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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Join us for our April Chamber Luncheon to be held Tuesday, April 17th at 11:45 in the MK Brown Room. The menu will include Salisbury Steak, Corn, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cherry and Apple Cobbler provided by Peggy's Place. Pam Dalton will be speaking on the Gray County Relay For Life sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Call the Chamber office at 669-3241 for reservations ... \$8.00 per person.

Welcome signs to city approved by commissioners

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Two signs welcoming travelers to Pampa were approved by Gray County commissioners at their 9 a.m. meeting today in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell.

Pampa Area Foundation for Outdoor Art has two pump jacks ready to be placed on Highway 70 atop concrete pads along with "Welcome to Pampa" metal signs. One sign will be north of Pampa at the intersection of Highway 70 and Loop 171, and the other will be south of Pampa, a quarter of a mile

south of the intersection of the highway and the loop.

"I don't know why we have to give approval," said County Judge Richard Peet. "Texas Department of Transportation has requested our approval."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby said that the county could provide an in-kind contribution to the project by leveling the ground the pump jacks and signs would be placed on. Both signs are in his precinct.

The two signs proposed by the Pampa Area Foundation for Outdoor Art have been part of a misunder-

standing involving the foundation, the city of Pampa and Pampa Rotary Club, which has been working toward placing five welcome signs at highway entrances to the city.

Pampa Rotary Club has proposed placing welcome signs on Highway 60 east and west of the city, on Highway 70 north and south of the city, and on FM153 west of Pampa.

The foundation brought the issue to the city's notice in January. Foundation representative Sena Brainard asked for clarification, and said her organization had been told the city had no funds to apply to such a project. Meanwhile, the city had

prepared a resolution concerning approximately \$36,000 to be applied to the Rotary Club's signs, but deferred action on the resolution after Brainard's comments.

Any misunderstandings among the city, the Rotary Club and the foundation were ironed out as of early March, Chuck White told city commissioners at their meeting in late February. White, who represented the Rotary Club at the city commission meeting, explained that the Rotary signs would be targeting businesses, while the foundation's

See COUNTY, Page 3

School voucher fight not going to go away

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The political battle in Austin over school vouchers may be dead for now, but it's not going away.

The Texas House of Representatives has voted down using public education funds for private school vouchers.

One bill that was introduced in the Legislature would have applied only to counties with populations of more than 750,000.

That bill, Pampa Independent School District Supt. Barry Haenisch said, would not have applied to Pampa schools.

Sen. Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, however, offered a proposal that would give parents of autistic children state-funded private school tuition.

That bill could impact

Pampa schools, Haenisch said. It would give autistic students in Pampa vouchers to private schools with specialized programs.

"It could have affected us," Haenisch said, "except that I don't know where our nearest private school that would educate autistic children is. Probably, it would be in Amarillo."

"I have always taken a position in opposition to using state money to help current private schools," said State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, who represents Pampa. "I continue with that position."

Perhaps the most vocal person pushing for school vouchers is San Antonio businessman James Leininger, who has spent millions of dollars of his own money on the issue.

"Leininger has made pub-

See SCHOOL, Page 3

Spring storm



Photo by EARNEST WILLIS

This scene in the Walnut Hills area shows Saturday's snowfall of a reported nine inches that blanketed the Pampa area, but warm temperatures soon melted the bulk of it. The forecast for Tuesday calls for a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms with a high near 66. Wednesday and Thursday should see highs in the 70s.

Lake Meredith water outlook said to be good

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

PLAINVIEW -- The outlook for Lake Meredith, one of the key suppliers of water for the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, is good.

Speaking to the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority's board of directors last week, Chad Pernell, deputy general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, said that the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's drought outlook map indicates that the Texas Panhandle and most of New Mexico are forecast to have regular moisture through early June.

The NOAA drought map shows some drought areas in south Central Texas and north central Oklahoma and south central Kansas, but with improving conditions. Drought will continue to haunt the Southwestern United States and Northern Rockies

and some of the Northern Plains states.

The Canadian River watershed that feeds Lake Meredith, however, is not expected to be affected by drought.

Pernell also presented data comparing the calculated inflow of water into Lake Meredith with the flow measured at the Canadian River at the U.S. Highway 287 bridge over the river north of Amarillo.

The calculated flow is often higher than the flow of the water in the river at the bridge, Pernell said.

There are a number of reasons for that, he said.

"Any water that falls down stream or after that wouldn't be measured at the bridge," Pernell said.

The readings at the bridge don't factor in the tributaries that flow

See MEREDITH, Page 3

CRMWA enabling act hits opposition from Hemphill

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

PLAINVIEW -- A bill updating the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority's enabling act is working its way through the Texas Legislature, but has run into opposition from a local ground water conservation district.

State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-

Lubbock, who represents Pampa, introduced Senate Bill 1833, which among other things allows CRMWA to collect legal fees if someone sues the water authority and loses.

Janet Guthrie, general manager of the Hemphill County Underground Water District, testified before the Senate Natural Resources

Committee Thursday in opposition to the bill. She said that her single county water conservation district was David to CRMWA's Goliath.

The inclusion of the legal fees proposal would make it more difficult for a small ground water conservation district to take on major issues with the water authority that provides water to 11 member cities,

including Pampa, across the Texas Panhandle and South Plains.

Ground water districts, however, have such language in the laws that enabled them. The reasoning at the time was that such statutes would cut down on nuisance suits against the ground water districts.

See OPPOSE, Page 3

Virginia Tech gunman slain after killing 21

By SUE LINDSEY
Associated Press Writer
BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A gunman opened fire in a dorm and classroom at Virginia Tech today, killing 21 people in the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history. The gunman was killed, but it was unclear if he was shot by police or took his own life.

"Today the university was struck with a tragedy that we consider of monumental proportions," said Virginia Tech president Charles Steger. "The university is shocked and indeed horrified."

The university reported shootings at opposite sides of the 2,600-acre campus, beginning at about 7:15 a.m. at West Ambler Johnston, a

co-ed residence hall that houses 895 people, and continuing about two hours later at Norris Hall, an engineering building.

Some but not all the dead were students. One student was killed in a dorm and the others were killed in the classroom, Virginia Tech Police Chief W.R. Flinchum. The name of the gunman was not released. It was not known if he was a student.

Up until Monday, the deadliest campus shooting in U.S. history took place in 1966 at the University of Texas, where Charles Whitman climbed to the 28th-floor observation deck of a clock tower and opened fire. He killed 16 people before he was gunned down by police. In the Columbine High bloodbath near Littleton, Colo., in 1999, two teenagers killed 12 fellow students and a teacher before taking their own lives.

After today's shootings, all entrances to the campus were closed. The campus was to reopen Tuesday but classes were canceled.

The university set up a meeting place for families to reunite with their children at the Inn at Virginia Tech. It also made counselors avail-

able and planned a convocation for Tuesday at the Cassell Coliseum basketball arena.

After the shootings, students were told to stay inside away from the windows.

"There's just a lot of commotion. It's hard to tell exactly what's going on," said Jason Anthony Smith, 19, who lives in the dorm where shooting took place.

Aimee Kanode, a freshman from Martinsville, said the shooting happened on the 4th floor of West Ambler Johnston dormitory, one floor above her room. Kanode's resident assistant knocked on her door about 8 a.m. to notify students to stay put.

Police said there had been bomb threats on campus over the past two weeks by authorities but said they have not determined a link to the shootings.

It was second time in less than a year that the campus was closed because of a shooting.

In August 2006, the opening day of classes was canceled and the campus closed when an escaped jail inmate allegedly killed a hospital guard off campus and fled to the Tech area. A sheriff's deputy involved in the man-

Oppose

Continued from Page 1

John Williams, former general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority and now a consultant for the authority, said he doesn't know if a hearing on a companion bill, House Bill 3559 sponsored by Rep. David Swinford, R-Dumas, in the House has been scheduled.

In other matters before the Texas Legislature, Williams said there were 120 bills of more than 6,000 bills filed that could impact CRMWA. Of those 120 bills, Williams said there are 25 that would have an immediate impact on the water authority. He said he's monitoring those closely, although he said there is nothing among them that would have any terrific import at this time.

Williams said some of the bills he is tracking could have a negative impact on the water authority. Others would require some changes to CRMWA operations.

The bills range from requiring closer checks of newly hired employees to allowing the use of design-processes for construction projects.

One bill would raise the

threshold where entities must advertise for contracts and allow districts like CRMWA to select general law limitations instead of observing the limits in their special laws.

Several bills, Williams said, would regulate lobbying by CRMWA.

One bill would kill the eminent domain powers of special districts after Sept. 1, 2009, unless reauthorized by the Legislature.

"We've not done that very often," Williams said of eminent domain, or condemnation, procedures, "but we need to have that process available if we need it in the future."

SB 657, introduced by State Sen. Kel Seliger, will modify purchasing and procurement procedures for local governments.

"If it passes, it would take the place of some of the procedures we've asked for in the upgrade of the enabling act," Williams said.

Williams said that Senate Bill 3 is moving forward. It has passed the Senate and was up for a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee last week.

"It has a lot of provisions regarding statewide water planning," Williams said.

SB 3 designates 19 reservoirs downstate to be part of the state's water plan. CRMWA

Meredith

Continued from Page 1

directly into the lake. He said that the measurements at the bridge also depend on the riverbed.

"As it changes," Pernell said, "so do the readings."

To get really accurate numbers is difficult, Pernell admitted, because of the variables involved.

Even though CRMWA has monitoring stations throughout the watershed, it's such a large area, they don't always know where the rain falls.

Pernell said that some years during the past 11 years, the measurement at the bridge has been close to the calculated inflow. In 2006, the two figures matched, but in some of the other years, the two num-

bers have been wide apart.

Part of that, he said, is due to changes in flows in the riverbed. Pernell said they've watched water flow down the river at the bridge, but it wasn't in the channel where it was being measured.

The annual graphs tracking flow at the bridge and the calculated flow usually follow each other. In 2000, the graphs were almost identical.

"There are periods of time where that doesn't hold true," Pernell said.

While Northern New Mexico, where the headwaters of the Canadian are located, has gotten a lot of snow this past winter, the snowmelt, said Kent Satterwhite, general manager of CRMWA, is showing up at Conchas Lake, upstream from Ute Lake on the Canadian.

County

Continued from Page 1

signs were for the general public.

Commissioners approved a request from 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer to replace an employee who has resigned. The position is that of intake receptionist.

Switzer also received commissioners' approval for four grant applications. One grant, which does not require matching funds in order to be available for use, can be applied toward training and equipment, and can be re-applied for after a year. A second grant, which requires 25 percent matching funds or in-kind contributions, would pay for training concerning violent crimes against women.

Her office is prepared to provide in-kind contributions for the second grant, Switzer said. The grant, which is for two years,

could be used to provide an additional staff member, she said.

The other two grants will go toward funding the victim assistance coordinator's position. Both are two-year grants, and their combined value is \$89,000.

A bid of \$600 by Elida Mendoza for tax-delinquent property at 920 Gordon was accepted. The property, a vacant lot, has delinquent tax of \$3,000 owed and is valued at \$560, according to county appraisal district records.

A proposal to expand the county jail's telepsychiatry program died for lack of a motion. Peet had told commissioners that Sheriff Don Copeland said the jail had a good working relationship with Texas Panhandle Mental Health - Mental Retardation, and that the telepsychiatry program was "not a wise use of county funds right now," Peet said.

Commissioners approved payment of bills and salaries, and a report by the county treasurer.

School

Continued from Page 1

lic school vouchers for private schools his issue," Haenisch said.

He set out in last fall's election to provide funding to elect legislators who would support vouchers. He will attack candidates who don't sign on to his views and supports those who do. He has not had much success.

Last fall, Joe Heflin, a Crosbyton Democrat who opposed private school vouchers defeated Jim Landtroop, a Plainview Republican supported by Leininger, to take the seat of former House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, in the Texas House of Representatives.

Heflin went on to sponsor an appropriations amendment to block consideration of vouchers this session. His amendment to House Bill 1 passed 129 to 8.

If approved by the Senate and signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry, Heflin's amendment would ban diverting public school money to private schools.

"There are many issues out there that I think are more important with regard to funding public education and solving the problems of public education," Duncan said. "I don't think a voucher, which would basically encourage students to leave public education without actually contributing to

solving some of the problems, is not good policy."

Duncan, however, said there might be circumstances where vouchers might be appropriate.

"That is in inner city schools where the school is failing and where there are gang and drug related problems that prevent people from getting a good education," Duncan said. "I'm for solving those problems. I think that one thing we can do and we have done it in previous legislation is we tried to balance some of these issues with additional funds and then also the ability to close schools that are performing in such a way. I think that our resources would be better spent that way."

"I think that there is some validity in the argument that if we don't repair those schools or close them, these students shouldn't be required to stay in those schools. I think it would be interesting to consider a voucher program that will allow a public school student to transfer to another district. We already have certain provisions for that."

While there have been calls for a pilot program for school vouchers, Duncan said he doesn't think that's the way to go.

"I do not believe that any sort of pilot project is necessarily going to be a pilot," Duncan said. "I think it will be a way for people to bring about a broader based voucher program that would derode the public school concept."

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Viewpoints

Many hills between Thompson and White House

If former Sen. Fred Thompson decides to make a stab at winning the presidency next year he'd better put on his climbing shoes. He'll be faced with scaling some pretty high walls to get there.

He's already begun to climb a very high one — questions about his health raised by his admission that he has lymphoma, a form of skin cancer that in his case is said to be latent and non-aggressive.

No matter how non-life threatening his form of the disease may be, the very word "cancer" when applied to anyone, especially a presidential candidate, raises all kinds of doubts in the public's mind. Those doubts, even if totally unjustified, are very hard to erase from the public's consciousness.

Assuming that his rugged appearance and obvious good health manage to allay public uneasiness about his cancer, once he successfully climbs that wall — like the bear that climbed the mountain only to face other mountains — Fred Thompson will have to surmount a series of other high barriers.

To begin with, there's the matter of money. It's commonly understood that it takes something like \$100 million just to get into the race and stay there, and the top GOP candidates have been out beating the bushes and shaking the money trees and they've soaked up a lot of the ready cash.

As of now, Fred Thompson hasn't raised one cent and can't begin to until he becomes a candidate

or forms one of those silly exploratory committees.

Then there's the matter of putting together a campaign staff of skilled political operatives, and then organizing the needed army of grassroots workers in the primary states required to identify and recruit voters and get them to the polls. It's a massive job, sort of like organizing something as extensive as the Normandy invasion — and Thompson is no Eisenhower.

Assuming Thompson can get over this obstacle and is able to organize at the grassroots, he is still facing the need to get out there in all

those primary states and carry the flag of his candidacy. There is no way he can rely on his obvious charisma to substitute for being on the scene. And the fact that overwhelming numbers of primary states are having their primaries on the same day

next February imposes a huge burden on all the candidates they can't shrug off. They have to be there and highly visible.

Fred Thompson all but shrugged off that burden when he appeared on Neil Cavuto's show recently, implying that his solid conservative message and his

high profile and charisma could substitute for his physical presence.

Where have I heard that before? Oh, I know — it was in 1980, during the crucial Iowa primary caucuses. My father, Ronald Reagan, was an obvious absentee candidate. His top advisers convinced him that his presence in that key state was not really necessary — after all, he was a major celebrity with charisma in every pore in his body. He could simply rise above the battle by staying off the battlefield.

Unlike my dad, I was there and I saw at first-hand how much his campaign was suffering from his absence. My fears were totally justified when George Bush, who was all over the place, beat my father hands down. After

that, he fired those campaign advisers and went out and beat the bushes and in the end won the nomination.

I hope Thompson doesn't take the advice of those supporters yearning for a new Ronald Reagan, that he has a leg up on all the other candidates thanks to his Reaganesque qualities. There was only one Ronald Reagan, and he's no longer around.

Maybe Fred Thompson fits that description, but he has a long way to go and a lot of hills to climb before he even gets as far as the Republican nomination.

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



Michael Reagan
Columnist

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 16, the 106th day of 2007. There are 259 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 16, 1947, the French ship Grandcamp blew up at the harbor in Texas City, Texas; another ship, the Highflyer, exploded the following day. The blasts and resulting fires killed 576 people.

On this date:

In 1789, President-elect George Washington left Mount Vernon, Va., for his inauguration in New York.

In 1862, a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia became law.

In 1912, Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel.

In 1917, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin returned to Russia after years of exile.

In 1935, the radio comedy program "Fibber McGee and Molly" premiered on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1945, in his first speech to Congress, President Truman pledged to carry out the war and peace policies of his late

'The only graceful way to accept an insult is to ignore it; if you can't ignore it, top it; if you can't top it, laugh at it; if you can't laugh at it, it's probably deserved.'

— Russell Lynes
American author
(1910-1991).

predecessor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1947, financier and presidential confidant Bernard M. Baruch said in a speech at the South Carolina statehouse: "Let us not be deceived — we are today in the midst of a cold war."

In 1972, Apollo 16 blasted off on a voyage to the moon.

In 1986, dispelling rumors he was dead, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi appeared on television to condemn the U.S. raid on his country.

In 1996, Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of getting a divorce.

Ten years ago: Police in Israel recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for breach of trust in an influence-trading scandal. (However, prosecutors later decided against pursuing charges against Netanyahu, citing a lack of proof.)

Five years ago: The Supreme Court overturned two major provisions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act, saying the government went too far in trying to ban "virtual" child pornography. Actor Robert Ulrich died in Thousand Oaks, Calif.; at age 55.

NOW THAT DON IMUS IS GONE THE WORLD IS SAFE AGAIN



Personal relationships can make difference

The White House's huffing and puffing about Nancy Pelosi's visit to Syria is just a bunch of hokey. Congress is an independent and coequal branch of our government. Its members can go anywhere they wish to go, and that includes the current House speaker, Pelosi.

As for the Bush administration's stated desire to "isolate" Syria, that is just another of the president's inside-the-bubble delusions. He seems to think that saying something makes it so. Syria is not isolated. It is a normal country with normal relations, commercial and diplomatic, with most countries in the world. Mr. Bush is not emperor of the world, and most of the world ignores whatever he manages to say.

Furthermore, as many Americans more experienced in foreign policy than

the president have advised, the U.S. should be engaged with Syria. Its location between Iraq and Lebanon and its relative power make it a player in the region that cannot be ignored. A basic rule of diplomacy, which the president seems unable to grasp, is that one talks to people with whom one disagrees.

So the exchange of views between the speaker and the president of Syria is a good thing, even if neither convinced the other of anything. The U.S., taking its cue from the Israeli lobby, has branded Hezbollah and Hamas as terrorist organizations. Since they and other organizations have offices in Syria, the U.S. considers that "state

sponsoring of terrorism."

There again, not everyone in the world considers them as terrorist organizations, even though some members of both organizations have committed acts of terrorism in the past. So, for that matter, has Israel, which generally is credited with being the inventor of the car bomb. So, for that matter, have we, though we call all the thousands of innocent civilians we kill with our bombs "collateral damage," which is one of the more morally obscene euphemisms in this age of propaganda.

At any rate, Speaker Pelosi is as committed to the Israeli lobby as the president, so her visit changed

nothing in policy matters. It did, however, pay dividends in good personal relations. We sometimes forget that countries are not abstract concepts, but places run by individual human beings. Personal relationships can make a difference.

Let us not forget, either, that the speaker of the House is second in line to succeed the president. That doesn't mean that we should have multiple foreign policies, but it does mean that it's not a bad idea for those members of the House and Senate with an interest in foreign policy to make their own contacts and collect their own information. After all, "briefings" by this executive branch have been shown to be unreliable.

Nor is it true that the Constitution puts foreign policy exclusively in the

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Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ April 9
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on gambling in Texas:

Given the attention paid to gambling bills introduced and considered in recent legislative sessions, it's disappointing that the first such proposal to advance as far as a committee hearing during the current session is one to allow poker games in bars. If Texas intends to go down the gambling road, this bill is not the best ride available.

Proponents of big-time casino gambling have introduced bills that would have larger impacts in terms of economic activity, increased tax revenue

and more attractive outlets for the legions of Texas gamblers who travel to casinos in neighboring states and Las Vegas. Those bills represent a better way to expand gambling, and it would not be smart to also legalize poker games in neighborhood bars.

State Rep. Jose Menendez, D-San Antonio, author of the barroom poker bill, aims to provide the state with revenue from the types of games that his supporters say already take place across the state every night. A Legislative Budget Board analysis of the bill projects that it would provide the state with \$1.2 billion in revenue over the next two years.

Competing with that is a proposal from two state senators, Democrat Rodney Ellis of Houston and

Republican John Carona of Dallas. They have called 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.

That proposal could have an economic impact of about \$50 billion a year and could create about 118,000 direct jobs. Additional state and local tax revenue could be as much as \$4.6 billion. 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 want the take from slot machines so they can increase

See GAMBLING, Page 10

Chamber

Letter from the desk of the executive director

Just under one year ago we began gathering data for what we called a "Healthy Communities Report." That report showed moderate job growth, a very low unemployment rate (though still about 2 percent above what is typically considered "full employment - 2 percent), but a per capita income that is only 85 percent of the national average.

So ... we still have work to do.

And as we mentioned, an estimate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that perhaps 50 percent of what creates health is lifestyle and behavior. So eating right, quitting smoking, and getting exercise are critical if we are to have a healthy community.

When you realize that nearly 2,600



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Americans die every day from cardiovascular disease, an average of one death every 34 seconds, and that it claims as many lives each year as the next five leading causes of death

combined, you begin to understand how serious it is.

When you then realize that cardiovascular disorders such as heart attacks, stroke, and hypertension are almost always the result of atherosclerosis, (hardening of the arteries), and that lifestyle factors (excessive salt, fat, and alcohol in the diet, cigarette smoking, obesity, physical inactivity, and stress) have a huge impact on it, you can easily see how the choices we make will determine how healthy we, and our community, truly are.

I don't know about you, but I for one intend to do something about it. And we can have an impact on what is available to help through our own collective buying power.

Why not ask for additional healthy items on the menu at our favorite restaurant? Why not ask our local grocer to carry something we find to be helpful? Why not take advantage, with summer on its way, of the tremendous park system we have, and get some recreation?

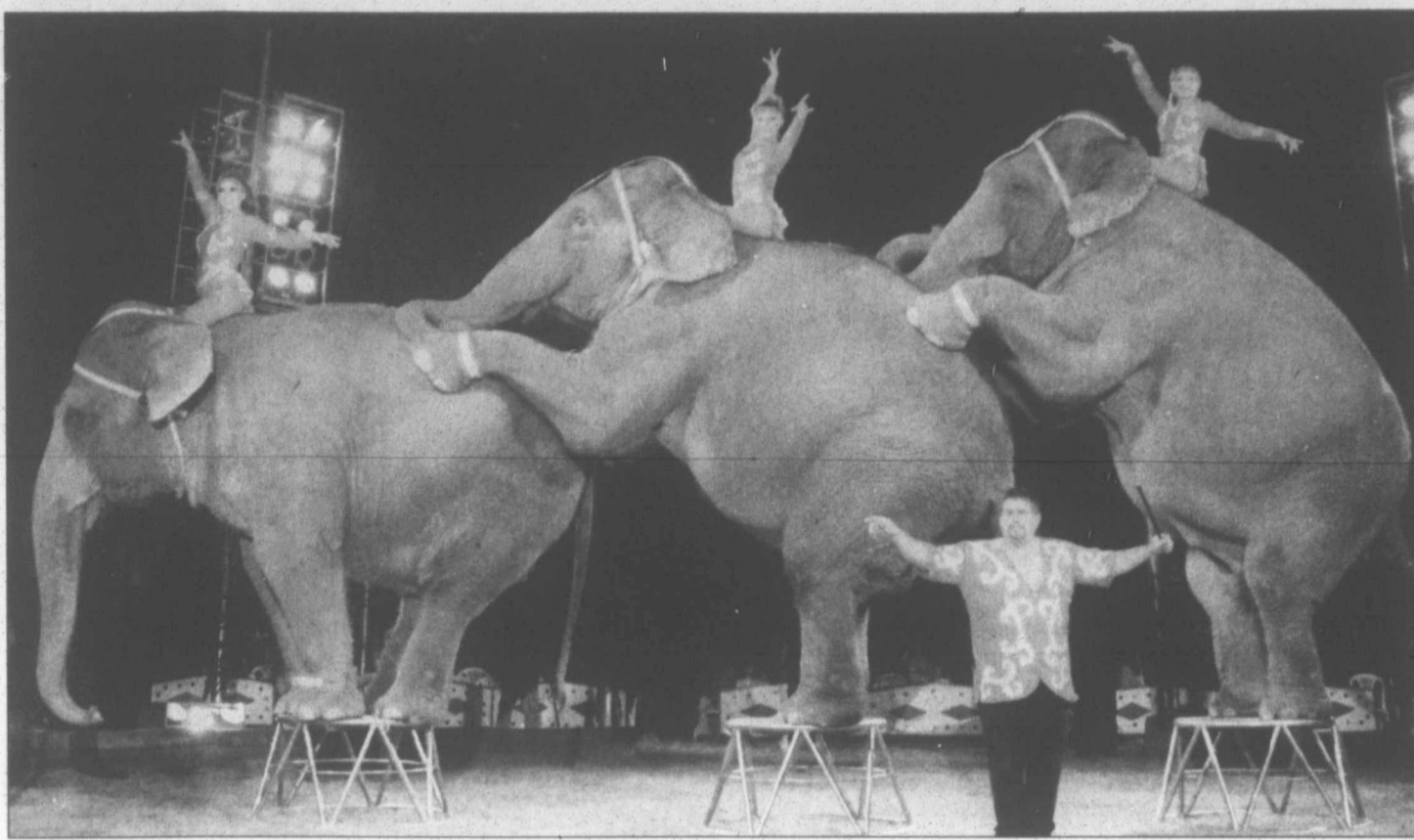
Forego the cart and carry your clubs next time you golf.

Register and ride in the NAMI Bike Tour on June 23rd and support a good cause (the National Alliance for the Mentally III).

And join us at our monthly Chamber luncheon (Tuesday - April 17) and learn about the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. (Local events are scheduled throughout the Panhandle this spring and summer.)

But most of all make good choices next time you sit down to eat, and then get off your seat and move your feet!

Pat Vanderpool
Executive Director



Courtesy photo

The circus is coming to town and it will have the usual array of animals, acrobats and clowns on May 11 at Recreation Park.

Carson and Barnes circus to perform May 11

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

The Carson and Barnes Circus is coming to town and bringing with it dozens of exotic and domestic animals, more than 50 performers from around the globe and the biggest circus tent on earth.

The great American family circus has been in operation for more than 70 years and boasts of being kid and family oriented and having one of the largest free educational exhibits of animals. Acts will include aerial and trapeze stunts, acrobatics, juggling, clowns and tons of animals. The circus will bring numerous animals including elephants, camels, llamas, zebras, horses and even a hippopotamus.

Carson and Barnes claims to have the biggest circus tent on earth being as large as a football field, measuring 270 feet by 150 feet and seating more than 2,000 people. As they travel from city to city, the performers and animals require 60 vehicles to move them and the equipment for the 3-ring show.

According to Carson and Barnes, kids are the stars in their show. Brandon Cavallini, who is 6, soars more than 30

feet in the air on a trapeze. He is coached by his uncle Tito.

Performing an adagio acrobatic act, 11-year-old Francesca is tossed in the air, executes a somersault and is then caught in her uncle Antonio's hands.

Amanda Loyal, age 10, is an accomplished bareback rider and appears in the show with her father and coach, Armando, and her favorite horse, Antoinette, a one-ton Percheron.

Producer Barbara Byrd has assembled a trio of young Hula-Hoop stars. She said when kids in the audience see Francesca, Julia and Natalie perform with the simple toy of yesteryear they will appreciate the toys kids used to play with before movies and video games. These girls will attempt a record-breaking gyration of 50 gyrations at each performance.

All of the children who work in the circus attend school while traveling. School is held right after breakfast and continues to mid-afternoon. They are taught by Doug Munson, a retired teacher from Kansas, who prepares an individual education play for each child.

The circus, sponsored by Greater

Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce, will be at Recreation Park on Friday, May 11 for two shows and free animal exhibits. Beginning at 9 a.m., residents are invited to "Come watch our trained elephants help put up the biggest big top on earth."

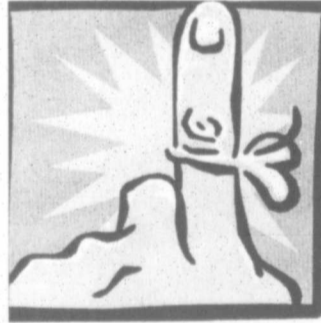
Anyone interested in viewing the many animals is invited to attend the "largest free zoo." Open as a zoo on circus morning, it's free to anyone who wants to watch the animals arrive and be watered, fed and cared for.

Shows will be presented at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on May 11. The gates open one hour before each show. Tickets can be purchased in advance for a 25 percent savings at the Chamber of Commerce, United Supermarket, Frank's Grocery and Bob Clements Cleaners.

Tickets purchased before circus day are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 2-11. Tickets purchased on circus day are \$16 for adults and \$8 for children ages 2-11. Box seat upgrades can be purchased online at www.carsonbarnescircus.com or at the circus box office at 1-800-594-TIXX after 9 a.m. on circus day.

Upcoming events

May 11
Carson & Barnes
Circus
4:30 p.m. & 7:30
p.m. Recreation
Park



May 12
High Plains Off
Road Mud Bogs
10 a.m. Rodeo Grounds

May 12 & 13
Pampa Partnership Golf Tournament

June 8 & 9
Burnin' the Bricks

June 16
Chamber Business Expo
M.K. Brown Auditorium
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 23 & 24
Jr. Rodeo Association Rodeo

June 23
NAMI Bike Tour
Pond Tour Starts

Luncheon information

Tuesday 11:45 a.m.

M.K. Brown Room
Chamber of Commerce
200 N. Ballard

Menu from Peggy's Place
includes Salisbury steak with gravy, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, cherry & apple cobbler.

Speaker will be Pam Dalton with the American Cancer Society presenting Pampa Gray County Relay for Life.

The public is welcome to attend, the cost is \$8 a person.

Please RSVP to the Chamber at 669-3241.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am separated from my husband of three years and have a beautiful 2-year-old son. Initially, I thought I'd retain my married name, but the more I've been thinking about it, what harm would it do if I changed it? Is it really going to be that confusing or upsetting to explain to my son? After all, I will always be "Mom" to him, and nothing will change that. I would love to take my maiden name back and put my husband and this chapter of my life with him behind me. However, we have a son who will always carry his father's name. Is it selfish of me to consider reverting back to my maiden name? — **MRS. SCORNED IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR MRS. SCORNED: Not in my opinion. Thirty years ago, thinking on the subject was different. However, today, with so many women retaining their maiden names after marriage, what you have in mind is not unusual. I say, go for it.

DEAR ABBY: I have a 16-year-old son who got into trouble with the law. He is on probation until September. The problem is, he is still causing trouble and starting fights. I am afraid of what will happen to his younger brother, who is 10 and has Down syndrome. We live in a new neighborhood, and I don't want our house to get hit by gangs. — **FRANTIC MOM IN SASKATOON**

DEAR FRANTIC MOM: If your older son is still causing trouble and starting fights, then he is breaking probation. In order to protect your younger boy -- and yourself -- his probation officer should be notified. Ideally, your older son should receive some professional counseling to help him deal with his anger issues -- some of which may stem from the fact that his younger brother

needs so much of your attention. Please see that he gets help before his behavior escalates to the point where someone is seriously injured.

DEAR ABBY: My 26-year-old son, "Luke," has been engaged for a year and is being married in October. My 24-year-old son, "Elijah," has just announced that he will ask his girlfriend to marry him, and he would like to be married in August. Would it be improper for him to be married before his brother, who has had his wedding scheduled for quite some time? — **BOYS' MOM IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

DEAR MOM: I wouldn't be surprised if Luke and his fiancée viewed it as an attempt to upstage them and resented it. Also, if Elijah and his girlfriend are planning a formal wedding, it might create a problem for relatives who might have to pay for travel and lodging for two weddings two months apart. I recommend that unless there is a compelling reason for him to be married in August, that Elijah postpone his wedding until the following year.

DEAR ABBY: Is it wrong to have a sugar daddy? I am a 29-year-old woman who wants to go back to school and get a degree. The gentleman making the offer is an older man I met and befriended several years ago. What if there is no sex involved? What if he is simply a generous benefactor of a cause -- the cause being me and my educational future? — **AMBIVALENT IN BROOKLYN, N.Y.**

DEAR AMBIVALENT: If there is no sex involved and he is simply a generous benefactor, then he is not a "sugar daddy." He is your mentor, and you'd be foolish not to accept his generosity.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS **DOWN**

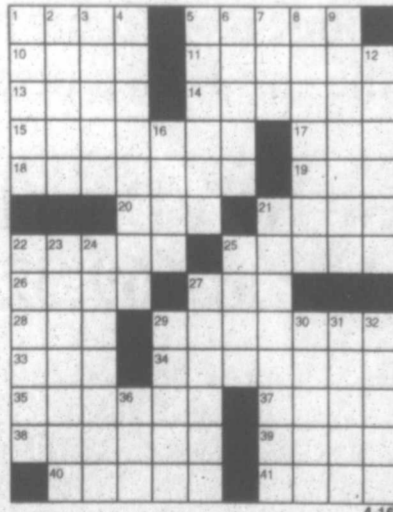
- 1 Anthem, for example
- 5 Got up
- 10 Spoken
- 11 Classic car
- 13 Zilch
- 14 Starting bid
- 15 Under discussion
- 17 In the past
- 18 Motives
- 19 Spigot
- 20 Stick out
- 21 Corn bread
- 22 Deadly
- 25 Pub game
- 26 Swear
- 27 Funny fellow
- 28 Combat
- 29 Secret file
- 33 Family
- 34 Eerie
- 35 On cloud nine
- 37 Morning brew
- 38 Peaceful
- 39 Shortly, in poems
- 40 Generous person
- 41 Janitor's janglers

TEMPTS SLIT
AVATAR TUNE
GIGOLO ICAN
GITULO BLISS
UTILE RELATE
PACE MOOR NED
ANYDAYNOW
DUE ISLE
INARUT BAMA
STRUM SUDAN
ABES SOLONG
REST ELAPSE
METS TEETER

Saturday's answer

- 1 Sub tracker
- 2 Give addresses
- 3 Gymnast Comaneci
- 4 Boxer's weakness
- 5 Check number
- 6 Lassos
- 7 Exalted in the poem
- 8 Capitol worker
- 9 Posh
- 12 Figures of speech
- 16 Inner being
- 21 Man at the wheel
- 22 Phoenix of the 30 Ludicrous
- 23 Made use of (of)
- 24 Twister (David Lean film)
- 25 Brake type
- 27 Awe
- 29 Because of
- 30 Embassy worker
- 32 "— Daughter" (David Lean film)
- 36 Light brown

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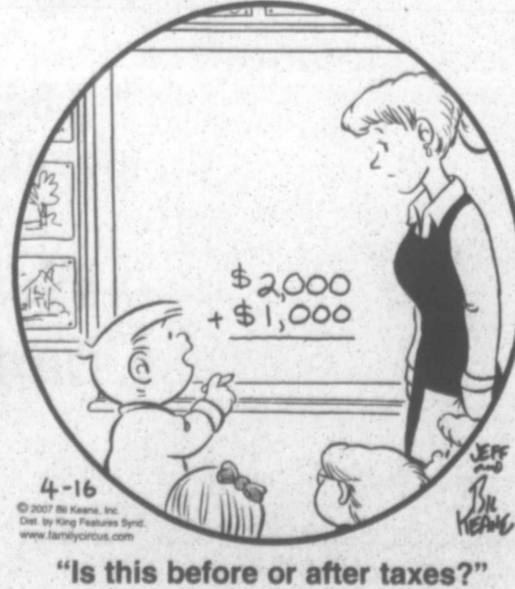


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



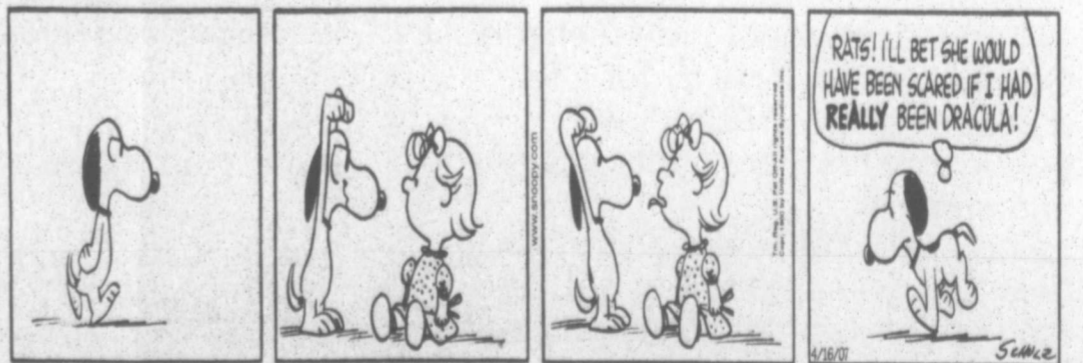
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

Winkelman, Kelley, others on their way to regionals

By JORDAN REAGAN
Sports Editor

Surviving Friday's freaky weather, the Pampa Harvesters competed in the district 3-4A track meet in Dumas this weekend.

Preliminaries took place on Thursday, and many athletes qualified for regional competition in individual field events.

Finals were scheduled to take place Friday, but the Panhandle weather brought in rain and snow to postpone the meet until Saturday.

When things got going again Saturday afternoon, Pampa raked in more points and more regional qualifiers among competition from Palo Duro, Randall, Caprock and many others.

The varsity girls got 5th place overall with 62 points and Logan Winkelman qualified for regionals in the 100 Meter Dash and the Long Jump.

The 1600 Meter Relay team also qualified with a 3rd place time of 4:13.58.

The JV girls got 2nd place with 105 points.

With 82 points, the varsity boys took 4th place at the meet, and Shavious Kelley got 1st place in both the 200 Meter Relay and the Triple Jump.

The JV boys got 6th place with a total of 54 points.

Qualifiers will compete at the Region 1-4A competition April 27-28 at San Angelo.

Individual results are as follows: (Top three finishers in each event qualify for regionals.)

Varsity Girls - 5th - 62
400 Relay- Pampa - 4th - 51.02
100 Hurdles- Britteni Rice - 6th - 17.19
100 Meter Dash- Logan Winkelman - 2nd - 12.88
Kelby Doughty - 4th - 12.98
800 Relay- Pampa - 5th - 1:51.33
400 Meter Run- Kylie Wariner - 5th - 1:04.39
300 Hurdles- Kara

Stephens - 6th - 49.31
200 Meter Dash- Amber Brown - 5th - 27.74
1600 Relay- Pampa - 3rd - 4:13.58
Long Jump- Logan Winkelman - 3rd - 5-11
Britteni Rice - 5th - 15 6 1/2
Triple Jump- Kelby Doughty - 3rd - 33-2
Shot Put- Sara Foster - 6th - 31-0

Varsity Boys - 4th - 82
400 Relay- Pampa - 3rd -

43.35
800 Meter Run- Matt Jimenez - 3rd - 1:59.82
100 Meter Dash- Chase Harris - 2nd - 10.84
800 Relay- Pampa - 2nd - 1:31.19
200 Meter Dash- Shavious Kelley - 1st - 21.54
1600 Relay- Pampa - 6th - 3:39.09
Long Jump- Tyler Hall - 2nd - 21-0
Triple Jump- Shavious Kelley - 1st - 42-8 1/2, Tyler Hall - 4th - 40 6 3/4

A True Underdog Story



Jerrold Bivins (left) and Ben Gibson of The Devastation gallantly face their opponents during Thursday's dodgeball tournament hosted by the Pampa Lions Club.



The Average Joes proved to be a step above average as they took 1st place in The Pampa Lions Club dodgeball tournament Thursday. Team members are: William Clark, Robert Taylor, Anthony Albus, Bryan Arnzen, Chris Arnzen, Buddy Plunk, Ace Amador and Jake Albus.

Cindy Cooper golf scramble rescheduled for Saturday

The 1st Annual Cindy Cooper Golf Scramble has been rescheduled for Saturday due to the snowy weather Pampa got over the weekend.

Originally scheduled for last Saturday, the golf scramble was organized to raise funds for uniforms, sports equipment and travel expenses for local Special

Olympics athletes. Those who were registered to play in Saturday's golf scramble need to be re-registered in order to play in the rescheduled scramble this weekend.

To register, contact John Hervey at 669-0573.

To sponsor a tee box or to make a donation, contact Shelly Dyer at 665-4726.

Weekley gets break from delay

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Some young pros chasing their first PGA Tour victory might get thrown off by a final-round wind delay and Monday finish. Not Boo Weekley, not by a long shot.

Weekley, two shots behind leader Jerry Kelly at the Verizon Heritage, feels the Sunday suspension might help him.

"I didn't get much sleep last night," he said. "We stayed up too late playing cards."

Weekley got a break when winds strong enough that a marshal was hit by a falling tree limb swirled through Harbour Town Golf Links, halting play and bringing the tournament's first Monday competition since Jose Coceres defeated Billy Mayfair in a 2001 playoff.

Then Weekley and the field got a few more moments of rest when officials delayed Monday's 7:45 a.m. start 15 more minutes because of the winter conditions before play finally resumed. The temperature was 48 degrees with winds of about 20 mph to start.

Weekley finished seventh on the Nationwide Tour last season to return to the PGA Tour and faced the prospect of chasing down Kelly and Ernie Els if he hoped for victory.

But along with card-playing, the 33-year-old Weekley was kept up by the overnight storm.

"The air conditioning was broke so I had to sleep with the windows open and all that storm came through and it got to blowing the shutters around where I was staying at, so I didn't get much sleep," he said Sunday.

"At least tonight, I'll get some sleep."

Weekley will need all he can get. PGA Tour tournament director Slugger White says forecasts call for milder winds Monday — there were gusts of 44 mph on Sunday — for most of the morning. Should more than half the field, but not all, finish, White said a Tuesday finish was possible.

William Millon was the marshal hit by the branch between the first and ninth holes. He was taken to Hilton Head Regional

Medical Center by ambulance and was later released with minor injuries, Verizon Heritage tournament director Steve Wilmot said.

A short time later, the final round was halted because balls refused to remain in place on the 16th, 17th and 18th holes, which are exposed to Calibogue Sound.

Wind off the famous lighthouse hole, No. 18, was enough to knock walkers off their strides.

"It got dangerous out there for spectators," White said. "It was dangerous and unplayable."

Mark Hensby was among the few golfers who played the par-4 16th. "We were walking along 16, and the tree branches, you actually heard one crack," Hensby said. "Then a few were flying across the fairway, and then we figured someone was going to get hurt out there."

The conditions would've been brutal on players' scores, too. J.B. Holmes hit the green on the par-3 17th — a hole moved up some 70 yards to play at 138 yards — then needed three putts to finish.

Weekley, who is two shots behind leader Jerry Kelly, was playing the second hole when the round was halted. "I heard some stories in the locker room, and it was pretty ridiculous, really," he said.

Sand from a bunker along the 16th hole's left side was blown into the fairway, covering much of the grass.

A swaying tree snagged the netting of Harbour Town's driving range and pulled part of it away.

Another long pine tree limb was split by the wind and hanging in the same area where Millon was struck. Tournament officials rolled in a backhoe to pull down the branch as they directed spectators onto the ninth fairway on their way to Harbour Town's entrance.

Kelly expected to bring a similar mind-set into Monday morning as he tries for his first PGA Tour victory in five years. "I think I'll be able to get the adrenaline back up tomorrow morning, no problem," he said. "And off to the races."

The lesson Jackie Robinson's heirs haven't learned

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

CHICAGO (AP) — Jackie Robinson Day passed through town like a cool spring breeze, leaving little behind besides a chilly reminder that black kids don't play baseball anymore. "Tomorrow," Cubs great Billy Williams said, settling into a seat in the shade of the home dugout, "you won't even know any of this happened."

In the sunshine nearby, members of the Cubs marketing department scurried from place to place, setting up microphones and herding schoolkids taking part in the pre-game ceremonies into position. An hour later, a few scholarships would be announced while the four Chicago ballplayers and two coaches who donned Robinson's No. 42 posed alongside Ken Griffey Jr., Cincinnati's lone representative, for a photo.

Robinson once said he avoided looking at the crowd during most of his at-bats in that fateful first season of 1947 "for fear I would see

only Negroes applauding."

The good news is that now everyone would have been cheering because his accomplishments shamed America's sporting public into severing ties to its spiteful past. However, there weren't many more African Americans to be glimpsed in the announced crowd of 39,820 than the handful of two clubs combined to put on the diamond.

"We look at the problem, read about it, talk about it and nothing much changes," Williams said.

A sweet-swinging outfielder with an unusually discerning eye at the plate, Williams didn't make it to the majors until 1959, three years after Robinson had retired. But he was part of a treasure trove of ballplayers who lived in and around Mobile, Ala. — where Henry Aaron and Willie McCovey hailed from — who weren't "discovered" until big-league scouts began mining historically black billfolds fields in search of another Jackie.

He can't bear to think

what scouts would find there today.

"Empty diamonds, for the most part," Williams said. "Kids, specially talented kids, don't want to wait. They think baseball is 'slow,' whether you're talking about the game itself or the time it takes to get the payoff. We're talking 5 or 6 years to get established, but because of the longevity, you can get those back at the end of your career."

Williams chuckles bitterly at the irony that among Robinson's many virtues, patience is the one precious few of his heirs bothered to master.

"Try selling that to a generation that grew up on Michael Jordan," he said. "Their motto is: 'I want it now.'"

Baseball spent much of Sunday in a self-congratulatory mode, harkening back to the day when it held such a central position in American society that Robinson breaking the color barrier 60 years ago had a much more significant impact outside the game than

between the lines. From that day, the percentage of African Americans in the major leagues climbed steadily until about 1975 — peaking at 27 percent — then began falling precipitously. They have been replaced gradually, by Hispanic ballplayers, and more recently by Asians.

Today, the number of African Americans in baseball hovers around 8 percent, roughly the same as the percentage of black adults who list it as their favorite sport.

"I didn't appreciate baseball. I was just bored," recalled Cliff Floyd, one of four Chicago players who wore Robinson's number. "And that's what these kids are: They're bored...."

"A lot of times in baseball you strike out, you pop up, you roll out to first. In basketball, you've got dunks. You've got guys flying through the air. You've got balls flying off the backboard. That's fun for these kids," Floyd added. "You've got kids looking at the basketball rim going, 'Man, that's me one day.'"

Basketball continues to collect much of the blame for siphoning off all those would-be Jackies, thanks to an assist from the sneaker companies. But baseball's poor marketing overall, as well as its late recognition that black kids were turning away from the game, come in for plenty of scorn, too.

"Go to Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic or Venezuela and you'll find baseball academies bought and paid for by teams," Williams said. "We've got one up and running in Compton, and we're renovating a few ballfields in a few other places."

"But it won't be until we get people and former players who aren't afraid to go back to the neighborhoods where they came from and do some serious scouting and selling that we're going to make a dent."

Floyd, for one, said he was prepared to do his part.

"It's going to take a huge effort — not so much when you're playing, but when you're retired. I've got to go back home and not just sit on

my butt," he said. "I think you should get out there in the community and show these kids how important the game is, show them video of how you laughed and smiled because that's what they don't see."

After Cincinnati won Sunday's game 1-0, Griffey sat in front of his locker in the visiting clubhouse working over a plate of food. His father was a Reds star when baseball was still the No. 1 game in black communities. Asked what one thing he would like to see different the next day, Junior didn't opt for more U.S. baseball academies or a better marketing campaign.

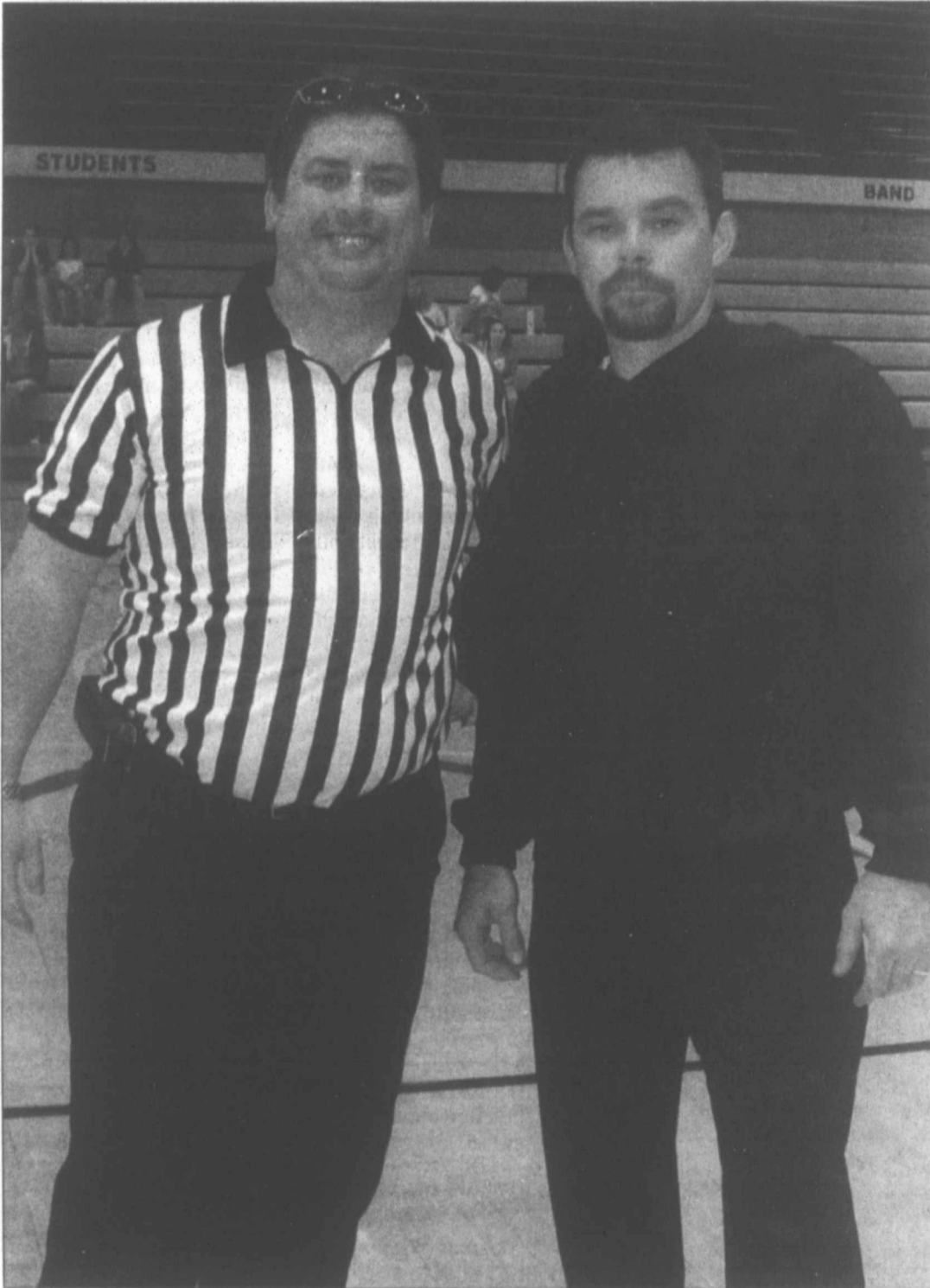
"Just him, Jackie, being here," Griffey replied.

Asked whether Robinson would have liked what baseball has become, Griffey shook his head slowly.

"I have no idea," he replied. "But I would have liked having him around."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

Make it official



Rusty Tapp and Brad Pingel of the Pampa Lions Club take part as referees in Thursday's dodgeball tournament at McNeely Field House.

Pujols pulls out of April slump with two homers

By The Associated Press

Albert Pujols wasn't concerned about his slow start.

The Cardinals slugger came into Sunday's game with a .158 average and 2 RBIs before homering twice and driving in five runs in St. Louis' 10-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers.

After the game he said he was never worried.

"Obviously, this year hasn't been working out early," Pujols said. "But just because I haven't found myself at the plate I don't want to go crazy."

On a day a nor'easter

pounded much of the East Coast and forced the cancellation of games at three National League sites, Cardinals fans enjoyed the show put on by Pujols, who hit a major-league record 14 home runs last April.

His teammates, too, were glad to see Pujols' performance.

"It's a good day," Preston Wilson said. "Anytime you have a day where the superstar in your lineup kind of starts heating up, it makes the whole team feel good."

The Nationals and Mets were rained out in New York, the Astros and Phillies

were rained out in Philadelphia, and a doubleheader between the Giants and Pirates was canceled in Pittsburgh.

The Cardinals' offense, which has struggled in the early going, had 13 hits. Chris Duncan had a career-high four of them, including his third homer of the season.

The Cardinals, who had scored four runs during an 0-4 start at Busch Stadium, got their first home victory against Brewers ace Ben Sheets (1-2), who fell to 4-14 in 22 career starts against St. Louis.

Yankees stunned by super-sub

By The Associated Press

By the time Mariano Rivera came in from the bullpen, the New York Yankees figured they were headed for a happy conclusion to a difficult day.

Turned out, the most stunning blow was still to come.

One strike from his first save of the season, Rivera gave up a three-run homer to little Marco Scutaro that rallied the Oakland Athletics to a 5-4 victory over New York on Sunday.

"I was shocked," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

The day began badly for his team, too. Starting pitchers Mike Mussina (strained

left hamstring) and Carl Pavano (tightness in right forearm) were placed on the 15-day disabled list, further depleting a New York staff that was already missing injured ace Chien-Ming Wang.

"Nobody wants that," Mussina said after cutting short his throwing session because of pain in his hamstring. "You just find a way to get through it and deal with it."

"Nobody's having surgery," he added. "A couple of muscle pulls, a strain, we'll be fine."

In other AL games, it was: Cleveland 2, Chicago 1; Toronto 2, Detroit 1; Tampa

Bay 6, Minnesota 4; and Seattle 14, Texas 6. Los Angeles' game at Boston and Kansas City's game at Baltimore were postponed by rain as a heavy storm on the East Coast wreaked more havoc with the schedule.

Scutaro's two-out shot in the bottom of the ninth spoiled a strong start by Andy Pettitte, who gave the Yankees the quality outing they desperately needed. He allowed two runs — one earned — and five hits in seven innings.

Oakland took two of three from the Yankees after going winless in its first three series.

Sebastien Bourdais takes third straight Long Beach win

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Sebastien Bourdais isn't used to failure, and the weeks leading up to the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach were a worrisome time.

His version of the new Panoz DP01 race car that everyone in the Champ Car World Series is using this season had some gremlins in the fuel system and transmission in preseason testing.

Then, at the season-opener in Las Vegas, Bourdais had the worst race weekend of his Champ Car career. He had an electrical problem on the first day, hit the wall in qualifying the next day and, after overcoming three tire punctures, crashed and finished 13th in the race.

"You do have some doubts after things like that happen," Bourdais said.

To get ready for Long Beach, Bourdais took a day early in the week to relax and refresh himself by driving his wife and baby from Las Vegas to Southern California in a motorhome.

"It gave me time to think and just remember how good my team is," he said. "I knew we would bounce back."

Indeed they did.

Bourdais dominated Sunday, leading 58 of 78 laps on the way to his third straight victory in the streets of Long Beach.

"The team didn't panic after Vegas, which was crucial," the 28-year-old Frenchman said. "A lot of teams could really blow apart after a weekend like that. We didn't."

"That race was like a bad dream. This is a whole lot nicer."

Bourdais, who has won 24 of 61 starts and three straight Champ Car titles, was certainly the class of the field here. He started from the pole and raced away to a nearly 25-second lead — about a third of a lap on the 1.968-mile, 11-turn circuit — and appeared on the way to a rout.

But that lead disappeared when rookie Simon Pagenaud slid into a tire barrier on lap 53, bringing out one of three full-course caution flags.

After pit stops by the leaders, Bourdais found himself trailing French rookie Tristan Gommendy, who was on a different pit strategy and had pitted last on lap 39. With surpris-

ing runner-up Oriol Servia conserving fuel and not pushing the leaders, Bourdais chose to be patient and wait for Gommendy to make his final stop.

"I made one try to pass Tristan and I decided it was better to back off and wait because he was pretty fast at that point," Bourdais said. "I didn't want to make a mistake and embarrass myself by winding up in the tires."

Bourdais regained the lead on lap 68 and stayed out front the rest of the way, easily holding off Servia on a restart on lap 77 after the last caution period.

It's the longest winning streak at Long Beach since Al Unser Jr. won a record four in a row from 1988 through 1991.

Servia, the 2005 series runner-up as Bourdais' teammate, started the weekend without a ride but took over for Paul Tracy after the 2003 series champion injured his back in a crash during Saturday's practice.

"I did a great job, but nothing compared to what the team did," Servia said of his Forsythe Championship Racing crew.

Bryant scores 50 again, lifts Lakers to playoffs

By The Associated Press

Kobe Bryant carried the Los Angeles Lakers into the playoffs and left the Clippers and Golden State Warriors to fight it out for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Bryant finished with 50 points on 18-of-25 shooting Sunday night to carry the Lakers to a 109-98 victory over Seattle that clinched a playoff spot for Los Angeles. He scored 50 or more for the 10th time this season, the third-highest total in NBA history behind Wilt Chamberlain's 45 times with 50 or more in 1961-62, and the center's 30 times the following season.

Bryant has reached the 50-point plateau 21 times in his career.

"We feel much better. We needed this type of win,"

Bryant said after the Lakers won for just the third time in 11 games.

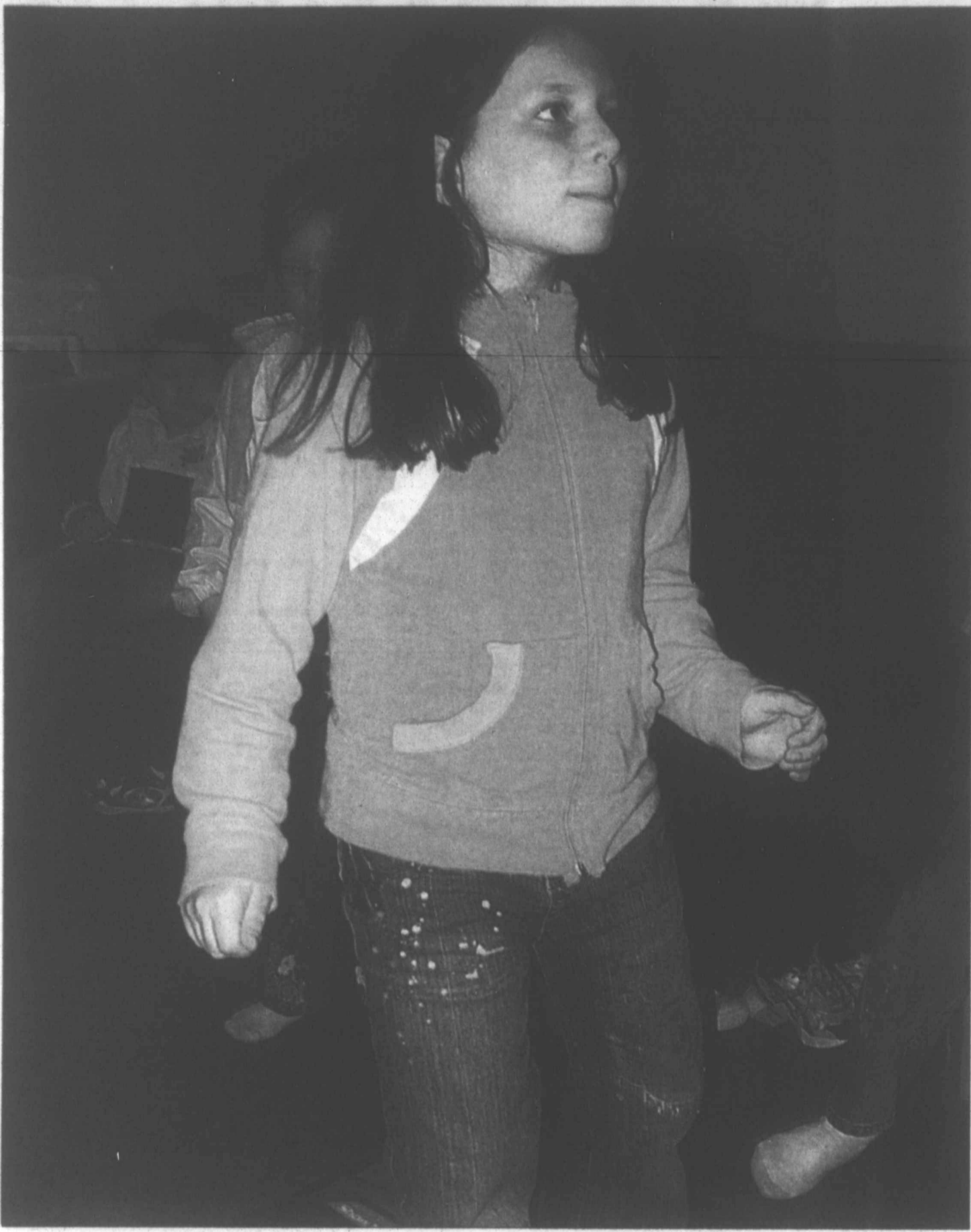
In other games Sunday, it was: Dallas 91, San Antonio 86; Golden State 121, Minnesota 108; Sacramento 105, L.A. Clippers 100; Orlando 88, Boston 86; New Jersey 111, Indiana 107; Toronto 107, New York 105; Philadelphia 102, Detroit 91; and Chicago 101, Washington 68.

Bryant said that when the playoffs begin, he may score a lot of points and he may not.

"If the jumper is on, we'll ride it out," he said. "If it's not, we'll have to find another way to win. Our defensive continuity is going to be our biggest challenge."

Phil Jackson has never missed the playoffs in his 17 years as an NBA coach.

CREATE-a-Beat! party



Savannah Wellborn burns up the dance competition held at CREATE-a-Beat! recently. COURTESY PHOTO

Bomb squad helps destroy picric acid

COLUMBUS, Wis. (AP) — It's not often that a bomb squad is asked to help clean up a pharmacy.

But experts say a 2-ounce sample of picric acid in the basement of Sharrow Drug Store packed the punch of nearly half a stick of dynamite.

Store employees found the sample Thursday as they were cleaning out old chemicals. Store owner Nick Sharrow is relieved that the local bomb squad safely destroyed the sample Friday, saying its explosive capability was stunning.

"This is very similar to TNT," Sharrow said.

Picric acid isn't volatile as a liquid. But as it ages, it can form highly explosive crystals, Sharrow said. The sample discovered on the base-

ment shelf dated back to around World War I.

The sample was probably overlooked when employees disposed of the rest of its picric acid supply in 1984, a process that also required the assistance of a bomb squad.

Picric acid was used as an antiseptic and in medical formulations to treat such afflictions as malaria, herpes and smallpox.

Authorities decided to remove the acid Friday around 8:15 a.m. because traffic would be light and school buses would have already passed.

The drug store and its second-story apartments were evacuated, as were neighboring businesses. The street was also closed to traffic during the removal.

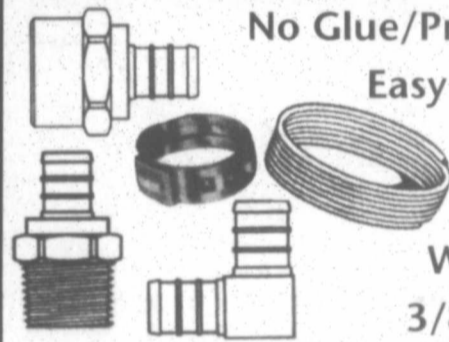
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BBB Torch Awards finalists announced

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

The Amarillo Better Business Bureau has announced the finalists in the 2007 BBB Torch Awards for Marketplace Ethics competition.

The Torch Awards help recognize ethical companies and inform the public about the importance of doing business right. Only the highest quality businesses and organizations apply for this award and reaching the final stage is an honor in itself.

The companies selected as finalists in small businesses are Marcella Furs and Leather Inc., Shelton's Flowers and Gifts and Wayne's Quality Auto Glass, Inc. In medium businesses, finalists are Clifton

Gunderson LLP, Custom Gardens and Saturn of Amarillo.

For the large businesses, Donut Stop, Inc., Happy State Bank and Panhandle Plains Student Loan Center were the finalists. And for the nonprofit category, the finalists named were Care Net Crisis Pregnancy Center of Amarillo and Coffee Memorial Blood Center.

Winners in each category will be announced at the Torch Awards for Marketplace Ethics celebration on Friday at the Amarillo Civic Center Heritage room. A silent auction and cocktails will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards presentation at 7 p.m.

Billy Riggs, The Attitude Dude, will be the keynote

speaker for the evening. Riggs has used an unusual blend of comedy, music, magic and motivation to spread his positive attitude to more than a million people on five continents.

"He is a unique and spell-binding communicator and motivator who magically changes lives ... and shatters the illusionary thinking that hinders growth, performance and success," according to the BBB.

The 2007 Torch Awards for Marketplace Ethics are presented by the BBB in partnership with the College of Business at West Texas A&M University.

For more information or reservations, call 806-379-6834 or log on to www.amarillobbb.org.

Gambling

Continued from Page 4

purses and stop breeders from taking their horses to other states.

Seven of the 12 resort casinos would be in the state's largest urban areas, including at least one in Tarrant County, each with minimum land and development costs of \$400 million.

The casino proposal makes sense for Texas. The barroom poker bill does not.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

hands of the president. All ambassadors and all treaties have to be ratified by the Senate. Every penny of funding for anything overseas, including the military, is the responsibility of Congress. Other than appointing ambassadors and making treaties, both with the advice and consent of the Senate, the only reference to foreign-policy duty

assigned to the president by the Constitution is to "receive ambassadors and other public ministers."

Clearly, the current president is at odds with the authors of the U.S. Constitution. A simple reading of that document will assure any doubters that the man temporarily occupying the White House is not a monarch, dictator or emperor. And the Constitution is truly the supreme law of the land.

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

API chapter set to convene next meeting

The Panhandle Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Pampa Country Club. The featured speaker will be Randy Ratzlaff, senior trooper with Texas Department of Public Safety and Department of Transportation.

Ratzlaff's topic will be "2007 D.O.T. Rules and Regulations."

Dinner, a chicken fried buffet, will be served at 7 p.m. Cost of the meal is \$15 per person.

API memberships will be available at the door. All members are encouraged to bring a guest.

Door prizes will be donated by Baker Oil Tools.

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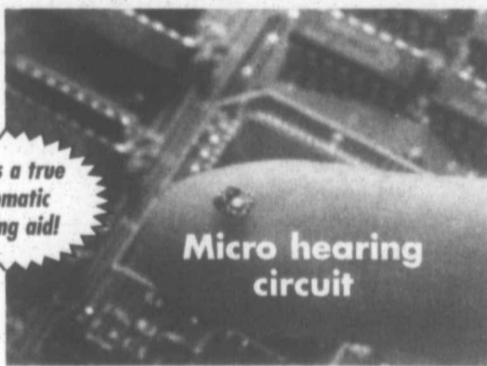
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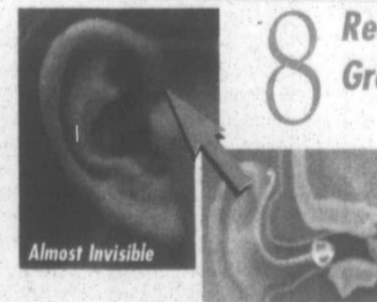
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