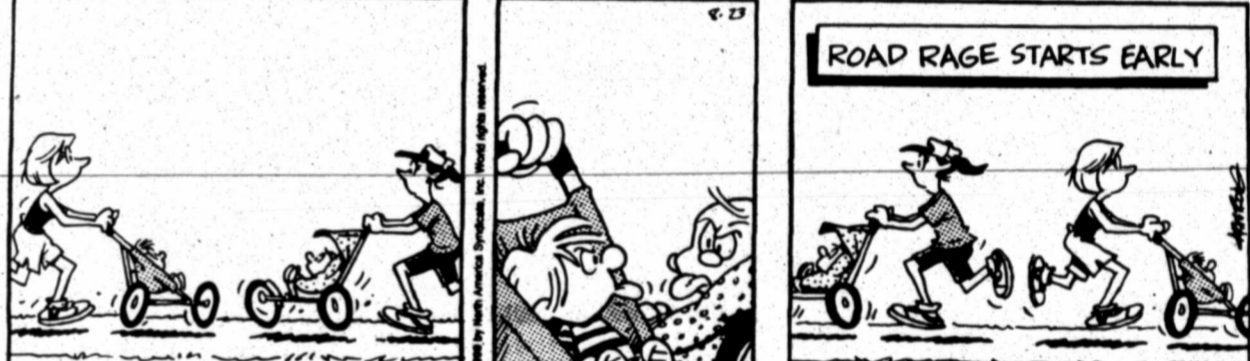
Garfield



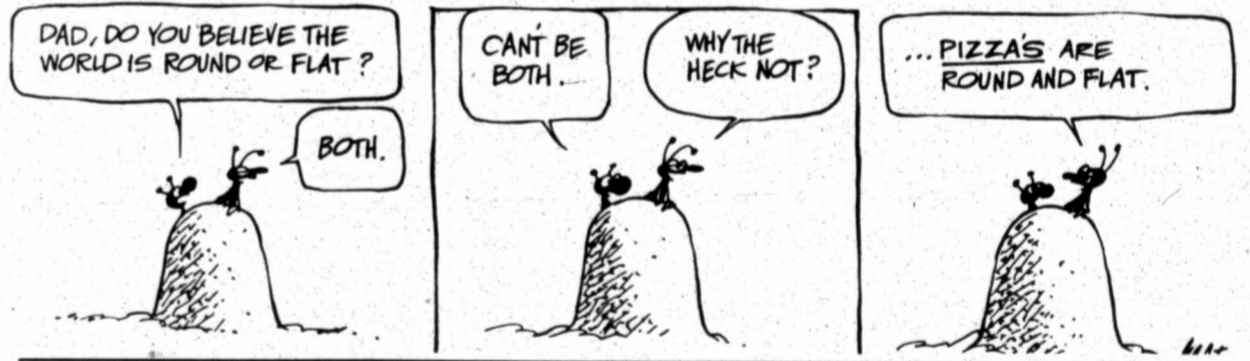
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Butterflies' kin
 - 6 Backyard game
 - 11 Be pending
 - 12 "Gone With the Wind" name
 - 13 Cheese buy
 - 14 Creator
 - 15 Patriot
 - 17 She sheep
 - 18 Hodge-podge
 - 22 Choir singer
 - 23 Paper fastener
 - 27 Tale tellers
 - 29 Singer K.T.
 - 30 Past and present
 - 32 Back
 - 33 Abusive names
 - 35 Singer
 - 38 Singing group
 - 39 Mirror sight
 - 41 D'Artagnan's creator
 - 45 "Carmen" composer
 - 46 Stage comment
 - 47 Goblet parts
 - 48 Enticed
- DOWN
- 1 Voracious mouth
 - 2 Have debts
 - 3 Smidgen
 - 4 Arrogant attitude
 - 5 Iron output
 - 6 Wakes
 - 7 Cry of insight
 - 8 Confiscate
 - 9 Ship's staff
 - 10 Rabbit's kin
 - 16 — Vegas
 - 18 Soda fountain
 - 19 Tennis star
 - 20 Baseball's Musial
 - 21 Cheap eatery
 - 24 Ballet bend
 - 25 Pocket fuzz
 - 26 Finishes order
 - 28 Singing groups
 - 31 Knight's title
 - 34 Kind of pool
 - 35 Umbrella parts
 - 36 Leave out
 - 37 Stunned state
 - 40 Sparkler
 - 42 Central
 - 43 Fuss
 - 44 Rep.'s counterpart

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



The Family Circus



"The only 'sparagus' I like is on 'Veggie Tales'."

MEDICAL

Study: Osteoporosis drug reduces spinal fractures

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — A drug used to prevent osteoporosis can also reduce the risk of spinal fractures by up to 50 percent in women who already have the disease, researchers reported recently.

The research is the largest study to date of raloxifene, the latest in a series of drugs that postmenopausal women can take instead of estrogen to protect against broken bones.

"Women even who have fractures, who have lost inches, who are beginning to get some curvature, can do something about it right now to reduce their risk of fractures in the future," said Dr. Bruce Ettinger of Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program in Oakland, Calif.

Ettinger led the three-year study of 7,705 women in 25 countries. The findings were published in a recent edition of *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The research was funded by Eli Lilly & Co. of Indianapolis, which sells raloxifene as Evista.

The news comes only a month after data from the same women showed that raloxifene appears to lower the risk of breast cancer by 70 percent. That is a major advantage for postmenopausal women who want the bone-strengthening benefits of estrogen but fear the slightly increased risk of breast cancer from long-term use.

Raloxifene was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1997. It, like other osteoporosis drugs, adds bone mineral density early in treatment, and thereafter slows the loss of bone mineral.

Ettinger said the four approved osteoporosis drugs should not be considered competitors, because their benefits and limitations are so different. For example, he said:

— Alendronate, marketed as Fosamax, is the strongest bone builder and is the only drug shown to protect against both spine and hip fractures. But it offers no other health benefits and causes

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many women stomach upset.

— Estrogen is almost equal to alendronate as a bone builder, and research suggests it also protects against heart disease and even mental decline for women past menopause. It relieves menopause's hot flashes and night sweats but commonly causes breast tenderness and a resumption of menstrual bleeding.

— Raloxifene has about two-thirds the bone-building power of alendronate but does not relieve menopause symptoms and may worsen some, such as leg swelling. But it seems to lower "bad" cholesterol levels.

— Calcitonin, marketed as Calcimar, is the least powerful of the bone-boosters but is offered in an easy-to-take nasal spray.

"In making a choice of which of these a woman is going to use, she needs to think about what else is in the package. Is it agreeable? Is it acceptable? Is it easy to use? Is it something that can be

continued long-term?" Ettinger said.

Some women, for example, may want to take estrogen in early menopause, then switch to raloxifene, he said.

Not every older woman needs a drug. Women should have their bone density tested or check whether they are losing height, experts say. More than an inch of lost height since young adulthood indicates osteoporosis, Ettinger said.

An expert not involved in the study said raloxifene is a valuable weapon in the growing arsenal against osteoporosis, which afflicts an estimated 10 million Americans and costs \$13.8 billion annually.

Hip fractures cause the most illness and death, but vertebral fractures are second in importance, occurring in an estimated 700,000 Americans yearly, sometimes painlessly at first, said the expert, Dr. Felicia Cosman, clinical director of the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

"They have a tremendous impact on quality of life, in terms of back pain and abdominal symptoms and reduced breathing and reduced mobility and cosmetic deformity and the associated problems with the dowager's hump," she said.

In the study, women ages 31 to 80 years old in 25 countries were randomly assigned to take a placebo or raloxifene at 60 milligrams per day or 120 milligrams per day. All were also given calcium and vitamin D supplements.

A total of 6,828 women completed the study, and 503 (7.4 percent) suffered at least one new spinal fracture within three years. That included 10.1 percent of women receiving the placebo, 6.6 percent of those receiving lower-dose raloxifene (a 30 percent reduction in risk) and 5.5 percent of those receiving the higher dose (a 50 percent risk reduction).

Discovery shows link in heart, brain rhythms

HOUSTON — The discovery that a molecule usually associated with regulating heartbeat is also present in the brain could lead to improved diagnosis of a neurological condition that affects certain families with a history of epilepsy.

Researchers at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston discovered the molecule, which serves as a sodium ion channel, in the brain pathway that controls memory and emotions. The findings were published in a recent issue of *Nature Neuroscience*.

"The discovery shows a clear genetic link between heart disorders that can result in sudden death, often brought on by an adrenaline surge, and epileptic seizures, which are sometimes triggered by emotional stimuli," said Dr. Jeffrey Noebels, a professor of neurology at Baylor and director of the Blue Bird Circle Development Neurogenetics Laboratory at the Methodist Hospital.

In the heart, a genetic mutation that of the ion channel produces an irregular heartbeat. In response to certain conditions, like excitement or fear, that irregularity can cause sudden death.

"The condition has been well described in the case of some athletes," Noebels said.

In the brain, the genetic mutation of the ion channel can result in a rare, yet fatal, neurological condition known as sudden unexplained death in epilepsy.

"If doctors can identify genes that put an individual at risk for SUDEP, we can take steps to either reassure the person he or she is not at risk or begin treatment with appropriate cardiac medications," Noebels said.

"In the future, we will be looking even more carefully at the genetic causes of epilepsy and their relationship to cardiac rhythms to prevent the increased risk of unexpected death in this rare disorder," he concluded.

Health briefs

Depression not a normal part of aging

HOUSTON — Depression in the elderly should not be considered normal, said Dr. Victor Molinari, a Baylor College of Medicine psychologist and director of geropsychology at the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center. "Some groups are at higher risk, but the average older person is not depressed any more than a young person."

In general, only about three percent of the elderly living independently in the community will experience depression. That figure increases to around 20-30 percent of people in nursing homes or with chronic illnesses like emphysema, heart disease or diabetes. "Two personality types are also at higher risk — obsessive/compulsive persons bothered by their lack of control over changes related to aging and dependent persons who lose the loved ones they rely on," Molinari said.

The elderly often mask their depression by packaging the problem in a physical com-

plaint, so diagnosis can take longer.

Experts encourage older people to prevent depression by staying active and being connected to other people through family, community activities, senior groups or church.

Study looks at CMV retinitis and AIDS

HOUSTON — A new study looks at patients who are at high risk for contracting CMV retinitis and other visual complications from AIDS.

"CMV retinitis is an infection of the retina, the nerve tissue in the back of the eye that gives us the ability to see," said Dr. Richard Lewis, and ophthalmologist with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "As the infection spreads, the retina is damaged or lost which causes many AIDS patients to go blind."

There are a number of drugs and approaches used to minimize the complication and to control the infection in many AIDS patients. In this study, researchers want to determine

why some AIDS patients develop this infection, and others do not.

Early detection is key to treating prostate cancer

HOUSTON — All men over age 50 should have an annual prostate exam, says Dr. Kenneth Slawin, a urologist at Baylor College of Medicine. And African-American men or men with a family history of prostate cancer should have annual exams beginning at age 40.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, but this disease doesn't have to be a killer if men take advantage of the early detection methods available.

A prostate screening should include a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and a digital rectal exam. PSA levels in the blood are used to determine prostate cancer risk, with higher numbers indicating greater risk.

Physicians play role in helping abuse victims

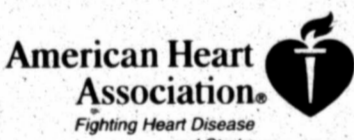
HOUSTON — Physicians play an important role in helping

victims of domestic violence leave their abusers.

"Physicians need to create a safe environment during an office visit, and at some point get the woman alone and ask her some questions about the abuse and her living environment," said Dr. Elizabeth Nelson with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Many victims of domestic abuse are afraid to go to the police about the abuse. Precise documentation by physicians during an office visit can make it easier for her to report the abuse. By recognizing signs like bruises in hidden areas, an overly-attentive partner and a history of fractures, physicians can help an abused woman get out of a bad situation.

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Help Your Heart Recipes

This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day — not for each food or recipe.

Steak Marinated in Beer and Green Onions

<p>2 pounds boneless top sirloin steak, all visible fat removed</p> <p>Marinade</p> <p>1½ cups light beer (regular or non-alcoholic) (12 ounces)</p> <p>4 green onions, minced</p> <p>2 tablespoons light brown sugar</p> <p>2 tablespoons dry sherry</p>	<p>1 tablespoon grated fresh gingerroot</p> <p>1 tablespoon light soy sauce</p> <p>2 medium cloves garlic, minced, or 1 teaspoon bottled minced garlic</p> <p>1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes</p> <p>1 teaspoon acceptable* vegetable oil</p> <p>Dash of red hot-pepper oil</p>
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Put steak in an airtight plastic bag. In a medium bowl, combine marinade ingredients. Pour over steak and turn to coat evenly. Seal and refrigerate for 1 to 24 hours, turning occasionally. Preheat grill on medium-high. Drain steak, then grill for 8 to 12 minutes per side, or until desired doneness. Serves 8.

*Use canola, safflower, soybean, sunflower, sesame, or olive oil.

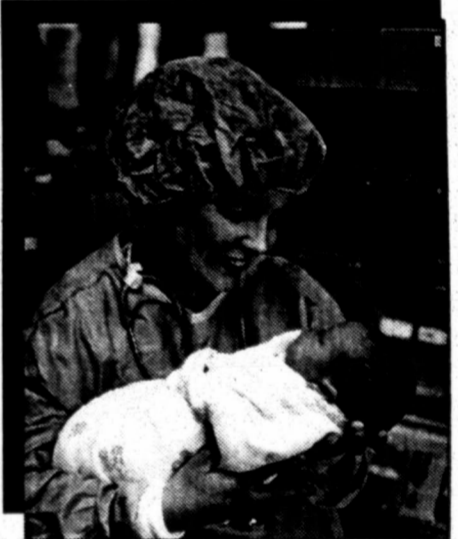
Nutrient Analysis per Serving			
164 kcal	Calories	75 mg	Cholesterol
25 g	Protein	121 mg	Sodium
0 g	Carbohydrates	6 g	Total Fat
0 g	Fiber	3 g	Saturated Fat
		0 g	Polyunsaturated Fat
		3 g	Monounsaturated Fat

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McGwire reaches another milestone

By The Associated Press

Back at you, Sammy. After watching Sammy Sosa hit four homers in two days to take over the major league lead with 51, Mark McGwire responded with two shots Sunday to make baseball history and close within one of the Chicago slugger.

McGwire became the first player with 50 homers in four consecutive seasons when he hit a pair in the first game of St. Louis' doubleheader against the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. The teams split the twinbill, with the Mets overcoming a five-run deficit to win the opener 8-7 and the Cardinals taking the second game 7-5.

Big Mac hit a 502-foot homer in the first inning of Octavio Del, and added a 396-foot shot off Jeff Tam for his 50th homer in the seventh.

"That's the farthest I think I've ever seen a ball hit," Mets manager Bobby Valentine said of the first blast, which shattered a lightbulb and put a dent in the scoreboard in right-center.

Even McGwire was amazed. "That's as hard as I've hit a ball to the opposite field," he said. Like last year, when he finished with a record 70 homers, McGwire hit his 50th in the first game of a doubleheader at Shea. And like last year, he has 50 homers after the Cardinals' 125th game of the season.

"I've always thought 50 was the plateau," McGwire said. "That's not too shabby of a year. Not too many people have done it."

McGwire, 0-for-3 with two walks in the second game, said he isn't worried about catching Sosa, who went homerless Sunday against Colorado.

"I take care of myself, he takes care of himself," McGwire said. "I have no control over anybody else. The only thing I'm chasing is No. 51."

The Mets ended the day a half-game behind first-place Atlanta in the NL East. The Braves beat the San Diego Padres 3-2.

winning run as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep at Turner Field. Williams led off the ninth against Dan Miceli (4-4) by walking on four pitches. He moved to second on Bret Boone's sacrifice bunt before Chipper Jones was walked intentionally.

Jordan followed with a line drive to left. Reggie Sanders came up throwing, but had no chance to get the speedy Williams at the plate.

Luis Gonzalez, Matt Williams and Erubiel Durazo hit consecutive homers in Arizona's five-run first inning against Jason Schmidt in Pittsburgh.

Gonzalez added a solo homer in the ninth — his third homer of the series — and drove in four runs. Omar Daal (13-6) withstood a four-run third inning for his 10th victory in his 12 decisions.

The Diamondbacks have won 14 of their last 17 road games and are 23-7 overall dating to Randy Johnson's victory in Seattle on July 20.

At Philadelphia, Gary Sheffield hit a grand slam and drove in a season-high six RBIs, and Chan Ho Park got his first victory in over a month.

Eric Young and Jose Vizcaino each had three hits for the Dodgers, who took two of the three in the series.

Park (7-10) worked six innings, allowing six hits and four runs, to improve his career record to 4-0 against the Phillies. He had three losses and three no-decisions after beating the Anaheim Angels on July 17.

At Cincinnati, Sean Casey hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 11th as the Reds completed another successful series.

The Reds took two of three from Montreal and have won their last nine series, the longest streak in the majors this season.

Cincinnati pulled with a half-game of first-place Houston in the NL Central.

Montreal's Vladimir Guerrero doubled in the first to extend his hitting streak to 27 games, longest in team history.

BASEBALL

Table with columns for American League East Division, West Division, National League East Division, Central Division, West Division, and Saturday's Games.

Scoreboard

Table with columns for Houston at Florida, Monday Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Major League Leaders, and National League First Games.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for National Football League Preseason At A Glance, AMERICAN CONFERENCE, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, International Scores, BASKETBALL, and Women's National Basketball Association.

Labonte captures Pepsi 400

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — The sight of Dale Earnhardt leading late in a race is just about a NASCAR driver's worst dream.

Jeff Gordon beside him turns it into a nightmare. Yet that's what Bobby Labonte had to deal with Sunday in the Pepsi 400 at Michigan Speedway.

He passed both of them for his fourth win of the season, but he wouldn't recommend it as a steady diet.

"If you didn't clear both of them, you knew you were going to be in trouble," Labonte said.

The victory was the 11th in Labonte's Winston Cup career and his third in 15 races at the superspeedway. He led four times for 46 of the race's 200 laps.

Giants 7, Brewers 3

Barry Bonds, Jeff Kent and Ellis Burks connected for consecutive homers in the first inning, the second time in three days San Francisco hit three in a row.

Kent homered in his first at-bat since coming off the disabled list as the Giants completed a three-game sweep in Milwaukee.

After Bill Mueller singled, Bonds began the barrage off Cal Eldred (1-7) with his 22nd home run. Kent followed with his 14th and Burks hit his 24th.

In Friday's 10-3 victory, Ramon Martinez, Bonds and Burks hit consecutive home runs in the fourth inning.

Labonte kept his cool, waiting for just the right time to go after Earnhardt and Gordon. He made his move on lap 183, diving low into the first turn.

Toms goes wire-to-wire to win Sprint International

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. (AP) — First there was the pep talk. Then there was the critical club selection.

Buoyed by his caddie, David Toms rebounded from a disastrous double bogey at No. 16 to birdie the final two holes Sunday and win the Sprint International.

Toms led every round in posting his second career victory on the PGA Tour, but he had to hold off David Duval and Stephen Ames over the final holes.

Toms, 32, left the 16th green feeling "totally out of control. But my caddy (Scott Gneiser) said to me, 'Just hang in there and try to play the last two holes as good as you can.' That helped a lot."

Gneiser offered more good advice at the 17th green. Toms' second shot went over the green, but Gneiser advised

him to play the downhill chip with a 3-wood. He put the ball 4 feet from the cup and made the birdie putt.

"I didn't think I had any chance of making birdie from there," Toms said. "I had pulled out a wedge, but Scott suggested the fairway wood. He made a good call there. It came out perfect."

Punctuating his victory, Toms made an 18-foot birdie putt on 18.

Ames had the lead at the turn Sunday, but in a wild finish it shifted to Toms, then to Duval and finally back to Toms.

Toms finished with 47 points under the modified Stableford scoring system used in this event — 3 more than Duval.

The 19-year-old Spanish sensation, showing the effects of injuring a muscle under his right armpit on Saturday, had four bogeys before finally making a birdie on 18, and finished with 30 points.

"To come back from a disastrous double at 16 is very gratifying," Toms said. "To pull it off against this field, this will definitely boost my confidence."

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GAS RATE CHANGE

On August 4, 1999, Energas Company filed Statements of intent to change its gas rates with each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing. Each city may suspend the proposed effective date for an additional 90 days.

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