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THE Pampa NEWS

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2002

NEWS

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WEATHER WEATHER

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LOCAL
**City commission
to meet Tuesday**

City Commissioners will hear several citizen advisory board reports during its work session that starts at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the City Hall conference room to be followed at 6 p.m. by the regular meeting.

Reports are due from the Planning and Zoning Commission, Lovett Memorial Library Board and the Traffic Commission.

Action agenda items include municipal telecommunications right-of-way access line rates; first reading Ordinance No. 1375 designating 25th Avenue as a through street; a resolution submitting a grant application to the Governor's Justice Division (CDJ) for a school resource officer at Pampa Middle School.

**Volunteers needed for
summer lunch project**

Volunteers are needed if the planned summer lunch program is to be a success, said Carolyn Stroud of The Harvest House. She and others are helping Pampa Independent School District coordinate the program for youngsters who get free and reduced-priced meals during the school year. Instead of serving lunch in one of the school cafeterias, the aim is to serve the meals in as many as six parks in the Wilson and Lamar districts, she said. To make it possible, volunteers are needed to give two hours a day on weekdays during June and July and the first week of August. Without volunteers the program won't work, Stroud said. To sign up to help, call 665-4042.

DEATHS
Robert "Bob" A. Fugate, 78, businessman.
Carl "Babe" Hall, 81, oilfield worker.
Billy Joe "Bill" Seuh, 74, retired Cabot employee.

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**West Texas
LANDSCAPE**
Residential & Commercial
669-0158 mobile 663-1277

Water: Demand = depletion

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

AMARILLO The computer model showing water depletion in the Texas Panhandle will be updated to include water projects in Roberts County, a planning official told a water symposium here this month.

Jarrett Atkinson with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, contractor for the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, told participants here for a symposium on air and water concerns hosted by the Great Plains Foundation out of Dodge City, Kan., that the initial computer model, developed by Texas A&M for the state's water plan, does not include plans for commercial mining of water

In one year, the Texas Panhandle uses enough groundwater to fill Lake Meredith five times — 1.7 billion acre-feet, experts say.

by individuals in Roberts County from the Ogallala Aquifer, the giant underground water formation that stretches across eight states in the Great Plains.

Atkinson said that pumping by the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and the City of Amarillo is built into the computer model.

At the time the computer model was developed, two commercial water projects in the county had not been permitted, Atkinson said. He indicated that with the information now avail-

able and if any of the projects are permitted, the computer model will be updated to reflect the increased demand on water resources in Roberts County.

The water management goal for the region, Atkinson said, is to maintain at least 50 percent of the underground water that was available in 1998 for the next 50 years.

Atkinson said the Ogallala Aquifer in the Roberts County area is a finite resource.

"There is a certain quantity of water that is available," he said. "This is one of the reasons we developed that management goal. If you take the concept of anything that's finite, there's never a surplus of it."

Atkinson told the participants at the symposium to think of the ground water as a retirement account.

"It's not money you're going to spend today or tomorrow or next month or next year, depending upon where you are in your career," Atkinson said. "Who considers their retirement account surplus money? There's not an excess of a finite resource. What you don't need today will be needed at some point in the future."

(See WATER, Page 3)

Dam open for fishing

LAKE MEREDITH Effective immediately, the face of the Sanford Dam will be open for fishing, announced Lake Meredith National Recreation Area (NRA) officials.

The area surrounding the Intake Tower remains closed to public access, 750 feet in all directions. Due to this restriction, there is no through access across the dam, according to a press release issued by Lake Meredith NRA in conjunction with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority (CRMWA).

Access to the face or sides of the dam can be made by boat or by foot, but vehicles are not permitted on the dam proper, a rule that has been in effect since Sept. 11, 2001.

"Under the circumstances, we are asking for the voluntary cooperation and support of all fishermen, boaters, and visitors to Lake Meredith in obeying these requirements," said Superintendent Karren Brown. "We don't want to have a few spoil sports ruin the fishing access for the thousands of folks who enjoy using the lake."

Parking for those who wish to walk in and fish near the dam is available at North Canyon and also from two dirt areas just below CRMWA headquarters. The dam face is composed of loose gravel and officials ask persons going there to take appropriate precautions when walking in and out of the area.

For more information, contact the park headquarters at 806-857-3151.

Man at work



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Arlois Holtman takes a jackhammer to the concrete steps of the Pampa post office this morning. With Van Doran Brick and Tile from Amarillo, Holtman said the crew he is on expects to be in Pampa for several weeks. In addition to replacing the front steps of the post office in Pampa, he said they were also repairing and replacing tile and steps on the other sides of the building.

Powell demands 'clear statement' on Israeli withdrawal

AGADIR, Morocco (AP) — Secretary of State Colin Powell, after meeting Monday with Morocco's moderate King Mohammed VI, demanded "a clear statement from Israel that they are beginning to withdraw" from Palestinian territories and "to do it now."

Powell said he had asked the king to counsel Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to halt violence against Israelis. The secretary said he hopes to see Arafat later in the week.

Israel's military presence on the West Bank is having "a significant and

severe" impact, Powell declared. "We have a very difficult situation in front of us. ... We want to see this operation brought to an end as soon as possible."

Mohammed, the first leader to meet with Powell as the secretary began a trip aimed at halting the violence between Israelis and Palestinians, assured Powell that Morocco will be ready to act on a land-for-peace proposal "without any prior conditions" as soon as Israeli troops withdraw from the West Bank.

In Knoxville, Tenn., Bush said Mideast peace will require leadership

by both sides.

"The United States is firmly committed to achieving peace," he said. "I meant what I said about withdrawal without delay, and I mean what I say when I call upon the Arab world to strongly condemn against terrorist activities."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush conferred Monday with Powell and that envoy Anthony Zinni would meet later in the day with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to reinforce U.S. demands for an immediate withdrawal from the Palestinian

territories.

Mohammed, long viewed as a moderating force in Israeli-Palestinian relations, urged Powell to spare no effort in seeking withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank and suggested he should be focusing on putting more pressure on Israel.

"Don't you think it was more important to go to Jerusalem first?" the king asked Powell during a photo session.

Powell told Mohammed "we considered all options" but he wanted to (See POWELL, Page 3)

Lefors, McLean schools burglarized

Gray County deputies were today investigating two school break-ins, one in Lefors and one in McLean.

Lefors and McLean reported the break-ins this morning.

Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing said that school officials reported the break-ins when they arrived at the buildings this morning. He said they appeared to have taken place either late Saturday night or Sunday.

"There were people at the school until 9 a.m. Saturday," the chief

deputy said.

He said there was extensive damage both inside and outside the school in Lefors. He said several windows had been broken.

"We're still checking Lefors to see what was taken," Rushing said.

He said Deputy Jim McDonald was still investigating the McLean school break-in.

In March, schools in Fritch, Panhandle and White Deer were broken into.

Amarillo court upholds decathlon decision

LUBBOCK (AP) — A dispute about the state's academic decathlon was properly decided last week in a Lubbock courtroom, an Amarillo appeals court considering jurisdiction ruled Monday.

State District Judge J. Blair Cherry in Lubbock had ruled that Lubbock High School could not be stripped of its state academic decathlon title and that the team did not have to participate in a rematch against Pasadena's J. Frank Dobie High School ordered by a Houston judge.

Kirk Lewis, spokesman for the Pasadena school district, said the district will decide whether to appeal the Amarillo court decision to the Texas Supreme Court after seeing what happens in a Houston courtroom Monday.

That's where attorneys for Lubbock and Pasadena school districts and the Texas Academic Decathlon Association were continuing a hearing before Judge Tracy Christopher, whose rulings conflict with Cherry's.

Pasadena is seeking to have the (See COURT, Page 3)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WATER

Region A, or the Panhandle Water Planning Region, covers 21 counties in the Texas Panhandle, including Gray County.

"We need about 1.7 billion acre-feet per year," Atkinson said of the region. "That's 560 billion gallons of water. That's one year's consumption for that 21-county zone."

That's enough water to fill Lake Meredith five times. A tank to hold that amount of water built atop the land area of a football field would be 325 miles deep.

"Water in the Texas Panhandle is primarily used for irrigated agriculture," Atkinson said.

Irrigation accounts for 89 percent of water use in the panhandle, or a little more than 1.5 million acre-feet of water per year.

The second largest use is municipal use. It uses about five percent of the total water used in the region.

"In terms of magnitude," Atkinson said, "it's extremely small. In terms of most other regions of the state, that's extremely small."

In many areas, municipal use is the biggest use of water.

"It's not the case here, nor is it the case in the Lubbock region," Atkinson said.

The next largest user is the livestock industry with three percent of the total water use.

"We project that livestock use will increase dramatically, in fact will double, over our plan life of 50 years," Atkinson said. "Even doubling that demand may be slightly low."

In his opening remarks at the symposium, State Representative David Swinford, R-Dumas, said that about a third of the beef raised in the United States is fed in the region and, soon, as much as 95 percent of the pork raised in the state will be north of Interstate 40 in the Texas Panhandle.

"We projected the livestock water use primarily for confined animal feeding arenas would increase by 106 percent over the next 50 years," Atkinson said. "It will be re-evaluated in June or July."

He said there is more information on expansion of animal feeding operation now than when the model was first completed.

"We assumed on beef cattle feedlots," said Dr. John Sweeten, an area extension specialist and one of the members of the water planning group, "a continuation of the current growth of about one and a quarter to one and a half percent per year over the next 20 years or so."

Sweeten said they assumed an eight percent compounded growth in swine feeding operations and from three to five percent for dairies.

"When we come back, we'll be able to

look forward a little better and pick out where that's going to go," Sweeten said.

All 21 counties in the region, Atkinson said, are expected to have declines in water over the next 50 years. Beginning in 2010, there are portions that are projected to go dry.

"By 2020, there are parts of Dallam, Hartley, Moore and Potter counties that are beginning to dewater in this model," Atkinson said.

By 2050, there are nine counties out of the 21 that will have some dewatered areas, he said. Six of those counties will have less than half of the water they had in 1998.

"By 2050, we will have consumed about 25 percent of the water that's in storage in the Ogallala in the Texas Panhandle," Atkinson said. "We're not telling you that the Texas Panhandle is going to run out of water. We're saying that there are some areas that if things don't change — this is a 'what if' game — if things don't change, there could be some significant problems to consider."

He said the model doesn't account for economics nor does it take into consideration groundwater district management decisions.

"All the ground water management districts have some form of a depletion rule," Atkinson said. "They all basically have a rule that says when so much is gone, we're going

to yank the throttle back and slow this thing down."

Four percent of the liquid resource comes from surface water, primarily Lake Meredith and Lake Greenbelt.

"Other than that, the water will come out from the ground," Atkinson said. "Ninety-six percent of it comes from the Ogallala Aquifer. It's the single largest water resource available to this part of the state."

A ground water availability model developed by Texas A&M shows water being depleted over the next 50 years in the western and southwestern part of the panhandle region. The ground water in the northwestern part of the panhandle, including Roberts and Gray counties, does not show much depletion.

"The projections are not magic," Atkinson said. "They just represent a possible outcome to our underground water use here as the result of our current water use practices."

Atkinson said a lot of things could happen that could change the computer model's projections.

"Economics," Atkinson said. "Everything centers around economics. A lot of that can influence our water use."

He said changes in government programs, cropping patterns, advances in technology and the crops that are grown can change projected water usage.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

POWELL

go to Spain Wednesday to meet with European ministers before going to Jerusalem to hold talks with both Israelis and Palestinians.

After their meeting, Powell told reporters: "We are hoping, as the Israelis said in statements yesterday, that we will begin to see withdrawals from Palestinian cities."

He acknowledged Israel's right to self-defense, adding, "But Israel also has to take into account the implication of its actions."

Mohammed reminded Powell, who is seeking to swing moderate leaders behind U.S. peacemaking efforts, that Morocco is a member of a committee in charge of activating the peace initiative adopted recently by the Arab League, the royal palace said in a statement.

The palace statement, issued as Powell began a meeting with the king, said Mohammed reiterated Morocco's "total condemnation of the deliberate Israeli military

invasion" of Palestinian territories and "adamantly denounced the siege imposed on President Arafat and his collaborators."

The king, speaking stiffly in English during a photo session, told Powell, who is seeking Arab help to end the worst Israeli-Palestinian fighting in decades, "I wish you luck, because it is going to be difficult."

Powell nodded his head slightly and acknowledged, "It is going to be difficult."

Powell also was meeting in Morocco with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

The king, who maintains one of his many palaces in this southern coastal city, wrote Sharon on March 31, urging him to withdraw his troops from the West Bank. As many as 1 million Moroccans demonstrated against Israel over the weekend in Rabat, the capital.

"We need more responsible statements coming out of Arab capitals," Powell said Sunday before embarking on his mission. "We need Arab leaders to act responsibly in this

time of crisis." Arab leaders say Powell needs to talk to someone who isn't on the itinerary yet: Palestinian leader Arafat.

Powell is on a trip to the Middle East and Europe that will include a meeting with Sharon in Jerusalem. Before his statement Monday that he hoped to meet this week with Arafat, Powell had said there would be such a meeting only "if circumstances permit" — depending on security, access and the agenda.

Israel has confined Arafat to his compound in Ramallah as part of a West Bank offensive aimed at rooting out militants responsible for suicide attacks.

Sharon said in a speech Monday to Israel's parliament that while his military campaign was limited in time, it would not end until the Palestinian militias have been crushed. He also said he would be willing to meet with Arab leaders to discuss a Mideast peace agreement.

Powell said he is seeking a cease-fire as a first step toward a lasting peace.

"Until the violence goes down hopefully to zero, but at least to a level where you can see that both sides are acting in a responsible way and trying to cooperate in a cease-fire, you're not going to get to a peace agreement," he said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Arab officials said Powell has little chance of succeeding if he doesn't meet with Arafat.

"I don't think he'll find any other interlocutor among the Palestinians and the mission will fail," Amr Moussa, secretary-general of the League of Arab Nations, told ABC's "This Week."

Crown Prince Abdullah's proposal for a permanent resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict has been lauded by the Bush administration and was endorsed by the Arab League on March 28. The West Bank offensive, following Palestinian suicide bombings that killed more than 40 Israelis, has fueled Arab rage.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RUN-OFFS

would not seek re-election to the senate.

Democrat polling places are as follows: Precincts 4 and 5 at the McLean Library; Precincts 2, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 at Pampa Library; Precincts 8, 11, 14, and 15 at First Christian Church; and Precincts 1 and 3 at Lefors

Community Center. Republicans will decide four judicial races in the Tuesday runoff elections.

Races to be decided will be: Justice, Supreme Court, Place 2, — Dale Wainwright and Elizabeth Ray; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1, — Tom Price and Tim Taft; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2 — Paul

Womack and David Richards; Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 3 — Guy Williams and Cathy Cochran.

Republican polling locations will be Precinct 1, Lefors Fire Station; Precincts 2, 10, and 13, Sheriff's Office in Pampa; Precincts 3, 7, 11 and 12 at M.K. Brown Auditorium; Precincts 4 and 5 at McLean Senior Citizens

Center; Precincts 8 and 9 at Austin School; and Precincts 14 and 15 at Travis School.

All polling places will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Additional information regarding the elections may be obtained by calling the Gray County Clerk's office at 669-8004.

April 10-14 at Calvary Baptist Church

President promoting volunteerism

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — President Bush is applauding elected officials for heeding his call to bolster police and emergency teams with volunteers and announcing he'll seek \$50 million from Congress to boost that effort.

Bush was touring Knoxville's Citizens' Police Academy, a training center for volunteers, on Monday.

Later, he planned an address to local officials who have set up councils to coordinate the Citizen Corps that Bush called for in his State of the Union address. It is a network of everyday Americans

pitching in on community-level police, emergency response and counterterrorism efforts.

The president has proposed spending \$230 million in 2003 to establish Citizen Corps councils in local communities. Monday, the White House said he would seek another \$50 million for the effort.

Among the mayors in Knoxville for the announcement were Anthony Williams of Washington and James Hahn of Los Angeles, two Democrats who flew with Bush on Air Force One.

Bush was announcing that more than 40 communities are forming councils to coordinate their local Citizen Corps efforts.

History will view Bush's new effort as the period when communities banded together to prepare for terrorism, said John Bridgeland, head of the USA Freedom Corps.

"And in the process, if no terrorism comes, (they) strengthened crime prevention, natural disaster preparedness and emergency and public health response," Bridgeland said.

After returning to the White House on Monday afternoon, Bush planned to address labor leaders, urging the Senate to pass legislation aimed at protecting businesses against skyrocketing premiums on terrorism insurance.

Bush's trip was notable for the absence of a political fundraising event.

HELP US CELEBRATE 100 YEARS Gray County Pictorial History Book. Includes an illustration of a man with a sign and a woman with a sign.

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

COURT

results of the test its team retook last week certified by the decathlon association, which would mean it could compete this week in the national competition.

Both schools say their nine-member teams won the competition in which the students are quizzed on various subjects. Lubbock's team will go to the national competition in Phoenix unless court decisions this week change the outcome.

After Lubbock was declared the winners of the early March competition, Dobie argued that it had been cheated because one of its score sheets was not counted. It took its case two weeks ago to Christopher, who ordered the rematch after finding scoring discrepancies.

The Lubbock district then went to Cherry, who ruled Wednesday in the local district's favor and also declared his court with jurisdiction.

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MONDAY, APRIL 8

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Stepfather Exiled From Burial Plot After Discovery of Abuse

DEAR ABBY: Our stepfather is still alive, but my family and I are trying to decide where to bury him when the time comes. When our mother died six years ago, we purchased two burial plots so they could be laid to rest next to each other. We even had a headstone engraved with both their names.

A few months ago, we discovered that our stepfather sexually abused several of the children and grandchildren when they were young. We also learned he never paid my mother's funeral expenses.

Abby, we are torn between burying him with our mother, or removing the present headstone and replacing it with a single stone with just her name on it. Most of us want him to be buried far away from here. We can't help feeling he married our mother to get to the children. Please advise us on the right thing to do.

ANGRY DAUGHTER IN KANSAS

DEAR ABBY: I am in my early 30s, and this summer I'm to be married for the first time. My parents have been divorced for many years and are splitting the cost of the wedding. My father has contributed \$10,000. The cost is expected to be higher. My mother remarried 15 years ago, and she and my stepfather can afford to pay the balance.

The problem is I intensely dislike my father's girlfriend, "Tess." They have been together 10 years. I have done everything I can think of to get him to leave her.

Tess attends all the family holiday parties. I won't go if I know she will be there — therefore, my holidays are ruined! I did succeed once in getting her "uninvited," but since then nobody will listen to me. Tess will have nothing to do with me now. In fact, she looks right through me as though I am invisible.

Abby, I do not want Tess to attend my wedding and ruin my big day. I have demanded that my father not bring her, but he will not hear of it. He says since he is paying \$10,000, he will invite whomever he wants. What can I do? How can I make this woman stay away?

SUMMER BRIDE ON A BUMMER

grow up and accept reality. Your wedding can be the beginning of many new relationships.

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Big Sister Sue," whose sister is marrying the ex-husband of another sister, reminded me of a similar situation in my family.

During a family gathering, I was catching up with two of my elderly female cousins whom I hadn't seen since my childhood. The older of the two was in her 70s. She remarked that she had been married multiple times and was now married to her younger sister's ex-husband.

I asked if the marriage had caused any hard feelings, and I still have to chuckle at her answer: "No hard feelings — he's a good man, so we decided to recycle him!"

MARY HEDENSKOG, NORWOOD, N.C.

DEAR ANGRY DAUGHTER: Your feelings are understandable and justified. However, under the circumstances, I cannot understand why you feel any responsibility for disposing of your stepfather's body "when the time comes." He's not a blood relative.

I have another suggestion: If you are his legal next of kin, donate his body to science. That way in death he can do something positive for society.

DEAR MARY: Your cousin was a practical woman. "Waste not, want not."

Pauline Phillips and her daughter, Jeanne Phillips, share the pseudonym Abigail Van Buren. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR SUMMER BRIDE: You can't. Unless you welcome her warmly, you may experience a \$10,000 shortfall. So sweeten up

For Better or For Worse



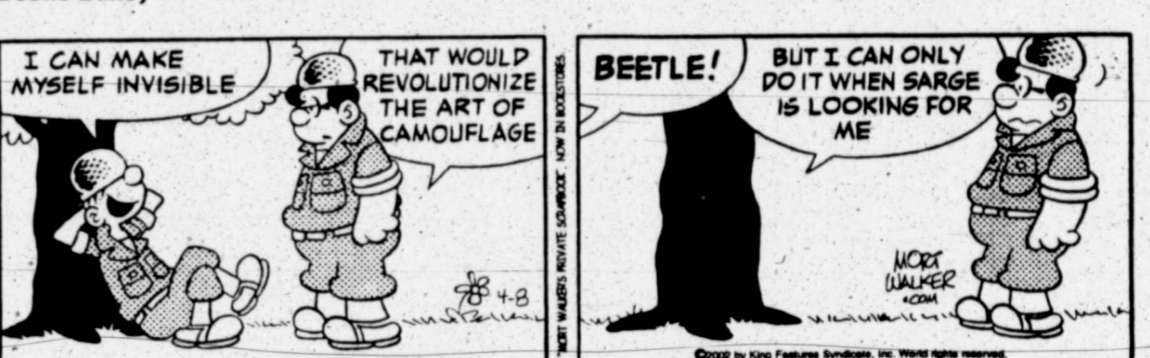
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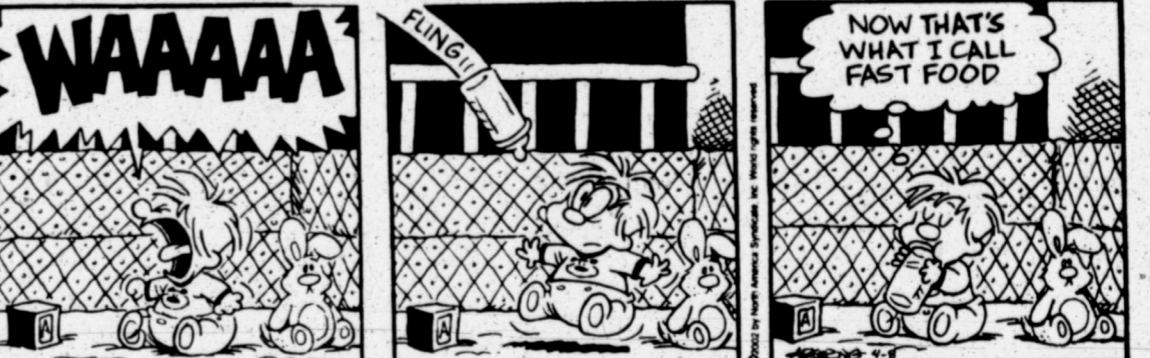
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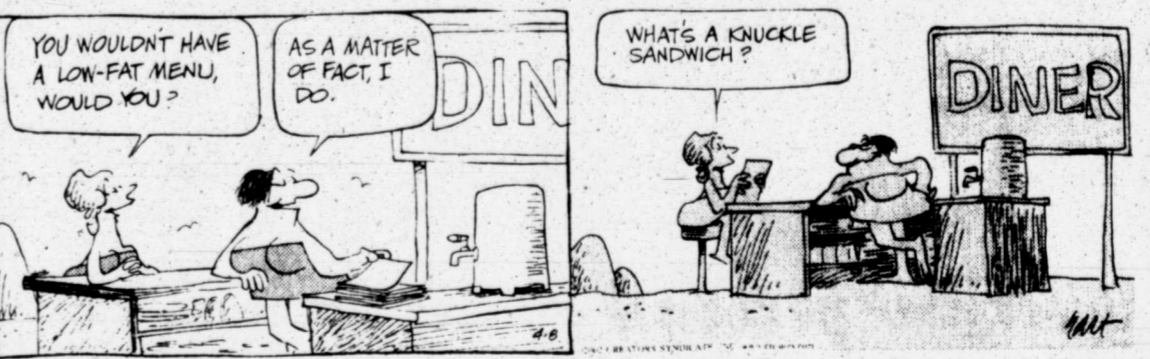
Beetle Bailey



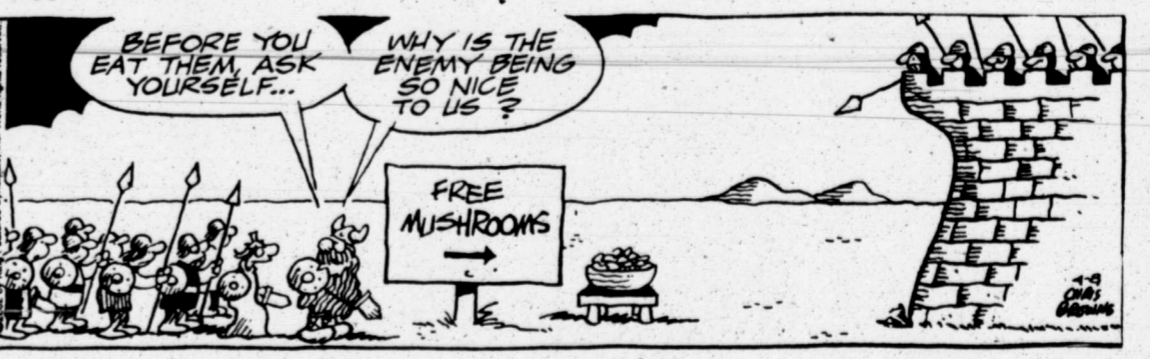
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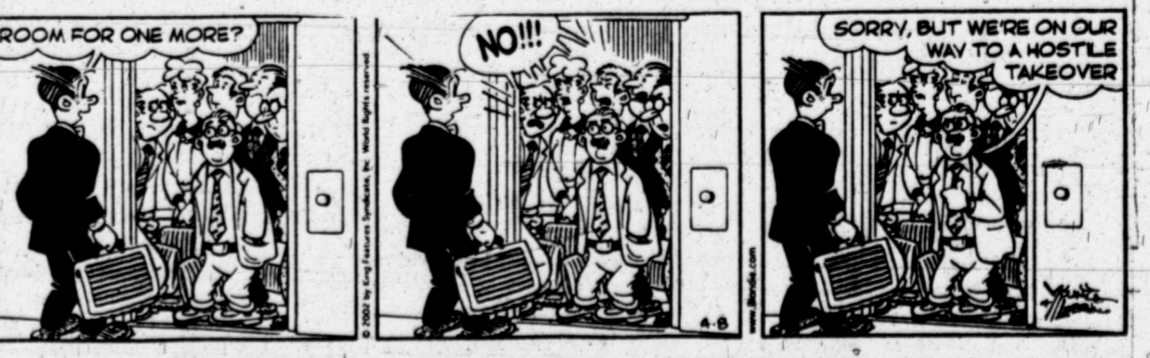
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Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

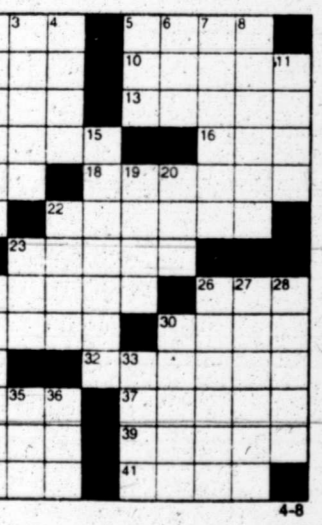
ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Jack or joker
- 5 Smooch
- 9 Heavy drinker
- 10 Make law
- 12 Fight site
- 13 Pyle of TV
- 14 Houston's WNBA team
- 16 Count starter
- 17 Realized
- 18 Chopping sport
- 21 — Juan
- 22 Climber's spikes
- 23 Typical soldier
- 24 Like some internet connections
- 26 Put down
- 29 Built for two
- 30 Two-wheeler
- 31 Border
- 32 Town squares
- 34 Honshu city
- 37 Custom
- 38 Wyoming's — Flange
- 39 White-walls
- 40 Transmitted
- 41 Finishes

SHAM TAPES COVER OPRAH OMEGA REESE TEAPANESEE TRY STS STUN SETUP SHOP ARENA HOVEROVER GENE SWEDES UPS SEC ISIA SCIARE ABBOT TALLON POLLY STEED BEER

Saturday's answer

- 15 Olympic event
- 19 On the roof of
- 20 Caviar
- 22 Heap
- 23 Wander (about)
- 24 Speakers' stands
- 25 Con
- 26 Gecko, e.g.
- 27 Wise sayings
- 28 Common answers
- 29 Easy gait
- 30 Sink's kin
- 33 Pear-shaped instrument
- 35 —Tiki
- 36 Tiny worker



*STUMPED?

For answer to today's crossword call 1-800-454-7377, 99¢ per min., 18 years of age or older only. A King Features Service.

Marmaduke



The Family Circus



This week's cartoons show little Billy's problems in subbing for Bill Keane.

Wildwood



The

It's not of ing for the g But make The peo National str edges of the Tiger Woods things armed routines, spo nology. And in the busine more yards, ger, badder, turn the trick ple who lose The game trouble. Because restrictions c travel, a very And there "We can' from now. V Hootie John told the New

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PAMPA from behir runs in the defeat Pa District Saturday Field. Pampa i trict play ar tie with Be for fourth standings. the Harvesi

Pampa's against Bor scoring six Bulldogs h on a Cody in the top c

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Saddam announces cuts in oil exports

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Saddam Hussein announced Monday that Iraq would cut oil exports for 30 days, or until Israel withdraws from Palestinian territories.

In a nationally televised speech, Saddam said all exports would be cut starting Monday. The oil minister said the move took effect as Saddam spoke.

Saddam said Iraq's top leaders met earlier Monday and decided "in the name of the people of Iraq ... to stop exporting oil totally as of this afternoon through the pipelines flowing to the Turkish ports and the south for 30 days" unless Israel withdrew earlier.

He said that if Israel had not withdrawn within the 30 days, Iraq would consider what action to take.

Iraq had called on Arabs last week to cut oil supplies as a way of pressuring the United States to force Israel to end its military incursions into Palestinian territory.

A boycott would be ineffective without Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who have rejected Iraq's call to use oil as a weapon. Many Gulf states depend on oil revenues for more than two-thirds of gov-

ernment income and cannot afford to stop sales.

The last time oil-producing Arab nations used oil as a political weapon was in 1973, when reduced exports caused a global energy crisis. Since then, the world's wealthiest nations have created the International Energy Agency to provide a cushion against any similar disruption.

Based in Paris, the IEA can tap into 4 billion barrels of strategic oil reserves maintained by its member countries. That's equal to more than five years of Iraqi production, based on the IEA's estimate of Iraq's output in January.

In November 2000, Saudi Arabia led the adoption of a pledge by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and other major exporters that oil would not be used as a political weapon.

Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Friday that Islamic countries should stop supplying oil for one month to countries with close relations with Israel.

Libya announced Monday that it supported the call, in a report on its state news agency, JANA.



Janice Monds

Local Allstate Agent earns appointment

Janice Monds is among a select group of Allstate agents who earned appointments to sell individual accident and cancer insurance products through Allstate Financial Workplace Division.

"My appointment with Workplace Division to provide individual and family supplemental insurance can play an important part in helping local residents achieve a secure financial future," says Monds. "And with the convenience of purchasing these products through regular payroll deduction, more and more Americans are choosing to protect themselves and their families this way."

Allstate Financial Workplace Division is an industry leader in developing and distributing voluntary supplemental life, health and disability products. Headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla., the company is licensed in 49 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Allstate Financial Group is a business unit of The Allstate Corp., representing the affiliates that provide life insurance, retirement, investment and health and disability insurance products.

Catholic leaders in Ireland conducting 'crisis meeting'

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Ireland's Roman Catholic bishops were holding crisis talks Monday over the church's handling of cases of sexual abuse involving pedophile priests.

The meeting comes a week after the Bishop of Ferns, Brendan Comiskey, resigned after admitting he had not done enough to prevent sexual abuse by priests, particularly the Rev. Sean Fortune, who was facing 66 counts of molesting and raping teen-age boys when he committed suicide in 1999.

The bishops were expected to focus on whether the church will surrender to the government confidential records detailing when it learned of abuse cases and what actions it took. The church has admitted transferring pedophile priests to new parishes, sometimes in different countries, rather than informing police.

On Sunday, the leader of Ireland's 4 million Catholics apologized for the "unspeakable harm" inflicted by pedophile priests as alleged victims picketed outside, demanding his resignation.

Cardinal Desmond Connell also sought "God's forgiveness and healing" at a mass honoring the man who founded a religious order embroiled in the unfolding sex-abuse scandal.

"We ask this for ourselves and the victims, who have been so gravely wronged by those who were our brothers," Connell told 2,000 Catholic priests, nuns and brothers at the Royal Dublin Society conference center.

Outside, church officials ran a gauntlet of protesters, some of whom claimed to be victims of pedophile priests.

"Cardinal Connell is a hypocrite and his apologies come far too late," said John Kelly,

leading about 150 protesters from his organization, Survivors of Child Abuse. "He's admitted being informed of pervert priests all over Ireland but instead of taking action, he basically told the victims to go to hell."

Kelly says he was raped and beaten in one of Ireland's industrial schools by a priest from the Christian Brothers, an iron-disciplined teaching order that Ireland exported to more than 20 countries.

Sunday's church rally honored the order's founder, Edmund Rice. But the sex-abuse scandals pummeling the Catholic church in several countries, including the United States, particularly have tarnished the reputation of Christian Brothers institutions.

The order has closed schools in Canada and Australia after admitting its brothers abused students there. In Ireland, the government struck a landmark deal in January with Catholic orders that ran schools and orphanages, chiefly the Christian Brothers, requiring the church to pay \$110 million into a larger fund compensating abuse victims.

Connell said the legacy of Rice, who was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1996, "has been disfigured and his inheritance dishonored by the terrible failures of some brothers."

Rather than "nurturing the young people committed to their care," he said, they inflicted "unspeakable harm."

The audience included Bishop Eamonn Walsh, appointed by the Vatican Saturday to run Ireland's southeast diocese of Ferns after Comiskey resigned last week.

Comiskey's resignation was accepted by the Vatican on Saturday.

'Drop Everything and Read'



(Courtesy photo)

(Left-right) Doretta Gerber, Kelley Smith and Roberta Hendricks, teachers at Lamar Elementary School, recently shared books about ducks with some of the student body during "Drop Everything and READ Day." The teachers wore bright yellow shirts and orange duck feet. During the day, many community volunteers read stories to the classes. The school-wide event was chaired by Linda Ditmore.

WT to host 'Educator Expo'

CANYON — Education majors and prospective teachers will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 100 different school districts at West Texas A&M University's annual Educator's EXPO. The event is set for 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, April 15 at the Virgil Henson Activities Center Ballroom on the WTAMU campus.

The event, sponsored by WTAMU Career and Counseling Services, is open to all WTAMU students and any educator who is certified to teach as of fall 2002. Prospective teachers will get the chance to visit with school district representatives hoping to fill positions for the 2002-2003 school year. School districts in Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, Colorado and California will be represented.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our students, as well as members of the community, who are looking for teaching positions for Fall 2002, to connect with more than 100 prospective employers in one location," Kim Storey, assis-

tant director in career and counseling services, said. "We encourage our undergraduate education majors to attend the EXPO in order to network, find out more about the world of education and to help them make occupational choices."

The EXPO offers those attending a chance to learn more about the school system, its personnel needs and the career paths offered. Vacancies available range from bilingual, mathematics and art to science, special ed and music. Positions for speech pathologists, diagnosticians and counselors are also available.

"We feel that this is a mutually beneficial contact for both the school district and the student, and we are pleased to offer this opportunity," Storey said.

Educator's EXPO is free and open to the public. Those attending are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resumes. For more information, call (806) 651-2345 or visit Career and Counseling Services Web site at <http://wtcareer.wtamu.edu>.

U.N. World Assembly of Aging gets under way

MADRID, Spain (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, taking advantage of his birthday Monday, used lyrics from a classic pop tune to open the U.N. World Assembly on Aging.

"I turned 64 years old today," he told representatives from 160 nations and international organizations. "I therefore feel empowered to quote the Beatles' song and ask, on behalf of all older persons: 'Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?'"

"I trust the answer is yes," he added to applause.

Globally, the population of

people 60 and older is growing by 2 percent each year, and seniors are expected to outnumber children for the first time in human history by 2050, according to the latest U.N. statistics.

Delegates to the week-long assembly are striving to complete a global document to guide policies for the rapidly graying planet, from providing adequate pensions and affordable health care to preventing discrimination and abuse.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, whose country already has one of the world's oldest populations,

said countries need to promote "active aging" through use of preventive medicine, continued learning and flexible work schedules.

"All that, apart from making good use of the human potential of older people, will help to meet the possible costs deriving from the new population structure," he said in opening remarks.

Developing countries, where the percentage of older persons is lower now but growing much faster than in the West, face the same challenges on top of current problems of poverty, HIV/AIDS and economic development.

80 PERCENT OF SUN DAMAGE OCCURS BEFORE AGE 18.
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