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SEE PAGE 8



THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, March 20, 2006

Volume 101 • No. 1223

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Thornberry discusses disaster aid with county leaders



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry met with local officials in the second-floor courtroom of Gray County Courthouse this morning to discuss the effects of last week's wildfires before leaving to tour some of the burned areas. From left are Thornberry, Pampa/Gray County Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall and County Judge Richard Peet.

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry hopes to be able to aid area farmers and ranchers affected by last week's wildfires through attachments to current proposed federal legislation, he told a small group of local leaders this morning at Gray County Courthouse.

Thornberry met with Gray County Judge Richard Peet, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Joe Wheeley, Precinct 2 County Commissioner Gary Willoughby and Pampa/Gray County Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall at 7 a.m. today in the second-floor courtroom to discuss the effects of the fire and help needed in its aftermath before going on a tour of some of the burned areas.

Thornberry has proposed area compensation for livestock owners for their animal losses through the Livestock Indemnity Program, and funding and technical assistance through the Emergency Conservation Program to rehabilitate farm and ranch land by removing debris, restoring fences and conservation structures, and providing water for livestock.

It may be a month, however, before such measures are voted on and put into practice if passed, he said this morning.

"I hope this FEMA help starts quickly," Thornberry said.

Hall said that an assessment team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be in Pampa at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

See AID, Page 3

Two provisions

Tyng Street surface could get facelift next year

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The broken concrete now covering Tyng between Starkweather and Cuyler may get a facelift next year.

In a planning session last week, the Pampa City Commission indicated that they may include a renovation of Tyng in next year's budget.

Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris said there were problems with an earlier traffic count on

Tyng, but that new figures should be available within the next few days.

Complaints about the street have revolved around people using it when trains block the Starkweather crossing, particularly with regard to travel to and from the Optimist's baseball field and gym.

"Baseball season is about to start," said Commissioner Lana Miller.

She said she had been contacted by several residents concerning

Tyng's state of disrepair.

"There are worse streets," Morris said, "but I don't know if they have as much traffic."

Morris said that Tyng had originally been on the list of streets to be resurfaced in a 1989 bond issue, but money fell short to finish Kingsmill, Foster and Duncan, so repairs to Tyng had been postponed and that money had gone to complete work on the other streets.

Tyng's surface was made worse by repairs to a broken water main beneath the street. Thinking that Tyng was going to be resurfaced, the street was patched with asphalt rather than concrete.

To complicate matters, Tyng is about 50 feet wide, wider than normal for most city streets.

Morris said that there are several

See TYNG, Page 3

City may drill new water well

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The City of Pampa may abandon one of its water wells and drill a new one.

City Manager John Horst reported to the Pampa City Commission last week that the city's water well on Oklahoma Street was pumping sand.

"We may have to abandon it and re-drill," Horst said.

He said he fears that the sand will damage a new pump installed in the well and that the state requires that the city wells not pump above a certain percentage of sand.

See WELL, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS
Runoff from rainfall which began Friday and lasted all weekend accumulated among the trees in Evergreen Street Park, east of Evergreen Street between 20th and 22nd Avenues, to form a pond. The automated weather station near Recreation Park recorded .55 inches of rainfall from Friday through Sunday. More moisture was expected today, including a chance of snow.

Working for progress group will meet Tuesday

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Working for Progress, a group of residents hoping to improve conditions in all Pampa's neighborhoods, will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston.

Officers will be elected, and the group will decide in

which ward of Pampa to begin their cleanup efforts.

The meeting is open to the public.

Tuesday's meeting will be the second for Working for Progress, whose primary goal will be to help clean up the city and improve its appearance. The group, expected to be made up of

residents of each ward of the city, will provide input to the Pampa city commission concerning needed improvements in each ward.

"Every area of Pampa needs to be developed," said Barbara Patrick, one of the organizers of the group. "The city does not have enough manpower or equip-

ment. We have equipment and manpower donated to us, and we can assist the city in cleanup and other work."

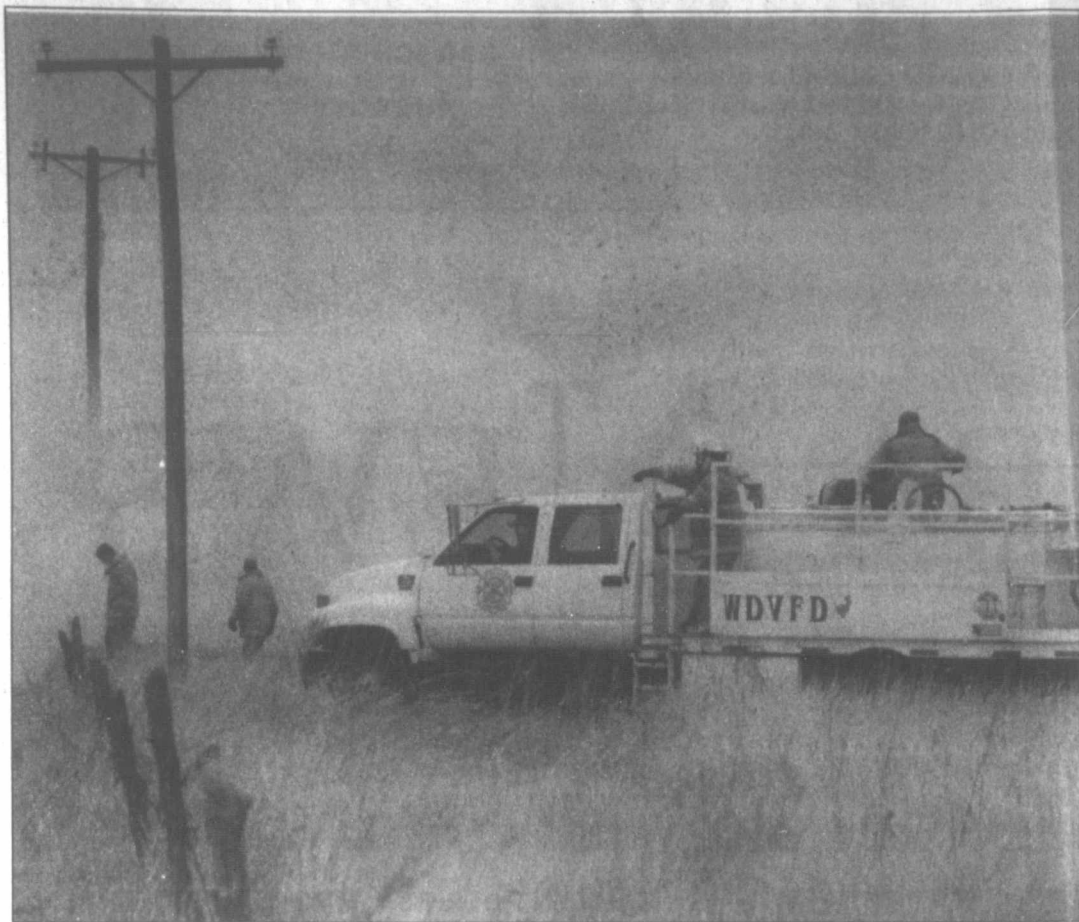
"Our volunteers will help clean up areas that are not privately owned," Patrick said. "The city manager has a list of homes and lots that are privately owned, so we'll know which ones not to go

to."

Patrick plans to seek grant monies to help fund the cleanup and improvements. "There is a need here. There is no sense in all of us sitting here looking at it and nobody doing anything about it," Patrick said.

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Fires doused



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Members of the White Deer Volunteer Fire Department check hot spots Friday on several grass fires near Highway 60 between Panhandle and White Deer. Weekend rains have diminished the danger of last week's prairie wildfires.

Gray County Weather

Today: Periods of rain showers, mixing with snow after 11 a.m. Temperature falling to around 31 by 5pm. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. Windy, with a south southwest wind 15 to 25 mph becoming northwest. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New snow accumulation of around 2 inches.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before midnight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 22. Wind chill values between 10 and 17. Windy, with a north northwest wind 25 to 30 mph decreasing to

between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 38. Wind chill values between 9 and 19. North northwest wind around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 23. Wind chill values between 12 and 17. East wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 46. East southeast wind around 15 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 23. North northeast wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 47. North wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 28. North northwest wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 54. West wind around 5 mph becoming southeast.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 32.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 60.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 63.

Playing cards may break cold cases

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — Crime Stoppers hopes to shed light on unsolved crimes by distributing playing cards with information about cold cases to inmates in a West Texas jail.

The cards will display images of victims of

unsolved homicide cases, missing people thought to be victims of foul play and fugitives wanted for homicide, said Susan Rogers of Odessa Crime Stoppers.

"There's something about the criminal element where you have inmates that talk amongst themselves, and hopefully, if they do the right thing, they'll tell the authorities, who may at least have leads to work with," Rogers said.

The Odessa Police Department and Ector County Sheriff's Office both said they'll help pay for the cards, which will be made available to inmates in the Ector County Detention Center.

Sheriff Mark Donaldson said inmates will be able to purchase the cards with their commissary accounts.

"Any chance we have an opportunity to close an old homicide case or missing persons case, we'll do everything we can," Donaldson

said. "We just hope we have the right person looking at the cards so we can close some cases."

Rogers said she encountered the idea at a conference last year. A similar program has helped authorities in Polk County, Fla., solve two homicides and arrest six fugitives, she said.

The deck's aces will contain information about the federal penalties for convicted felons caught with weapons, she said.

Inmates who provide information that leads to a case being solved could receive up to a \$1,000 reward, Rogers said. Texas law funds Crime Stoppers reward money through probation fees paid by people convicted of anything worse than a class C misdemeanor.

Jackie Kemp said she'd be grateful if the cards helped break open the case of her sister Judie Munguia, who went missing 25 years ago.

Belarus elections called farce, White House seeks new ones

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Monday called for new elections in Belarus after independent observers said the re-election of hard-line incumbent Alexander Lukashenko was a farce.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan hinted at sanctions against Belarus, saying that penalties such as travel restrictions "are things we will look at."

"The United States does not accept the results of the election," McClellan told reporters on Air Force One as President Bush flew to a speech in Cleveland.

He said the election was flawed by "a climate of fear."

"We support the call for a new election," the press secretary said. "The United States

will continue to stand with the people of Belarus."

Lukashenko has ruled Belarus, a nation of 10 million, since 1994, quashing opposition groups and independent media, leading Western nations to dub him "Europe's last dictator" and treat him as a pariah.

Last month, the Bush administration accused Lukashenko's government of involvement in the murders of a pro-democracy businessman and an independent journalist.

To underscore U.S. disapproval of the ex-Soviet republic's behavior, Bush and National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley met with the victims' widows, Svyatlana Zavadskaya and Irina Krasovskaya.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Fifty-six traffic stops were made, resulting in at least one arrest.

Traffic complaints were received from the 300 block of Jean and the 100 block of East Harvester.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Kentucky and Coffee streets and the intersection of Brown and Gillespie streets.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive, the intersection of Hobart and Kentucky streets and the intersection of Browning and Magnolia streets.

Agency assistance was attempted at the intersection of County Roads 6 and J, the 900 block of East Frederic, the intersection of Alcock and Doyle streets, the 2300 block of Alcock and the 800 block of East Craven.

Two burglar alarms were reported.

Welfare checks were made in the 1900 block of Chestnut, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 1100 block of Varnon Drive, the 900 block of East Francis, the 200 block of North Nelson and the 800 block of Locust.

Warrant service was attempted on two occasions, resulting in at least one arrest.

Civil matters were reported in the police department lobby, the 700 block of North Christy and the 800 block of East Kingsmill.

An animal complaint was received from the 1000 block of South Faulkner.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 1300 block of Coffee.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1900 block of Duncan, the intersection of Crawford and Wells streets, the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the intersection of Crawford and Neel streets, the 700 block of Lefors, the intersection of Browning and Hazel streets, the 2000 block of Alcock

and the 1000 block of West Wilks.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 900 block of Llano and the 800 block of Duncan.

A prowler was reported in the 200 block of South Tignor.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler, the 1000 block of North Hobart, the 1500 block of North Hobart and twice in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic and the 2700 block of Cherokee.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of Holly. A window was broken out of a 1994 Chevrolet pickup. Estimated cost of damage is \$500.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of North Russell. A window was broken, for an estimated \$350 damage.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 2600 block of Cherokee.

Burglary of a building was reported by the City of Pampa in the 800 block of South Municipal Drive. Padlocks were broken, resulting in damage estimated at \$20.

Burglary was reported in the 100 block of South Dwight. A rifle, shotgun and rifle with scope were taken, resulting in an estimated loss of \$140.

Burglary was reported in the 800 block of East Locust. Taken were an Xbox, tobacco and money. Estimated value of loss is \$100.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of East Francis. A DVD player valued at \$79 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells. A tacklebox and two cartons of cigarettes were taken. Total estimated loss is \$500.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 140 S. Starkweather. A 30-pack of beer was taken.

Theft was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart and the police department lobby.

Assault was reported in the 100 block of West 30th, the 1000 block of Huff Road, the 2200 block of Charles and on two occasions in the police department lobby.

Sexual assault was reported in the police department lobby.

A disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of Mary Ellen.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1300 block of East Francis, the 1400 block of Charles and the 500 block of South Cuyler.

Minor in possession of alcohol, evading arrest, resisting arrest and failure to identify were reported in the 900 block of East Francis.

Driving under the influence/minor, no valid driver's license, no proof of financial responsibility and open container were reported in the 1200 block of Alcock.

Sheriff

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

Saturday, March 18
Amelia Dominey, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 1400 block of Charles by Pampa Police Department for resisting arrest and assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

Sunday, March 19
John Howard Adams, 39, of Hollywood, Fla., was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

Fire

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

Saturday, March 18
11:57 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Kentucky and Hobart on a vehicle accident.

Monday, March 20
12:12 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 700 block of North Banks on a Dumpster fire.

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Spring begins with snowstorm in Midwest

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A storm system barreled across the Plains states on the last day of winter, dumping more than a foot of snow that stalled highway travelers today in South Dakota and Nebraska and causing flooding in Texas.

Hundreds of schools were closed Monday in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and South Dakota, and at least two deaths were blamed on the storm. Six-foot snowdrifts were reported in western South Dakota.

Spring officially begins Monday at 1:26 p.m. EST.

"The roads are terrible, just terrible," said Shirley Tomac, 49, of Elizabeth, Colo., about 25 miles southeast of Denver. Her 5-mile drive to work took about twice as long as usual Monday.

The storm also stymied lawmakers. Monday was scheduled as the final day of the South Dakota Legislature's 2006 session in Pierre, but it had to be postponed to Tuesday, said Senate Republican Leader Eric Bogue.

A stretch of about 200 miles of Interstate 90 was closed Monday across South Dakota from Rapid City to Chamberlain because of the heavy snow and stuck trailer-trailer rigs. It had been shut down since Sunday afternoon.

Brigitte Buck and her husband were

trying to drive home on I-90 to Rapid City but had to wait out the storm at the town of Oacoma, across the Missouri River from Chamberlain.

"We knew it was coming," Buck said. "We were just hoping it wouldn't be this bad."

Every motel room was taken in Wall, between Chamberlain and Rapid City, with many of them full of players and fans who were returning home from a high school basketball tournament in Rapid City.

Nearly 70 people spent the night at the Wall Community Center, said director Carla Seybold. "We have some Red Cross cots and we have some sports mats, and a few people are just sleeping on the carpet," Seybold said Monday.

About a 50-mile section of west-bound I-80 was closed in western Nebraska, the State Patrol said.

Up to 18 inches of snow was reported in South Dakota, with 13 in Nebraska and 11 in eastern Colorado.

Stiff wind piled the snow in 6-foot drifts in northwestern South Dakota, said weather service meteorologist Kyle Carstens. Accumulations could be more than 20 inches by the time the storm ends, he said.

All of Colorado's major highways and Denver International Airport were open today, but on Sunday two passen-

ger trains were stalled for hours in the mountains after a separate rail maintenance vehicle derailed because of the storm.

The Ski Train, which runs between Denver and the Winter Park resort, was stuck for about five hours with some 700 aboard.

"Having to sit on a train that wasn't moving wasn't what we wanted," said Erin Flanagan, who lugged ski gear and shepherded her two children, ages 6 and 8, off the Ski Train after it finally arrived in Denver.

Farther south, heavy rain during the weekend soaked parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Up to 8 inches of rain was reported in North Texas, causing weekend flooding around the Dallas area. That eased what has been classified as a "severe" drought in the region, but the National Weather Service said the Dallas-Fort Worth area is still 11.5 inches below normal.

"There are houses that have water coming in them, and there are cars that are submerged" across the Dallas-Fort Worth area, said National Weather Service meteorologist Ted Ryan. He said the storms were expected to continue today.

Aid

Continued from Page 1

"My impression is that first, they come just to see what service is needed. Then they come back to sit down with the people affected," Thornberry said.

It is important for livestock owners to keep records of the animals lost to the fires in order to apply for the livestock indemnity program compensation, Thornberry said.

"So many miles of fence need to be rebuilt, that ranchers won't be able to rebuild their fences without getting help," Wheeley said.

The effects of the fires will continue for some time, said Wheeley.

"There will be a loss of production on all those acres for at least 12 months," he said.

"I'm afraid there's going to be loss of production on the land, and the surviving cattle aren't going to do very

well," Thornberry said.

"We're going to see more dead cattle. We saw some that were injured pretty badly," Hall said.

The Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Conservation Program have been used in previous disasters, but the two programs do not receive continuous funding. Instead, they are funded from Congress only on an "as needed" basis in response to specific emergencies, according to Thornberry.

Other federal programs available for disasters include low interest loans and housing assistance. Thornberry said in a news release dated March 15 that he would be working to ensure that people know about the help that may be available.

"I think the country is disaster tired. We've had so many lately," Thornberry had said in his last visit to Pampa, on Feb. 23 at the Gray County Annex, where he addressed the Gray County Agriculture Conference and then spoke briefly with a few residents

after the meeting.

Thornberry was asked this morning if that tiredness would affect the Panhandle's chances of getting federal aid in the wake of the wildfires.

"I worry about that. My biggest job this past week has been to explain the size of this disaster and how serious it was," Thornberry said. He received encouraging response and growing support for the proposed aid to wildfire victims, he said.

"If we were doing things for people who lost their homes during the hurricanes, we ought to have that for people who lost their homes in the fires," Thornberry said this morning.

"We have been hit with widespread tragedy created by the largest wildfires in Texas history. It is hard for many people to grasp the magnitude of this disaster. If Katrina was the hurricane of the century, we are experiencing the fires of the century," Thornberry said in the March 15 release.

Well

Continued from Page 1

Richard Morris, the city's public works director, said the well had been there for a long time. He told commissioners that a new pump had been installed recently and had pumped clear, clean water for about 15 minutes

before it began pumping sand.

Morris urged city commissioners to consider a new well in their budget for next year. He said a new well would cost about \$250,000. Morris said that figure could be lowered because of the new pump the city already has.

The 24-inch 580-foot deep well had been pumping about 700 gallons per minute.

Morris said the casing in the old well appears to be rusting and the

gravel pack around the casing appears to have failed, allowing a fine sand into the casing. The well was drilled and the casing installed in 1955.

He said he would explore putting a new liner in the well, but he said it would cut the volume of the well in half.

Morris said that for the expense, the city needed a lot of production.

Tyng

Continued from Page 1

alternatives to repairing the street. He said the most cost effective may be breaking up the concrete, using it as a base and covering it over with asphalt. He said they may also cover only a 24-foot width, enough for two-way traffic and leave either side in concrete or pave 12 feet on either side and put a median down the center.

Morris estimated the range of repairs from \$19,000 to \$36,000 depending upon what the city commis-

sion wants to do.

Any action will have to be taken during one of the commission's regular meetings.

In other business, the commission discussed forming a committee to review the city charter.

The charter was last amended in 1982, said City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers.

She said the charter still forbids Pampa police officers from getting free rides on trolley cars.

"The charter really needs to be amended," said Commissioner Faustina Curry.

Curry noted that the growth of the city has distorted the wards and voting

patterns.

Jeffers suggested a committee of residents to look at the charter and make recommendations. She said it would probably cost \$20,000 to \$25,000 for legal fees to make sure any revisions met state and national standards. She said it would probably take several years to review the document and come up with workable changes.

Mayor Lonny Robbins suggested setting aside \$5,000 a year to pay for the legal fees.

Whatever a committee came up with would still have to pass voters in a city election.



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Viewpoints

Barton Springs has been a popular location for a long time

Many see Barton Springs, the fourth-largest natural waterworks in the state, as the soul of Austin.

At first thought, that might seem a relatively modern viewpoint, but the cold, crystal clear waters emptying into the Colorado River have been attracting attention for a long time. Indians camped there centuries before Europeans arrived in what would become Texas, and the Spanish are believed to have built a temporary mission there.

Possibly the earliest international attention given Barton Springs came in the 1840s, back when "America" meant three things to geography-minded Britons: Canada, the United States and Texas.

British publications reflected an on-going interest with developments in the former colonies and the and the Republic of Texas.

In Scotland, brothers William and Robert Chambers published the Edinburgh Journal, a weekly

literary review. On Saturday, May 18, 1844, Journal readers found a short article called "Curious Indian Traditions."

"Some two hundred miles in the interior of the republic of Texas," the piece begins, "where the flat interminable prairies have ceased, the rolling country has commenced, and the evergreen summits of the verdant and flowery hills are in sight, was built not long since, on the very skirt of the territory of the fiercest and most turbulent Indian tribes, a small town to which the name Austin was given."

That, of course, constituted old news in Texas. Austin was founded in 1839 at the republic's capital.

But the article did not have much more to say about Austin. The rest of the short item focused on what it called "Barton's Springs."

"Not far from the town," the piece continues, "gushing from the broad fissure in the rocky base of a

hill, is a pure and delicious fountain, known as Barton's Springs, surrounded on all sides by rocks or lofty trees, interminable groves of which branch off on three sides, it does not feel the effect of the sun's rays but during a very short period of the afternoon, when, through a large opening between certain lofty and stately cedars, the beams of the

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



great luminary fall upon the spring, and gild its parking and virgin water with every tint of the rainbow."

That period of luminescence lasted only about 45 minutes, the article says. Though short-lived, the effect must have been striking.

In fact, the interaction of low-angle sunlight and water as clear as glass gave birth to what the Journal article labeled a "most curious" and long-forgotten Indian legend.

"In ages gone by," the article explains, "during a severe and terrible storm, a more than usually gorgeous rainbow was driven along with such force against the base of the hill from whence the spring gushes, as to shiver the rocks, and give place until the water which instantly welled forth."

The legend held that "the rainbow received equal damage with the more durable material, and being shattered to pieces, the fragments mingled with the fountains, and caused the prismatic colours which, though brought out by the sun, are ever resident in the translucent body of the fountain; and the tints of the rainbow were blent with the wave."

Readers enjoying that colorful

word picture must have found the end of the article jarring: "Both town and fountain are now abandoned to the aborigines, the war with Mexico having so weakened the resources of government as to render them incapable of defending their infant capital from the assaults of the Indian marauder."

While Austin languished as a virtual ghost town until Mexican military forces gave up on an attempt to reclaim their nation's lost territory, Barton Springs bubbled on, outlasting that trouble and everything since then. In time, Austin lived up to something else the Edinburgh Journal had printed: "It gave every prospect of becoming one of the most populous and active, as it is the most lovely city in this exceedingly picturesque and beautiful country."

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 20, the 79th day of 2006. There are 286 days left in the year. Spring arrives at 1:26 p.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 20, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte entered Paris, beginning his "100 Days" rule.

On this date:

In 1413, England's King Henry IV died; he was succeeded by Henry the V.

In 1727, physicist, mathematician and astronomer Sir Isaac Newton died in London.

In 1852, Harriet Beecher Stowe's influential novel about slavery, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first published.

In 1896, U.S. Marines landed in Nicaragua to protect U.S. citizens in the wake of a revolution.

In 1956, union workers ended a 156-day strike at Westinghouse Electric Corp.

In 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono in Gibraltar.

In 1976, kidnapped newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for her part in a San Francisco bank holdup.

In 1981, former girls' school headmistress Jean Harris was sentenced in White Plains, N.Y., to 15 years to life in prison for slaying "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower. (Harris ended up serving almost 12 years.)

In 1985, Libby Riddles of Teller, Alaska, became the first woman to win the Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race.

In 1995, in Tokyo, 12 people were killed, more than 5,500 others sickened when packages containing the poisonous gas sarin were leaked on five separate subway trains by Aum Shinrikyo cult members.

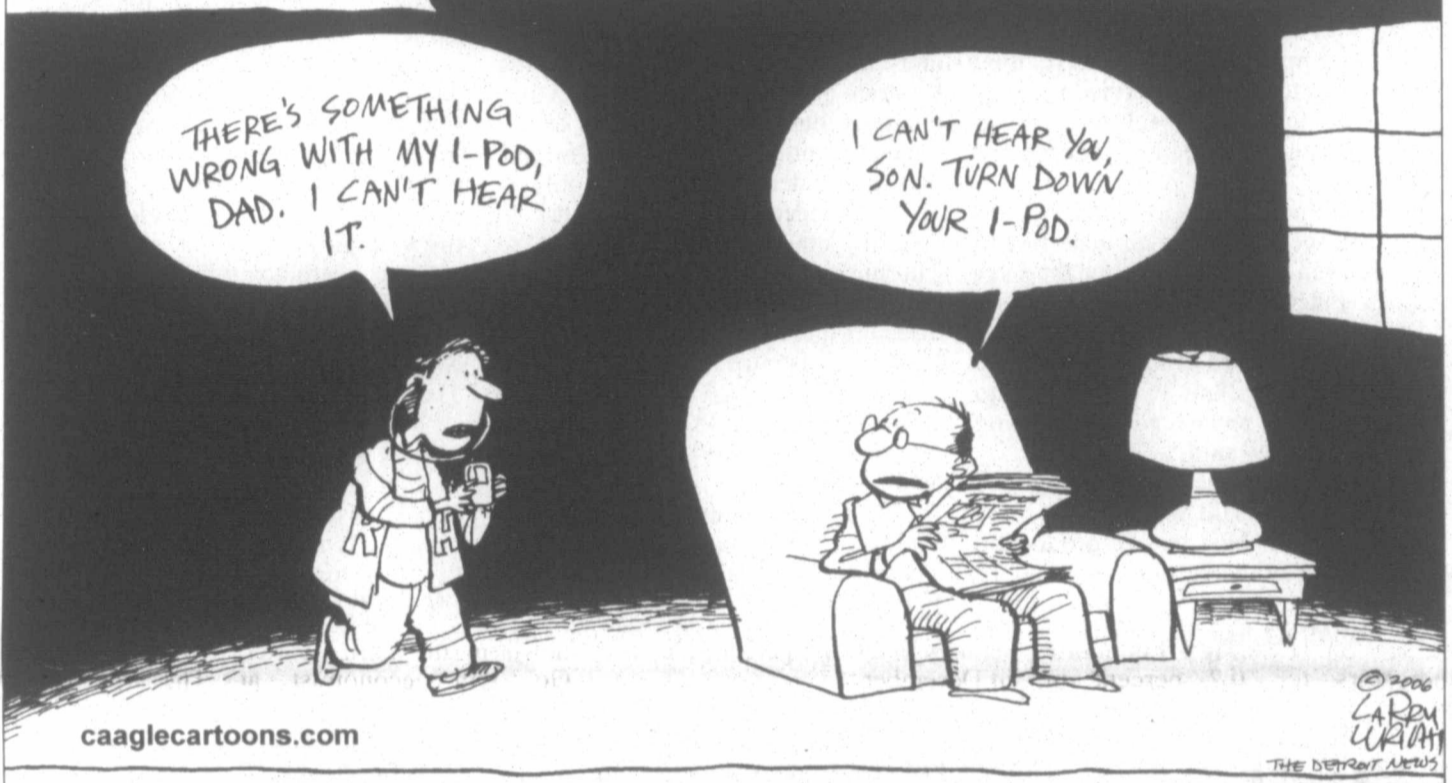
Ten years ago: A jury in Los Angeles convicted Erik and Lyle Menendez of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings of their millionaire parents. The British government said a rare brain disease that had killed 10 people was probably linked to so-called "mad cow disease."

Five years ago: The skipper of the USS Greeneville took the stand in a Navy court and accepted sole responsibility for the collision of his submarine with a Japanese trawler off Hawaii that killed nine Japanese. New York native Lori Berenson, accused of aiding guerrillas in Peru, received a retrial in civilian court (she was later convicted of "terrorist collaboration"). Power-strapped California saw a second day of rolling blackouts.

'Spring makes everything young again except man.'

— Jean Paul Richter
German author
(1763-1825)

STUDY SHOWS MORE THAN HALF OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE SYMPTOMS OF HEARING LOSS.



Fat lot of good 'rights' did murder victim

Imette St. Guillen, the young grad student raped and murdered recently in New York City, was out drinking alone at 4 a.m. It's not blaming the victim to suggest that she made a mistake in doing that.

This subject has become a hot topic on the talk-show circuit, and the comments reveal the paucity of intelligence in most public debates in this country.

Feminists are outraged that anyone would suggest that she not go out drinking alone at 4 a.m. One feminist claimed that type of comment comes from the old paternalistic types who don't think women are strong enough to protect themselves. Well, gosh, ma'am, it's quite obvious this poor girl was no match for her killer. She was no Jet Li.

Another feminist claims the girl had the "right" to be out at 4 a.m. drunk as a skunk. Well, of course she had the right. But a right is a "political concept," and what we are talking about is

a flesh-and-blood physical confrontation. She had the right to be out, she had the right to live, and she had the right not to be raped. Fat lot of good those rights did her.

Many Americans seem to get confused about the different worlds we live in. One world is in our heads, and it consists of ideas, concepts, theories and legalities. The other world is the physical world. This is the world of muscle and bone and blood and spit. The two worlds don't intersect.

In the physical world, the only right you have is the one you can personally defend. When someone attacks you, your choices are fight, run or die. In that situation, your rights don't mean a darn thing. Society's laws and rules don't mean a darn thing. It's back to the jungle — tooth to tooth, claw to claw.

In the physical world, you have to use common sense. You know, for example, that in our cities there are predators. Human predators are like animal predators. They hunt for the weak and the vulnerable. A woman is both weak and vulnerable. A drunken woman is especially vulnerable.

Even the Japanese samurai warned young samurai about getting drunk in public, as drunkenness dulls your perceptions, slows your reflexes, clouds your judgment and makes you vulnerable to attack. It is foolish for anyone, man or woman, to be on the streets alone at 4 a.m. unarmed. You have prey written all over you. Maybe you'll be lucky and won't encounter a predator. On the other hand, maybe you will be unlucky, in which case you have yourself to blame.

This girl should have gone

home with her friends — she'd still be alive. She gambled her life for another drink, and she lost. It's terribly sad, she didn't deserve it, but as Clint Eastwood said before he shot the sheriff in "Unforgiven," "Deserving ain't got nothing to do with it."

Nobody deserves to be beaten, raped and murdered, but it happens a lot.

Parents need to make sure their children are not only educated to function in the intellectual world, but are also educated on how to survive in the physical world. Children need street smarts as well as book smarts. They need to know how to defend themselves physically. The greatest intellect in the world can be destroyed in a second by an illiterate, low-IQ thug with a cheap pistol or a knife.

People who live in their heads can easily forget that the body still lives in the jungle. You have to secure your

See REESE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ March 13

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the rising healthcare costs:

America needs to address more effectively the problem of rising healthcare costs, which for years have been increasing at a pace far exceeding the rate of inflation. The nation also needs to better meet the healthcare needs of approximately 45 million uninsured Americans.

But passing state laws targeted at a single company, Wal-Mart, isn't the way to go about it.

Legislators in numerous states are now touting "fair share" healthcare

laws after the passage of such legislation in Maryland that unquestionably was aimed at the retailing behemoth.

The Maryland law obligates companies with more than 10,000 employees in the state to spend at least 8 percent of payroll on healthcare or pay the difference to the state Medicaid fund.

Wal-Mart, headquartered in Bentonville, Ark., is the sole company that has a Maryland work force of such size and fails to meet the 8 percent requirement.

It's unfair to pass such a narrowly tailored law that requires some companies to devote substantial resources to healthcare but permits the vast majority of businesses to avoid the mandate.

That having been said, it would be preferable for Wal-Mart to choose on

its own to provide significantly improved health insurance coverage for its workers. As a result of their modest pay and limited health benefits, substantial numbers of Wal-Mart employees seek public assistance through Medicaid, the federal-state program that helps pay healthcare costs for poor people.

This means that taxpayers are helping foot the healthcare bill for Wal-Mart, a consistently profitable company that is the world's No. 1 retailer and one of America's largest corporations.

Wal-Mart appears to be making some progress. On Feb. 26, CEO H. Lee Scott announced that the company would take steps that should at least

See COSTS, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Fresh air



Pampa News photo by DENNIS SPIES

Pampa firefighter Jerry Brock, left, changes an air tank for firefighter Bob Griffin during a structure fire in the 800 block of Campbell Thursday morning. Major damage resulted from the blaze. "This is a perfect case in point that we still have business to take care of," Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell said today.

Wildlife affected by prairie wildfires

By KAY LEDBETTER

Texas A&M Extension CANYON — Instinct kicks in for wildlife when fires threaten their existence and they flee, said Ken Cearley, Texas Cooperative Extension wildlife specialist.

"The unknown factor with the recent fires in the Panhandle, however, is how well deer and antelope and other earthbound species can escape or find shelter from a fire moving at 50-plus miles per hour," Cearley said.

Generally, he said, these animals can sense the fire coming and move out, escaping to some sheltering terrain or going deep into their burrows. The exception is ground-nesting birds during nesting season.

"Most wildlife have the instinct to flee from fire, which has historically played a major, natural role in the formation of short grass prairie here in the Panhandle," he said. "The country, with adequate soil moisture, can bounce back quickly and provide grazing and browsing animals some forage pretty soon."

For the most part, however, this area of Texas has very low soil moisture now, so bouncing back might take a

little bit longer, Cearley said. "It's a devastating thing when an unplanned fire burns a huge amount of country at one time as far as grazing and property losses, but in the end, it can be beneficial in some ways," he said.

In areas where invasive brush species grow, the fire can knock back or kill some of those unwanted plants, he said. The early brush regrowth can provide tender, high protein forage for deer, antelope and other browsers.

While unplanned fires put a kink in a lot of people's operations, causing forage, livestock and fence losses, many range managers utilize fire for range improvement.

Because ground-nesting birds are not nesting right now, that kind of loss should be minimal, he said.

However, quail and pheasants do use grass for nesting cover, Cearley said, and the previous year's grass generally provides them better cover. When so much country is burned off at one time, these birds must nest in this year's growth, which might be limited if the drought continues.

Ground-nesting birds may be in a pinch, he said.

Conference board: Leading economic indicators fell in February

NEW YORK (AP) — A closely watched gauge of future economic activity declined slightly in February following a sharp rise in January, a private research group said today.

The decline suggested to some economists that the nation's economic growth will slow in the second half of the year.

The Conference Board said its Index of Leading Economic Indicators fell 0.2 percent in

February, following a revised 0.5 percent rise in January. The January increase had initially been reported at 1.1 percent.

Economists on Wall Street had expected the index to have declined 0.3 percent in February.

The Conference Board said its coincident index, a measure of the current economy, rose 0.3 percent in February, following no change in January and a 0.4 percent increase in December.

The largest negative components were consumer expectations, building permits and stock prices. The positive components included manufacturers' new orders for non-defense capital goods and orders for consumer goods and materials.

"Essentially the story is we have got moderate growth through the first quarter. We may tick up in the second quarter and we may tick down in the third quarter," Ken Goldstein, economist at The

Conference Board told The Associated Press. "Growth is going to be a little slower second half of the year."

Frank Nothaft, chief economist at the mortgage consolidator Freddie Mac, said some of the growth anticipated for the first half of the year is related to reconstruction efforts amid regions hurt by hurricanes last year.

"This pumps more money into the economy, spurring growth," he

said, adding that the slowdown in the later half of 2006 would reflect the series of interest rate increases engineered by the Federal Reserve.

The U.S. central bank, concerned about inflation that could hobble the economy, has raised interest rates 14 times since June 2004. The series of rate increases have effectively raised borrowing costs for consumers and businesses.

Court won't review tobacco judgment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused Monday to consider tossing out a \$50 million damage award to the family of a two-pack-a-day smoker who died of cancer.

Philip Morris USA, which controls about half the U.S. cigarette market, had asked the justices to declare the award unconstitutionally excessive and to rule that the company should have been shielded from some of the smoker's claims.

Justices declined, without comment.

Richard Boeken, who initially won \$3 billion in punitive damages, was 57 when he died in 2002, a year after a California jury found the tobacco company guilty of negligence, misrepresentation, fraud and selling a defective product.

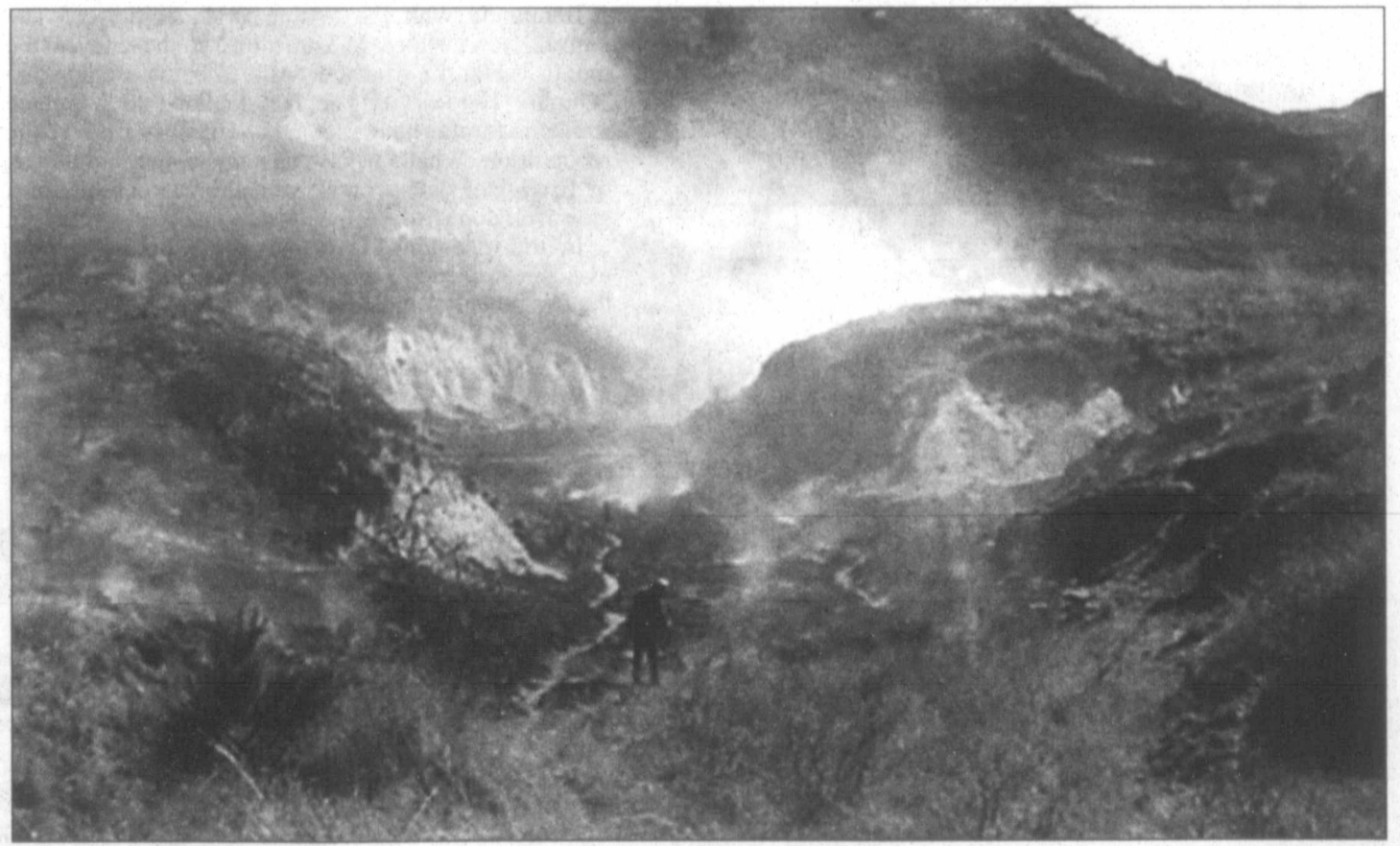
The damage award was reduced to \$100 million, and then cut in half by an appeals court.

Lawyers for Boeken's family had asked justices to consider "Philip Morris's immensely reprehensible, immensely profitable fraud scheme perpetuated for decades."

Philip Morris lawyer Andrew Frey told justices that the company did not conceal information about low-tar cigarettes. The company, which is part of Altria Group Inc., wanted the high court to use the case to clarify the formula for deciding punitive damages.

Three years ago the Supreme Court said that punitive damage awards should be "reasonable and proportionate to the amount of harm" someone suffers.

Trew Ranch damage



Courtesy Photo

Michael Oldham of Lefors battles flames in a canyon on the Trew Ranch west of Alanreed last week. Welcome rain over the weekend has given firefighters a rest.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

home and be prepared to repel intruders. When you go out, you have to maintain situational awareness at all times. You have to think ahead so you don't put yourself in a vulnerable position.

This poor girl was obviously educated intellectually, but she was sadly lacking in common sense and survival skills. The New York cops are good, and they'll get her killer, but that won't do her any good at all. Life isn't fair. Sometimes you make one mistake and it kills you.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Costs

Continued from Page 4

moderately expand healthcare coverage for employees. Scott said the company also plans to open more than 50 health clinics in U.S. stores.

About 15 percent of Americans lack health insurance, and many who have coverage are paying escalating monthly premiums and higher copays for office and hospital visits, leaving them with less money for other necessities.

Stronger efforts are needed on a variety of fronts to scale back the relentless increase in healthcare costs without

sacrificing the quality of care. For example, individuals need to take more personal responsibility by assuming healthier lifestyles. And the amount of time, cost and paperwork devoted to processing health insurance claims must be whittled.

But narrowly targeted edicts such as Maryland's new law aren't the answer. Such legislation not only fails to address the bulk of the problem but also unfairly singles out a select group of businesses based merely on their work force numbers.

Those who object to Wal-Mart's labor policies have another way that they can express themselves: They can simply work or shop elsewhere.

Judge delays Andrea Yates trial

HOUSTON (AP) — A judge today delayed Andrea Yates' capital murder retrial until June because of witness problems cited by her defense attorney.

Jury selection in her retrial for the 2001 bathtub drowning deaths of her children had been scheduled to begin Monday.

But late last week, Yates' attorneys asked State District Judge Belinda Hill to reschedule the trial because two of their defense experts wouldn't be able to testify if the trial began as scheduled. Hill on Monday set jury selection for June 22, with testimony scheduled to begin June 26.

The new trial date comes just days after what will be the fifth anniversary of the killings, and Yates' attorney, George Parnham, said he usually worries about her mental state around that time.

"I am always concerned because each year when that anniversary comes around she decompensates to a degree," Parnham said. "Sometimes it is good. Sometimes it is not so good."

Prosecutor Alan Curry said the state could also use the time to better prepare its case.

Parnham and co-counsel Wendell Odom asked Hill to consider the importance the testimony offered by psychiatrists Dr. George Ringholz and Dr. Lucy Puryear in Yates' original 2002 trial.

Parnham and Odom said the two experts, who had professional commitments that kept them from testifying if the trial were held now, are extremely important to their defense and to try Yates without them would "deny her a fair trial."

Before Monday's brief hearing, Yates, wearing a purple dress and her hair in braids, left the defense table to lean over the railing and talk with her mother before Parnham called her name and asked her to take her seat.

Hill had earlier denied a request by Parnham to delay the trial. In that initial request, Parnham cited an intense focus on plea negotiations, which broke down earlier this year, and a double jeopardy appeal.

Chamber

WorkSource Center



The Top O' Texan Goldcoats were on hand on Thursday, March 2nd to help the Panhandle WorkSource Center (formerly Texas Workforce Center) celebrate their new name with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictured: Goldcoats (l-r): Bob Marx, Mary McDaniel, Chuck White, June Beyer, Jerry Foote and Charles Henry; Chamber Executive Director Patrick Vanderpool and Panhandle WorkSource Center Employees: Veronica Coleman, Angel Demine, Kathy Cota and Shyla Rush.

March Chamber Luncheon

Join us for the March 2006 Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at 11:45 a.m. in the M. K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building. Cost is \$8.00 per Person. For reservations call 669-3241.

Speaker: Dennis Chambers, Halliburton
Caterer: Dos Caballeros

New Members

We'd like to welcome our newest members to the Pampa Chamber of Commerce:

The Package Store
1538 N. Hobart St.
Tammy Whitt & Odis Whitley, owners

Dish Solutions
1617 N. Hobart
Pete Towles, owner

Chamber Banquet

ANNUAL BANQUET & CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mark your calendars for the 77th Annual Pampa Chamber of Commerce Banquet and Citizen of the Year Award.

Thursday, April 20th
M. K. Brown Auditorium
7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: John A. Garcia
Senior Officer of Economic Development for the University of New Mexico

Call 669-3241 for reservations

Chamber letter

RESILIENCE

If you are like me, you've been extremely proud of the response shown by our local firefighters and first-responders in the wake of the recent wild fires in the Panhandle. I, for one, must express my gratitude for the service far above and beyond the call of duty that I've witnessed.

Most of them would only tell you that they are just doing their job, but they make me extremely proud to be a Pampan again.

Beginning with the Pampa Pride edition of The Pampa News slated to come out at the end of the month, we at the Chamber want to begin recognizing "Quality Heroes." If you feel inclined to nominate someone for this honor, let me know. They deserve the recognition. Whether it's a businessowner, employee, or firefighter, let us know who deserves credit for a "job well done."

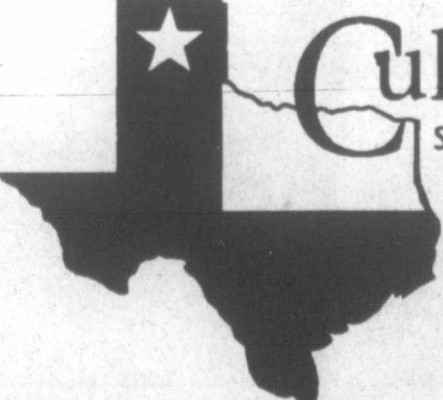
In the meantime, take note of several upcoming events your Chamber highly recommends. First, note the Chamber's Annual Banquet, to be held on April 20

at the M.K. Brown Auditorium. Guest speaker will be John A. Garcia, former Secretary of Economic Development and Tourism for New Mexico, and the owner of Hospi-Totally, a nationally recognized leader in customer service training. John is now the Senior Economic Development Officer for the University of New Mexico. Get your tickets at the Chamber office now! Sponsor tables are available as well.

Second, reserve your sponsor t-box signs for the Pampa Partnership Golf Tournament to be held May 13-14 by calling the Chamber office at 669-3241.


Third, reserve your space now for the Business Expo on June 24. This year the event will be held in conjunction with the Pampa Benefit Ride for NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill). We expect 200-300 riders from across the Panhandle and beyond.


Resilience. It's a key to the Pampa spirit that we all can be proud of.





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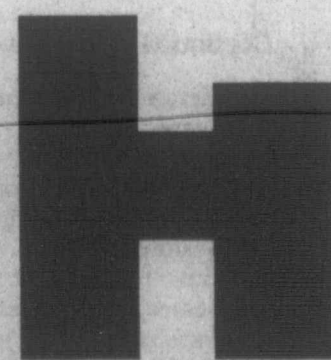
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I think my grandson lives next door to me, but I'm not sure. I can't sleep at night wondering and worrying. About two years ago, my neighbor kept inviting my then-18-year-old son over to help her do odd jobs while her husband was at work. He seemed happy to help out, and she always gave him some money for the jobs. A few months later, she and her husband announced they were expecting. I work with this man's ex-wife, and she confided to me once that she never had children because he couldn't give her any. To me, this could mean that the husband knows he's not the father, or maybe that they used my son as an unintentional sperm donor. The little boy looks a lot like my son did at that age. Should I confront him about the affair and possible parenthood? He may be unaware that he fathered the child. — **SUSPICIOUS IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I don't know if "confronting" your son on the subject would be warmly received, but you are certainly entitled to discuss your concerns with your son and find out if they are well-founded. Whatever happens -- or doesn't happen -- after that is up to your son.

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter was invited to a classmate's birthday party today. When I asked for the details of the party, she told me it was a slumber party. Here's the kicker: The classmate in question is a boy! As my shock dissipates, I'm suddenly reminded that the times sure are a-changin', and that even younger parents like me need to brace themselves. (I am 32.) I don't consider myself oblivious, but boy, do I suddenly feel that way. I don't feel it is at all appropriate for my child, but I'm interested in what you and your readers have to say about this. — **PERPLEXED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR PERPLEXED: The times may be a-changin', but they ain't a-changin' THAT much. It's the duty of a conscientious parent to do what is right for his or her child, even if it isn't a popular decision. By that, I mean that every family has different standards, and it's up to the parents to enforce them. The excuse, "But everyone else is doing it," does not mean that your child must. Remember that when the pressure is on, and it seems the whole world is going crazy. It'll keep you balanced.

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional man in my early 40s. When I was in my late teens, I started losing my hair. By the time I was 22, I was almost completely bald. Someone suggested that I get a wig, so I did. I have been wearing it for years. Now, however, I'm uncomfortable with the wig. I think it's obvious that it's not my own hair, and I'm self-conscious about it. I'd like to stop wearing the wig, but I wonder what my co-workers will think. Also, my mother tells me that my head is shaped a little "funny." But I feel like a fraud when I'm wearing the darn thing. What do you suggest? — **BALD IN BALTIMORE**

DEAR BALD: If ever there was a time when bald was "in," it is now. And that's to your advantage. My advice to you is to have a "coming out party," invite your friends and co-workers, and attend the way God made you. I'm betting the only reaction you'll get is the comment, "What took you so long?"

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

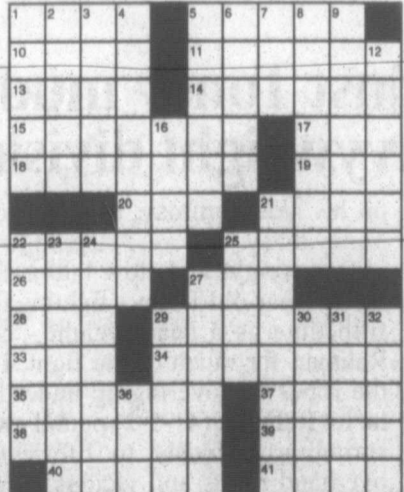
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 You can game part with it
 - 5 Ambulance sound
 - 10 Finished
 - 11 Togetherness
 - 13 Terrible
 - 14 Drunk as a skunk
 - 15 Fencer's cry
 - 17 B & B
 - 18 Try to find
 - 19 Compete
 - 20 Purpose
 - 21 Diplomat's asset
 - 22 End-table items
 - 25 Valleys
 - 26 Periods
 - 27 Crate
 - 28 Compass dir.
 - 29 Some Pacific islanders
 - 33 "Misérables"
 - 34 Currently
 - 35 Unbroken
 - 37 Pay to play
 - 38 Breadwinner
 - 39 Regretted
- DOWN**
- 1 Ciphers
 - 2 Sheep-like
 - 3 Unite
 - 4 Divorces
 - 5 Vanquish
 - 6 Ocean arm
 - 7 — Grande rate?
 - 8 Relating to summer
 - 9 Nasty store
 - 12 Tripled
 - 14 Candidate
 - 16 End-table items
 - 18 Relating to summer
 - 19 Nasty store
 - 20 Tripled
 - 21 Diplomat's asset
 - 22 End-table items
 - 23 Weapons
 - 24 Conductor
 - 25 Karate
 - 27 French eatery
 - 29 Aspect
 - 30 Make void
 - 31 Lecturer's aid
 - 32 Garbo, for one
 - 36 Kitchen pest

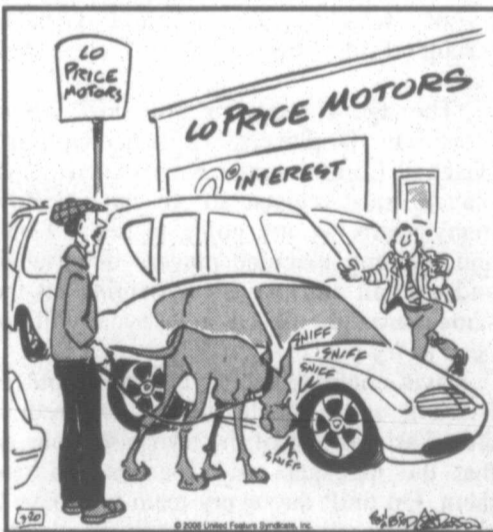
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NEBULA FONT
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"He loves that new-car smell."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane

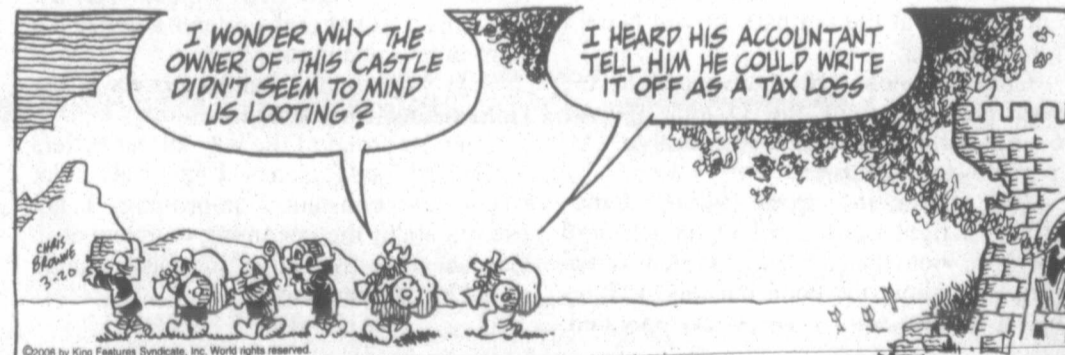


"In the spring Mother Nature gives all plant life the green light."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Lady Buff featured in SI

West Texas A&M University women's basketball player Alicia Saunders is featured in this week's Sports Illustrated's "Faces In The Crowd" section, as the junior forward is recognized for her Lone Star Conference single-season blocked shots record.

Saunders, a 6-5 junior forward from Kansas City, Mo. swatted 134 shots this season, establishing a new LSC and WTAMU single-season blocked shot record. Saunders led not only the LSC, but NCAA-II in blocked shots and blocks per game (4.2 bpg), as well as leading the conference and ranking 29th in the country in rebounding with 9.5 rebounds per game. She also averaged 8.5 ppg, and posted 11 double-doubles and one triple-double on the season, swatting an LSC single-game record 12 shots, to go with a career-high 17 rebounds and 10 points on Jan. 14 in WTAMU's win over East Central University.

Saunders helped WTAMU to a 28-4 record, the most wins since 1996-97.



Courtesy photo

JUST THOUGHTS

'Scuse me while I lament

Things have been too serious of late, so I wanted to take just a moment to offer a few brief thoughts on people and events at the forefront of today's sports scene.

March Madness

As one who always cheers

the underdog, I have become a Bradley and Geroge Mason fan. But why can't someone please knock out Gonzaga? Not that I dislike the 'Zags. It's just that Adam Morrison really creeps me out.

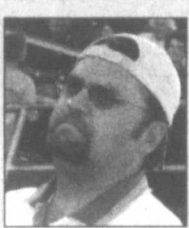
Terrell Owens

Good luck Dallas, he's all yours. By the way, isn't this the same guy who once danced on the holy star in the middle of your field? Or does your selective memory and want to win cause you to forget how the man defamed your hallowed shrine?

World Baseball Classic

Hey, I like it. Hats off to those American players who put their country first. We did-

n't win, but it was great to see the gift Abner Doubleday gave us has now been shared with



Michael J. Stevens

Sports Editor

the rest of the world in such a way it allows rival countries to come together briefly in the spirit of a simple game. And very competi-

tively I might add.

Pampa Baseball

While researching facts for an upcoming Pampa News special, I have come to realize Pampa has an amazing place in baseball history. I have become overwhelmed with information I believe is important to know and share but fear the space in the special may not allow me to do history justice. So my suggestion to you, especially the younger generation, is to take the time to learn about your past. Learn about a teams like the Pampa Oilers and Danciger Roadrunners. Make the effort. Man, it is a trip back in time you will not forget. But one that must be preserved.

Lady Harvesters roll in Arlington

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters ruled the opening rounds of the Arlington Tournament, defeating Frenship, Irvin MacArthur and Duncanville by a combined score of 28-7, qualifying Pampa for the Platinum bracket Saturday.

Those games, however, were canceled due to rain.

The Lady Harvesters end the pre-season on a five game win streak. Pampa opens the District 3-4A season Tuesday

on the road at Randall.

"We are getting better with every game we play," said head coach Bobbi Gill. "Right now we are hitting the ball extremely well and playing pretty solid defense."

Gill added, "I really can't complain about where we are at this point. I know that the team is really ready to start district. I feel like we have had a good pre-season that has prepared us for the district schedule."

Tuesday's game will start at 4:30 p.m.

▲ As Lady Harvester **Cassy Tice** backs out of the batter's box, **Callie Cobb** slides safely home during Thursday's game against Frenship at the Arlington Tournament. Pampa defeated the Lady Tigers 10-6. They went on to defeat Irving MacArthur 6-0 and Duncanville 12-1. Saturday's championship games were canceled due to the weather.

Garcia sisters win in Amarillo; Pampa Boxing Club ready for Garden City tournament

By **MICHAEL J. STEVENS**
Sports Editor

Members of the Pampa Boxing Club took part in the Golden Gloves Tournament held March 1-4 in Fort Worth. The club had four boxers who qualified for the annual event including Russell Kelly, Luez Aguilar, Jose Larrazolo and Cris Larrazolo.

Aguilar was the first from Pampa to take the ring opening night, drawing Mario Hernandez of south Texas. Aguilar lost to Hernandez by decision, but says the experience gained at the tournament will benefit him next year.

Cris Larrazolo (106) advanced to the semifinal round of the Golden Gloves event, but fell to Omar Renteria of east Texas by split decision.

Jose Larrazolo drew Dallas' James Hines, a fight Larrazolo had trained hard for. Jose looked sharp and confident in the ring throughout the bout, but fell to Hines by split decision. Though disappointed,

Larrazolo has vowed to get back into the Pampa Boxing Club ring and perfect his style and technique.

While the guys were in Fort Worth, sisters Cecelia and Crystal Garcia were in Amarillo taking part in tournament bouts as well.

Cecelia Garcia had plenty of fan support for her match against Lubbock's Michelle Hernandez. Garcia didn't disappoint, taking the bout and the win.

Sister Crystal was next, facing Marissa Ramirez of Garden City. Crystal won the match by TKO after the referee stopped the fight in the second round.

Next stop for the Pampa boxers is the Garden City Tournament.

"I am so proud of the way all our boxers performed," said Coach Lupe Larrazolo. "They are constantly improving. I am excited about the upcoming tournament in Garden City. We hope to make Pampa proud by our performance."

Pampa Optimist Club baseball meeting tonight

Managers, coaches, league officials and parents will meet at 6:30 p.m. today at the Optimist Club to learn about new rules and to make arrangements for registration and tryouts which will take place Tuesday through Friday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each day.

"The age change for boys will affect more than 100 players," explained Optimist Baseball Commissioner Kevin Davis. "All players must register so we can see how many teams we are going to need. T-ball and pitching machine players in baseball and softball and players remaining on the same team they played on last year will not need to try out."

Davis continued, "Players trying out in baseball and softball will be required to attend at least two of the tryout sessions so that the managers and coaches can rate them. On draft day every team will have a choice in each age round until all players have been placed on a team. We need all players to sign up because there are maximum numbers allowed on teams. When we reach that number for each league, we will not be able to accept more players in that league."

"Something new this year," said Ronnie

N. Haynes, Optimist president, "is a contract between the Optimist Club and the Pampa Umpires' Association to provide a paid, trained umpire behind the plate in 10-12 and 13-15 Girls' Softball and in the 9-10 and 11-12 Cal Ripken Baseball Leagues as well as the 13-15 Babe Ruth League."

More than 200 coaches will be needed to assist. Last year more than 700 players played on 54 teams. "We always need coaches," Davis said. "The more coaches we have, the more teams we can provide. With more teams, we are able to put fewer players on a team which allows more playing time."

To be introduced at the meeting will be Dru Chidester, the new Commissioner for Girls' Softball, Dr. Kevin Sieck, the Babe Ruth Commissioner, and Misty and Brent Baten, who will serve as commissioners for the T-Ball and baseball pitching machine leagues. Haynes returns as Commissioner for the 11-12 Cal Ripken League.

"It is important for all managers and coaches to attend so that we can see how many teams in each league we can offer," Davis said.

The Pampa Optimist-Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Rahman's draw against Toney muddies boxing waters in heavyweight division

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - WBC heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman was hoping to solidify his status with his title defense against James Toney.

Instead, his showing in a 12-round draw Saturday night just muddied the waters - for Rahman, the WBC and the heavyweight division as a whole.

It left Rahman a champion without the victory to justify it. It left the WBC having to decide whether Toney or Oleg Maskaev gets the next shot at Rahman. It left Toney with a legitimate claim for a rematch.

And the bout's controversial climax further tainted a heavyweight division with four different champions and no marquee names.

"The heavyweight division needed a good fight. I think we put on a good fight," said Rahman, 33, who was handed the WBC belt last year when Vitali Klitschko retired but still hasn't won a title fight since his one-punch knockout of Lennox Lewis five years ago.

Rahman had youth, size and conditioning

on his side Saturday, but still couldn't put Toney away.

Overweight and slow but crafty as ever, the 37-year-old Toney - fighting for only the fifth time as a heavyweight - confounded Rahman for much of the fight. Leaning on the ropes or covering up under his gloves, he let Rahman (41-5-2) pound away at him, springing suddenly to life with looping overhand rights and vicious uppercuts that found their marks early on.

Defying his corner's advice to keep his distance and use his jab, Rahman mixed it up - with mixed results. He threw 933 punches, to 633 for Toney, but all they did was jiggle Toney's flabby midsection.

"I didn't listen to my corner like I should've," Rahman said. "I probably could've made the fight a lot easier for myself if I listened to them more. But I'm hardheaded. I've always been hardheaded."

Toney (69-4-2) managed to open a cut over Rahman's left eye, though it wasn't a factor in the outcome.



Courtesy photo

The Pampa Texas Boxing Club is preparing for the upcoming Garden City Tournament.

St. Paddy's Day



Jodie Jones, activity director at Pampa Nursing Center, and Jodie Gorake celebrate the spirit of the Irish with green pins and green wigs on St. Patrick's Day.

Church to host reception for returning veteran

Zion Lutheran Church will host a welcome home reception for Jeff Jones from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Parish Hall, 1200 W. Duncan.

Capt. Jeffrey T. Jones served with the 111th Area Support Group, Texas Army National Guard, from December of 2004 through March of 2006 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He served as the Command Judge Advocate at Karshi-Khanabad Air Base in Uzbekistan and as Trial Counsel at Bagram Air Field

in Afghanistan.

He has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Jones has returned to his practice of law at Holt & Fields in Pampa.

The public is invited to the reception.

Community Health Fair

2006

Celanese - Pampa Plant & Pampa Regional Medical Center

Sponsored by

Tuesday, March 28, 2006
1:00PM - 5:00 PM

- cholesterol*
- blood sugar
- blood pressure/pulse
- body fat measurement

*fasting not necessary

Giveaways • Door Prizes

M.K. Brown Auditorium
Pampa, Texas

• everyone is invited free of charge

Ranchers face tough decisions

By KAY LEDBETTER
Texas A&M Extension News

AMARILLO — The grass is gone, destroyed by fire. Hay is short. Soil moisture is almost non-existent.

Some tough decisions lie ahead for ranchers caught in the wake of the recent fast-moving wildfires, a Texas Cooperative Extension specialist said.

"Something that is important, after they get through the emotional part of this, is looking at the long-term," said Dr. Ted McCollum, Extension livestock specialist. "The cold, hard fact is if we don't get any significant rain in the next several months, those rangelands that burned up aren't going to be able to carry any cattle until next fall."

Ranchers need to realize that because of the drought in other parts of the state, hay supplies are very short, McCollum said. Hay, if any is found, will have to come from some other part of the state, with transportation costs and logistics added.

Ranchers opting to continue feeding their animals have several options, he said.

Low quality hay can be supplemented with concentrated nutrients to balance out what the cattle need, McCollum said, but the biggest issue is trying to find the bulk feed the cattle need.

The other option may be to get away from the traditional thinking of feeding hay and feed a more concentrated diet, he said. Fewer pounds of feed would be required, but the cattle would have to be fed in a trough or

on the ground.

"It might be easier than feeding large quantities of hay," McCollum said. "But it also would require them to have some fences still in place."

Cotton burrs are another option with some supplement, he noted.

The other option to feeding is selling the cattle, he said.

"This might not be the best time to be selling," McCollum said. "But they need to weigh the alternatives of selling now versus the feeding costs. Look at de-stocking partially or fully. The net loss or net gain of selling out now and buying back later may be relatively the same as trying to figure out how to feed those cows for several months."

One consideration, he said, is that now is traditionally close to when a prescribed burn might have been done for management purposes under different circumstances.

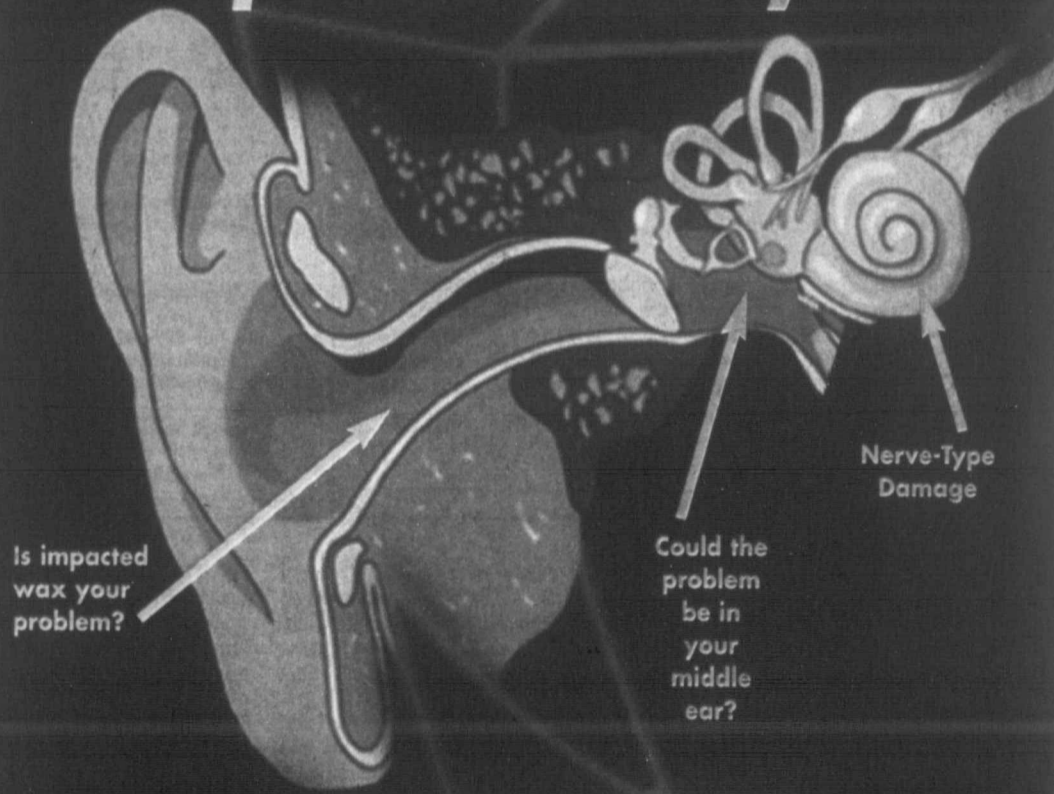
"Given that fact, the timing, and the rate at which the fires moved, the damage to the plant community might not be as bad as we think it is," McCollum said.

The problem is soil moisture, he said. The recovery of those areas is going to be slow.

"If we get any rainfall in the next month or so, the recovery may be better than people think it is," McCollum said. "The key factor: can we get any timely rainfall?"

But regardless of whether the rain comes, the carrying capacity is going to be a lot lower than normal.

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Everyone should have their hearing checked at least once a year, even people now wearing hearing instruments or those who have been told nothing could be done for them. Only a hearing evaluation can determine if you are one of the many a hearing instrument can help. The free no-obligation consultations will be given this week at Livingston Audiology & Hearing Aid Centers. To avoid waiting, call for an appointment.

CattleWomen salute ag science instructors during ag week

Top O' Texas CattleWomen chapter is honoring the local Ag Science teachers during National Ag Week March 19-25.

"Our local Ag Science teachers work hard dedicating themselves," a press release from the chapter said, "to educating our youth about the various agriculture related industries. Many youth and their families are representatives of a large segment of the agriculture industry who have full-time day jobs but love the land and a lifestyle close to nature."

"For many people, being full-time farmers and ranchers is expensive and unless you have a large operation, it does not produce enough income to provide for a family;

therefore, many have full-time jobs and agriculture is a second income. It also provides opportunities for the family to work and play together.

"Hundreds of youth and their families can be found attending the Fort Worth, San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows exhibiting animals or participating in numerous agriculture related contests. The education and training for such contest is provided by our local Ag Science teachers and other agriculture related professionals."

Top O' Texas CattleWomen salute all of area ag science teachers on National Ag Day, March 20.