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Cavalier Classic

Baseball tournament under way. SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA

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Thornberry visits, addresses agriculture issues

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer The beginnings of a new farm bill and international trade negotiations are the two biggest agricultural issues in federal government right now, according to Mac Thornberry, U.S. Representative, 13th District.

"I think it's important that we keep those two things in order," Thornberry said of the two issues. "I introduced a bill last week stating that we'd keep the existing farm bill until one year after the new world trade agreement." "For our part of the world, this farm bill is working about as well

as any one can." Producers face the challenge of rural versus urban issues in getting their needs met, as well as proposed budget cuts and the high cost of production, Thornberry said.

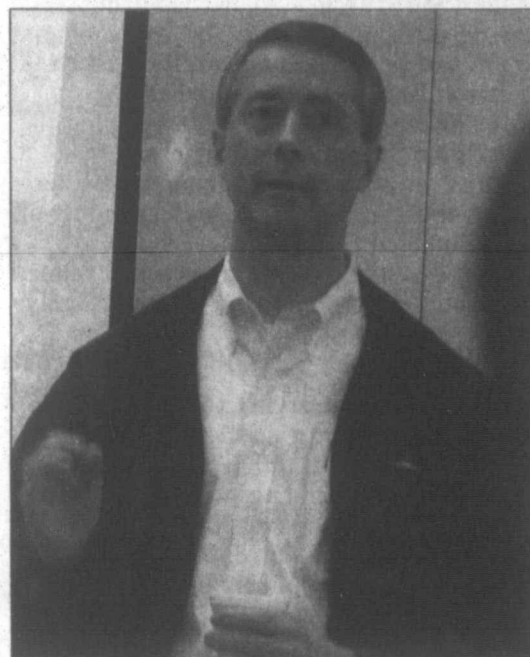
"The rural versus urban challenge is just going to get more complicated. Five Congressmen represent two-thirds of the state of Texas. There are currently seven Texas Congressmen representing Harris County alone," he said. There are some positive trends affecting the agriculture industry, Thornberry said. Low- and no-carbohydrate diet plans have helped the sales of beef, and renewable energy sources have created increased demand for some plant and animal products.

"Dr. Atkins has increased demand for beef in this country, and it looks like it's going to stay up.

"There is an emphasis on renewable energy. We've been making methanol from corn for a long time. The administration is really pushing sorghum and various sorts of other grasses. There's a plant going in down in Hereford that's going to utilize manure."

He then opened the meeting for questions. One audience member asked how much support he had for his bill to maintain the current farm bill. "Not much today, but as time gets closer, its chances will improve," he said. "The American Farm Bureau has come out and supported my bill."

Thornberry then spoke on tax See ISSUES, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry makes a point during a talk in Pampa today.

Students breathe easier after taking TAKS tests

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer Students in some grades in Pampa public schools are no doubt breathing a sigh of relief after getting another TAKS test behind them.

Tuesday was test day for English language arts, reading, and writing skills, according to Pampa High School counselor and campus testing coordinator Karla Howell.

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills is a series of exams required by the state. Some tests must be passed in order for students to be eligible to progress to higher grades; others may not be required for promotion but are used to determine class placement and

remediation, if any, Howell said.

Third-, fifth- and ninth-graders were tested on reading skills. Fourth- and seventh-graders took a writing exam.

Students in grades 10 and 11 filled out an English language arts test.

"Our high school results will not come back until May," Howell said. "Others will get theirs in March."

The third- and fifth-graders must pass their test in order to be promoted to the next grade. If a student did not pass Tuesday's test, they have a chance to take the test again in April,

See TAKS, Page 3

Drug endangered children subject of Friday meeting

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer Representatives of a variety of area agencies will meet at 10 a.m. Friday in the Fellowship Hall of Highland Baptist Church, 1301 N. Banks, to work on forming a Drug Endangered Children Team.

The team has been instigated by 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer for the purpose of providing coordinated services and support for children who suffer physical or psychological harm or neglect as a result of exposure to illegal drugs, persons under the influence of illegal drugs, or environments where drugs are present or being manufactured.

The National and Texas Alliances for Drug Endangered Children are urging communities to create DEC teams, according to information from Switzer's office.

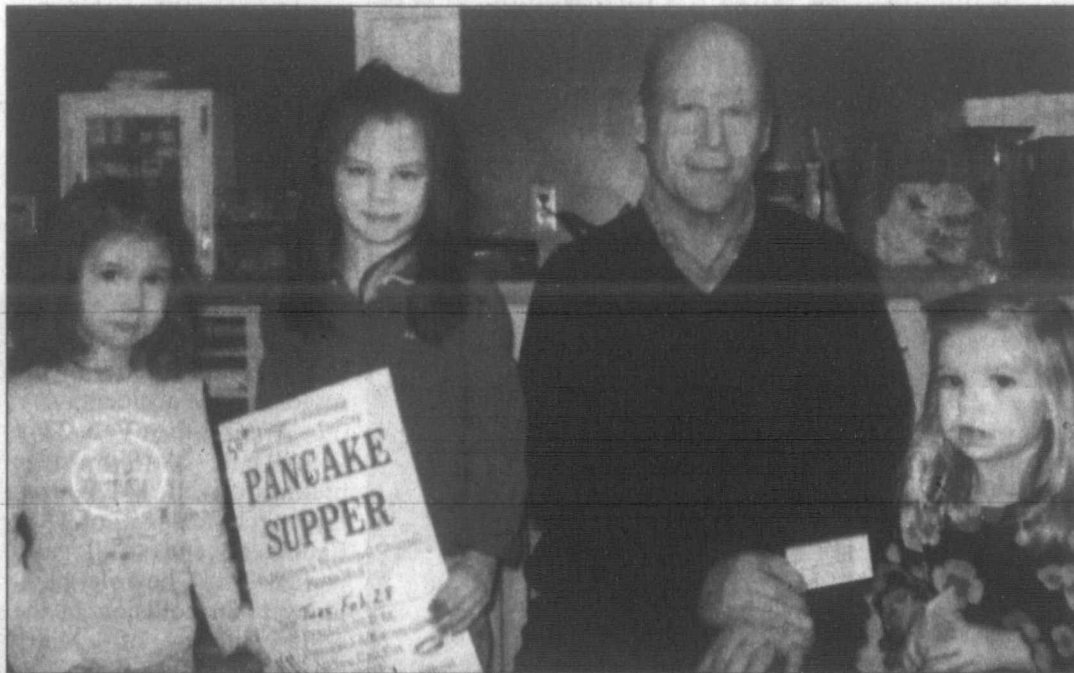
Friday's meeting is the second for the local team. Representatives from each county and community in the five counties of the 31st Judicial District are expected to attend; after Friday's meeting, they will break up into smaller entities to serve their respective locations, said Xochitl Valenzuela, victim's assistance coordinator for Switzer's office.

Illegal drugs can have a variety of impacts upon children.

"Children can't even take their possessions from a meth house," Valenzuela said. The fumes from methamphetamine manufacturing permeate and linger on clothing, toys, furnishings and other items in the vicinity.

Services currently available to remedy See DEC, Page 3

Pancake supper anticipation



Students from St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School get ready for the 50th Annual Pancake Supper to be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday. Sophie Flathouse and McKenzie O'Neal hold a Pancake Supper sign while Mary Catherine Martindale gets her tickets from Hal Cree, ticket chairman. Tickets are \$5 for all-you-can-eat pancakes and bacon.

Courtesy photo

Water management team to meet Friday

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer WHITE DEER -- An interlocal agreement among members of the newly formed Ground Water Management Area No. 1 will be on the agenda for the group as they meet Friday for a second time since their formation.

Ground Water Management Areas, or GMAs, mandated by the Texas Legislature during their last session, were designed to help neighboring ground water districts work together in a cooperative manner on common problems.

Area 1 consists of the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District, the North Plains Ground Water Conservation District out of Dumas, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District out of Canadian and parts of three counties of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District out of Lubbock.

In January, members of group's Joint Planning Committee met in Canadian. This month, their meeting is at 10 a.m. Friday, at the offices of the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District in White Deer.

The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District tabled a proposed interlocal agreement earlier this month because it was based on an agreement downstate. See WATER, Page 3

Be An Early Bird... Sign Up Now! THE 7th ANNUAL PAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS EXPO... SATURDAY, JUNE 24th Watch For Entry Forms In Your February Newsletter "or" Online At www.coc.pampa.com

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

BURKHART, Richard L. "Dick" — 11 a.m., Zion Lutheran Church, Pampa.
BYNUM, I.R. "Dick" — 11 a.m., First Baptist Church, Amarillo.
THOMAS, Jimmy Joe "J.J." — Graveside services, 2 p.m., White Deer Cemetery, White Deer.

Richard (Dick) L. Burkhardt, 83

Richard (Dick) L. Burkhardt passed from this life to his eternal home on February 18, 2006, in his home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Dick was born May 21, 1922, to his parents, William H. Burkhardt and Mary Francis Perkins, in Haskew, Oklahoma. He grew up on the family farm near Moreland, Oklahoma and graduated from Moreland High School. He served in the Army Air Force during WWII (1942-1945) as a Radio Operator and Mechanic.

He lived in Pampa, Texas from 1955-2001. Dick was married to Velma Elizabeth Carter in Pampa, Texas, January 1, 1971, until her death in April of 2003.

While living in Pampa, he worked as a police officer for Pampa Police Department in the 1950's, as an auto mechanic and service department manager for Montgomery Ward, and as a security guard for Cabot and Ingersoll Rand until his retirement.

He loved music and enjoyed playing the drums, bass guitar, steel guitar, and being a vocalist in several local country western bands. While in Pampa, he was a member of Zion Lutheran Church.

In 2001, he moved with his wife, Velma, to Claremore, Oklahoma, to be near family.

Following her death, he moved with his son and daughter-in-law, Rev. and Mrs. Mark Carter to their home in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was currently a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Bartlesville.

Preceding him in death are his parents, three brothers and five sisters, his wife, Velma Burkhardt, and one son, Robert W. Carter. Survivors include his sister, Alma Dean Stanly of Elk City, Oklahoma; daughter, Judy Burkhardt Mackey of Paris, Tennessee; daughter Sharon Carter-Valdez and her husband, Phil, of Austin, Texas; son, Mike Carter and his wife, Kitty, of Phoenix, Arizona; daughter, Carolyn Wardlow of Waco, Texas; and son, Mark Carter and his wife, Karla, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; 10 grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, February 24, at Zion Lutheran Church of Pampa, Texas with committal following at Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa. Officiating will Rev. Mark E. Carter of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Local cremation arrangements were directed by the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory.

Ashley Dawn Harvill, 16-days-old

Ashley Dawn Harvill, 16-day-old infant daughter of George and Anna Harvill of Pampa, died Feb. 21, 2006, at Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Ashley was born Feb. 5, 2006, at Pampa.

Survivors include her parents, of the home; three sisters, Taffy Harvill, Angel Dawn McBee and Dallas Ann Aldridge, all of the home; two brothers, Alex Harvill and

James McBee, both of the home; her paternal grandparents, Ruth Ann Lee of White Deer and David Harvill of Amarillo; her maternal grandparent, Maudie Aldridge of Pampa; her paternal great-grandmother, Ruth Ann Ward of Amarillo; and her maternal great-grandmother, Zellma Sifwrite of Barnsdall, Okla.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whately.com.

I.R. 'Dick' Bynum, 80

AMARILLO — I.R. "Dick" Bynum, 80, of Amarillo, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2006.

Services are scheduled at 11 a.m. Friday in First Baptist Church with Dr. Howard Batson, Dr. Winfred Moore and Dr. Chester O'Brien officiating. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery under the direction of Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors of Amarillo.

Mr. Bynum was born June 6, 1925, at Wilson, Okla., and grew up in Pampa where he played football. He was recruited by WT, North Texas State University and Oklahoma State University.

He attended West Texas State University. He served in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during World War II in the South Pacific.

He was in the invasion of Guam, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. He built airfields on Guam and Okinawa.

He joined Panhandle Trailways in 1947 as a part-time employee while a student at WTSU where he lived in Buffalo Courts. He had continuous employment with Trailways, completing 50 years in 1997. He began his tour career driving for Dr. Ples Harper and Margaret Harper taking teachers into Mexico. He opened Trailways Tours in 1963.

Mr. Bynum married Hetty Jo Tucker in September 1951 at Pampa.

He was a member of First Baptist Church and Henry Brown's Men's Bible Class and belonged to American Bus Association, WTSU Phoenix Club, Buffalo Club, Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Highway Committee, Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame Committee and Putt Powell Scholarship Committee.

Mr. Bynum was past president of Downtown Amarillo Lions Club, Greater Southwest Music Festival and Amarillo Knife and Fork Club; was past chair of The Salvation Army Advisory Board, Panhandle Chapter of the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness (Amarillo chapter), Chamber of Commerce Sports Committee (five terms), Amarillo Chapter of the Texas Motor Transportation - Amarillo Group (two terms); and was past board member of Hi-Plains Eye Bank and High Plains Food Bank.

Mr. Bynum was named an honorary member by the Chamber sports committee, was nominated for the 7 Who Care Award and was named a Melvin Jones Fellow from Lions International.

He preceded in death by his parents, Isham R. Bynum and Hattie Lee Owens Bynum; three brothers, John, Phillip and Elmer; and a sister, Rose Ellen.

Survivors include his wife, Hetty Jo, of the home; a daughter, Bonita Blackstock; a son, Gregg Bynum; four brothers, Eugene Bynum of Heflin, La., Joe Bynum of Spearman, Ralph Bynum of Dumas and Paul Bynum of Silsbee; a sister, Elizabeth Westberry of Lake Park, Ga.; and a granddaughter.

The family will receive visitors from 5-7 p.m. today at the funeral home and suggests memorials be to Texas Lions Children's Camp, P.O. Box 290247, Kerrville, TX 79829; to the Salvation Army, 400 S. Harrison, Amarillo, TX 79101; or to High Plains Food Bank, 815 Ross St., Amarillo, TX 79102.



Bynum

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Twenty seven traffic stops were made. One vehicle accident was investigated in the 1800 block of North Faulkner.

Thefts were reported in the 1800 block of North Duncan where jewelry valued at \$450 was taken, the 1200 block East Francis, and two reports in the police department lobby.

A forgery report was received in the police department lobby.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of North Hobart where a greenhouse pool sustained \$700 in damages, and the 1800 block of North Sumner.

A domestic disturbance was investigated in the 1200 block of East Francis. There

were no injuries. One escort service was provided in the 600 block of North Ward.

A 911 hangup call was noted in the 700 block of North Hobart.

A missing person report was received in the 1300 block of East Foster.

Suspicious persons were noted in the 1400 block of North Hobart and the 400 block of North Sumner.

Criminal trespass was investigated in the 1500 block of North Banks.

Disorderly conduct calls were received in the 1200 block of North Hobart where an arrest was made, the 1300 block of North Mary Ellen, and the 1100 block of Sierra.

Civil matters were investigated in the 1000 block of North Somerville and the 800 block of Deane.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of Banks.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was investigated in the 2100 block of Banks.

A stolen vehicle was reported in the 900 block of East Campbell. There was no estimate of the value.

An arrest for DWI was made in the 1200 block of East Francis.

Violations of city ordinances were reported in the 100 block of West Foster, the 500 block of Montagu, the 300 block of Jean, and the 300 block of South Tignor.

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle accident.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
 3:39 p.m. — A 1998 Dodge pickup driven by Warren Eugene Jeffers, 82, of 1819 Faulkner, and a legally parked 1988 Chevrolet pickup were in collision in the 1800 block of North Faulkner. Jeffers was cited for unsafe backing.

Gray County Sheriff's Office reported the following arrests today.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
 Dustin Fuller, 25, of Pampa was arrested on charges of violation of probation and possession of a controlled substance.

Pedro Munoz Jr., 31, of Artesia, N.M., was arrested on charges of money laundering and possession of marijuana.

Cesar Contreas, 29, of El Paso was arrested on a

charge of money laundering.

Pete Jimenez, 28, of Pampa was arrested on charges of violation of probation and possession of a controlled substance.

Jesus Cantu, 54, of Houston was arrested on a charge of Immigration Naturalization Service detainer.

Adrian Cordova, 20, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of minor in possession.

Don Goin Abney, 56, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of DWI.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

1:32 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of North Hobart on a medical assist.

4:44 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to 1/2 mile west on Gray County Road 3 and Highway 152 on a grass fire.

4:59 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded 3/4 mile west on Gray County Road 3 and Highway 152 on another grass fire.

5:04 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded again to the grass fire 1/2 mile west on Gray County Road 3 and Highway 152 to aid Hoover Volunteer Fire Department.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

12:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

1:33 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to a local nursing facility.

2:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA in Amarillo.

2:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of North Hobart and transported a patient to PRMC.

Thursday, Feb. 23

2:24 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to BSA.

CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

50TH YEAR- Pancakes & Bacon, all trimmings, St. Matthew's Parish Hall, 727 W. Browning, Tues. February 28th, 5-8 p.m. Tickets \$5, preschool free. Day School Support Group Bake Sale & Scholastic Book Fair

ON FEBRUARY 25th, beginning at 2:30 p.m., a Reception will be held in Fellowship Hall of the McLean United Methodist Church to celebrate the 75th birthday of Johnny Haynes. All friends are invited!

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THE CARTRIDGE Guys are now hiring for a full-time position. Apply in person, 700 N. Price Rd., Pampa.

Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. Wind chill values between 25 and 32 early. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Areas of fog after midnight. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 36. South wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Friday: Areas of fog before 11 a.m. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 63.

Wind chill values between 30 and 35 early. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 37. West-southwest wind around 5 mph becoming east-northeast.

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2 in Carson jail for pot possession

GROOM — Two women from Arizona were arrested Wednesday afternoon on Interstate 40 after troopers found marijuana inside their vehicle.

At 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers stopped an eastbound 2006 Lincoln Town Car one mile east of Groom on an alleged traffic violation.

Troopers obtained consent to search the vehicle and reportedly found 90 pounds of marijuana packed in three suitcases inside the trunk.

Monica Ann Ochoa, 27, of Litchfield, Ariz., and Josephine Grace Mostero, 18, of Goodyear, Ariz., were arrested on drug-related charges and booked into Carson County Jail in Panhandle.

The marijuana, which has an estimated value of \$53,010, is believed to have originated in Phoenix, Ariz., and was headed for Columbus, Ohio.

Bush seeks to calm uproar over disputed ports deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bush administration officials, trying to calm a political furor over allowing a United Arab Emirates company to take over a half-dozen U.S. seaports, told Congress today they spent three months reviewing the deal and said all concerns about security were satisfied.

"We're not aware of a single national security concern raised recently that was not part of" the multiagency, three-month review, Deputy Treasury Secretary Robert Kimmitt told a Senate Armed Services Committee briefing.

Representatives of key agencies that investigated the port deal — but not the heads of the various departments — sought to reassure senators just hours after President Bush declared that "people don't need to worry about security."

Indeed, the Capitol Hill briefing began with Democrats lashing out at the deal.

Brushing aside Bush's assurances, Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, the panel's ranking Democrat, said the UAE backed the Taliban and allowed financial support for al-Qaida. Levin also charged that the UAE has an "uneven history" as "one of only a handful of countries in the world to recognize the Taliban regime in Afghanistan." He added that millions of dollars in al-Qaida funds went through UAE financial institutions.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., also was critical, calling the approval process "a failure of judgment" because officials "did not alert the president, the secretary of the treasury and the secretary of defense" that several of our critical ports would be turned over to foreign country.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., and chairman of the committee, emphasized UAE's cooperation in the war on terrorism.

Issues

Continued from Page 1

issues. He noted that a number of temporary measures providing tax breaks have just expired or are due to expire, which will result in increased taxes.

"One of the big items for Congress this year is to keep taxes from going up," Thornberry said. "One of the big challenges is to pass a bill to extend the existing tax laws. We're trying to make those permanent if we can, or at least extend the tax breaks currently in place. One option is to

extend everything until the year 2010."

Current temporary tax breaks which are expiring include the death tax break and the deduction of state sales tax on federal tax returns.

"The economy is going pretty well around the country. We don't need to mess that up by raising taxes," Thornberry said.

After the meeting, Thornberry spoke briefly with a few residents before leaving for another meeting.

"I think the country is disaster-tired," he said in response to the worsening outlook for drought conditions in some parts of the state. "We've had so many

lately."

He said that the Office of Homeland Security needed to have been organized correctly and efficiently from the start, and expressed disappointment in Tom Ridge, the office's first director, for not getting the office off to a better start.

Thornberry left Pampa for Amarillo, where he was scheduled to be guest speaker at a noon meeting of the Rotary Club of Amarillo at the Amarillo Country Club. His topic at the Amarillo meeting was to be the urgent need to recognize and respond to the historic changes taking place in our world.

DEC

Continued from Page 1

such a problem include a crime victim's package which Valenzuela distributes, plus clothes and toys from the Rainbow Room of the Pampa Court Appointed Special Advocates office.

The local DEC team currently includes representatives of Child Protective Services, CASA, the district attorney's office, The

Bridge in Amarillo, and emergency responders such as law enforcement and firefighters. Others who may be included are medical and mental health professionals, substance abuse treatment providers, community leaders and the general public.

The Bridge is a service agency in Amarillo which videotapes interviews with children who are victims of abuse and neglect, along with providing other services to such children.

"DEC teams help ensure

that all the needs of each drug endangered child are met and that evidence is gathered to support the management and prosecution of each case. DEC teams seek the long-term goal of providing safe, supportive and drug-free environments which permit children to prosper," according to a memorandum from Switzer's office.

For more information, call Janet Watts, team facilitator, at the CASA office at 669-7638.

TAKS

Continued from Page 1

Howell said. The test taken by those in the fourth and seventh grades is not required for promotion, but test results will be used to determine class placement and remediation for the next school

year, she said. "All test information is reported to the federal government on the No Child Left Behind Act," Howell said.

A few of high school seniors are taking math, science and social studies TAKS tests through the end of this week.

"We have a handful of seniors who moved from out of state or had not

passed the last portions required for graduation. We're testing fewer than 10 each day," Howell said.

Students face more TAKS tests before the end of the school year. In April, test-takers will include ninth-graders on math skills, while those in grades 10 and 11 will take math, social studies and science tests, Howell said.

Water

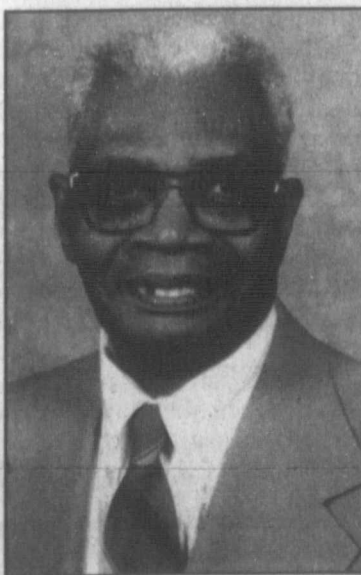
Continued from Page 1

PGWCD General Manager C.E. Williams said the proposed agreement didn't seem particularly applicable to the Panhandle. As host of this month's

meeting, the PGWCD will go over their management plan, district rules and depletion implementation guidance document. PGWCD's Bart Wyatt will explain the district's education programs and what services the district offers. Susan Laughlin will talk to the group about PGWCD's permitting process.

The participating districts will give their views of what the GMA process should accomplish, and they will discuss the desired future condition of the aquifers beneath the panhandle.

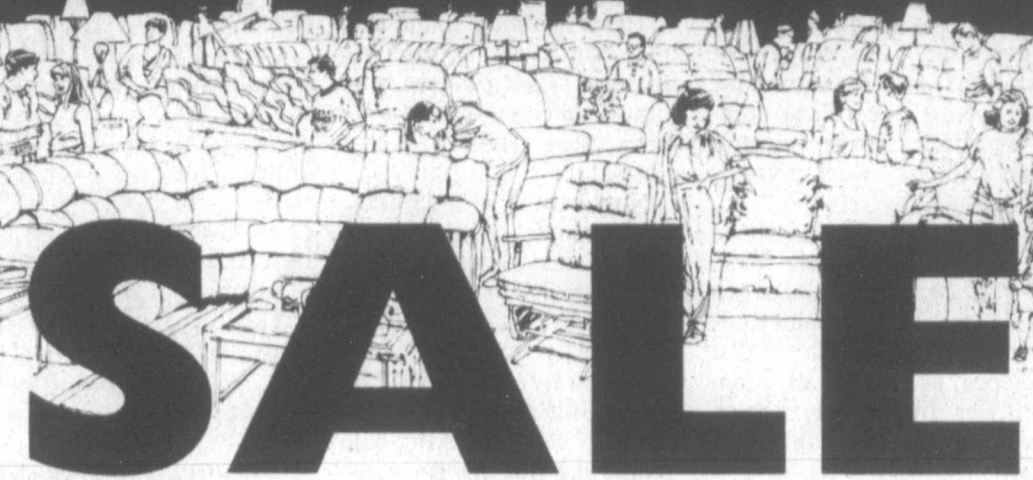
The committee will elect officers and set their next meeting time and place.



St. Marks' Will Honor Griffin, 100

Wyvon Mark Griffin will celebrate his 100th Brithday this March 3, 2006 - 4:00 pm at the South Side Senior Citizen Center, 438 W. Crawford, Pampa, TX. Please R.S.V.P. Pastor McKeever (806) 669-7394 by Wednesday, March 1, 2006. Give him his flowers while he lives. His contribution as a true child of God, serving humanity in all capacities - Church, Community, Good Samaritan, Kairo Ministry. He is the last living founder of St. Mark's Church. Sharing in his celebration will be his daughter - Versie Griffin Littlejohn, granddaughter - Lanette (Robert), niece - Pierra, friend and caretaker - Marilynn, church family and host of friends in Pampa.

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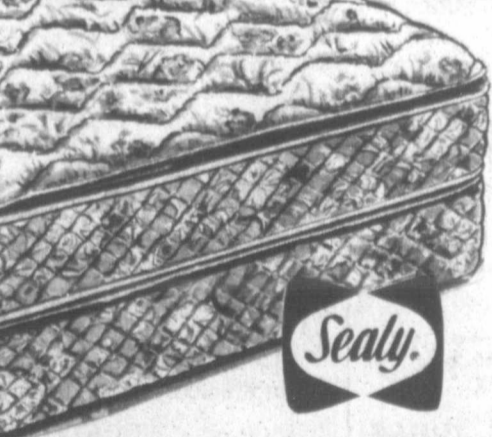
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Viewpoints

Science, research, and parallels to human behavior

The news service at the University of Texas at Austin recently described, in two separate articles, some significant research being conducted at the university. Scientists at UT-Austin have been busy unraveling communication between electric fish and the sweet mystery of sugar.

What does one study have to do with the other? Well, not much except that both were done at the same university and both prove that science, as well as art, often imitates life or, er, human behavior or something like that.

In the first study,

researchers have clearly defined individual strains of bacteria by targeting specific carbohydrates.

The researchers found that microbes cloak themselves in sugar to get past the biological defenses of host systems they infect. Pretty crafty, huh?

Now here is where I draw the human analogy.

How many times have you heard it's easier to catch a fly with honey?

And why would you want to catch a fly? Well, to kill it.

Yup, sugar can coat a pretty nasty surprise. After all, people are not always what they seem.

Remember Ted Bundy? The serial killer who suckered his victims with personality and charm?

Skyla Bryant

News Editor

Zakon and Dr. Jörge Oestreich. They and their colleagues found electric fish use electrical pulses to promote what they liken to "memory."

The fish record their environment through unique channels contained in their cell membranes.

"Every time they discharge (electric energy), it's kind of like they are opening their eyes and closing them,"

UT News quotes Zakon as saying. "Each pulse of elec-

tricity is a snapshot of the environment.

These guys are swimming around and discharging at a very regular frequency. They're digitizing their environment."

I guess that means the fish have a photographic memory.

"The channels give the fish neurons the ability to retain a memory long after its original stimulus is gone," the UT article said.

But what happens when these highly charged swimmers get together? Well, they block or "jam" each other's signals.

I swear, the same thing

frequently happens to me. However, when electric fish experience get their wires crossed they respond by ratcheting up the frequency of their individual transmissions.

What researchers don't understand is why these fish often continue at the heightened frequency for extended periods of time even when not in company with each other.

Could be it's more peaceful at the new frequency?

Too bad we can't clear up human miscommunication as easily as electric fish, hence my second analogy.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 23, the 54th day of 2006. There are 311 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 23, 1945, during World War II, U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima captured Mount Suribachi, where they raised the American flag.

On this date:

In 1822, Boston was granted a charter to incorporate as a city.

In 1836, the siege of the Alamo began in San Antonio.

In 1847, U.S. troops under Gen. Zachary Taylor defeated Mexican Gen. Santa Anna at the Battle of Buena Vista in Mexico.

In 1848, the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, died of a stroke at age 80.

In 1861, President-elect Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington to take office, an assassination plot having been foiled in Baltimore.

In 1870, Mississippi was readmitted to the Union.

'If you wish to avoid seeing a fool you must first break your mirror.'

— Francois Rabelais
French satirist
(1494-1553)

In 1905, the first Rotary Club service organization was founded in Chicago by Paul Harris.

In 1965, Stan Laurel — the "skinny" half of the Laurel and Hardy comedy team — died in Santa Monica, Calif.

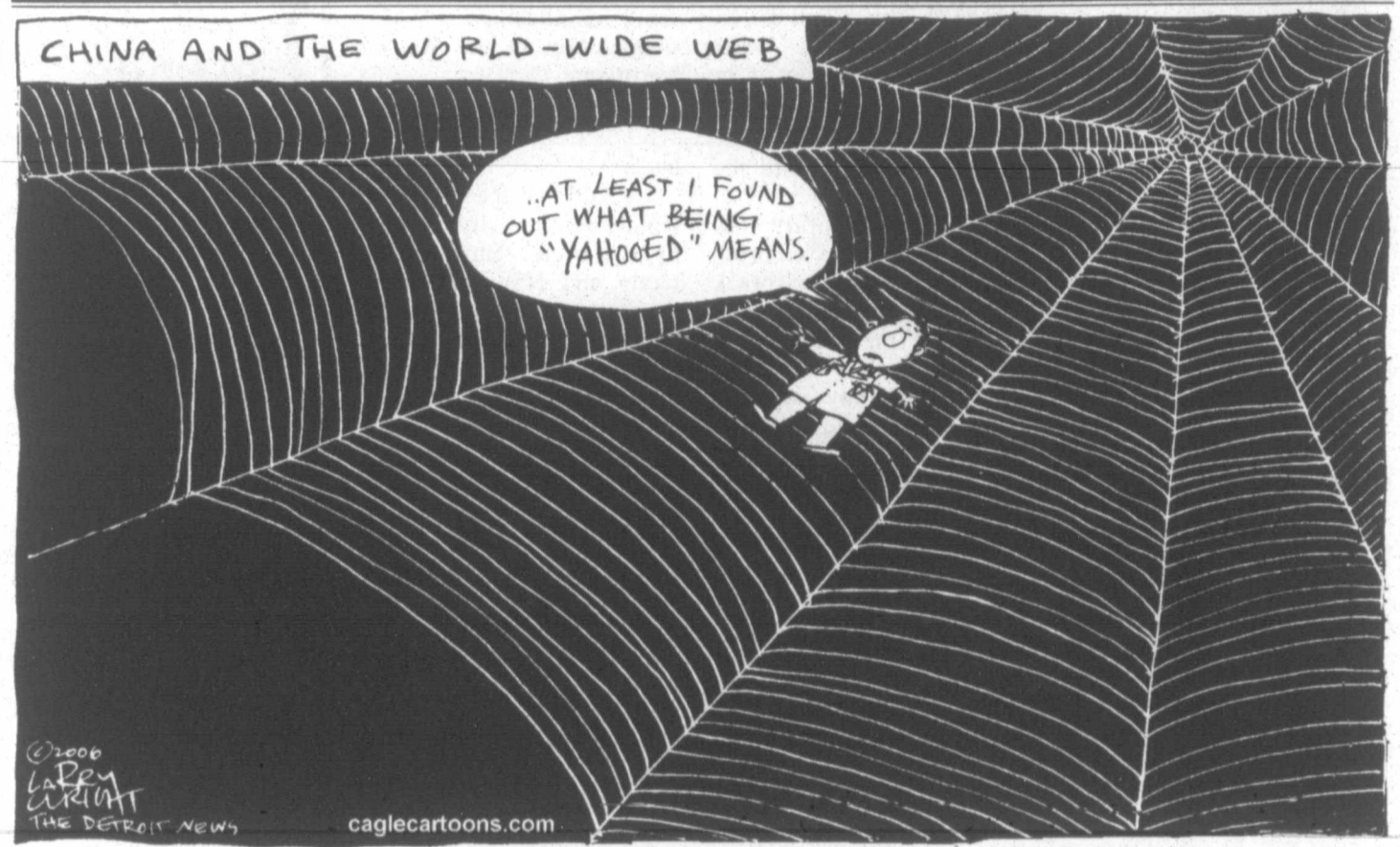
In 1981, an attempted coup began in Spain as 200 members of the Civil Guard invaded the Parliament, taking lawmakers hostage. (However, the attempt collapsed 18 hours later.)

In 1997, scientists in Scotland announced they had succeeded in cloning an adult mammal, producing a lamb named "Dolly." (Dolly, however, was later put down after a short life marred by premature aging and disease.)

Ten years ago: The Iraqi News Agency reported that Lt. Gen. Hussein Kamel al-Majid and his brother Saddam Kamel al-Majid, a pair of defectors who were also the sons-in-law of Saddam Hussein, were killed by clan members after returning to their homeland. Dutch tourist Tosca Dieperink, 39, was killed in a holdup at a Miami service station. (Two men later pleaded guilty to the slaying and were sentenced to prison.)

Five years ago: President Bush opened a two-day summit with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at Camp David. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered an indefinite moratorium on civilian visitors operating military equipment, a possible factor in the collision of a U.S. submarine collision with a Japanese fishing boat.

One year ago: A jury was selected in Santa Maria, Calif., to decide Michael Jackson's fate on charges that he'd molested a teenage boy at his Neverland Ranch. (Jackson was later acquitted.) President Bush and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder agreed to turn down the volume on their disagreements about Iraq and Iran.



Databases for beginners, part two

Last week, I discussed database lingo. This week, we dive right into creating a database in Microsoft Access.

I know this may sound silly, but the first thing you ought to do is figure out if you even have Microsoft Access on your system. The newest version of Microsoft Office (2003) comes in four "flavors": Student/Teacher, Standard, Small Business, and Professional.

The Student/Teacher package is the smallest (and cheapest) of the four. It only contains Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

When you buy a new system that claims to have Microsoft Office installed, you are probably getting either Standard or Small Business. They are the same as the Student/Teacher edition, but Small Business throws in Publisher.

If you purchase Microsoft Office Professional, you receive everything in the Small Business edition plus Access.

To make matters more complicated, depending on

when you bought your software, you may have either Office version 97 or Office version 2000. The following tutorial will work with Office 2000 and XP. In a n y Microsoft program, you can click on the "Help" menu and choose "about" to see what version you have. To learn more about the various editions, go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/office/editions/>

So, as you can see, only two ways exist for you to get Access: Buy Microsoft Professional or buy Access by itself. If you don't know which edition of Office you have, simply click on the "Start" button, choose "Programs" and scroll through the list until you find the programs that begin with the word, "Microsoft." If "Microsoft Access" is one of the choices, click on it.

You'll see the "Access Splash Screen," the Access

Window, and finally a pop-up dialog box with "Create a database using" at the top. Basically, you have three options: You can create a new blank database (nothing is defined; you are starting from ground zero); you can use Microsoft "wizards" to help you create a database (a wizard walks you through a process step by step, explaining everything along the way); or you can open an existing database.

For the purpose of this example, let's choose the option that includes the word "wizards." You should see a new window offering many choices. Notice the icons with "magic wands" on them. Those are wizards. Double-click on the "Contact Management" icon.

Access will immediately ask you to save a copy of this database somewhere on your system (usually in the

"My Documents" folder). It will name the database something like: "Contact Management1.mdb."

The ".mdb" file name extension identifies the file as a Microsoft Access database. All Access databases end in ".mdb." In case you're curious, it's short for "Microsoft DataBase." Why it's not ".acc" is a mystery to me.

Anyway, hit the "Create" button. After a little churning and chugging, you'll see a "Database Wizard" screen pop up. Hit the "Next" button. The next screen that appears has two windows. The one on the left lists the tables (created by the wizard). Single-clicking on each table will display all of the fields that the wizard is suggesting for that table.

You can check or uncheck the various fields to include or exclude them in your tables. After you have gone through each list and chosen just the fields you want, hit the "Next" button. Put on your Martha Stewart hat because now you get to

See PART 2, Page 5

Eric Spellmann
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Feb. 13

San Antonio Express News on Gov. Rick Perry and Texas lobbyist query:

The Web site of the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations says its mission is "to promote communication and build relationships between the state and federal governments, to advance the interests of the people of the State of Texas."

Translation: It's the official lobbying office for the state of Texas in Washington.

The Lone Star State also has 32 representatives in the House and two senators watching out for Texas interests, a congressional delegation exceeded in

size only by California.

And then there's the occupant of the White House, who has a few loyalties to his home state.

In short, Texas is far from lacking in official representation in Washington's halls of power.

So why has Gov. Rick Perry used state funds to hire private lobbyists to represent Texas? That's a question the governor needs to answer.

So far, the governor's office has dismissed the controversy about outside lobbyists as election-year politicking. That won't suffice.

Texas had never used outside lobbyists before 2003. That's when Perry hired the Federalist Group headed by a former chief of staff for Tom DeLay to the tune of \$180,000 per year.

Last year, Perry added another pri-

vate lobbyist to the state's payroll. Cassidy & Associates won the contract despite scoring lower than competitors in the official bidding process. Its principal lobbyist, Todd Boulanger, helped super-lobbyist and confessed felon Jack Abramoff with his profitable work on behalf of Indian gambling interests.

Contracts for both firms will cost the state \$1.1 million through August 2007.

The fundamental issue is whether Texas ought to be spending any money on private lobbyists. Even if there were compelling arguments for taking on hired guns in Washington, there's ample reason to question how these two firms obtained the contracts and whether these are the types of characters Texas taxpayers want representing their interests.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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WORLD NEWS

Moscow market roof collapses, killing at least 40 people

By STEVE GUTTERMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — The snow-covered roof of a Moscow market collapsed early today, killing at least 40 people and forcing rescuers to clear away concrete slabs and metal beams to reach possible survivors trapped in the wreckage, officials said.

Officials ruled out terrorism and said heavy snow may have been to blame.

Rescue workers used metal cutters and pickaxes to break through the wreckage, calling through holes in search of survivors. Every few minutes, the rescuers turned off their electric generators and stood silently to listen for signs of life.

Medical workers inserted an intravenous drip to administer painkillers and other medications to a man trapped under a slab of concrete that left only his hand visible. Rescuers used heat guns to blow warm air into the rubble to try to prevent victims from succumbing to near freezing temperatures.

It was uncertain how many people were still trapped — dead or alive — under the wreckage. Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu said about 10 survivors were trapped earlier in the day, and they could be

heard "knocking and crying out." But officials have declined to say

It was uncertain how many people were still trapped — dead or alive — under the wreckage. Emergency Situations Minister Sergei Shoigu said about 10 survivors were trapped earlier in the day, and they could be heard "knocking and crying out."

how many have been pulled out since then.

"There may be people alive under there but time is passing," Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said.

Authorities in Poland ordered the roofs of hundreds of buildings cleared of snow and ice last month after the roof of an exhibition hall collapsed, apparently under the weight of heavy, icy snow, killing 65.

Fifteen people were killed in southern Germany on Jan. 2 when the snow-covered roof of a skating rink collapsed.

In Russia Thursday, trapped survivors had used mobile phones to call their family members in an effort to help rescuers find them, said Yuri Akimov, deputy head of the Moscow department of the Emergency Situations Ministry.

A fire broke out on the edge of the collapse site mid-afternoon, sending acrid smoke billowing into the air. Beltsov said it erupted when a spark from an electric saw used to cut through metal ignited some paint, and that it posed no threat to anyone trapped in the wreckage.

Beltsov said at least 40 people had been killed and 29 injured in the collapse. A duty officer at the ministry, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, said the death toll could have been higher had the collapse occurred while the market was open for retail business.

A crowd of relatives stood outside the police tape, crying and shouting.

"My brother's in there. He's not answering his phone.... We keep calling him," a man who identified himself only by his first name, Salekh, told AP Television News.

Part 2

Continued from Page 4

choose a "look" for your data entry screens. Single click on the various options to see a sample. You may think me "boring," but my favorite is "Standard." Hit "Next."

Now, you get to choose a "theme" for your printed reports. I usually choose "Corporate" because I like it's readability. Hit "Next." Choose a title for your database. You could call it Eric's Cool Contacts (substituting your name for mine, of course). You can even choose a "Picture" to appear on all reports. In this case, think "company logo." Hit "Next."

You've reached the end of the wizard, so hit the "Finish" button to have it create your database. A "Main

Switchboard" window will appear giving you a basic menu of options for your new database.

If you look closely at the bottom-left of the main "Access" window, you will also see a small, minimized window. Click the "Restore Up" button on that window (two stacked boxes). This window is the true heart of any Microsoft Access database.

Is your brain full? Well, you have a week to make room, because next time, we look at the inner basics of tables, reports, forms, and queries. Until then ... I'll see you in Cyberspace!

Eric Spellmann is the owner and president of Spellmann & Associates, a Web site design and technology training facility in Amarillo. He is a featured speaker in a number of state and national technology conferences. As a Texas Panhandle native, he earned his MBA from West Texas A&M University.

Events calendar

• **Top O' Texas Rodeo Office**, 200 N. Ballard, will be accepting entry forms, fees and pictures no later than March 1 for the 2006 Miss Rodeo pageants to be held in June. Entry forms, rules and general information are available at the rodeo office. For more information, call 665-6093 or 669-0434.

• **Once again Shamrock will be hosting its Saint Patrick's Celebration** and Miss Irish Rose Pageant March 17-20. The Miss Irish Rose scholarship pageant is open to all ladies from any region who are between the ages of 14 and 19 and are in high school. For more information, call the chamber of commerce at (806) 256-2501. The deadline for entries is March 1.

• **The Texas Association of Armed Guardsmen** will hold its annual meeting March 2-4 in Fredericksburg. The association has no dues

and is trying to reach all guardsmen who do not know about the organization. All World War II merchant marines are invited to the meeting as well. For more information, call (325) 942-6756 or (512) 671-3464.

• **Saint Francis Knights of Columbus**, 10 miles east of Amarillo, will host two all-you-can-eat fish fry's from 6-8 p.m. March 3 and April 7 in observance of Lent. For questions, contact Advertising Chair Steve Drillette at (806) 335-1121.

• **College-bound high school students** can take the ACT Assessment on April 8 the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline is March 3. Late registration postmark deadline is March 17. The cost is \$29 without and \$43 with the Writing Test (an additional \$18 fee is required for late registration). Students can receive registration

information from their high school guidance counselors.

• **Amarillo College Lamplight Theatre** will present "Little Women" at 7:30 nightly March 3-5 at Ordway Auditorium on campus. Admission will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

• **Gray County Genealogical Society** and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will host a free genealogical workshop from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. March 4 at the church. Classes will

include "How do I begin?," "It's all in the Name," "Our Scotch/Irish Ancestors" and "Computers and Genealogy." To register or for more information, call Cindy at 669-1174 or 669-9547. Bring a brown bag lunch for a special "gab" session between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m.

• **Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following program: St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006.

Dear Voters,

As you know a fire broke out on the south end of the Cole addition, on Thursday the 12th at 6:10 p.m. City of Pampa Fire Dept. was able to control the fire by using the new fire hydrants that were installed with a cooperative effort from you the citizens who paid \$3,800 for them and city-county installed them together. We fought to put those hydrants in place, insurance savings as well as saving lives and property is good for all citizens.

"Gary Willoughby fought for us on those hydrants, we need to support Gary on March 7th. He will fight for us!"

Gale Thompson

Pol Ad Paid for By Gale Thompson, Treasurer, 1228 Christine, Pampa, TX 79065

Heart gala



The local chapter of the American Heart Association is getting ready for its annual gala event Saturday at Pampa Country Club. The gala will include a silent and a live auction and casino games. Jackie Davis, left, and Suzanne Courtney, of Shepard's Home Health, hold a picture to be included in the event. Tickets will be available at the door or may be purchased in advance by calling 665-0356.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Being a pastor of a church, I had to respond to the letter from "Hates Hypocrites in Washington." She's the woman who discovered that the new associate pastor's wife, "Millie," is the same woman who broke up her marriage, in addition to having had a "history," so to speak. The senior pastor is probably aware of at least some of what she wrote about -- that Millie has had two previous marriages, countless affairs and did time in prison for drugs. However, on the off chance that he doesn't, "Hates Hypocrites" should say something. As you suggested, she needs to introduce herself to the woman in question: Millie's reaction will give her a pretty good idea of whether she has had a change of heart in recent years. If Millie hasn't, then the writer needs to go quietly to the pastor, approaching it from the standpoint of, "I hope Millie has turned over a new leaf since all of this, but you need to know that ..." I have seen firsthand what can happen when not enough questions are asked when a staff person comes into a church. While I hope and pray that Millie has learned from her mistakes, that may not be the case. -- **REV. CHET THOMAS, DAWSON, GA.**

DEAR REV. THOMAS: Although I am reluctant to see anyone "carry tales" that could ruin a career -- specifically the associate pastor's -- I bow to your expertise. You are not the only clergyman who weighed in on this one. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am an ordained minister and pastoral counselor. While it's traditional in many churches, simply being a pastor's spouse in no way qualifies someone to teach marriage classes any more than being a doctor's wife qualifies her to teach CPR.

That she knows firsthand where the pitfalls are does not make one an expert on how others might form healthy relationships and avoid adultery, drugs, prison, etc. Whether or not this pastor's wife, "Millie," may have repented of her sin and amended her life, she is still responsible for her past behavior, and one of its consequences is that her credibility as an expert on marriage may rightfully be questioned. Nor should one assume that all pastors' marriages are exemplary. Since clergy families live highly public lives, whatever flaws this marriage has are on public display, and given Millie's past, one would assume there might be many that come to light. The woman's real value to a marriage class could be as an example of one who has acknowledged her failing and changed her ways, and shows openness to learn from others who have had longer, more healthy relationships -- but not if she hides her past and pretends to be something she's not. -- **MARY KRAHN, BEMUS POINT, N.Y.**

DEAR ABBY: If it is true that the new associate pastor's wife broke up the writer's marriage, and has a history of similarly disruptive behavior elsewhere, then the woman represents a potentially destructive force in that congregation. As a parish minister of nearly 30 years, I can see the red flags flying high on this one. "Hates Hypocrites" should notify the appropriate denominational officials of whatever larger body this church is affiliated with and let them take whatever action they feel may be warranted. This is not about "Hates Hypocrites" getting revenge; it is about protecting the stability and well-being of the congregation. -- **REV. STEPHEN EDINGTON, NASHUA, N.H.**

For Better Or Worse



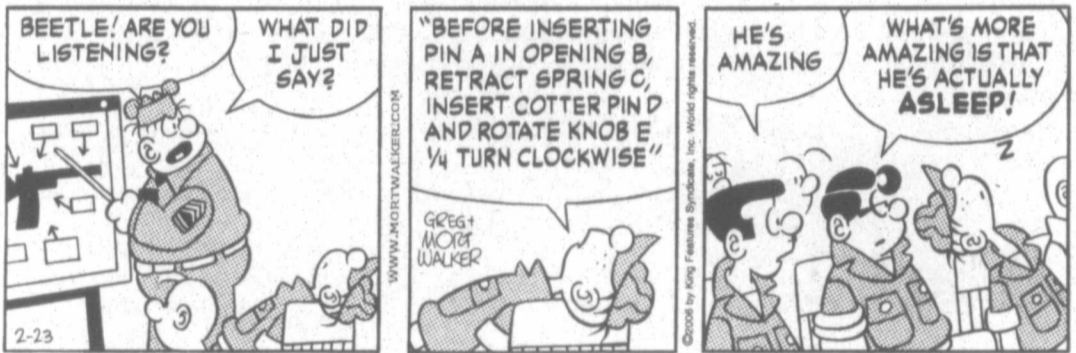
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

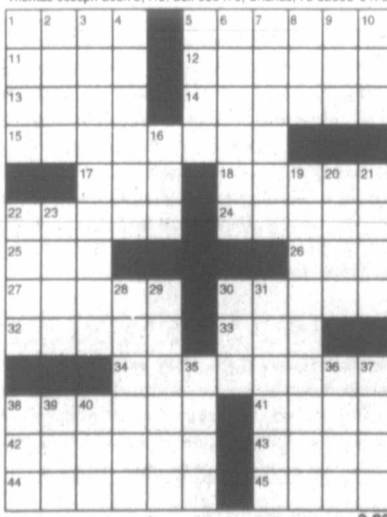
- 1 Castro's home
- 5 Remain
- 11 Test type
- 12 Con quest?
- 13 Beast
- 14 Debated
- 15 Frat do
- 17 Inventor's cry
- 18 Politico Barkley
- 22 Sweeping sound
- 24 "Keen!"
- 25 Take the cup
- 26 Hosp. workers
- 27 Pop stars
- 30 Pond growth
- 32 Wish granter
- 33 Calamity
- 34 Deeds
- 38 Place for a seaweed wrap
- 41 Make sweaters
- 42 Film worker
- 43 Swank
- 44 2005 biopic
- 45 Banded stone

GOLF CATERS
OBOE ADAGIO
LEWD BABOON
DYE HOPS
RAITT POT
ELCID SLOMO
ROAD AWAY
ONSET OMENS
SEE ATWAR
DIAL BAT
LAYUPS PAPA
AMULET USER
BILLIE NEXT

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Surprise
- 20 Sicily
- 21 Rocket
- 22 Big drink
- 23 Broad
- 28 Deceives
- 29 Hot
- 31 Consult in a way
- 35 Do a KP chore
- 36 Minute
- 37 Under-part world
- 38 Winter river
- 39 Nabokov book
- 40 Puppy's sound

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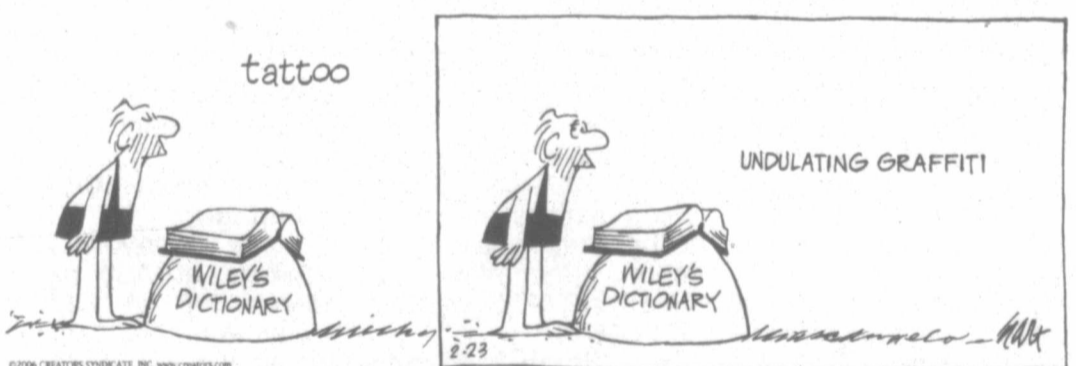


The Family Circus

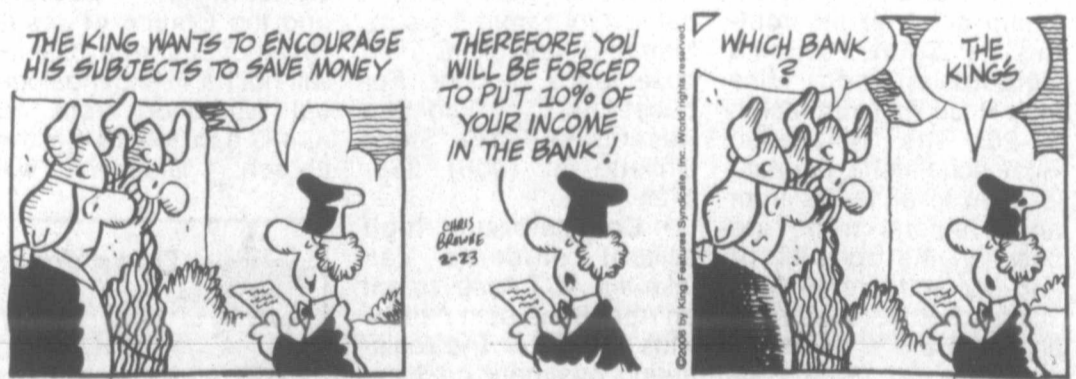
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



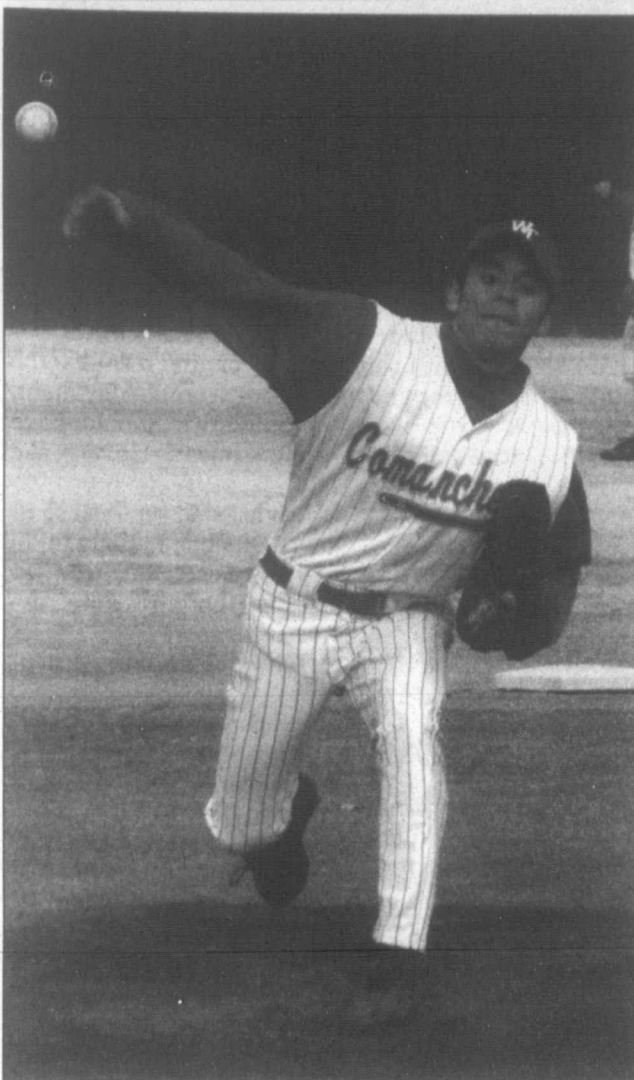
Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

West Texas High pitcher Carlos Ramone hurls a ball toward home plate earlier today as the Comanches and Dalhart Golden Wolves opened the Cavalier Classic at Harvester Field. Pampa will play Dalhart at 3:30 today.

Cavalier Classic baseball tournament under way

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The first ever Cavalier Classic baseball tournament got under way this morning beneath mostly clear skies and cool temperatures. The tournament features teams from West Texas High, Dalhart, Perryton, Caprock, Palo Duro, Lubbock Estacado, Borger and Pampa. Games will be played both in Pampa and Borger today and Friday.

WT High and Dalhart got things started on Harvester Field at 9:30, while PD and Caprock opened in Borger.

Pampa will take the field at 3:30 this afternoon against Dalhart.

The tournament is named for the late Dennis Cavalier, who was the Athletic Director and head football coach at the time of his death in May 2003. His wife, Kathy, will throw out the first pitch prior to the Pampa - Dalhart game this afternoon.

Kathy Cavalier said she was "honored" but "not surprised" when Coach Clay Wilson approached her about the tournament. "Dennis was very involved with the baseball program" she said. "In fact, the day before he died, we were at

a playoff game — a double-header I think it was."

Cavalier mentioned a couple of fond photographs of her late husband. "Two of the last pictures taken of Dennis are of him after a baseball game. He is walking off with Coach (Dennis) Doughty and Coach (Dale) Ammons, and at the prom later that night. He is sitting at a table with his head resting in his hands — tired from the long day," Cavalier recalled.

First year head baseball coach Wilson is just as excited about this tournament as he is about the season. "I am ready. I am ready to get this going," he said as he cleaned some aged decorations from the backstop this morning. "I don't think we've ever had a tournament here, have we?" he asked. Cavalier confirmed Pampa has not.

The concession stand will be open and Harvester merchandise will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$1 for students. A tournament pass can be purchased for \$10.

After day off, Cohen returns to practice

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Sasha Cohen is saving the drama for the women's final.

A day after making the unusual decision to skip both of her practices, the U.S. champion spoiled a budding soap opera when she showed up for her final warm-up at the Palavela this morning.

Cohen looked strong and fit, doing a light run-through of her program before working on her triple jumps, spirals and spins. She struggled with her triple flip, falling on one and stepping out of another before landing a clean one. Her spins were consistent and her spirals were solid — certainly not the look of someone struggling with an injury.

She left the ice briefly late in the session, but it appeared to be for an equipment problem, and she finished the practice by working on her footwork and presentation.

"We have an understanding of what is good for her and what produces good results," John Nicks, Cohen's coach, said after she skipped her practices Wednesday.

And Cohen is certainly hoping for a good result Thursday night, one that would bring the United States its third straight Olympic gold medal. Cohen won the short program, but her lead is razor-thin.

She's ahead of two-time world champion Irina

Slutskaia of Russia by only .03 points. Former world champion Shizuka Arakawa trails Cohen by .71.

"I was just looking at the points, and boy, is it close," said Carol Heiss Jenkins, the 1960 gold medalist and coach of Japan's Miki Ando, who is eighth. "I think they all have a chance."

Cohen has a reputation of being as headstrong as she is talented. She has had plenty of chances like these, only to fall apart and come up short. The 2003 and 2004 national championships. The 2004 world championships. The Salt Lake City Olympics.

Each time she went into the free skate with a chance to win. And each time she faltered.

She went to the 2003 national championships as the strongest skater in the world, but wound up third after doing only five clean triple jumps and falling once. She won the short program at the 2004 nationals, but botched two jumps in the free and finished second.

She also won the short program at the 2004 worlds, but a couple of shaky landings and a two-footed triple salchow spoiled her shot at gold.

And at the Salt Lake City Olympics, Cohen was in third after the short program but dropped to fourth — off the medals podium — with a sloppy free skate.

See SKATE, Page 8

PHS Soccer: Boys blank 'Horns; girls put up fight in loss

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Pampa added another district win to its record Wednesday by shutting out Caprock 2-0 in a game postponed from Saturday.

Marcos Campos assisted Tanner Dyson 15 minutes in for the Harvester's first goal. Campos knocked the ball behind the Longhorn defense and Dyson simply out hustled them to the ball, finishing with a one-on-one shot.

Pampa scored again in the 39th minute when Brody Smith kneeed a shot into the Caprock net. Smith

was assisted by a long Colby Copeland kick and a header by Chase Phillips. "That second goal was ugly," noted Pampa head

coach Byron May. "But I tell the kids that even ugly goals count in UIL soccer."

Pampa will use the momentum of the win and the next couple days to get ready for Saturday's big meeting with Randall. "They are undefeated, but we get them at our place, and maybe we can be the first to knock them off," said May. "We've got some confidence right now, and the boys want a second chance to beat them, which is all you can ask for."

The Lady Harvesters fell to Caprock Wednesday afternoon. Scores and stats were not available at press time.



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa High School's Marcos Campos takes control of the ball prior to sending it up field during Wednesday's game at Caprock.

HOCKEY BLAME GAME

Mike Modano should point finger at himself

Finland did America a favor Wednesday and eliminated its lethargic hockey team from Olympic competition. The U.S. squad was an anemic 1-3-1 going into the game. And the play of the NHL-laden bunch throughout the games was almost painful to watch at times. Even the announcers were stretching for words, lines and catch phrases to make the games more interesting.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



The one victory by the way came against central Asian hockey giant, Kazakhstan. Do you believe in miracles?

Team USA was made up of 23 NHL players. They filled the 23 spots available on the Olympic roster. Canada also had 23 pros that laced up their boots and took to the frozen pond of Torino. Guess what? They too were eliminated.

What does it mean? Well, Mike Modano's comments following Wednesday's U.S. elimination sort of says it all. Rather than admit failure or speak honestly about his team's lack of interest in even being in the games, the 3-time Olympian and Dallas Stars player voiced frustration in the form of accusations and finger pointing.

Modano suggested part of the problem was players had to arrange their own flights and accommodations for the games. "That's something you (normally) don't have to think about," he said. "That's something that should be taken care of so we can focus on hockey."

Golly Mike, after 17 years in the NHL and two prior Olympic appearances, how hard can it be to hook up with other NHL stars and play like you really want to win a medal? Perhaps his silver medal from the Salt Lake City games in 2002 is good enough. Maybe he just has no room in his home for another space-hogging medal.

Don't misunderstand, the games in Torino were all pretty close. But the team just did not look crisp. In fact, the real reason Modano dropped dime on his team and its leadership is because he was benched in the third period of Wednesday's elimination game. He was told to take a seat because he wasn't giving his best to help his team win. And like any respectable over-paid professional athlete, he lashed out. Momma used to call them "hissy-fits".

The real problem here is the misconception there is no interest in hockey here in the states, so why bother? True or not, you bother because you were blessed with the opportunity to represent the greatest nation on the planet. You bother because it is not up to you to decide if it is worth it or not. The nation you represent and the fans that come to the hockey games you play here in America will decide that for you. So shut up and play hockey, Mike. And keep this in mind, the space on the roster you hogged up could have been filled with an amateur hungry enough to win and eager enough to give his all to give his team the very best opportunity to stand atop a podium and have a medal draped around his neck. At the very least, he would do all he could to assure he had a story to tell his grand kids. What will you tell yours, Mike? "Well kids, gramps played in the Torino games, but he had to pay his own way there. I was sort of broke at the time, down to my last few million, so I wasn't happy. Then the coach made me sit on the bench because gramps wasn't playing well enough. Then I whined to the press."

Doubt the young'uns will care too much for it. Hey, you could always tell them about the big win over Kazakhstan.

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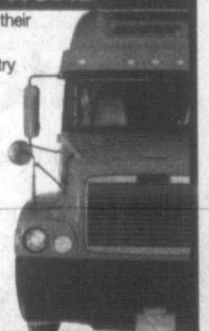
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Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Lady Harvester goalkeeper Jordan Albracht focuses on a ball making its way toward the Pampa goal during Wednesday's game at Caprock.

2010 host city faces array of challenges but offers prospect of spectacular games

TURIN, Italy (AP) — A sprawling, multicultural seaport, Vancouver will be a Winter Olympics host dramatically unlike any before it — an even bigger metropolis than Turin, in a more spectacular setting.

Overlooked by mountains rising abruptly from the shore, with a majestic park jutting into the harbor, it guarantees an eye-catching backdrop for the ice sports and ceremonies of the 2010 Games. Two hours away — maybe three, to be on the safe side — the skiing and sliding events will take place in and around Whistler, rated consistently as one of the top ski resorts of North America.

Yes, it rains in Vancouver in February — every other day, on average. But the prospect of gray skies, and an array of logistical and financial challenges, have not dented the confidence of organizers that the 2010 Games will be a hit.

"In a few days, the giant spotlight will move from Torino to Vancouver, and it will be our turn to show the world what we can do," 2010 organizing chief John Furlong said Thursday. "It's pressure, but it's good pressure."

To approach his self-stated goal of perfection, Furlong and his fast-growing team have plenty of work on their hands. A short list includes rising costs in a heated local economy, a highway controversy and the future of Vancouver's toughest neighborhood.

Earlier this month, in what Furlong pledged would be the last such request, organizers asked federal and provincial authorities for an extra \$96 million to cover surging construction costs, raising their projected budget to \$580 million. Contractors

worry about a local shortage of skilled labor and have dispatched recruiters as far as Europe.

Crucial to the 2010 plan is an upgrading of the scenic but sometimes slow and dangerous Sea to Sky Highway that links Vancouver with Whistler over a twisting, mountainous route. Organizers say work is ahead of schedule and will be done by 2009, but many residents and politicians in affluent West Vancouver are furious that the project now calls for an overland four-lane highway, not a tunnel, through a scenic section of bayside bluffs.

Close to Vancouver's vibrant, trendy center city is a starkly different neighborhood called Downtown Eastside, long a skid-row destination for drifters and drug addicts who frequent dilapidated rooming houses. Organizers have pledged to help upgrade the area without causing displacement, but a residents' association predicts rents will soar as landlords and hotel owners try to cash in on the Olympics.

Another possible but seemingly remote threat would be a renewed push by separatists in French-speaking Quebec to secede from Canada. The separatists narrowly lost a secession referendum in 1995, and their new leader has vowed to try again if his Parti Quebecois wins provincial elections due by early 2008.

But an actual breakaway remains a long shot; even a recent proposal by one separatist leader for Quebec to form its own hockey team didn't catch on.

"Nobody in Quebec thinks the Olympics are a bad idea," Furlong told The Associated Press. "They're flat-out determined to be involved."

Skate

Continued from Page 7

She did win her first national title this year, but it was like a pro competing against amateurs. Michelle Kwan skipped nationals with a groin injury, and teenagers Kimmie Meissner and Emily Hughes are nowhere near her class.

"I was a different person, a different athlete," Cohen said of her past failures. "I've learned and matured so much and learned how to handle the nerves a bit better since then. I've just evolved."

And figured out what works for her.

Cohen ditched Nicks after Salt Lake City and headed to the East Coast, working first with Tatiana Tarasova and then Robin Wagner. Both helped her grow as a skater, but neither could give her a champion's heart.

It wasn't until she returned to California and Nicks in late 2004 that Cohen grew up. While she admits she dreams about a gold medal "a couple of times a day," it's no longer the only thing driving her.

"It's not always about being the most talented, it's about sticking it out. This sport rewards the tough

people," Cohen said. "I've been working really hard at staying strong and being positive. That and enjoying every moment of the process."

Even the unusual ones. Nicks said Cohen skipped her practices Wednesday because she was tired. She didn't get back to the athletes' village until late Tuesday night, and then had trouble falling asleep. When she finally did, it was a fitful rest.

"I thought she should practice," Nicks said. "Then, when I heard of her rest issues, I thought she shouldn't do it."

And no, she's not injured. Cohen had her right leg wrapped Tuesday night and wore an ice pack after the short program, but Nicks said it's nothing unusual.

"She has occasional muscle problems and uses a lot of ice," he added, dispelling questions about a possible groin injury. "There is nothing untoward. She has a few aches, a few pains, as we all do when we get older."

She hopes to have something much better soon: an Olympic gold medal.

"Knowing Sasha, it's probably a little more of an attitude of, 'OK, this is going to be my Olympics,'" Heiss Jenkins said. "You have to think that way. It isn't conceit, it's confidence."

Still no results of Austrian tests; ski chief meets with prosecutor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy — The doping samples from 10 members of Austria's Nordic ski team were still being analyzed Thursday, five days after the athletes were targeted for surprise, out-of-competition tests.

Meanwhile, Austria's ski federation president met with Italian prosecutors to discuss the scandal centering on the team's links with banned coach Walter Mayer.

The International Olympic Committee insisted there was nothing unusual in the apparent delay in getting the test results, ruling out any conspiracy and saying more time was needed to check for the blood-boosting drug EPO.

"The laboratory analysis is still ongoing," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said at her daily news briefing. "It just takes this long sometimes, and that's the bottom line."

Six Austrian cross-country skiers and four biathletes were rousted from their private living quarters late Saturday for unannounced tests.

At the same time, Italian police raided the lodgings and seized blood transfusion equipment and other materials linked to Mayer.

Austrian ski federation chief Peter Schroecksadel met for about three hours Thursday with prosecutors at Turin's main judicial offices, said Giampaolo Zancan, a high-profile Italian lawyer hired by the Austrians.

Zancan said Schroecksadel and prosecutors mutually agreed to the meeting, and that the Austrian was there strictly as a witness.

"The president called me after it ended and told me there was a very cordial atmosphere," Zancan told The Associated Press.

Also Thursday, Austrian team sports director Markus Gandler faulted himself for Mayer's presence at the Olympics.

"That Walter Mayer was here was my responsibility," he said.

Davies earlier this week indicated the drug-test results would be known within 72 hours, but that time frame passed without any announcement.

"It's not a specific deadline," she said Thursday. "Testing can take time. It's a thorough analysis for all the prohibited sub-

stances, including EPO. This can take a number of days. It's absolutely standard, normal procedure."

Davies dismissed suggestions the results were being withheld.

"You shouldn't read anything more into it," she said. "There are a number of conspiracy theories floating around, not based on any factual information. The technicians must be given time to do their work. It's not a straightforward process. That's it."

Davies said she expects the results to be in by the end of the games on Sunday night. "One would imagine we should have tests back before the games are over," she said.

Davies said the release of the results had nothing to do with the separate Italian criminal inquiry into the Austrian case.

"There is no link whatsoever," she said. "They are two separate issues."

Davies also dismissed comparisons with the doping case of Russian biathlon star Olga Pyleva, who was kicked out of the games last week and stripped of her silver medal — just three days

after having a drug test that revealed a banned stimulant.

"It's inappropriate to make comparisons with another case for a different substance in a different time period," Davies said. "The laboratory is doing its work according to its time frame."

The IOC welcomed Wednesday's announcement by the Austrian Olympic Committee that it has formed a commission to investigate the scandal.

The Austrians said they had to move quickly to avoid punishment from the IOC, including a possible ban.

"There's no pressure being put by the IOC," Davies said. "We welcome the inquiry commission set up by the Austrians. It will help shed light on the situation."

The IOC will set up a special commission to investigate the whole case, a probe which will cover Austria's Olympic committee, ski federation, athletes and coaches.

IOC president Jacques Rogge said the body could sanction the Austrians even without any athletes testing positive for banned substances.

AP Sports Writer Stephen Wilson contributed to this report.

'It's inappropriate to make comparisons with another case for a different substance in a different time period.'

— Giselle Davies
Spokesperson, IOC

Playoff tickets at the door

Tickets for Friday night's area championship basketball game between Pampa and El Paso Ysleta will be available at the door and are not for sale at the PHS athletic department. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students.

The Harvesters, fresh off their win over Frenhsip, will face El Paso Ysleta for the area championship Friday night at 6 in Seminole.

The team is expected to leave around 1 Friday afternoon.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-23

CRYPTOQUOTE

FTWZV M L W QWK YO

NUGGMJN GTU WJLQUZ KUL

QMGTYPG WLRMJN W FEUWZ

IPULGMYJ. — WECUZG FWVPL
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A MAN WITH HIS BELLY FULL OF THE CLASSICS IS AN ENEMY OF THE HUMAN RACE. — HENRY MILLER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Feb. 24, 2006:

Often this year, you might not feel comfortable with what goes down. You need to consider all possibilities more carefully. How you deal with someone could radically change if you want to commit to growth and change. Review issues not as individual situations but as total, long-term indicators. You are forming a new life with a different status quo. Be open; be resourceful; network. If you are single, your life heads in a new direction as you expand your horizons. A foreigner could play a role. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom accordingly. Enjoy the moment. CAPRICORN helps you come out on top.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ Once more, a key associate points you in the right direction. You might not understand what is necessary to make a situation work. A compliment comes from out of nowhere. You don't need to be suspicious. Tonight: Say yes.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ If you pull back, you might realize how much caring surrounds you. Reveal more of what you want, thinking about what is being offered. Assumptions need to be positive, and then you'll get the outcome you want. Tonight: Be willing to break some new ground.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Others appreciate your efforts. What might be most important is to remain nurturing to someone else. Your efforts and willingness to throw yourself

into a project separate you from many.

Know what you want. Tonight: Happy-plus, with someone you care about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Others continue to dominate, but how you interact with them could make a big difference. Be more light-hearted and easygoing. You laugh, and others respond. Understanding is heightened by good news. Tonight: Go along with someone else.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Your ability to adapt could be greatly swayed by different situations. You like what goes on. Somehow, some way, you need to handle an emotional situation. Think positively about someone who has a strong impact on your personal life. Tonight: Do your thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Ever resourceful, you make headway. Your creativity and energy mark your schedule. Whatever you decide to tackle will take you to the next level. Understand what you need to do in order to make your energy and life work. Tonight: Smile as the weekend draws near.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Check out a real estate investment that could mean a lot to you. Investigate alternatives if you don't feel at ease with a personal matter. You are on the ball and can read through a problem with ease. Now, use your insight. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Ever playful, you seem to be ready to toss your energy, acumen or, as they say, your two cents into a situation. Listen to others. Schedule a late, long lunch. After all, you are about to plunge into the weekend. Tonight: Hanging out

is fun to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Sometimes we don't have as much control as we would like to. Feedback can help others understand your boundaries. Good communication comes out of a readjustment of your attitude. Tonight: Expenses count.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You are all smiles the next few days. You might want to think more carefully about what is happening. Laugh and enjoy yourself more. You enter the weekend on cruise control. Think and act positively. Tonight: All smiles.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Experiment with different ideas in your head. Carefully test these concepts on friends and associates. By working with an idea more strongly, you'll come up with an even better concept. You laugh, and another smiles. Tonight: Get some extra rest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Friends and energy mix well. How you deal with a personal matter is very different than usual right now. Do not give in to an audience. You need to stop and think. Sometimes the mutual consensus is not right. Tonight: Start the weekend in style.

BORN TODAY

Politician Joe Lieberman (1942), baseball player Eddie Murray (1956), author Wilhelm Grimm (1786) ★★★★★

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

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State senate passes bill to ban nearly all abortions in South Dakota 100 Day Celebration

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota moved closer to imposing some of the strictest limits on abortion in the nation as the state Senate approved legislation that would ban the procedure except when the woman's life is in danger.

The bill, designed to spark a courtroom showdown over the legality of abortion, passed 23-12 Wednesday. On Thursday, it was headed back to the House, where lawmakers already approved similar legislation.

Republican Gov. Mike Rounds, a long-time abortion opponent, has said he would "look favorably" on an abortion ban if it would "save life."

Under the measure, doctors in South Dakota would face up to five years in prison for performing an abortion. The only exception would be for women who need abortions to save their lives.

"In my opinion, it is the time for the South Dakota Legislature to deal with this issue and protect the lives and rights of unborn children," said Sen. Julie Bartling, a Democrat and the bill's main sponsor.

The legislation targets Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Opponents say it is too extreme and unconstitutional. Planned Parenthood, which operates the only clinic that provides abortions in South Dakota, pledged to challenge the measure if it becomes law.

"South Dakota's ban is the most sweeping abortion ban passed by any state in more than a decade," Planned Parenthood Federation of America lawyer Eve Gartner said in a written statement. She said the organization would do everything it could to ensure that women and their doctors, not politicians, made their health care decisions.

Supporters say an anonymous donor has pledged to provide South Dakota with \$1 million to help defend the law in court.

The recent appointment of Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito make the U.S. Supreme Court more likely to consider overturning Roe v. Wade now, Bartling and other supporters said.



Woodrow Wilson Elementary School recently observed its "100 School Days Celebration." Above: (back row, from left) Karen Handley, school librarian, Nathan Fuentes, Meagan Martinez, Connie Foote, reading teacher; (front row, from left) Matthew Rossiter, Hannah Ball, Brak Giles and Eric Martinez.

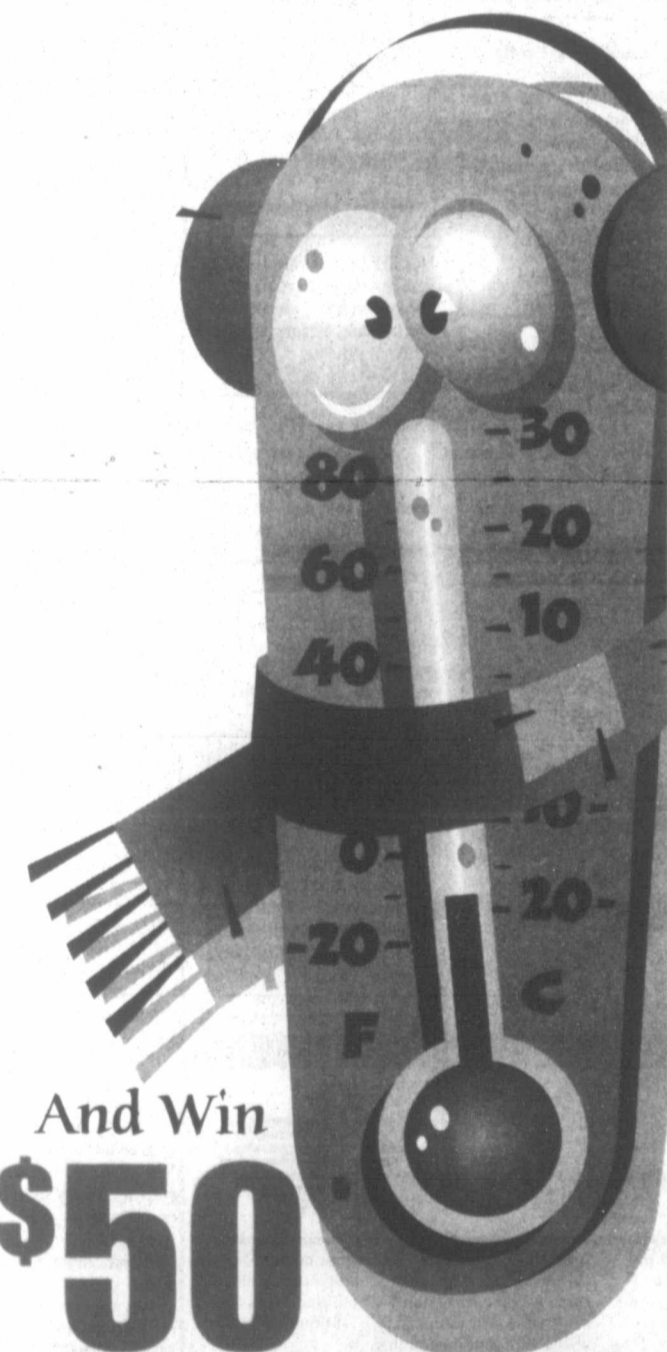
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