



Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
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LOW
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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Friday, February 22, 2008

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Marx named Pampa's 2007 Citizen of the Year

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Bob Marx was named 2007 Citizen of the Year Thursday evening at the 79th annual banquet of the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I am very humbled and honored," Marx said later. "I am receiving it for everybody because it takes all of us to make the community we have."

Mark Lang, outgoing chairman of the Chamber board of directors, presented a plaque to Marx and a bouquet of roses to Marx's wife, Johnnie, after making the announcement. The event began at 7 p.m. at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium.

"This year's citizen of the year has always been positive about Pampa," Lang said. "As a matter of fact, I can't

think of anyone more positive about Pampa. A Pampa native for 56 years, this person has been extremely active in Chamber-related activities."

Marx's activities include the Chamber Gold Coats, United Way, Salvation Army, Clean Pampa Inc., Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boy Scouts, Meals on Wheels and Children's Shopping Tour. He is a donor to Coffee Memorial Blood Bank.

"If all of us in Pampa had this person's spirit of volunteerism, it would be unimaginable what great things would be accomplished throughout our community," Lang said. He called Marx "a truly walking encyclopedia of Pampa history stemming from Feb. 26, 1951."

Nominations for the Citizen of the

See MARX, Page 3

Accepting award



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Bob Marx of Pampa is congratulated by Trevlyn Pitner after being named 2007 Citizen of the Year at the 79th annual banquet of the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce. The event began at 7 p.m. Thursday at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium. Pitner is incoming chairman of the Chamber board for 2008.

Wheeler jury gives man 99-year sentence for drugs

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A California man received a 99-year sentence to a Texas Department of Corrections facility after a Wheeler County jury handed up a guilty verdict Wednesday in 31st District Court in Wheeler County Courthouse.

Yohawn Dante Bynes was convicted of possession of over 400 grams of a controlled substance

with intent to deliver. He was arrested June 1, 2003 on the charge.

"He was trafficking drugs down I-40," said 31st Assistant District Attorney Jeff Mathews, prosecutor for the case. "He was caught in a vehicle with over 500 grams of cocaine."

The trial, presided over by 31st

See JURY, Page 3

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sheriff's deputy cleared of alleged wrongdoing

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A Gray County sheriff's deputy who was placed on administrative leave with pay earlier this week pending results of an investigation into alleged wrongdoing has been cleared of the allegation and reinstated, according to a news release from the sheriff's office.

"The investigation by Texas Rangers into a complaint made by a

citizen against a Gray County deputy sheriff has been completed," Sheriff Don Copeland said in the release. The investigation was completed Thursday afternoon, he said later in an interview.

Copeland had notified the Texas Rangers of the report after it was received, and the Rangers conducted an independent investigation into the incident. Copeland declined to

See GCSO, Page 3

PISD approves school calendar

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

Board members for the Pampa Independent School District approved the school calendar for the 2008-2009 school year, as well as a three-part waiver for the Texas Education Agency at a meeting held Thursday evening.

The board discussed and approved a TEA expedited waiver, which consisted of three parts. The first asked that the school year of only 177 teaching days instead of the recommended 180 be allowed, as long as the other three days be used as staff development for employees.

The second part of the waiver will allow campuses to have up to six early dismissals if the campus employees spend the remainder of the work day in professional development. The final portion of the waiver allows campuses to use a modified schedule on TAKS days so that only the students who are being tested are on the campus during the time of testing.

Board members discussed and considered two calendars for the 2008-2009 school year. The one that was approved would begin the year on Aug. 25, 2008, and end the year on May 29, 2009. The students will be out for Thanksgiving from Nov. 26 through Nov. 28 and the Christmas break will

run from Dec. 22 through Jan. 2, 2009.

Spring break will be March 16 - March 20, 2009. The main difference in the approved calendar versus the alternate is there will be no snow day on May 25, 2009, which is Memorial Day. Some board members felt that day should remain as a school holiday since many families have activities on that day and students should not be expected to come to school on that day in case of a snow make-up day. So, the snow day was placed on Friday, May 22 instead so

See PISD, Page 3

Remodeled library



Pampa News Photos by KERRI SMITH

Lovett Memorial Library reopened today after being closed for a few days to finish moving things around. Librarian Misty Guy and Children's Librarian Jo Sikes show off two of the new areas. Guy said she would like to thank Pampa residents for their patience and cooperation during the reorganization process.

◀ This adult sitting area is now upstairs, where the children's section was before.

▲ The children's area is now back downstairs like it was years ago, so parents and library employees do not have to worry about the safety of the children on the stairs.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 58. Wind chill values between 23 and 33 early.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. West-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.
Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. South-southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Windy, with a west-northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph.
Monday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

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5-year-old killed in shooting

DALLAS (AP) — Police say a man opened fire with a handgun through a living room window, killing a 5-year-old boy inside and leaving another child and a woman in serious condition.

Dallas police Lt. Vernon Hale said early Friday that no arrests have been made in the shootings, which happened late Thursday at a South Dallas home.

Police did not immediately provide other details, including the identities of the victims or how they might be related.

Authorities say the boy was shot in the head. A 10-year-old girl was shot in the hand and a 27-year-old woman was struck in the leg.

Hale said three other children and another adult were inside the house at the time but not injured.

CITY BRIEFS

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HOME INTERIOR Sale, White Deer, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 2-5, south on Main st. turns into Co. Rd. 294 then 4.2 mi., watch for signs. 662-7501.

IN PAMPA News Bible Verse Contest--- the word "delight" should be Number 18, and the word "soul" should be Number 17. Sorry for any inconvenience.

MCLEAN DANCE Club, Sat., Feb. 23, to Lonnie Cox & The Night Life, 7:30-11:30pm., \$8 ea.

MEDICAL FUND has been set up for Dan Barker, son of Ed & Jennie Barker at Firstbank Southwest. To make deposit, the acct. is under Nick Martin, c/o Dan Barker.

PAMPA TEACHERS Federal Credit Union 71st Annual meeting, Mon. Feb 25th 7pm, at MK Brown in the Heritage Room. All members in good standing are welcome. Fun & Prizes including: digital camcorder, GPS system, PSP Playstation, IPOD Nano, Gift cards & cash.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

COCHRAN, Lester — 2 p.m., Cornerstone Baptist Church, Pampa.

Lorena D. Moddrell, 106

MENA, Ark. — Lorena D. Moddrell, 106, died Thursday, Feb. 21, 2008, at Mena. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Beasley-Wood Funeral Home Chapel with Donnie Edwards officiating.

Interment will be in Pleasant Grove Cemetery under the direction of the

Beasley-Wood Funeral Home of Mena.

Mrs. Moddrell was born June 9, 1902, at Winterset, Iowa, to the late William Henry Walborn and Bertha May Kennedy Walborn. In 1921, she married T.M. "Mac" Moddrell at Stillwell, Okla.

Mrs. Moddrell was a

member of Royal Neighbors, Order of the Eastern Star (67 years) and belonged to Dallas Avenue Baptist Church (30 years). She was active civically as well.

She was preceded in death by her husband, T.M.; a son, James R. Moddrell, Sr.; a brother, Fields H. Walborn;

and a sister, Pearl Arlene DeMaupin.

Survivors include a grandson, James R. Moddrell, Jr. of North Little Rock, Ark.; and a great-grandson, Brian R. Moddrell of North Little Rock.

VISITATION: 6-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, at Beasley-Wood Funeral Home.

Lester Cochran, 92

Lester Cochran, 92, of Pampa, Texas, died Feb. 20, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at Cornerstone Baptist Church with the Rev. Rick Timmons, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Canadian, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Cochran was born June 17, 1915, in Marion County, Ala. He married Opal Winegeart on Nov. 13, 1938, in Memphis, Texas.

She preceded him in death on Jan. 22, 2008.

He had been a resident of Pampa since 1959.

Lester worked for Curtis Well Service as a mechanic, retiring in 1981 after 20 years of service. He was a Baptist. He coached baseball for many years at the Pampa Optimist Club.

Survivors include six sons, Dexter Cochran and wife Betty of White Deer, Mar Cochran and wife Betty, Ted Cochran and wife Lea Ann, Ed Cochran and wife Patty, and Kirby Cochran and wife Rita, all of Pampa,

and Danny Cochran, of the home; three daughters, Carolyn Nelson and husband Van of Nacogdoches, LaGwenda Walker and husband Gary, and Lesa Greer and husband Jene, all of Pampa; two sisters, Betty Jean Dunn and husband Elvoy of Amarillo, and Dorothy Alexander of Abilene; one brother, Thomas Jefferson Cochran, Jr., of Lubbock; 24 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three great-grandchildren,

Justin Graves, Tyler Johnson and Bailey Brame.

The family wishes to extend a special thanks to Bob Lindsey with Odyssey Hospice and T.V. Cuellar and Pam Spangler with Accolade Home Care.

MEMORIALS: Bailey Brame Scholarship Fund, c/o Bruce and Debbie Brame, P.O. Box 263, Skellytown, TX 79080, or Pampa Optimist Club, P.O. Box 802, Pampa, TX 79066-0802.

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

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Twenty-five traffic stops were made. At least one arrest was made in connection with a stop in the 1200 block of East Frederic.

Traffic complaints were received from the 2700 block of Comanche, the 600 block of North Hobart and the 1800 block of Hamilton.

Driving while intoxicated was reported in the 11800 block of West Highway 60.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the police department lobby, the intersection of Harvester and Lowry streets, the intersection of Kentucky Avenue and Price Road, and the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 400 block of North Christy, the 1300 block of East Kingsmill, the 2600 block of Seminole, twice in the 800 block of Beryl, once in the 100 block of East Francis, the 400 block of Warren, the 500 block of North Warren, the 1000 block of West Browning, the intersection

of Henry and Campbell streets, the 800 block of East Browning, the 1100 block of Varnon Drive, the 400 block of North West and the 1100 block of Juniper.

Agency assistance was rendered at McLean High School.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion and resulted in at least one arrest.

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

Suspicious person calls were received from the 2800 block of Charles, the 400 block of South Starkweather, the intersection of Randy Matson and Hobart streets, the intersection of Foster and Cuyler streets, the 600 block of North Faulkner and the 1900 block of Coffee. At least one arrest was made in connection with the incident in the 400 block of South Starkweather.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 2000 block of Coffee.

A prowler was reported in the 800 block of North Somerville.

Criminal trespass was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

Criminal mischief was reported at Pampa High

School, 111 E. Harvester.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic and the police department lobby.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart and the 1800 block of Alcock.

Two alarms were reported.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. An air-powered framing nailer valued at \$250 was taken from an unreported location.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky. Cigarettes valued at \$4 were taken.

Theft was reported at Pampa Junior High School.

Forgery was reported in the police department lobby. The incident involved checks written on a closed account.

Christopher Duane Rose, 35, of Pampa was arrested in the 1300 block of East Frederic by PPD for no valid driver's license.

Teri Lynn Furgerson, 34, of Lefors was arrested in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive by PPD for no driver's license, no seat belt - driver, possession of drug paraphernalia, no valid driver's license and no driver's license - revoked - suspended.

Fire

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

Thursday, Feb. 21

11:29 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Harvester and Lowry on a motor vehicle accident.

5:08 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of Price Road on a medical assistance call.

5:26 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1200 block of Price Road on a grass fire.

5:45 p.m. — Two units and seven personnel responded to the 2200 block of Duncan on a grease fire.

9:11 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to One Medical Plaza for a Life Star stand-by.

Friday, Feb. 22

12:12 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 200 block of Tignor on a medical assistance call.

12:29 a.m. — One unit and four personnel responded to the 900 block of East Francis on a medical assistance call.

Sheriff

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

Thursday, Feb. 21

Lonnie Remond Mills, 39, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for possession of marijuana.

Friday, Feb. 22

Bear Julius Raymo, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of South Starkweather by Pampa Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Steve Cory Gardner, 22, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of South Starkweather by PPD for failure to identify.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	9.90	XCEL	20.35	+0.09
Milo	8.29	Anadarko	61.33	+0.19
Corn	9.19	XOM	87.07	+0.15
Soybeans	12.16	Nat'l Oilwell	63.36	-0.43
		Limited	17.10	-0.09
		Williams	35.25	-0.28
		MCD	55.20	-0.03
		Atmos	26.75	-0.10
		Pioneer Nat	44.23	+0.09
		JCP	47.78	-0.25
		COP	79.82	+0.01
		SLB	83.36	-0.05
		Tenneco	26.32	-0.31
		CVX	84.71	-0.07
		Wal-Mart	49.81	+0.02
		OKE	47.31	+0.12

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa:

OXY	73.43	+0.34	New York Gold	949.20
BP PLC ADR	65.21	+0.79	Silver	17.95
Cabot Corp	27.72	+0.05	West Texas Crude	98.23
Celanese	40.61	-0.09		
Cabot Oil Gas	48.40	-0.16		
Coca Cola	58.22	+0.23		
VLO	59.28	-0.56		
HAL	35.81	-0.25		

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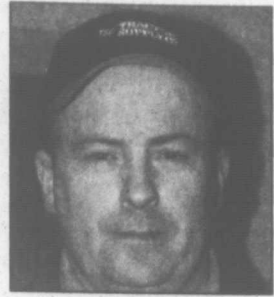
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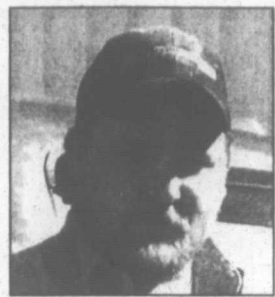
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Fenton Mechanic

"The higher the gas prices, the higher everything else is, like eggs and milk."



Alvin Ellerd
Fenton Salesman

"You spend more money on gas and have less money for other things."



Bobby Hendrick
Fenton Mechanic

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Brad Cook
Fenton Salesman

"I carpool, and my gas is paid for."



Joe Trapp
Fenton Salesman

"I take less trips and don't cruise around town as much."



Tony Ferrell
Fenton Salesman

"My groceries are going into my gas tank, so to speak."

YOUNG DEATH

Motorcycle officer escorting Clinton dies

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas police Officer Victor Lozado, who had a wife and four children, two of them in college.

"It is important that we respect and appreciate their service," she said. "I certainly am grateful for all they do for me."

Police Chief David Kunkle said Clinton had called to offer her condolences to Lozado's widow and fellow officers.

Lozado died after apparently crashing into a concrete barrier along a viaduct near downtown Dallas, said Lt. Vernon Hale, a police spokesman.

Killed was 20-year

wreckage scattered for several yards.

The officer was in the rear of the motorcade, following it as it took a turn not far from Dealey Plaza, where John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Asked if police had enough lead time to plan a safe route, Hale said, "It doesn't matter with our guys. They've been doing this so long. Of course, we already had one tragedy in Dallas."

Kunkle, accompanied by Dallas Mayor Tom Leppard at the hospital, said the motorcades involve intricate driving.

"The motorcycle escorts we do are very dangerous. They require officers to speed up and ride ahead of the motorcade and set up, and do that over and over again. So there's always an element of danger to these motorcades, but the accident is still under investigation."

In August 2006, an Albuquerque, N.M., police officer in President Bush's motorcade died in a motorcycle crash. Germaine Casey, 40, died on Aug. 27 when he crashed as Bush returned to the airport after a fundraiser for Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M.

Year are sought each year by the Chamber's board of directors. Chamber members and local residents may nominate someone for the honor by submitting a completed written application by Dec. 31 each year.

A committee which includes the executive director of the Chamber and the past chairman of the board selects the Citizen of the Year after reviewing the nominations. Nominees must have been Pampa residents for the past five years.

Qualities sought in the Citizen of the Year include participation in organizations, civic and community activities and humanitarian work.

Previous Citizens of the Year include Paula Goff, 2004; Jack Reeve, 2005; and Suzie Wilkinson, 2006.

Guest speaker Thursday evening was Richard "Buzz" David, president and CEO of Amarillo Economic Development Corporation. David spoke on economic development in the Texas Panhandle.

GCSO

Continued from Page 1

identify the complainant or the deputy involved in the reported incident.

The sheriff's office had received a call Monday concerning an incident alleging criminal conduct on the part of the deputy, according to GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. The caller was a Gray County resident involved in the inci-

dent, which reportedly occurred Monday evening.

The deputy was off duty and at his home at the time of the incident, according to the release. The report received by the sheriff's office from the caller alleged that the deputy had fired a shot at the complainant, who was walking in the roadway with her pit bull dogs.

"There was a verbal exchange between the complainant and the deputy about the complainant keeping the dogs restrained so that the dogs would not be on the deputy's property and would not attack or otherwise harm the deputy's live-

stock and other property," Copeland said in the release.

"Investigation revealed that at least one of the dogs made an aggressive move toward the deputy, and a shot was fired by the deputy in order to keep the dog away from him," Copeland said in the release. "The shot was not directed toward a person or an animal."

"The investigation further revealed that the dogs in question had been allowed to run loose in the area, and that other residents had had problems with the dogs' aggressive behavior, and in at least one instance, a family pet had been attacked by

the dogs," Copeland said in the release.

"After a thorough investigation by the Rangers, it has been concluded that there was no wrongdoing on the part of the deputy sheriff in this matter," Copeland said in the release. "Texas law provides that a person has a right to protect his life and property. There is also a law concerning dangerous dogs, and this will be properly addressed in the near future."

Chapter 822 of the Texas Health and Safety Code defines a dangerous dog as a dog that makes an unprovoked attack on a person that causes bodily injury and occurs in a place other than

an enclosure in which the dog was being kept and that was reasonably certain to prevent the dog from leaving the enclosure on its own, or a dog that commits unprovoked acts in a place other than such an enclosure and those acts cause a person to reasonably believe that the dog will attack and cause bodily injury to that person.

Chapter 822 also lists the requirements for owners of dangerous dogs. No later than the 30th day after the owner learns they own a dangerous dog, the owner must register the dog with the animal control authority for the area in which the dog is kept, restrain the dog at all times on a leash in the

immediate control of a person or in a secure enclosure, obtain liability insurance coverage or show financial responsibility for at least \$100,000 and comply with applicable municipal or county regulations.

Any complaint against his office or its employees is taken seriously, Copeland said, and will be dealt with in a timely manner.

"I asked for an independent investigation into this matter, and the Texas Rangers responded promptly, and I thank them for their work in this case," he said.

Rangers who conducted the investigation are Jay Foster of Childress and Sgt. Phillip Ditto of Dumas.

PISD

Continued from Page 1

Memorial Day can remain a day off for students in the district.

Also approved at the meeting were a budget amendment to basically just move money from one

account to another and the accept TASB Property and Casualty as the insurance for the district. A dyslexia handbook was approved, as well as core values for the school board to follow when making decisions about the students in the district.

Assistant Superintendent Evan Smith gave reports on the school health advisory council and personnel management.

A report was also given that explained how many training hours that each board member has received from March 2007 - February 2008. The training hours are as follows: Lance DeFever, 18.75; Derrell DeLoach, 14.5; Joe Martinez, 24.75; Mark McVay, 22.5; Lee Porter, 29.25; Charles Smith, 33.5; and Dana Terry, 21 hours.

Jury

Continued from Page 1

District Judge Steven Emmert, began Tuesday.

No fine was assessed to Bynes in connection with the guilty verdict.

Punishment range on the charge is 15 to 99 years or life in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines.

"I'm pleased with the outcome of the trial," Mathews said. "It sends a message that that type of activity will not be tolerated."

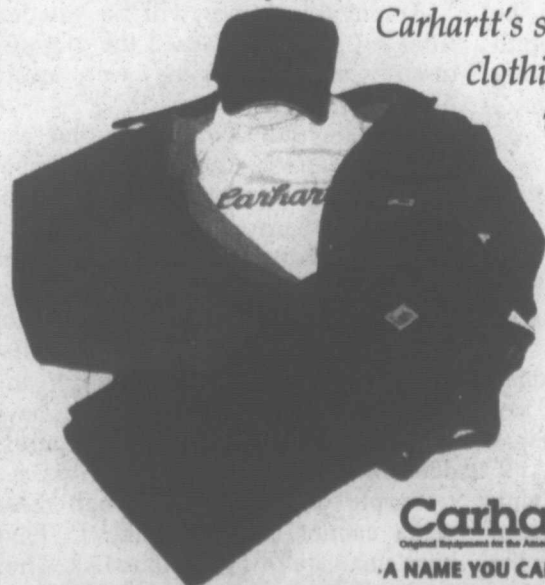
Jim Fling of Shamrock, defense attorney in the

case, could not be reached as of press time for comment.

"I was very proud of Jeff in his first jury trial," said 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer. "We were very pleased with the jury verdict and appreciate the hard work the jurors displayed, and their dedication to their job."

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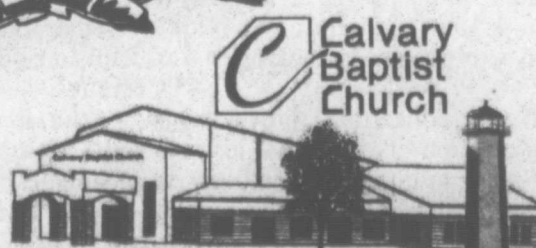
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Viewpoints

Sports mag celebrates annual issue

You've got to give the Sports Illustrated people points for being honest.

It's February, you see. In many parts of the country, it's bitter cold. The Super Bowl is over and baseball is yet to begin. We men don't know what to do with ourselves.

Our minds unoccupied, we lack direction. We dwell randomly on negative things — our post-holiday flabbiness, old girlfriends who didn't work out and, for some, girlfriends who did.

But one thing — the smile of a beautiful, scantily clad woman — can make us forget our woes. SI has been helping us forget since it published its first swimsuit issue 44 years ago.

But this year it hit the mother lode.

The cover features Marisa Miller, a 29-year-old stunner who cut her teeth modeling for Victoria's Secret. As her curviness spills off the page, she gazes at us with angelic calm. She makes us feel like everything is going to be all right.

And maybe it is going to be all right.

Surely you know the origin of the swimsuit issue. The editors came up with the idea to boost magazine sales during the dead of winter.

It's been driving feminists batty from the

start. They say it exploits women, and it does. They say it is wrong for men to view women as mere objects, and it is. But what angers them most is that the cover models often go on to fame and fortune just because they are gorgeous.

Then they marry a multimillionaire, eventually divorce him, and live happily ever after on a considerable pile of dough.

The evolution of the swimsuit issue is also worth noting. The early issues were simple and mild. But in the late 1970s — thank you, Cheryl Tiegs — things really started heating up. The swimsuits got scantier and the models more beautiful.

That trend continued until the late 1990s, when something went terribly wrong. The 1998 issue, for instance, featured bony women with frowns on their faces. It had more feature stories than photos — such as interviews with beautiful female meteorologists who were covered up with more clothing than a winter mannequin at Macy's.

But in the past few years, Sports Illustrated has been getting back to the basics. This

year's issue can be summed up in two words: yow-sa!

It features 19 of the world's most glamorous supermodels pictured, says the press release, "in visually dynamic photo spreads, all set in unique and exotic locations from around the world."

It features many body-painting photos — the fine art of painting swimsuits right onto the models' skin. I tried getting a job like that once, but couldn't afford the \$1,000 a week they wanted me to pay.

There is a feature on Russian-born beauties for the simple reason that no magazine ever went wrong featuring Russian-born beauties in scanty duds.

The Sports Illustrated people spent 10 days with supermodel Bar Refaeli in her native Israel. She's stunning and not wearing very much. I'm sure that feature will endear us even more with our pals in Iran.

Another feature depicts NFL cheerleaders wearing even less than we usually see them not wearing.

And let's not forget race-car driver Danica Patrick. NASCAR fans will sum up her dark-eyed beauty in three words: yow-ow-sa!

In any event, you got to hand it to Sports Illustrated for being honest — for getting back to the basics.

In an odd way, in a nutty culture like ours, the swimsuit issue is a good sign. SI is admitting that the swimsuit issue is a disgustingly honest cultural icon — that its purpose is to objectify women because boorish men will pay good money to oggle them.

They're admitting that gorgeous women have always exploited beauty for bucks — that they've always used it to part men from their dough. And rest assured: If the swimsuit issue is about anything, it's about generating dough.

In these confusing times, in which we pretend men and women are the same, there's something refreshingly primitive about that.

Still, things are confusing. Did you know more women buy the annual swimsuit issue than men? Must be the Will Ferrell photos.

—Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Tom Purcell
Columnist



Scientific community not without error

The Earth is about one degree warmer than it was 100 years ago. That's really the extent of the sound data on global warming.

As for all the predictions about how much warmer it will get, how high the sea level will rise, etc. and so forth, those are merely speculation. Science, which cannot even forecast the weather with 100 percent certainty for 30 days in advance, certainly cannot do so years in advance. Computer projections are not sound data because there are too many variables to construct an accurate model.

Well, how about the consensus among scientists? Reality is not determined by a majority vote. Anyone familiar with history knows that the "scientific consensus" has often been dead wrong. The Earth, it turns out, is not flat; the sun does not revolve around the Earth; surgeons really should wash their hands and sterilize their instruments; and some diseases can be prevented by vaccinations.

Furthermore, since we know that the Earth has been warmer and cooler in the past long before humans were numerous enough to have any effect, we cannot even say for sure that the present rise in temperature is a result of man-made activity. It might seem so. There is certainly a "consensus" that it is so. Nevertheless, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere remains minuscule, about 380 parts per million. Actually, the

largest factor in creating the greenhouse effect is water vapor.

You need to apply a lesson from the tort system. In order to sue and have any hope of collecting, somebody besides the client has to be at fault.

Similarly, if you wish to change society and use global warming as an excuse, then human society has to be at fault.

Imagine the dilemma if the scientific community said to the powers that be, "The Earth is getting warmer, but it appears that man has nothing to do with it." If man has nothing to do with it, then there is nothing man can do about it. That is an exceedingly noxious notion to the modern mind, which likes to imagine it can control the planet. And how could you justify getting grants if nothing you found out would have any effect on the outcome? How could you raise money from the true believers if what is happening is entirely natural and inevitable?

The money is in the present narrative — to wit, man is causing global warming by injecting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and catastrophe faces us unless this trend is reversed by political action.

Provided we don't wreck the economy, I have no objection to people using this narrative to pressure industry to clean up its pol-

lutants, to plant more trees, to seek ways to burn less fossil fuels. Those are all good objectives whether the earth is getting warmer or not. I don't advise anyone to stop breathing (we produce car-

bon dioxide with every breath, in case you've forgotten your grammar-school science). And now there are 6 billion of us.

I still believe the key to improving the environment is population control. As long as people are hungry, they will do what they must to fill that bottomless pit we call a stomach. They will overfish, overhunt, over-

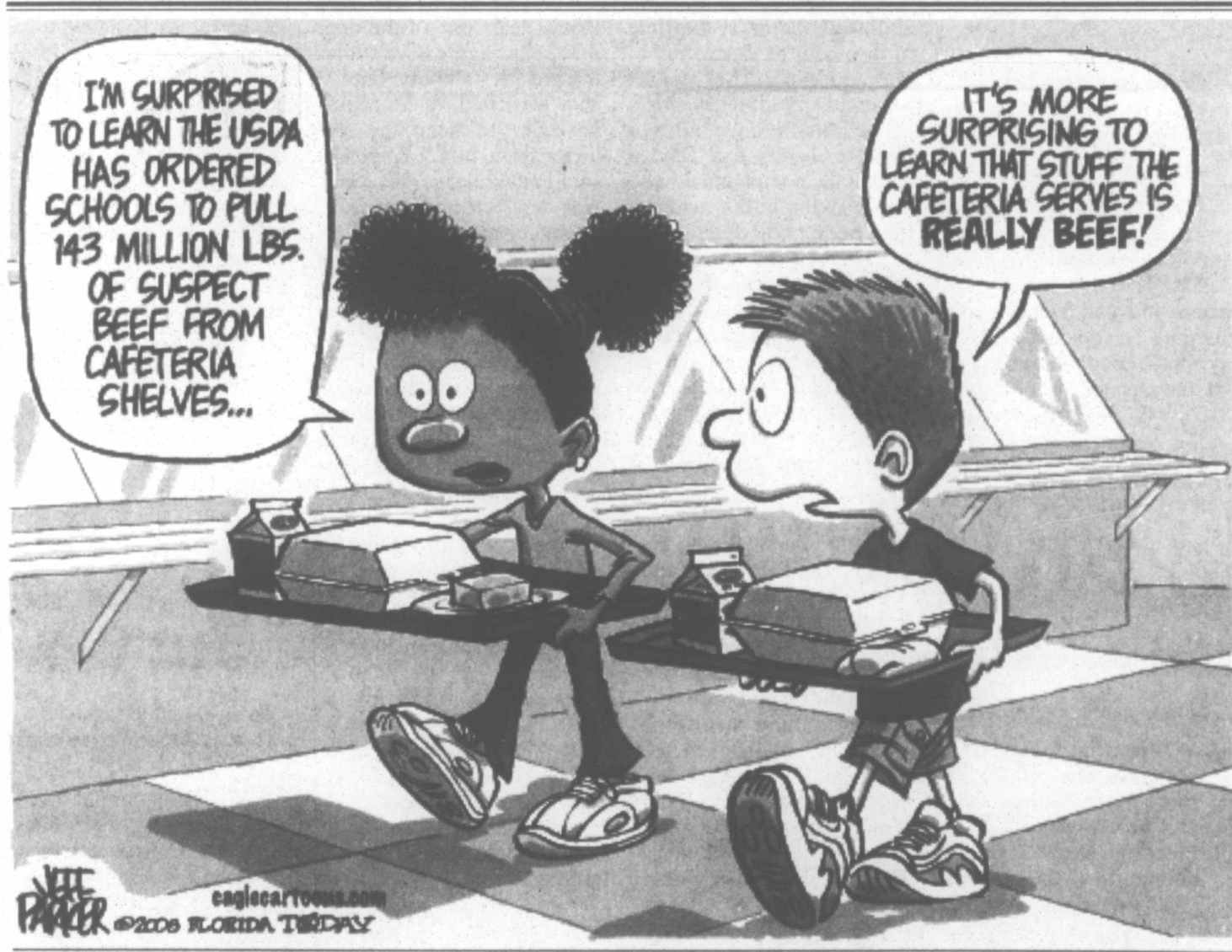
chop, overpollute — whatever it takes to keep death off their doorstep. People in developed countries should resist the temptation to believe that the world's poor will be content to remain poor just for our convenience.

Like too many rats in too small a space, people will fight for survival, and the environment will be the last thing on their agenda.

As for global warming, we will just have to wait and see what happens. Nothing we can do in the short run is going to have any effect. And, if the sea level does rise, then perhaps some of us who always wanted waterfront property but couldn't afford it will get our wish.

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

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around the nation:

n Feb. 11
Daily Times-Call, Longmont, Colo., on warrants for virtual worlds:

National security officials have plenty of real estate to worry about in this world. ...

It is with alarm, then, that officials find that the popular online site Second Life is potentially being used by terrorists to launder money, recruit new members and have clandestine strategy sessions. Because the site offers anonymity along with a worldwide reach, it is just the kind of networking tool bad actors might be looking to use.

... What's disconcerting, however, is that the creation of virtual worlds may inspire the intelligence community to add on surveillance that is all too real. Already, officials have reportedly asked for access to the computer servers that create Second Life. It's not

too hard to imagine Congress mandating access for much higher scrutiny. ...

While Second Life and sites like it offer opportunities both good and bad, innocent users should not think the government is looking over their shoulders — both real and virtual — at every turn.

On the Net:
<http://www.timescall.com>

n Feb. 12
The News-Press, Fort Myers, Fla., on how best to battle tobacco companies:

We sympathize with John Maloney and millions of others who have lost loved ones to cancer caused by cigarettes.

But it's harder to sympathize with the idea that they should be awarded damages by juries in part because the smoker was unaware of the risks. ...

That's the case with Maloney and more than 100 other Lee County residents among thousands of plaintiffs,

whose \$145 billion damage award was thrown out. The 700,000 parties to the class-action suit were directed to file individual suits.

Among the issues will be whether smoking probably caused the victims' diseases and whether they were aware of the dangers.

We believe tobacco is addictive and a deadly danger. And tobacco companies have over the years concealed evidence of its harm.

But U.S. surgeon generals' warnings about the dangers of smoking have been required on tobacco packaging for more than 40 years. Tobacco advertising has long been banned on TV and radio, and the dangers of smoking have been a continuous topic of public debate.

People who smoked through those years cannot credibly claim to have been unaware of the serious risk. They made a bad choice.

It's better for society to concentrate on helping people make better choices. ...

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

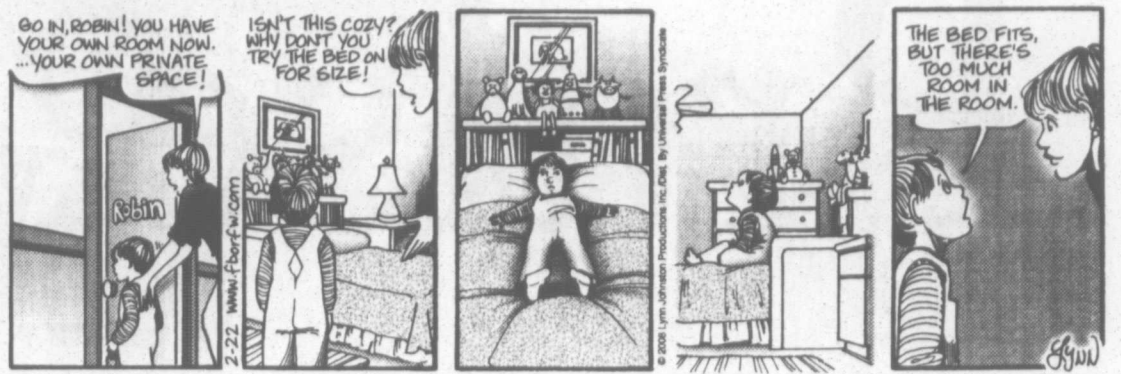
DEAR ABBY: I have been engaged to a widower I'll call "Grant" for about a year. Grant's wife, "Lilly," has been gone for 15 years. He talks about her frequently, which is OK with me. Lilly was an important part of his life for a long time. My problem is, I feel I can never quite measure up to her. When we're out in public, he frequently refers to "his late wife," which makes me a bit uncomfortable. Recently he told me in conversation, "Do I wish I had never met you and Lilly was still alive? Absolutely!" It came out of the blue and hit me like a lead balloon. I understand that Grant wishes his late wife were still alive, but did he have to say, "Do I wish I had never met you?" He is also critical of me and puts me down rather often. When I became upset about his comment, he acted like I was overreacting and overly sensitive. I feel so hurt. I don't even know if I want to be with Grant anymore. Please give me some advice. My self-esteem is at an all-time low, and I am very depressed. — **UNDERVALUED IN PANAMA CITY, FLA.**

DEAR UNDERVALUED: Is it possible that your fiance's comment was in response to something you said to him? (Example: "Grant, you bring up Lilly so often it makes me feel like you wish you had never met me...") It appears your fiance isn't particularly sensitive to your feelings and isn't likely to change. However, what troubles me more about your letter than the fact that Grant lacks tact and often refers to his late wife -- with whom he obviously had a lot of history -- is the fact that he puts you down and then blames you for reacting. If this is what you would tolerate in a husband, then you're a glutton for punishment.

DEAR ABBY: We recently invited friends to join us at a special event plus dinner. As plans are coming together, I find that their adult children and spouses have been invited to join us. Am I wrong in thinking when you invite your friends to a special event, dinner, etc., that it's inconsiderate for them to ask other people to join the party? If I had wanted to spend the evening with their children -- or anybody else -- I'd have included them, but I didn't. I wanted to spend the evening with the people with whom I initiated the plans. I'm hoping my letter will be published and those folks will recognize themselves. I still plan to go and will grin and bear it, but it's frustrating. What is your advice? — **REALLY ANNOYED, ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.**

DEAR REALLY ANNOYED: Please do not rely too heavily on the people you mentioned reading your letter and recognizing themselves. Dear Abby readers are considerate, and the majority of them abide by the rules of etiquette -- at least the majority of the time. What your guests did was extremely presumptuous. Perhaps they don't recognize that their "children" are individuals and not simply extensions of themselves. You are a good sport to go along with their co-opting your evening, but the next time you invite them out, state plainly that you want it to be "just the four of you." No need to be nasty -- just clarify.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Jingle

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beam 45 Country dances

6 Hooded snake 46 Yorkshire city

11 Bowl

12 Less friendly

13 Like some mouth-wash

14 Coup —

15 Ordeal

17 Money dispenser

18 Commotion

20 Writer

Rice

22 Machine sound

23 Grassy expanse

26 Corpulent

28 Trattoria fare

29 Distant correspondent

31 Dripping

32 Yam

33 Sparklers

34 Symbol of grace

36 Ripped

38 Singer

Cruz

40 Page of music

43 Ready for battle

FACE	SCALES
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Yesterday's answer

9 Paper	30 Permit
buy	33 Mark
3 Ames	Brothers
10 Skills	34 Battle
16 Sailor	sign
18 Go on a binge	35 Used to be
19 Oil paint purchase	37 Iridescent stone
21 Snoozes	39 TV
23 Toll	plugs
24 Article	41 Small
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42 Powerful bunch	

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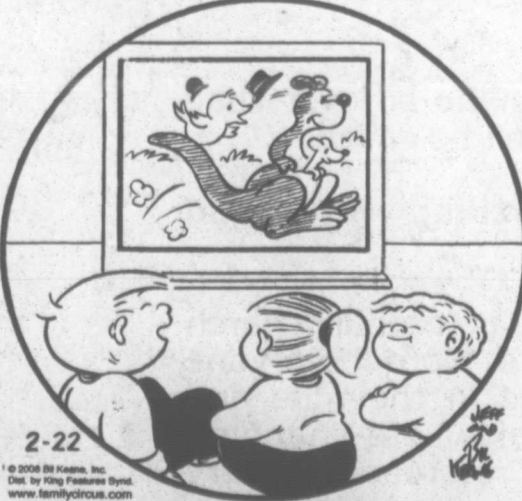
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus

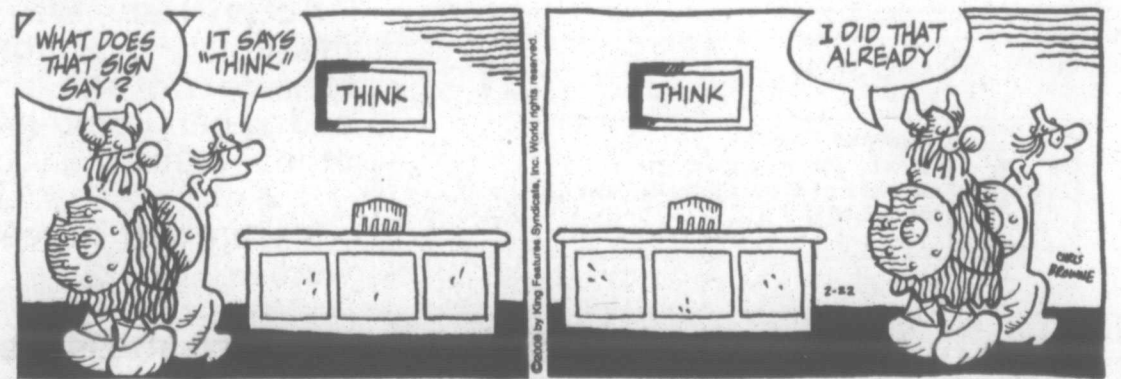
By Bil Keane



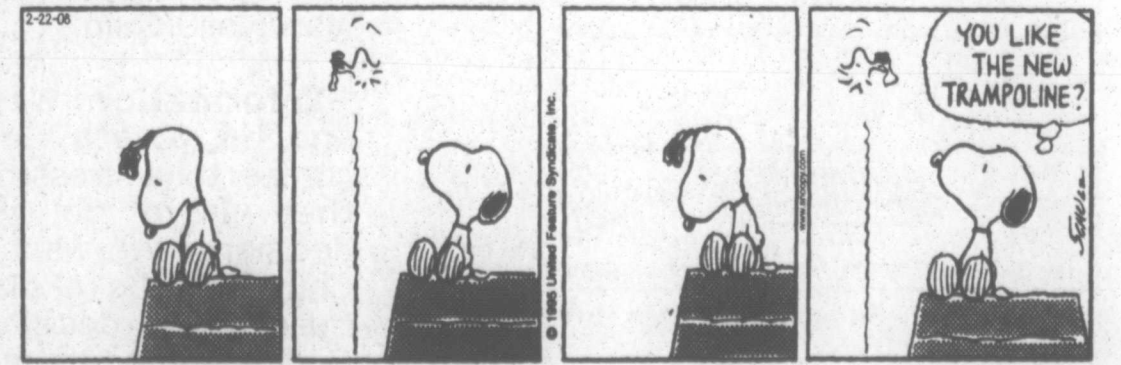
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends

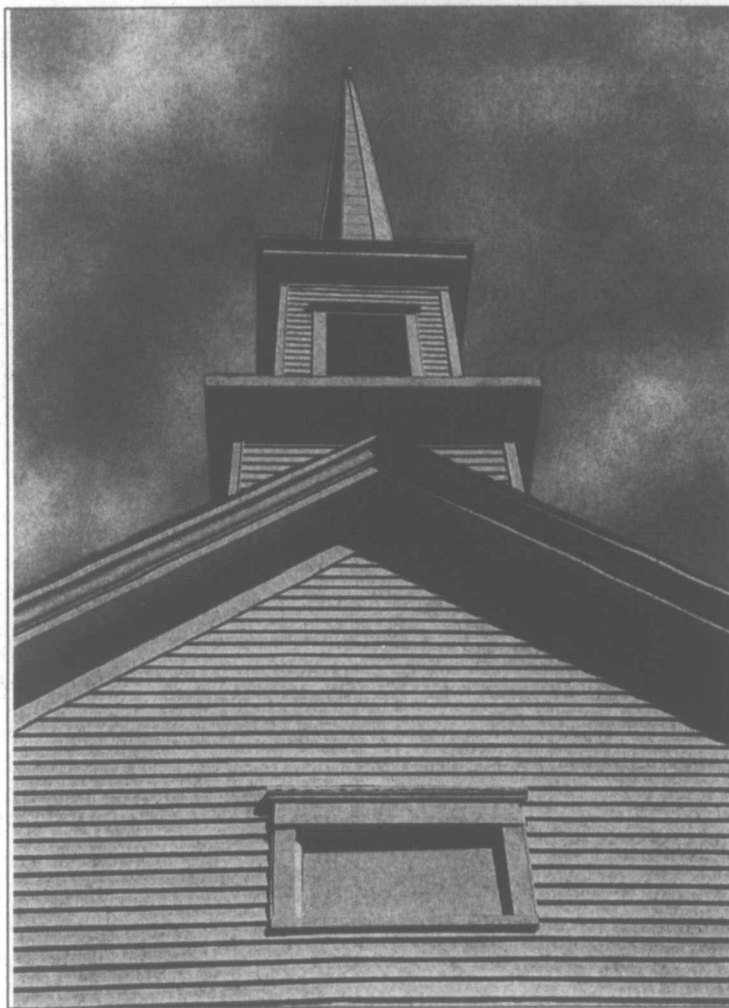


Blondie



Praise & Worship

A Weekly Series Highlighting Pampa's Churches



Crossroads Country Church

Church name: Crossroads Country Church, 13801 Highway 152, Laketon.

Minister: Rev. Ray O'Quin

Services: Sunday -- 10:30 a.m. Morning worship.

Members: 10.

Denomination: Non-denominational.

How long here: Since August 2004, when we converted the old store building at Laketon into our church.

Activities: We support a doctor missionary in South Texas, who goes to Mexico. We also provide food, clothing and other items on a regular basis to others in need.

Main goal: To teach and preach God's word.

Church message: Who so ever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved.

Responsible parties: Ray and Marolyn O'Quin.

Information: We are a friendly church and we preach God's Word. Everyone comes to a crossroad in their life and they have to make life-changing decisions. We want Crossroads Country Church to be a place where they can make those decisions based upon how God is leading them. We praise God that there has been life-changing decisions made by some of those who have attended and God has only just begun.

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Sports

LADY HARVESTER SOCCER

Lady Harvesters tie 0-0

By Katherine Flanary
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters tied their game with Canyon Thursday.

The Lady Harvesters held their own in the game.

"I think we had a better organized defense," Coach John Smith said when asked how the girls played.

The Lady Harvesters defended their goal well

"I think we did not give as many chances on the

goal," True said.

Neomi Salazar played goalkeeper instead of her usual position on the field, due to two of the three girls out for the season were the goalkeepers for the season.

"Neomi played well," True said. "She has good hand-eye coordination."

True went on to say that he feels the Lady Harvesters need to score more goals.

The Lady Harvesters

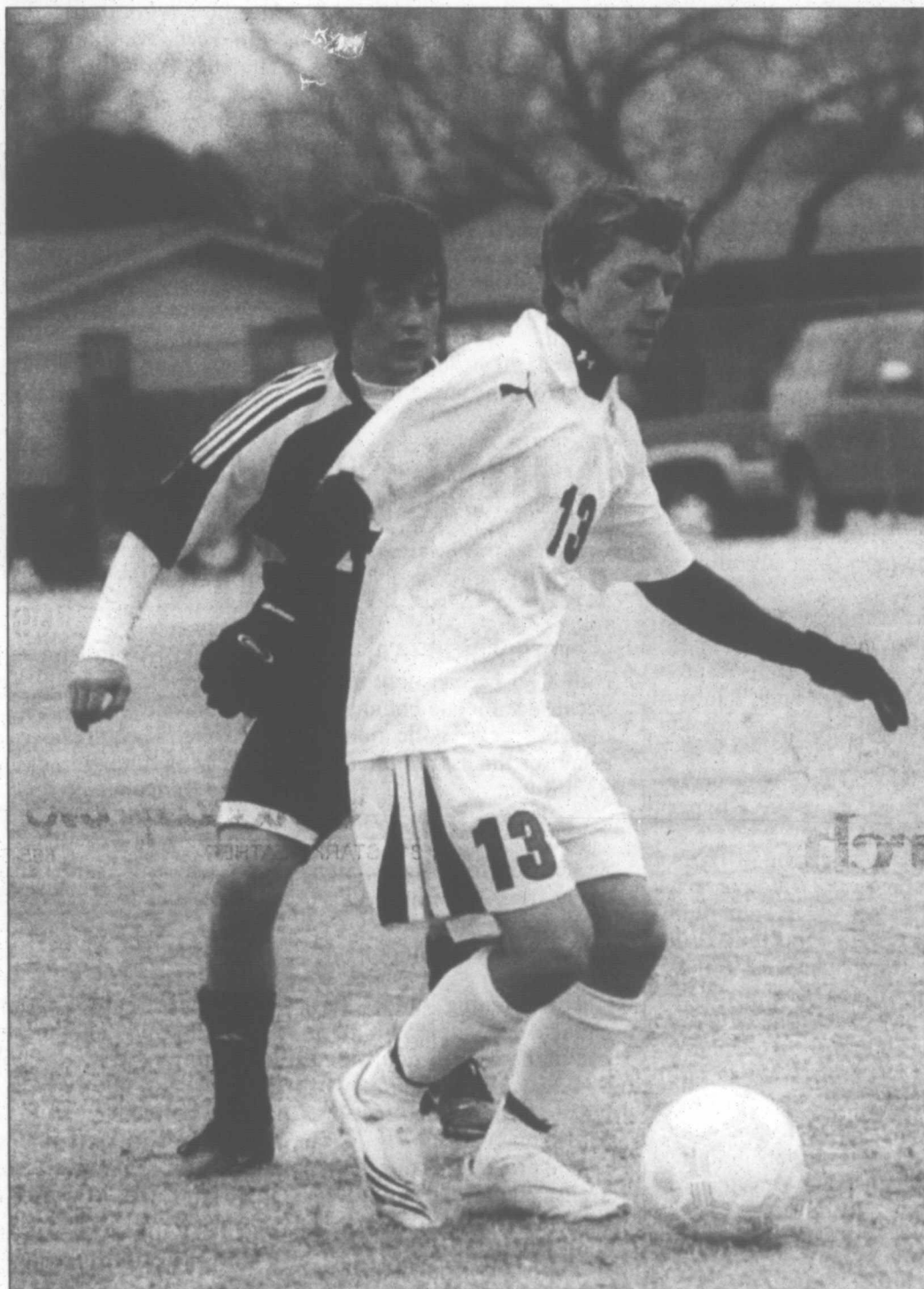
held possession of the ball well throughout the game.

"I think we did a better job on counter-attacking, and held possession better," True said.

"I think, considering we had four starters injured, we played well," True said.

The Lady Harvesters and Harvesters will play tonight against Palo Duro at Palo Duro. The Lady Harvesters will play at 5 p.m., while the Harvesters play at 7 p.m.

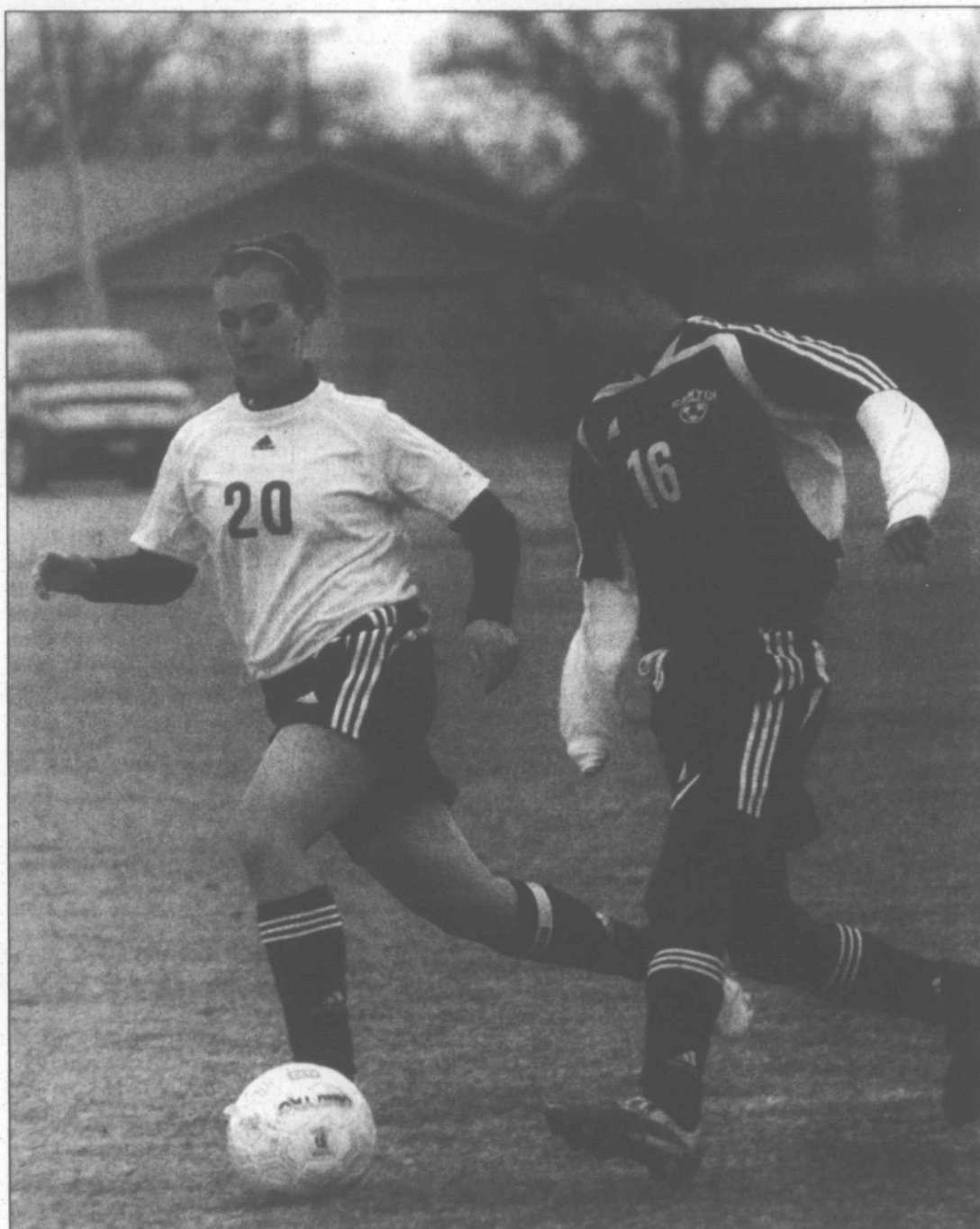
Boys Soccer



Pampa News Photo by KATHERINE FLANARY

Tanner Dyson goes to get the ball in Thursday's Harvester's game. Dyson scored two goals in the game. The Harvesters play Palo Duro tonight at Palo Duro at 7 p.m.

Girls Soccer



Pampa News Photo by KATHERINE FLANARY

Dayla Newman goes against a Canyon player to get the ball into possession. The Lady Harvesters will play tonight at Palo Duro at 5 p.m.

Beijing airport beefs up security

BEIJING (AP) — Beijing's international airport will be installing high-tech portable bomb detectors as part of its security plan to combat terrorism ahead of the Summer Olympics.

Zhang Zhi, deputy director general of the airport police, said the new detectors will be able to warn of explosives in a few seconds, the English-language China Daily reported Friday.

Airport police have already been equipped with X-ray machines, anti-riot robots, and some bomb detection and disposal devices, Zhang said.

"But we need more and faster bomb detectors for the Games," he said.

Airport security is a major concern with tens of thousands of government leaders, Olympic officials, athletes and visitors expected to

arrive in Beijing to attend the games.

Zhang said other measures will include setting up a security zone to prevent anyone from taking shots at aircraft as they take off and land. Traffic checkpoints will be set up around the airport. In addition, background checks are being conducted on all airport employees.

China believes terrorism is the biggest threat facing this summer's Olympic Games and has called for closer international cooperation to prevent possible attacks. China's generally secretive police agencies have sought advice on Olympic security from the U.S., Germany, Israel and other foreign governments.

FBI head Robert Mueller said during a visit earlier this year that China's security

preparations for the Olympics were impressive and that his agency was lending its expertise on fending off possible terrorist attacks.

China has also boosted anti-terrorism training for its military, with troops focusing on biochemical and nuclear threats, and emergency rescue operations.

As part of a larger security sweep of the capital, Beijing police will launch a 39-day effort starting immediately to check the documents of its migrant population in order to ensure a safe public environment for the Olympics, The Beijing News reported Friday.

Migrant workers who do not have documents will be required to have a temporary residence permit. Those who don't could face a 50 yuan (US\$7; euro4.7) fine.

NCAA overturns ruling that stripped OU of 8 wins

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Oklahoma will have wins reinstated from the 2005 Holiday Bowl season after an NCAA appeals committee partially overturned a ruling in the infractions case involving former quarterback Rhett Bomar.

The NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee released a ruling Friday that Oklahoma should not have been found guilty of separate violations for failing to detect that football players were working at a Norman car dealership and failing to monitor those students' employment.

In overturning the violation related to detecting the players' employment, the appeals committee reinstated the Sooners' wins from their 8-4 season in 2005.

"This decision is a great thing for those individuals involved with our 2005 team," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said in a statement. "Most of the players on our current roster were not on that team, but I know those victories mean a lot to the players and coaches who were here at that time."

The appeals panel partially upheld a "failure to moni-

tor" violation imposed against Oklahoma, stating that the university didn't use established institutional procedures that would have revealed the employment of 12 players at the dealership in summer 2005.

The NCAA infractions committee previously ruled that Oklahoma failed to collect earnings statements in a timely manner that would have revealed the players' employment. As a result, three players received about \$17,000 in impermissible benefits for work they did not perform at the car dealership.

Oklahoma self-imposed scholarship reductions and took assistant coaches off the recruiting trail as sanctions for the violations that involved Bomar and former offensive lineman J.D. Quinn. Both players were also kicked off the team, with Bomar transferring to Sam Houston State and Quinn to Montana.

However, the school objected to the NCAA erasing its wins from the season when the players were on the team, claiming that it was unfair to punish teammates who didn't break the rules.

Oklahoma also argued that the violations wouldn't have been detected without the school's own investigation.

"While we are pleased with the findings by the NCAA Infractions Appeals Committee, we are most pleased for the 100 student athletes and coaches who played by the rules and worked their hearts out for a successful 2005 season," University President David Boren said in the statement.

The NCAA said in its news release that the "the university's cooperation was a significant factor in the ultimate determination of the violations," but the infractions committee did not acknowledge that in its decision.

"We fully appreciate and respect the process required in these matters," Oklahoma athletic director Joe Castiglione said in the statement. "We are pleased that the NCAA recognized the university's approach in taking immediate and significant action upon our discovery of the violations and of the work and cooperation of the University of Oklahoma in the ultimate detection of the violations."

Hornish takes time to play Mr. Mom

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — There was no time for Sam Hornish Jr. to celebrate his 15th-place showing in Daytona 500. The open-wheel star had to hustle back to Ohio to pitch in on diaper duty.

Hornish's first child, a daughter, was born the week he reported to Daytona, and his commitment to racing caused him to miss 10 of the first 14 days of her life. He raced home following Sunday's season-opener so he could take over the mid-night feedings wife Crystal had been handling alone.

"I've been gone for about five days out of each week over the past two weeks that she's been around," he said. "My wife's been pretty much home alone taking care of things herself and I had to give her a little bit of a break. It's been great as a first-time father and is something that I've been looking forward to for a very long time."

"I'm really happy about that and hope everything continues to go as well with that as it has with the rac-

ing."

Spending time with baby Addison didn't prevent Hornish from reliving his first Daytona 500. He found time while baby-sitting to watch a replay of the entire race, which ended with a 1-2 finish from Penske Racing teammates Ryan Newman and Kurt Busch.

"My hands were sweating with 20 laps remaining and I had already been in it — lived through it," Hornish said. "That's how exciting it was for me."

Hornish had the best Daytona debut of all the new open-wheelers, running in or

around the top 10 for almost the entire race. A mistake on a late pit stop, when he slid the nose of his Dodge outside the box and had to back up, cost him several positions and he had to hustle in the closing laps to salvage his finish.

"It probably kept us from having a top-10 finish," he guessed. "I think that was about the only hiccup that we had really all day long. To be a rookie at the Daytona 500, and to do what we set out to do — which was to get a top-20 finish — we were able to accomplish that."

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SMU in Dallas gets Bush library

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University will be home to George W. Bush's presidential library, officials announced Friday after more than a year of exclusive negotiations.

The only surprise was when — not if — the deal would be announced.

It finally happened after SMU's board of trustees on Friday approved the official agreement with the Bush Foundation, which will manage construction and raise money for the project, expected to cost more than \$200 million.

The library, museum and public policy institute — called the presidential center — will be on the east part of the 11,000-student, private university in one of Dallas's wealthiest neighborhoods. The library and museum will be run by the National Archives and Records Administration, while the institute will be run by the foundation.

The Bush Foundation and institute will have separate boards of directors elected every year, but each will have at least one member from SMU. The university and institute also will create an academic advisory committee with representatives from SMU and the foundation to examine joint ventures.

Many considered it as all but a done

deal for some time: Bush said last year that he was leaning toward SMU, which is his wife's alma mater, and the couple are expected to live in Dallas when he leaves office in January. But the process was bumpy at times.

Last spring semester the issue dominated many SMU Faculty Senate meetings as some members voiced their opposition, mostly to the partisan think tank that will promote the Bush administration's views and will not be under SMU's control. Some said the library wouldn't provide true access for historians because not all documents would be there.

In one of its most interesting votes on the matter, the faculty group asked the school to request that Bush rescind his order allowing former presidents to keep White House documents secret forever.

Some Methodist ministers also joined the fray, launching an online petition drive that garnered about 11,000 signatures from those opposed to SMU hosting the library, museum and institute. The group said some Bush administration policies — going to war with Iraq, torturing foreign prisoners — conflict with church teachings.

Despite Friday's announcement, one of the petition organizers said the fight is still not over.

The Rev. Andrew Weaver said that although a Methodist mission council gave SMU permission last year to lease land for the project, delegates from a larger church body must vote on that decision. The church's South Central Jurisdiction meets in July.

Although some have called such ratifying votes "a technicality," Weaver said the jurisdiction's delegates should be allowed to have their say in the SMU issue. If they don't vote or choose to ratify the council's actions, Weaver said he and others are considering a civil lawsuit.

"It's David vs. Goliath, but the first time that fight went on, David did win," said Weaver, a New York research psychologist who graduated from SMU's Perkins School of Theology.

SMU was named the lone finalist in December 2006, edging out the University of Dallas — which withdrew a month later — and Baylor University in Waco near the Bushes' Crawford ranch, which still held out hope for hosting the library until recently.

Students donate senior trip money

ROGERS, Texas (AP) — High school students in this rural Central Texas town found a better use for the \$2,300 they had originally raised to pay for a senior class trip.

The 50 students in the Rogers High School Class of 2008 will donate the money to classmate Justin Benner, who was paralyzed in a car accident.

Benner's classmates said their decision was an easy one.

"We will remember that much longer than a

senior trip to somewhere," senior Kirsten Ralston said in a story for Friday's Temple Daily Telegram. "It felt kind of frivolous to plan this trip when there was so great a need somewhere else."

Community members, evidently touched by the students' gesture, have responded. The Cameron Country Club has invited the class to spend a day at the club, opening up its golf course, tennis courts and swimming pool to the students.

'Stolen truck' taken by dog

AZUSA, Calif. (AP) — Doggone it, my truck's gone!

Police said Charles McCowan parked his pickup in front of a mini-mart Wednesday, leaving his 80-pound Boxer named Max in the passenger seat. When he came out, the truck and Max were gone.

McCowan called police, assuming the truck had been stolen. When officers arrived, they found the pickup across the street in a fast-

food parking lot but had no idea how it got there.

In security video shown Thursday on KCAL-TV, the truck can be seen rolling backward out of the store lot and across the street, threading its way through traffic and out of view.

Police said that after McCowan left the truck, Max knocked the vehicle out of gear and sent it rolling backward.

Both Max and the truck emerged without a scratch.

Vinyl records sell for \$3M on eBay

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A man says he can now retire because someone bought his massive record collection on eBay for the asking price — \$3 million.

A buyer from Ireland agreed to shell out \$3,002,150 for the collection of nearly 3 million vinyl albums, singles and CDs, owner Paul Mawhinney said Thursday.

The winning bidder has already deposited \$300,000, and a bank has confirmed that he has enough money to buy the collection, Mawhinney said.

The price tag is one of the highest recorded by eBay Inc., said Karen Bard, a spokeswoman for the online

auctioneer. A Gulfstream II jet once sold for \$4.9 million, she said.

On Thursday, the 68-year-old Mawhinney closed Record Rama, which opened in Ross Township in 1968. He said he wants to spend time with his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

"I am legally blind. I had a couple of strokes a few years ago ... and it's time at my age to think about doing something else with my life," he said.

The collection includes more than 1 million albums, 1.5 million singles and 300,000 CDs, Mawhinney said.

WARNING

Ex-British bankers sentenced in Enron case

HOUSTON (AP) — Three former British bankers who pleaded guilty for their roles in a fraudulent scheme with former Enron Chief Financial Officer Andrew Fastow were each sentenced Friday to three years and one month in prison.

The 37-month sentences for David Bermingham, Giles Darby and Gary Mulgrew matched federal prosecutors' recommendation to U.S. District Judge Ewing Werlein Jr.

In November, the three defendants each pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud as part of a plea agreement after initially saying they did not collude with Fastow in a secret financial scam in 2000 to enrich themselves at their employer's expense.

Enron, once the nation's seventh-largest company, crumbled into bankruptcy in December 2001 after years of accounting tricks could no longer hide billions in debt or make fail-

ing ventures appear profitable. The collapse wiped out thousands of jobs, more than \$60 billion in market value and more than \$2 billion in pension plans.

During Friday's hearing, all three onetime bankers apologized to friends and family for their actions.

"I believe I exercised a lack of integrity in my decisions," Mulgrew said. "I'd like to apologize to the people hurt by my decisions."

They had faced up to five years and a \$250,000 fine, but the fine was waived because in the plea deal all three had agreed to pay their former employer more than \$13 million.

All three will remain free on bond until they report to prison. The reporting date and prison location have not been set yet.

"They all want to put this behind them," said Dick DeGuerin, an attorney for Darby. "The Andy Fastow culture of greed at Enron corrupted everybody and everything that came into

contact with it. These guys were as much victims as anybody."

The three defendants are hoping they can serve part of their sentences in Britain.

Their attorneys on Friday asked that they be ordered to a prison in Pennsylvania, where they plan to apply for a program that allows sentences to be served out overseas. Personnel at the Pennsylvania facility have experience in the international prisoner program, the attorneys said.

The three former executives at Greenwich NatWest, a unit of Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC, became well known in Britain during extradition proceedings that lasted two years. They were dubbed the "NatWest Three." In the United States, their case is a loose end from Enron's collapse.

Greenwich NatWest had invested in a subsidiary of an Enron partnership controlled by Fastow, the archi-

tect of a myriad of fraudulent Enron schemes that helped fuel its spiral into bankruptcy proceedings.

In early 2000, the bank had valued its interest in the subsidiary at zero, but the three British bankers knew it actually had significant value.

A company under the control of Michael Kopper, Fastow's former top aide, purchased the bank's interest in the subsidiary for \$1 million.

The bankers, who came to Houston, paid Kopper \$250,000 for an interest in this company. Fastow falsely represented to Enron that the energy company would pay \$20 million to Greenwich NatWest for its shares of the subsidiary.

The \$20 million actually went to the British bankers, Fastow and others. The bankers got \$7.3 million while Fastow, Kopper and others skimmed about \$12.3 million, according to the plea deal.

PAMPA NEWS CLASSIFIEDS

5 Special Notices

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

10 Lost/Found

LOST male bl. & white Rat Terrier "Sammy", 1400 bl. Charles. Has seizures, needs meds daily. 669-2383.

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual. 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR

Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

RICHARD'S General Carpentry

Roofs & Painting, Building & Remodeling. 886-0267, 275-9038.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost. It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work

Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free est. Call 665-3453 leave message. Jesus Barraza.

JH Concrete Work

Stamps, driveways, addition, fences, remodeling. Free Est. 806-382-5408.

14r Plowing/Yard

LAWN Scalping, Fertilizing and General Lawn Cleanups. Call 662-6622.

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. Plumbing, repairs, new constr., & septic sys.

Larry Baker Plumbing

Heating/ Air Conditioning. Borger Hwy. 669-4392.

19 Situations

DOMESTIC: Lifetime of exp. Feeling overwhelmed? Can't get ahead? I can help! Detailing a specialty and yes I do windows. Etc. ref. locally & surrounding area. Call Carey 806-983-2492.

21 Help Wanted

GREAT opp. for single or retired couple, for 12 unit motel in Pampa. Lrg. apt. incl. 665-4274, 665-4274.

21 Help Wanted

Fresenius Medical Care \$5000 Sign On Bonus RN Clinic Manager

Pampa Dialysis Center

Located at 2545 Perryton Pkwy. Pampa, Texas

Please Apply in Person Only

Amarillo High Plains Dialysis Center 5920 Amarillo Blvd. West Amarillo, Texas Or Call Mike Moss, Area Mgr. 806-353-9182

REAL Estate Co. needs

maintenance man w/ own tools. Apply at 1347 Coffee, Mon.-Fri., 8am-6pm. 665-4274, 665-1875.

We are growing. Come grow with us!

We need a Truck Driver who has a current CDL, good driving record & can pass drug test. We also need a Yard Hand. This person must be dependable, hard working and able to pass a drug test. If you have these qualifications come apply! We offer competitive wages, 401K, 2 weeks paid vacation after 1 year.

Bourland & Leveich Supply Co.

Borger Highway (11707 Hwy. 152 W.) No phone calls please

21 Help Wanted

TRUCK Drivers needed. Drug test and references required. Competitive pay! Call 665-0379.

NOTICE

Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

ACCOUNTS Payable position

with established company. Computer knowledge req. Full time Mon-Fri 8-5pm. Great benefits. Email resume to tmppa@tm-ems.com or mail to ATTN: Accounting, Po Box 2358, Pampa, TX. 79066-2358.

EXPANSION

Lrg. Oklahoma Co. expands to Amarillo. 27 F/T positions. Must be filled immediately. Must be sharp in appearance. Co. training provided. Rapid advancement opportunity. \$2280 / mo. 806-374-4300

Wal-Mart

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Wal-Mart is looking for driven people. At Wal-Mart, you will explore new opportunities and learn in a supportive and challenging work environment. As a member of the Wal-Mart team, you'll receive competitive wages and a generous benefits package including: health, 401(k), stock purchase plan, profit sharing, merchandise discounts, and career advancement opportunities. Please apply at the hiring kiosk located at your Pampa Wal-Mart or online at WWW.walmartstores.com

NOW HIRING ALL POSITIONS!

Wal-Mart will not tolerate discrimination of employment on the basis of race, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, disability, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, veteran status or any other legally protected status.

21 Help Wanted

POST OFFICE NOW HIRING. Avg. Pay \$20 / hr. or \$57K yr. incl. Federal benefits and OT. Offered by Exam Services, not aff. w/ USPS who hires. 1-866-483-6490.

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\$17.89-\$28.27/hr. now hiring. For application & free government job info, call American Assoc. of Labor, 1-913-599-8226 24 hrs. emp.serv.

DRIVEWAY Attendant

Needed. Able to fix flats & change oil. CDL a plus! 40+ hrs. a week. NO PHONE CALLS. Apply in person, Utility Oil, 501 W. Brown, Pampa.

NATURAL Gas Measurement

Co. hiring Field Technicians. Good benefits. email resume to jobs@tm-ems.com or mail to Attn: Resume, P.O. Box 2358, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2358.

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21 Help Wanted

REGISTERED NURSES \$2000 SIGN-ON BONUS
PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring an RN to work the **Baylor Plan** on week-ends. Duties will consist of being the Charge Nurse on the 6 to 12 and 2 to 10 shift, passing meds and supervising the care of our residents.
Interested Applicants Please Contact Mandi Martin at 1321 W. Kentucky or call 806-669-2551

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS \$1500 SIGN-ON BONUS
PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring CNAs for all shifts. Applicants can apply at:
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EXP. Pumper need for local co. 401-K, health ins., dental / vision, paid vacation, holidays & uniforms. Must have clean driving record and pass drug test. Send resume and salary requirements to Box 1061, Pampa, Tx.

WE need an Exp. Pulling Unit Operator. 401K, vacation, lots of hours. Call 669-3947 & leave msg.

ASST. MANAGERS needed for fast paced apt. complexes. Call 665-4274, 665-1875.

COODER'S Dixie Cafe now hiring for Hostesses, part-time, 16 yrs. or older, Wait Staff, full-time, 18 yrs. or older. Apply in person, 2219 Perryton Pkwy. No phone calls.

IMMEDIATE Openings! Roustabout Company now hiring for valid CDL Drivers, Backhoe Operators and Experienced Roustabouts in the East Texas area. We offer competitive pay and a monthly performance bonus. Please call 580-819-1073 for more info.

PART-TIME Provider needed for Panhandle patients. Above average pay & trip fee. Nurses By Prescription, 806-355-1899.

Immediately Hiring Janitorial Staff
 Immediate opening for P/T, evening (M-F), janitors in Pampa area. Competitive wages. Background check, drug test and valid drivers license or ID card req. Call Molly, 806-517-6207. EOE!

FULL-TIME Cook wanted. Paid vacations & holidays, 401K, health & dental insurance +. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle. 537-3194.

LOOKING for energetic Sales Assoc. to work normal bus. hrs. Mon. thru Fri., alternating Sat. Sales Exp. & Bi-lingual a plus! Communication Connection, 1541 N. Hobart.

JANITOR Full & Part-Time job. No experience needed, will train! To apply call 665-2667

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is now hiring servers & hostesses. Apply in person! No Phone Calls.

SKELLYTOWN NEWSPAPER CARRIER NEEDED
Apply In Person No Phone Calls Please The Pampa News 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx.

MAINTENANCE Man needed, remodeling exp. for various properties. Painting, drywall & plumbing a must! Must have own tools & trans. 665-1875, 665-4274.

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****\$14 / hr Plus for Experienced Qualified Drivers**
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****CDL W/ Hazmat and Tanker**
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21 Help Wanted

PART time or Full Time Help Needed. 4K Fence Co. Any questions call 883-2021 or 662-9840.

NEEDED: C.N.A.'s, Full-Time. Excellent benefits package. St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle, 537-3194.

NEEDED: R.N. - 16 hrs. on weekends, Fri. & Sat., 10:30am-7am. 537-3194, St. Ann's Nursing Home. Would consider 2 R.N.'s alternating weekends.

NEED receptionist for a busy optometrist office. Must be friendly, have computer and telephone skills. Must be able to work well with people. Please bring resume by Broome Optical, 1916 N. Hobart. **NO PHONE CALLS.**

FOOD Service III positions available in the Pampa area. Salary starting at \$2516.85 monthly. For more information and a complete job description contact Laundry, Food & Supply HR at (936)437-4858 or visit our Website at: <http://www.tdci.state.tx.us>

RELIABLE help wanted. Starting pay \$6.50. Must be able to work nights & weekends. Must be 21 & have ref. 806-676-0995.

THE CITY OF PAMPA IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:
FULL TIME POSITIONS
Telecommunications Operator: This position performs a variety of routine clerical, administrative and technical work in receiving and dispatching routine and emergency information, keeping official records and assisting in the administration of the standard operating policies and procedures of the dispatch center.
 To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, working knowledge of computers, electronic data processing and modern office practices and procedures; the ability to communicate effectively verbally and in writing and the ability to handle stressful situations.
POLICE RECORDS CLERK: This position performs a variety of routine and clerical work in support of the City of Pampa's police department. Must be able to type and file officer reports and correspondence, answer telephones, provide customer service to employees and the public and work closely with outside government agencies.
 To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, two years of general office experience; communications or records management experience preferred with no felony convictions; must be able to read and write the English language; must be able to maintain confidentiality and security information.

PART-TIME help needed, 11am-2pm., Mon. thru Sat. Apply in person Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center.

50 Building Suppl.
 White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household
MATTRESS SETS New in Plastic Pillow or Plush 15 yr. factory warr. Q-\$289 K-\$389 All sizes avail. 806-677-0400

MUST SELL Beautiful, 6 person Spa / Hot Tub Factory Warranty 53 jets, waterfall, lounger, cover, chemicals & steps 2007 model, need space New, never used Only \$4600 806-677-0400

STREETS & PARKS MAINTENANCE WORKER - To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid Texas driver's license and six months experience in maintenance related to streets and park repairs. Work Schedule: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with availability for taking emergency call out.
PART TIME JANITOR - To qualify for this position you must be capable of performing light maintenance as well as janitorial duties.
GRASS ROUTE DRIVER - To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be able to lift 50-70 lbs. and work in the heat, wind and rain if necessary. Class A CDL a plus. Work schedule: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

21 Help Wanted
FLOOR TECH / HOUSEKEEPER PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring an individual to do housekeeping and floor care. Experience in floor care is a plus! Please apply at 1321 W. Kentucky or call Daniel Alley at 806-669-2551

Now Accepting Applications COMPANY DRIVERS
 Local Deliveries. Safety and Performance Bonus Quarterly! Paid Vacation / Holidays, Weekend Differentials.
 Benefit Package: Medical / Vision / Life, 401K with Company Match. Paid Orientation. Referral Bonus. Class A CDL-X required.
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60 Household

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77 Livest/Equip.
SERVICEABLE black Angus bulls for sale. Volume discounts. Contact Thomas Angus, 580-655-4318, 580-497-7217.

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NEED small male Shih-Tzu for Stud Service. Call 669-6467.

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FREE indoor Cat to good home. 3 yr. old Siamese, female, spayed. Call 440-1995

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LOOKING to buy good used living room set. Call Vikki @ 662-0663.

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STREETS & PARKS MAINTENANCE WORKER - To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid Texas driver's license and six months experience in maintenance related to streets and park repairs. Work Schedule: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with availability for taking emergency call out.
PART TIME JANITOR - To qualify for this position you must be capable of performing light maintenance as well as janitorial duties.
GRASS ROUTE DRIVER - To qualify for this position you must have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be able to lift 50-70 lbs. and work in the heat, wind and rain if necessary. Class A CDL a plus. Work schedule: 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

21 Help Wanted
FLOOR TECH / HOUSEKEEPER PAMPA NURSING CENTER is currently hiring an individual to do housekeeping and floor care. Experience in floor care is a plus! Please apply at 1321 W. Kentucky or call Daniel Alley at 806-669-2551

Now Accepting Applications COMPANY DRIVERS
 Local Deliveries. Safety and Performance Bonus Quarterly! Paid Vacation / Holidays, Weekend Differentials.
 Benefit Package: Medical / Vision / Life, 401K with Company Match. Paid Orientation. Referral Bonus. Class A CDL-X required.
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96 Unfurn. Apts.

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TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.
OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

DOWNTOWN office space for rent. Utilities & cleaning service provided. Ample parking. 669-6823.

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WHITE Deer Tx, 518 Warren, 2000 sq. ft. 3 bd, 2 bath, new flooring throughout, new ac/heating unit and water heater \$85,000. 806-886-0164.

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

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 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited 4*4, leather. 96 K miles, fully loaded \$8500. 806-236-0656.

121 Trucks
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1995 GMC 4x4, New Tires \$4200 OBO. 665-5473

MOVE In Ready! 3/2.5/2+. Den, living, sun., hobby rms. Extra storage. Deck, sprinkler sys. New ceramic & paint. 1930 Dogwood. 663-3964.

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COUNTRY LIVING! Alanreed Tx. 3 bd, 2 bath modular home 1600 sq. ft. approx. 10 acres, 40x60 shop cattle pins, cellar- \$60K Call 662-6591

FSBO 3 bdrm, 2 bath Solitaire on 3 acres, barn, arena. Asking \$75,000. 662-0812, 806-323-2493.

HIGHEST CASH PAID FOR HOUSES! CALL 665-1875

HOUSE for sale in McLean. 4/2. 1904 sq. ft. New updates throughout the house. 334-1136.

MOVE In Ready! 3 bdr., 1.75 ba., 1682 sq. ft. Fireplace, all appliances, lots of storage, double garage. New roof. Nice neighborhood. 1818 Evergreen. Call 662-2029 for more information.

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Religion

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

Fakes vs. *real* Christians

What is a fake? A fake is something that is counterfeit, not what it seems to be, not real, not genuine. Something that is fraudulent. With that in mind, what about "fake Christians?" Just like there are counterfeit \$20 bills, there are people who claim to be Christians who are not what they say they are. They're not real, not genuine.

To keep this article simple, let's just keep the identification of the fakes on a basic level. All you need to do is just learn to ask one question. Oh, it won't catch all of the fakes, but it will surely catch a bunch. What is the question? "Do you regularly attend church?"

When I lived in Oregon, I served at a church with a deacon who missed 10 to 20 Sundays each year. Now to my knowledge, he never missed a single Friday or Monday of work. It was also amazing how often the "Sunday sickness" seemed to coincide with major NASCAR races. Do you know what you call that? Fake!

For several years, I had a Pampa woman call me for prayer from time-to-time. Not too often, maybe three to four times a year. Each time she would call for prayer, I would gladly pray with her and then visit a few minutes. She always affirmed how committed she was as a Christian. Each time, I would ask her if she had been to church the previous Sunday, and her answer was always the same: "No, I just didn't feel up

to it. I'm bound to my wheelchair, you know."

So about three years ago, after praying for her on the

Mike Sublett

Hi-Land Christian



phone, I changed my question. I asked her, "So have you been to Wal-Mart lately?" Would you like to bet on what her answer was? You guessed it!

"Oh, yes, I love finding bargains." Then I asked her if she had been to church the previous Sunday.

She leaned on her usual answer of just not feeling up to it. I then told her, "So you feel good enough to go to Wal-Mart, but not to church? In that case, don't ever call me again for prayer until you at least attend church as often as you go to Wal-Mart."

Know what you call people like that? Fake!

So how many people do you know who feel good enough to go to work, but just don't feel up to coming to church and yet profess to be a Christian?

How many "Christian" teens do you know who feel plenty good enough to attend a concert (maybe even in Amarillo), but just don't feel well enough to attend church?

What about "Christians" who

have no problem getting to the post office to pick up their mail or out to pay their water bill, but just don't seem to feel good enough to attend church?

What about "Christians" who wouldn't dream of letting a "foot of snow" keep them from the grocery store, but regularly let a little cold weather keep them out of church?

Know what you call each of these? Fake! Fake! Fake!

And don't give me that baloney about, "Now, you know we aren't to judge." Did you know that in that same chapter (Matthew 7) where it says not to judge, it also orders us to go out and inspect the trees to see if they are bearing fruit? And it doesn't take much inspecting to conclude that a tree that cares more about shopping, groceries, paying bills or entertainment than about attending church is certainly no Christian tree.

So if you are a faithful disciple of Jesus who regularly attends church, start "provoking" fakes who have lied to themselves for so many years that they believe the lies. Just give them the Wal-Mart test or the grocery test or the entertainment test or the job test. If they can't even pass one of those tests, they certainly won't be able to pass the DISCIPLESHIP test that Jesus will be giving when He returns. (See Luke 9:57-62.) God bless.

God's tough love ...

Out of a heart full of pain and agony, Hosea learned how God suffers over the sin of His people and how His love is undying. Through the painful process shines his confidence in the ultimate victory. Hosea delivers his messages woven with the threads of sin, love and hope.

Symbolic (Hosea 1:2-9) ... It is hard to believe God would command His prophet to marry a prostitute. Some interpreters believe Gomer was a temple prostitute involved in Baal worship. Others believe she was simply bent toward sexual immorality but was not immoral when Hosea married her.

Whichever is true, it is clear that God would use the tragic marriage to send a message to Israel concerning their infidelity and His tough love.

To the marriage were born three children. The name of the first, Jezreel, had spiritual meaning based on historical fact. Jezreel was a valley which was the site of Jehu's bloody extermination of Jezebel and the sons of Ahab (II Kings 9:14-10:17).

God was sending a message of coming judgment that Israel's unfaithfulness would not go unpunished.

The daughter born to Hosea and Gomer was likely not even his own. God named her Loruhamah which means "not loved" as a sign that God would not continue to show love to Israel if it continued in its sins.

The third child, a son, was named Lo-ammi, meaning "not my people." Probably the least likely to be Hosea's offspring, the

child's name suggested that God had disowned His people. As Gomer had refused to honor Hosea, so Israel had refused to honor God.

Redeeming (Hosea 3:1-5) ... Most likely, Gomer left home after the birth of her third child. Once again, God commanded Hosea to make his own life a means of bringing divine truth to the nation. God wanted Hosea to seek reconciliation with Gomer even though she was guilty of unclean conduct.

He was to show Israel the depth of God's love for them.

Gomer had become the property of someone else.

The price Hosea had to pay for her was 15 pieces of silver (each equal to a shekel) and a half homer of barley (equal to 15 shekels). Thirty shekels was the price of a female slave and a considerable amount for a poor man.

Hosea loved Gomer so much he was willing to pay all he had to get her back, even though she did not deserve it. Yet, he expected her devotion and loyalty in return.

Does this sound familiar? Christ (who was betrayed for 30-pieces of silver) paid the ultimate price to redeem us while we spurned Him. God extends His love to us even when we do not deserve it.

Hosea learned from Gomer's faithlessness how God suffers when men turn away from Him. He models for us a beautiful picture of God's love for His people which is tough, holy and redemptive.



Dr. Jimmy Flynn

Evangelist

Believers must put Jesus first

In the early 1900s, the Pentecostal Holiness denomination had its beginnings. The church soon recognized a tremendous need to care for homeless children and set itself to the task by establishing orphanages.

The general superintendent heard of a little boy and girl, miles across the country, in need of a home. Traveling by train, he began the trip to accompany the children to the orphanage.

Two children traveling with a strange man, longing for the touch and love of a mother, going to a strange place among strange people. What anxiety as the train rolled along. What loneliness with not another child-mind for the two to glean from. They had few, if any, toys to comfort them while the train clattered along.

The little girl's longing heart needed some solace. It was then she tugged the stranger's sleeve and asked, "Do you love us?"

Those words burst through the Rev. J.H. King's ears and lodged heavily on his heart. How many ways and actions are there to tell a child "I love you?" Those words were forever embedded into the heart and mind of the Rev. King.

In those days, men were not so apt to express love in light and fluffy ways, but true love would drive them to die for a loved one. Preacher King's love for children was deep in his heart, but those children needed a manifestation of it.

I remember when St. Peter made an attempt to keep his word to Jesus and to prove his love strong enough to die for Him, but Jesus disallowed Peter's effort. Peter

went into a turmoil that brought him to the point of denying that he even knew Jesus. Bitter weeping and repenting brought Peter back in favor with Jesus. Nevertheless, the memory remained with Peter and Jesus.

Jesus went through the loneliness of friends walking away. He even felt the absence of His Father and cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" There has never been a deeper loneliness to hit a living heart. He bore such indescribable loneliness mixed with undeserved hatred and human suffering until he cried that it was finished and died.

After the resurrection, Jesus was making efforts to assure His disciples that He was the one they left alone in his trial and death. The time was drawing near when Peter would unlock the New Testament Church to all believers, but first Jesus asked Peter a question, a question that would bring the hour of trial to Peter's mind.

A question coming from a heart as tender as a child's heart who has no mother: "Lovest thou me, more than these?"

Jesus needed not to tug a sleeve to get Peter's attention. He just asked the same question three times, demanding an answer each time.

Peter was grieved, but I am sure he was searching his heart for deep truth when he answered "yes" to the question. (John 21:15-17) Lately, have you been heard to tell Jesus you love Him?

Before yielding to a questionable desire, it is a good time to let Jesus ask, "Do you love Me more than these?"

Archie Cooper

Pentecostal Holiness



St. Matthew's to host preaching mission

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Pampa will be the site of "Parables on the Plains" preaching mission on Sunday, Feb. 24 and Monday, Feb. 25.

Services are scheduled Sunday at 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (with a 9:15 a.m. breakfast) and 6 p.m. Monday will include a noon and 6 p.m. prayer time followed by a reception.

Episcopal Priest David Scott will use stories taken from the plains of Texas to teach about such subjects as death, forgiveness, God's will and more. Some of the stories

are titled "Grandma's Quilt," is the "Boy Scout," the "Parable of the Pond" and "Bulldogs and Dune Buggies."

Scott grew up in Perryton and is no stranger to Pampa. He ministered at St. Matthew's in 2005 and is currently at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Dumas. As a practicing criminal trial attorney, Scott served the 31st District Attorney's Office as a special prosecutor in cases involving public officials and



Scott

Scott lives in Perryton with his wife Denyce, their two boys, Daryk and Dalton, and a Sheltie named Theodore Cotton Bear.

county attorney and felony prosecutor-elect of Ochiltree County.

Father Scott is known for his work on the Reconciliation Task Force in the Diocese of Northwest Texas and is considered a leader in the field of rural church ministry.

Scott lives in Perryton with his wife Denyce, their two boys, Daryk and Dalton, and a Sheltie named Theodore Cotton Bear.

Religion in the news

Major U.S. churches report membership declines, stagnation

NEW YORK (AP) — Most of the United States' 25 largest church bodies either lost members or experienced no growth in the past year, according to a 2008 yearbook produced by the National Council of Churches.

The Episcopal Church, locked in a conflict over the Bible and homosexuality, suffered the steepest decline, reporting a more than 4 percent drop to slightly fewer than 2.2 million members. Another mainline Protestant group, the 3 million-member Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), facing similar divisions, suffered a 2.4 percent membership decrease.

The figures are outlined in the 2008 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, which tracks membership and other trends from 224 national church bodies.

The yearbook's editor, the Rev. Eileen W. Lindner, said many churches' said many people in their 20s and 30s attend and support local congregations but resist becoming members.

Of the churches that reported growth, the Jehovah's Witnesses said their group had a 2.25 percent increase to 1 million members, while The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said it grew 1.56 percent to 5.8 million members in the U.S.

The Roman Catholic Church, Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God church that killed at least 30 people huddled inside.

Church also reported membership gains under 1 percent each.

A dozen churches said membership remained steady, while seven reported declines.

The yearbook also reported a 4 percent increase in per capita giving from the 65 churches that reported contribution trends.

<http://www.nccusa.org>

World church body searches for new leader

GENEVA (AP) — The World Council of Churches has started searching for a new leader after the organization's current head announced he will not seek a second term.

The body that brings together about 350 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and other churches, representing more than 560 million Christians in some 110 countries, said its general secretary, Kenyan Methodist Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, will step down when his term ends in December.

Kobia cited personal reasons for not seeking to extend his leadership, the Geneva-based body said in a statement. He was the first African elected to the post and took office in January 2004, starting a five-year term.

In January, Kobia joined other religious leaders in condemning violence that followed disputed elections in his homeland of Kenya, which included the burning of an Assemblies of God church that killed at least 30 people huddled inside.

"Now is the time to put

the interests of the nation and the surrounding region above other concerns," Kobia said in a statement at the time.

Kobia also met and prayed in Rome last month with Pope Benedict XVI at a service marking the 100th anniversary of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Elections for a new World Council of Churches general secretary are expected to take place in September 2009 at the council's next central committee meeting.

<http://www.oikoumene.org>

Pope's chalice getting refinished for papal visit to Washington

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — When Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass on his trip to the United States in April, he is expected to use a chalice that is being refinished in Oklahoma.

The ornate, gold-plated sterling silver chalice has been housed in the Papal Nunciature, the Vatican's embassy in Washington, D.C., since it was manufactured in London in the spring of 1938.

Don Taylor, who is overseeing the restoration at the F.C. Ziegler Co., said the chalice is used by popes when they visit the United States. The Tulsa, Okla.-based company provides goods and services needed for worship and devotion, with five locations in the south-central U.S.

"I can assure you it was used by Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) and by Pope Paul VI (1963-78)," Taylor said. "Before that, it's a little sketchy."