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THE Pampa NEWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2002

NEWS

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LOCAL
**Letter carriers plan
annual food drive**

National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, Pampa United Way, and the AFL-CIO will be collecting nonperishable food items on Saturday, May 11.

Food collected will be distributed to The Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Christian Services, Tralee Crisis Center, Southside Senior Citizens Center, the Harvest House, and Genesis House.

To participate in the food drive, local citizens are asked to place nonperishable food donations in their mailboxes on Saturday, May 11.

Letter carriers will pick-up the food up and deliver it to the Genesis House Activity Center where the food will be weighed, boxed and divided evenly between the agencies.

'Tasting Party' set to sample recipes

McLEAN — McLean Centennial Committee is sponsoring a Cookbook Tasting Party on Saturday, May 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Devil's Rope Museum. The Devil's Rope Museum and the McLean Alanreed Area Museum are promoting their newly published Centennial cookbook "Best of Texas Recipes." Cookbooks are available for \$12. For more information, call 779-2225. Donations will be accepted for the "Peri Grigsby Medical Fund."

DEATHS
Kenneth Davis, McLean, services pending.

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

Jury awards \$1.11 million to Brainards

By KATE B. DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

A judge's order remains to be filed, but jurors hearing the case involving the traffic death of rancher Edward H. Brainard returned a \$1,110,000 verdict on behalf of his family, said plaintiff's attorney Bryan Scott of Houston.

The week-long case in 31st District Court here concluded Friday about 10:30 p.m. when jurors reported their verdict after more than five hours of deliberation, Scott told *The Pampa News*.

Brainard died on July 1, 1999, in a North Price Road crash in which a Premier Well Service, Inc., truck, driven by Jose Alfredo Miranda, crossed the center line and hit Brainard's 1982 Chevrolet Blazer, according to Texas

Department of Public Safety records. The 1956-model oil service truck crossed into Brainard's path after a tire came off.

The well service and its insurance company had previously settled with the Brainard family, Scott confirmed the settlement amount remains confidential.

Court documents relating to summary judgment evidence with regard to the well service said the defendants did not dispute that prior to driving the truck they were aware of "cracks in the left hub wheel."

In last week's trial, the Brainard family was suing Trinity Universal Insurance Company which is the company that had the insurance on Brainard's Blazer, Scott said. The family (See **JURY**, Page 3)

Sign of spring



(Pampa News photo by Redonn Wood)

Sure signs of spring are brightly-colored baseball uniforms like this one worn by Hunter Hall, 5, of Pampa for his T-ball game last night at Optimist Park between Rheam's Diamond Shop and Curtis Well Service. Optimist Club T-Ball games, the first level of the youth baseball program here for ages 5 to 7, began this week.

Celanese asks for '99 PEDC records

By NANCY YOUNG
MANAGING EDITOR

Pampa Economic Development Corporation approved part of Joe Mullenax's request for copies of PEDC records during Monday evening's meeting.

Mullenax of Celanese faxed a request to Board Secretary-Treasurer Steve Phillips requesting copies of all 1999 board meeting minutes, any information on Section 53 (a parcel of land donated by Celanese to the PEDC) and executive session records of discussions regarding the parcel of land.

Board approves part of request

Board members did not approve giving him records of the executive session.

"I just don't think we can do that because of the Open Meetings Act," said Phillips. "This is where we need legal advice."

He continued, "I will provide everything I have, but don't know if I have possession of all the records involved."

Mullenax, who served briefly on the PEDC board in early 2001, has been acting on behalf of Celanese to have

the Section 53 parcel of land returned to the company as the PEDC shuts down its operations in Pampa.

In previous appearances before the PEDC board he explained that the land was donated to the PEDC by Celanese in 1999 to be used for local economic development.

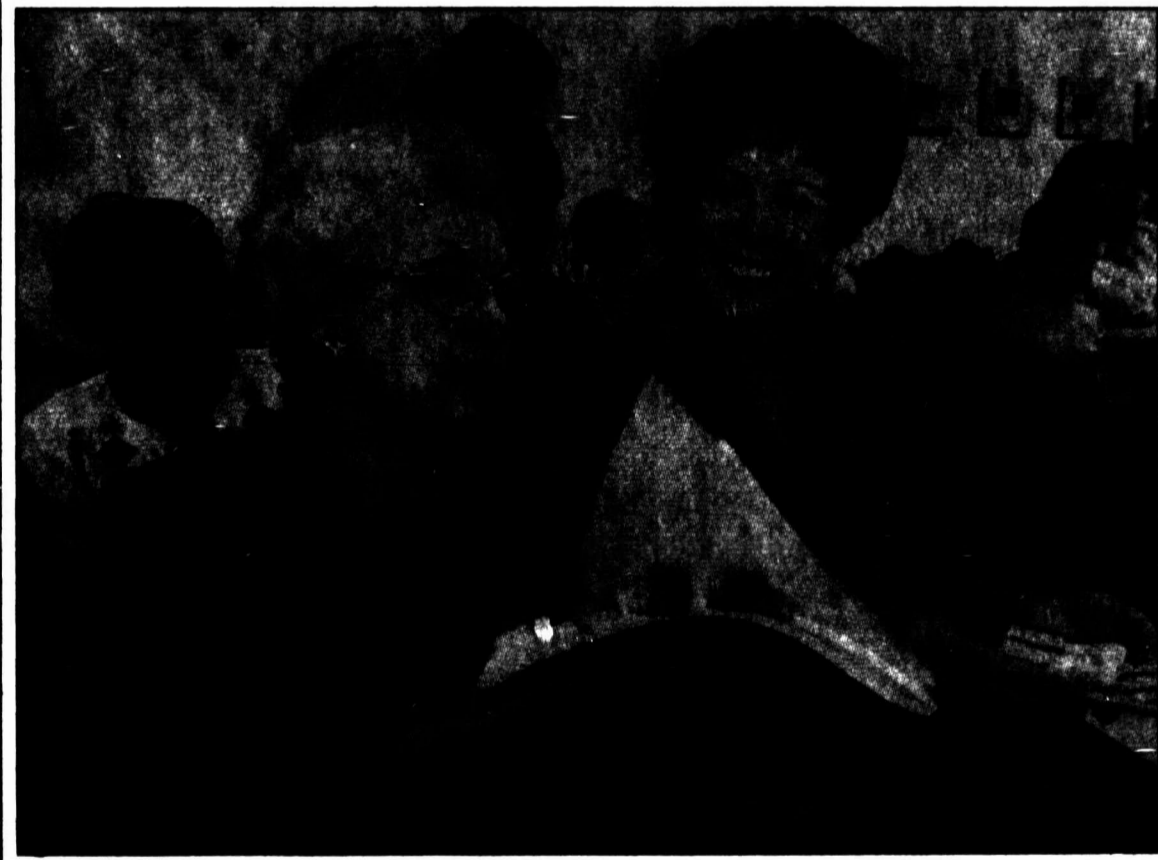
Concerned about the future of the property donated to help provide jobs for local residents and boost the local economy, Celanese officials requested at a Jan. 14 meeting and again on Jan.

28 that the land be utilized for its original intent.

Mullenax requested at a later meeting for the PEDC to donate the land to the Pampa Industrial Foundation, a group of local businessmen involved in securing economic development in the community.

Dalton Lewis said the board is in a holding situation until the Attorney General's opinion requested on March 25 is rendered. He said there is to be a decision by Sept. 23.

Board members are hoping the matter will be settled when the AG's opinion is made as the laws are unclear in (See **REQUEST**, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Thelma Bray, left, shows the book she authored to Paulette Kirksey during a break in the opening ceremonies at the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center here.

Folk music legend to Bray: Write another Guthrie book

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Thelma Bray is taking the advice of a legend in the folk music world and producing another book.

When Bray self-published a book, "Reflections," on folk singer Woody Guthrie, one of the first people she sent a copy to was Pete Seeger, a legend in the world of folk music and a close friend of Guthrie.

Seeger sent the book back.

Bray was thrilled. The reason he sent it back was because he had filled the margins of the book with notes, expanding on experiences he had shared with Guthrie or making comments about people mentioned in the book. He also asked for a couple more copies of Bray's book.

"He was one of the first people to receive one of my books," Bray said.

Seeger, a fixture in the world of folk music since the 1930s when he and Guthrie arrived in (See **BOOK**, Page 3)

Skellytown Council fires municipal judge

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

SKELLYTOWN — This community of 610 people, which has no police force, now has no judge. Nor do they have a computer system that works.

They do, however, have an agreement with a volunteer fire department and emergency rescue unit to protect them, and they have a trash truck that works — for now.

The Skellytown City Council fired their municipal judge, Fred Cullon Jr., during Tuesday night's called session, voting unanimously to

terminate him for lack of confidence. When Cullon asked for specifics, Mayor Lucille Lawrence moved on down the agenda.

Cullon appeared before the council at the last meeting on April 9 and told the council he could do nothing more than what he was doing without a law enforcement officer behind him.

The council discussed hiring a police officer during an executive session Tuesday night, but took no action on the issue.

They did reprimand the animal control officer, however. (See **COUNCIL**, Page 3)

Bond denied in arrest

By KATE B. DICKSON
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Bond was denied today for a Pampa man arrested on drug charges Tuesday night when officers from several agencies conducted a raid on his home with a search warrant for methamphetamines.

As was the case in another bust several weeks ago, police said an "abundance of complaints" from neighbors helped officers to make their case.

Michael Eldon Marsh, 45, 2200 N. Nelson, remains behind bars at the Gray

County Jail where he was arraigned this morning before Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman who denied bond.

Marsh is charged with possession in a drug-free zone of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) over one gram and under four grams. The drug-free zone relates to the home's one-block distance to Travis Elementary School and that designation raises the crime's severity from a third to a second-degree felony, police said.

(See **ARREST**, Page 3)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

COUNCIL

er, saying he did not perform his job properly. "He cannot issue citations," Mayor Lawrence said, "but he can pick up animals."

The council also discussed the city's trash truck driver performance in executive session, but took no action.

The trash truck recently sustained damage when a piece of angle iron was apparently compacted. Mayor Lawrence called for a motion to pay a company \$2,194 to repair the truck, but the council decided to wait and get more bids after City Secretary Nancy Grogan said there was a bid of \$500 at City Hall to fix the truck and at least one other bid was expected later this week.

City employees said the truck was operating, and they would try to keep it operating until a bid could be selected, tentatively at the council's next meeting, May 14.

The city council also hired Brown, Graham, and Company, CPAs, to audit Skellytown's books for the city's fiscal year ending in September 2001, at an estimated price of \$9,000 to \$9,500.

The council was unable to go over their budget because the printer in the computer system at City Hall was not working.

An agreement with the Skellytown Area Volunteer Fire Department, an agreement which had caused much rancor during the council's April 9 meeting, sailed through, being accepted on a unanimous vote by the council members.

Tuesday night's meeting was much less rancorous than the council's previous meeting.

Carson County Sheriff Gary Robertson, accompanied by a deputy, opened the Skellytown City Council meeting Tuesday night by reading from the Texas Penal Code concerning disruptions at public meetings.

"A person commits an offense if with intent to prevent or disrupt a lawful meeting, procession or gathering, he obstructs or interferes with the meeting, procession or gathering by physical action or verbal utterance," Sheriff Robertson said.

Robertson explained such disruptions are Class B misdemeanors that could result in a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to six months in jail.

"The mayor runs the meeting," Robertson said. "You have to abide by her rules."

Even then, the sheriff was questioned by four people who objected to not being able to voice their opinions at city council meetings.

"She doesn't have to give an open forum if she doesn't want public feedback," the sheriff said of the mayor.

Sheriff Robertson said he and his deputy were at the meeting Tuesday night at the request of the city council.

Lake Meredith summer youth work program plans under way

LAKE MEREDITH — Lake Meredith National Recreation Area and Tri-City Youth of Borger will cooperatively conduct a summer youth work program under the authority of the Public Land Corps program through the National Park Service.

Tri-City Youth will hire eight enrollees between the

ages of 16-21 and two adult crew leaders, at least 21 years of age. The eight-week program will run from June 3 to July 21. Enrollees must be available to work the entire time. Enrollees will be paid \$6 per hour and will work a 40-hour week. Adult crew leaders will be hired to supervise the work crews and manage the

program. Leaders will be paid \$10 to \$12 per hour. Work to be accomplished includes boundary fence construction, front-country campground rehabilitation, and historic preservation of the McBride House. Enrollees will be required to provide their own 8-inch high, leather work boots, jeans, and a work shirt.

Hard hats and other safety equipment will be provided.

Youth may apply from April 29 to May 10. Applications may be picked up at Lake Meredith National Recreation Area Headquarters, 419 E. Broadway, in Fritch, next to the Pantex Credit Union building.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

REQUEST

several areas involving the close down of the PEDC.

Clarification is being sought on whether the assets of the PEDC must be sold, and that includes the Section 53 property.

Organization of the PEDC files was another major issue discussed by the board Monday evening.

Board member Gary Sutherland said he felt the board needed to hire someone part-time to organize and maintain the files.

"We had a motion to hire help in February, and we haven't taken action on it," said Sutherland. "We've got problems and we're not solving them. I don't think I volunteered for this kind of a deal."

Board members discussed the fact that some files are still in the possession of the City of Pampa and said the files need to be organized together.

"I just wanted to help get this straightened out," said Phillips. He said John Horst of the City of Pampa has worked well with the board.

Phillips and all board members said that they have no disagreements with the City of Pampa.

"It will be so good to get an attorney for us. Several different factions have become involved and it has become political. It has made me nervous not having legal counsel," Phillips said.

Attorney Chris Jensen was hired by the board as their legal counsel at the Monday meeting.

Board members Doug Locke and Bill Allison agreed with Phillips as well as Sutherland and Lewis that they just wanted to do what is legal and best for the City of Pampa in phasing out the PEDC.

Phillips reported visiting with a representative regarding Guardian Corrosion and said the company is downsizing.

"The gist of the conversation was that they are downsizing and that they have too much facility for what they need at this point. They thought it would be good to possibly sell that building, to see what the market for that building would be and see if they could find a building that would suit their specific purpose and not have to handle rental property," said Phillips.


In other action, the board approved selling a 1992 typewriter to local attorney Don Lane for \$250.

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JURY

ily sued the company under the policy's under-insured motorist (UIM) provision.

Under UMI provisions, Scott said suits are filed if the other insurance company involved is deemed to have had insufficient coverage. He added that the settlement with Premier was made with the approval of Trinity.

Scott said there were "lots of issues and questions" involved during the trial and said jurors were asked to answer about 20 questions during their deliberations. Included was the answer "yes" to the question that negligence was the proximate cause of Brainard's death.

The Houston attorney said the plaintiff's team "was pleased with the handling of the trial" by 31st District Judge Steven Emmert who will enter the final order. That order could stand in accordance with the jury verdict or could contain changes.

Commenting on the amount of the verdict, Scott said, "We would like for it to have been more and they (Trinity lawyers) would have liked for it to have been less."

Scott said Trinity is an auto insurance company and not a life insurance company. It had been reported previously in *The Pampa News* that Trinity is a life insurance company.

At least one court document, pertaining to the settlement agreement with Premier, had listed Trinity as a life insurance company. Also, District Clerk Gaye Hondrich confirmed, the styling of the case in the district court computer listing shows it as a life insurance company.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BOOK

New York City about the same time, left Bray with some candid and honest comments, though not always kind.

In her book, Bray tells how Guthrie and Seeger drove to Pampa from New York in Guthrie's new Plymouth, writing "66 Highway Blues" on the way. After a few days, they left to return to New York.

In the margin of Bray's book, Seeger's handwritten notation tells the rest of the story.

"We both went back to NYC," he wrote. "I forget how. Woody's car was left in Oklahoma City and taken back by the car company. It wasn't paid for."

On another page, Seeger noted what a generous soul Mary, Guthrie's first wife was. Guthrie and Mary Jennings had married in Pampa about the time Guthrie was beginning to play and sing his own songs.

"Woody was not a good husband to her!" Seeger noted.

Seeger also recalled the last time he saw Guthrie perform. It was 1952. Guthrie had been diagnosed with Huntington's Chorea, the disease that would eventually take his life. He had gotten out of the hospital in New York and, estranged

from his second wife, made his way to California, buying a piece of property in a secluded canyon north of Los Angeles.

"It was the last time I saw him perform," Seeger noted in the margin of Bray's book, "at a house party in Topango Canyon."

While Seeger pulled no punches concerning Guthrie's faults, he also pointed out Guthrie's accomplishments. He noted how author John Steinbeck wrote the introduction for the book "Hard Hitting Songs for Hard Hit People" that Guthrie and Seeger put together. He noted how his grandchildren now sing Guthrie's songs and how those songs have stood the test of time.

Seeger told Bray in a note that hers was the best short description he'd ever read of Guthrie's life and suggested she take the first part of the book, the narrative of Guthrie's life, add more pictures and Guthrie's best songs and republish it.

"I bet it would be translated into many languages," Seeger wrote. "It would be much better than Joe Klein's biography, which overemphasized Woody's problems and skipped over his achievements."

"I'm going to do what he said," Bray said.



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PAC art exhibit



(Courtesy photo)

Pampa Art Club (PAC) members (left-right) Kay Lee, Pat Kindle, Lora Barber, and Madeline Gawthrop during a get-together. PAC is presently gearing up for its annual art exhibit slated from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., May 8 at Lovett Memorial Library.

Lawmakers disclose new subsidy rates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Subsidy rates for some grain crops will jump more than 10 percent this year, lawmakers disclosed Tuesday in releasing new details of their proposed overhaul of agriculture programs.

The legislation is expected to go to the House and Senate by next week for final approval.

In the next 10 years, the bill would boost agriculture spending by 70 percent, or \$73.5 billion, over the cost of existing programs.

The legislation raises price guarantees, or loan rates, for corn, wheat, oats, and sorghum and also revises a target price system, abolished in 1996, that would provide additional payments to farmers when commodity prices are below certain levels.

"This is a good, constructive, comprehensive, forward-looking bill that we can be very proud of," said Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D. It will be the first farm bill for which he has ever voted.

The increases in subsidy levels vary from crop to crop because lawmakers were trying to balance the rates in relation to the cost of production, said Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D. "We're trying to get rough equivalence, and it's rough," he said.

Under the loan-rate system, farmers are guaranteed a minimum return for their crops no matter how low market prices fall. Some of the rates will drop slightly in 2004 in return for increases in the target price system, a provision sought by House negotiators.

Under the bill, the loan rate for corn would rise from \$1.89 to \$1.98 a bushel this year. The minimum for sorghum would jump from \$1.71 a bushel to \$1.98, the same rate as corn, and the barley rate would rise from \$1.65 to \$1.88.

The price guarantee for wheat would go from \$2.58 to \$2.80 a bushel.

Rates for cotton and rice would remain the same. The soybean rate, which has been considered excessive in relation to other crops, would drop from \$5.26 to \$5 a bushel.

Farmers also would be allowed to update planting records that are used to calculate certain payments. The bill continues a program that provides fixed annual payments to grain and cotton farmers regardless of what they produce each year. Soybeans will be eligible for the direct payments for the first time.

Individual farms could receive as much as \$210,000 a year through the direct-payment and target-price programs.

House members to craft defense spending bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers generally uneasy about refusing the Pentagon in a time of war were nonetheless braced for contentious exchanges over the Defense Department's request for a \$10 billion war reserve fund and exemptions from major environmental laws.

The House Armed Services Committee was expected to approve a \$396 billion bill Wednesday to authorize military spending by the Defense and Energy departments for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1. The amount would match President Bush's defense spending proposal, the largest increase in two decades.

As House lawmakers worked on their version of the spending blueprint in subcommittee meetings over the last week, however, they pushed outlays above Bush's request in several areas. Two were relative losers in the administration proposal: military construction and Navy shipbuilding.

The sources of the additional funds remained unclear.

Lawmakers have been advocating meeting current military needs with the \$10 billion contingency fund since it appeared in the White House's budget request. Lawmakers of both parties have objected to giving Bush essentially a blank check to use for unspecified future needs in the war on terrorism without congressional interference.

Debate before the full committee was expected to focus on that reserve fund, as well as missile defense and efforts to change the arcane process of privatizing Defense Department functions.

Lawmakers predicted Tuesday that the Pentagon's wish for relief from portions of several environmental protection laws would prove especially contentious.

In earlier subcommittee action, lawmakers approved exemptions from the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, agreeing with Defense Department arguments that complying with the laws at military facilities hampers training. Requests for similar relief from the Clean Air Act went unheeded.

On Tuesday, the procurement subcommittee supported an extra \$3.2 billion for

weapons, including an additional \$1 billion to build ships for a total of \$73.4 billion. Last week, a separate panel added \$1 billion for military construction, which on Bush's schedule was to have dropped to \$4.8 billion from \$6.5 billion.

Additionally, the research and development subcommittee approved a small \$21 million extra Tuesday to the administration's request for missile defense, to \$7.8 billion.

House lawmakers also have endorsed increasing active-duty troop levels in the four services by a total of about 12,650 personnel, or about 1 percent, the largest since 1986. The administration sought no increase in the current force of 1.4 million.

"We are beginning to turn the corner in the need to establish strength in our defense capabilities," said Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M.

The overall bill would reaffirm a new round of base closings in 2005; begin allowing military retirees to collect disability benefits on top of retirement pay; accelerate development of pilotless planes for surveillance and attack; provide billions more for a new generation of stealth jet fighters; earmark \$27 billion for fighting terrorism; and boost military pay by at least 4.1 percent.

It was expected to reach the House floor next week, just as the Senate Armed Services Committee begins work on its version. Congressional appropriators also must write separate appropriations legislation before the money can be spent.

The increase for shipbuilding came after lawmakers from shipbuilding states such as Mississippi, Maine and Virginia complained about Bush's proposal for only five new warships next year.

Part of the extra \$1 billion would pay for one additional ship, a guided missile destroyer, but only if a proposed settlement to a 9-year-old lawsuit is approved.

The lawsuit involves a 1991 decision by then-Defense Secretary Dick Cheney to cancel a Navy project to build the A-12 radar-evading jet. General Dynamics Corp. and Boeing Co., which acquired the other original contractor, McDonnell Douglas Corp., sued two years later.

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D-FY-IT fund-raiser



(Community Camera photo)

Pampa High School D-FY-IT Advisory Board members recently held a raffle for a \$100 Wal-Mart Gift Card. The winner of the fund-raiser was Lisa Gibson of Pampa. Recognized for selling 20 or more tickets for the drawing were (front row, left-right) Bonnie Holmes, Krissy Holman, Josh Miller, Janelle Powers, Benny Martinez; (back row) Sara Scott, Cassie Gibson and Randa Morris with winner Lisa Gibson.

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Demo

PARIS (AP) million people peacefully thro on Wednesday

Marie Le Pen, turnout yet agai right leader sir for Sunday's pre

Even before demonstration its peak, turno cities across Fra nearly 900,000. Interior Minis reports. That r take into accou protest, which massed 200,000 expected to g the afternoon.

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WASHINGTON are drafting el drug legislation for the low-inc against catastro said Tuesday.

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GOP leader House floor by to blunt antic from Democra parties in recee expected to be



2CARE for Babies serves Pampa, surrounding area

Parents of newborn children in Pampa, Borger, Childress, Hereford and Dimmitt have now an extra incentive to complete their child's well-child checkups and immunizations thanks to a program of the Coalition of Health Services.

Parents can enroll in the 2CARE for Babies program at their infant's first well-child checkup and earn points that lead to a free gift for baby on his or her first birthday.

Through a grant from the Texas Department of Health, 2CARE for Babies works in cooperation with participating clinics in these communities to award points for well-child checkups and immunizations completed during the baby's first year.

Completing an infant's first well-child checkup within two weeks after birth is worth extra points. Additional points are awarded to mothers and fathers who attend educational classes related to raising children such as car seat safety and CPR and to mothers who breast-feed their infants.

Upon the baby's first birthday, his or her points can be exchanged for a free gift at Toddler's Corner in the Baby's Coming Shop, 301 S. Polk Street, downtown Amarillo.

In addition, a Baby's Coming Shop will be coming to the Pampa area. The Baby's Coming Shop serves participants of both 2CARE for Babies and 2CARE for Moms, a Coalition of Health Services program that encourages early and continuing prenatal care.



(Community Camera photo)
Myrna Solis, right, with young son, Evan Vasquez, accepts a card from nurse Sherril Conner upon enrollment in the local 2CARE for Babies program.

Holly Hancock, director of 2CARE for Babies, said, "By working hand-in-hand with staff, 2CARE for Babies hopes to improve infant health, increase breast-feeding rates and ensure 90 percent completion of well-

child checkups and immunizations in these communities."

Hancock added, "Preventative health care and immunizations play an important role in learning and lifelong health. 2CARE for Babies is designed to reward parents for making their infant's health care a priority."

The Baby's Coming Shop was established in 1998 by 2CARE for Moms in cooperation with the March of Dimes, and donations of cash and merchandise are welcomed. According to Hancock, the addition of a Baby's Coming Shop and Toddler Corner in Pampa will mean even more contributions are needed.

In the communities served by 2CARE for Babies, five clinics currently participate in the program. In addition, the program enjoys the support of Pampa Regional Medical Center, Childress Regional Medical Center, Hereford Regional Medical Center, Golden Plains Community Hospital in Borger and Castro County Hospital in Dimmitt.

These hospitals are affiliates of the Coalition of Health Services, a nonprofit organization of 17 area hospitals working to enhance community health.

Parents of infants born in Pampa, Borger, Childress, Hereford and Dimmitt should receive information about 2CARE for Babies upon dismissal from the hospital. To receive additional information or to make a donation to the Baby's Coming Shop, call toll-free 1-888-89-2CARE.

Demonstrations against Le Pen attract a million people across France

PARIS (AP) — More than a million people demonstrated peacefully throughout France on Wednesday against Jean-Marie Le Pen, by far the largest turnout yet against the extreme-right leader since he qualified for Sunday's presidential runoff.

Even before a massive demonstration in Paris reached its peak, turnout in dozens of cities across France had reached nearly 900,000, according to the Interior Ministry and media reports. That number did not take into account the large Paris protest, which already had massed 200,000 people and was expected to grow throughout the afternoon.

The anti-Le Pen rallies came after the right-wing leader held

a much smaller demonstration in Paris to honor his party's heroine, Joan of Arc.

In an annual May Day event that took on added importance this year because of Le Pen's surprise candidacy, the candidate lay a bouquet of white flowers at a gilded statue of Joan of Arc riding a horse and waving the national flag. For Le Pen's National Front party, the 15th century peasant girl who led a series of victories against the English is a symbol of French resistance against foreign "invaders."

In a speech, Le Pen promised an "electoral earthquake" in the election's final round, which pits him against conservative incumbent President Jacques

Chirac, who is expected to win easily.

"The ground's going to crumble under their feet," he said.

Police and observers estimated the pro-Le Pen crowd at 10,000 to 12,000 people, though Le Pen's party claimed there were as many as 100,000 marchers.

Wednesday was clearly the climax of growing national protests against Le Pen. Some 3,500 police were deployed in Paris alone.

Ahead of the Paris protest, marches in other French cities drew tens of thousands. More than 50,000 people gathered in the southeastern city of Grenoble, while 45,000 demon-

strated in Bordeaux, police said.

In Paris, "good-natured crowds shouting "Down with Le Pen!" packed the streets near the site of the former Bastille prison. Many were singing or playing musical instruments, and a few people handed out sing-along lyrics mocking the far-right leader.

One demonstrator, 20-year-old Abdoul Fofana, said, "If Le Pen wins there will be a world war in France." Fofana, who came to France from Ivory Coast 10 years ago, was worried about Le Pen's fiercely anti-immigrant stance.

Some of the protests were combined with traditional May Day labor protests by unions. In Paris, 1,000 marchers from a

labor union headed toward the center of town, protesting -Le Pen, capitalism and fascism.

"The revolution has begun," read one of the placards held aloft. The owner of a dog had fitted out his pet with a sign bearing the message: "I eat fascists."

In May Day protests throughout Europe, merchants boarded up stores to guard against attacks by anti-capitalist demonstrators and riot police turned out in force. Police in Berlin used tear gas to quell overnight clashes with anarchists.

Bill readied for full drug subsidies for low-income elderly

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are drafting election-year Medicare prescription drug legislation to include a full federal subsidy for the low-income elderly as well as protection against catastrophic costs for all seniors, officials said Tuesday.

The legislation envisions a voluntary system of insurance in which older Americans would receive coverage from private companies in a market overseen by Medicare, the officials said. The bill carries a 10-year price tag of \$350 billion.

The measure also will incorporate President Bush's proposal for government-issued prescription drug discount cards designed to reduce the cost of medicine for Medicare beneficiaries. Officials who disclosed the details spoke on condition of anonymity.

GOP leaders hope to have the measure on the House floor by Memorial Day, part of an effort to blunt anticipated campaign-season attacks from Democrats. Polls taken for both political parties in recent months show that older people, expected to be an important portion of the elec-

torate this fall, favor Democrats over Republicans by double-digit margins for their handling of the prescription drug issue.

The \$350 billion that House Republicans have set aside over the next decade for prescription drug coverage contrasts with the \$190 billion that President Bush proposed, and is well in excess of the \$160 billion earmarked for a prescription drug bill that the GOP pushed through the House two years ago. The result is a more robust federal benefit than Republicans endorsed in 2000.

Several sources said outlines of the legislation were discussed Tuesday at a private meeting of party leaders in the House. They stressed the final details remain to be worked out, and costs could vary.

For all but low income people, officials said seniors would pay a monthly premium, likely in the range of \$37 a month. Additionally, they would pay a deductible, possibly the first \$250 of drug costs annually. After that, the federal government would pick up approximately 75 or 80 percent of the cost of drugs up to \$1,000.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Woman Who Finds Birth Parents May Lose The Ones She's Known

DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who has known my entire life that I was adopted. It made no difference to me.

Mom always answered any questions I had when I was curious about my birth parents. After my first child was born, I became curious and decided to see if I could find them. I talked it over with my mom. She encouraged me and even suggested ways I could try to find them. I had little money to spend on registries and investigators, nor did I want to be intrusive in case they had families who had not been told about me. I started registering with various adoption Web sites. After almost 10 years, I found my birth parents. They are wonderful people, and I'm happy to know them and for them to know me.

Now for the problem: When I told my mom I had found my birth parents, she was initially happy for me. Then, the very next day, she informed me that I was "messing with the foundation of the family" by doing this. I was devastated. I had never hidden the fact that I was searching. I love my parents dearly, but they have now put up a wall I can't breach, and they refuse to discuss it. They have started shutting me out of their family, to the point of failing to tell me my grandmother was dying until after she was gone.

I don't want my children to lose the only grandparents they have known their entire lives, but seeing me miserable every time we get together can't be good for them. How

do I handle this?

HURTING IN OHIO

DEAR HURTING: Although your mother initially helped you with your adoption search, on some level she never really thought you would find your birth parents. When you announced that you had, she felt threatened and betrayed, and (putting it mildly) overreacted and became punitive. Not telling you that your grandmother was dying was inexcusable.

Since she and your father won't discuss it, write them a letter. Tell them how much you love them and remind them that they are the only family you have ever known. Explain that you have no intention of hurting anyone. If that doesn't work, ask their clergy person to intercede. If they don't have one, perhaps another trusted relative would do it for you.

If that doesn't work, then I agree that exposing your children to an atmosphere with an undercurrent of hostility is not healthy. Continue to cultivate a relationship with your birth parents and other relatives — and know that you did what you could to heal the breach and go on with your life with a clear conscience.

DEAR ABBY: Please settle an argument: How long should one wait for somebody?

I recently had a date with a friend. We agreed to meet at a specific time and place. After my friend failed to arrive 15 minutes past the appointed time, I left. Evidently he showed up five minutes later.

Now he is annoyed with me. He says good manners require that one wait 30 minutes for friends or family and 15 minutes for business associates or new acquaintances.

What do you make of this, Abby? Some people are perpetually late, so I need some reasonable guidelines.

CLOCK-WATCHER IN LOS ANGELES

DEAR CLOCK-WATCHER: Nowhere is it written that one "must" wait a certain amount of time for someone who is perpetually late. Common sense dictates that if someone knows he or she is running late, the person should call and inform whomever is waiting. (Almost everyone has a cellular phone or pager these days.)

P.S. I'll bet your friend is on time next time!

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.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



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Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

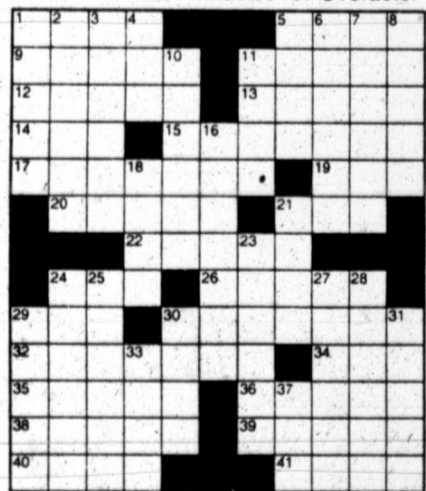
ACROSS

- 1 Ran, as color
- 5 German card game
- 9 CBer's need
- 11 Response akin to "Lump it!"
- 12 Given to copying
- 13 Available
- 14 Banned pesticide
- 15 River of China
- 17 Oklahoma natives
- 19 Grant's foe
- 20 With 22-Across, ocean predator
- 21 Garden section
- 22 See
- 20-Across
- 24 Scoundrel
- 26 See
- 20-Across
- 29 Spigot
- 30 Sound systems
- 32 Summer cooler
- 34 Obese
- 35 Mischievous sprite
- 36 NFL coach
- Don

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ARLO ONEWAY
GREG SERENE

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Some babies
- 16 Skilled performer
- 18 Salamander
- 21 Carry
- 23 Cohort of Daddy
- 24 Wisconsin city
- 25 Pinnacles
- 27 Shelter eaters
- 28 Eucalyptus
- 29 Basketball score
- 30 Proof-reading mark
- 31 Musical and Getz
- 33 Grime
- 37 Overactor



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NOTE

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK Rice of Pampa of the West Texas Athletic Union team which Lubbock

Tournament last

The Heat Dimmitt Lady 18, the Lea Co. N.M. Flames) Sweetwater Fl. an exhibition g beat the Fresh Varsity bracket

Rice was th ing leader in th with 41 points Tiffany Teters was selected th able player.

The Heat, Hereford's Ja are 12-3 and next in the A. in Amarillo on

PAMPA

head coach S will hold a gi camp June McNeely Fie camp will be the fourth-tl grades. Each starts at 9 a.m. 2 p.m.

Cost is includes a t-ball and loti tion.

Scholarshi ties are avail who need fi port. A brochures, a from the phy tion teachers elementary coaches at schools. Are are also in camp.

Former F will assist S the camp.

Schmidt, t acted at 669-9013.

Pampa is competitive league this area high sch

The lea starts in June of eight sub- and 10 varsit varsity gar played M Thursday m middle sc Varsity, ga played M Thursday McNeely Fie

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SPORTS

NOTEBOOK

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK — Brittany Rice of Pampa is a member of the West Texas Heat, a 13-year-old girls select Amateur Athletic Union basketball team which won the Lubbock Platinum Tournament last weekend.

The Heat defeated the Dimmitt Lady Swoopz 55-18, the Lea County (Hobbs, N.M. Flames) 53-27, and the Sweetwater Flamez 60-9. In an exhibition game the Heat beat the Frenship Lady Tiger Varsity bracket team 45-43.

Rice was the team's scoring leader in the tournament with 41 points and teammate Tiffany Teters of Hereford was selected the most valuable player.

The Heat, coached by Hereford's Jackie Mercer, are 12-3 and will compete next in the AAU Regionals in Amarillo on May 7-9.

PAMPA — Pampa head coach Steve Schmidt will hold a girls basketball camp June 17-21 at McNeely Fieldhouse. The camp will be for girls in the fourth through ninth grades. Each day's session starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 2 p.m.

Cost is \$55, which includes a t-shirt, basketball and lots of instruction.

Scholarship opportunities are available for those who need financial support. If interested, brochures, are available from the physical education teachers at the four elementary schools or coaches at the middle schools. Area youngsters are also invited to the camp.

Former PHS players will assist Schmidt with the camp.

Schmidt can be contacted at 669-4830 or 669-9013.

Pampa is hosting a competitive basketball league this summer for area high school players.

The league, which starts in June, will consist of eight sub-varsity teams and 10 varsity teams. Sub-varsity games will be played Monday and Thursday nights at the middle school gym. Varsity games will be played Monday and Thursday nights at McNeely Fieldhouse.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — MonCorp won its first game of the season Monday night behind solid defense and hitting.

Pitcher Reid Miller combined with first baseman Cole Engle for three outs and shortstop Rhett Roden for two more.

Catcher Corban Rhoads, third baseman Ian Smith and second baseman Latigo Collins all contributed plays in the field that prevented NBC Bank from scoring.

On the offensive side of the ball, MonCorp had big hits from Roden, Engle and Smith, the first three hitters in the lineup. Miller batting clean-up and Collins batting fifth would each clear the bases with a stand-up triple from Miller and a double from Collins. Returning players Jesus Cabrales and Corban Rhoads also came through with hits.

Sheldon Reeve and Oliver Cabrales, a pair of new 7-year-old team members, both had a good hitting game. Another player, Bryce Parker, displayed a lot of hustle.

Clarendon signee



(Pampa News photo)

Pampa High senior Jennifer Lindsey signs a letter of intent to play basketball at Clarendon College. Also pictured at the signing are Jennifer's parents, Jerry and Mary Anna Lindsey; (standing, from left) Clarendon coach Wade Scott and Pampa head girls coach Steve Schmidt. Lindsey, an all-district selection, led the Lady Harvesters in assists, steals and defensive rebounds this past season.

Harvesters meet Snyder in bi-district

Pampa meets Snyder in a best two of three series this weekend in the bi-district baseball playoffs.

The two teams square off in the opener at 7 Friday night at Lubbock's O'Banion Field. The second game will be played at 12 noon Saturday. A third game, if necessary, will be played 30 minutes later.

Snyder, out of District 4-4A, finished the regular season with a 22-10-1 record.

The Harvesters — who clinched third place with their 6-3 win over Borger last weekend — goes into the playoffs 7-7 in District 3-4A and 13-16 for the season.

Neither Pampa or Snyder made the playoffs last year. Pampa and Snyder last met in the playoffs in 1998. Snyder won the bi-district series 11-2 and 3-2.

.....
District 3-4A champion

Randall is now the Class 4A's No. 1 ranked team, according to the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association and THSB Magazine poll.

Randall completed its regular season last Saturday with a 24-5 record by beating Palo Duro 12-3.



Hunter Hall of the Rheams Diamond Shop team is up to bat during a Pampa Optimist T-ball League game Tuesday at Optimist Park. The league is for players 5 to 7 years of age.

THE Pampa NEWS

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
Assoc. Publisher: Kate B. Dickson
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Managing Editor: Nancy Young
Circulation Manager: Dean Lynch
Advertising Manager: ReDonn Woods

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Pampa's Gregory wins All-Around at Tri-State Rodeo

GRUVER — Taylen Gregory of Pampa earned All-Around Cowgirl honors last weekend at Gruver.

Gregory scored 24 points and won the barrel racing event at the Tri-State Rodeo.

Marty Eakin of Amarillo was All-Around Cowboy.

Results from the Childress rodeo are as follows:

Bareback: 1. Chad Mask, Amarillo, 60.

Saddle bronc: 1. Wes Burns, Dalhart, 65; 2. Marty Eakin, Amarillo, 63.

Breakaway roping: 1. Christie Hendley, Amarillo, 3.464; 2. Kelsy Friskup, Canyon, 3.811; 3. Casey Jo Light, Amarillo, 3.993.

Calf roping: 1. Marty Eakin, Amarillo, 10.398; 2. Kelsey Garrison, Channing, 11.099; 3. Zack Cobb, Pampa, 11.388.

Barrel Racing: 1. Taylen Gregory, TPRA, 17.920; 2. Brittney Banks, Amarillo, 18.071; 3. Emily Smith, Canyon, 18.168.

Ribbon roping: 1. Justin

Lehman, Vernon, 8.807; 2. K.W. Lauer, Canadian, 9.665; 3. Ross Schulte, Canyon, 10.190.

Pole bending: 1. Kaylee Holt, Gruver, 21.366; 2. Erica Cochran, TPRA, 21.636; 3. Danielle Irlbeck, Canyon, 21.768.

Bull riding: 1. Evan Schmidt, Gruver, 77; 2. Steve Bowen, Childress, 74; 3. Alfonso Limas, Pampa, 70.

Goat tying: 1. Dana Lewis, Amarillo, 9.006; 2. Kaylee Holt, Gruver, 9.271; 3. Christie Hendley, Amarillo, 9.472.

Team roping: 1. Monty Wood-Shawn Gray, 7.794; 2. Cass Cooper-Q.B. Cobb, 9.422; 3. Jered Hunter-Clay Leisher, 10.027.

Steer wrestling: 1. Chase Pope, Channing, 5.170; 2. Buck Nelson, Amarillo, 11.885; 3. Chance Pope, Channing, 15.399.

All-Around Cowgirl: Taylen Gregory, Pampa, 24 points.

All-Around Cowboy: Marty Eakin, Amarillo, 28 points.

Baseball scoresheets are available

PAMPA — Coaches or scorekeepers in the Optimist baseball and softball leagues can pick up scoresheets at The Pampa News sports department.

The scoresheets should be filled out as soon as possible

and turned into the newspaper so that game results can be published.

Call 669-2525 or 669-2527 if more information is needed.

Game results can also be phoned in to the above numbers.

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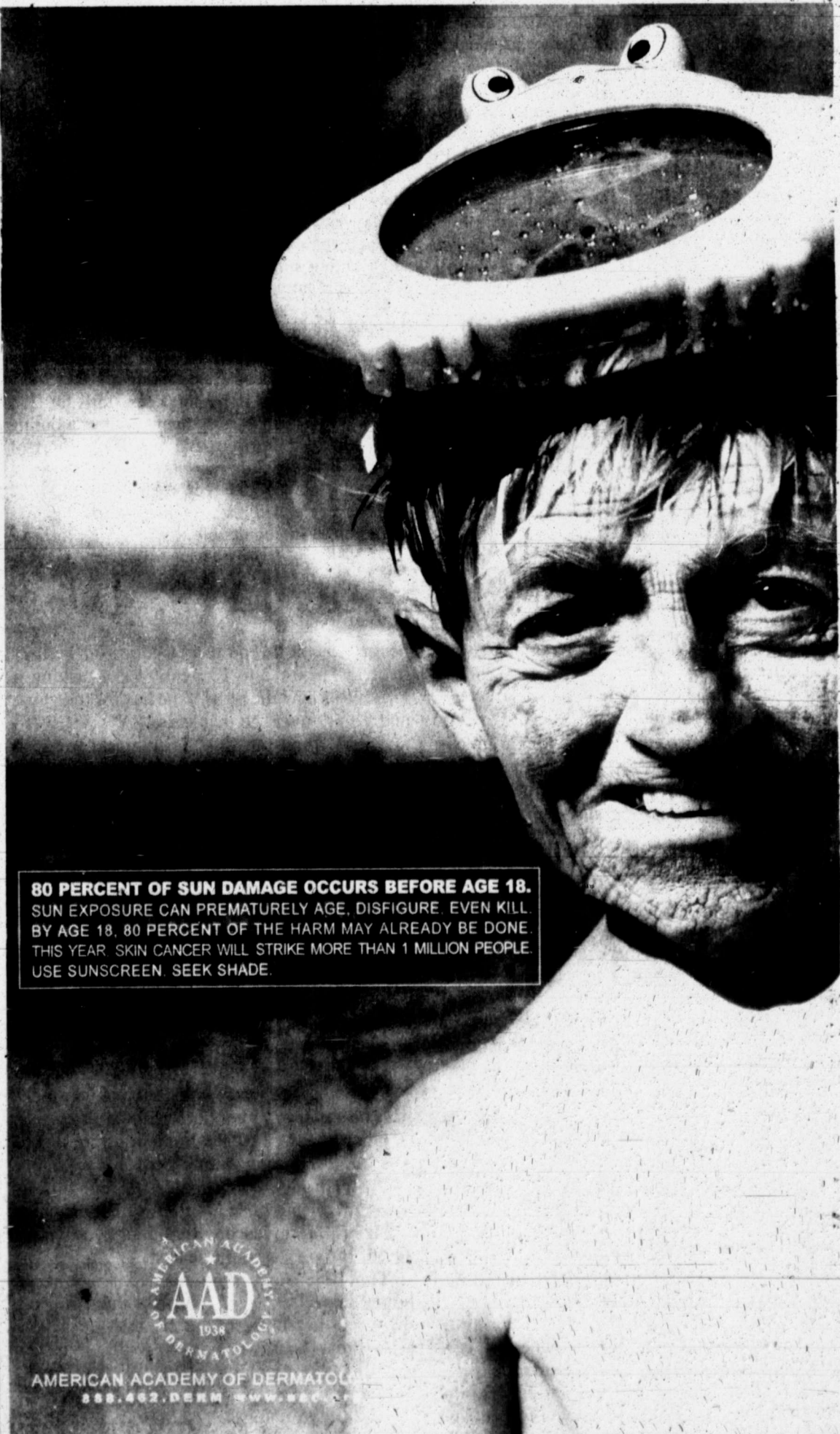
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NIH nominee voices support for stem cell research

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's nominee to head the National Institutes of Health sailed through his Senate confirmation hearing after expressing strong support for federal funding for research on stem cells from human embryos.

Dr. Elias Zerhouni also promised to speak up if scientific advances pass the limits Bush has set on the promising but controversial research.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, chairman of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, said the committee was likely to approve Zerhouni's nomination Wednesday and that the full Senate could vote to confirm him by week's end.

In his first public remarks since Bush nominated him, Zerhouni outlined a vision for biomedical research, saying scientists must find ways to more quickly translate research results into clinical testing and that they must work more closely across disciplines.

He directly addressed funding for embryonic stem cell research, an issue that Bush struggled with last summer. Zerhouni left little doubt that he supports research that some see as a key to medical breakthroughs and others consider the moral equivalent of baby killing because it relies on destruc-

tion of days-old human embryos.

"As executive vice dean at Johns Hopkins, I was instrumental in creating an institute for stem-cell engineering primarily because I was concerned about the lack of any federal

funding to advance the fundamental research still needed in this promising but fledgling field," he told the committee.

He said he was disturbed by young researchers who said they didn't want to go into stem

cell research for fear that no federal funding would be available. "Without federal funding, it is hard for me to see how you develop a field of science in our country," he said.

Bush ultimately decided to

allow funding for research using stem cell lines that were already in existence and where the embryo had already been destroyed. Most researchers believe this will allow for the basic science needed now but will not be adequate for more sophisticated work in the future.

Zerhouni suggested he agrees with them. He said that "in the current state of science" the Bush decision was "an important advance" because it allows some funding to go forward. Under ques-

tioning, he said there was a lot of work that could be done with the existing lines and said that if they proved inadequate down the road: "I'll be the first one to assemble that information."

In the meantime, he said he would actively promote the president's policies and work in strict compliance with laws passed by Congress.

"Disease knows no politics," he said. "The NIH and its director should not be or made to be factional but must always remain factual."

4-H Geranium Sale



(Community Camera photo by Emily Elliott)

Area 4-Hers will hold their annual Gray County 4-H Geranium Sale from 5-8 p.m., May 2 and 3 and again at 9 a.m., May 4 in the parking lot of Coronado Center. The sale will continue Saturday until all the plants are sold. Ryan Baggerman, Claire Boyd, Cole Guyer and Lysie Guyer are among 4-Hers participating in the fund-raiser.

Edward Jones to host free program

Duane Harp, the Edward Jones investment representative in Pampa, will host a free investing program for widowed, divorced and never married women at 5 p.m., Tuesday, May 7 at Edward Jones, 1540 N. Hobart, Pampa.

The program, entitled "Taking Charge!" will offer single women insight on planning for retirement along with tips on maintaining their independence in later life. The program will also address what financial decisions single women need to be making now.

"Regardless of your age, it's not too early, or too late to take charge of your finances," said Harp.

"This program will offer

single women investors the information they need to make informed decisions about their financial future," added Harp.

This live, interactive broadcast is presented at Edward Jones branch offices nationwide via the firm's private satellite network.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 7,900 offices in the U.S. and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by 2003.

For more information on the May 7 broadcast or to reserve a seat for this free program, contact Duane Harp at (806) 665-7137.

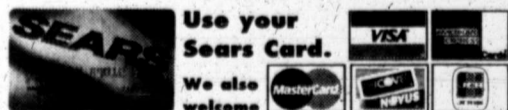
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