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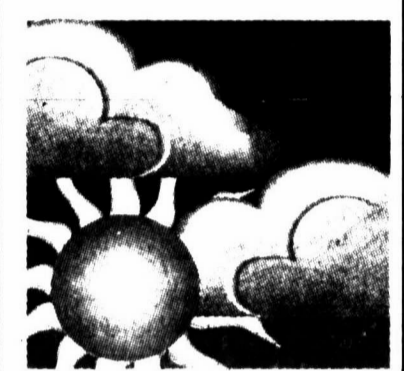
Jim Davidson "PHONE IN" "MOVE IN"

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Pampa

Vol. 97 No. 107 • Pampa, Texas 50¢ Daily • Sunday 1

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For weather details, see Page 2

Lefors ISD board to meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 9

LEFORS — Lefors Independent School District (ISD) board of trustees are to meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 9, at the elementary school library, 160 6th St. Among the items listed on the agenda include a depository contract, substitute teacher list, student insurance, district insurance, and cafeteria prices.

A personnel session and superintendent's report is planned, as well as consideration of current bills and a financial report.

An open forum for public comments is scheduled following the call to order.

City Commission plans budget work session

A special work session of the Pampa City Commission is set for 4 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 9, in the third floor conference room at City Hall.

Commissioners will continue to discuss the 2001-2002 budget at the meeting.

- E.O. Kelly, 78, farmer and rancher.
- Lloyd Daniel Littlefield, 82, farmer and rancher.
- Martha McComas, 81, homemaker.
- Dorothy Jeannette Mullen, 89, Boy Scout worker.
- Edward Smith Williams, M.D., 83, retired obstetrician.

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City proposes staff reduction to save \$'s

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

In an effort to plug a seven-year drain on the City of Pampa's cash reserves, officials drew up a 2001-2002 proposed \$7.36 million budget that includes eliminating 24 jobs, closing the north fire station, raising water and sewer rates, and contracting with Gray County for emergency dispatch. However, the proposal does not include an increase in property taxes.

Even with these major cuts, the 2001-2002 budget being considered by Pampa city Commission reflects a \$117,006 deficit. "I don't enjoy doing any of this," said City Manager Bob Eskridge said of the job cuts. "There's no way to go through this without disrupting people's lives. But to make the cuts needed to balance the budget, we've got to make cuts in services."

City of Pampa financial officers project the city will receive \$7.25 million in revenues next year. Expenditures are expected to reach \$7.18 million, along with \$193,550 in capital purchases, for total expenses of \$7.36 million.

'I don't enjoy doing any of this. There's no way to go through this without disrupting people's lives.'

— City Manager Bob Eskridge

Since 1994, the city of Pampa has operated on a deficit which has drained the city's coffers. At the present rate of deficit spending, the city's cash reserves could be depleted in approximately two years.

"You can't get control of expenditures in the budget without reducing personnel," Eskridge said.

In 1994, the City of Pampa employed 180. Since then, the workforce has dwindled to 155, primarily through attrition, Eskridge said. "This will take it down to 131," he said.

"The direction I feel I was given by the city commission was to bring them a balanced budget," the city manager said. "Even with all these cuts, it's going to take two years."

"I didn't take this out of the air," he emphasized. "We've got to do something. These positions are important. All the positions in the city are important."

"But you get to the point that if you have to eliminate positions, what positions do you take that will have the least effect."

"We eliminated 11 positions last year. It had a great effect on us internally, but not a lot of effect on the public. This time it will have an effect on the public," he added. "There's no way to go through this without disrupting people's lives."

The proposed budget cuts 24 full-time employees from city staff. To do this, city officials want to consolidate the police and fire dispatch services with Gray County Sheriff's dispatch and contract with the county for these services. At present, nine people are employed in dispatch.

(See CITY, page 2)



(Pampa News photos by Nancy Young)
Carolyn and Jackie Taylor, left, listen as speakers discuss the pros and cons of the swine industry locating in Gray County. Over 130 local and area residents, pictured above, turned out for the meeting at M.K. Brown Civic Center's Heritage Room Tuesday night.

Speaking out Groundwater fears aired; others say no need to fear

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Fear of groundwater contamination if a 50,000 pig facility moves to Gray County was the primary concern of the majority of people at the public meeting at M. K. Brown Auditorium Tuesday night.

The possibility of leaking lagoons containing hog manure from the proposed National Pig Development (NPD) company genetic research facility east of Pampa has several local residents concerned about the safety of the local groundwater supply in the area.

An Environmental Impact study on the permit request is being requested. Betty Trully, a retired teacher, urged the approximately 130 residents attending a public meeting at M. K. Brown Auditorium Tuesday night to write letters requesting the study.

"This is our water supply and we must be careful with it," said Trully. "We don't want it ruined."

Trully urged the group to write the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) along with U.S. Senators, Kay Bailey Hutchison and Phil Gramm, and U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry to request the study. She said it was extremely important Hutchison, Gramm and Thornberry be contacted because the EPA must reply to Congress when they are requested by Congress to do so. She asked all persons writing letters

to make copies of their letters to send to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (INRCC) in Austin.

INRCC is the agency which grants permits for swine facilities. NPD has applied for a permit to establish the facility on land 11 miles east of Pampa to establish the genetic research facility.

She said personnel in the INRCC office told her by telephone that the letters must focus on the possibility of air and water pollution or they wouldn't be read by the staff.

"We simply want to protect our water," she said. "It is ours. It's all we have. And I am not an alarmist."

Trully said that as a part of the study that NPD should be required to conclusively prove that their pig sludge facility would not reach and contaminate the underground water supply.

She expressed concern about the possible contamination to the Ogallala Aquifer which is the source for the area's drinking water as far north as North Dakota.

Trully said such an environmental study would cause the EPA to check the entire area serviced by the Ogallala Aquifer. Leaking lagoons could affect the water quality for hundreds of miles and many future years, she said.

(See SPEAKING, page 2)

Police discover 'lab'; fumes affect officer

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

A Pampa police officer had to be treated at the emergency room Tuesday evening for a reaction to the fumes from an alleged methamphetamine lab.

Officer Shawn Waters was treated and released at the Pampa Regional Medical Center emergency room Tuesday after he experienced a "strong reaction" to fumes filling a house on Powell Street, Col. Terry Young said today.

Waters was among local law enforcement officers serving a search warrant for illegal drugs at 600 N. Powell at approximately 4:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Two people were arrested after police found more than four grams of methamphetamine and the remains of a lab used to make the illegal substance, police said.

Jessie Darlene Callaway, 34, 600 N. Powell, and Lance Allan Herr, 39, 2117 Lynn, were arrested at the scene. Each were

charged with possession of a controlled substance over four grams. Callaway was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both Callaway and Herr remained in Gray County Jail at press time today. Bond was set at \$20,000 each on the possession charges and Callaway's bond for the drug paraphernalia charge was set at \$500, according to jail records.

Young said the warrant was issued after police investigation and complaints from local citizens.

In the search of the residence, police found more than four grams of methamphetamine packaged in small plastic bags, he said.

He estimated the street value of the drugs at \$400 to \$500.

"We also found the remains of a lab. It appeared there had been a recent cook," he added. "When officers first went in there was a strong odor of chemicals. There was even a haze in the hallway."

(See LAB, page 2)

Tralee to help offenders, too

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

A program to provide intervention and counseling for perpetrators of domestic violence is now available in Pampa.

The program is being offered by Panhandle Crisis Center in Perryton while the Tralee Crisis Center in Pampa is offering support and cooperation.

Victims of family violence and sexual assault have been served by Panhandle Crisis Center since 1984 in Ochiltree, Hanstford and Lipscomb Counties since 1984.

In 1999, the program expanded its services to offer the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP).

Three separate classes are offered in Perryton for male offenders, female offenders and Spanish-speaking offenders. The number of referrals from Gray County's Adult Probation Department prompted the agency to offer a program in Pampa, according to Cindy Smith, executive director of the Center.

The program was implemented June 26 after consultation with criminal justice officials and Tralee Crisis Center.

BIPP is an 18-week program to educate violent family members about the effects of abuse on their partners and their children. It also provides an opportunity for change through education

toward healthy, nonviolent relationships.

Weekly classes for men who batter are held in Pampa. Individuals may attend voluntarily or by court order.

Individuals do not have to wait for another 18-week session to begin. Entrance is allowed at any time during the program.

Classes are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, in the classroom of Gray County Sheriff's Department. Fees usually run \$15, but lower rates are available for individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level. The program is funded by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. It meets the guidelines set by the state in its operation and curriculum.

"Tralee Crisis Center and Panhandle Crisis Center have a history of working together to serve victims of family violence," said Linda Town, Executive Director, Tralee Crisis Center. "Resources for batterers are needed in our community and we are pleased that the state funding awarded to Perryton's agency can be utilized to benefit a wider service area in the Panhandle."

Anyone interested in attending these sessions may contact the Panhandle Crisis Center at 1-800-435-5008 to enroll, according to Smith. Both crisis centers are also available to provide informational programs to the community about this new service.

To request a presentation, please call Tralee Crisis Center at 669-1131.

AUG 08 2001

Calendar of events

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM

White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) winter visiting hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. No charge for admission; elevator provided.

FREEDOM MUSEUM

Freedom Museum, USA, 600 N. Hobart is open from 12-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Revolutionary War to Kosovo. All branches of service are represented. For more information, call 669-6066.

LAS PAMPAS WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY

Las Pampas Water Garden and Koi Society meets at 7 p.m. the second Monday of each month at First Landmark Building in the Pampa Mall. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Loyd Waters 665-6466.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER

Tralee Crisis Center support groups for victims of family violence — both women and children — meet every Thursday evening. For more information about adult support groups, call 669-1788, and to inquire about children's support groups, 669-1131.

GIRL SCOUTS

Pampa Girl Scouts meets at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Pampa Girl Scout House on Kingsmill.

PANHANDLE PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of each month at Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle is changing its hours. It is now open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 408 W. Kingsmill Ave., #175-A, in Pampa. For more information or for an appointment, call 665-2291. Planned Parenthood is a not-for-profit health care organization serving women and men in 17 offices covering 26 counties in the panhandle.

HIGH PLAINS EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

The local Alzheimer's Support Group meets regularly at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest. For more information, call Dauna Wilkinson, 665-0356.

PAMPA GARDEN CLUB

Pampa Garden Club meets at 2 p.m. the second Monday of each month from September through May. Meeting location changes monthly.

TEXCARE PARTNERSHIP

Texcare Partnership is the New Children's Health Insurance campaign developed especially for Texas families with uninsured children, birth through age 18. The following health insurance programs are available: Children's Health

Insurance Program, Medicaid and Texas Healthy Kids Corp. For more information, call 1-800-647-6558 or 1-888-892-2273.

PAMPA PILOTS ASSOCIATION

Pampa Pilots Association meets at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Airport Lounge.

BOOKMARK CONTEST

Lovett Memorial Library is sponsoring a bookmark contest. Entry forms are available at the library. The two winning bookmarks will be printed and used by the library the next year.

BEEF AMBASSADOR CONTEST

Top O' Texas CattleWomen is seeking youth between the ages of 15-19 to compete for the Beef Ambassador Award. For more information, contact Amy Brainard at (806) 323-6397.

CLASS OF 1961

Pampa High School Class of 1961 will hold its 40th class reunion this year. Anyone interested in helping plan and organize the event should contact Zip Swaney at 665-5532.

HARRINGTON HOUSE

The 2001 tour season for Harrington House, 1600 S. Polk, Amarillo, is in full swing. Built in 1914 by cattlemen John and Pat Landergin, the house was acquired in 1940 and preserved by Don and Sybil Harrington. The hour-long tours are conducted from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, April through mid-December. There is no admission fee. For more information call (806) 374-5490.

CLARENDON COLLEGE LRC

Clarendon College Learning Resource Center will be open from 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, from 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday and will be closed Friday-Sunday. Regular hours will resume Aug. 27.

CCPC OTC PROGRAM

Enrollment for Clarendon College's Office Technology Certificate (OTC) Program and Machining Technology Program (MTP) is currently under way at Clarendon College-Pampa Center. Both programs can be completed in nine-months. OTC classes begin Aug. 13 and MTP classes Aug. 30. Scholarships, loans and pell grants are available. Graduates will receive free job placement assistance. For more information, call 665-8801.

SUNSHINE LUNCH

Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor two Sunshine (bereavement) Luncheons this month. The first is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 16 at K-Bob's Steakhouse in Amarillo and the second at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 22, at Dyer's Bar-B-Que in Pampa. Cost to participants is between \$5 and \$8. For more information, call 1-800-572-6365 or (806) 372-7696.

ACS LOOK GOOD ... FEEL BETTER

The American Cancer Society will present the program "Look Good ... Feel Better" from 1-3 p.m. Aug. 18 at the ACS office at 3915 Bell Street in Amarillo. The program is aimed at helping cancer patients cope with the unpleasant side effects of cancer treatments. Cosmetology professionals will demonstrate techniques how to compensate for hair loss through the use of turbans and scarves. To register or for more information, call the ACS at (806) 353-4306.

CELESTIAL ARTS CONTEST

Celestial Arts is sponsoring a free poetry contest. The grand prize winner will receive \$1,000. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: Celestial Arts, P.O. Box 1140, Talent, OR 97540 or log on to www.freecontest.com. The deadline for entering is Aug. 29.

ACT EXAM

The next ACT Assessment will be administered Sept. 22. College-bound high school students must register for the college admissions and placement test by Aug. 17, the postmark deadline. The late registration postmark deadline is Aug. 31 and carries an additional fee. For more information, contact your school counselor or visit www.act.org on the World Wide Web.

FALL RETREAT

First Baptist Church Women's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 28-30 at New Beginnings near Channing. The

deadline for registration is Aug. 31. Cost is \$97 (two per room) and will include food, lodging and transportation from Pampa. Forms are available at the church, 203 N. West. For more information, call 669-1155 or contact Kathryn Green at 669-0148.

TPTF GRANTS

The application deadline for this year's Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) grant program is Friday, Aug. 31, 2001. Completed applications must be submitted to Texas Historical Commission offices by 5 p.m. Eligible projects include archeological sites; commercial buildings; public buildings (schools, city halls, etc.); unique historic structures (bridges, water towers, etc.); comprehensive preservation plans; and Visionaries in Preservation Training and Preservation Education Training projects. For more information, call (512) 463-6094 or access www.thc.state.tx.us on the World Wide Web.

WOW Car Wash



Gray County 4-Hers (left-right) Nick Miller, Emily Elliott and Cory Jackson scrub down Vic Laramore's panel truck as part of a car wash fund-raiser recently. The students — part of the "Wonders of Washington Group" — are raising money to travel to the nation's capitol in July 2002. The group will hold its final car wash of the summer at 9 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 11, in the National Bank of Commerce parking lot. WOW members encourage citizens to bring their vehicles to be washed for a donation and thank those who have generously supported their previous two car washes.

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WHAT'S YOUR LIFE WORTH

Ask your City Commissioner

Fire Fighters jobs are at stake and this means you and your families lives are at stake.

Your Commissioners are currently looking at an option to Close Station 2 (North Station) on 17th street, and cutting 6 key positions in your Fire Department.

These cuts will have a devastating impact on your community!

- A. These cuts will *COST YOU MONEY* and increase your homeowners' rates almost immediately to the tune of up to 25% or up to \$300.00.**
- B. Reduce response times to the north part of town thus putting your family at a higher risk.**
- C. Reducing the effectiveness of your Fire Department by reducing the number of fire fighters at a fire. This comes in the wake of the National Fire Protection Association adoption of NFPA1710. NFPA1710 sets the standard for 4 person engine companies for effectiveness and safety. (We currently run with 3 person engine companies.)**
- D. Delaying Fire Fighters efforts to reach the fire by reducing the number on a first alarm.**
- E. Cutting 6 positions will mean losing 12 jobs (including spouses) in our city, and children in our schools. All this at a time when we are trying to recruit new business and families to our city.**

The Pampa Fire Department has cut over 36% of its workforce since 1990. Any future cuts will seriously hurt the citizens of Pampa.

As Fire Fighters and taxpayers we do not want to raise taxes any more than you do. If the Fire Department is cut any more, this will cost the taxpayers one way or the other. There are other options!

PLEASE CALL YOUR CITY COMMISSIONERS TODAY!

Visit our web site for more information
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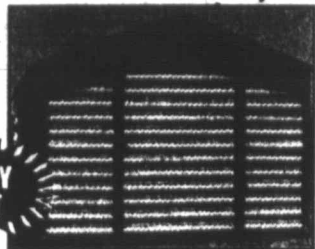
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Wednesday, August 8

Page 4

Girl Resists Parents' Plea To Get Out There and Play

DEAR ABBY: I am writing because I have no one else who will give me advice. I am a freshman in high school and have never really been interested in playing sports. I am on the speech team, math club and newspaper staff.

My parents feel that I have to play a sport. They have paid for lessons in dance and tennis, but I really have no interest in playing. I even tried to make the dance team to please them, but I didn't make it. They just don't seem to understand that I don't like sports. Today I had my tennis lesson and played really bad. I tried, but I must have had an off day.

When I got in the car, my parents chewed me out. They said I was lazy, and I was going to play a sport whether I liked it or not. I like to play tennis occasionally, but I'm not in love with it.

Can you help me get the message across to them that I don't want to play sports, nor do I like them? Please help!

ELLEN IN FRANKLIN, TENN.

DEAR ELLEN: You have my sympathy. I took tennis lessons for seven months straight. At the end of that time the only person I could rally with was my instructor because no matter where I hit the ball, he could manage to get it back to me. No one else was so generous. So the answer to the question, "Tennis, anyone?" is, "Perhaps. But not everyone."

Your parents may be trying to teach you the importance of being physically fit as well as intellectually active. Exercise relieves stress, tones muscles

Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

and burns calories, to mention only a few of the pluses. A compromise may be in order. Rather than taking tennis lessons, ask them if you can join a gym and agree to go there three or four times a week for cardiovascular exercise and some weight-training with professional supervision. You'll be learning health habits that will last a lifetime — and it will get you off your rusty-dusty.

DEAR ABBY: Your letters about putting cash or checks in sympathy cards remind me of the one and only time I was the recipient of such a gift. In 1966, my first husband, Barry, committed suicide, leaving me a widow at age 26. We were living in Los Angeles. Barry worked for a mail courier service and got to know an African-American gentleman who was a supervisor at the post office. He and his wife became

our friends, and it was they who tucked a few bills in their sympathy card. It made me wonder if they came from a wiser and more generous culture than I did.

I will always remember Ben and Claire Gibson for their precious gift of friendship and the opportunity to get to know their friends and family. Thanks to that beginning, I have been open to and able to form other such precious friendships. I've lost contact with them, but if they are still on this Earth, I hope they will read this. You may print my name.

DEAR JOCELYN: You're right. The gift of their friendship was more valuable and long-lasting than the money. I, too, hope they read your letter.

JOCELYN KEENAN HOWELLS, PORTLAND, ORE.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable — and most frequently requested — poems and essays, send a business-sized, 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.)

Have A Story Idea...

Contact Dee-Dee or Nancy
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deedee@pan-tex.net

Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Iron

1 "Gladiator" star

6 Passion

10 Red

Square name

11 Paper amount

12 Lower

13 Goads on

14 Team animal

15 Gadget protector

16 Wild

17 Painter Vermeer

18 Devilfish

19 Racing bet

22 Put away

23 Torts

26 Tapering cigar

29 Yak it up

32 Put down

33 Ignited

34 Breakfast choice

36 Make finer

37 Target of an audit

38 Bobbing goal

39 Eyeballs

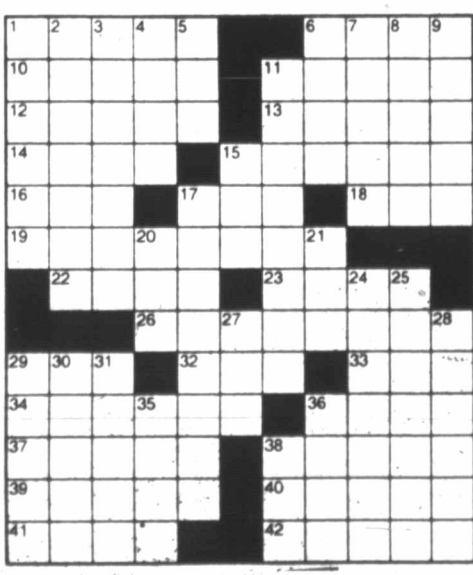
40 CD player part

41 "Friends" character

PALES CARET
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ERE GOT GEM
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SENDS YEATS

Yesterday's answer

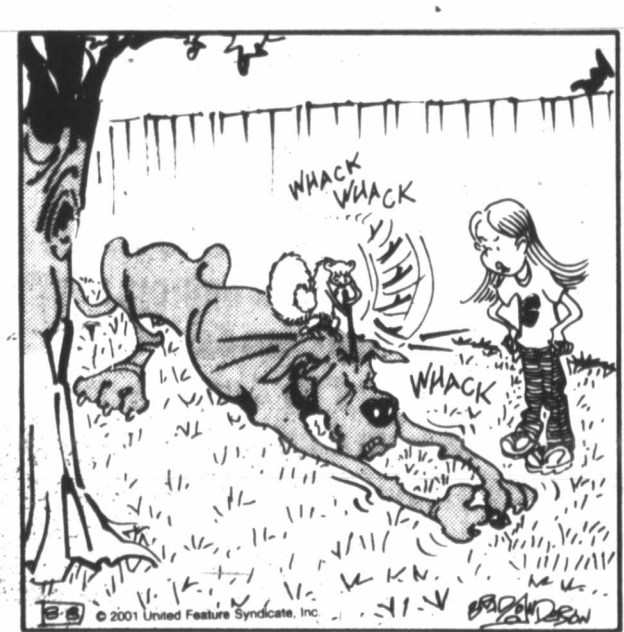
- 1 Stop talking
- 2 Picture puzzles
- 3 Ready for battle
- 4 Sage
- 5 Compass pt.
- 6 Damaged
- 7 Swiss peak
- 8 Game setting
- 9 Irritable
- 11 Count
- 15 Lobbying grp.
- 17 Ring vendors
- 20 Dandy
- 21 Tennis feat
- 24 Solar event
- 25 Represses
- 27 Squealer for a bout
- 28 Minks' cousins
- 29 Try to get
- 30 Pedro's pal
- 31 Sleigh sounders
- 35 Dregs
- 36 Practice for a bout
- 38 7-Down, for one



STUMPED?

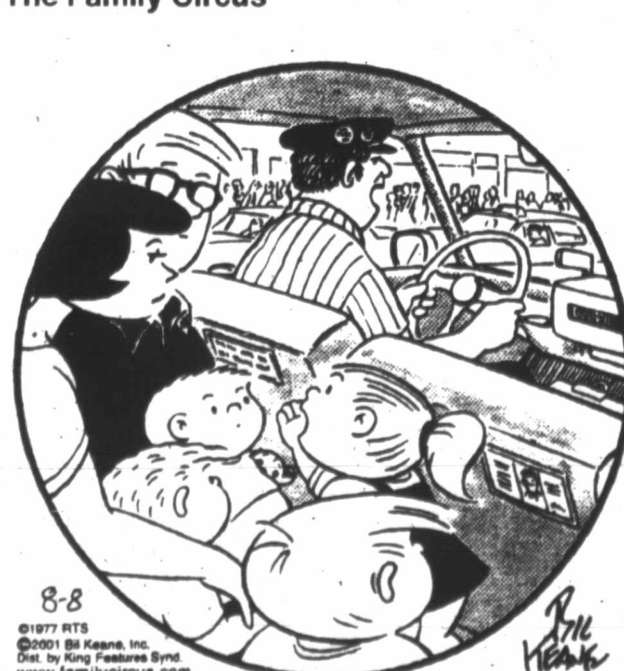
For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



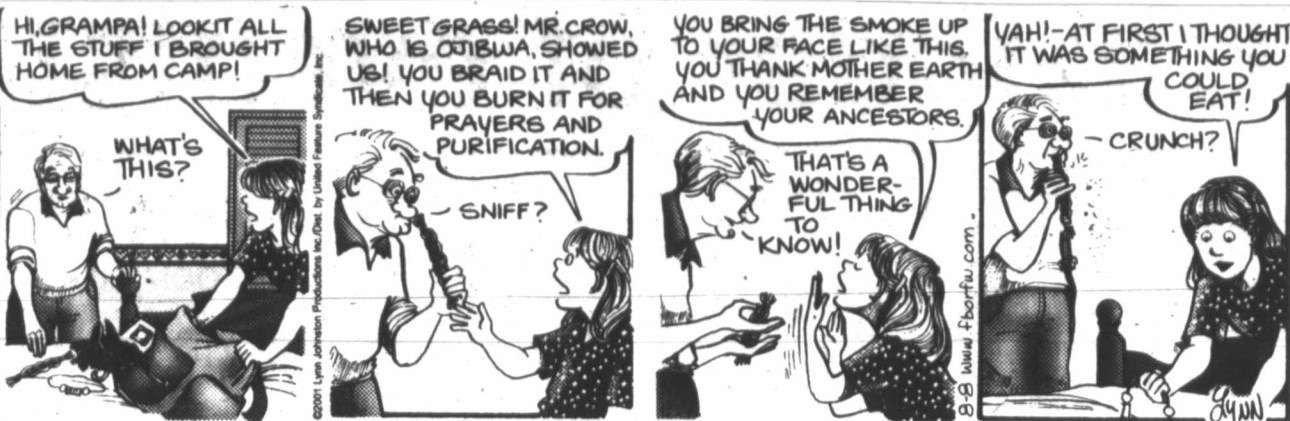
"Marmaduke! Did you take that squirrel's nut?"

The Family Circus



"Why does that man keep talkin' to us, Daddy? Does he KNOW us?"

For Better or For Worse



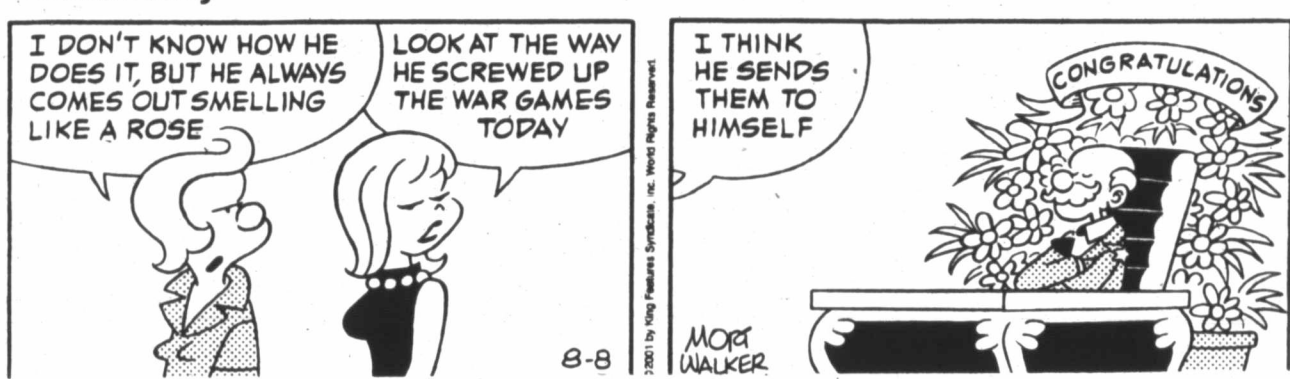
Zits



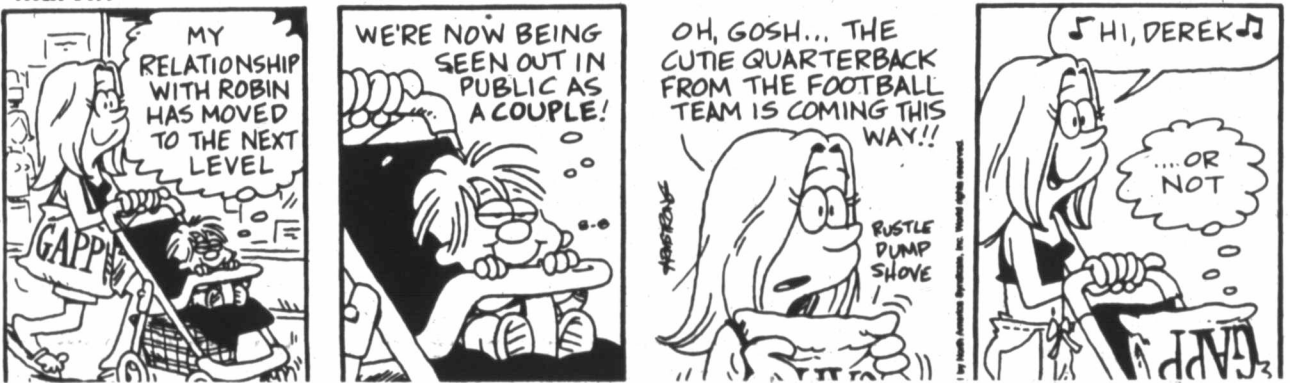
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



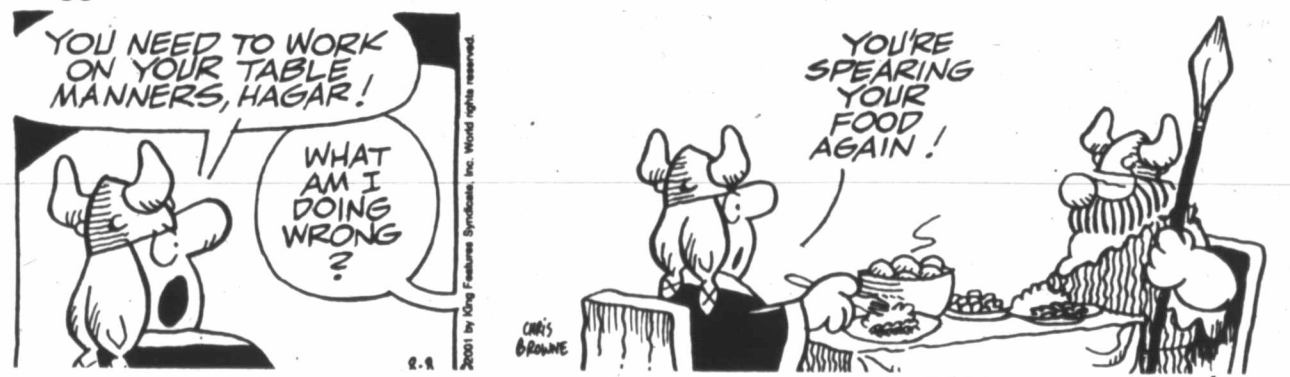
Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore




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DR. JAMES DOBSON is a psychologist, author and president of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home.



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Q I have a lot of stress in my life and just don't know how to cope with it. Any suggestions? When the roof caves in at your house, when your little girl gets the measles or your teen-ager flunks a course in school or your spouse gets laid off at work, how do you cope with the stress?

A Your question reminds me of an old baseball story about Bill Clem, a famous National League umpire. He used to have a habit of hesitating a minute before signaling a ball or a strike. It was a quirk of his. One day there was this hotshot young pitcher on the mound who would fire away, and Bill Clem would take his time calling the pitch.

Finally, in about the sixth inning, the kid was getting irritated. He threw one crucial pitch and then just couldn't help yelling, "Come on, Bill. What is it?"

Clem pulled off his face mask, stared the kid down, and said, "It ain't nothing 'til I call it something."

Well, that's kind of the way it is in life. We can't stop the curve balls from coming our way, but we do get the privilege of deciding what to call them. You can determine whether a stressful time is the most horrible, terrible, unfair thing that ever happened to you, or whether it's just another common problem that you'll manage to get through somehow.

Remember also that the way you react is being watched carefully by your kids. If we show them that we can cope, they'll also be more likely to handle their stress more easily.

Q How do you feel about "no-fault divorce" laws, which allow for the dissolution of marriage without cause? If one party wants out, he or she can get out. Has that been a good policy?

A The concept of "no-fault divorce" was introduced in California in 1969, making it the first jurisdiction in the Western world to radically alter its divorce law. In the next 15 years, every state in the U.S. adopted some form of no-fault legislation. The idea took the nation by storm.

Statistical evidence for the past three decades verifies that no-fault divorce has been a disaster for the family. According to Statistical Abstracts of the United States, the number of divorcees in this country has increased by 279 percent since these laws began taking effect in 1970. The number of children living with a divorce parent has increased 352 percent in that same period. Demographer Dr. Paul Glick has predicted that one-third of all children will live in a stepfamily before they reach their 18th birthday.

I agree with those who contend that the liberalization of divorce laws undermined the sanctity of the home and condemned millions of children to a life of poverty and heartache.

In essence, no-fault divorce laws have effectively nullified the act of marriage, making it an unenforceable contract. A person can abandon his or her family more easily than that person can abrogate any other agreement that bears his signature. Of greatest concern is the welfare of the husband or wife who is unwillingly confronted with divorce, custody battles and rejection. That responsible individual has absolutely no power in the dissolution of the family. But the other spouse, even the person who chases after a younger playmate or a "grand new freedom," is the one in charge.

There is a lesson to be learned from this regrettable exercise in social engineering. The institution of the family is the basic unit of society -- the ground floor on which the entire culture rests. If it collapses, everything of value will go down with it. We should never tamper with it frivolously or undermine its rationale for existence.

Dr. Dobson is president of the nonprofit organization Focus on the Family, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO. 80903; or www.family.org. Questions and answers are excerpted from "Solid Answers," published by Tyndale House.

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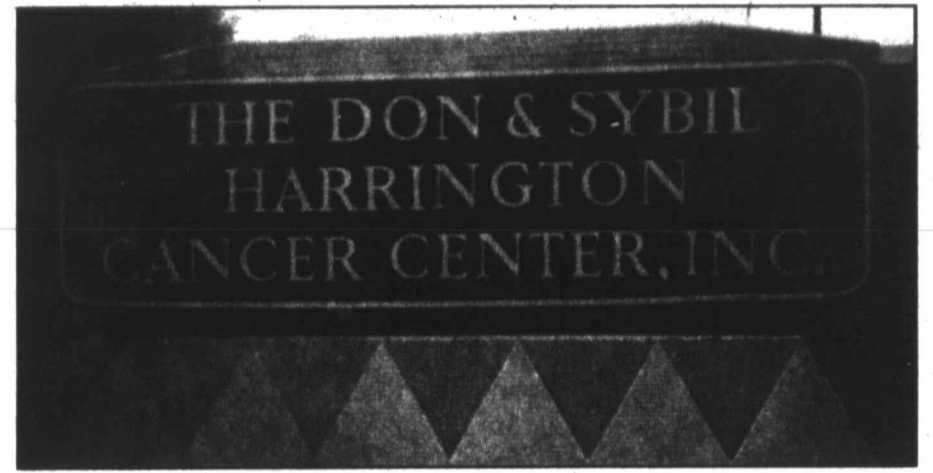
AUGUST 8, 2001

Neighbors help Neighbors



Peggy and Roger David enjoy the ir attractive backyard. It will be the site of this year's Circle of Friends Party.

The Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer , Inc. provides treatments to cancer patients from throughout the Texas Panhandle, New Mexico and Oklahoma. Many patients from Pampa and the surrounding area have traveled to Amarillo for their treatments.



By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is the local volunteer support group of The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.

Many communities throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico have a local group to assist their local citizens who are taking cancer treatments at the Harrington Facility in Amarillo.

The purpose of the group is to support cancer patients and their families who live in the Panhandle area. This group is not affiliated with the American Cancer Society and does not receive funds or duplicate American Cancer Society programs.

The annual membership drive for the Circle of Friends is the one major source of funding to the group. Membership parties are held in surrounding area towns each spring and summer.

With this money, The Circle of Friends is able to provide financial support to cancer patients and their families who might otherwise have difficulty in funding services not covered by insurance or not available through other agencies.

The Circle of Friends helps cancer patients become cancer survivors because of their help. The patients have enough worries while taking treatments. This group will help by funding additional needed services.

The Pampa Circle of Friends annual Backyard Dinner Party will be Aug. 12 at the home of Peggy and Roger David.

Anyone seeking additional information should contact any of the host couples.



Left, Janice Porter and Evelyn Johnson address invitations as are, right, Sara Carmichael and Sarah Martindale. Although some invitations are mailed out, everyone is invited to attend the Saturday event,



2001 Hosts and Hostesses

Lora and John Mark Baggerman
Martha and Bob Campbell
Sue and Hal Cree
Peggy and Roger David
Anita and Duane Harp
Sharron and Ron Hurst
Stephanie and Scott Lowe
Carol and Dawson Orr
Janice and Lee Porter
Nancy and Mike Ruff

Janyth and Charles Bowers
Sara and Doug Carmichael
Faustina and John Curry
Kristi and David Fatheree
Ramona and Bill Hite
Evelyn Johnson
Sherry and Jack McCavit
Robbie and Jim Pepper
Kim and Harold Price
Linda and Howard Reed
Jamie and Scott White

Shannon and Butch Buck
Julie and Milton Cooke
Gayle and Joe Curtis
Jennifer and David Hampton
Kerrick and Bennie Horton
Stephanie and Greg Kelly
Sarah and Russell Martindale
Lisa and Dan Pepper
Kendra and Gregor Reeves
Dana and Bebo Terry

Knights of Columbus Jack Albracht, Neal Hoelting, Kenny Gerber, Doug Ware and Wes Hukill will prepare dinner for the party along with the Texas Cattle Exchange.



Jennifer Hampton, pictured above, along with Peggy David, are the board members representing Pampa at the Harrington Cancer Center.