

**Tomorrow's Weather**

HIGH 71  
LOW 39

See expanded weather on Page 2

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See Page 7



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# THE PAMPA NEWS

March 5, 2007 Volume 102 • No. 282 50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1.25

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## PGWCD secures \$500,000 for sprinkler program

**By DAVID BOWSER**  
Staff Writer

**WHITE DEER** -- The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District has a half million dollars more today to loan out for their sprinkler program.

The Texas Water Development Board voted last week to approve \$500,000 in financial assistance to the district for use in purchasing agriculture water conservation equipment. The funds were from the water board's Agricultural Water Conservation Loan Program. Under the program, the water board makes loans to lender districts such as the

Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District.

In turn, the lender districts make loans to individual borrowers to purchase and install more efficient irrigation equipment on private property.

"This has proven to be a really good program," C.E. Williams, Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District general manager, said today.

He said the program allows local farmers to switch from open ditches to center pivot irrigation systems. That switch, he said, will increase the efficiency of the irrigation sys-

tem from 20 to 30 percent.

The Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District board voted to increase their funds available for irrigation equipment purchases late last year and applied for the half million dollar loan from the state water development board, but that request was delayed when the water board's January meeting was delayed because of weather.

"They got iced out," Williams said of the winter weather that descended upon the Lone Star State in January.

The loan application was approved at the water board's February meeting last week, accord-

ing to Carla Daws of the Texas Water Development Board.

Williams said the loan program has helped almost 100 farmers in the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District buy sprinkler systems for their cropland.

"It's a significant program," Williams said.

It also means a significant savings in water, he said.

The district covers all or parts of nine counties, including Gray, Carson, Donley, Roberts, Armstrong, Potter, Hutchinson, Hemphill and Wheeler.

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## Celebrating public schools



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Members of Boy Scout Troop 404 were on hand this morning at Austin Elementary School for a flag raising ceremony to celebrate the beginning of Texas Public Schools Week. Fifth-graders, school administrators and several school board members watched as Pampa High School junior Russell Carter, left, sophomore Jonathan Cook, senior Phillip Rodriguez and junior Jacob Maciel raised the American flag.

## Anderson scholarship applications available

The Gene and Daniela Anderson Scholarship Foundation applications are now available in the counselors office at Pampa High School. Last year's recipients received four-year scholarships ranging from \$12,000 to \$20,000. This foundation was established in 2000 to assist students in obtaining higher education. Since that time, it has awarded 25 scholarships valued at over \$430,000. The application deadline is March 20.

Those students who are eligible for this scholarship must have a minimum score of 1500 on the SAT exam or 21 on the ACT exam. Students who did not achieve these scores but have overcome extreme difficulty and believe there are extenuating

circumstances which would make them eligible may also apply.

Students should pick up applications as soon as possible to see what materials are required to accompany this form. A copy of the PHS transcript and any college transcripts are just a few of the items that are required.

Eugene Anderson, president of the foundation, awarded last year's scholarships to four 2006 PHS seniors, Zachary Edens, Monica Johnson, Rachel Parker and Taylor Reeves.

Edens was awarded a four-year scholarship of \$12,000. He ranked second of 222 students in the PHS class of 2006. He is attend-

See **SCHOLARS**, Page 3

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IS IT TIME TO ROLL OVER YOUR NEXT EGG?

## Pampan jailed on drug charges

**By MARILYN POWERS**  
Staff Writer

A Pampa man remains in Gray County Jail as of press time in lieu of \$116,000 bond after a traffic stop early Saturday.

Jonathan Paul Munn, 25, was stopped at 12:30 a.m. Saturday in the 400 block of North Christy by Gray County sheriff's deputies after they noticed him driving a vehicle in that vicinity. Munn was stopped because deputies knew warrants had been issued for his arrest on probation violations

for two counts of possession of a controlled substance, said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

"He was arrested and patted down, and deputies found controlled substances and marijuana on him," Hoard said.

The controlled substances are believed to be cocaine and methamphetamine, Hoard said.

Munn was booked on the two probation violations and was also charged with posses-

See **DRUGS**, Page 3

## Weather Awareness Week in Texas

AUSTIN - Gov. Rick Perry has proclaimed March 4 - 10, 2007, Severe Weather Awareness Week in Texas. Gov. Perry joined with the National Weather Service and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management to urge all Texans to be prepared for severe storms.

"Severe Weather Awareness Week reminds Texans that severe weather can develop quickly, so it's vital that we plan ahead for threatening weather situations," Perry said. "Together we can take steps to

reduce risk, ensure safety and ultimately save lives."

The spring season often brings the potential for violent weather events in Texas, including damaging thunderstorms, hail storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes. Each year, Severe Weather Awareness Week helps build public awareness about preparedness.

During Severe Weather Awareness Week, Texans are advised to put together a "readiness kit" of important emergency supplies,



Photo by SUSAN OLDHAM

To ensure the safety of students attending Lefors ISD, Charlie Wilkins, left, Mike Young and Kerry Hodge placed one-way signs on streets bordering the elementary and high school buildings. Court Street between Fifth and Sixth will be one-way going north, and Sixth will be one-way going west, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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This year's theme is "It's a Year of New Things" • Meal catered by The Texas Rose

Speaker • Janna Kiehl with the Amarillo Better Business Bureau • Topic - Customer Service

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday



Mostly sunny



Partly cloudy



Partly cloudy

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 71. Wind chill values between 29 and 34 early. Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Wind chill values between 32 and 37. Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 61. Northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, low around 37. Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 68. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

THOMAS, Charley A. — 2 p.m. at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel.

Devena Geneva Phillips, 69

Devena Geneva Phillips, 69, died Sunday, March 4, 2007, in Pampa. There are no services scheduled at this time. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mrs. Phillips was born August 22, 1937, in Shamrock. She had been a resident of Pampa for 20 years, moving from Baytown. Survivors include three

sons, Roger Kirkland & wife Susan, and Randall Kirkland, all of Pampa, and H. W. Harlan & wife Michele of Clarendon; one daughter-in-law, Dedee Kirkland-Garza of Victoria; one brother, Truman Gilmore & wife Jeannie of Shamrock; one sister, Dorothy Frost & husband Jack of Murray, Utah;

10 grandchildren, Debra Kasinger of Greenwood, Indiana, Tabby Kirkland and Donna Kirkland, both of San Marcos, Kody Kirkland and Kristen Kirkland, both of Pampa, Leslie Lemmons of Amarillo, Jacob Harlan of San Antonio, and Andrea Coxe, Chris Bruce and Michael



Phillips

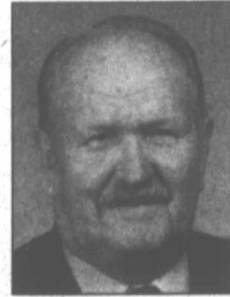
Bruce, all of Clarendon; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a son, Terry Harlan a still-born infant, a grandson Michael Bryan Harlan and a special friend, Vince Marker. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Nathan Gilmore and Bobby Gilmore, and a sister, Donna Fae Cassey. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Charley A. Thomas, 78

Charley A. Thomas, 78, died Saturday, March 3, 2007, in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2007, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel, with Rev.

Jeff Taylor, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, officiating. Cremation will follow, and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors. Mr. Thomas was born March 5, 1928, in Amarillo. He was reared in Fort Supply, Oklahoma, graduating from Fort Supply High School. He married Nancy Harl on July 31, 1953, in Fort Supply. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1972.

He managed Ideal Food Stores in Enid, Oklahoma, Fairview, Oklahoma, Garden City, Kansas, and Pampa for a total of 25 years; six of which were spent as co-manager of the Pampa Ideal Food Store. He



Thomas

was employed by Phillips Petroleum as a plant operator for 15 years, retiring in 1995. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in the 4th Infantry Division in Germany from 1949 to 1952. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed wood-working. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Thomas of the home; one son, Charley Frank Thomas & wife Cathye of Pampa; one daughter, Pamela Swain of Amarillo; one grandson, Justin Thomas of Pampa; four granddaughters, Elizabeth Thomas and Hilary Thomas, both of Pampa, Amber Vaughn of Amarillo, and Emily Vaughn of Houston; and one brother, Hal Thomas of Woodward, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents and seven sisters. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 1981, Pampa, Texas 79066-1981. Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Friday, March 2

Five traffic stops were made. Vehicle accidents were reported at One Medical Plaza, the intersection of 22nd and Hobart streets, the police department lobby and the 1000 block of North Hobart.

A domestic disturbance/violence was reported in the 900 block of Rham. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident. One open door was checked.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 800 block of North Sumner. Driving while intoxicated and a hit and run accident were reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of Finley, the 1600 block of North Faulkner, the 1100 block of Neel Road, the 2800 block of Charles, the 2300 block of Navajo, the 600 block of Lowry, the 1000 block of Brunow and the 300 block of Miami.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 800 block of Murphy and the 1000 block of North Sumner. Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 800 block of East Browning and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway. Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 900 block of Scott and the 100 block of South Sumner, where a domestic disturbance with no injuries was reported.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of Terry, where an MP-3 DVD player valued at \$180 was taken. Theft was reported in the 800 block of West Foster. Twenty-eight railroad ties valued at \$300 were taken. Theft was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner, where \$200 in cash and a white Ford automobile valued at \$200 were taken.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1200 block of North Wells. Welfare checks were made in the 2400 block of Fir and the 700 block of Deane Drive. One suicide attempt was reported. Civil matters were reported in the 900 block of South

Hamilton. Shoe polish was applied to the driver's side door of a vehicle, resulting in damage estimated at \$2,200. Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of West Foster. An estimated \$800 damage was done to a kitchen carpet. Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of East Randy Matson Avenue, the 400 block of Lefors and the police department lobby. Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of Rham and the 1300 block of Garland.

Animal control officers were reported in the 100 block of East McCullough. Driving while intoxicated and a warrant stop were reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart. An arrest was made in connection with the incident. Animal control officers

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of Finley, the 1600 block of North Faulkner, the 1100 block of Neel Road, the 2800 block of Charles, the 2300 block of Navajo, the 600 block of Lowry, the 1000 block of Brunow and the 300 block of Miami.

Disorderly conduct was reported at the intersection of Harvester and Christine streets. Criminal mischief was reported in the 2200 block of Hamilton. Shoe polish was applied to the driver's side door of a vehicle, resulting in damage estimated at \$2,200. Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of West Foster. An estimated \$800 damage was done to a kitchen carpet.

Motorist assistance was rendered at the intersection of Randy Matson and Hobart streets, the 600 block of North Hobart and an unreported location. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 100 block of East McCullough. Driving while intoxicated and a warrant stop were reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of Finley, the 1600 block of North Faulkner, the 1100 block of Neel Road, the 2800 block of Charles, the 2300 block of Navajo, the 600 block of Lowry, the 1000 block of Brunow and the 300 block of Miami.

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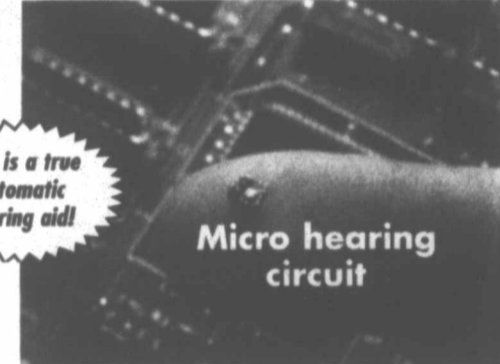
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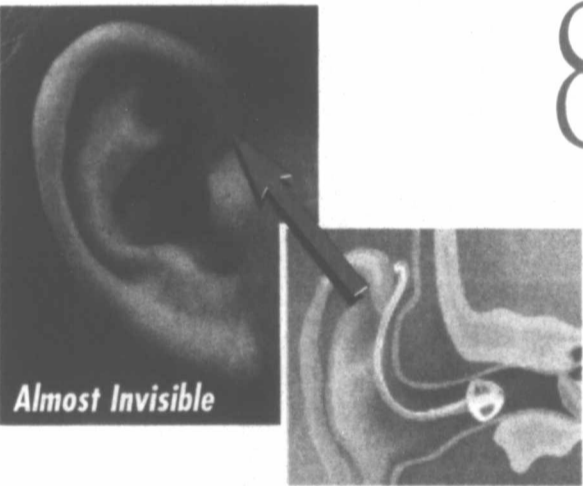
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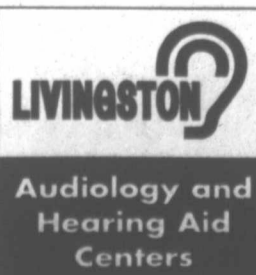
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Stocks

Table of stock market quotations including grain, oil, and metal prices.



# Viewpoints

## A new way of receiving child support ...

The Texas Attorney General's Child Support Division is committed to providing quality customer service and making sure child support payments reach families as quickly as possible. The Texas Debit Card gives parents a new way to receive child support.

The Texas Debit Card can be used for purchases at grocery stores and other merchant locations worldwide that take VISA debit cards. The card is safer and more convenient than cash or checks. Parents do not need a bank account to get the card.

The Texas Debit Card makes life easier for parents who receive child support because there is no worry about lost or stolen checks or wondering if a deposit has cleared.

Another benefit of the card is access to money throughout the month, even while away from home. There is no waiting for checks to arrive in the mail, and fees to cash them are eliminated. The card can be used at thousands of locations worldwide. Also, there is a savings to taxpayers because the cost of mailing a check is eliminated.

Any parent who receives child support through the Texas Child Support Disbursement Unit in San Antonio is eligible for the Texas Debit Card. For more information, or to sign up for the card, call 1-866-729-6159 (toll free). Customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once received, the card can be immediately activated by selecting a personal identification number using the instructions that accompany the debit card.

**Greg Abbott**  
Texas AG



Parents can make two free cash withdrawals per month at any Wells Fargo automated teller machine. They can make two additional cash withdrawals without a fee from a teller at any bank displaying the VISA logo. Fees can be avoided by requesting cash back with a purchase. For Web access to your

account balance and transaction history, go to [www.eppicard.com](http://www.eppicard.com). Parents also can call the toll-free number to check account balances and obtain transaction histories.

Using direct deposit or receiving a state check are still options for receiving your child support. If you have a bank account, please consider the convenience of direct deposit.

To request a direct deposit form, call 1-866-729-6159.

### POINTS TO REMEMBER TEXAS DEBIT CARD

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- No cost to mail checks, saving tax payers money
- CALL 1-866-729-6159 (toll-free) to:
  - Sign up for the Texas Debit Card
  - Obtain account balances and transaction histories
  - Ask questions about the Texas Debit Card
  - Sign up for direct deposit

Go to [www.eppicard.com](http://www.eppicard.com) for account balance and transaction history.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 5, the 64th day of 2007. There are 301 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On March 5, 1946, Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo. Said Churchill: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an 'iron curtain' has descended across the continent, allowing police governments to rule Eastern Europe."

### On this date:

In 1770, the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who'd been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1849, Zachary Taylor took the oath of office at his presidential inauguration.

In 1868, the Senate was organized into a Court of Impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote, enabling it to join with the Nationalists to gain a

slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1953, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin died at age 73 after 29 years in power.

In 1963, country music performers Patsy Cline, "Cowboy" Copas and "Hawkshaw" Hawkins died in a plane crash near Camden, Tenn.

In 1970, a nuclear nonproliferation treaty went into effect after 43 nations ratified it.

In 1977, President Carter took questions from 42 telephone callers in 26 states on a network radio call-in program moderated by Walter Cronkite.

In 1982, comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood, Calif.; he was 33.

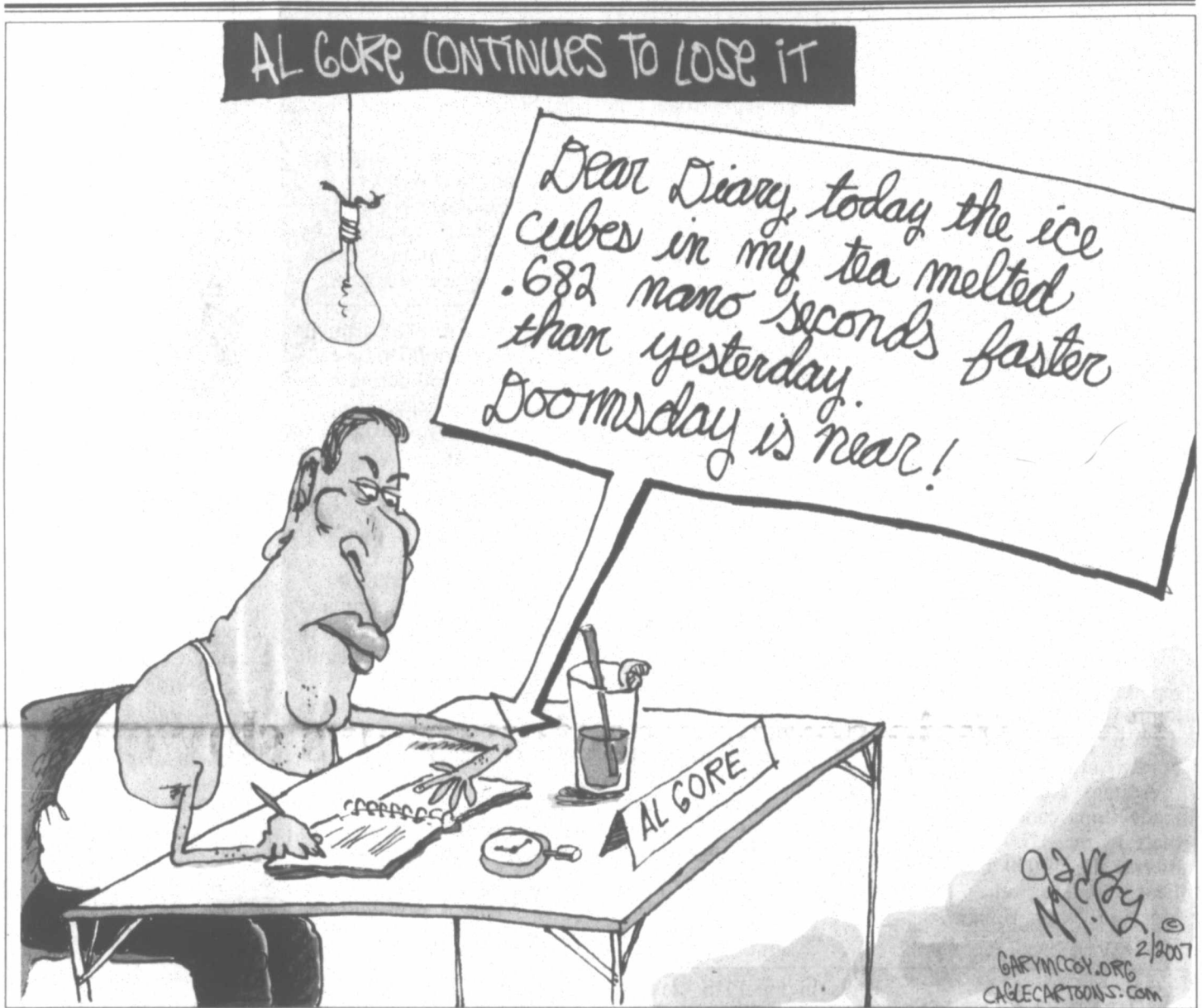
In 2004, Martha Stewart was convicted in New York of lying to the government about a stock sale; her ex-stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, also was found guilty. (Each later received a five-month prison sentence.)

Ten years ago: The Ohio River rose to its highest level in a generation, flooding the Louisville, Ky., area. Tommy Lasorda, Nellie Fox and Willie Wells Sr. were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame. North and South Korea met for the first time in 25 years to talk peace.

Five years ago: President Bush slapped punishing tariffs of 8 percent to 30 percent on several types of imported steel in an effort to aid the ailing U.S. industry. California Congressman Gary Condit, dogged by the Chandra Levy scandal, lost a Democratic primary election to Dennis Cardoza.

*'More tears have been shed over men's lack of manners than their lack of morals.'*

— Helen Hathaway  
American writer  
(1893-1932)



## The whole human race is in a decline

I hope President George Bush will not be so stupid as to allow the Israelis to push him into an attack on Iran. Based on his past performance, however, I'm not sure what he will do.

Washington today is so riddled with intellectual dishonesty, you have to take what officials say with a large dose of salt. The statement "We have no plans to attack Iran" can mean nothing more than we haven't made that decision yet or we don't have plans to attack this week, but we do intend to attack by April.

The Pentagon, by the way, probably has had contingency plans for an attack for who knows how long. That's part of its job. It probably has contingency plans to attack a lot of countries. The

point is that the military plans, but the decisions are made by politicians.

If we do attempt to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities, it should provide a good test of Russia's air defense system, a version of which the Russians have sold and installed in Iran. It will be interesting to see how well it works — though not, of course, for our pilots.

Given the enormous trouble Iraq and Afghanistan are giving us, it seems to me that it would be moronic to add an enemy of 70 million people to our list of unresolved military conflicts. An attack by America will, of course,

cut the feet off of all Iranian reformers. Under attack, Iranians will rally around their leaders, just as human beings have been doing for centuries.

Another strategic problem worth worrying about is the Bush administration's push to build and install an anti-ballistic missile system. The administration claims it is for defense against rogue states like Iran. The Russians and probably the Chinese see it differently.

They see the anti-ballistic system as a first-strike weapon. The system would be helpless against a launch

of Russian missiles, but if a U.S. first strike could take out many of the Russian missiles, then the ABM system could so thin the surviving missiles that American officials might well be tempted to start a nuclear war. That's why Russia is upset with plans to put components of the system in Eastern Europe.

Never forget that intelligent military planners must disregard intentions and concentrate on capabilities. Intentions can change in minutes; capabilities cannot. So, if the U.S. deploys an ABM system that provides the capability to launch a first strike, the Russian planners will have to consider that as a fact and react

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348  
Fax: 806-669-2520  
email: [editor@thepampanews.com](mailto:editor@thepampanews.com)

**Publisher: Sean Smith**  
Editor: Dennis Spies  
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods  
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

**Feb. 26**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on open records and technology in Texas:  
Sure, to some people this may seem to be "Oh, get a life" stuff, but for advocates of open government, it's an important step.

The Texas House of Representatives has begun putting copies of bills and their proposed amendments online during floor debates, updated in real time so anyone who wants to can follow the action as it takes place in Austin. Live video of those debates has been available online since 2001, but sometimes the process is a little hard to follow if you can't see the documents under dis-

ussion.  
The new system is an expansion to the World Wide Web of the computerized displays that have long been available to members sitting at their desks in the House chambers.

Under rules adopted last month, the House also will speed up online publication of record vote reports. Texans will be able to see how their representatives voted within an hour of the votes.

Both of these services rolled out last week through links on the Texas Legislature Online Web site, [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us). Initially, they're in a test phase, but they seem to be working well. Any flaws are expected to be fixed by Thursday.

Over in the Senate, business is still done by distributing pieces of paper.

Anyone who is interested can watch online, but (for floor amendments especially) they can't read the words that lawmakers are arguing about. Vote results are reported in the Senate Journal, usually online later in the day.

No newspaper is going to argue against the value of words on paper, but spreading those words instantly by the Internet is an excellent advancement in technology and open government. Secretary of the Senate Patsy Spaw says that her side of the Capitol expects to work on delivering online displays of floor documents during the 2009 legislative session.

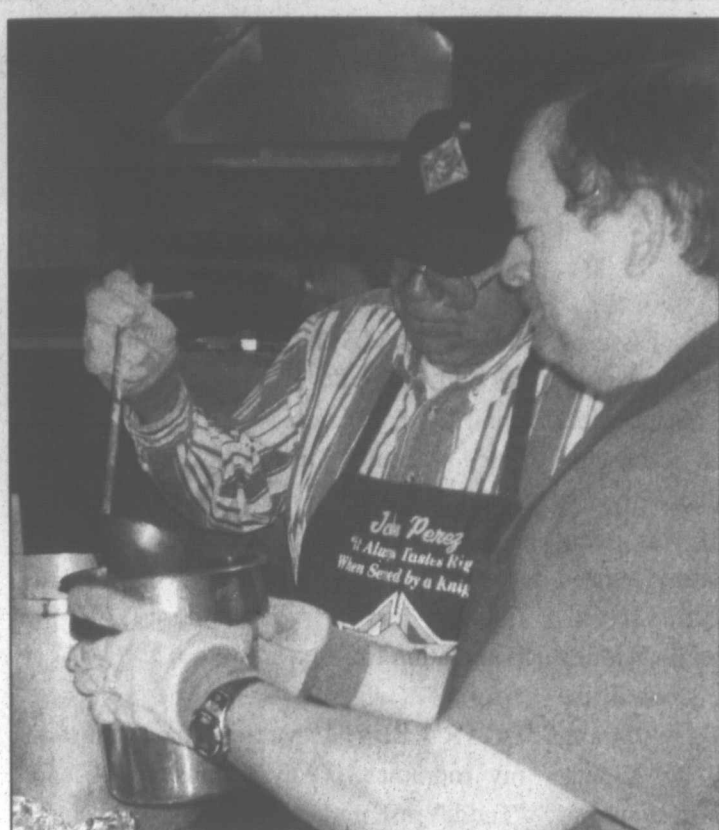
When it comes to how government works, more information to those who are governed is always good — and sooner is better.

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### Tasty Polish sausage dinner

Cristy and Brett Bromwell enjoy eating Polish sausage, potato salad, beans and dessert at the 55th annual Knights of Columbus Polish sausage dinner Sunday. At right, Knights John Perez, left, and David Silva dip up barbecue sauce.



Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

accordingly. It is an exceedingly dangerous ploy by the president, not to mention an enormously expensive one.

As for Iraq, keep in mind the ABCs of guerrilla warfare. If we do, in fact, deploy all those additional troops to Baghdad (and that's not yet a certainty), the guerrillas will go to ground and simply wait us out or shift their attacks to other parts of the country. That's how it's always been when irregular forces are confronted by superior conventional power. Our own George Washington learned that lesson and became a master of retreating to prevent the British from destroying his army and the revolution.

Naturally, American officials will trumpet a great triumph and proclaim that the light at the end of the tunnel radiates from a glorious liberal democratic future for Iraq. That will be a load of horse apples. Iraq is so impoverished, so riddled by corruption and incompetence, so full of vicious sectarian strife, that the best the Iraqi people can hope for is a benign dictator.

Unfortunately, the Middle East produces oil, dates, olives and pistachio nuts in abundance, but has so far been mighty short of benign dictators. Well, we've been awfully short on smart leaders. Maybe the whole human race is in decline.

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

## Stocks manage to stabilize, indexes trade in narrow range

By MADLEN READ

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street managed to stabilize itself today, although investors remained nervous about mortgage defaults, a strengthening yen and tumbling stock markets abroad.

The major indexes fluctuated as investors tried to size up where the market was headed, and as traders swooped in to take advantage of stocks left severely depressed by last week's big decline.

"Probably it's better to save any judgment on this market today until the last half hour," said Philip S. Dow, managing director of equity strategy at RBC Dain Rauscher in Minneapolis, noting that little has changed in terms of economic fundamentals, but that the market is still very volatile.

Concerns about losses over soured subprime loans — loans to cus-

tomers with poor credit ratings — were one of the many factors behind Wall Street's selloff. Those worries were rekindled Monday when HSBC Holdings PLC, Europe's largest bank, said its 2006 earnings rose 5 percent but that it suffered \$10.6 billion on losses on bad loans from its U.S. subprime mortgage operations.

Meanwhile, a rising yen added to concerns about an erosion in the yen carry trade, which refers to the process of borrowing the low-yielding yen to acquire assets in other currencies with greater yields. A slowdown could hurt liquidity worldwide. By late morning, the U.S. dollar fell to 116.09 yen, up from its earlier lows near 115 but still well below its level less than a week ago above 120.

The Institute for Supply Management's index on the services sector gave investors little to cheer about when it registered at 54.3,

lower than analysts' expected reading of 57.5 and January's reading of 59.0. Still, a reading above 50 indicates expansion, suggesting that U.S. service industries are still growing, albeit at a modest pace.

In late morning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 56.56, or 0.47 percent, at 12,170.55, having fallen 75 in earlier trading.

Broader stock indicators were modestly higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 2.79, or 0.20 percent, at 1,389.96, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 2.12, or 0.09 percent, to 2,370.12.

Bonds were little changed, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note at 4.50 percent, the same as late Friday. The dollar was higher against other major currencies except for the yen. Gold, though traditionally a safe-haven investment, continued to slide.

Oil prices dropped sharply, losing

\$1.29 to trade at \$60.35 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange due to concerns about the world economy.

Investors appeared to have been somewhat consoled by comments attributed to U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson by Japan's finance minister, Koji Omi. Neither Omi nor Paulson, who began a three-nation Asian tour in Tokyo today, were concerned by the swings in regional stock markets, Omi told reporters in Tokyo. Both men contend the market mechanism was functioning well, Omi said.

Still, Asian and European stocks left U.S. investors nervous. The Nikkei fell for the fifth straight session to close down 3.3 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 4 percent and the Shanghai Composite Index, which has proven volatile in recent weeks, fell 1.6 percent.

## Economic service sector grows slower than expected

By CANDICE CHOI

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's service sector expanded at a slower-than-expected rate in February amid a slowdown in new orders that economists think may help cool inflation.

The Institute for Supply Management, which is based in Tempe, Ariz., said today that its index of business activity in the service sector was 54.3, down from 59.0 in January. Wall Street analysts had expected a reading of at least 57.0

for the latest month.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while one below that indicates contraction.

February marked the 47th consecutive month of business activity growth, the trade group said.

"Members' comments in February are mixed concerning current business conditions. The overall indication in February is continued economic growth in the non-manufacturing sector, but at a slower pace

than in January," said Anthony Nieves, head of ISM's survey committee.

The service industries covered by the ISM report represent about 80 percent of the nation's economic activity, and economists are looking for the sector to be a driver of growth in 2007 as the manufacturing sector struggles with weakness in the automotive and housing industries.

The data gave investors little to be excited about, although Mark Vitner,

senior economist with Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, N.C., said the moderate growth may help put the brakes on inflation. He noted that the weakening of new orders in February — to 54.8 from 55.4 in January — indicates businesses are being conservative as growth slows.

Prices moderated to 53.8 in February, from 55.2 in January.

The employment index strengthened to 52.2, up from 51.7 the month before.

## Man says he dismembered wife

By JOHN FLESHER

Associated Press Writer

PETOSKEY, Mich. (AP)

— A man authorities tracked down in the snow of a wilderness area confessed to killing and dismembering his wife, and described the "horrific" details surrounding her death, a sheriff said today.

Stephen Grant was recovering from hypothermia at a hospital today, a day after he was captured by authorities who pursued him to northern Michigan after he fled his home near Detroit.

Grant has been cooperating with investigators and telling them in detail how Tara Lynn Grant was killed and dismembered and where her remains were dumped, Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel said at a news conference today.

"He gave a very lengthy confession, laying out exactly what took place," Hackel said.

A female torso was discovered Friday in the garage of Grant's home in Washington Township, 30 miles north of Detroit. The torso, and other body parts found in a nearby park, were believed to be those of Tara Grant, a businesswoman and mother of two who disappeared last month.

"It's very horrific. What he had done to her was one of those things that I think people can only imagine by watching a movie or televi-

sion or actually seeing and reading about in some kind of a novel," Hackel said.

Tara Grant, 34, was last seen alive Feb. 9. Her husband reported her missing five days later. Police say the couple had recently argued over her frequent business trips abroad, and Hackel said there was a confrontation between Stephen and Tara Grant at their home.

County Medical Examiner Daniel Spitz told the Detroit Free Press that preliminary autopsy results showed the woman likely died of strangulation before her body was dismembered. He said he would release official findings today.

The Grants' two children, a 6-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy, were staying with relatives.



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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** As someone who has been dealing with diabetes for most of my life, I've made a point to have regular medical checkups to keep a close watch on my cholesterol, blood pressure and glucose levels. For a long time, I thought I was doing everything I could to stay healthy. What I didn't realize until I attended a free screening offered by the National Kidney Foundation was that diabetes is one of the leading causes of chronic kidney disease. This screening, called "KEEP" for Kidney Early Evaluation Program, is designed to detect kidney disease in the early stages in people like me who have diabetes and other health problems that put us at risk. I knew I had diabetes. But KEEP identified my chronic kidney disease, and I have since been taking measures to keep it under control. I have also learned that doctors do not routinely screen for kidney function. Twenty million Americans -- that's one in every nine adults -- have chronic kidney disease, and 20 million MORE Americans remain at risk. I'm writing to you, Abby, to ask you to let your readers know that if they suspect they have high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of kidney disease, they, too, could be at risk. March 8 is World Kidney Day -- and it is the day the National Kidney Foundation is offering free KEEP screenings in 30 cities around the United States. World Kidney Day is not a "holiday." It's a time to find out your family's history, assess whether you might be at risk and get checked out. Hopefully, it is also a day people can celebrate the idea of enjoying long, healthier lives for themselves and those they love ... for KEEPS!

-- ALMA McBRIDE, MERRITT ISLAND, FLA.

**DEAR ALMA:** Thank you for your helpful and informative letter. I, for one, was unaware that high blood pressure and diabetes -- in addition to a family history -- could make people more vulnerable to kidney disease. Readers, to locate the KEEP screening nearest you, visit [www.keep-online.org](http://www.keep-online.org), or call the National Kidney Foundation toll-free at (800) 622-9010.

**DEAR ABBY:** I share an apartment with my roommate, "Ally," whose boyfriend, "Todd," just moved in one day. We have our own rooms, but the wall dividing our rooms goes only halfway up, so I hear everything that they do -- including sex. I can't stand it anymore! Todd never leaves because he doesn't have a job. While Ally works and goes to school, he lies around all day. She comes home and does Todd's laundry, cooks for him, cleans up after him and pays for everything. They have sex all the time, and it often wakes me up or keeps me awake at night. I am paying over \$1,000 a month, and I have reached the end of my rope. I don't know how to address it. Please help me. -- **TEARING MY HAIR OUT IN ILLINOIS**

**DEAR TEARING MY HAIR OUT:** It is time to inform your roommate that the situation has become intolerable, if you haven't already found the courage to do so. Your landlord might also want to weigh in on the discussion. I don't know what kind of lease you and Ally have, but it's time you read it closely. Many leases have clauses that restrict the number of days (and nights!) that "guests" may remain on the premises.

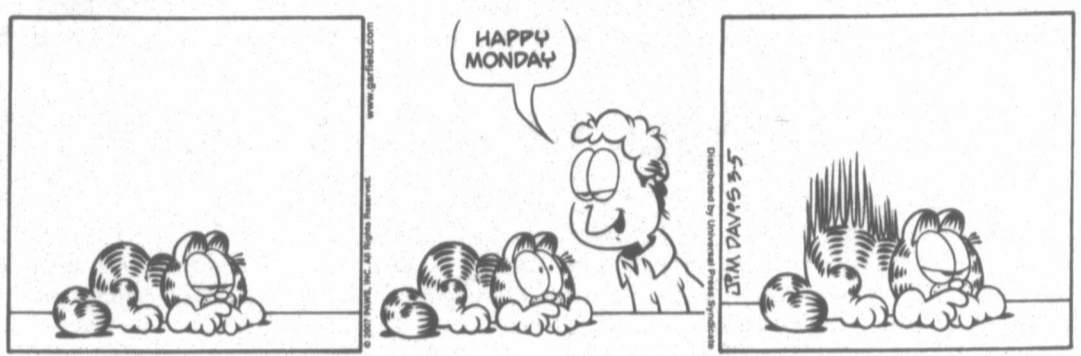
## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

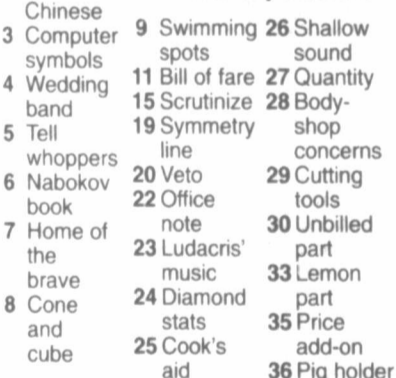
### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

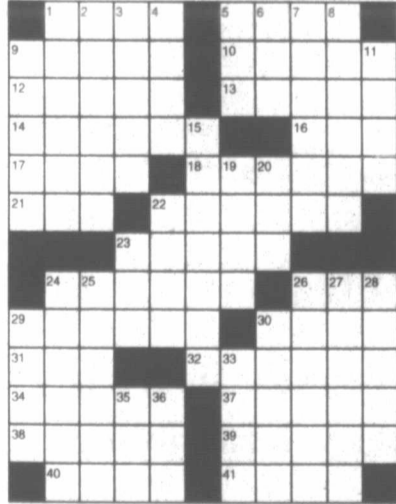
- ACROSS**
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  - 5 Congress creations
  - 9 Joe of "Goodtelias"
  - 10 Figure of speech
  - 12 Betelgeuse's constellation
  - 13 Patriot's bird
  - 14 Grove fruit
  - 16 Take the prize
  - 17 Microscope part
  - 18 "Citizen Kane" estate
  - 21 Ave. crossers
  - 22 Wise sayings
  - 23 Modified recording
  - 24 Pal of Porthos
  - 26 Young man
  - 29 Squelch
  - 30 Arrived
  - 31 Epitome of easiness
  - 32 2006 fantasy film
  - 34 Is patient
  - 37 Folder's phrase
  - 38 March honoree, for short
- DOWN**
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  - 2 Japanese and Chinese
  - 3 Computer symbols
  - 4 Wedding band
  - 5 Tell whoppers
  - 6 Nabokov book
  - 7 Home of the brave
  - 8 Cone and cube
  - 9 Swimming spots
  - 11 Bill of fare
  - 15 Scrutinize
  - 19 Symmetry line
  - 20 Veto
  - 22 Office note
  - 23 Ludacris' music
  - 24 Diamond stats
  - 25 Cook's aid
  - 26 Shallow sound
  - 27 Quantity
  - 28 Body-shop concerns
  - 29 Cutting tools
  - 30 Unbilled part
  - 33 Lemon part
  - 35 Price add-on
  - 36 Pig holder



### Saturday's answer



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## Marmaduke



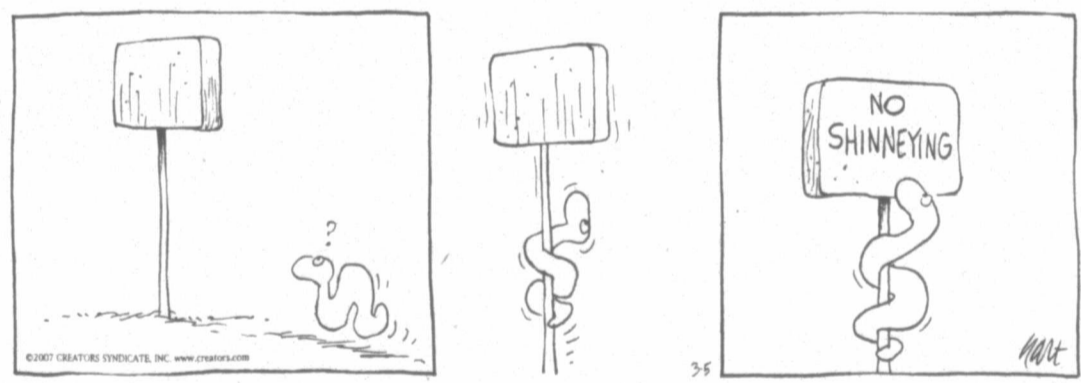
## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Sports Day



JV pitcher Braden Hunt spent five innings on the mound during the Hereford game on Saturday. Hunt threw 11 strikeouts.

## Lady Harvesters tie Canyon in hard soccer

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

In what turned out to be another huge improvement for the Lady Harvesters, Pampa tied Canyon at 0 in Saturday afternoon's game in Pampa.

The last time the teams met in Canyon, the Lady Harvesters were defeated 8-1.

"[Canyon] really put it on us the first time around," coach Trent Davis said, "Obviously we would have rather come away with a win, but we are very pleased with this result."

The girls got a talk from the coaches before the game about playing hard soccer, and not giving up early goals.

This proved effective as

the Lady Harvesters kept Canyon, who had a strong wind to their backs, from getting any balls in.

Goal tender Erin Hall made several crucial saves in the first half, even managing to deflect a shot that was on its way in over her head.

After halftime, the Lady Harvesters had their chance to close in on Canyon, with the wind now to their backs, as the Canyon players and fans festered with frustration.

In the end, the game was tied 0-0, a significant improvement from the previous match with Canyon.

The Lady Harvesters will play again this afternoon at 4:15 in Pampa against Randall.

## Weekley misses chance to win suspended Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Almost an hour after missing the biggest putt of his career, Boo Weekley was smiling, signing autographs and cracking one-liners.

"The Lord has blessed me with another chance," Weekley said. "Why shouldn't I be happy?"

Not even missing out on what would have been his first PGA Tour victory and a \$990,000 winner's check could spoil Weekley's mood on Sunday night — since he's getting another chance at claiming those items on Monday morning.

Weekley missed a 3-foot par putt on the 72nd hole that would have given him a win at the Honda Classic. Instead, he wound up in a four-man playoff with Camilo Villegas, Mark Wilson and Jose Caceres, one that was suspended after one hole because of darkness at PGA National.

Weekley, Villegas, Wilson and Caceres all finished at 5-under 275. Play resumes Monday at 8:30 a.m.

"I was shaking," Weekley said of the par putt on the final hole of regulation. "I ain't going to lie about it. I mean, I was shaking like a leaf. ... I made a good stroke. I just hit it way too hard."

With a 15-footer on the tournament's 71st hole, the par-3 17th, Weekley took the lead and only needed a par at the last to get that win and the money. He reached the 18th green in three shots, tipping his cap as he walked up to acknowledge the long, loud serenade of "Boo."

The gallery made a much different sound moments later, when his putt slid past the left edge.

"You've got to feel for Boo," Villegas said. "But it's golf. Those things happen."

Each player made par at the par-5 18th, the first playoff hole.

## JV baseball down and up for the weekend

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

To start off the weekend, the JV baseball team was defeated by Canyon 13-3.

Redeeming themselves from their early loss, the

boys topped the weekend with a 15-2 win over Hereford on Saturday.

Braden Hunt pitched for five innings and threw 11 strikeouts.

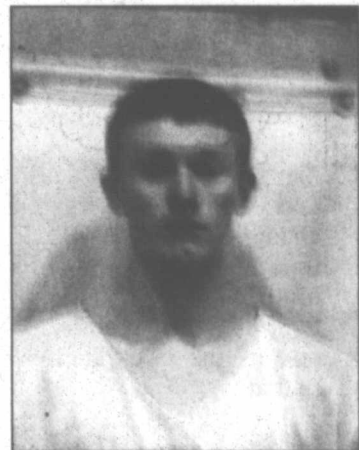
John Luke Covalt led with three runs, followed by Heath Skinner and Mitchell Killgo with two each.

Jeremy Maxwell batted in two runs, and Jeremy Busse,

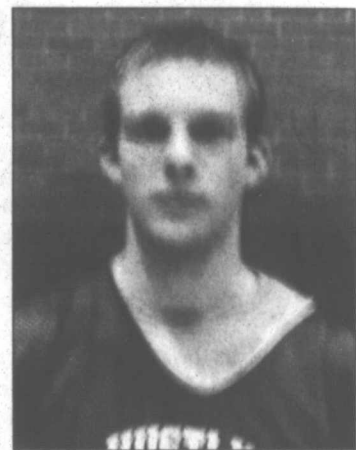
Johnny Anguiano and Mitchell Killgo each batted in one.

The JV boys will play next at 1 p.m. Saturday against Perryton in Pampa.

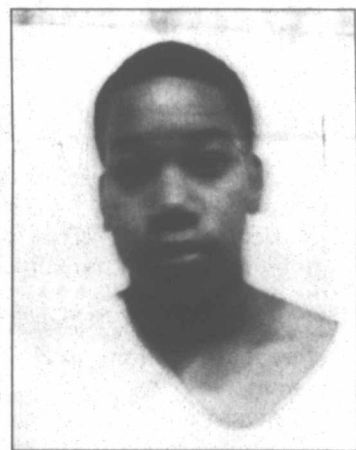
## All-District basketball players named



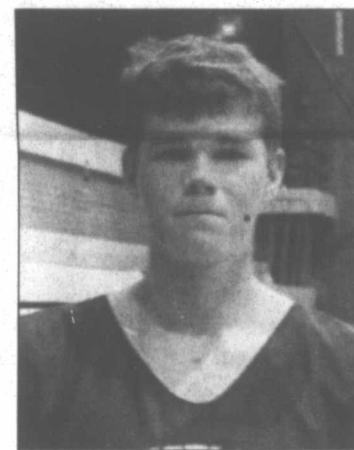
1st Team All-District  
Tyler Hall - senior



2nd Team All-District  
Matt Smith - soph.



Honorable Mention  
Trent Harris - senior



Honorable Mention  
Alex Clendenning - fresh.

## Sosa goes deep for first time in 19 months

By The Associated Press

Sammy Sosa had something to hop about for the first time in a while.

Showing he's still got some pop in his bat, Sosa hit his first home run in 19 months to help the Texas Rangers beat the Kansas City Royals 5-0 on Sunday in Surprise, Ariz.

"It was good to get the first one out of the way," said Sosa, attempting a comeback after sitting out last season. "That was huge for me. Everyone wanted me to do that."

The former Chicago Cubs slugger, whose trademark hop out of the batter's box came with many of his 588

career homers, drove a 1-1 pitch from Luke Hudson over the left-center fence to lead off the second inning. Sosa last homered with Baltimore on Aug. 4, 2005.

Sosa signed a minor league contract with the Rangers, his original team, during the offseason. He struck out and flied out in his other two at-bats Sunday. He started in right field after being Texas' designated hitter Saturday and in a "B" game Friday.

"I feel a lot more relaxed," Sosa said. "I feel physically stronger."

At Tucson, Ariz., the Diamondbacks turned a triple play and beat the Seattle Mariners 6-4 in a

split-squad game — the second triple play in two days at spring training.

*'I've changed my spring approach to not being concerned about getting people out. I work on getting one pitch refined, then another, then another.'*

— Kenny Rogers

With runners on first and second and none out in the

second inning, Michael Garciaparra lined Edgar Gonzalez's pitch to shortstop Stephen Drew. He stepped on second base to retire Mike Morse, then threw to first baseman Tony Clark to get Michael Wilson and complete the triple play.

Garciaparra is the younger brother of Los Angeles Dodgers star Nomar Garciaparra.

"It was amazing," Gonzalez said. "It's the first time in my life I've been in the game" for a triple play.

Yet it was the second triple play in Tucson in two days. The Los Angeles Angels turned one against the Colorado Rockies at Hi Corbett Field on Saturday.

"I just reacted," said Drew, who had never seen a triple play in person. "It happened so quick. It was a unique thing."

At Winter Haven Fla., Kenny Rogers, who pitched 23 straight scoreless innings in the 2006 postseason, gave up two runs — one earned — and three hits for Detroit in a 7-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

After tossing two innings in his first start of the spring, he spent an hour signing autographs and chatting with fans before heading to the clubhouse.

"It's a beautiful day. I'm content and having the most fun ever," said the 42-year-old Rogers, preparing for his

19th major league season after leading the Tigers to the World Series last year.

"I've changed my spring approach to not being concerned about getting people out," he said. "I work on getting one pitch refined, then another, then another."

Rogers struggled a bit with his command. He hit one batter with a pitch and walked another in the first inning. He gave up two hits and a second run in the second, but avoided more trouble by getting Grady Sizemore to hit into a double play.

"I just didn't know where my pitches were going," Rogers said.

## Survivors of bus wreck in Georgia return to Ohio in mourning

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — Jon Betts stepped off a charter flight wearing the same baseball cap that his son wore when he died.

Betts returned home to Ohio on Sunday, two days after a bus crash in Georgia claimed the lives of his son, three of his Bluffton University baseball teammates and two others.

Since the accident, Betts said, he has spent a lot of time telling the players who came away with only minor injuries that "it was OK that they survived."

About 30 people walked off the flight — one player limping, another with his

arm in a sling — and greeted those waiting on the tarmac at Toledo Express Airport with hugs. A hearse drove to the back of the plane to transport two players' bodies.

"He died doing what he loved and who he enjoyed being with," Jon Betts said of his son, David, a sophomore. "That's all that is important to us."

Also killed in Friday's crash were sophomore outfielder Tyler Williams of Lima; Scott Harmon, a freshman from Lima; and Cody Holp, a freshman from Arcanum. The driver and his wife, Jerome and Jean

Niemeyer, also died.

The team from the Mennonite-affiliated university was traveling to its annual spring training in Florida when the charter bus crashed before daybreak. The bus was carrying 35 student-athletes, coaches and bus drivers. The 1,200-student school will be closed this week for spring break.

Investigators said the driver apparently mistook an exit ramp for a regular lane, and the bus crashed into a barrier at a T-shaped intersection and plummeted off the overpass onto the highway below.

On Sunday, investigators

interviewed two players and a coach who were recovering from injuries.

One player said they had seen nothing unusual up until the time of the accident, and the driver was not talking on a cell phone or radio, said Kitty Higgins.

There are tire marks at the scene, but they do not suggest the driver slammed on his brakes, Higgins said. The bus showed no mechanical problems.

Georgia transportation officials said Sunday they had no immediate plans to close or add safety signs to the highway exit ramp where the bus crashed.

The state Department of Transportation wants to see recommendations from the NTSB before adding any new safety devices such as signs or stoplights to the Interstate 75 ramp, spokesman David Spear said.

"We won't wait until their final published report. If during the course of their conversations it might make this better, we're going to act on it," he said.

There are two "Prepare to Stop" signs on the ramp, which exits off the left lane, and the same words are painted on the ramp itself, Spear said. The NTSB has

said that the accident site has had numerous crashes and can be difficult for drivers to navigate.

Fred Hanscom, director of independent consulting group Transportation Research Corp., said the ramp could have larger signs, a stoplight at the top or pavement grooves that make a noise to warn drivers to slow down.

"The fact that this ramp went almost parallel with the main line (of the interstate) was a confusing factor," Hanscom said. "Drivers normally expect ramps to go to the right and not the left."











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We will officially change our name in parts of Oklahoma and Texas to ***Cellular One from Dobson Cellular Systems.***

For many years, Dobson Communications Corporation has branded its service under the name Cellular One. The exception was in markets we own in Western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle where until recently another company owned the rights to the Cellular One name. Now we own the Cellular One name across the country. We are in no way affiliated with the previous company that operated wireless service in your area under the Cellular One brand name.

Using two brand names – Dobson Cellular Systems and Cellular One – posed many operating challenges for Dobson. Our sole purpose in moving to the Cellular One brand name is to simplify our operations and serve you better.

Dobson Communications Corporation provides Cellular One wireless service to more than 1.6 million customers in 17 states. We have over 2,600 dedicated employees serving the needs of Cellular One customers every day. Last year, we added more than 120,000 new customers through internal growth and acquisitions. As a result of our investment in new technologies and a renewed commitment to customer service, our financial health is stronger than ever.

Changing our brand name to Cellular One has nothing to do with a change in ownership of the company. Dobson Communications Corporation will continue to be a publicly traded company on the NASDAQ (DCEL) and I will continue in my role as Chairman of the Board. You'll simply see a new name on our retail stores and your monthly statements.

We look forward to continuing to service your wireless telecommunication needs. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



EVERETT R. DOBSON  
Chairman of the Board  
Dobson Communications Corporation