



Tomorrow's Weather

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See expanded weather on Page 2

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THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, March 26, 2007

Volume 102 • No. 300

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Criminal mischief, drugs, theft keep officers busy

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Criminal mischief, illegal drugs and theft kept local law enforcement officers busy over the weekend and resulted in seven arrests.

Two males, ages 17 and 15, were arrested Friday evening after Pampa police received a call stating that the two were driving around the city and using slingshots to shoot metal balls at vehicles.

Lexton Bran LaRue, 17, of Pampa was arrested by Officer Dave Thomas in the 1600 block of North Russell and booked into Gray County Jail at 6:18 p.m. Friday on a

charge of criminal mischief over \$1,500 and under \$20,000, according to jail records. The monetary amount of the criminal mischief makes the charge a state jail felony.

"The 15-year-old is from Woodward, Okla., and was released to his parents," said PPD Assistant Chief Dennis Burton.

"We've got two or three incidents at least," Burton said concerning the number of criminal mischief reports in which the two were believed to be involved. "We are still investigating it."

A third individual, possibly a juvenile, may also be involved in the

incidents, Burton said.

"Damage to one window of a house was \$900 alone," he said of the damage the teens allegedly caused.

Officer Andy Alaniz arrested four persons in the early hours today after making a traffic stop at 2:17 a.m. in the 300 block of West Worrell.

A substance believed to be methamphetamine was found in the vehicle. All four were charged with possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone, a state jail felony. The location of the stop is near Pampa High School.

Arrested and booked into Gray County Jail at 3 a.m. were Brian Lane Sealman, 24; Luis Gerardo Jimenez, 27; Judy Janean Hawkins, 20; and Patricia Ramirez Vargas, 28. All four are Pampa residents.

Vargas was also charged with possession of less than two ounces of marijuana in a drug-free zone, a Class A misdemeanor; possession of drug paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor; and failure to identify as a fugitive, a Class A misdemeanor.

Warrants for Vargas' arrest were also found concerning municipal

See POLICE, Page 3

Lake Patriot



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Pampa Junior High School appeared to be floating in Lake Patriot today after heavy weekend rains. Pampa has received more than five inches of rain in March, well above the less than an inch in February.

Housing development to be discussed

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission will go into executive session Tuesday to consider a financial offer by Pampa Economic Development Corp. to Hampton Village LP regarding moderate and low priced housing off Alcock Street.

Hampton Village has proposed building single family homes on the west side of Pampa, pending government approval. City officials said today that a decision by the federal government isn't expected until August.

The commission will also consider an agreement with TechSolve concerning an efficiency study of the city's

operations.

Gary Brown of Brown, Graham and Co. will present its 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report to the city commission Tuesday afternoon.

The commission will consider on

See CITY, Page 3

Bill targets teacher retirement

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, is proposing a safety mechanism for the Teacher Retirement System funding.

The state senator, who represents Pampa and much of West Texas down to Midland, said the bill he has filed would tap local school districts to keep the Teacher Retirement Fund solvent in rough financial times.

"This is the second session that Sen. Duncan has proposed such legislation," said Pampa Independent School District Superintendent Barry Haenisch.

The state's teacher retirement system is underfunded. Haenisch said the problem is really twofold.

First, the investments in the fund took a hit when the market dived on Sept. 11, 2001, after terrorists hit the World Trade Center.

"The stocks in the fund lost value," Haenisch said.

See RETIRE, Page 3

Animal Control expands hours

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

The Pampa Animal Control office is expanding their hours and services in April. The facility will be open 12 - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 12 - 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday beginning Sunday.

They are also offering new bulletin boards in the front window of the office with pictures of animals that have been picked up and also those that are ready for adoption.

Animal Control Officer Sandy Burns said they wanted to make it easier on Pampa residents to come by and look at the animals they have and also offer microchipping services.

"Even though we will still work seven days and week, 24 hours a day on calls, we wanted to be more accessible to the public," Burns said. "We are trying to come up with

different ideas on how to allow people to view the animals that we have in case they come by and we aren't open. We decided to take pictures of the animals and put them on two different bulletin boards that will be visible in our front window."

One bulletin board will be of those animals picked up or brought in that are being held for three days for the owner to claim them. The other board will have pictures of those animals that are ready for adoption.

"If someone comes by and sees their dog or cat on that board and we aren't open, they can call and leave a voice mail message on our answering machine," Burns said. "This will give them peace of mind that their pet will not be adopted out to someone else or worse, euthanized."

The facility also offers microchipping

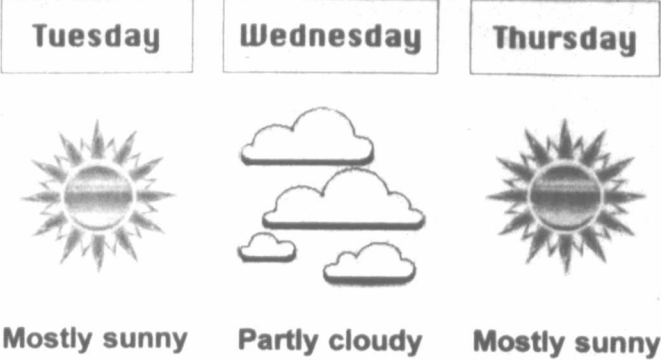
See ANIMAL, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
Animal Control Officer Onry Wells shows off one of the animals at the shelter. This puppy is one of the lucky ones that has found a new home.

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NEXT DAY FORECAST



Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 15 and 20 mph. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. South wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 74. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 45. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west northwest. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. North northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer		KML	106.00	-0.02
Wheat	4.25	XCEL	24.49	-0.06
Milo	6.36	Anadarko	42.04	+0.31
Corn	7.20	XOM	75.31	+0.29
Soybeans	6.46	Nat'l Oilwell	77.59	+0.23
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa		Limited	26.79	+0.06
OXY	48.38	Williams	28.70	+0.49
BP PLC ADR	64.46	MCD	44.95	-0.10
Cabot Corp	47.94	Atmos	31.10	-0.05
Celanese	31.09	Pioneer Nat	40.14	+0.31
Cabot Oil Gas	69.48	JCP	81.82	+0.41
Coca Cola	47.80	COP	69.78	+0.53
VLO	63.92	SLB	69.47	+0.37
HAL	31.27	Tenneco	25.79	+0.22
TRI	52.27	CVX	74.05	+0.35
		Wal-Mart	47.60	-0.31
		OKE	46.25	+0.12
		New York Gold	657.30	
		Silver	13.23	
		West Texas Crude	62.28	

Anna Nicole: accidental OD

DANIA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith died of an accidental overdose of a sleeping medication and at least eight other prescription drugs, and she had recently had a bacterial infection from injecting drugs into her buttocks, authorities said today.

Broward County Medical Examiner Joshua Perper said Smith died of "combined drug intoxication" with the sleeping medication chloral hydrate as the major factor. She had been taking a lengthy list of medications, including methadone for pain and valium, he said.

A bacterial infection from injecting medication in her buttocks and a viral infection contributed to her death, the

autopsy report said.

Chloral hydrate is a sedative used to treat insomnia and alcohol withdrawal, relieve anxiety and ease post-surgery pain. Perper said Smith had been on several antidepressant and anti-anxiety drugs and had recently taken longevity medications, B12 and growth hormone. The detailed autopsy showed no evidence of disease.

"We found nothing to indicate any foul play," said Chief Charlie Tiger of the Seminole police department.

Smith, 39, was found Feb. 8 in her room at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood, which is on one of the tribe's reservations.

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

McCLENDON, Ralph M. — Graveside services 2 p.m., Turnersville Community Cemetery, Turnersville, Texas.

Ralph M. McClendon, 90

Ralph M. McClendon, 90, died Saturday, March 24, 2007, in Pampa.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at Turnersville Community Cemetery in Turnersville, Texas, with Pastor Charles Grossman, minister of the Eastwood Baptist Church in Gatesville, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of

Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. McClendon was born on March 15, 1917, in Turnersville, Texas, and had been a resident of Pampa since 1979. He was a Methodist, and he was a farmer. He attended the Central Baptist Church in Pampa.

Survivors include three sisters, Syble Mayberry of

San Antonio, Bertha M. Roam of Selma, California, and Rollene Ficklin of Plano; and three brothers, M. E. (Gene) McClendon of Pampa, Richard McClendon of Lompoc, California, and H. N. McClendon of Tyler. He was preceded in death by his mother, Addie C. McClendon in 1924, his father, Roland M. McClendon in 1950, and his

stepmother, Bertha McClendon in 1971.

Memorials may be made to Central Baptist Church Building Fund, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065.

Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whitley.com

Emergency Services

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

Friday, March 23

Seventeen traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1700 block of Chestnut, the intersection of 18th and Banks streets, the 1600 block of West 18th, the intersection of Hobart and Harvester streets, the 900 block of East Francis, the 1900 block of North Wells, the 900 block of South Schneider, the 2700 block of Navajo and the intersection of Browning and Lefors streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of Perry, the 400 block of Hughes, the 1900 block of Duncan, the 1500 block of North Sumner, the 1100 block of North Williston, the 300 block of North Sumner, the 2100 block of North Williston and the 1100 block of South Barnes.

Civil matters were reported in the 700 block of North Russell, the police department lobby and the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2100 block of North Williston.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Lost property was reported in the 700 block of North Nelson.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1000 block of East Francis and the 800 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 700 block of Browning.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby. The incident, which occurred at an unknown location, involved a vehicle hood being scratched. Estimated cost of damage is unknown.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1700 block of North Russell. A house window valued at \$1,500 was broken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2000 block of North Russell. A house window and the back window of a vehicle were broken.

Estimated cost of damage is \$2,300.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of North Russell. The back window of a vehicle was broken. Estimated cost of damage is unknown.

A runaway was reported in the 2400 block of Comanche. The runaway returned home later that day.

A runaway was reported in the 1000 block of East Browning. The runaway was later located in the 1200 block of East Browning.

Retaliation was reported in the 1000 block of Darby. The incident involved telephone harassment.

Harassment was reported in the 2800 block of West 28th.

Assault was reported in the 500 block of North Sumner. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

A sexual offense was reported in the police department lobby.

Forgery was reported in the 1800 block of North Faulkner.

Theft was reported in the 400 block of North Roberta. A tool box and various hand tools were taken. Estimated value of loss is \$500.

Theft was reported at Pampa Regional Medical Center, 100 W. 30th. A prescription drug pad was taken.

Theft was reported at Express Lube and Wash, 2801 Perryton Parkway. Fuel valued at \$30 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 200 block of North Cuyler.

Burglary was reported in the 1000 block of South Dwight.

Saturday, March 24

Eleven traffic stops were made. One traffic stop in the 900 block of South Gray resulted in an arrest for no driver's license.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1400 block of Charles, the intersection of 21st and Nelson streets, the 1100 block of Wilcox, the 1300 block of North Hobart and the 2700 block of North Hobart.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 700 block of

Bradley Drive, Highway 60 East, the 1900 block of North Dwight, the 1900 block of North Christy, on two occasions at an unreported location; the 1800 block of North Banks, the 1900 block of Coffee, the 900 block of South Finley, the 1100 block of Seneca and the 800 block of East Campbell.

A runaway was reported in the 1600 block of North Russell. The runaway was later found at an unreported location.

One suicide attempt was reported.

A welfare check was made in the 1000 block of North Somerville.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 100 block of South Hobart and the intersection of McCullough Avenue and Price Road.

A civil matter was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of South Gray and the intersection of Barrett and Oklahoma streets.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1600 block of East Highway 60, the 1800 block of North Price Road and the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 400 block of Lefors, the 2100 block of North Christine and the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1100 block of Prairie Drive, the 900 block of South Finley and the 700 block of Malone.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1000 block of Duncan.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1000 block of North Sumner.

Aggravated sexual assault was reported at One Medical Plaza. The incident occurred at an unknown address.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 2800 block of West 28th.

Sunday, March 25

Three traffic stops were made.

Traffic complaints were received from the 300 block of South Somerville, the 1900 block of North Wells and the intersection of Hobart Street and Highway 60.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Cuyler and Kingsmill streets and the intersection of Gwendolyn Street and Price Road, where driving under the influence -- minor was reported and an arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 300 block of North Starkweather, the 1200 block of Darby, the 1200 block of East Kingsmill, the 600 block of North Davis, the 1200 block of East Foster, the 700 block of North Nelson, the 400 block of North Naida, the 1100 block of Juniper, an unreported location, the

2200 block of Evergreen and the intersection of Harvester and Duncan streets.

A welfare check was made in the 2200 block of Duncan. Agency assistance was rendered in the 1000 block of West Randy Matson.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 400 block of North Perry, the 1900 block of North Wells, the 1300 block of Hamilton, the 800 block of West Kingsmill and the intersection of Foster and Starkweather streets, where an arrest for possession of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for speeding and failure to appear was made in connection with the incident.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1100 block of East Kingsmill and the 300 block of South Gray.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1000 block of East Denver.

Silent/abusive 911 calls were received from the 2300 block of Comanche and the 700 block of North Dwight, where a domestic disturbance involving simple assault was reported. No injuries were reported in connection with the incident, which was verbal only.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather, the 2400 block of Dogwood, the 1200 block of South Farley, the intersection of Randy Matson and Duncan streets and the 800 block of South Sumner.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported in the 100 block of North Wynne.

Criminal mischief and assault on a family member were reported in the 500 block of North Frost. A verbal argument ended with an unknown amount of damage being done to a front door.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 600 block of Magnolia. The front and passenger side windows of a vehicle were broken out. Estimated value of damage is \$600.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1000 block of Charles and the 1100 block of North Starkweather, where a BB gun shot at a residence resulted in damage to paint on the home's shutters. Estimated cost of damage is unknown.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 600 block of East Craven.

Theft was reported at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart. Beer and frozen foods valued at \$16 were taken. An arrest was made in connection with the incident.

Monday, March 26

Three traffic stops were made. One stop in the 300 block of West Worrell involved possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Four arrests were made in connection with the incident.

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

Saturday, March 24
 Cheryl Renea Foster, 38, See RECORD, Page 3

You are invited to attend our Gospel Meeting
Central Church of Christ
 500 N. Somerville Pampa, TX
Evangelist R.J. Stevens
 From Kemp, TX
Sunday March 25 through Friday March 28, 2007
 Times of Services:
 Sunday Morning
 Bible Classes 9:45am, Worship 10:40am
 Sunday Evening 6:30pm
 Week Nights 7:30 pm
Come join us for a week of encouraging and life enriching lessons from God's Holy word!

CITY BRIEFS

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

LOST - FEMALE Border Collie. Last seen on East side of Pampa Thurs., March 22. Tipper has yellow eyes, was wearing red collar with tags. Reward. Please call Ginger at 669-7213 or 669-2543 (work).

LOST FROM 2532 Christine: male Chihuahua, reddish tan & white. Answers to Tobi. Reward! 669-3077.

CHICK DAYS at Lick's Feed & Supply! Mar. 21st until all gone.

CLOTHING ROOM Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ (bldg. across the street, South of Pampa High School) Open Tues., Mar. 27th, 9-1 p.m. 665-2373, lv. msg.

MONDAYS AT Pak-A-Burger: Jr. Burger & Fries \$1.99. 669-2865.

PAMPA TEACHER'S Federal Credit Union is celebrating its 70th Anniversary, and would like to invite all members to join us for our Annual Meeting. The annual meeting will be held on Mar. 29th, 7pm. in the MK Brown Heritage Room.

MAKE EXTRA money with Dish Solutions by referring friends. We will pay \$50 for each referral that activates. Call 665-4442 or 440-3260 for more information.

Police

Continued from Page 1

charges of theft under \$50 and failure to appear. Both are Class C misdemeanors.

Gray County sheriff's deputies were also busy over the weekend. Deputy Rhett Rollins arrested David Young Sinches, 52, of Pampa and booked him into Gray County Jail at 8:40 p.m. Saturday on a charge of theft of property over \$50 and under \$500.

Rollins had gone to J & M Machine Shop on Price Road after a call had been received concerning people loading a trailer with items from the shop.

"When Rollins arrived, he observed three males loading scrap metal onto a trailer," said Lt. Joe B. Hoard.

Rollins asked if the trio had permission from the owner of the property to be on the premises and take the metal, and Sinches responded that they had permission, Hoard said.

The deputy next notified the owners, who denied that Sinches or the other two had permission to be on the property or take anything.

"An investigation showed that the other two males were involved but did not know any wrongdoing was taking place," Hoard said. "They were released."

Rollins' weekend ended with another arrest that

occurred as the result of a traffic stop.

He was assisting PPD officers in a traffic stop at 12:09 a.m. today on Neel Road.

"During the course of his assistance, he was asked to search the stopped vehicle," Hoard said. "A man came out of the residence and began shouting obscenities and ordered the deputy away from the vehicle he was searching."

Rollins told the man to return to the house, and the man did so, but continued to shout obscenities, Hoard said. The commotion attracted the attention of neighbors, who came out of their homes in the vicinity of the traffic stop.

"He came out the front

door again, still shouting," Hoard said. "He was told he was under arrest, and he ran to the house."

The man slammed the front door on Rollins' foot as he was pursuing the suspect, Hoard said. Rollins advanced into the home and arrested Donald Joe Williams, 45, of Pampa.

Williams was booked into Gray County Jail at 12:15 a.m. on a charge of assaulting a public servant, a third-degree felony, and evading arrest/detention, Hoard said.

Williams was not the person involved in the traffic stop. The driver involved in the stop was not arrested in connection with the incident, Hoard said.

Record

Continued from Page 2

of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of South Gray by Pampa Police Department for no driver's license.

David Young Sinches, 52, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft of property over \$50 and under \$500.

Shawleen Brown, 31, of McLean was arrested by GCSO for forgery of a financial instrument.

Logan Blake Howard, 18, of Pampa was arrested at the intersection of Gwendolyn Street and Price Road by PPD for driving under the influence -- minor.

Sunday, March 25
Richard Louis McCampbell, 53, of Pampa was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather by PPD for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and municipal warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

Monday, March 26
Donald Joe Williams, 45, of Pampa was arrested by

GCSO for assaulting a public servant and evading arrest/detention.

Judy Janeen Hawkins, 20, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of West Worrell by PPD for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone.

Luis Gerardo Jimenez, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of West Worrell by PPD for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone.

Brian Lane Sealman, 24, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of West Worrell by PPD for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone.

Patricia Ramirez Vargas, 28, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of West Worrell by PPD for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance in a drug-free zone, possession of less than two ounces of marijuana in a drug-free zone, failure to identify as a fugitive, possession of drug paraphernalia, and municipal warrants for failure to appear and theft under \$50.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Sunday, March 25
1:55 p.m. — A 1991 Chrysler New Yorker, driven by Jesus Mejia, 17, of 1109 E. Kingsmill, and a 1998 Honda CVR, driven by Cathy Looper Henson, 53, of 2400 Rosewood, collided in the 100 block of East Kingsmill. No injuries were reported. Mejia was cited for following too closely, no driver's license, no proof of liability insurance and expired motor vehicle registration.

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sunday, March 25
1:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of South Somerville and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.
3:22 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Scott. No transport.
3:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to

PRMC.
7:28 p.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Lowry and transported a patient to PRMC.

Monday, March 26
2:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of South Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following incidents during the 48-hour weekend period.

Saturday, March 24
No reported calls.

Sunday, March 25
5:16 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of Gray on a medical assist.

3:11 p.m. — Two units and seven personnel responded to the 1000 block of Randy Matson on a smoke scare.

6:49 p.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the intersection of Price Road and Gwendolyn on a vehicle accident.

Retire

Continued from Page 1

Secondly, teachers retire at a relatively young age.

"You can retire after 30 years experience," Haenisch said. "Many teachers start their careers at 22 or 23."

That means they can retire in their early 50s. With people living longer, there are a lot of retired teachers pulling money out of the system.

A few years ago, because of a teacher shortage, school districts were hiring retired teachers back into the system. The problem was that because they were retired they were still pulling money out the teacher retirement system, but they were no longer paying back into it.

Sen. Duncan authored legislation that tightened up on that, Haenisch said.

"The bill does several things," Duncan said of his latest proposal. "What it

proposes is a safety mechanism."

He said the appropriations committee, of which Duncan is a member, looks at the soundness of the system.

"We can basically control the soundness of the fund when needed to access a new revenue streams to include the employer, the school districts," Duncan said.

Right now, Haenisch said the state and the teachers contribute to the system. Under Duncan's proposal, local school districts will contribute.

The school district's contribution would be a small increase that would be capped for the purpose of maintaining soundness as well as the active teachers at three-tenths of one point, Duncan said.

"We have increased the state's contribution in the Senate version," Duncan said. "The bill that I'm filing, it would be increased to 6.4 percent, which is up from six percent. We would

guarantee the state's contribution rate would never be less than the active contribution."

That could increase the state's contribution to 6.7 percent.

Duncan said the investment would come over and above the soundness of the system and could be used to increase benefits.

"That way we would have more opportunities for increased benefits to offset cost of living costs that retirees have," Duncan said. He said it shores up contributions to the retirement fund.

"In my view," Duncan said, "it's a good management tool that requires us every session to make sure that the fund is actuarially sound and consider enhanced benefits to offset the cost of living issues for retirees."

The retirement fund should have a better return, he said, as the stock market continues to climb.

"What we're doing is creating additional methods of

finance to assure the actuarial soundness when necessary," Duncan said. "If the fund falls below actuarial soundness then we have tools to access revenues that would help maintain the actuarial soundness of the fund."

Duncan said the additional revenue streams would help when there is a market correction like the one in 2001, or when there is an anomaly where there's a mass exodus from the workforce like when changes in the Social Security program caused a large number of people to retire or lose benefits.

"That caused a flood of retirees, which caused a strain on the retirement," Duncan said.

Along about the same time, the market crashed.

"What we want to do is when we have those things happen, we want to be able to react so that we don't get so far out of balance or equilibrium that we can't recover," Duncan said.

Animal

Continued from Page 1

services for \$15. It is now the law that animals adopted from a shelter have a tattoo or microchip for identification in case they are lost.

"The local veterinarians offer this

service also, but it is a lot more expensive," Burns said. "We want to offer this service cheaper so anyone can afford it. An appointment does need to be set up though, and they can do this by calling 669-5775."

The microchip, which contains personal information that can identify the owner of a pet, is inserted under the skin with a hypodermic needle. When

an animal is picked up, a wand is passed over the animal to see if they have a microchip.

If there is one, a phone number will be displayed where the officer can call and find out who the animal belongs to.

These microchips are safe for the animals and will stay in place throughout that pet's life.

City

Continued from Page 1

first reading an ordinance calling for an election to adopt The Fire and Police Employee Relation Act as it applies to firefighters. The act provides for collective bargaining and prohibits

strikes. If approved by the commission, the election would be held Nov. 6.

The commission will also consider on first reading an ordinance that would amend the city's budget to allow for a new bulldozer at the landfill and maintenance at Hidden Hills Golf Course. The amendment would increase the budget for

those two areas by \$310,000.

Richard Morris, Pampa's director of Public Works, said the funding for the bulldozer would come from four sources. The city will delay the purchase of a trash truck and use the \$120,000 budgeted for the truck toward the bulldozer. The city also expects to get \$25,000 in trade in for the

1997 John Deere bulldozer being replaced. The city also has \$15,000 in unused lease/purchase funds from prior years. The new bulldozer will be bought on a lease/purchase plan that would finance the remaining \$140,000 over the next five years.

The commission will also consider February disbursements of \$1,661,572.94.

Alleged fraud scheme names Reagan aide

NEW YORK (AP) — David Stockman, a former top budget official in the Reagan White House, and three others were charged today in an alleged securities fraud conspiracy that embroiled one of North America's largest auto parts companies before the supplier collapsed into bankruptcy.

Stockman was the former chairman and CEO of Michigan-based Collins & Aikman Corp. He had previously served as budget director under President Reagan in the 1980s and had been a former Republican congressman.

An indictment unsealed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan charged Stockman and three others with conspiracy to commit securities fraud, making false statements in annual and quarterly reports, making false entries in books

and records, lying to auditors as well as committing bank fraud, wire fraud and obstruction of an agency proceeding.

The others charged in the indictment were J. Michael Stepp, David R. Cosgrove and Paul C. Barnaba. It was not immediately clear who was representing them.

An investigation had concentrated on Stockman and other corporate officers from Collins & Aikman.

A spokesman for Collins & Aikman said he had no immediate comment.

The indictment said the crimes occurred as Stockman served on the board of directors of Collins & Aikman from 2000 through May 2005. He was chairman of the board from August 2003 until May 2005. Stepp was vice chairman of the board of direc-

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Viewpoints

Real County played a part in aviation history in 1924

Had it played out differently, what happened in Real County in 1924 could have changed aviation history.

The story starts in Missouri, where St. Louis automobile dealer Leon A. Klink had an abiding interest in flying machines as well as cars. For \$250, he bought a World War I-surplus JN-4C Canuck, a Canadian version of the OX5 Curtiss. The one-engine, 90-horsepower bi-plane had a top speed of 75 mph.

Owning an airplane not being nearly as satisfying as owning an airplane and flying it, Klink asked a 22-year-old acquaintance most folks called Slim to teach him how to fly and then join him on a flight to more southern climes. Slim already had 250 hours flight time but he had applied to attend the Army's flight school at Brooks Field in San Antonio to sharpen his skills and serve his country. Not

having received official word of acceptance, he didn't have to be arm-twisted into escaping Missouri's winter for a multi-state plane trip.

Leaving St. Louis January 24, the two young men winged their way through Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida, where a minor accident at Pensacola delayed them for repairs. While there, Slim got word to report to the Army on March 15. Still having some free time, they decided to head for California by following the tracks of the Southern Pacific.

Low on fuel after confusing the Nueces for the Rio Grande, Slim put the plane down in a plowed field near Camp Wood. Intending to take off again as soon as they refueled, the two aviators got a ride into town to buy gasoline.

Getting back to their plane late in the day, the two cross-country fliers accepted an invitation from a

nearby ranch family to spend the night before resuming their flight. Years later, Ray Chant recalled that they sat around his family's fireplace enjoying the warmth of the hearth and good conversation, though Klink talked more than Slim.

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



The next day when they tried to take off, they found the ground too soft for the Canuck to get up sufficient airspeed. Removing their luggage, the passenger seat and tool box, they tried again with only Slim in the plane.

The plan worked. Slim flew toward Camp Wood to find a better

landing spot while Klink hitched a ride into town, hauling everything they had taken off the plane. Slim put the Canuck down on the Uvalde road, the town's gravel main street.

Almost everyone in the county gathered to see the fliers on their way west. But as Slim taxied, confident he could squeeze the plane's 43-foot wingspan between telephone poles on each side of the street, one of the wheels hit a rut. The aircraft veered sideways, its wing clipping one of the telephone poles. Now out of control, the aircraft crashed into the side of Warren Pruett's hardware store.

Klink and Slim climbed out of the cockpit uninjured, relieved to find that no one had been inside the store when they hit it. The impact scattered pots and pans, caused a portrait of President Calvin Coolidge to drop to the store's wooden floor and, according to

some, left a horse collar draped around the plane's smoking radiator.

With the help of several townspeople, the two aviators pushed the Canuck to a garage operated by Russell Vernor and Ben Wall. They tried to repair the plane's wooden propeller, but they couldn't get it balanced. The fliers ordered a new propeller and shellac (they referred to it as "dope") from Houston to repair the plane's torn cloth fuselage.

The temporarily grounded aviators rented a room at the Fitzgerald Hotel and managed to make friends with a couple of Real County girls while waiting for the repairs to their plane. Once they had their aircraft flight-worthy, to cover expenses they gave folks rides for \$5 a head before leaving town.

On their next landing after Camp

See COX, Page 8

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 26, the 85th day of 2007. There are 280 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 26, 1979, a peace treaty was signed by Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat at the White House.

On this date:

In 1804, the Louisiana Purchase was divided into the Territory of Orleans and the District of Louisiana.

In 1827, composer Ludwig van Beethoven died in Vienna, Austria.

In 1892, poet Walt Whitman died in Camden, N.J.

In 1911, playwright Tennessee Williams was born in Columbus, Miss.

In 1917, the Seattle Metropolitans became the first U.S. team to win the Stanley Cup as they defeated the Montreal Canadiens.

In 1937, a 6-foot-tall concrete statue of the cartoon character Popeye was unveiled during the Second Annual Spinach Festival in Crystal City, Texas.

In 1958, the U.S. Army launched

America's third successful satellite, Explorer 3.

In 1964, the musical play "Funny Girl," starring Barbra Streisand, opened on Broadway.

In 1971, East Pakistan proclaimed its independence, taking the name Bangladesh.

In 1982, groundbreaking ceremonies took place in Washington for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Ten years ago: The bodies of 39 members of the Heaven's Gate techno-religious cult who had committed suicide were found inside a mansion in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. Former drug counselor John G. Bennett Jr. pleaded no contest in Philadelphia to charges stemming from a \$100 million charity fraud. (Bennett was sentenced to 12 years in prison for fraud, tax violations and money laundering.)

Five years ago: Yasser Arafat decided not to attend a key Arab summit in Beirut, Lebanon; his Cabinet accused Israel of trying to "blackmail" the Palestinian leader with tough conditions for allowing him to go. Arthur Andersen chief executive Joseph Berardino resigned, bowing to mounting pressure as a result of the accounting firm's role in the Enron scandal. President Bush nominated Dr. Richard Carmona to be surgeon general.

'The man who never tells an unpalatable truth 'at the wrong time' (the right time has yet to be discovered) is the man whose success in life is fairly well assured.'

— Agnes Repplier
American essayist
(1858-1950)



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LA REY
WRITING
THE DETROIT NEWS

Mexico needs protective tariffs, no free trade

The problem of illegal aliens in the United States is caused by Mexico. In fact, the problem is 100 percent of Mexican origin.

It is poverty in Mexico that drives the illegals to risk crossing our southern border. I can't blame them. If my family was going hungry and the future offered zilch chances for improvement, I'd cross the border, too.

So the question is, Why is there so much poverty in Mexico?

As is the case in much of Latin America, a handful of super-rich families own most of the assets. Secondly, corruption is epidemic and runs from top to bottom. Thirdly, the country is racist, with the top folks nearly always those descended from white Europeans and those on the bottom either Indian or mestizo — a mixture of Indian and other races.

And don't be fooled by talk about privatization. The way that works in most of Latin America is that government officials sell off state assets at a cheap price plus their bribes and then grant the buyer a monopoly. A privately owned monopoly is no different from a government-owned entity, except that the monopolist may be a more efficient manager. But that's a far cry from free enterprise.

We in the United States are lucky

that we were settled initially by the British and later other Europeans. The British sent farmers and craftsmen to stay; the Spaniards sent soldiers and priests to loot. It's true that we have the best slice of the geography of the North American continent. It's also true what an American management expert said to the Mexican government: "You need 20 inches more rain in the north and 20 inches less rain in the south."

But geography problems aside, the

Charley Reese

Columnist



main problem is cultural poison, which seems to cause Latin American elites not to give a fish scale for the common people.

One of the reasons the Mexican government actively encourages its people to cross the border into the U.S. is that it doesn't want the people's misery to build up to the boiling point. Another reason is that the Mexicans working in the U.S. send most of their money back to Mexico for their families.

President Bush made a foolish spec-

tacle of himself kowtowing to the Mexican president when he should have been hard and clear as to the nature and the cause of the problem of illegal immigration. Bush is an embarrassment to the United States every time he opens his mouth.

The president's remaining supporters say he is smart, but it seems pretty dumb to me for anyone not to realize that granting amnesty to 11 million illegal immigrants, as he wants to do, will encourage another 11 million to cross our borders. I've said many times that just because somebody is poor doesn't mean he is stupid.

What Latin American countries need is not free trade, which is killing them, but protective tariffs so they can develop their own industries and provide jobs for their people. Right now, they are flooded with cheap-made stuff from China and cheap agricultural commodities from the U.S.

They also need a moral revolution, honest officials and laws that will protect the people, including their right to form unions. Come to think of it, we could use a big helping of those things ourselves.

—Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 3280.

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ March 19

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the Texas Legislature and gambling:

Some people who closely watch the Texas Legislature will tell you that lawmakers will never approve a bill to expand gambling in this state in a year like this one when they're sitting on a \$14.3 billion budget surplus.

Lets turn that logic on its head. The best time to talk about this is when the state doesn't absolutely have to have the revenue that casinos and other gambling measures could bring. People don't always make good decisions when they are desperate.

Two state senators, Rodney Ellis of Houston and John Carona of Dallas, have introduced legislation calling for a constitutional amendment allowing 12 destination resort casinos in the state, along with three additional casinos on Indian reservations and video slot machines at horse and dog racetracks.

This is the best thought-out proposal for expanded gambling that the Legislature has seen and it has seen many in recent sessions.

Its time to talk about this plan. Its time to approve it (except one part that will be addressed in a moment).

This Editorial Board has said in the past that it would rather see a straightforward proposal for casino gambling than the halfway measures that only called for "video lottery terminals" a

PR mans glossy term for slot machines. This proposal has the casino proponents and the horse and dog track folks working together for what they both want.

Of course, the main argument for expanded gambling in Texas has not changed. Its that too many Texans are taking their money to neighboring states where casinos and other gambling opportunities are readily available. If any state is to benefit from that spending, it should be Texas.

Proponents say that the casinos would have an economic impact of about \$50 billion a year and would create about 118,000 direct jobs. Additional state and local tax revenue

See GAMBLE, Page 8

THE PAMPA NEWS
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Publisher: Sean Smith
Editor: Dennis Spies
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

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

All carriers are independent contractors and The Pampa News is not responsible for advance payments of two or more months made to the carrier. Please pay directly to the Pampa News any payment that exceeds the current collection period. There are no mail subscriptions available within the city limits of Pampa. Mail subscriptions must be paid three months in advance.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am an accountant. Now that tax season is again in full swing, several staff members from our office have compiled a list of "considerations" for Dear Abby readers in compiling their tax returns:

(1) Do not just "drop in" to leave your tax records. Even if we don't have an office full of clients waiting to be seen (and sometimes we do), we are probably knee-deep in preparing someone else's return. Being distracted from our work for a visit can be very disruptive.

(2) Because we see you only once a year, many clients feel the need to share how their children are doing. We try to be polite and listen. But if you spend up to an hour sharing how wonderful/smart -- or even worthless -- your children are, we'll be trading daylight for darkness trying to catch up. Multiply that by how many clients come through our doors, and it's overwhelming.

(3) Please pay your accountant in a timely fashion. I wish I had a nickel for every client who told me he/she thought his/her spouse had already written the check. However, it has never once occurred that both actually paid the bill. It may seem like we're rolling in money during tax season, but when the deadline rolls around, we have taxes to pay, too.

(4) Please do not call your accountant and ask a question for your neighbor's second cousin or anyone else other than yourself. This work is our livelihood, and giving advice for someone else often entails research, but it is not billable time for our firm.

(5) And last, if you call your accountant requesting information about the tax consequences of a decision you are trying to make, please do not have a fit when you receive a bill for the time spent

doing this research. Many times we have spent a lot of time researching real estate transactions, etc. along with current tax laws to determine how a sale might cause increased tax liability for clients, and they are shocked to receive a statement for this time. -- **SLEEPLESS IN TEXAS**

DEAR SLEEPLESS: I'll bet most people don't recognize how any of the points you mentioned could possibly be an inconvenience, but I'm sure it happens every tax season. In case anyone has forgotten, accountants and tax preparers are human beings who need care, feeding and consideration. They're not robots with endless energy. So, when you go, be aware that this is one of their most pressured times of the year, and be as organized, prepared and businesslike as possible. Your accountant may love you, but it ain't a social call.

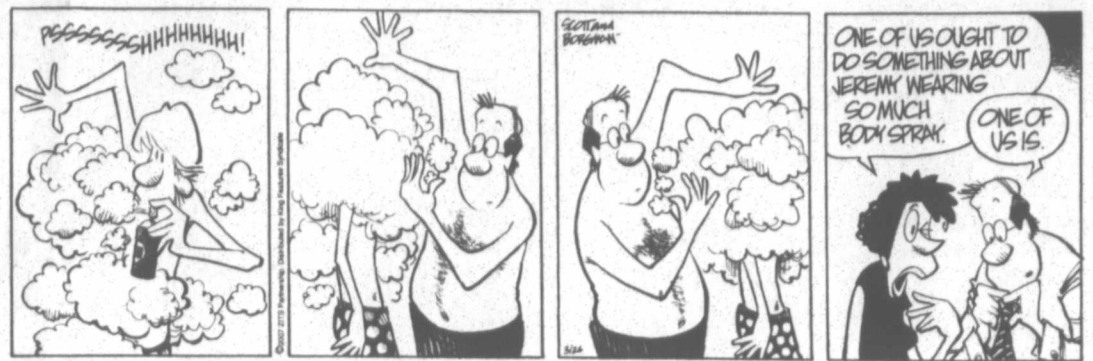
DEAR ABBY: My son is being married in September. It is a first marriage for both him and his fiancée. They are professionals and already have most everything they need to begin their life together. Would it be appropriate to say they are registered at a bank or credit union rather than local retailers? Help with a down payment for their first home would be far more useful to them than three toasters. -- **GROOM'S MOTHER IN OGDEN, UTAH**

DEAR MOTHER: If you are planning to include that request with the wedding invitations, the answer is no. However, if you are asked specifically what the young couple needs or would like to have, then it is socially acceptable to respond in the way that you would like.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Prepare coffee beans
- 6 Lasagna and linguine
- 11 Church feature
- 12 Glorify
- 13 Mediator's goal
- 14 "Keen!"
- 15 Retain
- 17 Decay
- 22 In the center of
- 23 Calgary team
- 27 Enticed
- 29 Panic
- 30 Followed
- 32 Make socks
- 33 Vacation, for some
- 35 Thanksgiving veggie
- 38 Accomplishment
- 39 Steer clear of
- 41 Unattached
- 45 Bewildered
- 46 Sandy hills
- 47 Travel stop
- 48 Like a cliff



Saturday's answer

- 20 Tops
- 21 Nutso
- 24 Lion
- 25 Composer
- 26 Hardens
- 28 FDR
- 31 Buck's mate
- 34 Fuses
- 35 Casual
- 36 Singing
- 37 Needs to
- 40 Scottish
- 42 Undivided
- 43 Look
- 44 Sixth

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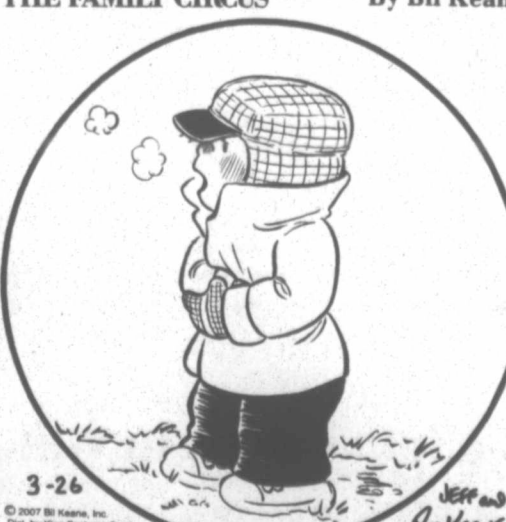
Marmaduke



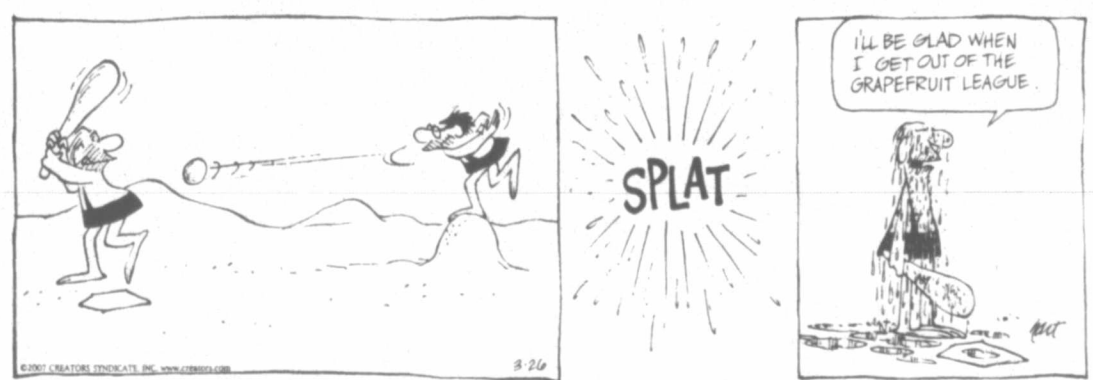
The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends

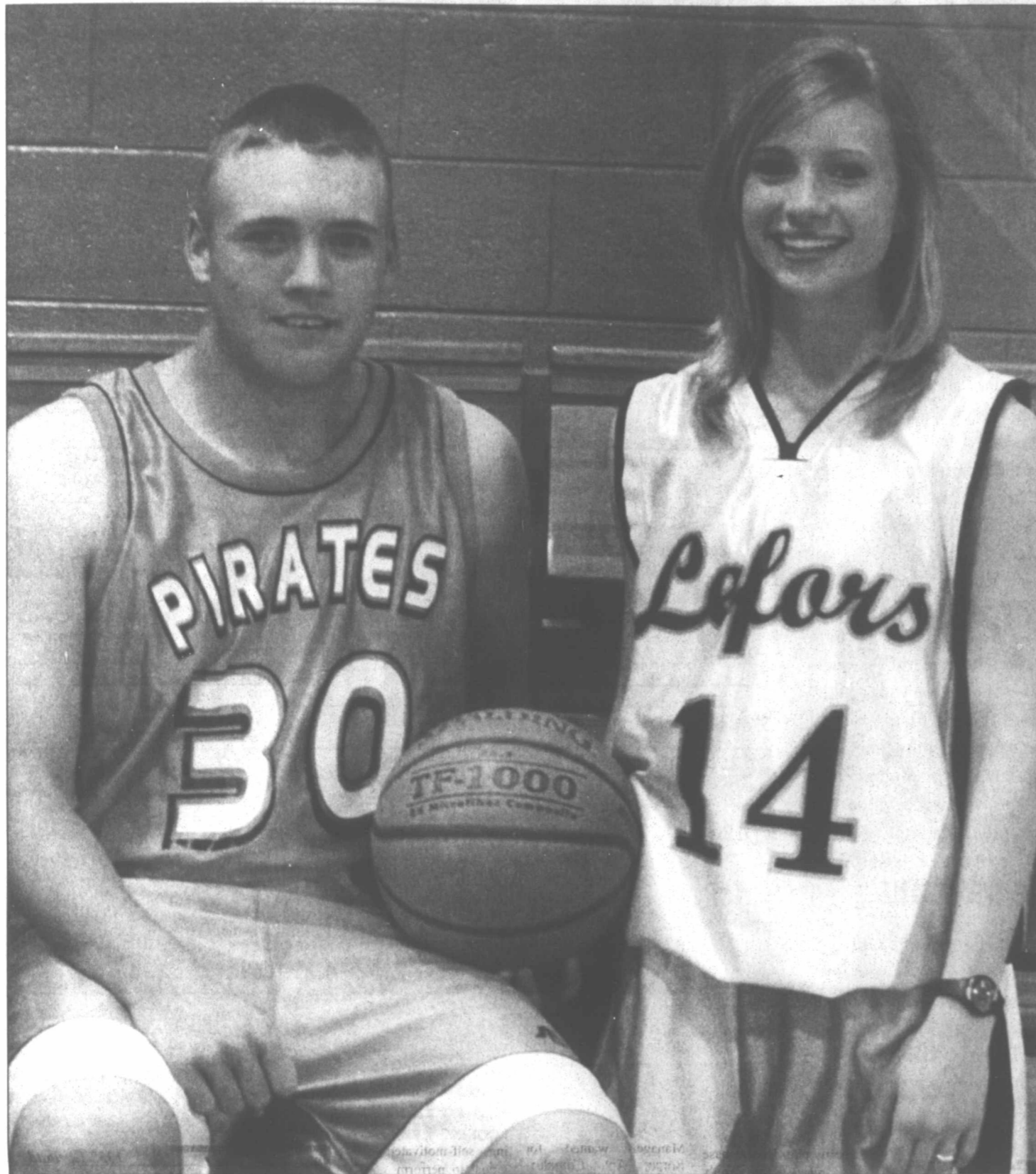


Blondie



Sports Day

All-District honors



Recently selected to the District 3-1A Division II All-District team were Lefors High School's senior Tanner Ray and sophomore Emily Jackson.

Georgetown puts overtime pressure on Tar Heels

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — John Thompson III and Patrick Ewing Jr. could only hope, the same way their dads did a generation ago.

On this night, it was different. A North Carolina freshman missed.

Twenty-five years later, Georgetown had gotten even.

In an NCAA tournament full of incredible rallies, it was the Hoyas' turn. They rallied from 11 down in the second half, then ripped off 14 straight points in overtime to stun the top-seeded Tar Heels 96-84 in the East Regional final Sunday.

The Hoyas are headed back to the Final Four for the first time since 1985, taking on Ohio State next Saturday in Atlanta.

"The comparisons to Pop's teams, much like the talk about Big Pat, Little Pat, Big John, Little John, you guys can do that," Little John

said. "For us to figure out how to hold on and pull away with a win, against that team is special."

Especially because of what happened to them on March 29, 1982, when John Thompson Jr. was their coach and Patrick Ewing was the franchise. Facing those same Tar Heels, for goodness sakes, they were denied the national championship when a North Carolina freshman named Michael Jordan made the go-ahead jumper.

These Hoyas (30-6) won with Thompson calling the backdoor plays he learned at Princeton and young Ewing making key contributions.

They were helped by an amazing collapse from Carolina (31-7), which made only one of 23 field goal attempts, including its first 12 in overtime, over a 15-minute span after seemingly having the game in hand.

"This is an extremely disappointing time for our team. It's not the way you want your season to end," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "Congratulations to Georgetown and Young John. Young John is like family to me."

It's a family like none other in college basketball, the first father-son duo to coach teams into the Final Four, much less at the same school.

When it was over, Thompson shook hands with Williams and everyone else on the North Carolina side, never showing a smile. Tough game, good game, he told them.

Then it was time to walk across the court — to the biggest bear hug he could imagine.

"You've been complaining about the bus being rickety, but the ride home is going to be good tonight," his dad told him.

Woods does it again at Doral

MIAMI (AP) — By the time Brett Wetterich put the slightest bit of pressure on Tiger Woods at the CA Championship, it was too late. And as he walked to the 18th green, Wetterich knew it, too.

"Finishing second," he said, "is not such a bad thing."

Especially not when you're finishing second to Woods at an event he dominates, on a course that ranks as one of his favorites, and when he says his game makes him "very pleased."

Augusta National, you are on alert. Woods is ready for the Masters, stating so with an emphatic win at Doral on Sunday, when he shot a 1-over 73 and finished two strokes ahead of Wetterich for his 56th

career victory, one that earned him \$1.35 million and pushed his career winnings over \$68 million.

The two-stroke margin doesn't properly illustrate the start-to-finish control Woods had in the final round. He led by six shots after making birdies at the ninth and 10th, took a three-shot lead over Wetterich to the last hole and hit a conservative iron off the tee on the par-4 hole.

"I make five, he can't win the tournament," Woods said, "So I laid up, hit 3-iron off the tee and 8-iron and a wedge and just two-putted and tournament was over."

Indeed, Woods two-putted from 50 feet for his bogey, Wetterich made par, and the deal was sealed.

Softball at Caprock rescheduled for today

As it almost always does, rainy weather put a damper on many outdoor sports this weekend.

The Lady Harvester softball team was scheduled to

take on Caprock Saturday, but the fields were in no shape to be played.

The game has been rescheduled for 4:30 this afternoon at Caprock.

Florida keeps Oregon at a safe distance with 3-point shots

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Joakim Noah stood at mid-court, glaring and beating his chest. The Florida fans were showering him with love, but all he heard was hate.

The critics who built the Gators up, only to bash them when they lost three of four games in February. The naysayers who insist there's no way Florida can win another national title.

Well, let 'em hate. Noah and his buddies will be happy to give them more to despise as they head back to the Final Four for another title run.

"There's been such a circus around this team, so many distraction and I feel like everybody is trying to divide us," Noah said after Florida beat third-seeded Oregon 85-77 in the Midwest Regional final on Sunday.

"It's just making us bond. We realize all we have is each other. That's the only thing that really matters."

That and another title. Noah, Al Horford and

Corey Brewer didn't turn their backs on fat NBA contracts — temporarily, at least — just so they could take another econ class. No, the Gators (33-5) want to be the first team since Duke in 1991-92 to win back-to-back basketball titles — and the first ever to do it with the same five starters.

To do it, though, they'll have to first get by UCLA in the national semifinals Saturday. It's a rematch of last year's championship game, which Florida won in a rout, 73-57.

"They are better than a year ago, and present a great challenge for us," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "They have no weaknesses."

Last year's victory over UCLA gave Florida not only its first national title, but the first half of what would turn out to be the Gator Slam. When Florida beat Ohio State for the national football title in January, the Gators became the first school to be champs in both sports at the same time.

UT-Dallas wins chess Final Four

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The University of Texas at Dallas won the "Final Four" of chess tournaments on Sunday.

UT-Dallas beat the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, Duke University and Miami Dade College in a series of weekend games at a Fort Worth hotel that included three rounds of chess with

four games per round.

In the end, UT-Dallas' team of four players and two alternates came out on top with 10 1/2 points to claim the Presidents Cup chess trophy, said Jim Stallings, the school's chess director.

UMBC, winner of the past four titles, came in second place with 5 points, followed by 4 1/2 points

for third-place by Miami Dade. Duke came in last with 4 points.

"It was very much a team effort, everyone was hitting on all cylinders to produce that kind of score," Stallings said. "I think we're going to have a little celebratory dinner tonight for sure."

Terry returns to Atlanta with Mavs

ATLANTA (AP) — Jason Terry remembers those dreadful home games at Philips Arena, where the Hawks often seem like visitors in their own building.

"I can recall vividly, like it was yesterday, that the other team was used to winning," he said. "That's all I can tell you about that."

Terry scored 15 of his 27 in the fourth quarter to help Dallas beat the Atlanta Hawks 104-97 on Sunday for the Mavericks' sixth straight win.

Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard each scored 28 points for the Mavericks, who improved the NBA's best record to 58-11.

"We're pretty good when we're healthy but we're not where we need to be," Dallas coach Avery Johnson said. "We aren't any-

where close where I need them to be. If we had to start the playoffs tomorrow, I would really be concerned, but again, we've got some time."

Now in his third season with the Mavericks after playing his first five with Atlanta, Terry hit two 3s, a 12-footer and a pair of free throws in the final 3:54.

Dallas' biggest lead came at the 5:16 mark of the second quarter, when Howard's turnaround jumper made it 51-28.

After Terry's 14-footer gave Dallas a 73-63 lead with 2:52 left in the third, the Mavericks scored just one field goal over their next 12 possessions, a stretch that included five turnovers.

Ochoa rallies to win Safeway International

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Ariz. (AP) — Viva Lorena!

The chant echoed through the foothills of the Superstition Mountains as Lorena Ochoa blew a four-stroke lead to Suzann Pettersen, then birdied four of the last five holes for a two-stroke victory in the Safeway International on Sunday.

Wearing a green shirt and white shorts to honor her homeland, the Mexican star shot a 4-under 68 to rally past Pettersen (66) for her

10th tour victory. After Ochoa holed a short birdie putt on 18, an impromptu fiesta broke out on the green with her family and members of the grounds crew.

Ochoa had visited with the workers on Tuesday and thanked them for their efforts, as she does at many tournaments.

"I told them to come and celebrate with me, because this trophy is for all of you," Ochoa said. "It was very nice to see their reaction and to see them close. Hopefully they enjoyed the day as

much as I did. I'm very proud to be Mexican."

Ochoa, the tour's reigning player of the year, earned \$225,000 for her 10th LPGA Tour victory. She finished at 18 under.

The victory gives Ochoa momentum heading into the season's first major — the Kraft Nabisco Championship, which tees off Thursday in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Ochoa lost to Karrie Webb in a playoff last year.

"She's maybe the best in the world right now," said

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WT to host legendary pianos

CANYON — It will be a grand evening of musical entertainment when West Texas A&M University and Jent's House of Music host the Steinway Legendary Pianos Tour Concert at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 5 in Mary Moody Northern Recital Hall on campus.

The evening will start with a pre-concert dinner at 6:15 p.m. in the Mary Moody Northern Hall Atrium. The concert will follow with performances on three historic Steinway grand pianos by special guest John Bayless and members of the WTAMU music faculty, alumni and students. The three pianos in the Steinway Legendary Pianos Tour include Vladimir Horowitz's concert grand, Van Cliburn's concert grand piano and the specially designed Rhapsody Piano.

Horowitz's piano, crafted in the 1940s, accompanied the pianist on his historic 1986 tour of Russia. The Cliburn grand piano is the pianist's own personal concert grand piano. Cliburn was the first winner of the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in 1958 in Moscow. The third piano, the Rhapsody, is an art-deco style Steinway inspired by George Gershwin and designed in honor of the 100th anniversary of the pianist's birth.

Bayless, a Borger native, is a renowned pianist, composer and recording artist who has performed on stages around the world. He will perform a selection of works from Mozart, Bach, Elton John, Rachmaninoff and Puccini, as well as "Fascinating Rhythms," a Gershwin medley, on the Rhapsody piano.

Other performers include Dr. Denise Parr-Scanlin, assistant professor of music, and Jan Walsler on piano with a vocal quartet of Dr. Joe Ella Cansler, associate professor of music, and WTAMU graduates performing "New Love Songs" by Brahms. The Amarillo Music Teachers Association Piano Ensemble, comprised of WTAMU graduates Nicole Koetting, Sherilyn Robinson, Michele Sheffield and Debra Wilcox, will perform "Rondo in C Major for Two Pianos, Eight Hands."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Rhapsody Piano is one of three instruments featured in the Legendary Pianos Tour Concert. The piano was designed in honor of George Gershwin's 100th birthday and made of blue-dyed curly maple with a clear-coat finish. Mother-of-pearl stars cover the piano and its lid features a mother-of-pearl star burst.

Key-hwa Lee, a graduate student in piano performance, will play Chopin's "Ballade in A-flat Major, Op 47." Dr. Robert Hansen, professor of music, will provide the narration of Ogden Nash's verses for a two-piano performance of "The Carnival of Animals" by Camille Saint-Saëns. Pianists will be Parr-Scanlin and Mila Abbasova.

The WTAMU Friends of Fine Arts will host a dessert reception in the atrium following the concert. Combination tickets for the dinner and concert are available at various

donation levels. The deadline to register for the dinner is Friday, March 30. For more information or to make reservations, call 806-651-2913.

Concert tickets are priced at \$20 each and \$10 for students with a Buffalo Gold Card. Concert tickets are available at Jent's House of Music or the Jack B. Kelley Student Center Information Desk. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of additional Steinway pianos for the Department of Music and to restore instruments already in the University's piano inventory.

Heart failure drug helps symptoms

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An experimental drug is the first to substantially and safely improve shortness of breath and other symptoms in people hospitalized with severe heart failure, an epidemic that is growing as baby boomers age, doctors reported Sunday.

However, many were disappointed that the drug also did not help people live longer or stay out of the hospital.

"What we really need are therapies that are going to improve the outcome," said Dr. Gregg Fonarow, an American Heart Association spokesman from the University of California at Los Angeles.

He had no role in the study, which was led by Dr. Marvin Konstam of Tufts-New England Medical Center and presented at an American College of Cardiology conference.

Results also were published online by the Journal of the American Medical Association and will be in its March 28 issue.

Heart failure occurs when the heart muscle weakens over time and can no longer pump effectively. Fluid can back up into the lungs and leave people panicked and gasping for breath.

About 5 million Americans have the condition. It kills more than 300,000 and accounts for a million hospitalizations each year.

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Cruise line passengers plunge into Gulf

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — Princess Cruises is investigating how two passengers tumbled off a cruise ship cabin balcony and into the Gulf of Mexico, triggering a four-hour rescue effort.

The 22-year-old man and 20-year-old woman fell 50 to 60 feet early Sunday from the woman's cabin. Julie Benson, spokeswoman for Princess Cruises, said it appeared to have been an accident.

The ship, the Grand Princess, was about 150 miles off the coast of Galveston when friends notified the crew around 1:30 a.m. that the two had fallen, Benson said.

The captain turned the ship around, and the crew used high-powered spotlights to

scan the water and launched rescue boats to find them. One passenger was pulled into a rescue boat around 5:30 a.m., and the other was found about 30 minutes later, according to a statement by the cruise line. A Coast Guard helicopter crew, called in to help, spotted the male passenger.

The man and woman, whom the cruise line declined to name, were examined by the ship's medical staff. They sustained minor injuries, Benson said.

"Just falling 50 feet, you can do some serious damage and basically knock the wind out of you," said Coast Guard swimmer Micah Franklin, who participated in the rescue.

young aviators until May 21, 1927, when Slim — Charles A. Lindbergh — landed in France after successfully completing the world's first non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

As the 50th anniversary of the flight approached, writer Jack Keasler located Klink, who still lived in St. Louis. In 1977, the Nueces Chamber of Commerce invited him to that year's Old Settlers Reunion. Klink flew (commercially) to San Antonio, where then Camp Wood Mayor Austin Dean and chamber president Bob Marshall picked him up at

the airport and escorted him to Real County.

To give Camp Wood another tourist attraction, the chamber attached a large model airplane to the front of their building in such a way that it looked like it had crashed into the structure. Eventually, the small plane ended up in the local museum, which also has the wooden propeller Lindbergh and Klink left behind.

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

Cox

Continued from Page 4

Wood, a dagger plant tore their plane again. This time it took eight days to get the plane fixed. Out of time, Slim flew the plane to San Antonio to report for duty and Klink continued on to California by train.

No one having been hurt, the Camp Wood incident went unmentioned in the state's daily newspapers. Klink and Slim were just another couple of daring

Gamble

Continued from Page 4

could be as much as \$4.6 billion. As a special sweetener, the casino proponents want the state to set aside \$1 billion a year from that additional tax revenue to provide college scholarships for Texas students.

Horse track owners long have said that they need the take from slot machines so they can increase purses and reverse the tide of breeders taking their horses to greener pastures in other states.

One flaw in this proposed legislation has to do with

the process for putting casinos in place. Seven of the 12 would be in the states largest urban areas, including at least one in Tarrant County, each with minimum land and development costs of \$400 million. Two would be on islands on the Gulf coast and three would be in places to be determined later.

The legislation calls for local-option elections in any county where someone applies for a state casino license, so the residents of Tarrant County would be able to vote on whether they really want one here. But there would be a statewide constitutional amendment

election to allow casinos in the first place, and the Ellis-Carona legislation says that any county where more than half of the voters approve the constitutional amendment would be considered to have approved a local casino.

Wait a minute. That killing-two-birds-with-one-election approach is too hasty. Lets have a vote on the constitutional amendment, and then lets have a casino operator come sell us on a particular approach for Tarrant County.

Voters should have the right to approve the first but reject the second if they wish.

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