Today's weather

Twenty Five Plus Years Experience



Deaths

Joel 'Herb' Coker, 85, avid sports fan. Charles Hart, home ec teacher. Ellen Baxter Pollack, 79, services pending.

Odds & Ends

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) — Having a vanity plate that reads "TIPSY" may not be such a great dea after all.

Josiah Johnson, 23, said his license plate might have tipped off the Clay County sheriff's deputy who pulled him over Friday after he left Coach's Sports Pub in Moorhead.

Now he faces thirddegree drunken driving charges after his bloodalcohol level allegedly registered twice the legal limit.

Johnson said he bought the personalized license plate for his Jeep to describe the way it rode then kept it as a joke when he got a Chevy Silverado because he likes to party.

"It doesn't mean I drink and drive," he said. "It just means I have a good time."

Johnson, who was slated to appear in court March 22, said he'll never drink and drive again.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - A group of Girl Scouts had a very unhappy encounter with a Cookie Monster.

The girls stood in disbelief as a man came to their cookie booth at a supermarket and ran off with an envelope containing \$320.

One of the five girls from Troop 4180 had recommended a box of Thin Mints when the man reached into the cash drawer and grabbed the envelope. An adult with the girls chased the thief but couldn't catch him.

Troop leader Jeri Smith said the third- through fifth-graders were in disbe-

The girls were working their stand inside a Kroger store about 2:30 p.m. Saturday when the man came by and said he'd never bought Girl Scout cookies. He handed one of the girls \$3, then said he wanted a second box but only gave her \$2 more.

When the girl pointed it out, the man snatched the envelope.

Finally! Good news on economy

By DEE DEE LARAMORE

After years of bringing "bad news," economic analyst Dr. Jerry Miller says he's thrilled to be the bearer of good tidings for a change.

Statistics compiled and analyzed by Miller show that Gray County was among the top three counties in the Panhandle in highest per capita retail sales with \$17,163 - topped only by Dallam, \$19,800, and Potter, \$20,623.

In comparison, Hutchinson County which is almost identical in size and with a slightly larger population than Gray County had per capita retail sales of \$8,329 for that same time period.

Dr. Miller, a former Dean of Business for West Texas A&M University in Canyon, presented his findings at the March Chamber of Commerce luncheon here.

"All the economic assessments have been negative for so long, it's thrilling to finally be able to give a good one," he

Miller credits the good news to a communitywide change in attitude which began about 2000.

Miller "It takes people with passion, commitment and leadership to make a community bust at the seams," he said.

"I think it started with the courthouse restoration, then the attraction of the United Store. And it just goes on and on," he added.

"You deserve a shinging star for your growth since 2000," he told the group. "So many good things are going on this com-

munity, and it reflects in the retail sales," Miller According to the statistics, Pampa's retail

sales are up 92 percent from 1990 to 2003. "Only Bryan-College Station beats that increase," he said.

Miller pointed out that Pampa-Gray County's retail sales have increased even as population has decreased. "How you can have a declining population

base and still have increase in retail sales you've got to be proud of that," he said. He encouraged citizens to "keep the momen-

tum." He said to "keep telling people this is a great place to retire."

Miller said that the per capital retail sales figures makes an important selling point to busi-

See **ECONOMY**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Alex Arreola, 5, in front, and Dustin Arreola, 11, make the most of a heavy snowfall during spring break by sledding down the east side of Central Park this morning. Pampa received nine inches of snow during the storm.

Heavy snow generates fun, problems for area

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Tuesday's nine inches of snow, the largest and likely the last snowfall of the winter for Pampa, led to an assortment of calls to emergency personnel, including one complaint of an obscene snowman.

Pampa Police Department and Gray County Sheriff's Office both received calls concerning at least one snowman whose physique was considered too explicit for the public.

Only two traffic accidents were reported Tuesday to police. One accident occurred at 8:51 a.m. in the 1300 block of West Semerville. The other, a hit and run, was reported in the police department lobby at 1:07 p.m.

The sheriff's office also received two calls concerning accidents yesterday. One was a four-car pileup at Mile Marker 135 on Interstate 40. The other accident involved one vehicle which slid off the road at the

intersection of Highways 273 and 291. No injuries were reported in either accident, according to a sheriff's office dispatcher.

Texas Department of Public Safety's Pampa office received only one report of an accident, which was a minor one-vehicle incident, according to a DPS spokesperson.

Deep snow and slick spots conspired to strand some motorists. The sheriff's office received calls on at least 14 vehi-

See SNOW, Page 3



Museum planning annex

Members of the White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board look over blueprints for the museum annex building. Plans include exhibit areas and large item storage space. Part of the exhibit space will be dedicated to the Red River Wars. Gray county has more sites from the Red River Wars than any other county. Looking at the plans, from left, are board members Nancy Coffee, John Curry, John Forister, and Duane Harp. Board member Kelley Baker is standing at far left. Other board members who are not pictured include Wanda Carter, Sue Fatheree, Lee Fraser, Jean Duncan, Angela Spearman and Joe

Former D.A. rails against drugs, then is part of scourge he tried to eradicate

By BETSY BLANEY **Associated Press Writer**

PAMPA (AP) — Rick Roach got elected district attorney in West Texas on a

vow to rid the streets of drug dealers and users, and he went after them mercilessly. drug "Drugs,

usage, drug trafficking has become a scourge in our Roach society," thundered during closing arguments at a drug trial that sent a 30-year-old man to

prison for 60 years in 2001. Few guessed, until recently at least, the hypocrisy behind it all: Roach himself

Roach

did drugs. Roach, 55, was arrested inside a courtroom Jan. 11 and charged with possessing methamphetamine

cocaine. In February, he took a plea bargain on one charge possession of a gun by a drug addict. He could get up to 10 years in prison when

he is sentenced in mid-April. Roach told The New York Times that he had suffered from depression from age 13, and that he used illegal drugs to medicate himself.

> "I just sort of, you might say, went nuts: I made irrational

wrong decisions," he told the newspaper. "There's no excuse. I've gotten what I deserve.'

Now under house arrest at his mother's home until sentencing, he declined to comment to the Associated

See ROACH, Page 3

Joel Herbert 'Herb' Coker, 85

Joel Herbert "Herb" Coker, 85, of Pampa, home. He was a member of the First Baptist Texas, died Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at Pampa.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Coker was born Jan. 23, 1920, in Sherman. He married Ailene Weatherred on Dec. 21, 1951, in Pampa. She preceded him in death on Jan. Coker 19, 1991.



He was an avid sports fan as well as a gardener. He enjoyed traveling in his motor

Church and the Everyman's Bible Class.

Survivors include one brother, Bennie M. Coker of Sherman; one sister, Irene M. Clark of Dallas; a special friend and caregiver, Jean Carter of Pampa; one sister-in-law, Clara Jane Sexton of Pampa; three nieces; and one nephew.

He was preceded in death by one brother and one sister.

The family requests memorials be to Everyman's Bible Class, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621, or to the Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Waxahachie, Texas. She married Leslie H. Hart on June 22, 1940, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on July 29, 1987.

Charles Hart, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died

Services are pending with Carmichael-

Mrs. Hart was born April 7, 1915, in

Whatley Funeral Directors.

Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at Panhandle,

She retired from teaching home economics in 1948. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the 20th Century Culture Club and the Knife & Fork Club.

Survivors include one daughter, Jan Campbell of Amarillo; one son, Lynn Hart of Amarillo; one sister, Mary Louise Payne of Bakersfield, Calif.; one niece, Colette Kraft of Bakersfield, Calif.; and three grandchildren, Brandi Roberts, Heidi Roberts and Alex Roberts, all of Amarillo.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorials to St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle; or to BSA Hospice, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX 79176.

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

Ellen Louise Baxter Pollock, 79

Charles Hart, 89

LUBBOCK — Ellen Louise Baxter Pollock, 79, died Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at Lubbock.

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

Mrs. Pollock was born Jan. 5, 1926, at Hannibal, Mo., to Louis and Ruth Baxter and graduated from Pampa High School in 1944.

She married Aubrey Pollock on Dec. 18, 1944, at Pampa.

Mrs. Pollock was a homemaker. Survivors include her husband, Aubrey, of

the home; and many friends. -Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Services tomorrow

GRIMES, Grover — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel,

HESTER, Betty Ann — 2 p.m., Highland Baptist Church, Pampa.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrest.

Tuesday, March 15

Five traffic stops were made. Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Perryton Parkway.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 1300 block of Somerville. A hit and run accident was reported in the lobby of the police department.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Wynne, the 2300 block of North Hobart, and One Medical Plaza.

A suspicious person call was received concerning the intersection of Atchison and Cuyler streets.

Two business alarms and one residential alarm were reported.

One open door of a residence was

Criminal trespass was reported in the lobby of the police department and in the 500 block of North

A prowler was reported in the 100

block of West Albert. Warrant service was attempted at

one location. Fire department assistance was ren-

dered in the 1900 block of North Banks and the 400 block of North Faulkner. Telephone harassment was reported

from the 2200 block of Lynn. A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1000 block of was cited for unsafe backing.

A civil matter was reported in the 700 block of Denver.

Theft was reported at Hastings Books, Music and Video, 1205 N. Hobart. Compact discs valued at \$50

A narcotics drug law violation was reported in the 800 block of Locust.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 600 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of North Christy, and the 1300 block of Christine.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 300 block of North Purviance. Speakers and amplifiers valued at \$2,050 were taken.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 1000 block of East Kingsmill.

Paul Steven Welden, 43, 945 Scott, was arrested at the intersection of Cook and Hobart streets for driving while intoxicated, second offense.

Accidents

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle

Tuesday, March 15

8:51 a.m. - A 1995 Ford Club Van, driven by Teresa Locke, 55, 2125 N. Hamilton, and a 1998 John Deer Motorgrate 672CH, property of the City of Pampa, driven by Dean Ray Bliss, 46, 1115 S. Wells, collided in the 1300 block of West Somerville. Locke

Fire

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

Wednesday, March 15 9:42 a.m. – Five units and eight firefighters responded to a vehicle fire in the 1900 block of North Banks. A Fleetwood motor home was fully involved when firefighters arrived. Two houses on both sides of the motor home were also damaged.

12:38 p.m. – Five units and nine firefighters responded to a structure fire in the 400 block of North Faulkner. The fire was contained in a heater closet.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, March 15

6:13 a.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2500 block of Beech and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

9:45 a.m. - A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of North Banks. No transport.

12:50 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 400 block of North Faulkner. No transport.

2:48 p.m. – A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Wynne and transported a patient to PRMC.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

This smiling snowman in the 1000 block of Mary Ellen was one of a number of snow creations displayed in front yards around Pampa after nine inches of snow blanketed the area.

Episcopals to hold off on bishop confirmations

By RACHEL ZOLL **ÁP Religion Writer**

Episcopal bishops have agreed to withhold approval of any new bishops for a year, saying "extraordinary action" was needed to ease tensions in the global Anglican Communion over the American church's consecration of an openly gay priest to lead the New Hampshire Diocese.

Meeting this week in Camp Allen, Texas, the church leaders also promised not to authorize "public rites" for blessing same-sex couples for at least a year, although some Episcopal clergy have held such ceremonies in private and the wording of the bishops' pledge left open the possibility individual priests could continue to do so.

"This extraordinary moment in our common life offers the opportunity for extraordinary action," the bishops said, in a statement released Tuesday night. Episcopal leaders are attempting to

repair badly frayed ties with Anglican leaders around the world over the November 2003 consecration of Bishop V. Gene Robinson, who lives with his longtime male partner.

Most Anglican archbishops believe the Bible bans gay sex. In meetings last fall and last month, these leaders called primates — requested that Episcopal bishops impose temporary bans on same-sex blessings and the ordination of unmarried bishops who are not celibate.

The primates have also asked the Episcopal Church to temporarily withdraw its representatives from the Anglican Consultative Council, a major body within the Communion. The U.S. bishops said they did not have copalchurch.org

the authority to order the delegates not to attend, but instead asked another Episcopal panel with elected representatives to take up the matter.

The Episcopal Church, which is the U.S. branch of the 77-million-member Anglican Communion, has apologized repeatedly for the rifts created by Robinson's consecration. However, its leaders have not expressed regret for electing him, as some conservatives have demanded.

In Texas, the bishops once again apologized for failing to fully consult with other Anglican provinces before moving ahead with Robinson's consecration.

"We express our own deep regret for the pain that others have experienced with respect to our actions," they said.

On the Net:

Episcopal Church: http://www.epis-

Gray County Weather

before 9 a.m. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Wind chill values between 19 and 29. West wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 28. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 51. Wind chill values between 18 and 28 early. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 33. Wind chill values between 23 and 28. West wind around 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 56. Windy, with a north northwest wind 20 to 25 mph decreasing to 38.

Today: Areas of dense fog between 10 and 15 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.

> Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. West northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy,

with a high around 53. West

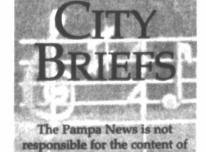
southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 34. West wind around 10

mph. Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. West wind between 10 and

15 mph. Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 36.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 58.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around



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Pampa.	Coca Cola 42.25	+0.01	COP 106.44 +1.73
Wheat 3.49	VLO65.87	-0.44	SLB71.42 -0.13
Milo	HAL41.44	-0.10	Tenneco 14.27 -0.75
Corn	TRI	+0.06	CVX
Sovbeans 6.05	KMI 78.32	-0.18	Wal-Mart 51.07 +0.19
Joy Journa	XCEL 17.48	-0.11	OKE30.49 -0.02
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Economy

U.S. trade deficit reaches record high in 2004

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States deficit in the broadest measure of international trade soared to an all-time high of \$665.9 billion in 2004, showing in stark terms the speed with which the country is becoming indebted to the rest of the world.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that the shortfall in the current account was 25.5 percent higher than the previous record, the \$530.7 billion deficit set in 2003. The department also noted that the deficit was worsening as the year

quarter hitting a record \$187.9 billion, up 13.3 percent from the third quarter deficit.

The Bush administration contends the soaring trade deficits reflect a U.S. economy that is growing faster than the rest of the world, pushing up ended with the shortfall in the fourth imports and dampening demand for

U.S. exports. But private economists are worried that the huge level of resources being transferred into the hands of foreigners will eventually result in lower U.S. living standards.

The Federal Reserve reported that output at the nation's factories, mines and utilities rose by 0.3 percent.

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Honor h



cones recent left, Dakota Castillo. From **Karen Duarte**



Lamar Elem cones rece Campos, Mi Resendiz, P and Sarai S

Continued

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The police department received one call for motorist assistance from a semi truck reportedly having problems in the south bound lanes at 23rd Avenue and Perryton Parkway.

Only one stranded motorist in a stuck vehicle

was reported to the Pampa DPS office.

The trial of Jimmy Gawan Young, charged with manslaughter, enhanced, in the shooting death of Tracy Rena Williams of Pampa, was halted by 223rd District Judge Lee Waters on Tuesday because of the heavy snowfall. Jury selection had been completed about 2 p.m. Monday, and testimony had followed.

The trial resumed this

morning in Gray County Courthouse. Williams died of a gunshot wound to the chest on April 3, 2003. She was found lying in the driveway of a house at 1040 S. Huff Road and taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center's emergency room, where she was pronounced

The cold snap had more serious consequences than a stuck vehicle for a few Pampans. A motor home in the 1900 block of North Banks caught fire Tuesday morning after the owner started the furnace. According to Pampa Fire Marshal Gary Stevens, the heater malfunctioned, causing the fire, which also damaged the houses on the north and south sides of the motor home.

Another fire was started Monday evening by children who decided to have a campfire inside a garage.

Stevens said a group of boys had built a club house inside a garage at 1112 E. Francis. Monday evening, they started a fire inside the club house. The boys thought they had extinguished the fire before they left the garage, but it rekindled, Stevens said, resulting in approximately \$10,000 damage to the garage.

Tuesday afternoon, insufficient ventilation in a closet for a heating unit in the 400 block of North Faulkner caused a small fire. Damage from the fire

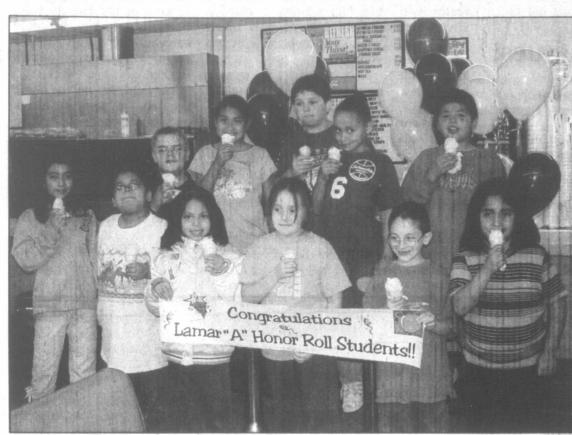
was confined to the closet where the heating unit was housed, fire officials said.

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Honor Roll ice cream



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lamar Elementary School "A" honor roll students were treated to ice cream cones recently at Heard-Jones Health Mart. Pictured above are, back row from left, Dakota Davis, Bobbi Cortez, Brandon Cox, Madison Brown and Eddie Castillo. Front row from left are Abigail Salazar, Isaac Silva, Evelyn Resendiz, Karen Duarte, Terry Botello and Sarai Zarate.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lamar Elementary School "A" Honor Roll students were treated to ice cream cones recently at Heard-Jones Health Mart. Back row from left are Petra Campos, Mireya Salazar and Montre Williams. Front row from left are Mariela Resendiz, Phyllis Chennault, Rebekah Foster, Daniela Viccaino, Yesenia Soria and Sarai Soria.

Economy

Continued from Page 1

"If you're looking to build a business and you see that people spend \$17,000 per person in one place and \$8,000 per person in another, which would make the most money for the company? It's not a tough decision," he said.

Everyone in the community can help bring new business to the area, Miller

"No matter how old you are or how young you are, you need to get involved," he said.

He said the "whole packnesses to a community -

Pampa and Gray County "may be suffering" in the area of young people, he said. "A lot of times, they have no choice (but to

Miller believes young people will stay in smaller communities.

more where the cost of living is lower," he said.

City infrastructure is also critical to attracting business, he said. As sales tax receipts increase, tax money is available to improve the city's infrastructure, he explained.

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard said Tuesday evening that the search continues for a 9year-old from San Antonio who has been missing since the boat he and 11 others were on capsized Saturday morning in the Gulf of Mexico.

After the 18-foot boat capsized in Matagorda Bay near Port O'Connor, a rescue crew recovered the body of a 5-year-old. Nine others were rescued.

nesses thinking about coming to the area.

age" is what attracts busihousing, work ethic, number of young people.

move)," he said, because not enough jobs are available to them. If jobs are available,

"You can make so much

Search goes on for missing boy

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Roach

Continued from Page 1

Press. An electronic monitoring device prohibits him from venturing more than 200 feet from the house.

The tough-on-drugs D.A. re-election November in his five-county Texas Panhandle district and was just days into his second term when he was arrested.

John Mann, the district attorney who lost to Roach in 2000, said he noticed a difference in the man about 18 months before Roach stepped down in February. Roach had "kind of backed off" drug prosecutions. Mann said.

"I think it was probably his inability to be coherent," Mann said. "I saw him acting like a fool for a year and half."

Roach became prone to extreme mood swings and was sometimes incoherent and paranoid, according to court documents. He also had lost 30 pounds and his

skin was sallow. Shortly before his arrest, a worker in his office in

Pampa found a syringe containing meth residue floating in a toilet. And according to court records, Roach shot up drugs in front of an employee in his office.

"Who in their right mind would inject themselves in front of an employee?" Roach told the Times.

He also had trouble sitting still and had unexplained absences from work. In

December, he = appeared 'wired' during a court hearing, fumbling through papers and repeating what defense lawyers said until a judge told him to be Mann

said. That same

quiet,

month, outside a different courtroom, Roach was jumpy and could not carry on a coherent conversation, prompting courthouse employees to speculate that he was "on something," said Leslie Breeding,

the Roberts County attorney. "There have been rumors for years, but this time it was so pronounced and so obvious it really couldn't be ignored," Breeding said. Roach was arrested after

federal agents said they were tipped off by people in law enforcement.

David Holmes, a prosecutor under Roach between 2001 and 2003, said Roach at times was friendly and talked about Christianity; he even sang a few times in a gospel band. More often,

Roach was demeaning, controlling paraand noid, said. Roach started lock-

requiring

ing the main door at his — Rick Roach courthouse quoted in New York Times office,

Who in their

in front of an

right mind would

inject themselves

employee?"

any visitor to knock before seeing the receptionist. Every Friday afternoon, he sent his staff home and stayed alone in the office, where he kept several loaded guns.

Roach rarely tried drug cases himself, but made those prosecutions his priority. He kept tight reins on his assistants to ensure they

went for as much time as they could, Holmes said.

One time, Roach accused Holmes of not being aggressive enough after Holmes offered a man probation in a drug case, Holmes said. Holmes said he told Roach the man probably would violate his probation soon, and that was what happened. The man's probation was revoked and he was sent to prison for 15 years, Holmes said.

Roach's drug problems did not begin in the Panhandle, according to former acquaintances. In the late 1980s, when he was a lawyer in Breckenridge, about 90 miles west of Fort Worth, he told people he had gotten addicted to speed and was going to a drug rehab center, Breckenridge attorney Jimmy Browning said.

As he awaits sentencing, Roach told the Times he knows prison time anywhere will be tough on him. "Prosecutors don't do well in the pen," he said.

Associated Press writer Angela Brown in Fort Worth and Pampa News Editor Dee Dee Laramore contributed to this report.

Viewpoints

Life lessons from a Pampa octogenarian

Editor's Note: The Pampa News welcomes guest columns from local readers. The columns must fit within the same guidelines as those for Letters to the Editor (see on this page) except the column can be up to 700 words in length. The following column is an excellent example of a guest column The Pampa News would like to publish.

I was in junior high and high school in the 1950s in Pampa. Ed Myatt was an entrepreneur. He was a wealthy man. He was the owner of Friendly Men's Wear on Cuyler. He was successful and handsome. My mother, Verdalee Cooper,

one Christmas wrapping packages. His store bustled with people. Though no one then had heard of Dillard's, his store had the activity of the men's department of that store. People everywhere picking up merchandise and having it wrapped by my mother upstairs. If my figures are right, my

mom was 43 years old in 1955 when she was working for handsome Ed Myatt at age 37. As a 14-year-old boy walking the aisles of Friendly Men's Wear, I could only dream of wearing some of those beautiful clothes. Mom was working for us three boys. I know all her wages she traded out for

worked for him at the store discounted prices on boys' clothes.

I know you are wondering where I am going with this. old now and she is living in Edward Abraham Memorial Home. I went up golf hat on, a sweater with to see her

today and there was Ed Myatt at 86 years old. He driven had over by him-

to deliver some snacks and fruits for all the residents. His dad died in the home at age 96, and Ed feels a close attachment to the home.

deliver his snacks.

As you might imagine, I had a wonderful visit with Ed. I was wheeling my Well, my mom is 93 years mother through the activities room when Ed brought his treats in. He had a dapper

> silver buttons, beau-**Be Our Guest** tiful blue slacks with black Mert Cooper

shoes dressed self from Pampa to Canadian right out of the 1950s from Friendly Men's Wear.

We had a wonderful time. My mom, age 93, in a wheelchair and Ed, age 86, driving over from Pampa to cheer Every two weeks, he drives the old folks up at the from Pampa to Canadian to Abraham Home. We talked

of old times and long-ago a huge bag of roasted

Ed made his rounds to all of the folks as he has done for the past 12 years.

To one gentleman on a walker, he said, "Here is a bag of peanuts I roasted myself. I knew how much you like peanuts, so these are

"By the way," he said reaching into his sweater pocket and pulling out a peanut patty, "I bet you might like one of these."

The man, standing on a walker, broke out in big smile. "By the way," Ed said, "You need to get one of these bananas." The man reached to get his banana.

The man on a walker held

peanuts, a peanut patty and a banana. Ed advised the gentleman on the walker to place the peanut patty into the peanut bag. Then he advised him to put the banana in the bag as well. Now, Ed told him, he could carry all his "stuff" to his room. Off he went on his

Ed went through the home speaking to many residents and staff as well. He handed out peanut patties and chips to all.

I told Ed what an inspiration he was. He said, "Well, I appreciate the Abraham Home and what they did for

See LESSONS, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 16, the 75th day of 2005. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 16, 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was declared secured by the Allies.

On this date: In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United

States, was born in Port Conway, Va. In 1802, Congress authorized the establishment of the

U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. In 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

In 1915, the Federal Trade Commission was organized. In 1935, Adolf Hitler scrapped the Treaty of Versailles. In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre was carried out by U.S. troops under the command of Lt. William L. Calley Jr.

In 1969, "1776," a musical about the writing of the Declaration of Independence, opened on Broadway. In 1978, Italian politician Aldo Moro was kidnapped by left-wing urban guerrillas, who later murdered him.

In 1985, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted in Beirut; he was released in December 1991.

Letters to Editor Policy

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publica-

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will also reserve the right to not be printed, unless accept or reject any letter for requested for a specific rea-

> Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.



Major league baseball under siege

FORT MYERS, Fla. -The world champion Boston Red Sox dress in their spring training clubhouse surrounded by signs announcing, "No allowed," egos and, Everyone "Together Achieves More." Closer Keith Foulke is one of many to emphasize not resting on laurels: "The day you get content, you take a step backward." New pitcher Matt Clement says he is learning that pitching is "not just mechanics. It's getting your thinking right.'

But the Red Sox still seem true to the nickname they achieved last year - "the idiots." Centerfielder Johnny Damon's hair is so long that

when running he looks like a Ron Gardenhire plays with a horse, his mane stretching out behind. Top hitter

Marvin

Olasky

Columnist

everyone and has such sweet swing in the batting cage Jim that

spring

Rice, great hitter from the 1970s and 1980s brought in as a spring training instructor, just watches

in admiration. That's what spring training should be like. At the other Fort Myers

training

Minnesota Twins manager

reporter who asked whether "baseball was eroding." The Manny Ramirez kids with puckish pilot says, "Let's use



word in a sentence. like 'the hanging slider eroded the game." He then com-

ments about the young players that his low-income franchise employs: "No erosion here, lots of entertainment. I enjoy seeing young players come in for opportunities. That's the fun part of the game. ... This organization gives people chances. "

The Twins out of necessity spotlight players at the dawn of their careers, rather than at the sunset (as teams like the Baltimore Orioles and the San Francisco Giants do), and some are beloved. Bat salesman Paul Johnson named his 14-month-old twin boys Torii and Hunter, after superb centerfielder Torii Hunter, one of his two favorite Twins: "I also liked (Doug) Mientkiewicz, but I decided not to name them that."

That's also what spring

training should be like. Two weeks ago, on the opening day of Baltimore Orioles spring training See SIEGE, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Closed government prologue to tragedy

site,

Every day, Houston Chronicle reporters use public access to government information to tell readers what their government is up to. Over the years, open records requests have enabled the Chronicle to expose malpractice and fraud in the state's Medicaid dental program for children; the propensity of police in Houston's enclave cities to pull over blacks and Hispanics to a greater degree than whites, often with little justification; and how a state agency was investing university endowment money in companies that demanded secrecy from public scrutiny.

of these stories were not the Chronicle and its reporters, but taxpayers who want honest, fair and efficient government. Open government concerns everyone, not just news the media.

Today marks the start Sunshine

Week, an industry and other news media to promote the value of open government and to enlist public support for it. This year the observance coincides with increased

The primary beneficiaries reluctance at all levels of government to reveal information to the public that owns it.

National security and the war on terror have eroded American's privacy from

Texas Thoughts Yet public officials Houston Chronicle are assert-

ing new effort by the newspaper and unjustified claims for their own privacy in order to limit public knowledge of their policies and actions.

President Bush correctly observed that terrorists hate freedom. Whether in the

Middle East or at home, freedom and democracy are dependent on open government. How can officials in this country justify handing the terrorists a victory by limiting Americans' means to protect their freedom?

Some people ask how the press can insist on open government while asserting the right to keep secret the identity of confidential sources. News reporters don't want to keep secrets. What they learn and can back up they put in their stories. Confidential sources are necessary in order to keep

See SUNSHINE, Page 5

Domes

WASHIN Bush on W Deputy Se who has be cism of the other defen head of the Bush tol

Wolfowitz, **Donald Rur** compassion do a fine jol why I put h The adm other count U.S. candid President J

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Bush to recommend World Bank chief

Bush on Wednesday tapped Defense Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who has been a lightning rod for criticism of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and other defense policies, to take over as head of the World Bank.

Bush told a news conference that Wolfowitz, now Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's top deputy, was "a compassionate, decent man who will do a fine job at the World Bank. That's why I put him up."

The administration began notifying other countries that Wolfowitz was the U.S. candidate to replace World Bank President James Wolfensohn, who is stepping down as head of the 184nation development bank on June 1 at the end of his second five-year term.

The United States is the World Bank's largest member nation. The bank traditionally has had an American president. Its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, traditionally has been headed by a European.

Bush, during the news conference, noted that he had called Premier Silvio Berlusconi to talk about Iraq and other issues earlier in the day and also said that he had discussed Wolfowitz, "my nominee," with the Italian leader.

"He is a man of good experience,"

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said. "He helped manage a large organization ... a skilled diplomat, worked at the State Department."

> 'He is a man of good experience. He helped manage a large organization a skilled diplomat, worked at the State Department.'

— U.S. President George W. Bush

Wolfowitz, 61, was sworn into his post at the Defense Department in March 2001, marking his third tour of duty at the Pentagon.

He was regarded as more academic and ideological than his boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Wolfowitz was among the most forceful of those in the Bush administration in arguing that Iraq's Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, and he had predicted that Americans would be welcomed as liberators rather than occupiers once they toppled Saddam's government.

Wolfowitz, a veteran of six admin-

istrations, has earned a reputation for being a foreign policy hawk. A conservative scholar, Wolfowitz, before taking over the Defense Department post, had served as dean and professor of international relations at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University.

Administration supporters of Wolfowitz said Wednesday he is suited for the World Bank post and pointed to his management experiences at the Pentagon and his diplomatic experience at the State Department. He had served as assistant secretary of State for east Asia during the Philippine transition to democracy. He also serves as U.S. ambassador to Indonesia.

Wolfensohn, bank president since June 1, 1995, emphasized reducing poverty in developing nations and making lending projects more effective. Previously, he headed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was a Wall Street investment

banker for 20 years. The Bush administration has been pushing for major reforms in how the World Bank operates, especially interested in having the development bank dole out aid in the forms of grants, which don't have to be repaid, rather

Mert Cooper grew up in Pampa graduating in 1960. Formerly a Methodist minister, he is in the oil/gas

Cotton Marketing Seminar changed to different time

AMARILLO - The oneday Advanced Topic Series course on Developing This Year's Marketing Plan-Cotton, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, has been rescheduled to Monday, due to weather conditions.

The course will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday (March 21) at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West.

Growing cotton is only half the battle, said Dr. Steve Amosson, area Extension economist. In order to be successful in their operations, producers also need to learn how to market the crop.

Participants will learn about breakevens, fundamentals, technical signals and seasonal trends in cash, basis and forward contracts for cotton. In addition, different marketing strategies for both pre- and post-harvest marketing will be discussed.

The course will utilize a combination of lecture, small group work and simulation exercises to maximize the learning experience similar to the Master Marketer train-

Instructors will be Dr. Carl Anderson, a recently retired Regents Fellow, professor and Extension cotton marketing economist in College Station; and Dr. Jackie Smith, professor Extension economist-management in Lubbock.

"If we are going to grow cotton, we better learn how to market it," Amosson said. "Carl and Jackie have a combined 50 years experience in marketing cotton. I can't think of two individuals better qualified to serve as instructors for this course."

Due to rescheduling, additional registrations will be accepted at the door. Registration is \$75 per participant, which includes the cost of materials, breaks and lunches. Spouses can attend for the same registration fee as long as they share materi-

Registration forms also are available through any Extension office, through Amosson or Margaret Freeman at (806) 677-5600.

Partial funding for this

year's Advanced Topic Series is provided by the Southern Region Risk Management Education Center. It also is underwritten by the sponsors of the Marketer Master Educational System; Texas Wheat Producers Board, Corn Producers Texas Board, Texas Farm Bureau and the State Cotton Support Committee.

essons

Continued from Page 4

my dad. And, hey, I enjoy doing it! It makes me feel good, too.'

Don't you get tired of folks who sit around complaining about getting a raw deal? Life not quite treating them right? Pick a cause ... an institution ... a person ... and give of yourself. Life

might not seem so unfair and bitter. Thanks, Ed, for your gifts, not only of snacks, but of spirit. And thanks for giving us something to think about.

and ranching business in Canadian.

Siege

Continued from Page 4

across the state in Fort Lauderdale, veterans like Rafael Palmeiro arrived. Palmeiro that day would not change for the first full-team workout and the subject. He wanted spring training quickly were under siege. "We grew. up playing ball together in the Miami area," he said of retired slugger Jose Canseco, who has accused him of using steroids. "I was shocked to hear that I was in his book. ... I don't know why he did it ... but it's tough to defend yourself against something like that."

Two Palmeiro sons, who look just like smaller versions of their dad, but without his mustache, sat on a bench nearby. The older one, asked how tall he is, didn't give feet and inches, but said, "I'm almost as tall as my dad." Papa Palmeiro said his children don't ask much about the accusations: "We don't focus on me. We focus on them. We talk about making sure their grades are good."

But the reporters who surrounded to be about the spring. He spoke about his enjoyment, at age 40, in being back for another season: "Just to come out and smell the grass, with my sons here, and be out with all the guys ... it's a tremendous feeling." But then more questions about steroid use came, and the smile became forced: "I can't worry about those things. You just go on.'

Joining Palmeiro in the Orioles lineup this year is another slugger/suspect, Sammy Sosa: This will be the first time in Major League

history that two players who have hit 500 homeruns – a milestone for Hall of Fame entry - are on the same team. Sosa, traded over the winter after gaining fame in Chicago, said in response to his round of steroid questions only: "I'm very happy here. I'm looking forward to the season." Ask anything else and, unsurprisingly, his eyes narrow.

Some players have brought this questioning upon themselves, but many others are affected by it. Baseball needs to put the steroids era behind it by having and enforcing tough rules against all kinds of artificial advantages, so that spring can

Marvin Olasky, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and editor of "World" magazine.

One day you have urine loss. The next day you don't. End of story.



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GYNECARE TVT® Tension-free Support for incontinence can stop that "can't laugh, can't sneeze" urine loss with just one 30-minute outpatient treatment. And it's clinically proven. 98% of women treated seven years ago are still dry, or report significantly less leakage. Although all medical procedures involve risks, GYNECARE TVT has a long safety record. It's not for everyone, including women who are pregnant or plan to be. Ask us how to stop that urine loss now.

Otoniel Huertas, M.D. P.A.

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Sunshine

Continued from Page 4

conscientious whistle-blowers from

getting fired and to ensure that information about government misdeeds keeps coming to light. Those who rail against government waste, fraud and abuse should be the most forgiving of sources who, risking retaliation, confidentially reveal malfeasance.

James Madison, the drafter of the Bill of Rights, captured the urgency of open government in a single sentence: "A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both."

Hottest Prices In Town!

MURPHY

	Carton	3 DK.	Ollidia
Marlboro	24.99	8.07	2.79
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Salem	25.49	8.22	2.84
Gold Coast	16.99	5.07	1.79

Skoal/Copenhagen 3 cans -\$13.77 • \$4.69 single can Soda Pop 796 • 20 oz. bottle with our 306 coupon 50.00 Shopping Card to be given away April 1st. "Ask us how to enter."

Community Happenings

 The next Pampa Area Singles Dance with Mike Porter will be from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at the Sportsmans Club on South Barnes. Admission will be \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. For more information, call 665-7059. Please bring snacks.

· Chapter C.S. P.E.O. Sisterhood will present a book review with Carol Smith Headrick at 2 p.m. March 20 in M.K. Brown Auditorium's Heritage Room. The book under review will be "Anatomy of Me," an autobiography of best-selling author of the mid-20th Century Fanny Hurst. Tickets will be available at the door before the event or may be purchased in advance by calling 665-7064.

 BSA Hospice will sponsor a grief education and support group for adults every Tuesday for six consecutive weeks starting March 22. The group will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. at the hospice facility at 800 N. Sumner in Pampa. The program is free of charge to participants from Pampa and the surrounding area. Hospice officials recommend individuals wait approximately two to three months after the death of a loved one before attending the group. For more information, call 665-6677 or 1-800-658-6985.

• The Ochiltree County Extension or 1-800-377-4673.

Office has announced a grain sorghum meeting Tuesday, March 22, at the Ochiltree Co. Expo Center in Perryton. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Topics will include Dryland Sorghum Management, Sorghum Management, Sorghum Irrigation and Ochiltree Hybrid Trials followed by a Texas Grain Sorghum Producers update. A noon meal will be provided attendees at no charge. The meeting will be worth two CEUs. For more information, call Scott Strawn at (806) 435-4501.

 The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: March 24, First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, and March 29 and April 27, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; and March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors. Participants will receive a lowcost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is the available through Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905

Pet of the Week

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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.

NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm, Closed Sundays & Holidays.

LOST YOUR PET? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for

Sports Day

Spring Training

Giants win; power failure ends game

(AP) - This time, no one could say it was lights out just because San Francisco's Jason Schmidt was on the mound. After all, he gave up a run.

But the lights did go out after his work was finished Tuesday night. A failure power Scottsdale Stadium, and the Giants were declared 3-2 winners over the Milwaukee Brewers in the Arizona desert.

San Francisco's Brian Dallimore was leading off the bottom of the eighth inning and Gary Glover was looking in for the sign with a 1-2 count when the power failed.

"It went dark right away," Dallimore said. "I looked back and I couldn't see the fans, the catcher or the umpire."

Auxiliary lights came on within a minute, but the stadium never regained full illumination.

Schmidt Earlier, allowed his first run of the spring and insists he has yet to find his rhythm. He gave up a home run to Chad Moeller, snapping an eight-inning scoreless streak.

"There will be a stretch of four pitches where I felt I had it and then all of a sudden I didn't know what I was doing," Schmidt said. "I'm still out of synch."

Schmidt allowed two hits and walked three while striking out seven. He's given up four hits and has 11 strikeouts in 10 innings for a spring ERA of 0.90.

Perhaps he wasn't happy. But Dallimore figured he got a break.

"I guess things were going my way when I don't have to finish my at bat down 1-2," he said. "When the auxiliary lights came back on, I saw their players walking toward the dugout."

Lance Niekro, the son of former major league pitcher Joe Niekro, singled home two runs in the fifth to give the Giants the lead for good.

"I want to give Niekro all the at-bats he deserves," Giants manager Felipe Alou said. "That's a beautiful hitter. The first swing I saw that kid take, I knew."

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 2, 10 innings

At Lakeland, Fla., Gabe Gross hit his sixth homer and Josh Towers had his best outing of the spring for Toronto.

Gross, who will probably start the season at Triple-A Syracuse because of Toronto's crowded outfield, is batting .500 with 11 RBIs.

Red Sox 6, Devil Rays

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Mark Bellhorn hit a pair of RBI doubles and Bronson Arroyo had a solid start for Boston, which snapped a fivegame losing streak.

Twins 2, Marlins (ss) 2, 11 innings

At Jupiter, Fla., Ismael Valdez allowed two runs in three innings in his spring training debut. Valdez, projected as Florida's No. 5 starter, missed two weeks because of a virus.

Cardinals 5, Orioles 4 At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Chris Carpenter pitched four shutout innings and St. Louis overcame a poor outing by closer Jason Isringhausen.

Giambi excused from steroids hearing

By RONALD BLUM AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - While Jason Giambi was excused, Frank Thomas and Curt Schilling made plans to appear at a congressional hearing on steroids in baseball.

Baltimore's Sammy Sosa and Rafael Palmeiro were given the day off Thursday, an indication they also

Jose Canseco already has said he'll be there, but it's unclear whether Mark McGwire will show up and comply with the sub-

poena he was issued last week. Giambi does not have to go to

Washington because of his involvement in the ongoing federal investigation into illegal steroid distri-House bution, Government Reform committee chairman Rep. Tom Davis and

ranking Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman said Tuesday. Giambi testified in 2003 before a grand jury probing the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, and the San Francisco Chronicle reported in December that he admitted before that panel that he had used steroids.

"I appreciate that Mr. Davis and Mr. Waxman saw the situation that I was in and let me be excused," Giambi said Wednesday in Tampa, Fla., before boarding the Yankees team bus for a game against the Pirates in Bradenton. "I would have done whatever they would have They gave me an opportunity to focus on baseball so I appreciate

BALCO founder Victor Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente, Barry Bonds' trainer Greg Anderson, and track coach Remi Korchemny were indicted in the case, and trial dates have not yet been scheduled. A hearing was postponed Tuesday, with Anderson's lawyer saying her client would prefer a deal.

Bonds and Gary Sheffield, who also testified before the grand jury,

'I appreciate that

Mr. Davis and Mrs.

Waxman saw the

situation that I was

in and let me be

excused."

— Jason Giambi

weren't among the seven current and former players subpoenaed by the committee last week.

In a letter sent to the committee accompanying more than 400 pages of documents Monday, baseball executive vice president Rob Manfred said just 12 of 1,133 tests last year were positive, and that positive tests from nandrolone

dropped from 73 in 2003 to one last

Davis and Waxman waited until Tuesday night to make the announcement on Giambi.

"From the outset, we have said that we in no way wanted our inquiry to impede or complicate any ongoing investigations by law enforcement," they said in a joint statement. "Upon hearing today from the Justice Department that Mr. Giambi's appearance could do just that, we have decided to excuse him from testifying. All other invitexpected to comply with the subpoenas issued to them last week."

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Waxman left open the possibility that other witnesses could be excused.

"It's still a dynamic process," the different subpoe-

'Chairman Davis

and I are not going

to ask anybody to

name any names of

people who have

used steroids."

- Henry Waxman

naed witnesses. Until you hear otherwise, we expect them there. I expect everybody to be there. And the only reason Giambi is being excused is the Justice Department's request that he not testify because it might interfere with other ongoing investigations they're

doing." U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, wouldn't comment on the decision to excuse Giambi.

Waxman said he and Davis wouldn't try to get players to implicate others.

"Chairman Davis and I are not going to ask anybody to name any names of people who have used steroids. I don't think that would be proper in a public forum," Waxman said. "With that exception, there are no limits on the questions that we've agreed to. It may be part of the further discussions that have not yet been resolved."

The committee accepted baseball commissioner Bud Selig's offer to testify. Baseball executive vice presidents Manfred and Sandy Alderson

asked me to do and go from there. ed witnesses, however, will be also will testify, as will San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers and union head Donald Fehr.

Chicago White Sox trainer Herm Schneider said Thomas left Tucson, Ariz., on Tuesday, would stop at his home in Las Vegas, then would travel to Washington. Marc Altieri, Waxman said. "We're still talking to McGwire's spokesman, couldn't say

whether his client will

Canseco met with Davis on Monday. The committee hasn't yet responded to Canseco's request for immunity, which would allow him to speak more freely.

"The committee will release the information as to the conditions for witnesses all at once, U.S. Representative rather than one at a time," Waxman said.

Manfred's Luke Macaulay, spokesman for the Monday said "there were unresolved" disputes" with 13 of the 96 positive tests in 2003. He said that if all the positives were accurate, there were 73 for nandrolone, 26 for stanozolol, eight for elevated testosterone, five boldenone, three methandrostenolone and one for clenbuterol. Some tests include positives for more than one substance.

Manfred said baseball didn't have

results from "for cause" tests given to players since 1990 because they went directly to doctors. He said those results also are protected by doctorpatient privilege. Contents of Manfred's letter were

first posted on the Web site of The New York Times, and a copy of the letter later was obtained by the AP.

No guarantee for Park in Rangers²

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Chan Ho Park is going to have to do a lot more than pitch six consecutive scoreless innings in the spring to make the Texas Rangers forget about his last three bad

rotation

No longer is there a guaranteed spot in the rotation for Park, even with two years and \$27 million left on his contract. Plenty of skepticism remains even after retiring 18 of the last 19 batters faced his past two spring

"We'll see where it takes manager Buck Showalter said. "He's had good outings in spring training before. We'll see if he can stay with it and build on it."

The right-hander faced the minimum 12 batters in four innings against a Los Angeles Angels lineup missing most of its starters. He allowed a bunt single with eight groundball outs, a double play included.

But the message is clear. Park has to be consistent over a longer period — not the equivalent of less than a full game in the spring.

Caught Cheating in Vegas

Johnson loses points lead, crew chief suspended

NASCAR has turned its penalty system up a notch, stripping Jimmie Johnson of his lead in the points and suspending three crew chiefs for cheating at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

It's NASCAR's most severe meting out of punishment since the sanctioning body began docking points in 2002.

Johnson's winning car failed to pass inspection after Sunday's race, falling short of the minimum height requirement. For that, NASCAR suspended crew chief Chad Knaus, fined him \$35,000 and docked Johnson 25 points in the Nextel Cup standings in a swift crackdown Tuesday.

Johnson defended his crew chief, considered among the best in the garage, and said his Chevrolet was too low because a bolt came loose during the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400.

"I have 100 percent trust and confidence in Chad that he is going to do everything within the rules," Johnson

The points reduction dropped Johnson from first to second in the standings. He now trails series champion Kurt Busch by 10 points.

Also suspended Tuesday was Todd Berrier, crew chief for Kevin Harvick, who was given a four-week sentence and fined \$25,000 for rigging the fuel tank to appear full when it actually wasn't during qualifying.

Alan Gustafson was suspended for two weeks and fined \$25,000 because Kyle Busch's runner-up car was too

"Guys have just got to stop playing games with the rules," NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter told The Associated Press. "We've got to do whatever we have to do to protect the integrity of this sport."

> 'We've got to do whatever we have to do to protect the integrity of this sport."

> > — Jim Hunter NASCAR spokesman

Harvick and Kyle Busch also were docked 25 points apiece. And 25 carowner points were taken from Rick Hendrick, the car owner for Kyle Busch; Jeff Gordon, who owns Johnson's car, and Richard Childress, who owns Harvick's.

Hendrick and Childress said they plan to appeal.

"I'm not disputing NASCAR's right to levy sanctions," Hendrick said in a statement. "As a team owner, I understand why these standards are in place and have always taken pride in the fact that our organization has kept a very

clean record. "In this particular instance, though, we disagree with the severity of

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - high in the post-race inspection. NASCAR's stance and plan to appeal their decision. I want to make it clear that we in no way intentionally ignored guidelines, and I'm certain everyone understands that."

Childress echoed his fellow team

"I understand NASCAR's reasons for imposing a penalty," he said. "However, I think the penalty they have given us is out of line, so we have decided to appeal their ruling."

Berrier admitted intentionally rigging the 22-gallon tank to appear full when it had just five gallons of gas in it, thereby allowing the car to go faster.

The team was caught because Harvick qualified fourth. If he had been outside of the top five, his car might not have been checked following his run.

And if NASCAR officials weren't already angry, their patience was tested when Berrier showed little remorse after being caught.

"If I had to do it again, I'd still play it to try to get away with it, because I know how I got caught," he told NASCAR.com.

Hunter hopes the penalties serve as a wake-up call to the teams.

"This is just unacceptable," he said. "So maybe the crew chiefs being at home will help remedy this

None of the suspended crew chiefs will be permitted to communicate with their race teams via cell phone or radio during the time they are suspended, Hunter said.

Wade's buzzer-beater gives Heat 50th win

made Miami's 50th win look easy with a buzzerbeater that clinched the Heat a spot in the postseason. The Philadelphia 76ers' playoff push won't be nearly as smooth if Allen Iverson isn't able to play.

Wade hit a fadeaway 22footer to give Miami a 98-96 victory over the host New York Knicks on Tuesday night and extend its winning streak to 10. The Heat became the first NBA team to secure a playoff

"When they put the ball in your hands, they put it there for a reason," Wade said. "That's a shot I always games back of Boston in the dreamed of taking, especial- Atlantic Division.

(AP) - Dwyane Wade ly at the Garden. It was a dream come true for me."

Sixers learned The Iverson had a chipped bone in his left thumb after he outplayed Kobe Bryant in Philadelphia's 108-91 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Iverson will be fitted for a cast and will be reevaluated Friday before their next game at Cleveland. He is day-to-

In a matchup of the league's two high scor- = ers, Iverson had 36 points to Bryant's 20 and led a decisive third-quarter run that helped pull the 76ers to four

"It made me feel good. Any win makes me feel good," said Iverson, who left the arena before the Xray results were announced.

'We've got to get more people involved. They were doubling me and the shots weren't falling."

> - Kobe Bryant LA Lakers

In other NBA games, it the corner. Miami reboundwas: Cleveland 92, Utah 73; Seattle 99, Chicago 93; Minnesota 100, Dallas 91; Sacramento 105, and Orlando 94.

Wade finished with 24 points and five assists, Shaquille O'Neal scored 23 and Damon Jones made six 3s for 18 points for Miami.

> Stephon Marbury led New York with 24 points, Tim Thomas added 20 and Jamal Crawford had assists.

> New York had a chance to go ahead on the game's next-to-last possession, but Kurt Thomas came up short on an 18-footer from

out with 14 seconds left. On the final play, Wade was isolated against rookie defender Trevor Ariza at the

ed and called its final time-

top of the key. Switching his dribble from hand to hand and using his quick footwork, Wade gave himself just enough room to shoot.

"I played him straight up. He hit a tough shot to win the game, and there's nothing else to say," Ariza said. "He's an All-Star. He's going to hit shots like that." At Philadelphia, Bryant

who came in trailing Iverson by nearly two points in the league scoring race made five of nine shots in the first quarter, but went 1for-6 the rest of the game.

"We've got to get more people involved," Bryant said. "They were doubling me and the shots weren't

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Average; 2-So

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and your innate skills bloom. If you are

single, romance will knock on your

door after fall. Together you will create

a very special relationship. This person

might be your soul mate. If you are

attached, you will be pressured this

year. Don't forget to schedule special

time with your sweetie. Love blooms

late this fall. Be spontaneous. CAN-

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll

Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-

** Pressure builds because of a

change of plans or news that heads in

lose someone's support. You might feel

the difference financially and/or emo-

tionally. Schedule a talk to clear the air

Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

green, head home early.

favorite friend or two.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** You might be the source of a

hassle and causing more problems than

you realize. Try going within instead of

dealing with others and problems

externally. A discussion could be

unusually enlightening. Tonight: Be

** You might be going over worst-

case scenarios in your mind. Ideas pop

up that impact your work and home

life. You might be overworking and

overthinking things. Take a break from

all this self-criticism. Make this a nor-

mal day. Tonight: Nap, and then

*** You're full of ideas and fun.

Just the same, you could be easily dis-

appointed. Use your ingenuity.

Solutions appear quite naturally. Pay

extra attention to a child or loved one.

*** Concern over a domestic matter

might keep you preoccupied. You

might have a problem with work

because you are distracted. Review a

financial decision more carefully.

Tonight: Yes, my Fish, today you're

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Tonight: Hang with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

with your favorite person.

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your direction. Rethink and adjust. Make calls and try to connect with those who might be affected. Tonight: Even if others are painting the town ★★ Evaluate what it would mean to

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) rather than have a problem with this

yourself as to why you attract this type of conflict. What is unresolved in you? Claim your power. Tonight: You will

might stun you. The only way to win a

power play is not to play. Question

HH Take your time today. In fact, you might want to be unusually low-key. Reorganize your day, realizing your limits, both physically and timewise. Close your door if you want to get anything done. Tonight: Wherever you are,

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ** Too much tumbles in your lap right now. Pressure to deal with some personal matters might make you feel like the taffy at a taffy pull. Relax and don't make a situation worse. You will get support from others. Tonight:

*** Despite a very upbeat conversation or two, you will need to revamp plans. Don't make this a big deal. Use care with machinery and touchy people. Problems could arise out of the blue. Tonight: Out late.

★★★★ Teamwork could fall apart, situation. Someone you count on could person. Tonight: Hang out with a be touchy. Your ingenuity will help you move through his or her bad mood.

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AXYDLBAAXR

CRYPTOQUOTE 3-16

XV EDS EWCPS

SKSWTEDXUJ, TXSMP UGEDXUJ

EDGRCV FSQQSWVGU

Beautifully furn. bdrs. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site.

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.

MCBTSWV EG AZSVEXGU

CUP ECMN OT EDS DGZW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LAZINESS TRAVELS SO SLOWLY THAT POVERTY SOON OVERTAKES HIM. — BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

DEAR ABBY: I am an operating room nurse. My soon-tobe mother-in-law recently had a procedure done that required anesthesia. When the anesthesiologist arrived to interview her before her procedure, she proceeded to ask him if he knew me. He replied that he did.

Her next question was whether he knew that I had recently had cosmetic surgery. Thankfully, he acted in a professional manner by simply saying, "Oh?" She continued the interrogation by asking him if he was aware that I had been previously engaged, and whether he thought I was a runaway bride or not.

I was flabbergasted that she had the gall to bring up such personal things with someone with whom I have a professional relationship. This is a small community where things spread like wildfire. I want to have a relationship with her, but I feel as though she kicked me in the stomach and stabbed me in the back. Is there anything I can say to make her aware of my feelings, or must I be respectful and keep my thoughts to myself? I am deeply hurt. -- APPALLED IN **IOWA**

DEAR APPALLED: Your fiance's mother may have been nervous at the prospect of her surgery, started babbling and couldn't stop. However, unless you want a strained relationship with your in-laws, do not "confront" her. She can't unring the bell. Now that you know she lacks judgment and leaks like a rusty bucket, in the future confide nothing to her unless you want the whole town to know.

-- nearly 16. He has become a to worry. Otherwise, he wonderful young man, a delight sounds just fine to me. to be around -- but then again, I

Yesterday's answer

28 Like some

breads

29 Cooking

herb

30 Fight site

probably am biased.

When we're home and watching TV in the evening, my son often enjoys cuddling up next to me. He'll put his head on my shoulder and wants my arm around his shoulders. I, too, enjoy this very much, and when he says, "Oh, Mommy, I love you so much," as he often does, my heart melts. I should mention that he is still shorter than me, though barely. He is not the typical 15-year-old who towers over his mother.

Let me clarify a couple of things. One, he is my only child. Two, there is nothing torrid going on, no inappropriate touching by him or by me, and three, he doesn't do it when his friends are over -- although he's not afraid to hug and kiss me goodbye in front of them. Also, he loves his father very much, will hug and kiss him occasionally, and still enjoys sitting between us on the sofa, however difficult that may be on our two-person loveseat.

Until recently, I thought our closeness would help him develop into a warm, loving man; but now, I'm wondering if this is healthy for him to be doing and for me to allow. It seems like a completely natural thing to do in a loving family, but lately I've been wondering how this might affect his future relationships with women. I would hate to see him develop into a needy, clingy type of man or a mama's boy. What are your thoughts on this? -- JUST A LOVING MOM IN AUS-TRALIA

DEAR LOVING MOM: Every parent should be so blessed as to have a son like yours. You have raised a loving only child who is bonded to his parents. If he doesn't start dating by the time he's DEAR ABBY: My son is 15 18, THEN there may be cause

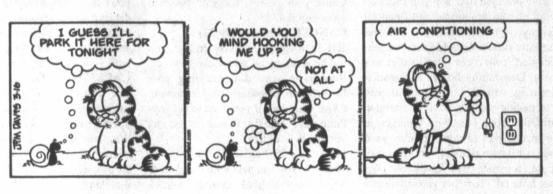
For Better Or Worse



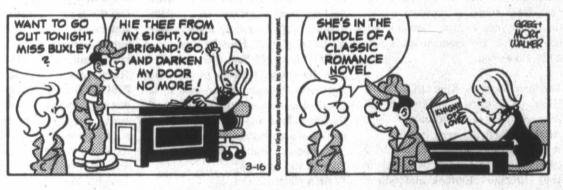
Zits



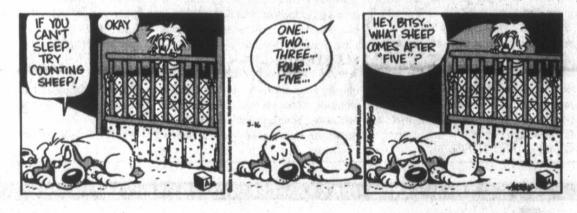
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH ACROSS 41 Colleen

7011000	41 00110011
1 Defame in	42 "Oh boy!"
print	
6 Bed	DOWN
board	1 Enticing
10 Loan	2 Dancer
shark's	Duncan
practice	3 Home
11 During	maker?
the time	4 Gaelic
that	5 Caustic
12 Worker's	stuff
reward	6 Close
13 Person	7 Cap
14 Not busy	8 Texas
15 Serve a	landmark
sentence	9 Belief
16 Approval	11 "So
17 Short time	what?"
18 Youngster	15 Ball girl
19 Packers'	17 Greets
place	with a
22 Region	"grrr"
23 Harvest	NEW CROSSW
26 "American	Thomas Joseph Boo
0 40 000	

Idiot" band 29 Cave dwelle 32 - Vegas 33 Game

cube 34 Bust 36 Writer Jaffe

37 "Ta-ta!"

38 Sugges

tions

39 Detail map 40 Big musi cal group

ment 31 Lock **25** Put 35 Peepers 36 "Miami on a Vice" cop coat 27 Have a 38 Greedy bite one ORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to ok 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

20 Brain

21 Itch

chart.

briefly

24 Supple-

Marmaduke



"I'm not going to throw it for you."

'You're right! I found the remote in the very last place I looked."

The Family Circus

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

