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LOW 29

See expanded weather on Page 2

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IS IT TIME TO ROLL OVER YOUR NEXT EGG?

School board approves contract with architects

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

The Pampa Independent School District voted Tuesday evening to approve a contract with with Parkhill, Smith and Cooper for renovations at the high school, an order for authorizing the issuance of \$46,730,000 in bonds and the textbook selection committee's recommendations for 2007-2008.

Also approved was a joint election with the city of Pampa in May, the adjustment of attendance boundaries for Travis and Lamar elementaries and the bid for property and casualty insurance. The issues of student transportation liability, an extracurricular code of conduct and educator term contracts were discussed.

The board approved the consent

agenda as presented, which included January financial reports, a fund raising project for SADD, the sale of delinquent tax property and a resolution for Texas Public Schools Week for March 5-9.

The recommendations from the textbook selection committee were approved by the board, mainly in the area of math. The local policy was amended to raise the ceiling from \$10,000 to \$25,000 on purchases that have to be approved by the board.

A \$300,000 Texas Education Agency High School Redesign and Restructuring Grant was approved. This will be used over a two-year period at the high school for flexible scheduling, a parent liaison who would make home visits and bring-

ing in nationally renowned trainers for professional development in Pampa.

The local employee standard of conduct will be revised to state that one act of moral turpitude can be enough to terminate a teacher or employee of the school district. This is a change from the previous policy stating two acts would have to be committed before termination.

The board voted to approve a resolution to conduct a joint election with the city of Pampa on May 12 and canvass election results at the board conference room at Carver Center on May 17.

The attendance boundaries between Travis and Lamar elementaries will be moved to allow the 300 to 700 blocks of Zimmers Street to

be in the Travis district now. This would affect five students and the board decided to let those families decide which school that want their child to attend.

The boundary was moved to accommodate students who would move into the new Hampton Villages, which is affordable housing that Tejas Housing is planning to build on 15 acres near the intersection of Alcock and Dwight. Lamar is at capacity and Travis still has some room, so the boundary was moved to allow these students to attend Travis. Tejas Housing plans to build 76 homes in this area.

Attorney Fred Stormer, working for the PISD, presented a contract

See PISD, Page 3

Mardi Gras party to benefit girl

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A Mardi Gras party to benefit a Pampa girl who is facing surgery to correct the shape of her skull will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday at The Lone Star, 1300 S. Barnes.

The party, which is planned to continue until 1 a.m. Sunday, will feature live music by The Rockin' Plowboys and a silent auction, live auction, 50/50 raffle and free food and drinks. Advance tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. Tickets at the door will be \$25 per person. Persons attending the event must be 18 years of age or older.

Emma Allen, the daughter of John Allen and Shelly McCullar, will be 17 months old on Saturday. She has craniosynostosis, the premature closure of cranial sutures. At birth, the sutures, or "seams," connecting the bones of the skull are normally soft, but later harden to close the skull. Problems can be caused when the seams harden too early.

"We noticed it shortly after we brought her home from the hospital," said McCullar of Emma's skull shape. "I noticed how misshapen her head was."

The back of Emma's head is flatter on one side and bulging out

on the other side as a result of the craniosynostosis. The only way to correct the condition is through surgery.

Emma's surgery is scheduled for March 28, barring conditions like an illness.

"They will remove the flat part of her skull and reshape it, and replace it using screws and pins," McCullar said. "Sometimes it requires a metal plate."

The surgery has cosmetic benefits and benefits for Emma's later self-esteem, but it also serves another important purpose.

See BENEFIT, Page 3



Allen

Public comment on reinvestment zone Thursday

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Anyone wishing to comment on a proposed reinvestment zone currently being considered by Gray County commissioners will have a chance to do so at 10 a.m. Thursday during the commission's meeting in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

The idea to create the zone was prompted by a proposal by CPV Wind Ventures of Massachusetts to

place wind energy generators in Gray and Donley counties.

The wind energy company's targeted area is along an area east of Highway 70. Nineteen generators would be placed in Gray County, with another 38 in Donley County.

Donley County voted Feb. 12 to establish a reinvestment zone in the part of their county where the generators would be placed, according to Gray County Judge Richard Peet.

A reinvestment zone, once called

an enterprise zone, is an area in which businesses could apply for potential tax abatements if they establish a facility within the zone, according to Peet. Guidelines for such a zone were approved at commissioners' Feb. 15 meeting. The purpose of establishing such zones is to encourage businesses to locate in the targeted area, Peet said.

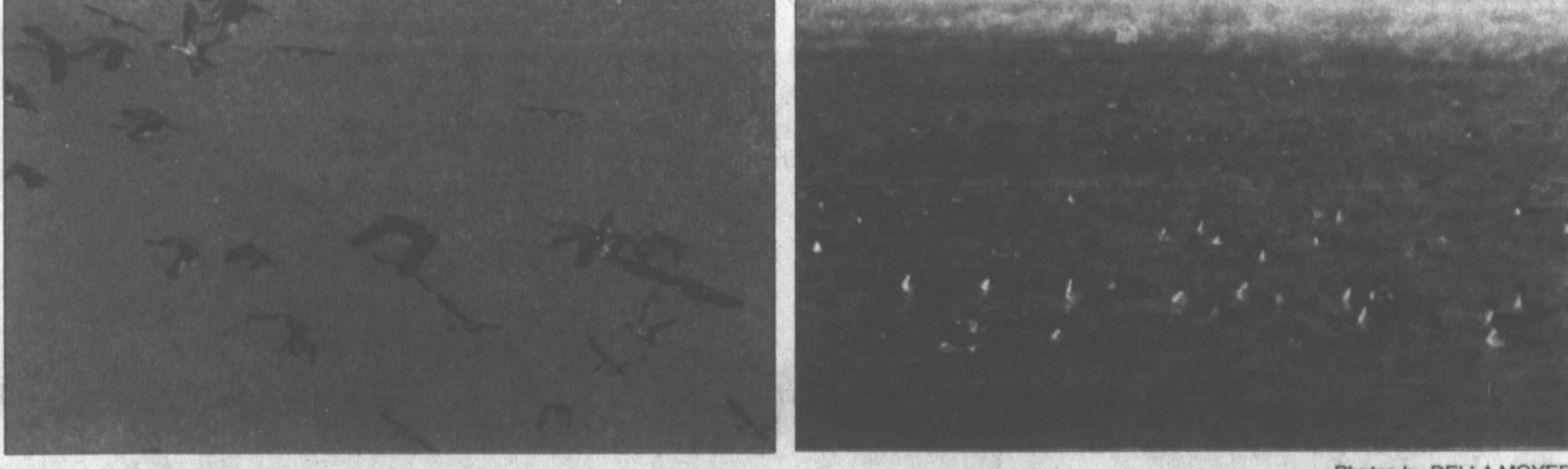
Following the public hearing, commissioners' next step is to vote on a resolution to establish the re-

investment zone. The final step would be to negotiate exact abatements that would be available to businesses moving into the zones.

Taxing entities which create reinvestment zones may or may not award such abatements, and may also require specific situations such as a minimum number of employees to be hired and maintained by the business.

See COUNTY, Page 3

Everything's just ducky



Photos by DELLA MOYER
This small lake on South Hobart near the Cole Addition held an assortment of water fowl last week. Onlookers said there were hundreds of ducks and geese taking advantage of the water. They take flight in photo at left.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

STOKES, Alene — Graveside services, 1:15 p.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa. Memorial services, 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Alene Stokes, 94, of Pampa, died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, March 1, 2007, at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Fred Palmer, pastor of the Carpenter's Church, officiating.

Alene Stokes, 94

June 21, 1912, in Kaufman County, Texas. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1940, moving from Lone Oak, Texas.

She married Clayton Stokes on May 5, 1940, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death in 1988.

She was a homemaker and a member

of the Carpenter's Church.

Survivors include five sons, Larry Stokes and wife Yvonda, Harold Stokes and wife Donna, and Billy Keith Stokes and wife Cindy, all of Amarillo, Alton Ray Stokes and wife Bettye, and Johnny Glenn Stokes and wife Carolyn, all of Pampa; one

sister, Maxine Stokes of Plainview; two brothers, William T. White of Littleton, Colo., and Johnny Dale White of Denton; 14 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: The Carpenter's Church, 639 S. Barnes, Pampa, TX 79065.

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



Stokes

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mostly sunny	Partly cloudy	Mostly sunny

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 53. Wind chill values between 25 and 32 early. Northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. Calm wind becoming north-northwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 54. North-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Twelve traffic stops were made, resulting in at least two arrests.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the police department lobby and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

An abandoned vehicle was reported at the intersection of 25th and Duncan streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of North Roberta, the 900 block of Wilcox, the 400 block of North Roberta, the intersection of 19th and Hobart streets, an unreported location, the 1200 block of Garland and the 700 block of North Christy.

Found property was reported in the 400 block of North Faulkner, the police

department lobby and the 1900 block of North Wells, where a wallet was found.

A civil matter was reported in the 800 block of East Locust.

Agency assistance was rendered at the intersection of Hobart and Alcock streets.

A suspicious person call was received from the 1100 block of Prairie Drive.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from an unreported location.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 600 block of North Wells, the 1000 block of Duncan, the 1600 block of West Buckler and at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester, where at least one arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1700 block of Evergreen and the 500 block of North Faulkner, where a recliner and restaurant booth were cut. Estimated cost of damage is \$295.

No valid identification was reported in the 400 block of Crest. An arrest for driving while license is suspended or invalid was made in connection with the incident.

One burglar alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of South Houston and the 100 block of South Russell, where a microwave oven of unknown value was taken.

Burglary was reported in the 700 block of East Scott.

Sheriff

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

Monday, Feb. 26

Anthony Gamble, 36, of Pampa was arrested in the 1400 block of West Somerville by Pampa Police Department on a capias pro

fine for no valid driver's license.

Sergio Adrian Silva, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of North Gray by PPD for evading arrest/detention, warrants for burglary of a habitation, three counts of non-payment of court costs and fines on charges of issuing a bad check, and bond surrenders for theft of property and failure to identify.

Larry Donele Diamond, 41, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of West Somerville by PPD for driving while intoxicated.

Tuesday, Feb. 27

Richard Douglas Budd, 35, of Laketon was arrested by GCSO for possession of over four grams but under 200 grams of a controlled substance and a warrant for criminal mischief.

Matthew Jeffries, 17, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of East Harvester by PPD for assault causing bodily injury.

Michael Heath Honeycutt, 31, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of North Crest by PPD for no valid driver's license.

Richard Lee McCuin, 30, of Chandler, Ariz., was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for possession of over 50 pounds and under 2,000 pounds of marijuana.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

Richard Charles Munoz, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 1000 block of North Sumner by PPD for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Fire

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

Tuesday, Feb. 27

7:13 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1100 block of Duncan to clean up motor oil dumped on the road.

8:07 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the Schneider House on a smoke scare.

Wednesday, Feb. 28

4:07 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2100 block of Lynn on a medical assist.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO Lois Dittmeyer for winning this weeks Bible Contest. One more week left! Don't forget to get your entries in!

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PISD

Continued from Page 1

for Parkhill, Smith and Cooper for the renovations of the high school and the building of a new junior high. He said he used standard contract forms for architects, but added many addendums to make sure the architect and the school district were on the same playing field. The board approved this contract.

Board members heard a report from Vince Viaille, senior vice president of First Southwest Co.,

regarding the issuance of bonds for construction of the new junior high and renovations to the high school. The board approved a plan for the bonds to be closed on March 29, in the amount of \$46,730,000, as opposed to the original amount of \$47 million. The 30-year tax free bonds will have an interest rate of 4.5 percent.

Viaille reported that a minimum of \$4.7 million on these bonds was purchased locally and that amount did not include banks that had made purchases. He said this was an unusually high amount since the typical local purchase on this amount is normally around \$1.5

million.

Construction costs in the amount of \$200,000 were approved to be paid out of the general fund for the month of March until the bond amount is received and deposited. This will keep any invoices that come in that month from being paid late.

The board approved the opening of an account with TexSTAR, Texas Short Term Asset Reserve Program, so the district can deposit money with these authorized investors to receive higher interest rates.

A committee was formed to discuss and study the possibility of

adding an extracurricular code of conduct to the student handbook. Committee members appointed Tuesday are board members Derrel DeLoach and Joe Martinez, Athletic Director Stuart Smith and high school Principal Danny Seabourn. The committee will also discuss student transportation liabilities relating to students providing their own transportation to extracurricular practices and events.

The board heard the first reading of a change to the local policy regarding employee term contracts. The policy may be changed to prohibit offering term contracts

to new employees in at-will or some exempted positions.

Another first reading that was heard refers to the local policy on the district's standards for determining class rankings for graduation purposes. It was suggested that the board remove a section titled Modified Courses. This section now states that additional grade points for honors classes cannot be awarded to students with disabilities when that class has been modified for that student. This may be a violation of a civil rights act.

Laketon man charged with possession

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A Laketon man was released on \$15,500 bond late Tuesday after a traffic stop netted between four and 200 grams of a suspected controlled substance.

Richard Douglas Budd, 35, was stopped at the intersection of Price Road and Highway 60 at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday by Gray County sheriff's deputies after the deputies observed

him driving a vehicle and knew he was wanted on a Pampa municipal court warrant for criminal mischief.

As deputies searched Budd incidental to the arrest, they discovered a clear plastic bag filled with a white crystalline substance in Budd's possession, according to GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

"The crystalline substance is believed to be methamphetamine, pending testing by Texas Department of Public Safety labs," Hoard said.

The criminal mischief charge is a Class A misdemeanor, while the controlled substance charge is a third-degree felony.

Budd was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, a Class A misdemeanor.

He was released from Gray County Jail on bond at 11:15 p.m. Tuesday, according to jail records.

Stocks move higher after big selloff

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rebounded today after the previous session's 416-point plunge in the Dow industrials, as investors digested a barrage of economic data and found comfort in Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's comment that no single trigger was responsible for Tuesday's selloff.

Bernanke's remarks that he still expects "moderate growth" in the economy gave some investors confidence to look for bargains today. A recovery in some markets following a worldwide selloff Tuesday also lent some support to U.S. stocks.

Though they had a shaky start today, stocks appeared to gain momentum as Bernanke testified on Capitol Hill and

allayed some of the fears about a slowdown in the U.S. and Chinese economies that fed Tuesday's drop. His remarks followed comments from former Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan over the weekend warning that a U.S. recession could take hold later this year.

Tuesday's decline, which followed a nearly 9 percent decline in the Shanghai Composite Index on Tuesday, left many stocks looking more attractively priced.

"I thought on Monday and I think even more today that the stock market offers good value and that it will move higher for the year," said Ed Keon, chief investment strategist at Prudential Equity Group.

In late morning trading, the Dow Jones industrials were up 94.69, or 0.78

percent, at 12,310.93.

Broader stock indicators were also higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 13.16, or 0.94 percent, at 1,412.20, and the Nasdaq composite index was up 16.65 percent, or 0.69 percent, at 2,424.51.

Bonds fell as stocks tried to recoup some losses. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.57 percent from its low for the year of 4.47 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude fell 88 cents to \$60.58 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

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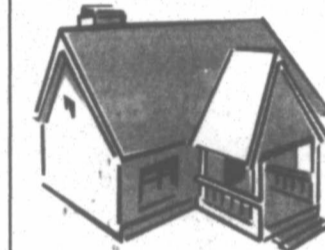


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N. Korea implements N-accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea appears to have started complying with a recent nuclear disarmament agreement, but U.S. intelligence officials are telling skeptical lawmakers they will continue to watch the country's actions closely.

Lt. Gen. Michael Maples, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, said Tuesday that officials had seen North Korea take preliminary steps toward shutting down its main nuclear reactor, which the North pledged to close and seal in return for an initial load of fuel oil. More aid would follow once North Korean technicians had disabled their nuclear programs.

"There are parts of this nuclear program that we have to pay a lot of attention to, to see if we have the kind of disclosure and the inspection capabilities that we're looking for," Maples said.

Lawmakers at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing wanted to know whether U.S. intelligence showed the North was likely to carry out the first steps of an agreement the White House has portrayed as a breakthrough after months of deadlock.

Meanwhile, the State Department said today that U.S. and North Korean officials will meet in New York on March 5-6 to discuss initial steps toward normalizing relations. Spokesman Sean McCormack said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill will meet with North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan.

Talks on establishing normal relations after decades of hostility were called for in the six-party nuclear disarmament agreement signed in China on Feb. 13.

County

Continued from Page 1

Possible tax abatements which might be granted to businesses locating within a reinvestment zone can vary widely, Peet said.

The wind farm near White Deer received 100 percent county tax abatement for the first seven years, followed by 100 percent valuation beginning

with the eighth year. Another farm being built west of Panhandle was awarded 87 percent abatement for 10 years, Peet said.

Also on Thursday's agenda is a bid of \$800 by Veronica Borunda for tax-delinquent property at 546 Reid, recognition of the court coordinator for continuing education, timely payment by the county of utility bills and payment of bills and salaries. The meeting begins at 9 a.m.

Benefit

Continued from Page 1

"If it's not done, it could affect her brain function," McCullar said.

An account has been set up at First Bank Southwest for donations to help pay expenses of Emma's surgery. Checks may be made payable to "Wendy Henderson for the benefit of Emma Allen" and may

be mailed to the bank at P.O. Box 1181, Pampa, TX 79066-1181.

This is the second year for a Mardi Gras Party to be held to benefit a local resident with medical expenses. Co-founders of the annual event are Henderson and Christy Robinson. Committee members this year are Henderson, Trina Hernandez, Junior Winkleblack and Valerie O'Brien.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Viewpoints

Making sense: Casting the first 'litmus' stone

The philosopher Diogenes is said to have wandered around ancient Greece holding a lantern and seeking to find an honest man.

My fellow Republicans, sans lanterns, are now wandering around the political landscape seeking to find the perfect Republican presidential candidate.

I don't know if Diogenes ever found that honest man, but I do know that those Republicans are never going to find the perfect candidate, simply because he does not exist.

Some Republicans insist that the only perfect candidate would be a clone of my Dad, Ronald Reagan. Aside from the fact that there is no such thing, it's important to recognize that Ronald Reagan, as he often admit-

ted, was anything but perfect.

One of the criticisms about former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney focuses on his record concerning the abortion issue. We are told by the modern day Diogenes clones that he can't be trusted to fight abortion because he once, more or less, supported a woman's right to butcher her baby.

It may come as a surprise to these purists, but Ronald Reagan once supported abortion, too. Yet nobody ever questioned his strong pro-life credentials after his conversion to Republicanism. They accepted his sincerity. Why can't they accept Mitt Romney's?

Romney's record shows he should be totally accept-

able to all conservatives, yet because of one dubious question concerning the validity of his conversion to the pro-life side, he is deemed unsuitable to carry the conservative banner.

The same is true of Rudy Giuliani. On every major issue, he is a solidly conservative and extraordinarily adept executive, but because he backs abortion and some form of gun control, America's mayor — the hero of 9/11 and the man who did the impossible by cleaning up New York — is all but ruled out as a 2008 candidate.

Not one of the major can-

didates is free of some real or imagined flaw that offends some conservatives.

This is madness, and if it does not stop, the GOP is going to lose the presidential election in 2008. In the search for the perfect candidate, we are going to end up



Michael Reagan
Columnist

with an imperfect candidate. Keep in mind the truism that agreement with someone on every single issue imaginable ... well ... to put it plainly, psychologists say you're nuts.

I recently got a letter from

a conservative Christian organization that asked me if the current GOP candidates are the best the Republican Party has to offer.

"Is it possible that GOP conservative ranks are this thin?" the letter writer asked. "Has the GOP nothing better to offer? Should not pro-family pro-life voters also want a low taxes and limited government candidate before they vigorously support him? Increased taxes and expanded government hurts everyone. Was Ronald Wilson Reagan an anomaly and did he represent the values of his party?"

"These GOP candidates," the letter instructed me, "are little better than Bob Dole, Gerald Ford, or [George] H.W. Bush. Did anyone notice they all lost?"

This makes me wonder if anybody can stand up to the litmus test these people are applying to candidates.

Ronald Reagan had one litmus test he applied to candidates. Were they Republicans? If they were, he backed them all the way. He would let the party choose the candidate and he would support and vote for the candidate. He didn't go sniffing around trying to find some flaw in their character or their past. Once nominated, they were his choice.

And nobody was more candid in admitting that he was anything but perfect than my Dad. He knew that like all men, he had his flaws and he spent a lifetime combating them. Had today's

See REAGAN, Page 6

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2007. There are 306 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 28, 1849, the ship California arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first of the gold-seekers.

On this date:

In 1827, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Co., was incorporated by the state of Maryland.

In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1861, the Territory of Colorado was organized.

In 1951, the Senate committee headed by Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., issued a preliminary report saying at least two major crime syndicates were operating in the U.S.

In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule that contains the human genes.

In 1967, American publisher Henry Luce died in Phoenix at age 68.

*'Who will give me
back those days
when life had wings
and flew just like a
skylark in the sky.'*

— Marceline
Desbordes-Valmore
French actress
and poet
(1786-1859)

In 1972, President Nixon and Chinese Premier Chou En-lai issued the Shanghai Communiqué at the conclusion of Nixon's historic visit to China.

In 1975, more than 40 people were killed in London's Underground when a subway train smashed into the end of a tunnel.

In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm.

In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to serve warrants on the Branch Davidians; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day standoff began.

Ten years ago: Brushing aside congressional calls for a tougher stance against Mexico, President Clinton recertified the country as a fully cooperating ally in the struggle against drug smuggling. In North Hollywood, Calif., two heavily armed masked robbers bungled a bank heist and came out firing, unleashing their arsenal on police, bystanders, cars and TV choppers before they were killed.

Five years ago: The body of a young girl found outside San Diego was positively identified as that of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam, who'd disappeared from her bedroom about a month earlier; a neighbor, David Westerfield, was later convicted of her murder and sentenced to death.



U.S. national interests not easily defined

I have two phrases that I bet you can't define off the top of your head. They are "national security" and "national interests."

Politicians love these phrases precisely because they are both ambiguous and iconic almost in a religious sense. Who, after all, would wish to do anything to harm national security or fail to do what was necessary for our national interests?

It pays, however, to always define your terms. If politicians were honest, it shouldn't be difficult to define both phrases, but try to get them to do it.

Some years ago, when our favored dictator ran the Sudan, there appeared to be a threat that Libya might invade. The U.S. dispatched warplanes and got the Egyptians to mobilize. In that case, by accident, I knew what our "national

interest" was in the Sudan. A friend of mine had just returned from the Sudan and told me that an American oil company had found a sizable amount of oil.

I could not find one word about this discovery. The Wall Street Journal had even run one of those advertising sections

about the Sudan urging investment, but there was no word about an oil strike in it.

At any rate, I got a State Department official on the telephone and asked him why we were mobilizing to defend the Sudan.

"It's in our national interest," he said.

"Well," I replied, "I'm just an unsophisticated country boy, so would you explain to

me just what our national interest in the Sudan is."

He started the hemming-and-hawing routine and finally said, "We are opposed to any sovereign country being invaded by an outsider."

"Then why," I asked, "are we doing nothing about the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan?"

"That's different," he said.

Well, this conversation went nowhere. He was not about to admit that an American oil company was sitting on a nice pool of oil and had cut a deal with the dictator — who was, by the way, a human-rights horror.

Our true national interests are easy to state. Freedom of the seas is one. Maintaining

our independence is another. Public health and education are two more. A productive agriculture and a sound manufacturing base are two more. Minding our own business is the last one.

As for national security, that's fairly easy, too. Military technology we don't wish to share should be kept secret. Our armed forces should be strong enough to repel any attack on our country. Securing our borders is an important but deliberately neglected task. A good counterintelligence service to weed out spies and terrorists is another.

We have to recognize, however, that national security and individual security are two different things. Despite our police and prison system, individuals are murdered, raped and

See REESE, Page 6

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Feb. 19
Austin American-Statesman on immigration and business:

We've heard some doozies coming out of the Texas Capitol over the years, but a comment made last week by state Rep. Leo Berman, R-Tyler, is a top contender for the Miriam "Ma" Ferguson Rhetoric Award.

When a group of Mexican American legislators, joined by the Texas Association of Business, reasonably suggested that 14 state bills filed this session dealing with immigration should be vetted for constitutionality by the Texas attorney general, Berman

was quick to react. Berman is the author of a bill that would deny birthright citizenship and in-state tuition to children born in Texas of illegal immigrants.

"I'm a life member of the TAB and I am absolutely disappointed, and will probably drop my membership since they got involved in an issue of illegal aliens, which has nothing to do with business," Berman thundered.

Oh yeah?
The link between immigration and employers is so clear that business groups and business owners have weighed in on the issue nationally. To put it quite plainly: Business owners hire employees, some of whom may not be in the country legally. Businesses obviously have a stake in

the immigration debate because any immigration decision is going to have an effect on contractors, restaurant owners, hoteliers, meat plants and agriculture to name but a few. Technology companies have a deep interest in the immigration debate as well. Incidentally, Berman also wants to impose fees on money transfers to Mexico and Central and South America, which will effect bankers and some title companies. Both fit the standard definition of businesses, if not the political one.

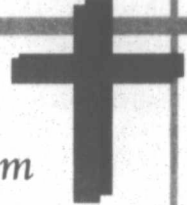
Moreover, the point the legislators and the business group made was a good one: Immigration is a federal issue and should be dealt with by

See BORDER, Page 6



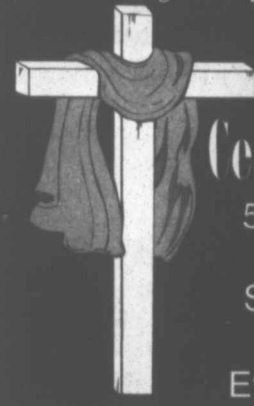
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THIS WEEK'S VERSE HOLY BIBLE • AMPLIFIED VERSION

But let all **1** who take **2** and put their **3** in You **4**; let them ever **5**
and shout for **6**, because You make a **7** over them and **8** them; let
those also who **9** Your name be joyful in You and be in high **10**. For You, Lord,
will **11** the righteous as with a **12** You will surround him with **13**.

Psalm 5: 11 & 12

WORD

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GOOD LUCK!

WT to host piano festival

CANYON — West Texas A&M University will kick off its 27th Annual Piano Festival with a guest recital at 7 p.m. Friday, March 2 in Northern Recital Hall on campus.

Special guest artist for the recital is pianist Lora Deahl, professor of music at Texas Tech University. Two of her doctoral students also will perform in the recital. The program is free and open to the public.

Deahl earned graduate degrees, both with highest honors, from Indiana University and the University of Texas at Austin. She has performed in concerts across the United States and as a soloist with the Honolulu, Lubbock, Texas Tech University and Southwest Symphony Orchestras. She has numerous research papers and journal articles to her credit and was named the 1995

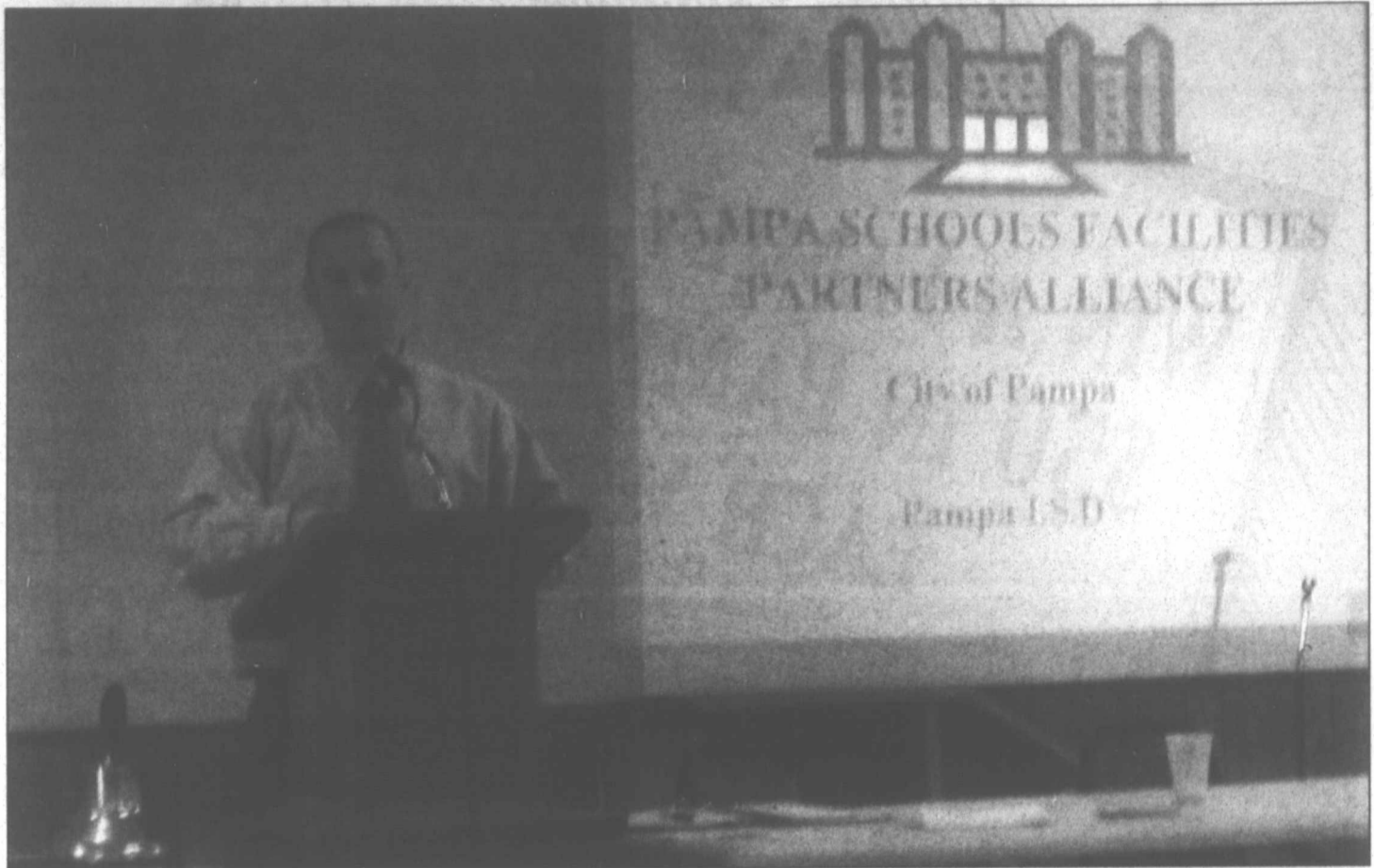
Outstanding Collegiate Teacher of the Year by the Texas Music Teachers Association.

On Saturday, March 3, private piano students from grades 1-12 will perform for festival judge Dr. Jim Rauscher of Amarillo College. The students will perform on the University's 9-foot concert grand piano in Northern Recital Hall, and Rauscher will critique each performance. Certificates and WTAMU piano pins will be presented to those with the highest ratings.

The festival is in its 27th year. Dr. Denise Parr-Scanlin, assistant professor of music, is taking over the reins of the festival this year from Bill Evans, assistant professor of music, who has served as director for the past 26 years.

For more information, call Parr-Scanlin at 806-651-2852.

Rotary meeting



Andy Cavalier, head football coach at Pampa High, addressed a recent meeting of Pampa Rotary Club on the possible positive economic impact of improved athletic facilities on the community. Stuart Smith, athletic director for the local school district, also spoke at the meeting.

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Reese

Continued from Page 4

robbed every day. Individual security rests primarily on the individual.

In the meantime, if you want to have some fun, every time you meet a federal politician, ask him to explain what our national interests are. What, for example, is our national interest in Iraq? Don't let him get away with "stability," which is another ambiguous term politicians love to use. Iraq was stable under Saddam Hussein. That, obviously, is not our national interest there.

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

Border

Continued from Page 4

Congress. The fact that Congress hasn't acted is no excuse for state legislators to monkey with the U.S. Constitution.

Berman's comment that business has nothing to do with immigration is reminiscent of the quote attributed to Ferguson, a former governor of Texas: "If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's good enough for the children of Texas."

She was voicing objection to children learning a foreign language in Texas classrooms. The language was Spanish.

ABUSE TRIAL

Church accused of hiding information

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection hours before it was scheduled to go to trial in the first of more than 140 lawsuits accusing priests of sexual abuse — a filing that automatically halted court proceedings scheduled for today.

In a letter posted on the diocese's Web site, Bishop Robert H. Brom said the diocese made its decision because any damage awards in the earlier trials could deplete "diocesan and insurance resources" and leave nothing for other victims.

The diocese claimed in the filing late Tuesday \$95.7 million in property holdings and another \$60.4 million in liquid assets, including stocks, bonds and operating accounts.

San Diego is the fifth diocese in the nation to file for bankruptcy protection.

Diocese officials and lawyers for the plaintiffs

failed to reach a settlement during two days of negotiations that ended Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

'For three years they've told people they want to settle, they want to be transparent ...'

— John Manly
Attorney

we were left with no choice," Webb said.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the amount the church offered was insufficient because the diocese had more plaintiffs than other jurisdictions.

They also accused the church of using the bankruptcy filing as a way to keep potentially embarrassing information under wraps.

"For three years they've told people they want to settle, they want to be transparent," said John Manly, a lawyer for a plaintiff whose lawsuit is scheduled to go to trial in April, "but the moment it became clear the truth will come out through a jury trial, they sought to shut down victims' ability to get compensated and get out the truth."

In its filing, the diocese did not list the names of litigants who have filed sex-abuse claims, indicating that it has petitioned to enter those details under seal.

The diocese called plaintiffs' lawyers on Tuesday morning to make a "final and best" settlement offer, Micheal Webb, a lawyer for the diocese said. He declined to specify how much the church had offered, but said it was higher than total settlements reached in other dioceses in the United States.

"When they rejected it,

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

GOP litmus test been seriously applied to him, he could not have passed the test.

The Democrats don't have litmus tests. If the nominee is a Democrat, they support their candidate all the way, and if they lose it

isn't because they didn't fight like demons for their man or woman.

If we want to win in 2008, Republicans had better wake up, and quit talking Ronald Reagan and start being like Ronald Reagan.

—Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Texas Department of Transportation will host two Informational Meetings on March 26 & 27, 2007 concerning the planning of future projects.

The informational meetings are held to explain how the department plans transportation projects. We would like to receive the public's input regarding the current Transportation Improvement Plan for the district.

On March 26, 2007 (Monday) the meeting will be between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. at TxDot's Dumas Area Office. The Office is located at 1249 North Maddox, Dumas, Texas. On March 27, 2007 (Tuesday) the meeting will be between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the Conference Center for TxDot in Amarillo. The Conference Center is located at 5715 Canyon Drive, Building H.

The come and go meetings will cover transportation plans for all areas of the Panhandle and the City of Amarillo. A short video of current and proposed projects will be shown. The Area Engineers will be available to answer any questions or discuss future or current projects. Draft versions of current transportation plans will be presented at the meetings for public comment.

Written statements and other exhibits may be submitted to the District Office at 5715 Canyon Drive (P.O. Box 7368) Amarillo, Texas 79114-7368. Comments must be received no later than April 9, 2007.

All interested citizens are invited to attend the public meeting. Persons interested in attending the meetings whom have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Cheryl Luther at 806.356.3249. Requests should be made no later than two days prior to the public meeting. TxDot will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.

Picasso paintings stolen

PARIS (AP) — At least two Picasso paintings, worth a total of nearly \$66 million, were stolen from the artist's granddaughter's house in Paris, police said today.

The paintings, "Maya and the Doll" and "Portrait of Jacqueline," disappeared overnight Monday to Tuesday from the chic 7th arrondissement, or district, a Paris police official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said they were worth nearly \$66 million, and that there were signs of breaking and entering in the house.

Though police only mentioned the two paintings, the director of the Picasso Museum, Anne Baldassari, said several paintings and drawings were stolen from the home of Diana Widmaier-Picasso.

"It was a very large theft," she said, without giving details.

"Maya and the Doll" is a colorful portrait of a young blonde girl in pigtails, eyes askew in a Cubist perspective. Another version of the painting hangs in the Picasso Museum. It portrays Maya Widmaier, the daughter of Picasso and Marie-Therese Walter, his companion from 1924-1944.

Maya married Pierre Widmaier and had three children, Olivier, Richard and Diana Widmaier-Picasso, an art historian and author of a book called "Art Can Only be Erotic."

Beta Sigma Phi



COURTESY PHOTO

Mary Baten was recently crowned Valentine Sweetheart for Preceptor Chi Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi during a Valentine Banquet at The Plaza in Pampa. Baten was crowned by out-going sweetheart Irvine Riphahn.

Paris Hilton ticketed by police in West Hollywood

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Paris Hilton was cited for driving on a suspended license after police stopped her for speeding and driving without her headlights on late Tuesday, authorities said.

The hotel heiress and star of "The

Simple Life" reality series was pulled over on Sunset Boulevard in her blue Bentley Continental GTC at 11 p.m., said Sgt. Duane Allen Jr. of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

She was on her way home from buying DVDs at Virgin Megastore in West

Hollywood after spending the day at home for a photo shoot, her publicist, Elliot Mintz, said.

Hilton, 26, was issued a ticket for driving on a suspended license, a misdemeanor, and released. A court date was not immediately set.

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PAVESTONE

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Crystal" for about a year. For the last seven months we shared a house together. We live in a very small town, and to make extra money as well as have something to occupy her time, Crystal started her own business. It has not been going well, and to top it off, I was laid off from my job. Crystal decided to return to the city where she was living before I met her and take up her old job. She finally admitted to me, days after I proposed marriage, that she is a paid escort. To me it is morally wrong, but she sees nothing wrong with it. I agreed to let her do it -- with limitations -- meaning nothing illegal or sexual. But I still have a problem with her going out with strange men for money. I also don't like the thought of her sharing her company this way. Crystal insists that she's doing nothing wrong and now she is upset with me for having a problem with it. Am I wrong for feeling the way I do? I am teetering on the edge of telling her goodbye. -- **TEETERING IN MONTANA**

DEAR TEETERING: Please "teeter" no more, because I am giving you the little push you need to straighten out your thinking. Your feelings are your feelings, and you are entitled to them. Most men when confronted with this question would feel just the way you do. So face the fact that you and Crystal have very different values, and let her go.

DEAR ABBY: I have two stepchildren whom I love dearly. The older one, "Dawn," went through a difficult divorce and got bad credit because of it. Dawn is a single mother and has no major credit cards she could use in case of emergency, so I put her on one of mine that I don't use.

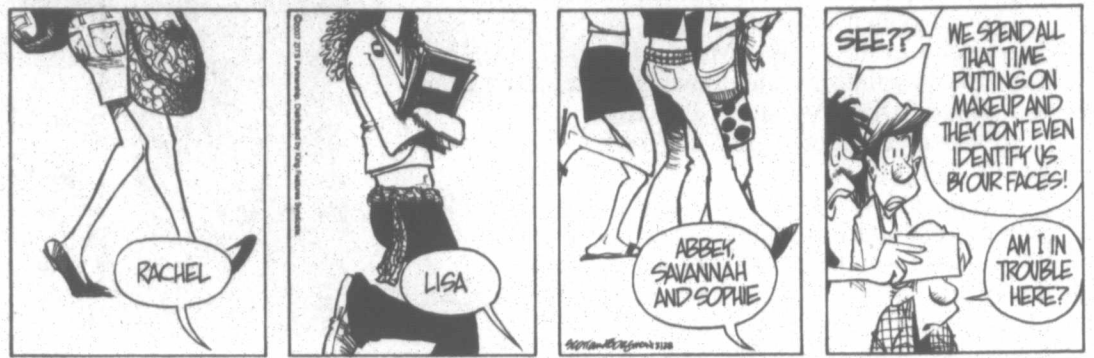
I told her to use it as she saw fit, so she would have something to fall back on should something happen. It had a limit of \$1,000. In the year and a half that Dawn has had the card, the limit has gone to \$1,800. However, she has missed some payments, and several over-the-limit fees have been assessed. The last time, I confronted her about the situation and she blew up at me and said that I had told her to use the card "as she saw fit." Abby, I don't have the heart to remind Dawn that she's damaging MY credit with her poor payment history. (I can ill afford to assume the payments.) I have been denied credit because of this and have lost points off my credit score. I feel I am being punished for trying to be nice. I also hesitate bringing it up because I love my granddaughter to death, and I'm afraid Dawn won't bring her around if I mention something. What should I do? -- **NERVOUS AND ANGRY**

DEAR NERVOUS AND ANGRY: You were extremely kind to have given your stepdaughter your credit card as a safety net in case of an emergency. However, your mistake was in telling her it could be used "as she saw fit" without giving her realistic guidelines, because it seems she "saw fit" to use the card irresponsibly. Please do not allow this mess to continue out of fear that your grandchild will be used as leverage. You have already been damaged enough, and this will continue as long as you continue to allow it. It is imperative that, for your own financial health -- not to mention your peace of mind -- that you cancel the card immediately. Sadly, if your stepdaughter does not make good on the balance, you are going to have to, and that's reality.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Young fellows guess

5 Much of history

9 Took on

11 Man's servant

12 Right page

13 Plain

14 — tree (cornered)

15 Elizabeth II's house

17 Aromatic root

19 Relations

20 Carter and Gwyn

21 Golf goal

22 Elroy's pooch

24 Use a pew

26 Blotto

29 Droop

30 Bing, for one

32 DiCaprio's "Titanic" co-star

34 — had it!

35 Similar

36 Incite

38 Main theme

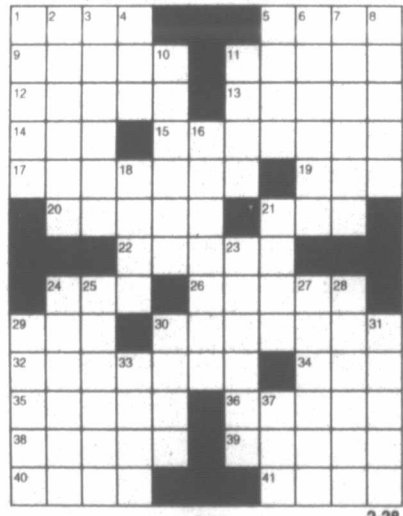
39 Send in

40 Annoys



- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 11 Rhames | 25 Set afire |
| 12 Track act of "Pulp Fiction" | 27 Puzzle |
| 13 Prop for Potter | 28 Destitute |
| 14 Nome's home | 29 Wise teacher |
| 15 "Bathers" part | 30 Staff symbol |
| 16 Casual painter | 31 Leases |
| 17 Boat's back | 32 Takes to the slopes |
| 18 Wooden member | 33 Salon stuff |
| 19 Tar | |

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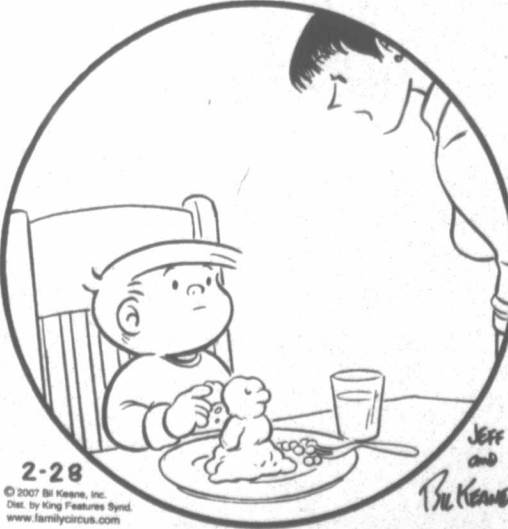
Marmaduke



"We're out of gas... barking won't help."

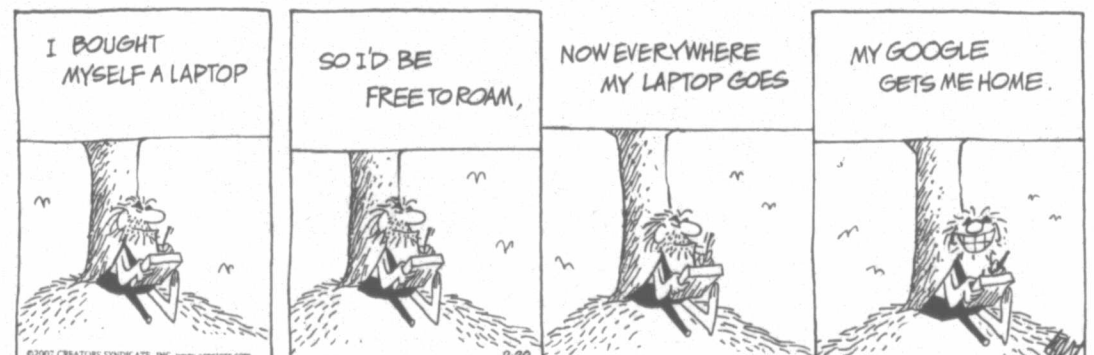
The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



"Billy! I told you to stop playing with your potatoes!"

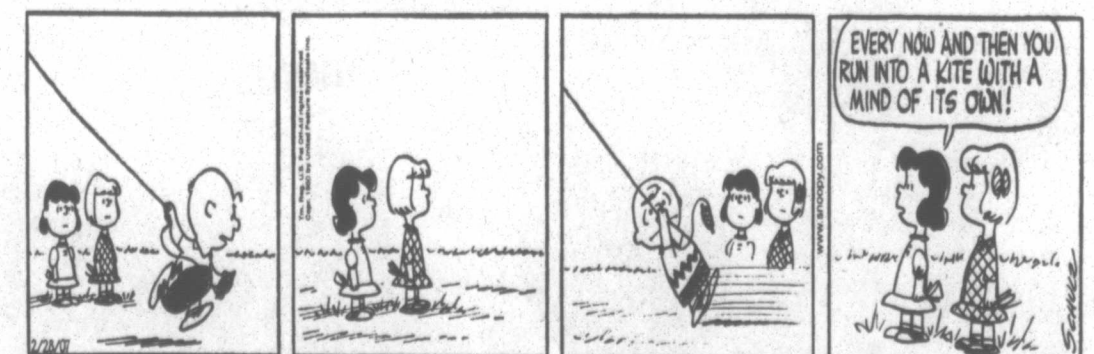
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Harvesters get two for Tuesday in Borger 'Pro Athletes Gone Wild?' Not exactly

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

In what turned out to be an exciting game from start to finish, Pampa defeated the Bulldogs 2-0 on Tuesday night in Borger.

The first half, much like the rest of the game, was categorized by Borger pushing the ball toward Pampa's goal, but to no avail.

The ball spent most of its time on Pampa's side of the field, but the relentless Harvester defense kept the ball from ever making it in.

The Harvesters survived one penalty kick and several well-executed attempts at scoring, but never did manage to get a goal for themselves in the first half either, thus taking both teams into half time tied at 0.

Just minutes into the second half, Pampa's Dock Mackie scored the first goal of the game, putting the Harvesters in a 1-0 lead.

The remainder of the second half was more intense as Borger was given more opportunities to score, but



Junior Adam Estrada does what he can to keep a Borger player from getting near the Pampa goal.

Pampa's defense stopped them dead in their tracks every time.

As the end grew nearer, tempers began to flare, and Borger players shouted out enough four-letter words to make any aggressive soccer

mom more embarrassed than a Pampa fan who accidentally wore red and white to a Borger game.

With less than a minute to spare, the Harvesters drove the ball to Borger's side of the field to fit in one last goal

from Rusty Snider to seal their win.

"[Tuesday] night was a great win for Pampa soccer," coach Byron May said, "We played like our hair was on fire, and we took advantage of the opportunities we had."

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

If you read nothing but the sports pages, it's easy to believe there's a crime spree in progress.

One player, the Broncos' Darent Williams, killed in a drive-by shooting on New Year's Eve leaving a nightclub in downtown Denver. Another, Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones, questioned about a triple shooting — as a witness, his attorney insisted, not a suspect — at a Las Vegas strip club during the NBA's All-Star weekend. And yet another, the Falcons Jonathan Babineaux, charged with felony animal cruelty in the death of his girlfriend's dog.

Not to be outdone, NBA players union chief Billy Hunter surveyed the wreckage left behind by the league's All-Star weekend — 400-plus arrests, though the lion's share were for prostitution — and wondered aloud the other night whether New Orleans had the stomach and enough cops to play host to the same show next year. Las Vegas, after all, reportedly beefed up the number of officers who work overtime for special events from 150 to 1,000 to deal with the crush of posers and wannabes attracted by the NBA circus, and barely managed to hold its

own.

"I'm wondering, how will New Orleans accommodate all these people if they elect to come to New Orleans?" Hunter told Newsday. "They'll shut the city down." Everybody, take a deep breath.

Relax.

There's no need to hide the women and children next time a pro team comes to town. If it's any comfort, you're still three times more likely to get mugged, offered drugs or solicited by somebody living within a few miles of home than anybody who plays in the NFL or NBA.

Not to be glib about it, but that's the way Richard Lapchick views the reported crime spree, and he knows a thing or two about athletes. As director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports at University of Central Florida, he's been crunching numbers regarding professional and college players since the mid-1990s.

"What we've seen since then is about 100 athletes a year, on average, arrested for violence against a woman and 75 for some form of recreational drugs. So roughly three times a week, you pick up a paper or watch TV, see something like that, and it creates an impression in people's minds that there's a pattern.



Pampa News photos by JORDAN REAGAN

Sophomore Kylie Wariner drives the ball toward the Borger goal during Tuesday night's game.

Pampa girls come back to tie at last minute

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

Recovering from an ugly start, and coming back at the very last moment, the Lady Harvesters tied with the Lady Bulldogs in Borger Tuesday night.

Borger scored in the 3rd minute and again off a free kick in the 18th minute to make the score 2-0 at half-time.

Fresh into the second half, Faby Soria scored the first Pampa goal on a penalty kick, bringing the score to 2-1.

Just five minutes later, Borger took back their 2 point lead and scored again to make the score 3-1.

Pampa retaliated again just minutes later with another goal from Krista

McClelland.

With time running out, a last minute adjustment to the Pampa lineup turned out to be very beneficial for the Lady Harvesters.

Kylee Wariner, who had been playing in the back through the game was moved up to forward.

"She had some speed and she wasn't as tired as some

of our other forwards," coach Trent Davis said.

With less than a minute on the clock, the Lady Harvesters drove the ball away from their goal to Borger's side of the field.

With just 22 seconds remaining, Wariner outran the Borger defenders and sent Pampa's last goal flying in, to tie the game at 3.

District sets helmet rule after ballplayer's death

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — Anyone who uses a Grapevine-Colleyville school district batting cage will be required to wear a helmet under new rules adopted in response to a baseball player's death.

The Dallas-area school district announced new safety regulations Tuesday, three days after 17-year-old Chris Gavora died from a head injury suffered when a baseball hit him in the back of the head last week.

The Grapevine High School junior was pitching to a teammate in a batting cage when a teammate in a cage behind Gavora "hit a line drive that went through an opening in the net, across an open area, and through the other batting cage's opening," according to the school. Gavora was not wearing a helmet.

"Anybody that's going to use those batting cages is going to have on a batting helmet," district spokeswoman Megan Overman said Tuesday.

The rule applies to batters and pitchers in the district's baseball or softball batting cages.

The new safety measures also call for district employees to inspect the batting cages regularly for problems with the netting. Any holes in the netting would force the closure of the cages until they are fixed.

"We are checking all of those nets and cables to make sure the nets are taut," Overman said. "If they are not, we are then tightening them using the cables."

A layer of secondary netting that had been missing from Grapevine High's batting cages was added

Tuesday, officials said.

"I think a review of safety policies and procedures is always a good idea," Chris' father, Bill Gavora, said in an e-mail, declining further comment.

Chris Gavora's death has also raised the helmet issue among officials with the University Interscholastic League, the governing body of Texas public high school sports.

David Sperry, a member of the UIL's medical advisory committee, said this week that helmets in batting cages would be discussed at the next meeting.

"We're always trying to make the sports activities of school kids safer and safer," he said.

A funeral for Chris Gavora is scheduled for Saturday.

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Crossroads team



The Crossroads team was undefeated and took first place at the McLean Little Dribblers Tournament 2007 that was held Feb. 22-24. Pictured here are: (Back row, L-R) Monti Sappenfield, Brandi Surrage, Jessie Smith, Shelbie Carr and Asst. Coach Troy Lott. (Front row, L-R) Coach Ron Carr, Kylee Metts, Shelby Bell, Jessica Gipps, Khori Lott and Taylor Morgan.

Mavericks set franchise record of fewest points allowed

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks established a franchise record for fewest points allowed. They also, for the first time in history, finished a month without being beaten.

It's only February, however, and they're not interested in flattery.

Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and 14 rebounds and Josh Howard rebounded from a sprained ankle suffered the night before to lead the Mavericks to their 13th straight victory on Tuesday night, 91-65 over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"Nobody's in here jumping up and down," said Jason Terry, who had 18 points and

seven assists.

Howard added 17 points, and Dallas raised its league-best record to 48-9.

That wasn't all, though. The Mavericks, who improved to 11-0 on the second night of back-to-back games, went 10-0 in February. The 65 points managed by Minnesota was an all-time low for Dallas, breaking the previous mark of 68 for a team that was not too long ago derided as "Allas" — as in no "D."

Coach Avery Johnson, in less than two years, has helped transform the Mavericks into a well-rounded bunch. They held Kevin Garnett and the lethargic

Timberwolves to a franchise-worst 29.6 field-goal percentage on 24-for-81 shooting.

Some of that stemmed from Minnesota's struggles, but Dallas is clearly a difficult club to play against at any spot on the floor. It has become just as difficult, however, to get the Mavericks to acknowledge their near-invincibility.

"I can already count in my head about eight mistakes I had individually," Terry said.

Garnett counted six mistakes by the Wolves on their first six possessions — one blocked shot and five turnovers. They never had a lead in this one.

"We don't have the experience nor the personnel to sort of get us in positions to climb ourselves out," said Garnett, who had 15 points and 13 rebounds. "We sometimes hang our hats on our youthfulness, and sometimes that's a disadvantage."

Ricky Davis scored 15 points, and Mark Blount added 10 points for Minnesota, which matched a season low with an eight-point second quarter and trailed 42-27 at the half.

Howard, who got hurt against the Hawks when he landed on the foot of Atlanta's Joe Johnson while following through on a jump shot, had 15 points on 6-for-

7 shooting before halftime. The decision to play Howard before't made until shortly before tipoff, but it probably didn't matter if he suited up or not.

Minnesota has lost 15 of its last 21 games. The chemistry and consistent effort that coach Randy Wittman, who took over for the fired Dwane Casey on Jan. 23, has searched for has not emerged.

Randy Foye offered one of the hard-to-come-by highlights when he blocked Jerry Stackhouse's shot at the top of the key, started a fast break and swished a tricky reverse layup from underneath the basket that went

almost straight up in the air.

He was fouled by Stackhouse, and Foye's free throw cut the lead to 46-37 early in the third quarter. Just 23 seconds later, though, Terry swished a 26-footer to put Dallas back up by double digits.

The crowd, announced at 13,326, was as quiet as ever despite the high-profile opponent. Late in the fourth quarter, one fan sitting in the pricey seats near midcourt screamed, "Can you at least get five guys out there who pretend like they want to win!"

The Wolves haven't played like it very much over the past month.

Hampton takes another small step in comeback bid

By The Associated Press

Mike Hampton was back on the mound for the Atlanta Braves, throwing breaking balls for the first time this spring.

Taking another small step in his comeback from major elbow surgery, Hampton threw a handful of curves during five minutes of batting practice Tuesday. He could definitely feel the resistance in his elbow.

"I'm not where I need to be," Hampton said in Kissimmee, Fla. "It felt good early, then I threw some breaking balls. I didn't feel as good later in the session as it did earlier."

Seventeen months ago,

doctors cut into Hampton's left elbow and replaced a damaged ligament — the dreaded Tommy John procedure. The recovery always takes at least a year and, even then, there's no guarantee that the elbow will feel like it did before, at least not right away.

Hampton, who was hopeful of being 100 percent when he got to spring training, now realizes that he's still in the midst of rehabilitation.

"There's going to be good days and bad days," he said, standing at his locker with a bulky ice pack strapped to his left shoulder. "I just know I've got a long way to go. I've still got some stuff

to accomplish before I can get into a game. That's just reality."

Miguel Cabrera, on the other hand, looks ready to go. He homered in the third inning to help the Florida Marlins beat the University of Miami 12-7 in Jupiter, Fla.

"I want to be ready for the season," said Cabrera, awarded a \$7.4 million contract in arbitration this month. "I don't want to start slow."

Jeremy Hermida and Joe Borcherd also connected for the Marlins, and top prospect Chris Volstad pitched 1-2-3 scoreless innings. Florida faces its first big league opponent Wednesday when

it plays the World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

There are three other games Wednesday between major league teams: Detroit vs. the New York Mets; Colorado vs. the Chicago White Sox; and Minnesota vs. Boston.

In other Marlins news, club officials were annoyed to hear that their manager last year, Joe Girardi, gave rival pitcher Jon Lieber helpful tips during the season.

Lieber said his season with the Philadelphia Phillies turned around shortly after he was roughed up by the Marlins last July 31, and he credits a phone call from Girardi, a former major

league catcher. They played together with the Chicago Cubs from 2000-02.

"He just mentioned that the hitters said everything that was coming in was just very flat," Lieber told the Philadelphia Daily News. "I wasn't on top of the ball like I should have been."

Both teams contended for the NL wild-card berth, and Lieber beat the Marlins twice in September.

Florida general manager Larry Beinfest declined to comment, but another team official said the front office was angry about the matter. The official requested anonymity because Beinfest wouldn't comment.

There's no indication that

Marlins executives knew last year about Girardi's conversation with Lieber. Girardi's relationship with management quickly soured in his only season with Florida, and he was fired in October — then chosen NL Manager of the Year.

Marlins ace Dontrelle Willis shrugged off the comments about Girardi helping Lieber.

"What are you going to do now?" Willis said. "He doesn't even work here anymore. You can't dock his pay."

"I don't think it's a big deal. If we lost the wild card by two games, OK. But there are so many different other factors."

Vets committee throws another shutout at Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP) — The Hall of Fame pitched another shutout.

Ron Santo, Jim Kaat, Marvin Miller and all the other candidates were left out Tuesday when the Veterans Committee admitted no new members for the third straight election.

The blank slate could lead to changes before the next vote in 2009.

"We're being blamed because something hasn't happened," Hall member and vice chairman Joe Morgan said. "If you're asking me, 'Do we lower our standards to get more people in?' my answer would be no."

Santo came the closest to the required 75 percent. A nine-time All-Star, the former Cubs third baseman was picked on 57 of 82 ballots (70 percent). Players needed 62 for election.

Kaat, a 283-game winner and strongly backed by Hall member Mike Schmidt, drew 52 votes. Gil Hodges, who hit 370 home runs, got 50 votes and three-time AL batting champion Tony Oliva had 47.

Umpire Doug Harvey received 52 of the necessary 61 votes on the ballot for managers, umpires and executives.

Miller, the union head who led players to free-agent riches, showed a strong increase in getting 51 of the potential 81 votes.

"My guy was Jim Kaat, but understand other members have their guys also," Schmidt told The Associated Press. "Maybe that is the problem when you are trying to evaluate 'bubble' players on entrance."

"The same thing happens every year. The current members want to preserve the prestige as much as possible, and are unwilling to open the doors," he said.

The vets committee was revamped after charges of cronyism when it elected Bill Mazeroski in 2001. That marked the eighth straight year the 15-member panel sent someone to Cooperstown.

After that, the panel was expanded to include all living Hall of Famers. The new committee votes every other year for players and every four years for the others.

"We are disappointed that no one has been elected in the three voting cycles," Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, March 1, 2007: You have spirit and imagination this year. Your focus will remain on your day-to-day life and what you achieve. In some way, you need a change or a way of revitalizing your life and/or work. If you use your ingenuity, you will come up with many different ideas. Test them out; see how they work. Opportunity for professional growth is more than possible. Some might get major promotions or pay raises. If you are single, though you might enjoy a relationship, sometimes it isn't everything it's cracked up to be. You might opt to be single for a while. If you are attached, you, as a couple, will benefit from going out and about. You enjoy that time with each other. Sometimes LEO rains on your parade.

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) ★★★★★ Don't even question if you will need your creativity at play. This is a day where you feel much is resolved, and then suddenly everything is a mess. The end results will be excellent if you stay calm, cool and collected. Tonight: Let off steam with a favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ You will need to stay centered, as others make what you perceive to be unnecessary demands. You also might need to listen to a friend or associate. Revise your thinking, and you will find events easier. Tonight: Order in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ You have a way with words that draws several different reactions. Some

might love what you say, and others might react negatively. Just be yourself and stay centered. Others often react to news, but it doesn't mean you have to change your style. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You might be on overload and spending way too much money. Someone might encourage you to continue on this very wild path. Be smart and say "absolutely no." Claim your power, and you will be a lot happier. Tonight: Design a reasonable budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ You might find that to make your point, you need to be overly serious and direct. Others prefer to be in a witty state of mind in which they don't need to digest or handle issues. Tonight: Just be yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Know when to back up and approach a situation in a novel manner. You might not be comfortable, yet you need to let events play out. A real estate investment could be very beneficial. Tonight: Some private time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Follow the action. Pressure builds, especially with an older or very serious friend. With your good nature, you'll make the right choice. Soothe someone's nerves by talking and understanding. Tonight: What would make you happy?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Someone isn't kidding, especially a boss or someone who has a position of authority in your world. You might need to spend some money in order to make some. Establish boundaries. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Reach out for experts. If a problem arises or a solution evades you, get more information. You will get the answers. Your positive attitude carries you through any tumultuous situations that you need to deal with. Tonight: Relax your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might be giving far more of yourself than you realize. Know when to back off and say you have had enough. Your energy, combined with another's insights, makes you a powerful team. No one will want to say "no" to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ You might not be getting someone's message as clearly as he or she would like. Consider revising your thoughts about a relationship that frequently somersaults from good to bad. How much are you willing to endure? Tonight: Don't interfere or try to change someone's mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You might be fed up with work but have little choice but to do what you have to do. Pressure builds, and you get irritable or vague. You might be successfully screening information that you don't want to deal with. Tonight: Relax with the moment.

BORN TODAY
Bandleader Glenn Miller (1904), musician Harry Belafonte (1927), director Ron Howard (1954)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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2-27 CRYPTOQUOTE

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J Z O L Q E W Y E E L Z X
P V J H M Q D Y T V D W H E V E V W Y
E V D O D M J W E Q J P J W Y . —
Z D Q X H T E Q D D O

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE MAN WHO DOESN'T HAVE TO DO IT HIMSELF. — A.H. WEILER

21 Help Wanted

PLANT INSTRUMENT AND CONTROLS TECHNICIAN for Frontier Field Services, a business enterprise of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund. This position is responsible for plant facilities, including processing plants, plant engines, compressors and dehydration equipment; performs work related to the repair and maintenance of equipment. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent; two years experience with electrical and pneumatic controls, Allen Bradley PLC/SLC equipment, data highway, ladder logic in process application; OR, an Associate degree in Instrumentation and Process Control Technology. Must live within a 50-mile radius of the Kelton plant, and be able to work under a rotating workweek, including an on-call schedule, and be available for overtime and weekend duty as needed. This position is located at the Kelton Gas Services facility in Wheeler, TX. Please obtain an Employment Application from www.sugf.com/opportunities.asp or from Human Resources, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund; 14933 Hwy. 172, PO Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137, 970-563-5064. Closing Date: 5:00 p.m., March 12, 2007

21 Help Wanted

LVNs / CNAs All shifts available! Experience preferred, but will also consider recent grads! Company benefits avail. for FULL TIME employees! EOE / MFHV. For more information, call 806-273-3785, or apply in person, Mon.-Fri., 9am-4pm. BORGER HEALTH CARE CENTER, 1316 S. Florida, Borger, TX 79007

JOB OPPORTUNITY: National Bank of Commerce, Pampa, Texas, is taking applications for a proof operator/customer service employee. Computer and ten key skills necessary. Apply at 1224 N. Hobart, Pampa, Texas. National Bank of Commerce is an Equal Opportunity Employer

FULL-TIME Housekeeper / Janitor is needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. Paid vacations & holidays, health, dental & life ins. plan, 401K. 537-3194.

NEED drivers, can earn up to \$8-\$12 hr. Also need Prep. person. Apply in person, Pizza Hut Delivery, 1500 N. Banks.

COOKS & Wait Staff needed. Apply in person Pizza Hut, 855 W. Kingsmill, Pampa.

HELP Wanted B&C Portable Must have good driving record. 806-595-0012.

ATTRACTIONS Magazine seeking local and regional sales manager, part time. Call 806-681-4984.

OPERATOR II for Frontier Field Services, a business enterprise of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund. This position is responsible for all processes and duties necessary to ensure optimum plant performance. Minimum qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent; experience working in a natural gas industry; working knowledge of computers and spreadsheet software applications; working knowledge of control systems; and, must be able to work under a rotating workweek, on-call schedule, and be available for overtime and weekend duty as needed. This position is located at the Kelton Gas Services facility in Wheeler, TX. Please obtain an Employment Application from www.sugf.com/opportunities.asp or from Human Resources, Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund; 14933 Hwy. 172, PO Box 367, Ignacio, CO 81137, 970-563-5064. Closing Date: 5:00 p.m., March 12, 2007

CLERK Position. Light office work, assist customers, part-time w/ flexible hrs. Pay based on exp. Reply to Box 35, c/o Pampa News, Po Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066

SEASONED Oak Firewood. Delivered and stacked. 779-3284

KING size waterbed motionless, with mirror, headboard, and 6 drawers under bed, \$200, 665-2831, 665-5190.

1 round & 1 rectangle display case, bathtub (3 yrs. old) & sm. vanity for sale. 806-323-6000, 217-0351.

77 Livest./Equip.

Serviceable BLACK ANGUS BULLS FOR SALE Breed for low to mod. birth & quick growth
More info, contact THOMAS ANGUS 580-655-4318 or 589-497-7217 Reydon, Okla

80 Pets & Suppl.
ST. Bernard / Shar Pei mix puppies. Extremely cute. Free to good homes. 669-1960, 440-2271.

FREE 5 month old puppy to good home. Will be small dog. 665-5254

89 Wanted To Buy
WANTED to buy antique collectibles from Pampa Ice Company. Call 806-236-4162.

95 Furn. Apts.

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

WEST TEXAS PIPE TRADES DISTRICT COUNCIL is currently accepting applications for:
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For information call: 1-888-744-9677 (Toll Free)
Or Email Resumes to: alex@westtexaspipetradesdistrictcouncil.com

21 Help Wanted

NOW HIRING: **West Texas Landscape 120 S. Hobart.** Please No Phone Calls!!!

21 Help Wanted

SONIC DRIVE-IN is now accepting applications for dependable, mature, enthusiastic, friendly crewmembers for all shifts, all positions. Apply in person at 1404 Hobart EOE

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR Pampa Nursing Center has an IMMEDIATE opportunity for an exp. candidate who is eager to work as our Maintenance Director. Some Long Term Care experience preferred, HVAC Certified a plus! Please apply by emailing your resume to Joe Weaver at JTWeaver@SavaSC.com or call 800-962-6094 www.savaseniorcare.com EOE

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60 Household
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69 Misc.
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

QUEEN mattress set, chests, bookcases, VHS movies, etc. Red Barn, 1424 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5pm, 665-2767

BY Owner, house, furniture & furnishings, 2/3 bdr., cellar, workshop w/ elec. Reas. 665-4801

I WILL FINANCE! 4 bdr., 2 ba. 606 Chamberlain Very nice house!
Lease 2 bdr., 1 ba. 103 Burdett Skellytown Call 669-6995, 440-1698

I WILL FINANCE! SOLD- 1125 Starkweather!!
2 bdr., 1 ba. 1100 Terry
2 bdr., 1 ba. 1333 Garland New Low Price! 669-6995, 440-1698

OWNER Finance, Amarillo, TX. 2 bdr. home. \$3000 dn., \$565-485 mo. Call Chris 806-206-0107, Espanol 806-223-6341.

OWNER Finance, Pampa, TX. 2 & 3 bdr. homes. Bad Credit Ok! Call Chris 806-206-0107, Espanol 806-223-6341.

104 Lots
2 Mauseoleum Crypts Side by Side \$3995.00 Call 440-2449

113 RV Parks
RED DEER VILLA RV RANCH & STORAGE 2100 Montagu W. 669-1122. Big Rigs Welcome!

114 Recre. Veh.
1993 Fleetwood Class A. 33 ft. Bounder motorhome for sale. Needs a little work. Make offer. Call 662-6015 or 662-6023

NICE 1994 35 ft. Terry 5th wheel w/ slide out, \$7000. Aft. 5pm. call 665-2658, 806-333-4182

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

120 Autos
2003 Toyota Highlander Limited 4x4, white, 39K mi. \$22,000. 662-5837 or 665-3379 Leave Message.
2004 Chevrolet Avalanche with conversion package for sale. Nice Truck! Call 806-835-2773 for more info.

Fluid Compressor Partners, Ltd. a growing company in the oil and gas service industry has openings for welders / fabricators in Pampa. Pay ranging from \$8.00-\$18.00 based on experience. ASME code experience is a plus. We offer competitive pay and benefits including health insurance, 125(c), 401k, incentive bonus plan, paid holidays and vacation. Stop by 2538 W. Kentucky, Ave. to fill out an application.

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Liz Taylor dazzles at her party

HENDERSON, Nev. (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor, decked out in diamonds and fur, arrived fashionably late to her 75th birthday party.

The Hollywood icon was in a wheelchair when she came down the red carpet Tuesday at a Las Vegas-area resort. She was escorted by her 52-year-old son, Christopher Wilding, who shares the same birthday.

Taylor smiled and batted her trademark violet eyes as photographers sang "Happy Birthday."

When asked about the secret to her longevity, she quipped: "Hangin' in."

Some 75 people were expected for a Mardi Gras-themed dinner of jambalaya, prime rib, collard greens, sweet potatoes and cake.

Guests including Debbie Reynolds, her daughter Carrie Fisher, magicians Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn, and model Kathy Ireland turned out for the private party at the Medici Cafe and

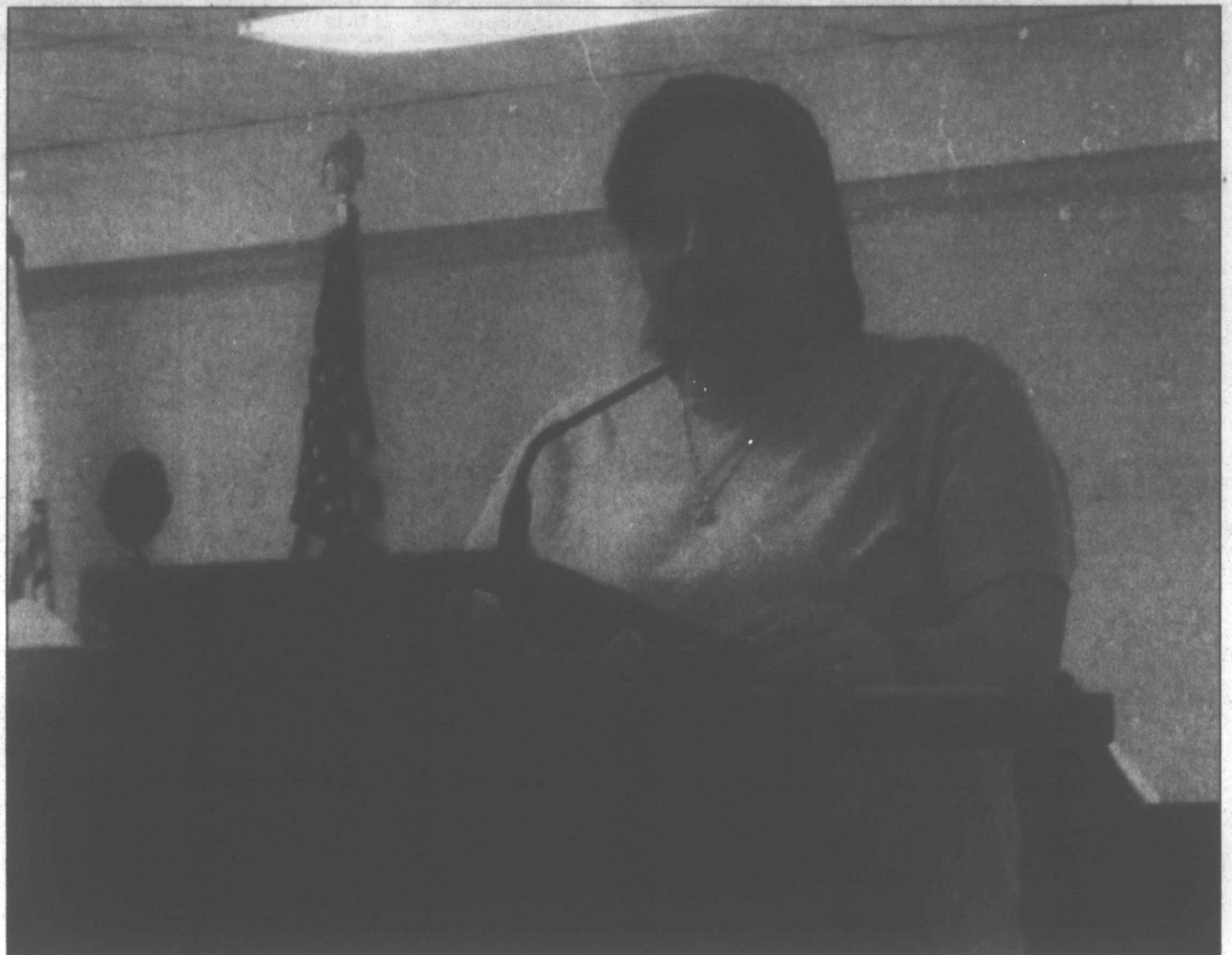
Terrace at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas.

Among Taylor's closest friends are pop star Michael Jackson, whose spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday in a news release that he is now living in Las Vegas.

Taylor said she spoke with Jackson earlier in the day but didn't expect him to attend her party. Besides Christopher, her children Michael Wilding, 54, Elizabeth "Liza" Todd, 49, and Maria Burton, 45 were at the fete.

The Academy Award-winning actress, who uses a wheelchair because of back problems, has dismissed tabloid reports that she was being treated for early Alzheimer's disease or was gravely ill.

Taylor has won two Oscars for best actress and starred in more than 55 films, including "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," "Butterfield 8," "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and "Cleopatra."



COURTESY PHOTO

Lions Club

LouAnn Humphrey, PSG tech with the Sleep Center, spoke at a recent Lions Club meeting on the subject of snoring and sleep apnea.

J. Shane Rhoton, MD

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South Korea presses North to keep pledge

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea pressed North Korea today to follow through on its pledge to start dismantling its atomic weapons program in the first high-level talks between the two Koreas since the communist regime's October nuclear test.

North Korea did not give a direct response to the appeal, but proposed a full resumption of humanitarian projects, apparently referring to aid shipments the South has

regularly given the impoverished nation as well as reunions of families separated since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The Cabinet-level meetings, the highest regular dialogue channel between the two sides, got under way in Pyongyang for the first time in seven months Tuesday against the backdrop of a landmark international nuclear agreement. That deal calls for the North to shutter its main nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for aid.

In today's meeting — the first formal negotiating session in the talks that run through Friday — the South's chief delegate, Unification Minister Lee Jae-joung, urged North Korea to "quickly implement the Feb. 13 agreement," said delegation spokesman Lee Kwan-se.

The minister also expressed regret over the North's missile and nuclear tests, blaming them for the

seven-month freeze in the inter-Korean reconciliation process, the spokesman said, according to pool reports.

His North Korean counterpart, Senior Cabinet Councilor Kwon Ho Ung, did not say anything about the nuclear issue, but defended the country's missile tests in July as a "legitimate right for self-defense as a sovereign nation," the reports said.

In Washington, Lt. Gen. Michael Maples, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told the Senate Armed Services Committee Tuesday that U.S. intelligence officials had seen North Korea take preliminary steps toward shutting down its main nuclear reactor.

South Korea wants to get a firmer North Korean commitment to the international nuclear accord at this week's meetings. But North Korea has shunned discussing the nuclear issue with the South as Pyongyang believes it is a

matter between it and the United States only.

The North instead focused on bilateral issues, proposing to reopen various channels of dialogue, including economic cooperation talks and other humanitarian projects that have been on hold over tensions following the North's missile and nuclear tests.

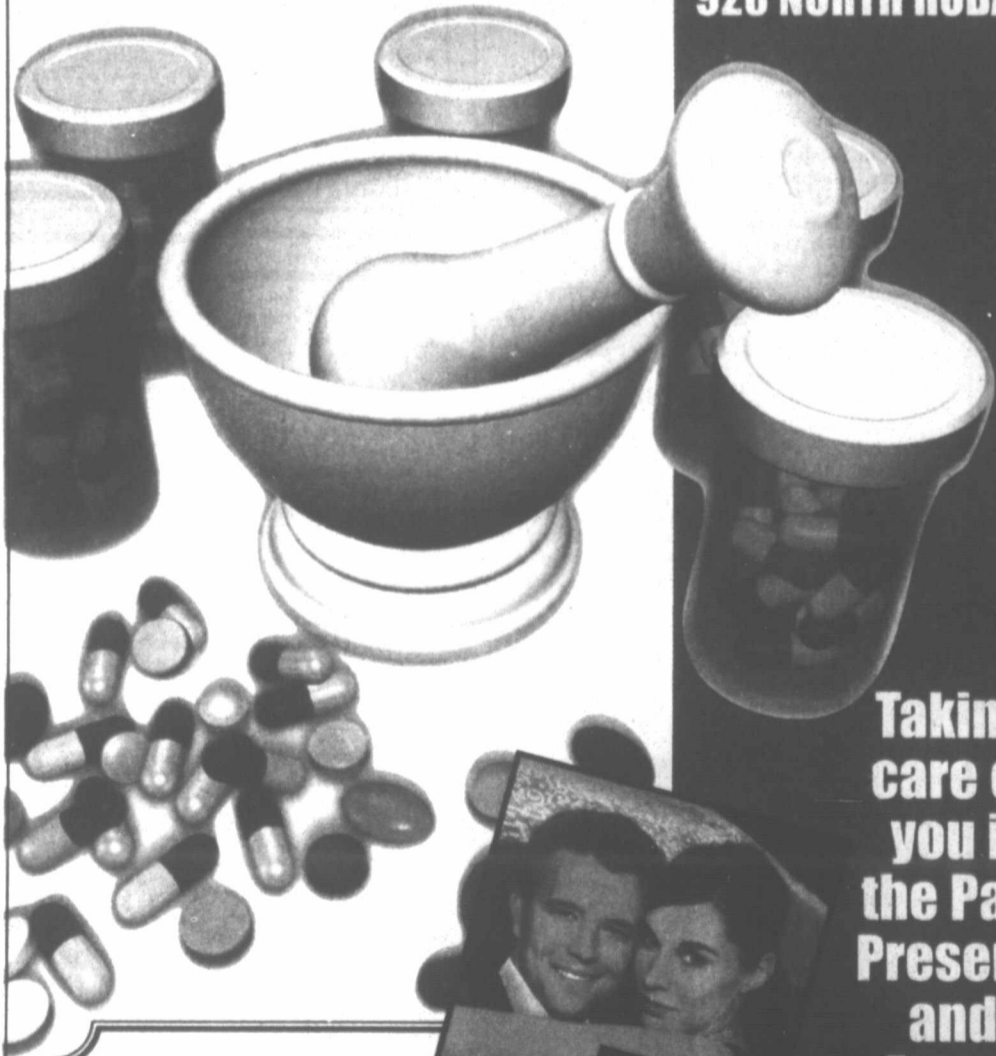
The North's proposal was believed to be mainly aimed at getting the South to resume fertilizer, rice and other economic assistance. The South's aid shipments have propped up the North's frail economy, but were suspended amid the recent tensions.

In exchange, the North is expected to agree to the South's proposal to resume reunions of families separated since the Korean War, another key humanitarian project.

The South also urged the North to end its interference in South Korea's politics.

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Dr. Nathan L. Lester

In a continuing effort to accommodate practice growth and demand, Ford Family Chiropractic is pleased to welcome Nathan L. Lester, D.C., who has recently joined our practice.

Dr. Lester, a native of Iowa, graduated from Simpson College in Indianola, IA and received his Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Lester is a member of the American Chiropractic Association and licensed by the Texas Board of Chiropractic.

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