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Open house

Lefors Post Office to remember tornado LEFORS - Lefors Post Office will host an open house on Friday, March 25, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to introduce the special cancellation tornado stamp which will be available through April 24.

The Lefors Elementary students have made tornado posters which will be on display and there will be a slide presentation of tornado photos from 1975. Information will be available on disaster planning and what items to put in a storm cellar.

A 30th Anniversary of the Lefors Tornado book will also be available with a limited cancellation stamp cover.

PECD dissolution papers on way to state secretary

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The City of Pampa gained approximately \$970,000 in cash and other assets upon the dissolution of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, said Doug Locke at the city commission meeting Tuesday afternoon in City Hall.

Locke, who served as board president of the PEDC, presented a summary of the corporation's final accounting to commissioners. The PEDC's final meeting was Monday afternoon, when the articles of dissolution were read and paperwork was signed by

board members.

"The articles of dissolution have been signed and are on their way to the secretary of state," Locke told commissioners. They require no further action and will be considered in effect upon receipt by the secretary of state's office, he said.

The portion of the city's sales tax which has been charged to fund the PEDC will be dropped at the end of the next quarter, he said. "It takes a full quarter for the sales tax to get turned off. Beginning the first of July, no more sales tax will be charged for the PEDC," Locke said.

A final audit of the PEDC will

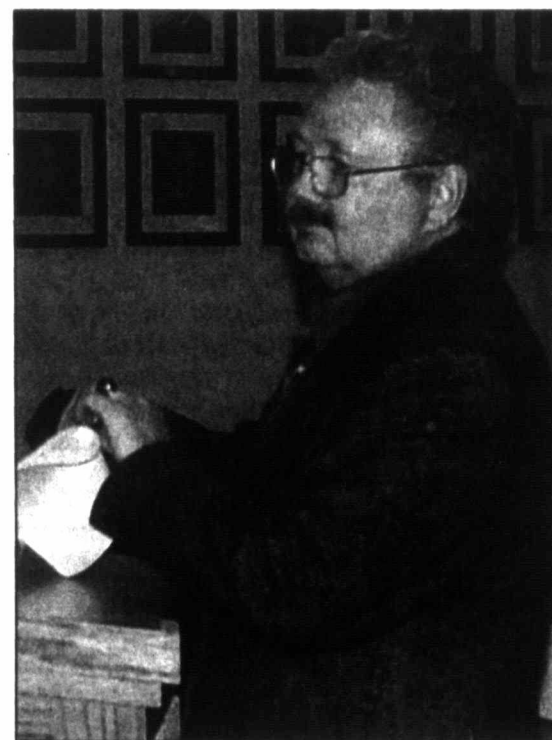
be conducted and turned over to city officials.

Approximately \$385,000 cash was turned over to the city by the PEDC. Liabilities to be covered out of that total are \$260,000 in United Medicaid funding, and another \$10,000 for miscellaneous final bills.

Added to the net \$115,000 in uncommitted cash will be another \$300,000 expected from the final sales tax collection, which will end July 1.

Other PEDC assets which have been transferred to the city are the Section 53 land, valued at

See PEDC, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Doug Locke makes the PEDC's final report to city commissioners at their meeting Tuesday.

Orr reports on tax error at meeting

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Darville Orr of Gray County Appraisal District's board of directors addressed Pampa city commissioners at their Tuesday afternoon meeting to discuss the controversial change in property tax value of Celanese Ltd.

The chemical company's appraised property value was lowered by approximately \$6.6 million from a beginning valuation for 2004 taxes. The company paid taxes on the original valuation, resulting in an overpayment which now must be paid back by Pampa Independent School District, Gray County, and Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District. The taxing entities were not aware of the situation until January.

Orr repeated information which was typed on two pieces of plain paper. City Manager John Horst said the two-page document, which was dated March 18 but had no name, signature, or other indication of origin, was provided by the appraisal district's chief appraiser, Pat Bagley.

Bagley later confirmed in an interview that he was the author of the document.

The document also does not name Celanese Ltd., but refers to "the case in question."

"We asked you to come because you are our representative on the appraisal district's board. We have received questions about this. We as a city weren't affected (Celanese is outside city limits and does

See TAX, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Car vs. building

Pampa Fire Department, Pampa Police Department and Guardian EMS Ambulance responded to a one-vehicle accident at 1:10 p.m. yesterday at Pro Nail Salon, 2121 N. Hobart. No injuries were reported after a 2002 Chrysler Voyager, driven by Klahr Baker Jewell, 80, 1510 N. Nelson, collided with the front of the salon and traveled into the business. Damage to the business included the front windows and structure, and pedicure equipment and nail care items which were inside the salon. Estimated total property loss is over \$25,000, according to the police accident report. The salon is rented by Cheryl King. The salon owner is Le Hai Quoc of Amarillo. Jewell told police she thought she was pressing the brake but accidentally pressed the gas pedal while trying to park, according to the report.

Refinery blast kills 15 workers

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — The lone worker unaccounted for after an explosion at a BP oil refinery has died, bringing the death toll to 15 in a blast that also injured more than 100 people, officials said Thursday.

BP spokesman Bill Stephens said the man was dead but released no details on whether the body was found amid the plant rubble or elsewhere. Earlier in the day, officials said there were indications the man had checked out and left the

refinery after Wednesday's explosion.

There were about 1,100 employees and 2,200 contract workers at the refinery Wednesday when the blast shot flames into the sky, forced schoolchildren to cower under desks and showered plant grounds with ash and charred metal. It rattled windows more than five miles from the 1,200-acre plant near Houston that employs 1,800.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known.

The initial 14 deaths reported were contractors for J.E. Merit Constructors Inc., a field services provider and subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in Pasadena, Calif., refinery manager Don Parus said. It was not immediately clear if the 15th was also a contractor there.

"Our focus has been entirely on the people who are affected by this," said Jacobs spokesman Rod Sharp. He said he would

See BLAST, Page 3

Easter Holiday Closings

Some offices not open on Good Friday

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Some local offices will be closed tomorrow for Good Friday, although it is not a federal holiday.

Pampa city offices and Gray County offices will be closed.

Pampa Post Office will be open.

Pampa Independent School District offices will be closed, and classes will not be held at Pampa public schools. Classes will resume Monday.

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will be closed tomorrow, and will resume classes Monday.

Banks and other financial institutions will hold normal business hours.

State offices will be open.

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Obituaries

Bobby R. 'Bob' Brandt, 68

Bobby R. "Bob" Brandt, 68, of Pampa, died Wednesday, March 23, 2005. Graveside services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Friday in Memory Gardens Cemetery with the Rev. Lynn Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Full Gospel Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. Brandt was born Nov. 7, 1936, at Sayre, Okla., and had been a Pampa resident for more than 30 years. He

married Jessie Estes on May 29, 1986, in Pampa; she died July 12, 1996. Mr. Brandt owned and operated Brandt's Automotive, retiring in 1996, and was a veteran of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. He was preceded in death by five brothers, Alvin Brandt, Martin Brandt, Richard Brandt, Butch Brandt and Jack Brandt. Survivors include a son, Tony Brandt of Rogersville, Mo.; three daughters,

Miranda Spoonmore of Rogersville, Kelly Barton of Miami and Paula McGrath of Pampa; two sisters, Ivy Cunningham of Pampa and Jean Grotzky of Sunset, Utah; two brothers, A.D. Brandt of Stockton, Mo., and Norman Brandt of Pampa; 15 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild. The family will be at 729 Dean Drive. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Agnes Oliphant, 89

Agnes Oliphant, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, March 22, 2005, at Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2005, at the Hobart Baptist Church with the Rev. Jim Powell, pastor, and the Rev. Lewis Ellis, retired Baptist minister, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Oliphant was born June 5, 1915, in Hoenald, Tenn. She married Talmage

Oliphant on Nov. 4, 1933. He preceded her in death on June 11, 1984. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1945, moving from Haskell. She was a member of the Hobart Baptist Church where she worked in the nursery for more than 30 years. She was a homemaker and a



Oliphant

child caregiver for many years. Survivors include two sons, Keith Oliphant and wife Melody of Pampa and Jerry Oliphant and wife Dianne of Big Spring; two brothers, Tom Ammons of Pampa and Bill "Junior" Ammons of Lake Brownwood; five grandchildren, Jasper Jowers of Brownfield, Bryan Oliphant of Lubbock, Brandon Oliphant of San Marcos, and Cory Oliphant and Christy Heuston, both of Canyon; and four great-grandchildren, Joshua Jowers, Jonathan Jowers and Jarisa Jowers, all of Brownfield, and Braeden Oliphant of Denton. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Frances Jowers in 2000; four brothers; and one sister. The family requests memorials be to Hobart Baptist Church, 1100 W. Crawford, Pampa, TX 79065. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Weather

Today: Partly cloudy, with a high around 72. West wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Friday: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 31 and 36 early. Northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.
Friday Night: A chance of rain, mixing with snow after 4 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low near 35. Wind chill values between 27 and 32. East wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.
Saturday: A chance of snow before 9 a.m., then rain and snow likely, mainly between noon and 1 p.m., then rain likely after 1 p.m. Cloudy, with a high near 39. East wind around 15 mph.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.17
Milo	3.21
Corn	3.76
Soybeans	5.47

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	70.07	+1.20
BP PLC ADR	61.87	-0.14
Cabot Corp.	33.88	+0.18
Cabot Oil Gas	53.16	+1.15
Coca Cola	41.20	+0.02
VLO	72.50	+0.54
HAL	42.46	+0.58
TRI	46.13	+0.67
KMI	75.15	+0.33
XCEL	17.15	+0.22
Kerr-McGee	78.70	+0.24
XOM	59.78	-0.31
Limited	23.52	-0.05
Williams	18.66	+0.34
MCD	31.62	+0.17
Atmos	27.21	+0.22
Pioneer Nat.	41.65	+0.32
JCP	46.11	+0.01
COP	104.68	-0.42
SLB	70.00	+0.20
Tenneco	13.43	-0.40
CVX	58.61	+0.19
Wal-Mart	50.78	+0.13
OKE	30.42	+0.47
NS Grp	32.66	+1.13

New York Gold 424.85
Silver 6.94
West Texas Crude 48.96

Otto E. Specht, 89

Otto E. Specht, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, March 23, 2005, at Pampa. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2005, at First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Edwin Cooley, pastor, officiating. Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mr. Specht was born in 1915 at Frankfurt, Germany. He and his beloved wife of 60 years, Margarethe (Gretel) Specht were married in Frankfurt in 1939. She preceded him in death on Aug. 6, 2000. He lived a very full life, one that coincided with the most interesting chapters of



Specht

the 20th century. He led his family on a risky and courageous move from Germany in 1953 to follow the American dream. He specifically chose Pampa over another equal opportunity in a large east coast city. Mr. Specht was a doting husband and proud father. He was an accomplished engineer and executive for the Cabot Corporation for many decades. He loved the people of Pampa, traveling the world, card games with friends, fishing, and crafting with his hands. Survivors include two sons, U.H. (Woody) Specht, a retired F.B.I. agent, an active attorney and sitting judge of Dallas, and Randy Specht, an executive in the power industry of Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Specht was proud of his four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The family requests memorials be to First Presbyterian Church Book of Remembrance, 525 N. Gray, Pampa, TX 79065; or to a favorite charity. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Services tomorrow

BRANDT, Bobby R. "Bob" — Graveside services, 2 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.
OLIPHANT, Agnes — 2 p.m., Hobart Baptist Church, Pampa.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrest.
Wednesday, March 23
Officers conducted 10 traffic stops; provided a funeral escort to Memory Gardens Cemetery; and responded to two welfare checks, one in the 300 block of North Ward Street and the other in the 1100 block of South Banks St.
Kenneth Wayne Horst, 38, Borger, was arrested at Francis and Ward streets for driving while intoxicated, third or more offense.
Disorderly conduct/noise was reported at Jordan and Powell streets — a car alarm was going off.
Suspicious person complaints were made in the 1200 block of Hamilton St., the 600 block of North Cuyler St., at Montagu and Somerville streets, and the 300 block of South Cuyler St.
Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of North Wells. The side and back glass were broken out of a vehicle, for estimated damage of \$650.
Criminal mischief was reported in the 1900 block of Coffee. Two windows were broken on a vehicle, for estimated damage of \$350.
An alleged assault and robbery was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive.
Assault was reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill Avenue, the 100 block of North Sumner St., the 400 block of Hill St., and the 500 block of South Somerville St.
A hit and run accident was reported in the 900 block of Cinderella Dr.
Suspicious vehicle complaints were taken in the 1900 block of North Nelson St., and the 500 block of South Reid St.
A motor vehicle accident was reported in the 2100 block of North Hobart St.
Theft was reported in the 900 block of South Banks and the 1000 block of South Christy St.
Found property was reported at the local post office. According to the police blotter, a BB gun was found and stored in the post master's office.
Found property was also reported in the 200 block of West Kingsmill Ave. A clipboard was found in the street by the Optimist Club.
Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 2300 block of West Alcock St.
Criminal trespass was reported in the 1800 block of Beech Lane.
A silent/abuse 911 call was received from the 900 block of North Hobart St.

Monday, March 21

6:37 p.m. — A 2001 Pontiac Grand Am, driven by Ignacia Rojas Casias, 19, 521 Montague #3, collided with a legally parked 1999 GMC Sierra pickup, owned by Gary D. Dudley, 2413 Navajo Road, in the 1800 block of Holly Lane. Casias was cited for failure to control speed and for no insurance.

Wednesday, March 23

1:10 p.m. — A 2002 Chrysler Voyager van, driven by Klahr Baker Jewell, 1510 North Nelson, collided with a building in the 2100 block of North Hobart. No citations were listed on the report. No injuries were reported.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, March 23

Gary Eugene Robinson, 33, 216 Tignor, was arrested for possession of marijuana, under 2-ounces.

Fire

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

Wednesday, March 23

1:12 p.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a vehicle accident in the 2100 block of North Hobart. A vehicle struck a building. No injuries were reported.

Ambulance

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

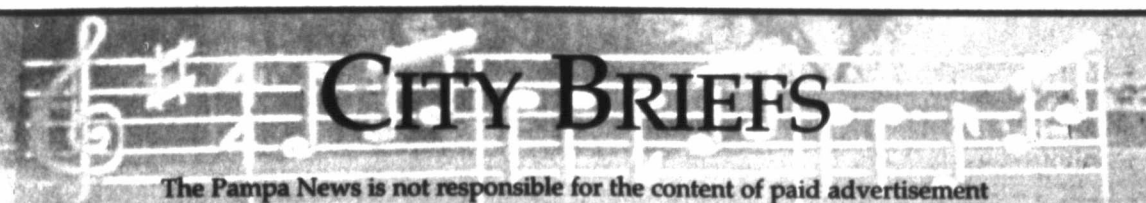
Wednesday, March 23

7:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1000 block of Varnon. The call was canceled en route.
9:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 700 block of Deane Drive and transported a patient of Pampa Regional Medical Center.
9:16 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1500 block of West Kentucky and transported a patient to PRMC.
11:33 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 1400 block of Somerville.
12:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.
1:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of North Hobart. No transport.
2:57 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transported a patient to the 700 block of Lowry.

See RECORD, Page 3

Accidents

Pampa Police Department today reported the following motor vehicle accidents.



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

CHAMILIA BRACELETS & Charms. Easter gift items. Silk arrangements made to order. Strawberry plants are ready and its time to plant @ West Texas Landscape.

DONNA PLAYS Live Music tonight at WW Sports Bar, 7 p.m. No cover.

VFW POST 1657 is looking for pictures taken at Service Men's Club, when it was located on Foster St. during World War II. Copies will be made, the original returned promptly. 669-1264, 663-2277.

IF YOU haven't viewed "The Passion" or want to see it for the 2nd time to really appreciate Easter Sun., come to Hi-Land Christian Church Good Fri. @ 7pm. Babysitters provided.

MEALS ON Wheels will be closed Fri., Mar. 25th, for Good Friday.
OCB CATERING Package. Beer from our New Front Door Drive-thru. Sun. Only. 2302 Alcock.

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Tax

Continued

not pay city tax due diligence or to come and give Mayor Lonny R. "I received a board members the weekend, it some issues wh by your board Ray Boring. "All the info was new inform of questions an had written. I h look at all of it, "The bottom county and it h The concern I knew all this w he'd told (the t He should've st "We've a m how it's going a discrepancy, Faustina Curry. "I think the b of some sort wh difficult for son pen," Orr said. "My concern trict had those off until the la anything about was an error Whose error Commissioner "I cannot ans said. The packet was distributed school board n by Gary Willou appraisal distr said in a teleph "I gave Bagl I gave the city sentatives the pages of violati paper articles."

Jacks Service

SANTA M (AP) — A forensic scientist Michael Jack molestation tr about fingerp niques to lay th for prosecutic about prints fo magazines seiz star's Neverlan The experi Cantu, did not magazines but explain method The prosecu that one maga gerprints from his accuser. Th argued the ma; fingerprinted grand jury hear and April 2004 accuser may opportunity to Defense attor Mesereau Jr. that Jackson or boy looking at and took them also could have of fingerprints. On Wednes tors were barr ducing sexu material found in Jackson's 1 showed jurors adult magazin said were sei; singer's home. Jurors saw images, includ photographs fr like Playboy, I Hustler, and a

Rec

Continued

9 p.m. — A unit responde block of We transported PRMC. 10:13 p.m. ICU unit resp 2600 block and transport to PRMC. **Thursday** 4:53 p.m. ICU unit resp 100 block Faulkner and a patient to P

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Tax

Continued from Page 1

not pay city taxes), but nevertheless, as due diligence on our part, we asked you to come and give us an overview," said Mayor Lonny Robbins to Orr.

"I received a packet from one of your board members. After reviewing it over the weekend, it appears that there are some issues which need to be handled by your board," said Commissioner Ray Boring.

"All the information in that packet was new information, except for a list of questions and one letter Pat Bagley had written. I have not had a chance to look at all of it," Orr said.

"The bottom line for me is, it hurt the county and it hurt the school district. The concern I have is that Mr. Bagley knew all this was going on, and I wish he'd told (the taxing entities involved). He should've stepped forward and said, 'We have a mess here. I don't know how it's going to work out, but there's a discrepancy,'" said Commissioner Faustina Curry.

"I think the board will take an action of some sort where it will make it more difficult for something like this to happen," Orr said.

"My concern is that the appraisal district had those figures in June, and put off until the latter part of July doing anything about it. All I saw was, there was an error made in the figures. Whose error was it?" said Commissioner Robert Dixon.

"I cannot answer that right now," Orr said.

The packet of information, which was distributed to commissioners and school board members, was provided by Gary Willoughby, a member of the appraisal district board. Willoughby said in a telephone conversation.

"I gave Bagley a list of 28 questions. I gave the city and school board representatives the 28 questions, plus 31 pages of violations and copies of newspaper articles," Willoughby said.

Meeting

Bagley gives breakdown on tax snafu

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Section 25.25 (c) of the Texas Property Tax Code "provides for changes due to clerical errors," according to the two-page document which City Manager John Horst had identified at Tuesday's city commission meeting as coming from Gray County Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley.

The document was summarized by Darville Orr of Gray County Appraisal District's board of directors at the city commission meeting in response to a request for information concerning the \$6.6 million decrease in valuation of Celanese Ltd. taxable property.

"Section 25.25 (d) provides for a change of value when the Appraisal Roll value exceeds the 'correct' value by at least one-third.

"Both Subsections (c) and (d) require a motion filed by the property owner or the Chief Appraiser. These motions may also be settled by an agreement between the property owner and the Chief Appraiser (Section 41.01(b) and Section 1.111(e)).

"This agreement is final and cannot be appealed in District Court," the document states.

Bagley had told Gray County commissioners at their Feb. 1 meeting that the change in valuation was due to a "clerical error. The taxpayer made the error and then submitted a corrected asset listing." However, the appraisal district's industrial consultant, a Corpus Christi firm which is under contract to the district to help with appraisals of chemical and other

plants and industries, has come under fire concerning the change in valuation.

A notice of appraised value was mailed May 28, 2004, according to the document. The property owner filed protests which were received June 2. A hearing notice was mailed June 4, with the hearing scheduled July 24.

The appraisal district received the listing of taxable property owned by the company on June 30.

"I assumed the values were acceptable when I did not hear otherwise and the property owner's agent did not appear at the scheduled protest hearing on July 24," the document states.

The appraisal review board approved the appraisal records on Aug. 2. Values were certified to each taxing entity and mailed on Aug. 4.

"I received correspondence in September with amended asset listing from the property owner's agent.

"Shortly after, I called our consultant and the property owner's agent to indicate that I could not make his numbers agree with the amounts he listed for each of the accounts. I understood that the agent would subsequently contact me with a clarification.

"I called in January to resolve the differences before tax payment was made. I was able to get with the agent and point out some of the inequities in the listing. We agreed on the resulting values, signed Settlement and Waiver and I sent the dockets to the tax office for a total reduction of approximately \$6.6 million on all accounts," the document states.

Willoughby told Bagley in a recent appraisal district board meeting that he had a number of questions concerning

the Celanese valuation. Bagley had asked Willoughby to put the questions in writing.

PECD

Continued from Page 1

\$230,000; a lease for over nine years on Section 53, valued at \$70,000; a building on Price Road, valued at \$150,000; a lease of the Price Road building, valued at \$35,000; and two notes receivable, one for Scribner, valued at \$60,000, and one for Kilcrease, valued at \$10,000.

"Thank you for your trust in giving us an opportunity to serve this commission," Locke said, speaking for all members of the PECD board.

"I think you and the other board members have done an excellent job," said Mayor Lonny Robbins.

Blast

Continued from Page 1

issue a detailed statement after investigators gather more information.

The plant typically processes about 433,000 barrels of crude oil a day, producing 3 percent of the U.S. supply. Other than the unit affected by the blast, the rest of the refinery was running normally, said Stephens, spokesman for BP, formerly British Petroleum.

He declined to answer questions about the capacity the refinery was running at Thursday or how production would be affected.

Gasoline prices could rise slightly because the plant is such a large gas producer. In afternoon trading Thursday in Europe, the price of unleaded gasoline for April delivery was up 2.8 cents.

The explosion happened in a part of the plant used to boost the octane level of gasoline. A thorough investigation is under way, BP America president Ross Pillari said Thursday.

"It's clear that we have a lot of work to do in the coming days to make sure we understand exactly what happened, and we're going to do that," Pillari said. "We are going to put all of our resources into it." Federal investigators also planned to review the accident.

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Jackson jury hears from Secret Service fingerprint authority

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — A Secret Service forensic scientist testified in Michael Jackson's child molestation trial Thursday about fingerprinting techniques to lay the groundwork for prosecution testimony about prints found on adult magazines seized at the pop star's Neverland ranch.

The expert, Antonio Cantu, did not test any of the magazines but was called to explain methodology.

The prosecution has said that one magazine had fingerprints from Jackson and his accuser. The defense has argued the magazine wasn't fingerprinted until after grand jury hearings in March and April 2004 when the accuser may have had an opportunity to touch it.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. has also said that Jackson once caught the boy looking at the magazines and took them away, which also could have left both sets of fingerprints.

On Wednesday, prosecutors were barred from introducing sexually explicit material found on computers in Jackson's bedroom, but showed jurors a barrage of adult magazines that they said were seized from the singer's home.

Jurors saw about 75 images, including dozens of photographs from magazines like Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler, and a few covers of

adult videos or DVDs. About 15 of the images were from publications like Barely Legal that feature women who have recently turned 18.

Prosecutors contend Jackson's accuser and his brother saw magazines similar to the ones shown while staying at Neverland, but have not yet presented any evidence that they saw the images presented in court. None of the publications bore the DNA of the boy's family.

Though Jackson has twice been late to court in the last week with what he said was severe back pain, his attorney was the one with health problems Wednesday. Brian Oxman, one of Jackson's lawyers, left court in an ambulance because of what his wife said was pneumonia.

Oxman was taken from the courthouse by ambulance to Marian Medical Center, where hospital officials said he was stable and resting


comfortably.

In arguing for the computer evidence, the prosecution said technicians isolated material on three computers at Jackson's Neverland ranch that included teen-themed adult Web sites and information about adopting children.

Prosecutor Gordon Auchincloss said he felt the adoption sites related to Jackson's statements in a documentary that he was interested in adopting children.

"We intend to use this evidence to show ... Michael Jackson knows how to use a computer ... that he knows how to access adult materials on Internet sites," he said.

Defense attorney Robert Sanger called the material prejudicial and noted all of it was dated either two years before Jackson met his accuser or several months after his involvement with the child and his family had ended.



**Isn't life nifty cowboy
Richie is turning 50!**

**From the Gang at
Culberson Stowers**

Record

Continued from Page 2

9 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 24th and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2600 block of Seminole and transported a patient to PRMC.

Thursday, March 24
4:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 100 block of North Faulkner and transported a patient to PRMC.

**1st Annual
FAMILY
EASTER EGG
HUNT**

at
Memory Gardens Cemetery
23rd & Price Road

**SATURDAY
March 26th**
at
Memory Gardens Cemetery
Starts 10 am
Located on the North entrance on 23rd at the back of the cemetery in the vacant garden

Hunt for eggs with kids near your own age!! Fun for the whole family!

PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!
FREE for Ages 0-2
Over Age 2 -13

SPECIAL EASTER EGG HUNT FOR PARENTS

Age Groups
3-5
6-8 9-12

PARENTS:
Register for 3 day 2 night mini vacation!
*2 winners will be drawn
*transportation & taxes not included

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Viewpoints

Some tips from the folks at Comfort Institute

I realize it may seem a bit premature to cast a concerned eye towards summer cooling costs, but, as hard as it is to believe, it is spring, and summer is not far off. After all, this is the Texas Panhandle, where it could be snowing a blizzard one minute, but the next instant be a sunny 82-degrees.

Well, maybe I exaggerate — but not much.

“With hot summer weather just around the corner, now is the time to give your home a ‘check-up,’” notes a press release from the

Comfort Institute. (Yes, there actually is a Comfort Institute, I promise you. I’m not making this up.)

The folks at the Comfort Institute make the following recommendations:

—Have your duct system tested for air leaks;

—Ask your air conditioner contractor to perform an Infiltrometer “blower door” test;

—Close you fireplace damper (wow, what a concept!);

—Replace your air conditioner or heat pump air filter;

—Have your air condi-

tioner cleaned and tuned; and

—Consider replacing your old air conditioner or heat pump.

“Many assume that windows and doors are the major cause of a home’s energy wasting air leaks,” the Comfort Institute press release reports. “But according to recent research by the Department of Energy, gaps, joints and disconnections in the typical home’s duct sys-

tem are much more significant. The DOE states that the typical duct system loses 25 to 40 percent of the energy put out by the central heat pump or air conditioner.”

Hence, the need for an Infiltrometer “blower door” test.

“The blower door is a computerized instrument originally invented by the Department of Energy,” the Institute explains. “It pin-

points where your home’s worst air leaks are, such as duct leaks, and also measures how leaky the overall house is. Many homes have significant air leaks into the attic: hot dusty air often gets drawn in through recessed can lights and pull down stairs.”

I believe the other tips are appropriately self-explanatory. However, if you’d like to read the release in full log on to

www.comfortinstitute.org. “(G)overnment and utility research has found that over 90 percent of newly installed

high efficiency systems have energy wasting mistakes. Do some homework before talking to contractors,” the Institute recommends at the conclusion of its release. “For more information, visit www.energystar.gov and www.comfortinstitute.org. Print out the free Comfort Institute reports ‘Tips and Secrets To Buying A New Heating and Cooling System’ and ‘How To Identify a Good Heating and Cooling Contractor.’”

Stay cool — er, that is, if it’s not snowing.



Skyla Bryant
City Editor

Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 24, the 83rd day of 2005. There are 282 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Purim begins at sunset.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On March 24, 1765, Britain enacted the Quartering Act, requiring American colonists to provide temporary housing to British soldiers.

On this date:

In 1883, long-distance telephone service was inaugurated between Chicago and New York.

‘Man must cease attributing his problems to his environment, and learn again to exercise his will — his personal responsibility in the realm of faith and morals.’

— Albert Schweitzer
German-born missionary and Nobel laureate (1875-1965)

In 1905, 100 years ago, author Jules Verne died in Amiens, France, at the age of 77.

In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

In 1944, in occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that killed 32 German soldiers.

In 1955, the Tennessee Williams play “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” opened on Broadway with Barbara Bel Geddes

as Maggie, Ben Gazzara as Brick and Burl Ives as Big Daddy.

In 1976, the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country’s military.

In 1980, one of El Salvador’s most respected Roman Catholic Church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by gunmen as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

In 1989, the nation’s worst oil spill occurred as the Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska’s Prince William Sound and began leaking 11 million gallons of crude.

In 1999, NATO launched airstrikes against Yugoslavia, marking the first time in its 50-year existence that it had ever attacked a sovereign country.

In 1999, 39 people were killed when fire erupted in the Mont Blanc tunnel in France and burned for two days.

Ten years ago: The House of Representatives passed, 234-199, a welfare reform package calling for the most profound changes in social programs since the New Deal; President Clinton criticized the bill, saying it was “weak on work and tough on children.” For the first time in 20 years, no British soldiers were patrolling the streets of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Five years ago: A federal judge awarded former hostage Terry Anderson \$34 million dollars from Iran, holding Iranian agents responsible for Anderson’s nearly seven years of captivity in Lebanon. Sig Mickelson, the first president of CBS News, died in San Diego at age 86.



Minimum wage, maximum folly

Senators Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rick Santorum, R-Pa., both introduced proposals to increase the minimum wage from its current \$5.15 an hour. Sen. Kennedy’s proposal would have raised the minimum wage to \$7.25 in three steps over 26 months, while Sen. Santorum’s would have raised it to \$6.25 in two steps over 18 months. Two weeks ago, both measures failed passage in the Senate.

Sen. Kennedy said, “I believe that anyone who works 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, should not live in poverty in the richest country in the world,” after telling fellow senators that minimum wage workers earn \$5,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. Santorum said, “I feel very comfortable that our proposal keeps the balance between the ability of lower-skilled employees to enter the work force at a

wage in which they are compensated for the skills they bring to the job.”

The idea that minimum wage legislation is an anti-poverty tool is simply sheer nonsense. Were it an anti-poverty weapon, we might save loads of foreign aid expenditures simply by advising legislators in the world’s poorest countries, such as Haiti, Bangladesh and Ethiopia, to legislate higher minimum wages. Even applied to the United States, there’s little evidence suggesting that increases in the minimum wage help the poor. Plus, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 2.2 percent of working adults earn the minimum wage.

The crucial question for any policy is not what are its

intentions but what are its effects? One of its effects is readily seen by putting yourself in the place of an employer and asking: If I must pay \$6.25 or \$7.25 an hour to whomever I hire, does it make sense for me to hire a worker whose skills enable him to produce only \$4 worth of value per hour? Most employers would view doing so as a losing economic proposition. Thus, one effect of minimum wages is that of discriminating against the employment of low-skilled workers.

For the most part, teenagers dominate the low-skilled worker category. They lack the maturity, skills and experience of adults. Black teenagers not only share those characteristics,

but they are additionally burdened by grossly fraudulent education, making them even lower skilled.

Bureau of Labor Statistics unemployment data confirms the economic prediction about minimum wage effects. Currently, the teen unemployment rate is 16 percent for whites and 32 percent for blacks. In 1948, the unemployment rate for black teens (16-17) was lower (9.4 percent) than white teens (10.2 percent). Plus, black teens were more active in the labor force.

How might we explain that? How about arguing that there was less racial discrimination in 1948, or back then black teens were more highly educated than white teens? Of course, such arguments would be nonsense. The fact of the matter is that while there was a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour

See WAGE, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



Peace in Iraq not to be quick or easy

George Orwell observed that the quickest way to end a war was to lose it. For U.S. forces in Iraq, that option is not available. The United States won the war when it quickly overthrew the regime of Saddam Hussein. Ever since it has been trying to establish peace and democracy, a process that has barely begun.

On Saturday, March 19, the second anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, protesters mounted dozens of demonstrations around the country. Some rightly mourned the 1,500 American troops and tens of

thousands of Iraqis killed. Others decried the immorality of preventive war. In Houston, a rally for peace offered respectful prayers for U.S. troops under fire in Iraq.

However, those in Houston and elsewhere who called for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces seem not to comprehend the situation. Bringing the troops home and letting the Iraqis sort things out for themselves almost certainly would result in a bloody

civil war that would make the fighting that has gone before pale in comparison.

A principal reason for not invading Iraq was that the United States would be fighting a nation-

Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

building for years, maybe decades. If U.S. forces were at liberty to leave whenever they and Americans tired of the enterprise, there would have been little reason not to overthrow Saddam. Despite the recent Iraqi

elections, a stable democracy and the rule of law in Iraq are distant. The Sunni insurgents’ relentless violence seems to be costing them popular support, but reports of clan wars and the rise of criminal gangs temper hope for a quick U.S. exit.

Another argument against the invasion of Iraq was that it would create a source of terrorists where none existed. That has happened. Bringing the troops home would not end the killing, but would aggravate the danger to Americans at home and abroad.

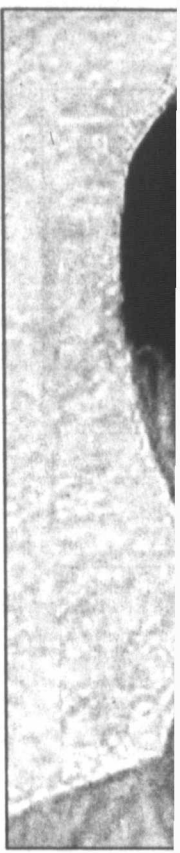
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403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com
Publisher: Sean Smith
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

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Educational
Local
AUSTIN - School Board have elected Elliott Conroy as Director, Region 16



Special
Eric Spellman Tricks for Genealogists 28, at Local Spellman will navigate user detailed info is free and

Comm

• Pampa Concert Presents “L 2004-05” includes the grams: Rhythm on Oct. Richard Gleason 19; and S Jazz Band Each concert under way M.K. Brown Pampa. Accents, some performers scheduled For more info, any of these complete schedule, contact Holmes, P.O. at 675-263

• A Family Hunt is planned March 26 Gardens Center at 23rd in Pampa. will start an event will include the and, for parents egg hunt a vacation

• Don Discovery Space Theater “Disc Eggstravaganza” from 9 March 26 Amarillo. A touts the largest egg Panhandle eggs. Cost for non-member child Tickets in hunt, special

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Continued
prior to 1 essentially post-World War II; however, since the end of World War II, the unemployment rate has become a double-digit figure. The law has the how does

Education

Local man elected to Texas Association of School Boards

AUSTIN — Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) members have elected Bret Begert of Fort Elliott Consolidated ISD to fill a vacancy on the TASB Board of Directors, representing TASB Region 16 until the close of the

September 2005 TASB/Texas Association of School Administrators Convention in Houston.

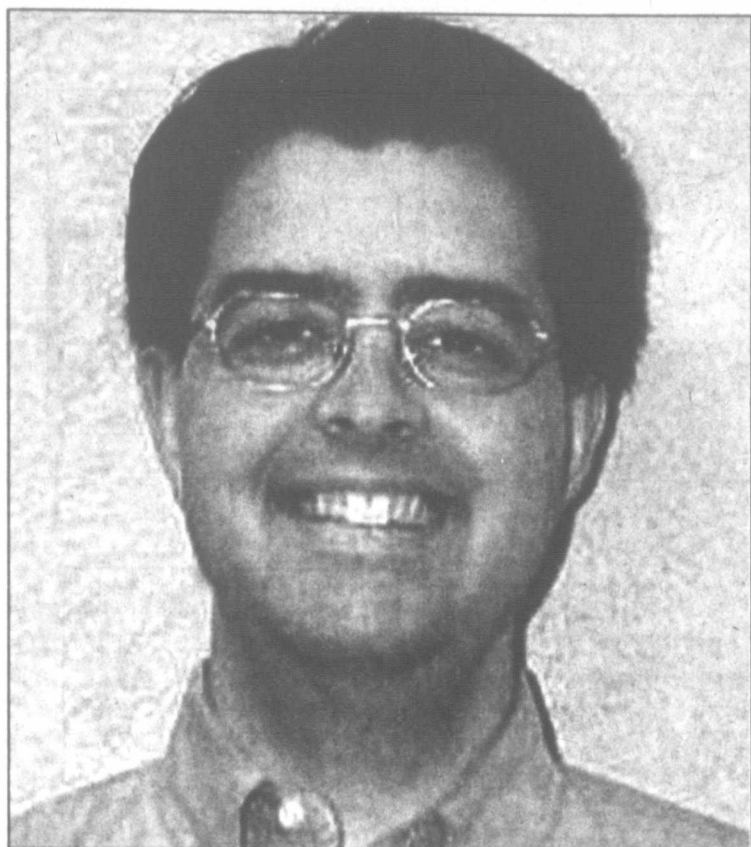
Begert, a self-employed rancher, has served seven years as a local trustee and is a former board secretary and president of Allison ISD.

Selected by the AISD board to serve on the Fort Elliott board when the two districts consolidated, he has been board secretary since July 2003. Begert earned a bachelor's degree from West Texas A&M

University and is president of the Texas Limousin Association and director of junior activities for the North American Limousin Foundation.

TASB was established in 1949 to serve local Texas school districts.

School trustees are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts they represent have a combined annual budget of \$33 billion, employ approximately 570,000 people, and serve more than four million public school students.



Special speaker

Eric Spellmann will give a program on "Tips and Tricks for Using the Internet" for Gray County Genealogical Society at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 28, at Lovett Memorial Library Auditorium. Spellman will give an overview on how to effectively navigate the search engines available to computer users and how to focus the search to the detailed information you want to find. The program is free and open to the public.

Crude futures rise after refinery explosion

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Crude futures rose Thursday, as concerns about an explosion at America's third-largest oil refinery overrode the bearish pull of U.S. figures showing a huge increase in crude inventories.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery was up 11 cents to \$53.92 a barrel by late morning in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The benchmark commodity had dropped \$2.22 on Wednesday after the inventory data was released but before the explosion.

Heating oil rose less half a cent to \$1.5390 a gallon.

Brent crude, meanwhile, was up 24 cents to \$53.28 a barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Crude oil rose in after-hours electronic trading Wednesday following an explosion at a BP crude oil

refinery in Texas, the third-largest in the United States, which left at least 14 people dead and more than 100 people injured.

The refinery produces 30 percent of BP PLC's North American supply of petroleum products, and 3 percent of the U.S. supply. It processes about 430,000 barrels of crude oil a day. Unleaded gasoline for April delivery was up 1.11 cent to US\$1.5860 by late morning in Europe in electronic trading on the Nymex.

"The explosion ... is viewed as a problem," said Deutsche Bank analyst Adam Sieminski in London.

He also suggested that despite the inventory builds shown in the U.S. Energy Department weekly report Wednesday, strong demand from China and other growing economies would probably keep prices high over the medium term.

While new figures show lesser Chinese hunger for energy, "demand is still rising and that's what's got people worried," he said.

Oil futures on the Nymex are down nearly \$4 a barrel since their intraday high of \$57.60 set last Thursday.

Analyst Phil Flynn at Alaron Trading Corp. described the recent drop from all-time highs as a "correction of a market that was ahead of itself."

"The bulls are still waiting," he said.

Oil is roughly 45 percent

more expensive than a year ago but still well below the inflation-adjusted peak above \$90 a barrel set in 1980.

'The explosion ... is viewed as a problem.'

— Adam Sieminski
Bank analyst

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Culto Fraternal Unido

Usted y su familia estan cordialmente invitados a una gran celebracion de unidad entre las diferentes iglesias hispanas de esta ciudad promoviendo la fraternidad en el cuerpo de Cristo.

Eldia 26 de Marzo 2005 5 p.m. en el auditorio M.K. Brown de la ciudad de Pampa, Texas

Dandonos el privilegio de traer el mensaje de esa noche sera:

OSCAR "SPIKE" MALDONADO
Y encargado de la musica y alabanza para esa tarde estara el grupo "EBENEZER" Entrada gratuita y no se recogerá ayuda financiera, (programa sera bilingual).

You and your family are invited to a celebration of unity in the different Hispanic churches, to promote their fellowship and unit in the body of Christ. The 26th of March at 5 p.m. at the M.K. Brown of Pampa, Texas; It will be bilingual. Our word will be given by Oscar Spike Maldonado, Pastor of Embassy church of Amarillo, Texas and our worship will be by the group Ebenezer. We will NOT collect an offering.

Community happenings

• Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live on Stage" 2004-05 concert series includes the following programs: Rhythm in Shoes on Oct. 26; pianist Richard Glazier on March 19; and Southern Fried Jazz Band on April 7. Each concert will get under way at 7:30 p.m. at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Additional concerts, some with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 675-2631.

• A Family Easter Egg Hunt is planned Saturday, March 26 at Memory Gardens Cemetery, located at 23rd and Price Road in Pampa. The egg hunt will start at 10 a.m. The event will include pictures with the Easter Bunny, and, for parents, a special egg hunt and a chance at a vacation give-away.

• Don Harrington Discovery Center and Space Theater will present "Discovery Center's Eggstravaganza 2005" from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. March 26 at its facility in Amarillo. A press release touts the event as "the largest egg hunt in the Panhandle with 10,000 eggs. Cost is \$8 per child for non-members and \$5 per child for members. Tickets include the egg hunt, special activities

and general admission to the center. General admission for adults is \$5.50. All tickets must be purchased at the center, 1200 Streit Dr., or by calling (806) 355-9547. The egg hunt will be broken down as follows: 10 a.m., 2&3-year-olds; 10:15 a.m., 4&5-year-olds; 10:30 a.m., 6&7-year-olds; 10:45 a.m., 8,9&10-year-olds; 11 a.m., special needs children; and 11:15 a.m., general egg hunt for children missing earlier hunts. Children must be escorted by an adult to participate.

• 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 low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

Wage

Continued from Page 4

prior to 1948, it had been essentially repealed by the post-World War II inflation; however, with successive increases in the minimum wage, black teen unemployment rose relative to white teens to where it has become permanently double that of white teens.

If the minimum wage law has these effects, then how does it pass political

muster? The current Social Security debate over private accounts gives us a hint. In the political arena, you dump on people who can't dump back on you. Few politicians owe their office to the youth vote. Despite the "concern for the children" malarkey they spout, it's voting age adults to whom politicians are beholden. It turns out that adults benefit from the discriminatory effects of minimum wages, and older adults benefit from Social Security intergenerational transfers.

Heard Jones



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter from a student who received detention for "respectfully disagreeing" with her teacher during a discussion of world events. In your reply, you suggested that the writer's comment may have been "disruptive," justifying the detention, and advised that it would have been more "diplomatic" to have voiced the disagreement in private. I take exception to your answer.

I am semi-retired now, but as a manager I had tremendous difficulty convincing subordinates that it was not only safe to disagree with me, but that I needed their frank opinions. I trace this to a situation described by John Holt in his 1964 book, "How Children Fail," in which he points out that the education system kills creativity, teaching students to anticipate what the teacher wants to hear and to feed it back to him/her.

I am currently co-director of the Master's in Health Physics Program at the Illinois Institute of Technology, engaged in the training of radiation safety professionals. It is essential that a safety professional be prepared to challenge his/her management when it proposes to do something that's contrary to law or regulation, or prejudicial to safe operation. The type of education described by Holt produces individuals who go along with management no matter what is proposed.

It is despicable that a teacher would conduct a "discussion" in which she entertains only opinions that agree with her own and punishes those that don't. The result for the students and our country is tragic. You should have supported the student. -- LAURENCE F. FRIEDMAN, PH.D.

DEAR DR. FRIEDMAN: You're right; I should have. And thousands of readers wrote to tell me so. (The e-mails, when printed out, weighed more than 15 pounds.)

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to the student to follow the "diplomatic" approach and wait until after class to comment was still reverberating in my mind when I moved on to a USA Weekend story, "First Amendment Rights Lost on Teens," describing a Knight Foundation poll of 100,000 students which found that the majority of them assign little or no value to their constitutional right to free speech. Your response to that student makes you part of the problem. -- UPSET IN SANTA CRUZ

DEAR ABBY: That teacher was behaving unprofessionally. I have been teaching for more than 20 years and have strong opinions of my own. One of them is that students be taught to think for themselves. The student should have been listened to with respect instead of punished. -- TEACHER IN EL CERRITO, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Any educator who uses the classroom to pontificate on his or her political or religious views and allows no dissent is more a tyrant than a teacher. Send that kid to my classroom and give the teacher detention! -- ENCOURAGES THOUGHT IN INDIANA

DEAR ABBY: Prejudice comes in many shapes and forms, and I applaud that student for standing up against it. Punishing a student for having a different political opinion sounds more like North Korea than the U.S.A. As it stands, these students are being cheated in their education because they are being taught about the world only through the narrow opinions of one misguided teacher. -- OUTRAGED IN DUBLIN, CALIF.

DEAR READERS: My answer left something to be desired, and for that I apologize.

For Better Or Worse



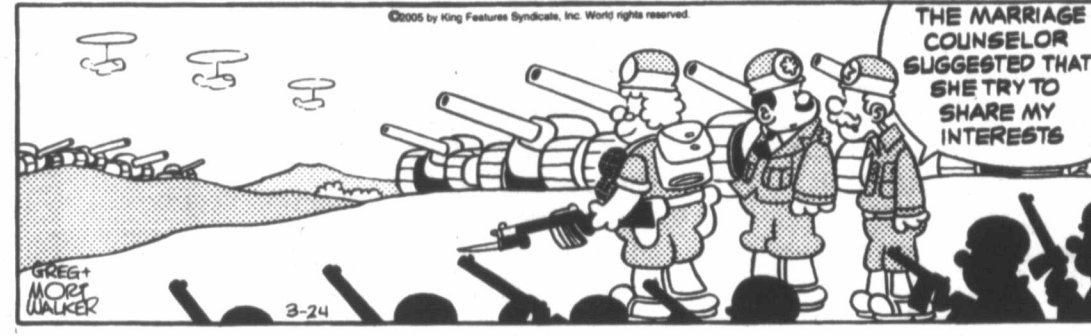
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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

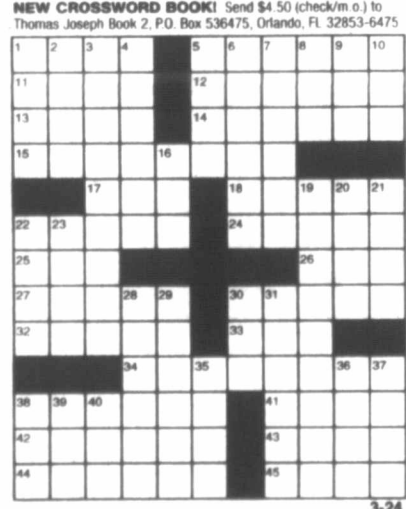
ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Company
- 2 Green shade
- 3 Ren's cartoon pal
- 4 Candidate of 1964
- 5 Press
- 6 Temporarily away
- 7 Shopping spot
- 8 Campaign contributor
- 9 Pizarro's quest
- 10 Method
- 11 Mood of the people
- 12 Classic Western
- 13 Corner pieces
- 14 Chasm
- 15 Drunk
- 16 Perfect
- 17 Peru peaks
- 18 Not wordy
- 19 Grass coating
- 20 Fancy urns
- 21 Treat badly
- 22 On the roof of
- 23 Tooth coat
- 24 Costly
- 25 Current info
- 26 General assembly?



Yesterday's answer

- 1 Tom
- 2 Joad,
- 3 for one
- 4 Grounded
- 5 Barbecue
- 6 Stash
- 7 By now
- 8 Deli
- 9 Corner
- 10 Ring
- 11 Tom
- 12 Joad,
- 13 for one
- 14 Grounded
- 15 Barbecue
- 16 Stash
- 17 By now
- 18 Deli
- 19 Corner
- 20 Ring



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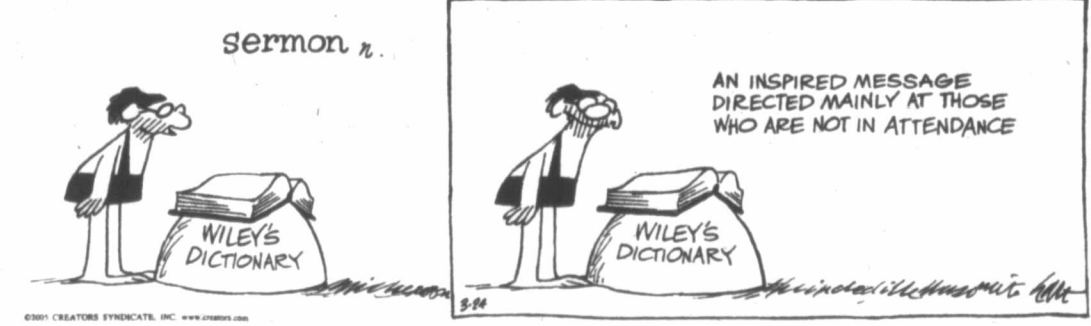
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The Family Circus



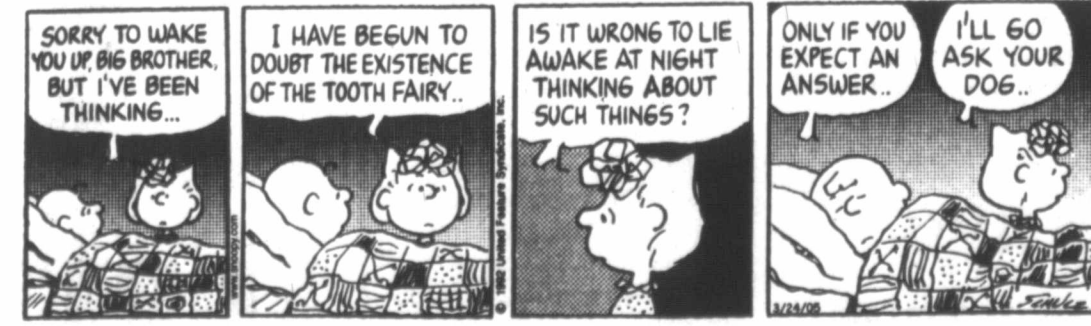
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Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

'Listen up ladies', I got the gift, however, it's missing something

Super-cool gift — To the 2004-05 Lady Harvester basketball team, thank you for the neat scrap book. It is by far, one of the coolest things I have ever received in my months-long career as Sports Editor for the Pampa News.

Now, allow me to show you how sharp the boy is.

I'm looking through it — get a few pages in — and realize I'm reading many of my own articles from the past season.

I had to stop; check to make sure I wasn't wearing a cone-shaped, paper dunce hat before continuing on.

As I continued to scan the pages of the book, I made horrible discovery. I am apparently very fond of the line, "Listen up ladies." For crying out loud, I used it a gazillion times during the season, usually above a picture of Coach Fry.

No wonder the girls didn't talk to me much. Poor things probably wondered, "So, does that sports guy think we're deaf or something?"

Grammar guffaws don't usually bother me too much. Heck, I'm still just a hayseed when it comes to this writing thing. But why didn't someone stop me? I'm not talking intervention here. More like a poke in my chubby ribs with a stick. Maybe a book of captions or something, given anonymously.

Odd flashback — I had a band teacher in junior high school that had really bad breath. So one Valentine's Day, we gave him a little bottle of mouthwash disguised

as a box of candy. Funny thing, his breath continued to stink, but he soon started losing his hair. Many of us wondered if he was using it as hair tonic rather than the halitosis inhibitor it was intended to be.

Just thought I would share that with you. The book also made it clear, I need photography lessons. One could argue it is an equipment issue.

Still, I am not holding out hope for an Emmy, Pulitzer or other picture-takin' prize based on my shutter skills. I wonder if I wouldn't be better off roaming the sidelines with a No. 2 pencil and a Big Chief tablet, drawing stick

figures?

Seriously, let me get back to the gift aspect of this book. It's clear that an awful lot of work went into it. It is colorful, fun and, above all, unexpected. And those are the best gifts of all.

However, I was surprised to see the book was not complete. I would like for it to be. It is sitting on my desk, in my little cubicle, with a new Sharpie attached to it.

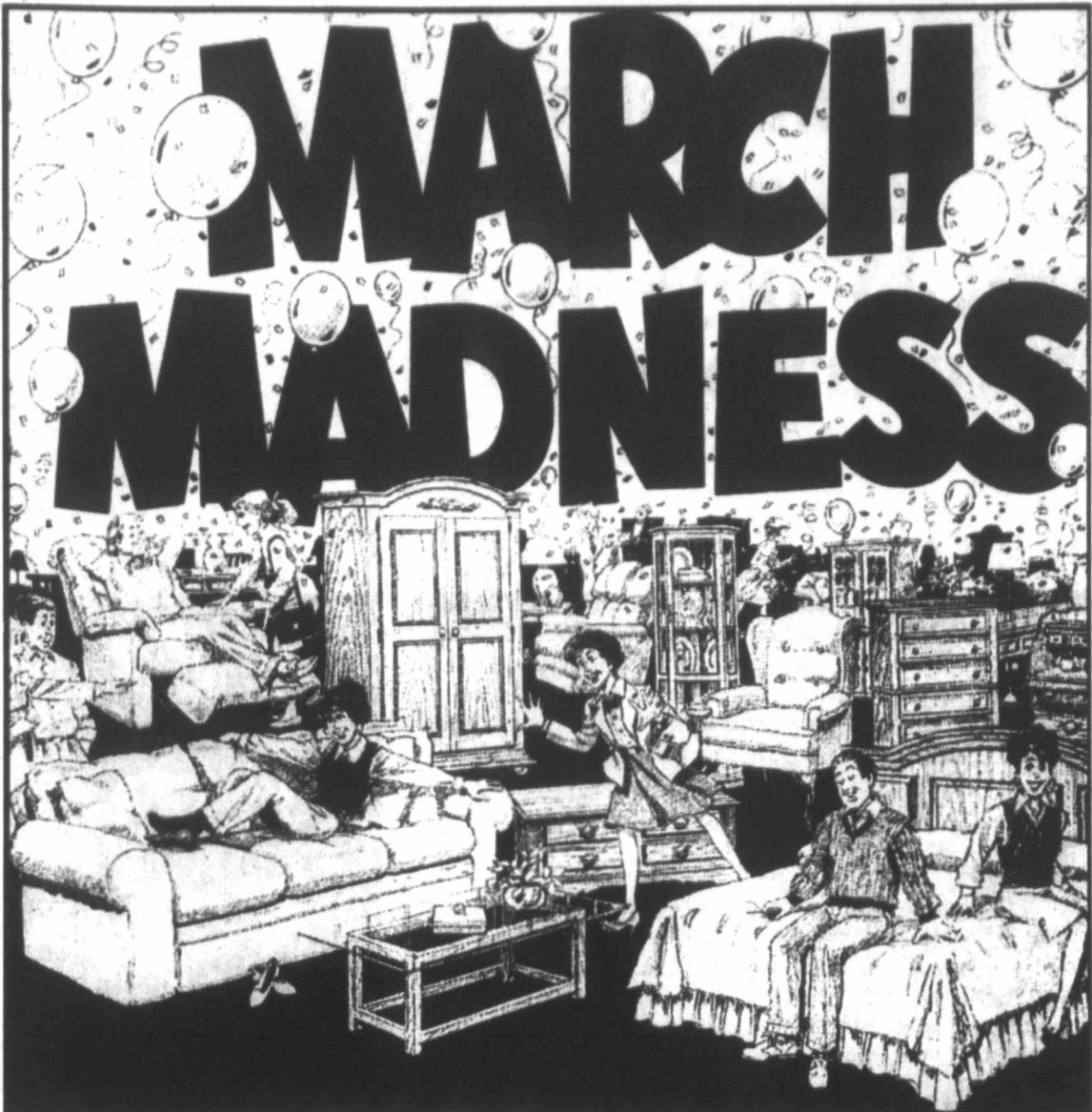
You know what to do. If it needs to travel for a day or two, that's fine. I'm confident it knows how to get back home.

Speaking of basketball — The boys' basketball banquet is next Tuesday night at the First Baptist Church.

Things will get started at 7 p.m. Today is the last day you can get your tickets, which are only \$10 each.

To RSVP, please call Sandy Clark at the athletic office, 669-4830.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



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Knight, minus the bullwhip, returns to The Pit tonight

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — There's still plenty of bite left in Bob Knight, even without the bullwhip.

Knight, in the regional semifinals for the first time since 1994 and trying to get Texas Tech to the round of eight for the first time, wasted no time putting the censors to work Wednesday.

As Knight took to the podium for a news conference, he took a few good-natured verbal jabs at an NCAA moderator. The coach called the moderator a tough guy with a lot of rules, sprinkling a couple of expletives in along the way.

Sixth-seeded Texas Tech (22-10) plays seventh-seeded West Virginia (23-10) on Thursday night, featuring two teams that started the NCAA tournament with modest expectations and now are a two wins away from the Final Four.

The winner will play either Washington or Louisville on Saturday, and there is the tantalizing possibility of a matchup between slick and stylish Rick Pitino and Knight, a coaching icon of a whole different sort.

Wearing a purple sweater and taking a swipe at the NCAA for making him drink out of one of its specially sponsored paper cups, Knight was his usual contentious self during his 15 minutes on the podium. He took his customary pokes at the media and questioned why anyone would think his best years were behind him.

Of course, this was powder-puff stuff compared to the show he put on here 13 years ago.

Knight brought Indiana to The Pit in 1992 for an NCAA tournament game against Florida State and stirred instant turmoil by "jokingly" raking a bullwhip — which he described as the best motivational tool ever invented — across the butt of Hoosiers guard Calbert Chaney during a practice session.

During an earlier press conference, Knight had

asked for a glass of water so he could dip the tip of the whip. Hurts more when it's wet and cold, he said.

Chaney, who is black, said at the time that he and some of the other Hoosiers bought the whip for Knight as a joke, but the escapade produced more than 100 telephoned complaints to the local NAACP chapter.

This time, there were no visual aids. At practice, he sat calmly, legs folded, and barely said a word. At the news conference, he had his moments, but nothing out of control. He mostly talked about how tough it is to make the NCAA tournament field and how the Red Raiders, like the Mountaineers, have over-

achieved in getting this far. "Nobody picked this team higher than seventh in the Big 12 and no one picked them to go to the NCAA tournament," Knight said. "Getting into this tournament is the culmination of a lot of work. Anything you can do from that point on just adds to it."

Texas Tech beat UCLA 78-66 and Gonzaga 71-69 to reach the round of 16. Guard Ronald Ross, a former walk-on, has emerged as the Red Raiders' leader. He scored 24 points, including a 3-pointer with 1:06 left that put Tech in front for good in the win over Gonzaga.

See KNIGHT, Page 8

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Lady Harvesters seek second 3-4A win; JV boys start in Amarillo tourney

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Lady Harvesters
The Lady Harvester junior varsity and varsity softball teams will travel to Hereford this afternoon for a meeting with the Lady Whitefaces. Games are set to begin at 4:30. Both Pampa squads are coming off district-opening wins over Randall earlier in the week. "You're always happy to start off on such a good note," said Coach Bobbi Gill. "It is always a little tougher to win on the road, so we need to stay focused."

The JV team enters the afternoon with a record of 8-1-1, 1-0. The varsity unit is 15-7, 1-0.

Pampa JV
The Pampa Harvester JV baseball team (4-5) makes it's second trip to Amarillo this week to begin a three day tournament. Coach Clint Allen and his team faced Amarillo High School this past Monday, defeating the JV Sandies, 9-5. They are scheduled for one game this afternoon when they will take on Palo Duro. Game time is 1 p.m. The Harvesters have two games on tap tomorrow, with the first scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. "We had a good practice yesterday and I think the team is ready to play," said Allen. Brad Johnson (1-1) will take the mound against PD this afternoon.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Lady Harvester outfielder Teryn Garner, lower left, and her Pampa teammates gather before the start of Tuesday's District 3-4A opener at home against Randall. Pampa won that game, 13-0, and chases district win No. 2 in Hereford this afternoon.

NSCRC reverses suspensions

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — The National Stock Car Racing Commission rescinded the two-race suspensions NASCAR levied against crew chiefs Jimmie Johnson and Kyle Busch, and

instead placed both on 90 days probation. Chad Knaus and Alan Gustafson were penalized 10 days ago because the cars they prepared for their drivers failed post-race inspection in Las Vegas.

Knight

Continued from Page 7

Ross said the Red Raiders are a collection of role players who find a way to win. "Everybody on our team is good at certain kinds of

things," Ross said.

Ross has become one of Knight's favorite players, but in this case, he differed with his guard on the idea that Knight is a master at turning role players into winners.

"That may be, but I'd rather recruit five Michael Jordans — see if I could get five Michael Jordans and let them define their own roles," said Knight.

West Virginia is in the round of 16 for the first time since 1998 and a win over the Red Raiders would give the Mountaineers their deepest run into the tournament since Jerry West led the school to a runner-up finish behind California in 1959.

Unlike Knight, who is making his 27th appearance in the tournament, West Virginia coach John Beilein is not a regular.

This is just his third trip. Nor is Beilein anywhere near the celebrity as the guy

he'll face Thursday.

The West Virginia coach's news conference was about half as full as Knight's.

"We are fortunate to be here," said Beilein, whose team beat Creighton by two in the first round, then needed double overtime to defeat Wake Forest in the second.

"A bounce of a ball or an official's call could have changed the outcome of the game."

The Mountaineers opened the season with 10 straight wins, then hit a slump in the Big East season.

It got so bad, Beilein considered going with younger players and looking to next season.

"Nobody believed in each other, but all we needed was a win," Beilein said.

That win came at Providence (82-78) in late January and since then the Mountaineers are 11-4.

Late registrations, tryouts end today

Late sign-ups and tryouts conclude today for Pampa Optimist Baseball/Softball 2005 for boys and girls five to 15 years of age from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Optimist Park, according to Optimist Baseball Commissioner Kevin Davis.

"We will have five teams in the 7-9 Girl's Softball League and in the 10-12 Girl's Major Softball League," Davis said. "Culligan Water Conditioning, National Oil Well-Varco, Quality Sales, The Pampa News and Warner Law Firm will compete in the younger girls' softball pitching machine division.

Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors, Culberson-Stowers Chevrolet, Dyers Bar-B-Que, Farm Bureau Insurance and Panhandle Performors round out the Major Softball League.

"At the present time we will have two Pampa teams, Celanese Corporation and Triangle Well Servicing Co., in the 13-15 Senior Girls' Softball League," Davis continued. "We should be announcing the out of town teams who will play in this league in a few days."

Chris Engle, the Commissioner of the 9-10 Cal Ripken Baseball League, said that Dean's

Pharmacy, Family Pharmacy, FirstBank Southwest, Kiwanis Club, Moose Lodge and National Oil Well-Varco will be the six teams in that league this season.

"All six teams return in the 11-12 Cal Ripken Baseball League," said Haynes, who is the Commissioner for the league.

"The teams are Cabot Corporation, Celanese Corporation, D. E. Chase, Inc., Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Glo-Valve Service and Rotary Club."

Dori Miller, the Commissioner for the 5-6 T-Ball League and the 7-8 Pitching Machine League, said, "We are going to have at least 14 T-Ball teams and eight Pitching Machine teams, but we have to see how many coaches we have so we will know how many to put on each team. We want to have about 10 on the T-Ball teams and 12 or 13 on the Pitching Machine teams. I should be able to announce the teams later this week after registration is completed."

The Pampa United Way agency is expecting teams from Clarendon, Claude, Lefors, Miami, McLean, Fort Elliott and Wheeler to join the program this season.

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 (806)665-2991

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.

3-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

XAXYEVVPX M CNBZI ZUMZ
 DVAX BI SVPCTXYTD MPC
 PXOXIIMYE, KJZ PV VPX OMP
 MFYXX VP SUMZ BZ BI.

— CBMPX MOQXYNMP
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DRESS UNAFFECTEDLY, AND, WITHOUT HASTE, FOLLOW THE CHANGES IN THE CURRENT TASTE. — MOLIERE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, March 25, 2005:

You often weigh issues and situations so much so that you get nothing accomplished or decided. Realize that in a sense, by doing nothing, you are making a decision. A passive role really is not you; though oddly enough, you will assume one this year. At some point you could opt to be more assertive. The unusual amount of charisma that you possess helps you in many situations. People are more important than ever. A key relationship stars in your year. If you are single, you will have many opportunities to change your status. Ask yourself what you want. If you are attached, you defer to your sweetie often. Your relationships heats up as a result. LIBRA finds you to be magnetic.

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)

★★★★ Network and work with the social mood that permeates the day. Others greet a call positively. You simply might receive too many invitations. Diplomatically pick and choose. How you say "no" could make all the difference. Tonight: Just let it happen.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ You are determined to clear out errands and whatever else might prevent you from launching into a wonderful weekend. Curb a tendency to go to excess, which happens easily for the Bull. Avoid becoming exhausted. Tonight: Put your feet up.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Let others run with the ball, while you act on some of your wilder ideas. Others love your wit, humor and

perspective. Laugh and help others end their week on a positive note. Cook up a solution for someone in a bind.
 Tonight: Christen the weekend.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★★ If you can bring your work home or finish a project around the house, please do. You get more done when you are comfortable. Don't hesitate to call in or change plans. Hang out with whomever you want. Tonight: You don't have to go far.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★★★ You could be pulled in many directions -- so many people seek you out. You feel obligated. The Full Moon tests your ability to handle others' demands and the ensuing stress. Clear out what no longer works for you. Tonight: Get together with your friends.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★★ Handle your finances with care. A slipup could prove to be very costly if you aren't careful. You might want to indulge a loved one, and you probably will. What will be the ultimate cost? Play the conservative role. Tonight: You don't need to go overboard in order to make someone happy.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★★★★ You beam onto the scene a force to be dealt with. Your energy peaks just in time for you to cover all your bases. Share your humorous perspective and ability to walk through problems. No wonder everyone is looking for you! Tonight: Wish upon a star!
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ Take your time. Your mind could be working overtime. Some of your concerns might not be grounded in reality. Schedule a walk or some downtime. Your world could look much different as a result. Your daily routine might be getting to be a bit much.

14h Gen. Serv.
 COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.
 IS your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

HANDYMAN: electric, painting, plumbing & dry wall and more. Call 665-2017.

14n Painting
 INT/EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

5 Special Notices
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found
FOUND female, all white, lrg. puppy in Deane Dr. area. Come by 1101 S. Hobart.

LOST Mini Schnauzer! 1400 bl. Christy, party color grey-wh., name Jaci. Needs med. Reward. Call 664-0021.

LOST on Hwy 2857 co. Rd. L. m. blue heeler; red collar, no tags. Reward, 779-2842, 334-5420

GERMAN Short Hair Pointer, lost 1800 bl. Christine, Mar. 22. Ans. to Astro. 669-1349, 886-3473. Reward.

13 Bus. Opp.
 START a second income stream for \$99. Call 817-481-4736.

14d Carpentry
 Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement windows, steel siding & trim Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

NEW Const., remodeling, replacement windows. Shawn Deaver Constr. 662-2977, 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

ADDITIONS, remodeling, roofing, cabinets, painting, all types repairs. Mike Albus, 665-4774.

14e Carpet Serv.
 NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...it pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

21 Help Wanted
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT
Fun Valley Family Resort. South Fork Co. Needs retirees w/ own RV for all types of jobs. Office, house keeping, cooks, maintenance & RV parks. For info & application. Write to Personnel Director. 9010 Ravenswood Granbury Tx. 76049

21 Help Wanted
Summer Employment
Fun Valley Family Resort. South Fork Colo. Needs students to work all types of jobs. kitchen, dining room, house keeping, stores, maintenance, horse wrangler & office salary. Room, Board, Bus. For info. & appl. Write to Personnel Director. 9010 Ravenswood, Granbury Tx. 76049

21 Help Wanted
Hostesses & Waitresses needed. Waitresses must be 18. Apply in person, Dyer's BBQ.

21 Help Wanted
KITCHEN help needed: Must be able to work some mornings and some evenings. Dyer's BBQ.

21 Help Wanted
NOW seeking a temporary full / part time dependable sales person to operate Pampa store. Duties: assisting customers, maintaining plants and operating cash register. Starting pay \$6 hr., 40 hr. work week. No exp. nec. Hiring begins Apr. 1st.
 Send resume to: D&C Greenhouse, 36 Nelson Dr. Spearman, Tx. 79081

21 Help Wanted
SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder-fabricators and a paint test service technician. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

21 Help Wanted
WAITSTAFF needed, exp. preferred. Apply in person after 2 p.m. at The Lonestar Restaurant.

21 Help Wanted
MEMORY GARDENS CEMETERY is accepting applications for full-time Cemetery Grounds Maintenance. Applicant must have exp. in heavy equip. operation, lawn-care and knowledge of equip. repair. Must be able to lift. Apply directly at Cemetery office, located at 23rd & Price Rd. OR call 665-8921.

21 Help Wanted
EVE. Dietary Helper needed. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. FT w/ benefits. Hours are noon-8:30 p.m. 537-3194, ask for Linda or Phyllis. May apply in person.

21 Help Wanted
NEW in Plastic Mattress Sets 1 to 20 yr. warr. All sizes. 10 styles. Wholesale prices. Elite Furniture & Bedding 806-677-0400.

21 Help Wanted
HOT TUB / SPA New w/ warranty, 6 person. Beautiful Redwood Cabinet, Lounger, Waterfall, Ozonator. 6 1/2 hp. \$3650. Limited Supply. 806-655-7881.

21 Help Wanted
WASHER & elec. dryer needed. (HotPoint), white \$150. Must sell. Call 665-0328 aft. 5 or lv. msg.

21 Help Wanted
Beautifully furn. 1 bdrs. starting at \$350. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site.
 Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149
 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

21 Help Wanted
103 Homes For Sale
 Twila Fisher
 Century 21 Pampa Realty
 665-3560, 663-1442
 669-0007

21 Help Wanted
103 Homes For Sale
 3 bdr., 1 ba., 1140 Cinderella, Pampa. C/h/a, tons of stor., nice neighborhood. \$30,000 obo. No owner finance. 580-928-3466

21 Help Wanted
 3 bdr., 2 ba., dbl. gar., corner lot, gas fpl., 2 stor. bldgs. 1533 N. Zimmers, \$87,000. 669-3095.

21 Help Wanted
 4 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., 1 car gar., sunroom, new carpet, paint, etc. Good location! 665-4842.

21 Help Wanted
BY OWNER. 3/3/2. Fruit trees & garden. 1602 Charles. 669-7710

21 Help Wanted
 BY Owner. Very nice Duplex. 1014 & 1016 N. Dwight Both sides. 3br., 2 ba., 2 car gar. \$116,000. OBO 664-3317, 662-9487

21 Help Wanted
 MAD? Banks don't give house loans due to credit problems, I do! LD Kirk Homelands Mortgages (254)947-4475
 www.homeland46.com

21 Help Wanted
NEW HOME FOR SALE
LOOP 171 NORTH WHITE ACRES COUNTRY LIVING
 4 bdr., 2 ba., 3 car gar., 1 1/4 acres, 2100 sq. ft.
 \$165,000
 Ready for paint & flooring selections. Move in 30 days. Call John Clark 662-9487

21 Help Wanted
 NICE 3/1/1, cent. h/a, cellar, stor. bldg., \$34K obo. Not financing. 2134 Sumner. 669-3780.

21 Help Wanted
104 Lots
 NOCONA Hills, lot for sale in Howardwick, Tx. Suitable for building 1-806-435-2856.

21 Help Wanted
106 Coml. Property
 2222 Perryton Parkway, Vacant Commercial Lot. Price Reduced by 1/2. C-21 Realtor, 665-4180.

21 Help Wanted
112 Farms/Ranches
JUST LISTED!
 68 +/- Ac. near Darrowzett, live water from Kiowa Creek, RV hooksups, lots of trees & wildlife. Offered exclusively by Whitaker Real Estate 356-6100

21 Help Wanted
114 Recre. Veh.
 86 Road Runner II, 24 ft., exc. shape, new appl., \$2500 obo. 806-354-0372, 806-584-7755

21 Help Wanted
115 Trailer Parks
 TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

21 Help Wanted
120 Autos
 1988 Pontiac SSE Bonneville, 4D, new tires, battery. Runs great, cool car! First \$1950. 665-4816.

21 Help Wanted
121 Trucks
 1990 GMC 3/4 ton. 4 Speed, am/fm, a/c, 4 speed, 350 engine. White House Lumber, 669-3291.

21 Help Wanted
 91 Chevy, blk, air, cruise, pwr. steering/brakes, am/fm cassette, hi mi. Exc. shape. \$2500 obo. 806-584-7755, 354-0372

21 Help Wanted
 1992 GMC shortbed, 4.3. See at Top Notch Transmission. 1-27 south exit 2219, Ama. 622-2599 or 665-5473.

21 Help Wanted
126 Boats & Access.
 94 Procraft Fish & Ski boat, 150 Mariner. Exc. cond. Extras incl. \$7850. 806-274-4080, 898-8170

21 Help Wanted
NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

21 Help Wanted
D.E. CHASE, INC.
 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx.
TRUCK DRIVERS WANTED
 4 days on / 2 days off Medical & Dental Ins. Uniforms
 Monthly Safety Bonus
Requirements:
 CLASS A CDL
 DOT Physical
 DOT Drug Screen
 HAZMAT Endorsement
 Apply in person
NO PHONE CALLS!

21 Help Wanted
CNAs
 Full time positions on all shifts. Immediate openings. Must have TEXAS state Certification. We offer competitive rates, vacation leave & holiday pay; full time employees are eligible for company health insurance benefits. EOE / MFHV. For more information, call (806)273-3785, or apply in person, Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. BORGER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1316 S. Florida, Borger, Tx 79007.

21 Help Wanted
LVN
 ASK ABOUT OUR NEW SIGN-ON BONUS! Full time opening. Must have TEXAS State license. Competitive rates & benefits for full time employees. EOE. For more information call (806)665-5746, or apply in person at CORONADO HEALTHCARE CENTER, 1504 W. Kentucky, Ave., Pampa.

21 Help Wanted
2 FULL TIME CHARGE NURSES
 2-10 p.m.
 McLean Care Center
 Call 806-779-2469
 ask for Administrator or the D.O.N.

21 Help Wanted
MCLEAN NEWSPAPER CARRIER NEEDED
 Apply in person or call Debbie Cantrell The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison Pampa, 669-2525

21 Help Wanted
W&W FIBERGLASS IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
 Fiberglass Manufacturing General Labor +40 hrs / wk
 *Salary based on exp.

21 Help Wanted
CRALL PRODUCTS
 Immediate Openings
 *General Labor
 *Sandblaster/ Painter
 *Welders
 40hrs + wk.
 Salary based on exp.
Apply in Person: W. Hwy 152, Pampa

21 Help Wanted
HOUSTON LUMBER
 420 W. Foster
 669-6881

21 Help Wanted
60 Household
 \$128 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty, QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr., sell \$199, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd, warr. sell \$169, Full size mattress set new, never used \$89, \$170 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, \$218 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd, warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed, List \$750 sell \$350, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

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Nexstar demands CableONE customers pay \$1.5 million or lose KAMR



Cable ONE customers have always received their local NBC channel with their service at no additional cost. But now, Nexstar Broadcasting is demanding an additional \$1.5 million for its stations including KAMR.

Nexstar wants you to pay extra or they're going to take KAMR away. As we continue our negotiations, we need your help. We're asking you to call them. Tell them how you feel. And maybe together, we can make a difference. Thank you.

CABLE ONE[®]

KAMR

806-383-3321

Nexstar Broadcasting Group, Inc.

812-242-9917