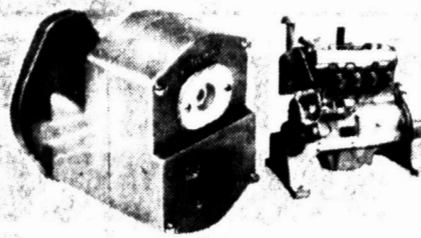


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Sheriff: There ought to be a law ...

Texas needs Oklahoma law that cracks down on meth labs, Copeland says

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Editor

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland hopes Texas will soon do what Oklahoma legislators have done to crack down on illegal drug labs.

On June 21, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control reported that methampheta-

mine lab busts dropped dramatically after a law went into effect limiting supplies of pseudoephedrine.

According to the report, meth lab raids dropped from 100 in March to 29 in May.

Authorities say a new law, which went into effect on April 6, contributed to the drop.

The law limits the amount of pseu-

doephedrine — a common ingredient in over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines — to 9 grams in a 30-day period. Persons buying the substance must also show photo identification and give their signature.

"This needs to happen in Texas," Sheriff Copeland said today. "We're going to be getting Oklahoma people coming over trying to buy that here.

"They'll take the path of least resistance," he said.

Copeland said, to his knowledge, Pampa and Gray County has not seen an increase in Oklahomans coming to buy pseudoephedrine here.

"That's pretty well controlled now by individual stores," he said. "They

See LAW, Page 3

Official: Boy under bridge had seizure; no foul play

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Editor

A boy found lying under a bridge near the new Skate Park in Central Park Tuesday morning suffers from a medical condition that causes seizures, officials said today.

"There's no indication of foul play at all," said Chief Deputy Kelly Rushing of the Gray County Sheriff's Office.

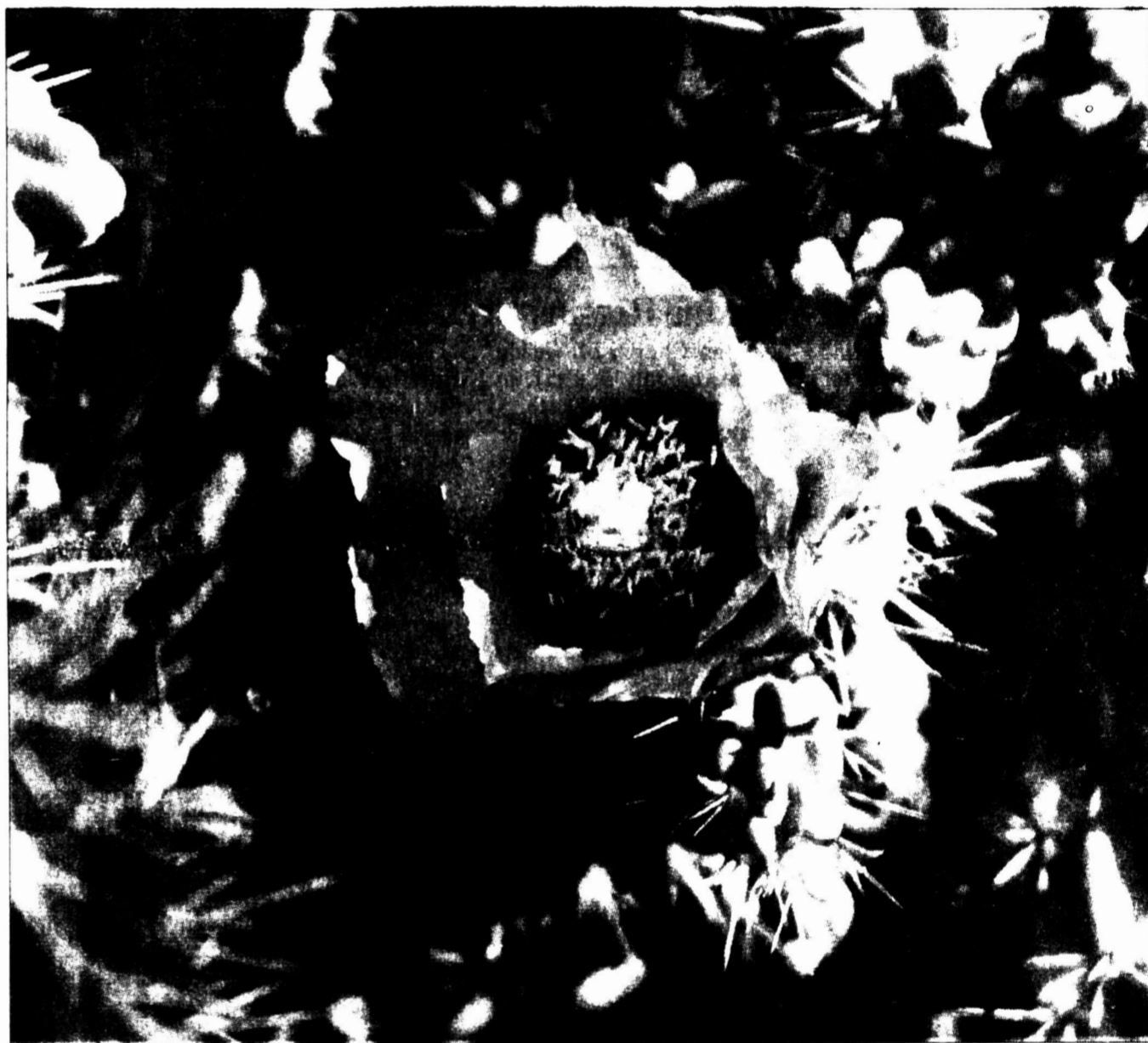
About 9:40 a.m., Tuesday, the sheriff's office received a call that a boy was lying under the bridge at Central, Rushing said. Deputies responded to the call and discovered the 11-year-old child.

"The boy had a seizure," Rushing said. "We learned (from a relative) that he had a medical condition and was prone to seizures."

The child's mother was notified and came to the scene and the child was taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Rural Metro Ambulance where he was checked and treated, officials said.

"All evidence points to a medical problem with the child," Rushing said. "From all we can tell, it was strictly a medical deal."

Rushing said officials did not know how long the boy had been lying under the bridge, but they knew he had been playing at the Skate Park "most of the night."



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Thorny but beautiful

A cactus bloom provides sharp contrasts of color and texture between the soft flower petals and the thorny cactus around it. The cactus is a feature of a street median at the east end of 23rd Avenue.

Gray County opposes agency consolidation

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

Gray County Commissioners adopted a resolution this morning to oppose Texas House Bill 2292 enacted by the state legislature in May 2003.

The bill consolidates the duties and functions of 12 existing state agencies into one new Health and Human Services Commission, with four departments.

Existing agencies affected by the reorganization include the Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health, all of which have offices in Pampa.

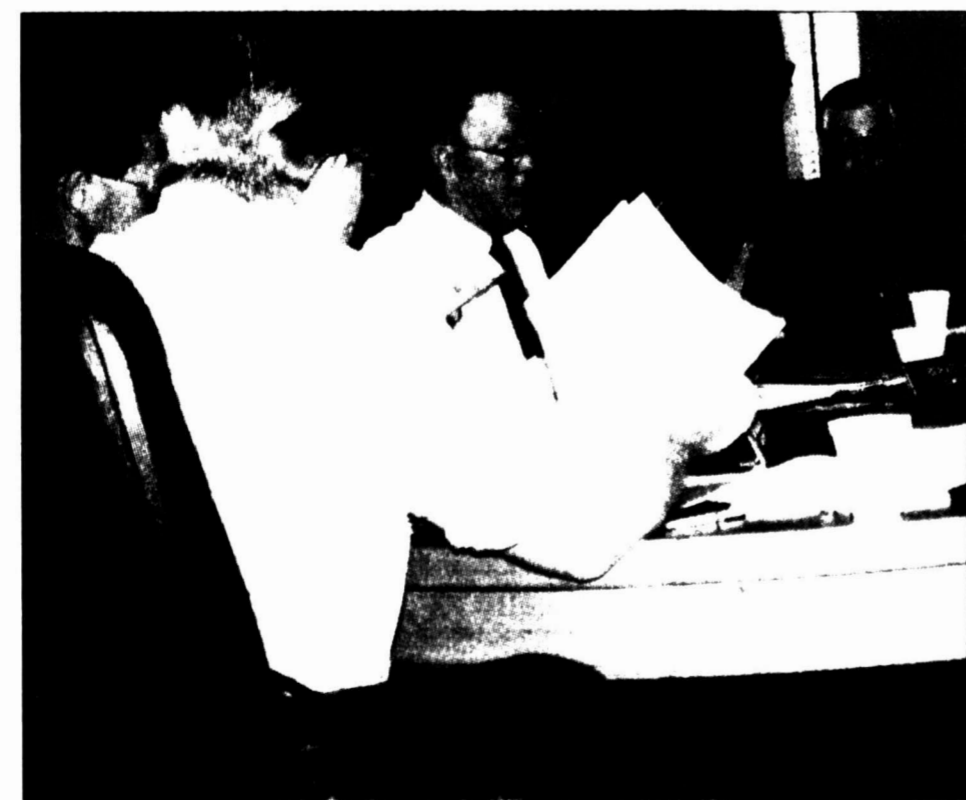
Twelve state employees in Pampa would be affected, Peet said.

"I'm concerned that those needing DHS services would be able to deal only with an automated phone system. Our call station will be San Antonio. I went to a public forum in Lubbock concerning the reorganization, and none of the people spoke in favor of it," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet.

Peet said the purpose of the bill was to save money. Approximately 217 offices around the state will be closed as a result of the bill, he said. A reduction of services to pregnant women, the elderly, and low-income families and children may result from the reorganization, Peet said.

"We know that when the state saves money, they don't save any money. They spend it somewhere

See COUNTY, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Gray County Commissioners, from left, Gary Willoughby, Joe Wheeley, County Judge Richard Peet, and Commissioner Gerald Wright discuss a resolution against HB 2292.

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Grand jury indictments center on drug charges

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

Gray County Grand Jury handed up 10 indictments, eight of them first-degree felonies, Wednesday, in 31st District Court. All 10 involved drug charges for controlled substances.

John Paul Cearley, 32, was indicted for manufacture, deliver, or possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, enhanced. Bond was set at \$100,000 on the first-degree felony.

On March 12, Cearley allegedly manufactured, delivered, or possessed with intent to deliver 200 or more grams but less than 400 grams of methamphetamine. Cearley was convicted of possession of a controlled substance, a felony, on March 17, 1997 in 100th District Court of Carson County.

Lance Allan Herr, 42, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, enhanced. Bond on the first-degree felony was set at \$7,500.

Herr allegedly possessed, with intent to deliver, 400 grams or more of methamphetamine on Jan. 19. He was convicted of the felony charge of driving while intoxicated - subsequent offense on Nov. 2, 1994 in 31st District Court in Gray County.

Alicia Deann Lance, 24, was indicted for

manufacture, deliver, or possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Bond was set at \$6,000 on the first-degree felony.

On April 13, Alicia Lance allegedly manufactured, delivered, or possessed with intent to deliver four or more grams but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine.

Jason Ray Lance, 26, was indicted for manufacture, deliver, or possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Bond on the first-degree felony was set at \$6,000.

On April 13, Jason Lance allegedly manufactured, delivered, or possessed with intent to deliver four or more grams but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine.

Gary Allen Locke Jr., 24, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver in a drug-free zone, a first-degree felony. Bond was set at \$100,000.

On Jan. 8, Locke allegedly possessed, with intent to deliver, 400 or more grams of methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of Lamar Elementary School, 1234 S. Nelson.

Ricky Lynn Marsh, 43, was indicted for

the manufacture, deliver, or possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Bond on the first-degree felony was set at \$100,000.

On April 4, Marsh allegedly manufactured, delivered or possessed with intent to deliver methamphetamine in the amount of 200 or more grams but less than 400 grams.

Tony Kerr Parks, 50, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Bond on the first-degree felony was set at \$10,000.

On May 4, Parks, allegedly possessed with intent to deliver 400 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Melissa Ann Vanover, 31, was indicted for the first-degree felony charge of manufacture, deliver or possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. Bond was set at \$25,000.

On April 4, Vanover manufactured, delivered or possessed with intent to deliver four or more grams but less than 200 grams of methamphetamine.

Michael Don Mitchell, 36, was indicted for the second-degree felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. Bond was set at \$7,000.

On Jan. 14, Mitchell allegedly possessed four or more grams but less than 200 grams of cocaine.

Billy Don Williams, 47, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, enhanced. Bond on the second-degree felony was set at \$4,000.

On Sept. 28, 2003, Williams allegedly possessed less than one gram of methamphetamine.

On March 12, 1976, he was convicted of the felony offense of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in 203rd District Court, Dallas County. On Jan. 12, 1978, he was convicted of the felony offense of aggravated robbery in 54th District Court, McLennan County.

On Nov. 20, 1984, Williams was convicted of the felony offense of burglary of a building in 223rd District Court, Gray County. On July 8, 1986, he was convicted of the felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in 54th District Court, McLennan County.

On Oct. 5, 1989, Williams was convicted of the felony offense of burglary of a habitation in 13th District Court of Navarro County.

District Court facts
Judge Steven Emmert's 31st District Court criminal session ends on June 30. Judge Lee Waters 223rd District Court criminal session begins July 1. A new grand jury for 223rd District plans to meet on July 6.

Law

Continued from Page 1

put it behind the counter where you can't get to (the pseudoephedrine) without asking. But there's no law that you can't have them."

Copeland said he planned to talk to state legislators

about passing a law like Oklahoma's.

Rep. Leo Berman, R-Tyler, has said he plans to submit an emergency bill addressing the subject the next time the Texas Legislature meets.

It takes about 23,000 tablets containing pseudoephedrine to manufacture 2.4 pounds of methamphetamine, sometimes

called 'crack.'

Officials say most meth lab operators make only a few ounces at a time.

Pampa and Gray County officials have raided numerous suspected meth labs in recent months and have arrested several persons for possession and transporting anhydrous ammonia, another component used in meth labs.

County

Continued from Page 1

else," said James Hefley, Precinct 4 commissioner.

"There's still time to react to it. They're still taking input from across the state," Peet said of the resolution.

Gray County joins 50 other Texas counties in passing a resolution opposing State House Bill 2292.

Commissioners accepted a \$300 bid from James Butler for delinquent tax property at the corner of McLean and 9th Streets in Lefors. The property, which is Lots 5, 6 and 7 of Block 3, Blackwell Unit, has an appraised value of \$810 and overdue taxes of \$2,300, dating from 1985.

A bid of \$100 from Brandon Baxter was also accepted for tax delinquent property at 219 Gillespie. Action on the bid had been deferred at the commissioners' June 15 meeting because of questions concerning the exact address and extent of the property. On June 15, commissioners had discussed the fact that there was nothing displaying 219 as an address in the 200 block of Gillespie, and the only property appearing to fit that address was a very narrow strip of land with a driveway.

Commissioners approved placing funds for postage in a Pitney Bowes account to draw interest. The county currently has two Pitney Bowes machines, a small one in the district attorney's office and a machine in the county tax assessor-collector's office, where most

county offices' mail is sent to be metered for mailing.

The county currently does not have an account with Pitney Bowes, a company which provides postage metering machines. Money for postage is deposited with the post office, Peet said, and when a bill is received from Pitney Bowes, the post office is notified to issue payment.

In miscellaneous discussion with no action taken, commissioners mentioned the 2005 county budget. The county's share of property taxes will increase from \$116,860 for 2004 to \$120,138 for 2005, Peet said.

arena area, and a rain gutter by the front door, for a total cost of \$7,000.

He suggested walling in an 8'x17' room in the concession area that is not used in order to create a storage area, at a cost of \$300. New air conditioners delivered for the Pavilion were damaged in shipment, Willoughby said, but replacements will be installed next week.

Public access to the Pavilion also was discussed. "Someone needs to be accountable for that facility. They need to sign out a key and have it returned" when individuals or organizations are using it, said Gerald Wright, Precinct 3 commissioner.

Willoughby explained that he has been allowing individuals access to the rear of the building, where there is a weighing machine, so that persons could weigh their animals.

"There is no property other than the scales in that area. It hasn't been locked in a long time. And you can't have a full-time person there letting people in and out," said Joe Wheeley, Precinct 1 commissioner.

"I did not know I was to manage it. I will have a plan of action for the July 15 meeting," Willoughby said.

"At least one window was broken out and considerable littering done during the College Rodeo. Are they going to reimburse the county?" Wright asked Willoughby.

"Neal Fulton took responsibility. The litter was cleaned up last Friday, and the windows are being put in today," Willoughby said.

Appeals court rules in favor of AT&T

DALLAS (AP) — A decision by a U.S. Appeals Court could reduce long-distance bills for Texans, but it will cost the Texas Universal Service Fund about \$100 million each year.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday in favor of AT&T Corp. and said that Texas cannot tax interstate and international long-distance calls originating in the state to fund telephone subsidies for residents who are poor or deaf, or those who live in rural areas.

State officials have not decided if they will appeal the decision.

AT&T sued the Texas Public Utility Commission in October of 2002, arguing that it shouldn't have to pay the 3.6 percent state tax on interstate and international calls because the Federal Communications Commission was taxing that same revenue for the federal Universal Service Fund.

Texas Universal Service Fund collected about \$547 million from phone companies in the fiscal year that ended in August.

Aside from dividends earned from interstate and international calls, the remainder comes from taxes on local and in-state long-distance calls.

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Viewpoints

Columnist confesses to being a closet deletist

I have a confession to make, and I warn you, it is a doozy. You see ... I am a closet delete-aholic. Yes, as much as it shames me to say, and as shocking as it undoubtedly is, I take unholy delight in (gulp) deleting pictures from digital cameras. I just can't help myself.

I get many opportunities to feed my habit here at the news office as we have more than five digital cameras — three "Community Cameras" and two regular news cams in editorial alone.

By the way, for those of you who haven't yet checked out our Community Camera it is a great way to

help us, the newspaper, cover local happenings. Our staff is small, so we often must rely on the goodness of community members to snap a picture or two at a news-worthy function or event.

If you're having a club party, a ball game, a community meeting, a special banquet or luncheon, come by and let us hook you up. Be sure you "ID" (identify) everyone in each photo, though. We can't publish your candid snap (or snaps) without a name to go with the faces you capture through the viewfinder.

But I must warn you, once downloaded, those pictures are history. No matter how

sharp, how colorful or how cute an individual photo is, unbidden, an impish desire will sweep through me and before I know it I am merrily hitting the erase button, sending whatever hapless jpegs are in my clutches into digital purgatory.

For months, I have carried this shameful secret around with me, clueless that anyone else might share my thrill of pure evil pleasure at consigning an innocent collection of mere pixels into electronic

"hell" until one day fellow co-worker Marilyn Powers confessed to finding the ritual equally as satisfying. Finally. We were not alone.

We began to talk. Could there be others?

Our imaginations took hold. Marilyn suggested we take to the

talk show circuit with our newfound discovery. I could see our names up in marquee lights. We would publish a book that would rocket to the top of the best-seller list. We would help

people all over the world take charge of their enmity through this virtual crazy-slash-breakthrough.

The implications were astounding. Why, it would revolutionize psychology, forever do away with padded rooms. We would invent an entirely new type of therapy.

Kids driving you crazy? In-laws making you insane? Spouse misbehaving? Boss an egomaniac control freak? (This is all hypothetical, you understand. I want you all to know that my lovely boss — who is editor and most assuredly read this before you did — is great.)

Whoever or whatever,

take a picture and delete. You will be amazed at the amount of satisfaction you can derive from this straightforward, uncomplicated activity. Just shoot (we are talking camera here, no violence please) and delete.

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3 — point, click, delete. Rather basic, I admit, but better than giving into your animosity and killing them, don't you think? Buy a camera. Digitize them. Experience the illusion of control. Revel in it. The "high" may not last long, but it can be immensely therapeutic. One small word of advice: Don't let "them" get a hold of the camera.



Skyla Bryant
News Editor

Today in History

(AP) — Today is Thursday, July 1, the 183rd day of 2004. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On **July 1, 1867**, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

On this date:

In **1863**, the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg began.
In **1898**, during the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt and his "Rough Riders" waged a victorious assault on San Juan Hill in Cuba.

In **1944**, delegates from 44 countries began meeting at Bretton Woods, N.H., where they agreed to establish the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In **1946**, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In **1948**, New York International Airport (now John F. Kennedy International Airport) at Idlewild was officially opened.

In **1948**, the fare on New York City subways doubled from a nickel to 10 cents.

In **1961**, Diana, the princess of Wales, was born near Sandringham, England. (She died in a 1997 car crash in Paris at age 36.)

In **1968**, the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and 58 other nations signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In **1980**, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem of Canada.

In **1997**, Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule after 156 years as a British colony.

Ten years ago: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat returned to Palestinian land after 27 years in exile as he drove from Egypt into Gaza.

Five years ago: Exactly six months before the year 2000, Congress passed legislation to shield businesses from a potential flood of Y2K computer-related lawsuits. A gondola in the French Alps ripped away from its cables, killing 20 people aboard. African nationalist Joshua Nkomo died in Harare, Zimbabwe, at age 82. Candy empire founder Forrest Mars Sr. died in Miami at age 95. Movie director Edward Dmytryk died in Encino, Calif., at age 90.

One year ago: At a summit, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas rededicated themselves to peace efforts and spoke of a shared future for their peoples. Bishop Sean O'Malley was named by Pope John Paul II the new archbishop of Boston, succeeding Cardinal Bernard Law, who'd resigned in the wake of a clerical sex abuse scandal. Jazz flutist Herbie Mann died in Pecos, N.M., at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Olivia de Havilland is 88. Actor Farley Granger is 79. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 73. Actress Jean Marsh is 70. Movie director Sydney Pollack is 70. Movie producer-director Claude Berri is 70. Actor Jamie Farr is 70. Bluesman James Cotton is 69. Actor David Prowse is 69. Cookiemaker Wally Amos is 68.

UNACCEPTABLE TORTURE

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHAT IS GOOD TORTURE AND WHAT IS BAD TORTURE. WE HOPE THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES WILL SERVE AS A LAMP UNTO THE FEET OF FUTURE PRISON GUARDS...



Market economies offer more

Did you learn that the United States is rich because we have bountiful natural resources? That has to be nonsense. Africa and South America are probably the richest continents in natural resources but are home to the world's most miserably poor people. On the other hand, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and England are poor in natural resources, but their people are among the world's richest.

Maybe your college professor taught that the legacy of colonialism explains Third World poverty. That's nonsense as well. Canada

was a colony. So were Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. In fact, the richest country in the world, the United States, was once a colony. By contrast, Ethiopia, Liberia, Tibet, Sikkim, Nepal and Bhutan were never colonies, but they are home to the world's poorest people.

There's no complete explanation for why some countries are affluent while

others are poor, but there are some leads. Rank countries along a continuum according to whether they are closer to being free-market economies or whether they're closer to socialist or planned economies.

Then, rank countries by per-capita income. We will find a general, not perfect, pattern whereby those countries having a larger free-market sector produce a higher standard of living for their citi-

zens than those at the socialist end of the continuum.

What is more important is that if we ranked countries according to how Freedom House or Amnesty International rates their human-rights guarantees, we'd see that citizens of countries with market economies are not only richer, but they tend to enjoy a greater measure of human-rights protections. While there is no complete explanation for the correlation between free markets, higher wealth and human-rights

See MARKET, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



Democrats late building platform

The Kerry campaign and the Democratic Party have blown a chance to be far ahead today in the presidential campaign and the equally important campaigns across the nation for control of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

They have clung to past routine in drawing up their 2004 platform while ignoring an important lesson that polls revealed about their losses in the elections of 2000 and 2002. Pollsters then found that many of those who might have voted Democratic said they did not do so because they didn't know what the Democrats

stood for. With that record in front of them, how could the presumptive presidential candidate and the party leaders have permitted the mistake to be repeated?

The national Platform Committee has been following the pattern of the past half-century. Since May, members of the Drafting Committee have been holding regional meetings to hear suggestions of interested groups and indi-

viduals — trade unions, business leaders, farmers, educators, economists and the like.

The Platform Committee will meet in Miami beginning July 9 to finalize the draft platform, which then will be submitted to the party's Boston convention for approval.

This is a democratic way of producing a platform, but the party at least should have accelerated the process this year. The moment Sen. John Kerry's sweep of the primar-

ies was obvious, he and the party elders should have begun the platform process.

An early start would have been particularly helpful to the party's congressional candidates as the model for their campaigns — with, of course, such minor divergence as might play to their constituents.

The early platform would have given the party precious weeks to drill home the principal pledges of action that could be expected from a Democratic administration — a more formal pledge than the campaign

See PLATFORM, Page 5

Walter Cronkite
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com
Publisher: L.W. McCall
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

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Bush readies new measures to weaken Castro's regime

WASHINGTON (AP) — For more than 40 years, the debate has persisted: Do tough sanctions against Cuba weaken Fidel Castro's government or entrench it?

President Bush's actions make clear where he stands. He believes loopholes in the embargo are serving as a lifeline for Castro.

At midnight Wednesday, new regulations take effect to sharply reduce Cuba-bound dollar flows from the United States, mostly by way of Cuban-Americans. Properly enforced, the measures could deprive the island of up to \$150 million a year, according to administration estimates.

The measures are being imposed despite growing congressional disenchantment with the embargo. Lawmakers voted by comfortable margins last year to end restrictions on travel to Cuba. A threatened presidential veto killed it.

Proponents argued that U.S. tourism would plant democratic seeds in Cuba; the administration contends the chief effect would be an economic windfall for Castro.

The measures taking effect on Thursday appear aimed partly at the November elections. In 2000, Bush's 4-to-1 advantage over Al Gore among Cuban-Americans in Florida

helped to carry the state in 2000, by a mere 537 votes, and to win the White House.

It is unclear whether Bush will retain that margin this year. To do so, he believes that a pugnacious policy toward Castro is his best bet. Like Bush, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., supports the embargo but, thus far, the president has shown more zeal for confronting Castro.

After Wednesday, U.S.-based pleasure boaters will no longer be granted Coast Guard licenses to enter Cuban waters. Since 1996, about 1,200 licenses have been issued, giving boaters unfettered access to Cuban ports.

To avoid problems with immigration authorities on their return, Cuban authorities routinely have provided a letter certifying that the Cuban government had covered all on-island costs. State Department officials see the certification as a sham, claiming that the visits have been a dollar-generating bonanza for the island.

Technically, U.S. travel to Cuba, even recre-

ational visits, is legal. But the spending of dollars there is forbidden, family or professional visits excepted. Under the policy shift, the Treasury Department will approve no-visit based on the assumption that the Cuban government will assume all costs.

Rules for family visits by Cuban-Americans also are changing. In theory, such visits have been limited to one a year but additional visits were routinely approved if a humanitarian need was cited.

Now family visits are restricted to one per three years, with no humanitarian exceptions. The authorized per diem for a family visit is being slashed to \$50, compared with \$164 now. A \$1,200 annual ceiling on dollar transfers to family members in Cuba remains unchanged.

Shipments of humanitarian goods will still be permitted but officials say strict standards will be enforced. A Piper Cub filled with antibiotics will get a license with no hassle. There will be no license for a 24-seat Gulfstream jet for a purported "humanitarian

mission" if its only declared cargo is three cases of aspirin.

No licenses will be approved for shipments of clothing or soaps and other hygienic items. Let Castro himself supply these goods, officials say.

Fewer visits to Cuba mean fewer dollars spent on visa and airport fees and plane fuel — and more economic pain for Castro. Or so officials think.

John Kavulich, who keeps American businesses informed on Cuba through his U.S.-Cuba Trade and Economic Council, says the new regulations could give Castro added rationales for the island's lagging economy. He also says Castro could respond by cutting back on U.S. food imports, legal since 2000, thus alienating U.S. farm state legislators.

Castro is worried that Bush, given his revulsion for Cuba's system, won't be content with mere tweaking of the embargo.

"Do not try crazy adventures such as surgical strikes," the Cuban leader warned Bush last week. "You would never be able to win that war."

American officials say no such plan is contemplated.

Market

Continued from Page 4

protections, you can bet the rent money that the correlation is not simply coincidental.

With but few exceptions, African countries are not free, and most are basket cases. My colleague, John Blundell, director of the London-based Institute of Economic Affairs, highlights some of this in his article "Africa's Plight Will Not End With Aid" in The Scotsman (6/14/04).

Once a food-exporting country, Zimbabwe stands on the brink of starvation. Just recently, President Robert Mugabe declared that he's going to nationalize all the farmland. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that the consequence will be to exacerbate Zimbabwe's food problems. Sierra Leone, rich in minerals, especially diamonds, with highly fertile land and home to the best port site in West Africa, has declined into a condition of utter despair. It's a similar story in nearly all of south-of-Sahara Africa. Its people are generally worse off now than they were during colonialism both in terms of standard of living and human-rights protections.

John Blundell says that the

institutions Westerners take for granted are entirely absent in most of Africa. Africans are not incompetent; they're just like us. Without the rule of law, private property rights, an independent judiciary, limited government and an infrastructure for basic transportation, water, electricity and communication, we'd also be a diseased, broken and starving people.

What can the West do to help? The worst thing is more foreign aid. For the most part, foreign aid is government to government, and as such, it provides the financial resources that allow Africa's corrupt regimes to buy military equipment, pay off cronies and continue to oppress their people. It also provides resources for the leaders to set up "retirement" accounts in Swiss banks. Even so-called humanitarian aid in the form of food is often diverted. Blundell reports that Mugabe's thugs rip labels off of wheat and corn shipments from the United States and Europe and re-label them as benevolence from the dictator.

Most of what Africa needs the West cannot give, and that's the rule of law, private property rights, an independent judiciary and limited government. The one important way we can help is to lower our trade barriers.

Platform

Continued from Page 4

promises that have been emerging from Kerry's speeches and his release of some position papers. Comparatively free of campaign rhetoric, the early platform would specify, as presumably will the late draft, how the Democratic White House would propose to remedy the many faults of which Democrats accuse the Bush administration — everything from Iraq to the national debt to the children left behind.

Some political strategists argue that the earlier the platform is revealed, the longer the opposition has to attack it. That reasoning would seem to suggest a certain lack of confidence and

commitment to the platform.

Other strategists would prefer to see the platform unveiled as a feature of the party's convention, with all the accompanying thunder and hoopla. Since there is little other substance in modern political conventions, they might have a point.

However, much time has been lost and millions of dollars wasted as an electorate that leans to the Democratic cause and the ouster of the Bush administration awaits a coherent, organized guide on which to commit its faith — and its voting strength.

The platform might be well-drawn and persuasive among the electorate — but it will be unnecessarily late, and months of valuable time to win the voters to it will have been lost.

Community calendar

• **Old Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie offers** various volunteer opportunities to interested individuals. For more information, call (806) 845-2028.

• **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will present** "Story Time" at 2:30 p.m. every second Saturday of each month except December and January on the second floor of the museum. For more information, contact PPHM at

(806) 651-2244.


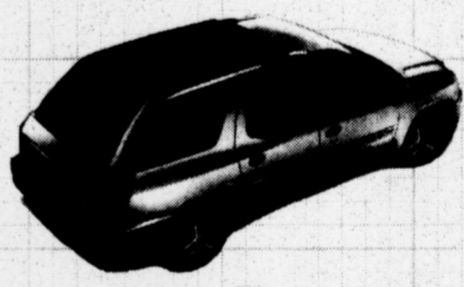

• **USS Columbus Veterans Association** is seeking Navy and Marine Corps shipmates who served on the USS Columbus (CA-74/CG-12) 1944-1976 and the USS Columbus (SSN-762) past and present. Contact Alvin S. Lewis, president, 726 E. Covina Blvd., Covina CA 91722-2955; (626) 339-3568; e-mail homeport@lewisengaving.com

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: After reading your comment to "Young and in Love in Toronto" -- the 26-year-old woman who's in love with a 50-year-old man -- I was so hot under the collar that I had to take my dog for a two-mile walk, then cut and split a cord of wood in order to cool off. You see, I'll be 84 this year, so according to you, I am "doddering!"

I walk 18 holes of golf, square dance every Friday and alternate Saturday nights, am active in the community and am part-time editor of our local seniors newsletter. And this doddering octogenarian is being married this month to my square dance partner of the last four years, who is 18 years younger.

I hope you get a ton of mail from other doddering octogenarians.

— BOB F., CLAREMONT, CALIF.

DEAR BOB: Did I ever. I had no idea there were so many active seniors until I used the "d-word." I deserved 80 lashes with a wet noodle, and I got it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My father is running, not "doddering," through his later years. I wouldn't be surprised if he lives to be 100. At 80, dear old Dad went to Mongolia, slept in tents and rode camels. He still works a full-time job, travels around the country and writes articles. He fishes, and walks an 18-hole golf course once a week -- and doesn't use a golf cart. His cholesterol is only 135, and his cardiologist says his heart is as healthy as it can be for an 82-year-old. Please rethink your advice to "Young and in Love." You never know -- that man might outlive her!

— CATHY U., CHOCKTAW, OKLA.

DEAR CATHY U.: You're right. No one has a contract with God.

DEAR ABBY: I resent the term "doddering." Every morning I walk briskly for 30 minutes and do 30 minutes of weight training three times a week. Last year I wrote lesson materials for beginner and intermediate courses in computer training for seniors, and taught the material in eight three-hour sessions at the local branch of the University of South Florida. I sit on the board of a nonprofit corporation, serve on the executive committee of the retirement community where we live and edit our monthly newsletter. I am 82 years old.

One of my neighbors, who is several years older than I, has decided to give up flying and sell his airplane. However, he continues to ride his motorcycle.

My wife volunteers at the regional hospital here. Of course, she's only 79.

— NOT DODDERING IN LAKELAND, FLA.

DEAR NOT: I'm sure many people far younger wish they could be as active and productive as you are. Including me.

Readers, a question I am frequently asked by women "of a certain age" is "where are all the good men?" Well, after reading the onslaught of mail I have received from outraged octogenarians, I have the answer: They're all over the place.

According to Dr. Gary Small, director of the UCLA Center on Aging and respected expert on healthy aging, people who stay active physically and mentally, who eat sensibly and watch their blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels, live fuller, longer and more vital lives. His new book, "The Memory Prescription" (Hyperion), details a program of diet, mental and physical exercise, and stress reduction that literally jump-starts brain and body fitness -- and his UCLA study backs it up.

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For Better Or Worse



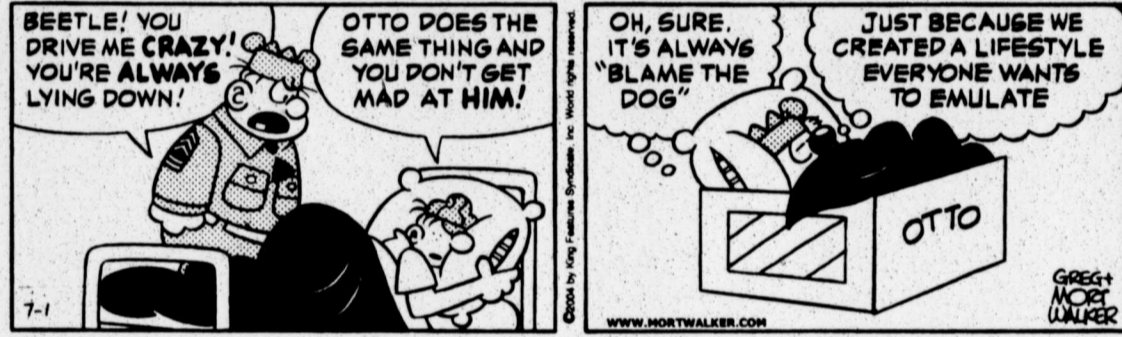
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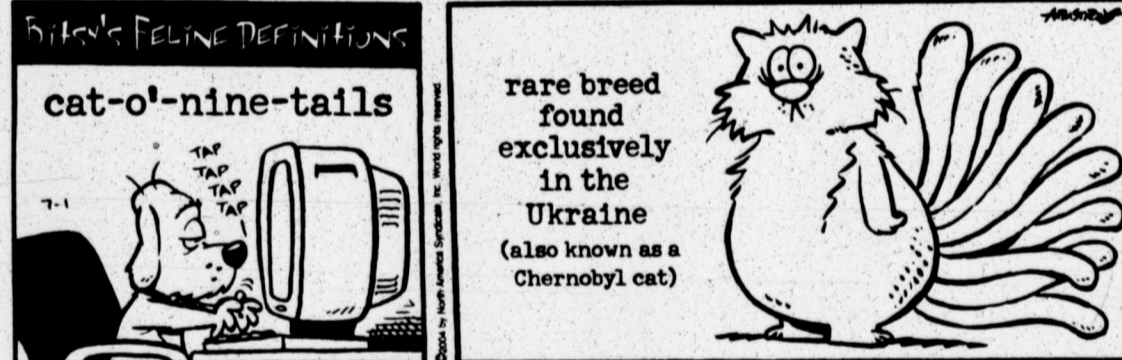
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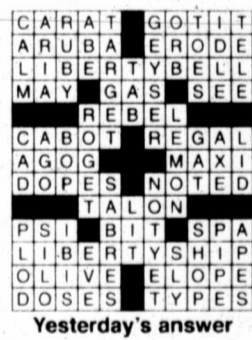
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

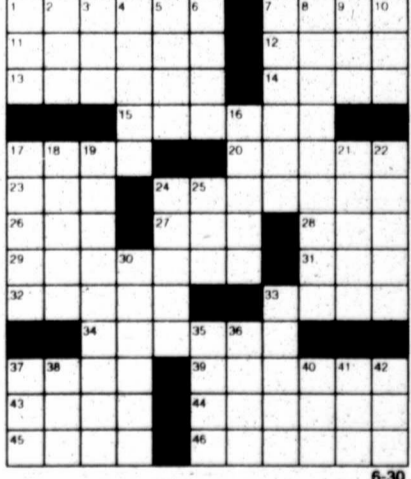
- 1 Made better
- 7 Agitate
- 11 Come in
- 12 Scarlett's home
- 13 Wrestlers, in slang
- 14 Authorize
- 15 Recorded
- 17 Money for the needy
- 20 Cap part
- 23 Fluffy wrap
- 24 Magnetic rock
- 26 Invite
- 27 Without delay
- 28 Kilmer of "The Doors"
- 29 Teeters
- 31 LAX guess
- 32 German steel city
- 33 Gloomy
- 34 Boxing combo
- 37 Four-star review
- 39 Flutist Jean-Pierre
- 43 Guinness, for one
- 44 "Seinfeld" role
- 45 Zeus' wife
- 46 Senior



Yesterday's answer

- 19 Gives a new look
- 8 Acts the raider
- 9 Writer Levn
- 10 Beam of light
- 16 Swears
- 17 Lower
- 18 Finishes last
- 35 Squirrel's home
- 36 Mural setting
- 37 Word of cheer
- 38 Pub pint
- 40 Diner
- 25 Squabble
- 30 New York
- 41 Solution: Abbr.
- 42 Permit

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Sports Day

NRC All Stars go undefeated

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Just as many of the games were that preceded it, the championship game played last night between the North Randall County 9 year old All Stars and the North Randall County 10 year old All Stars was a close fought battle.

The NRC 10 year old team claimed the win and the tournament championship with a 3-2 decision.

The game was played at Pampa Optimist Park.

The NRC 10 year old All Stars take finished the Cal Ripken District 1 and 2 tournament undefeated and will next head to the state tournament in Levelland, TX.

The NRC 9 year old All Stars will participate in the regional 9 year old tournament Lafayette, LA.

The Pampa 10 year old All Stars will

continue on to the regional tournament set for July 17 in Amarillo.

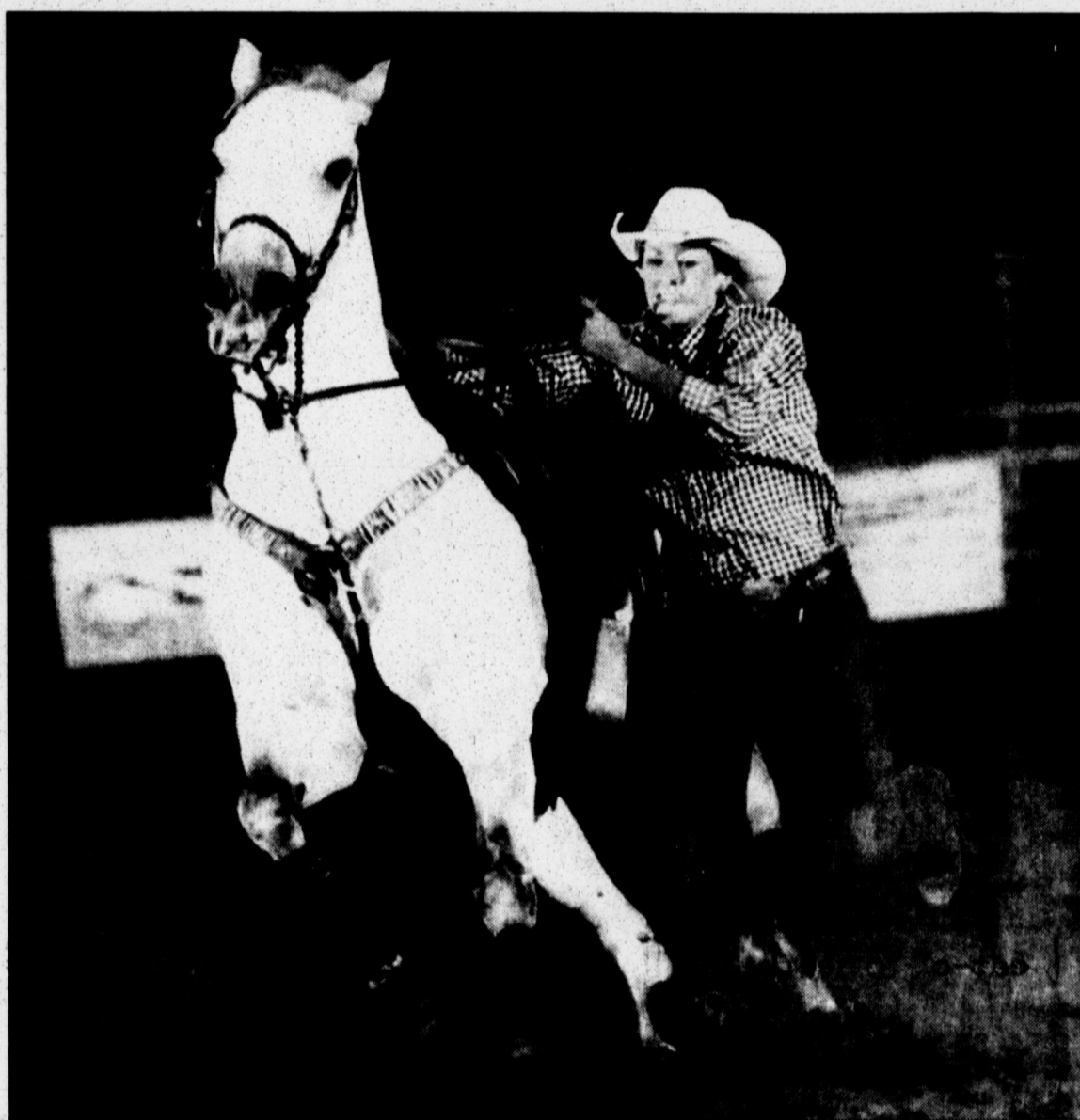
The West Texas State Tournament for the 11 and 12 year old Cal Ripken League is to be held in Pampa July 10 through July 14.

Games are scheduled to begin at 1p.m. Tournament Director Ronnie Hayes encourages everyone to attend and support the area's youth.

In the meantime, the Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken All Stars are exercising patience as they have been waiting to play a winner's bracket game against either Deaf Smith County or North Randall County. Those two teams were to meet last night but Mother Nature postponed that game to tonight.

The Pampa 11-12 All Stars will face the winner tomorrow.

The Pampa Optimist Club is a United Way agency.



Taylen Gregory of Miami participates in the Oklahoma High School Rodeo Finals in Woodward, Oklahoma June 10-13.

Miami cowgirl Wyoming bound

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

It's one thing to be good at an event or two when it comes to rodeo.

It's another to be considered among the best in four.

Miamis' Taylen Gregory is among the best.

She took part in the Oklahoma High School Finals Rodeo in Woodward, Oklahoma June 10-13 where she qualified for the finals in all four events that included Breakaway Roping, Barrels, Pole Bending and Goat Tying.

Taylen's performance at the OHS Rodeo Finals was good enough to net her a spot on the National Team going to Gillette, Wyoming July 18 where she will compete in Barrels.

For the year, Taylen finished eighth in Breakaway Roping, 10th in Pole Bending, ninth in Goat Tying and a solid fourth in Barrels.

Taylen left the OHS Finals Rodeo with three finalist buckles and one national qualifier buckle.

The national team is made up of the top four cowgirls and cowboys in each event at the end of the year.

D-Backs win, errors sink Sox

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

National League

The Arizona Diamondbacks won for the first time in almost two weeks, and their manager left no question as to where the victory ranked in his mind.

"It was the most beautiful win I've ever seen," Bob Brenly said.

Danny Bautista hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning, and the Diamondbacks stopped their franchise-record losing streak at 11 games Wednesday night with an 8-5 win over the San Diego Padres.

"We knew we weren't going to lose the rest of the way out, but to get this one tonight — especially with some of the miscues we had on the field — was nice," outfielder Luis Gonzalez said. "So, hopefully, this is something we can build on."

Chad Tracy had a three-run homer, Quinton McCracken hit a two-run drive and Gonzalez had a run-scoring double as Arizona rebounded from one-run deficits three times for its first victory since beating the New York Yankees 6-1 on June 17.

The Diamondbacks overcame four

errors, which matched their season high. Starter Brandon Webb and Stephen Randolph each threw a wild pitch, but Randolph (2-1) struck out two in the seventh for the win.

Elmer Dessens pitched a scoreless eighth, and Mike Koplove finished for his first major league save.

In other NL games, it was: San Francisco 7, Los Angeles 1; Houston 3, Chicago 2; Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 5; Atlanta 9, Florida 6; Montreal 6, Philadelphia 3; Cincinnati 2, New York 0; and Milwaukee 5, Colorado 4.

American League
The Boston Red Sox kept sinking in the AL East, done in once again by their defense.

David Ortiz made a key error that allowed New York to tie it in the seventh inning, and Gary Sheffield's RBI double in the eighth sent the New

York Yankees to a 4-2 victory Wednesday night.

In other American League games, it was: Chicago 9, Minnesota 6; Texas 9, Seattle 6; Detroit 12, Cleveland 5; Oakland 4, Anaheim 2; Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 2; and Baltimore 13, Kansas City 4.

AL UNSER JR. RETIRES

A meeting on the mountain

It was a cold summer morning on a mountain west of Colorado Springs. 1983 I believe. I was still in the early years of my broadcasting career. Tape deck and microphone in hand, I began to search out interviews like a hunter would a trophy buck. I was after one in particular. Get it and I would score big with the gang back at the station.

As I began to make my rounds, I spotted a large herd of reporters gathered around a man in a driver's suit. I determined this must be the interview I was sent to get. So I pressed my way through, proudly flashing my press credentials, got up next to the guy and with all the brazen confidence of a cub reporter spouted, "Little Al, can I ask you a few questions?" His reply was cold and embarrassing. "You want my cousin, Al

Junior. He's over there." Turns out this was Robby Unser, Bobby's kid. The one I was looking for was the one they were calling "Little Al." And to my surprise, I found him standing alone next to a pickup truck. Undeterred by my first failure, I strode on over and tried it again. "Little Al, mind if I ask you a few questions", I asked. He agreed under one condition. We get in the truck where it was warm.

Little Al and many others were on the mountain that morning to practice and qualify for The Pikes Peak Hill Climb. Quick fact for you—the Pikes Peak Hill Climb is the second oldest race in America. The oldest? The Indianapolis 500. The Unser family knows both places very well.

We engaged in simple conversation more than anything else. Sure, I got my questions in. And he gave answers. But the conversation was more interesting to me. And

though he does not know it, I have always considered that moment to be among my most cherished. Not just as an upstart broadcaster, but as a race fan as well.

The Unseers were no strangers to Pikes Peak. Some simple research will tell you they all but owned that hill for many years. I recall attending many a pre-race festivity known as Momma Unser's Chili Cook-off. This family was as much a part of Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak as they were, and continue to be in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

But this year was special. Little Al was just that, young and talented. Even before setting foot on the mountain, he had been touted as one to beat. People were predicting the overall time record would fall. That he would set speed records.

And on race day, he didn't let anyone down. He did win and he did set a new record. And was he fast. Speeds near 120 mph in some sections. Keep in mind; it is a race up a 14,110-foot mountain.

He of course went on and won a few more races at other tracks during his career. And yesterday, he retired.

For a moment, I was surprised by the announcement. Then I recalled the interview in the pickup truck that chilly summer morning in 1983. I remembered thinking, "Wow! He's the same age I am." After learning of his retirement yesterday I thought, "Wow, he's the same age I am."

Despite some personal challenges, Al Unser Jr. was good for his sport. And 21 years ago, he made quite an impression on a young broadcaster who has never forgotten it.



Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor

Al Jr. retires, Stewart fined

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Al Unser Jr. gave his heart to racing. When he felt his passion was gone, he had only one choice — to get out of the car.

On Wednesday, Unser, a two-time Indianapolis 500 winner, announced his retirement from the sport that defined his life and his family's legacy.

"I've had a great career," he said. "It's been a challenge, been hard to follow in the footsteps that I've followed. I feel I upheld the Unser name quite well."

Unser, 42, was one of open-wheel racing's brightest stars and biggest names during a turbulent time. He stayed with Roger Penske's team when the Indy-Racing League and CART parted ways in 1996, then switched to the IRL in 2000.

Through it all, Unser was one of the few

players who seemed to stay above the spat. He won two Indy titles, two CART points championships, a combined 34 races in 21 seasons and remained a favorite of fans and drivers.

But when Unser lost his passion, he fulfilled the promise he made to himself and retired.

"You just know when it's time," he said. "I never had set a date, but you have to have a passion for it. I'm no longer willing to maintain that level of sacrifice or desire."

Meanwhile, Tony Stewart avoided suspension when NASCAR fined him \$50,000 and docked him championship points for his altercation with Brian Vickers.

Stewart lost 25 points in the driver standings, car owner Joe Gibbs lost 25 points in the owner standings, and Stewart was also placed on probation until Aug. 18.

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A name to remember

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Anyone who thinks Andy Roddick and Roger Federer will divvy up most of the Grand Slam titles over the next decade should take note of the auspicious arrival of a new contender: Mario Ancic.

Remember this young Croatian giant's name because it won't be long before it is engraved on major trophies.

Wimbledon fans caught a glimpse of the 63rd-ranked Ancic's budding greatness Wednesday and all they could do is moan and groan and shed a few tears. His victim was none other than Tim Henman, "Our Tim," as the Brits call him, and once again hopes of an English champion were dashed.

Someone always beats Henman in the late rounds of Wimbledon, but rarely as convincingly as the 20-year-old Ancic in this 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-2 rout to reach his first Grand Slam semifinals. Next up on Friday is the second-seeded Roddick, a year older and with a major title, last year's U.S. Open, on his record.

"The future has arrived and his name is Mario Ancic," Boris Becker proclaimed, and he's right.

This kid has game. He's more than a Goran Ivanisevic knockoff, more than a right-handed, mirror image of his longtime mentor.

What they have in common are lively brown eyes, similar mannerisms and husky voices, about the same imposing height, and wingspans like eagles. In style, they both reach to the sky and slam aces from the clouds on first and second serves. Where they differ is in the 6-foot-5 Ancic's controlled composure, stronger

returns, and steadier volleys.

That was all on display against the fifth-seeded Henman.

"It was a very mature performance," Becker said. "He had 30 more horsepower in every department. Ancic has all the tools. Now he's putting them together with all the pressure of playing on Centre Court against a very good grass-court player who has the crowd behind him. That tells me he's ready to win the big ones."

'The future has arrived and his name is Mario Ancic'

— Boris Becker
Former Wimbledon champion

Ivanisevic, the 2001 champion and three-time runner-up who played his final match at Wimbledon last week, was a baseliner who converted himself into a serve-and-volleyer, with mixed results. Ancic was 10 years old when he started practicing at home in Split with Ivanisevic, who advised him to work on his net game.

What else did Ivanisevic suggest?

"He also said when I was 12, 'You know, keep on breaking rackets,'" Ancic said with a smile.

Fortunately for Ancic, he's been able to tame his temperament the way the unpredictable Ivanisevic never could.

Two years ago Ancic served notice that he was worth watching when he became the first teenage

man since Bjorn Borg to make his Wimbledon debut on Centre Court and win. His first-round victim then was Federer, the highly regarded seventh seed from Switzerland who was one year away from winning his first major at Wimbledon.

The British papers quickly dubbed Ancic "Super Mario," though the moniker turned out to be premature when he lost in the next round and in the first round the following year.

Yet even if he still has not won a tournament, and even if no man has ever won his first title at Wimbledon, the excitement over his game is not misplaced. He gave Roddick a serious scare on grass in their tuneup at Queen's Club three weeks ago, and he doesn't believe his victory over Federer was a fluke.

"Roddick is aggressive but he is not serving and volleying," said Ancic, who lost to him 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4 at Queen's in their first meeting. "The major thing is returning against him. He has the biggest bombs in the ATP Tour. But I'm playing good tennis, getting better with every match. He is ranked higher, but there is no reason for me to be afraid of anyone."

Roddick doesn't doubt it.

"I was lucky to win, to be quite honest," Roddick said of their Queen's Club match. "He's serving great. I don't know what's in the water in Croatia, but it seems like every player is over 7-feet tall."

"He's committed to coming in on every shot. There's not a lot of indecision in his game right now. He's kind of saying, 'This is what I've got, you know, deal with it.' And I think that's a good mind-set for him to have."



Pampa, Texas Boxing Club members Destaney Vasquez, left, and Mercedes Larrazolo, right, proudly show off their first place trophies.

Local fighters fare well

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Over the weekend of June 26, the Pampa, Texas Boxing Club made its way to the Coyote Fitness Center in Garden City, Kansas to compete in a boxing tournament, despite the fact summer vacations have trimmed the team by 10 members.

Still, those who made the trip did well.

Jose Nunez and Chris Larrazolo fought their way to very respectable runner-up spots.

Mercedes Larrazolo, Destaney Vasquez

and Jose Larrazolo each claimed a first place finish in their respective divisions.

The club is currently preparing for the Ringside World Championships to be held in Kansas City, Mo. August 17-21. The tournament is to be held at the Airport Expo Center there.

The RWC is the largest amateur boxing tournament in the world and will feature more than 1000 boxers and 900 fights over the course of the five day tournament.

The Pampa, Texas Boxing Club will be taking part in the tournament by invitation.

Furyk eager for normal tour life

LEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Last year, all Jim Furyk heard about was his U.S. Open victory. This year, all anyone asks about is his wrist.

Furyk is making his return to the regular PGA Tour in the Western Open this week. He had surgery in March to repair torn cartilage in his left wrist, and didn't play again until the U.S. Open two weeks ago.

"The wrist is feeling fine," he said Wednesday. "Eventually I'll get a sign on my bag saying, 'The wrist is fine, thanks for asking.' It's everyone's question and it's understandable. I appreciate everyone being nice about it."

Furyk came to the Western as something of a conquering hero last year, having won the U.S. Open at nearby Olympia Fields just three weeks earlier. He tied for third, then went on to win the Buick Open, which vaulted him to a career-best third in the world golf rankings. He finished his season with two more top 10 finishes.

But Furyk had started feeling pain in his wrist at last year's British Open. It would go away when he took some time off, but always returned. After the Hawaii swing in January, he got a cortisone shot in hopes that would allow him to keep playing.

By early February, though, he couldn't grip a club.

"It got to the point where I started gripping the club and I couldn't do that anymore," he said. "Yeah, I was nervous. You never know what's going to happen. The worst part is not knowing."

He finally had surgery in March. Furyk said his doctor hoped he'd be playing within three months — he beat that estimate by a week at the U.S. Open — and by six months, would forget he'd even had the injury.

"So we'll see," Furyk said. "Time will tell."

For now, he's working his way back onto the tour gradually. He hopes to take at least one week off between every event he plays and see how the wrist responds.

"I think toward the end of the year, you'll see me hopping into three weeks on, a week or two off, three weeks on and try to get a little rhythm before the end of the year," he said.

Furyk made the cut in the U.S. Open by a shot, an accomplishment in his first competitive event in almost six months. But he struggled on the weekend — like many did — and tied for 48th at 18 over.

Time on the course is all his game really needs, Furyk said. But he knows better than to push it. Don't expect to see him on the practice range, hitting a couple of hundred balls after he finishes his rounds this week.

"I have to be patient. It's going to take some time to get back to where I was at the end of last year," he said. "I have to be very wise about the amount of time I put in right now. I'm very capable of playing 72 holes and finishing the tournament, but not beating balls every day."

Furyk isn't the only one trying to get his game back to major-winning shape. Tiger Woods arrived at the Western Open having not been a factor in either of the year's first two majors. He hasn't won much on the regular tour either, notching one victory in his first 11 starts.

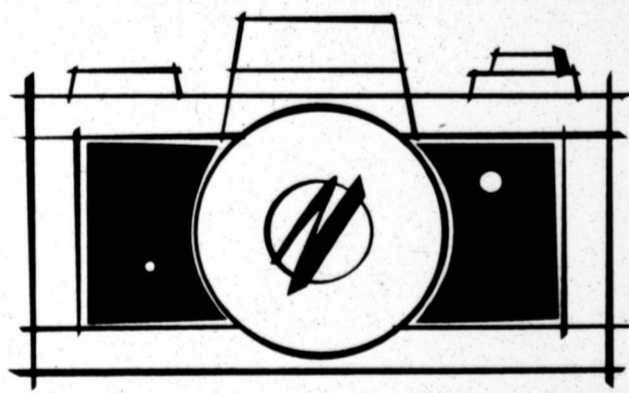
Then again, Woods heard the same things before last year's Western Open — and promptly went out and shattered a bunch of records on his way to a wire-to-wire win.

"Certainly I'm not playing as well as I know I can," Woods said. "I feel like the game is very close to coming together."

'Eventually I'll get a sign on my bag saying, 'The wrist is fine, thanks for asking.'

— Jim Furyk
PGA golfer

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WNBA Wednesday box scores

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS		MINNESOTA (58)	
At Uncasville, Conn. WASHINGTON (69)		Smith 8-20 4-4 23, Williams 2-6 0-4 4, Ohide 4-12 7-8 15, Edwards 4-9 0-0 9, Darling 1-4 0-0 2, Butts 1-5 0-0 3, Abrosimova 0-3 0-2 0, Jacobs 0-0 0-0 0, Lovelace-Tolbert 0-0 0-0 0, Hayden 1-3 0-1 2. Totals 21-62 11-19 58.	
Holdsclaw 8-21 5-10 21, Page 3-7 0-0 0, Sanford 1-2 1-6 3, Beard 4-6 3-5 11, Dales-Schuman 4-8 1-2 12, Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Melvin 5-7 1-1 11, Miller 2-4 0-0 5, Smith 0-2 0-0 0, Brown 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-59 11-24 69.		Houston 29 21 0 — 50 Minnesota 26 24 8 — 58	
CONNECTIONICUT (78)		3-Point Goals—Houston 3-12 (Holland-Corn 2-6, Swoopes 1-2, Lambert 0-1, Ragland 0-3), Minnesota 5-19 (Smith 3-8, Butts 1-4, Edwards 1-5, Abrosimova 0-1, Darling 0-1). Fouled out—None.	
Palmer 4-11 4-6 13, Sales 5-11 3-4 13, McWilliams-Franklin 6-10 1-2 13, Whalen 0-1 10-12 10, Douglas 2-9 5-6 11, Jones 4-8 1-2 9, Brungo 1-1 0-0 3, Black 0-0 1-1 1, Derevjaniuk 0-1 0-0 0, Futrell 1-5 2-2 5. Totals 23-57 27-35 78.		Rebounds—Houston 43 (Snow 15), Minnesota 54 (Williams 9). Assists—Houston 15 (Swoopes 6), Minnesota 9 (Edwards 3). Total fouls—Houston 20, Minnesota 16. A—4,722.	
Washington 34 35 — 69 Connecticut 38 40 — 78		At Minneapolis HOUSTON (50)	
		Swoopes 4-14 0-0 9, Johnson 0-2 0-0 0, Snow 4-13 0-0 8, Holland-Corn 2-6 0-0 6, Lambert 2-10 3-4 7, Berthieu 4-7 3-7 11, Cauty 4-7 1-2 9, Ragland 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 20-62 7-13 50.	

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ***** You're in your prime days of this month; still, others could be touchy, difficult or challenging. You can not win over everyone. Reach out for a new perspective or a friend who helps you get past problems. Tonight: Claim your power. Beam in what you want.

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BORN TODAY First black Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall (1908), race-car driver Richard Petty (1937), former first lady of the Philippines Imelda Marcos (1931)

*** Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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Sculptor inspired by nature, exhibit set

"Metamorphosis of Mountainair Alabaster and other natural media" will open at the Cibola Arts Gallery on Saturday, July 3 with a reception from 2-4 p.m.

Ron Minnick, sculptor and 1974 graduate of Pampa High School, was raised in an artistic family and has been making art all of his life. After selling a three-foot paper maché elephant at an art show in third grade, he knew he wanted to be a sculptor.

He studied art at West Texas State University in Canyon and has shown his work at the Concetta de Gallery and Arthur Sussman Gallery in Albuquerque and at Cibola Arts Gallery.

He works in wood, mostly mesquite, and most recently, alabaster, after discovering it was being quarried near Mountainair.

"My newest passion," he says, "is an alabaster of reds and grays quarried near Mountainair. It is fascinating to see it come out of the ground looking like nothing special and then shape it and polish it to see the spectacular colors emerge."

"When I carve, I like flowing abstract lines that suggest the curves of the human body. My main focus is to control the movement of the eye through the work but it is also important to have beautiful materials with a touchable quality."

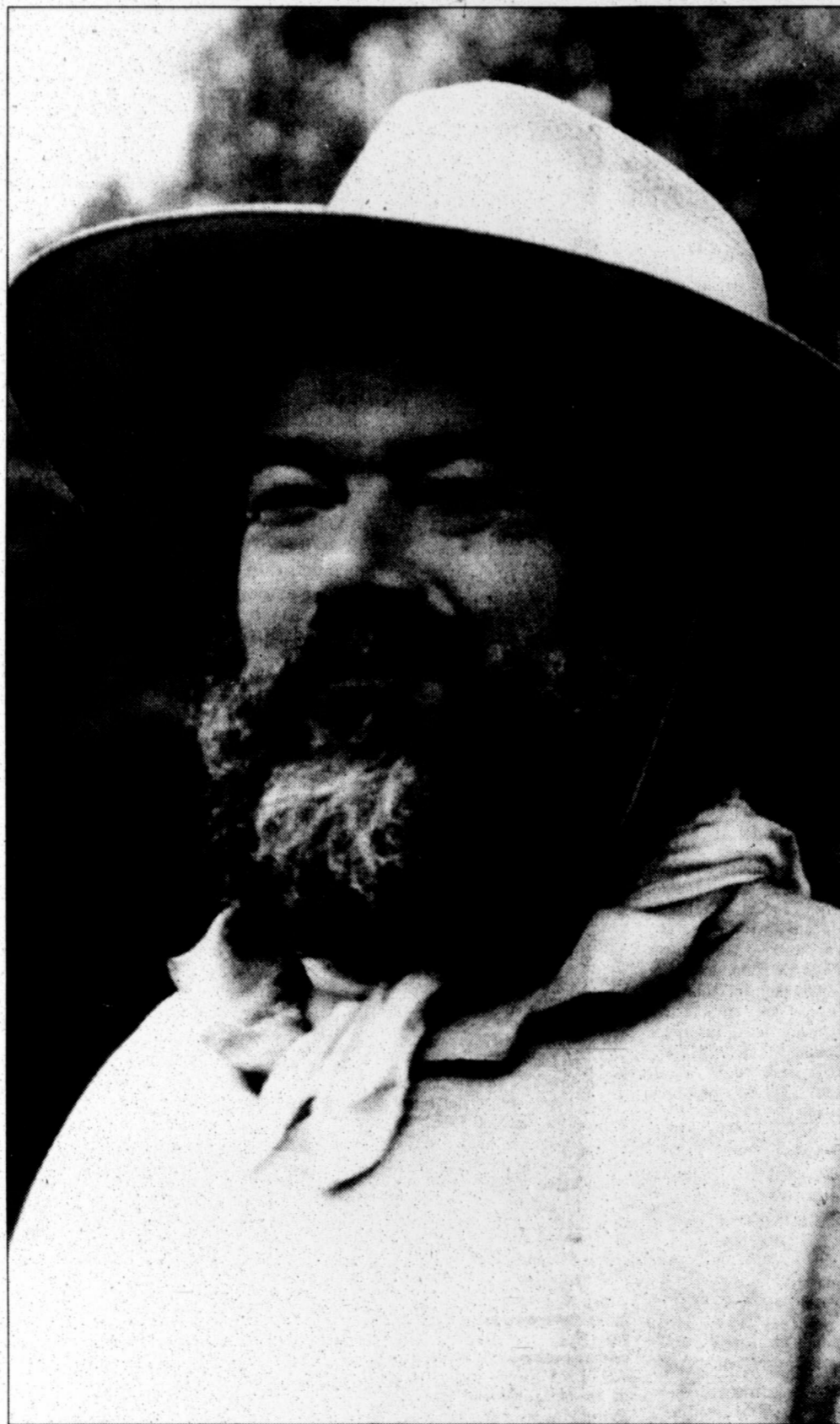
Minnick describes his style as "organic" with lines and shapes that would be found in nature.

"People often ask if the wood or stone was that shape when I found it. There may have been shapes there that inspired the sculpture," he says, "but I carved and refined the shapes that you see."

Ron currently is building a studio near Mountainair, "my biggest sculpture yet," he says.

The building is shaped with rebar and wire and plastered over with a mixture of cement, clay and paper fiber. The studio will house a bronze foundry, a wood burning pottery kiln, space for his wood and stone carving and whatever new materials capture his imagination.

He hopes to teach stone carving in an after-school program at



Sculptor Ron Minnick

Mountainair High School this summer. For more information, call the Ron Minnick's show at Cibola Arts gallery at (505) 847-0324. Gallery will continue through July 31.

Jury clears Halliburton subsidiary in civil trial

HOUSTON (AP) — Jurors have rejected a \$130 million lawsuit that was filed against a subsidiary of Halliburton Co. after four Phillips Petroleum Co. employees were severely burned in a plant explosion four years ago.

The burn victims and five others who were injured in the explosion had sought the money from Houston-based Halliburton's KBR subsidiary. Wednesday's verdict means they will receive nothing.

A chemical tank at a Phillips chemical plant in Pasadena exploded on March 27, 2000, killing one and injuring 69 people.

Four men working on the tank suffered third-degree burns on 40 to 50 percent of their bodies.

During the five-week trial, their attorneys blamed KBR engineers for failing to properly evaluate the chemical tank and design adequate safeguards.

But KBR attorneys said the fault was with Phillips and cited an investigation that included outside consultants and reached the same conclusion.

"It's a huge statement," KBR attorney Robert Meadows said in Thursday editions of the Houston Chronicle. "They took their responsibilities seriously and listened to the judge's instructions and did not permit their sympathy for the plaintiffs to affect their decision."

Armon Alan Goss, 51, and the three others who were burned said they lobbied to change the state's workers compensation law.

Currently, it prevents workers from suing their employers for injuries on the job if they agree to be covered by the state workers' compensation program. Employees must withdraw from the program to preserve their right to sue.

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Archaeologists reveal ancient ruins found on ranch in Utah

EAST CARBON CITY, Utah (AP) — For more than 50 years, Waldo Wilcox kept a closely guarded — and ancient — secret.

Scattered throughout his 4,200-acre ranch were almost perfectly preserved remains of ancient life, ranging from arrowheads to village sites.

"I looked at it like this: I wanted to keep it the way it is," said Wilcox, 74. "But when I die, I'm not going to have a lot to say about it. I finally decided I'll take a little money and get out now."

The ranch eventually was turned over to the state, and the remains were revealed Wednesday after archaeologists led reporters to the site.

The remote canyon offers some of the best evidence of the Fremont culture — hunter-gatherers and farmers who lived mostly within the present-day borders of Utah.

Archaeologists said the villages were occupied more than 1,000 years ago, and may be as old as 4,500 years.

"We've documented about 225 sites, and it's just scratching the surface," said Utah state archaeologist Kevin Jones. "There are hundreds of other sites."

To reach them, a caravan of news groups traveled for two hours from the mining town of East Carbon City, over a serpentine thriller of a dirt road that topped an 8,200-foot mountain before dropping into the narrow canyon in Utah's Book Cliffs region.

Officials kept known burial sites and human remains out of view of reporters and cameras.

But within a single square mile of verdant meadows, archaeologists showed off one village site and said there were five more where arrowheads, pottery shards and other artifacts can still be found lying on the ground.

The Fremont people were efficient hunters, taking down deer, elk, bison and small game and leaving

behind piles of animal bone waste, Jones said.

They fished for abundant trout in Range Creek, using a hook and line or weirs. In their more advanced stage they grew corn, although cultivation could be risky in dry years or when bears raided stocks, he said.

Granaries, ranging from cupboard-sized to several yards across, are in some cases up nearly inaccessible cliffs.

Some are full of grass seed and corn.

They offer evidence that the people moved around seasonally and left stores of food, Jones said.

The half-buried pit houses don't have the grandeur of New Mexico's Chaco Canyon or Colorado's Mesa Verde, where overhanging cliffs shelter stacked stone houses.

But they are remarkable in that they hold information about the Fremont culture that has been untouched by looters.

Virginia: Activists protest anti-gay marriage law

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Gay activists rallied in major cities statewide to protest a new law that critics said could nullify legal contracts between same-sex couples.

The state law, which goes into effect Thursday, prohibits civil unions, partnership contracts or other arrangements "purporting to bestow the privileges or obligations of marriage."

Critics said it could be used to nullify medical directives, wills, joint bank accounts and other agreements between gay couples.

"(The law) clearly states that gay and lesbian people in this state should not feel welcome," said Dyana Mason, executive director of Equality Virginia, the state's largest gay rights organization. "It seeks to strip the only tool that gay and lesbian couples have to protect their families."

Mason spoke at a rally in Richmond on Wednesday that drew more than 400 gay activists and supporters to the Capitol

grounds. Simultaneous rallies were held in Norfolk, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Fairfax, Staunton and Roanoke.

Gov. Mark R. Warner, a Democrat, issued a statement condemning the law, which he refused to sign.

"This law raises serious constitutional issues and it places Virginia outside the mainstream of other states when it comes to respecting individual liberty," he said.

Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, said his group was working with others to legally challenge the law. He said it was so vaguely worded that it could be used against heterosexuals of the same sex who enter into legal agreements with each other.

Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore has said the law provides a needed safeguard for the institution of marriage and does not deprive anyone of individual rights. Kilgore has vowed to defend the law if challenged.

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