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The Pampa News

Pampa, Texas

WEDNESDAY, October 5, 1994

25c

Good Evening!

AREA

AMARILLO — Two Colorado residents were in an Amarillo hospital today with injuries suffered in a two-vehicle crash that killed two Tuesday afternoon. Robert Pizzi, 49, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Joni Gay Brandner, 33, of Colorado Springs, were injured in a car-pickup crash that killed Ethan F. Britten, 45, of Haswell, Colo., and Patty Rene Cass, 30, of Colorado Springs, Tuesday afternoon on U.S. 385 in northern Oldham County. Department of Public Safety officers said today.

Pizzi was reported in critical condition at Northwest Texas Hospital today with head and chest injuries. Brandner was listed in stable condition.

Department of Public Safety officers said Cass died at the scene of the accident about 3:45 p.m. Tuesday while Britten died shortly after 5 p.m. at Northwest Texas Hospital.

Officers said Pizzi, driving a 1991 Mazda four-door sedan, was northbound on U.S. 385 when he apparently made a U-turn at the crest of a hill and then proceeded southbound at a slow rate of speed. Britten, driving a 1994 Toyota pickup, was southbound on U.S. 385 at a slow rate of speed, according to officers, when he topped a hill and crashed into the rear of the sedan. "The driver did not have time to react," officers said.

Authorities said Britten, who was alone in the pickup, was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the accident. Cass, Pizzi and Brandner, who were in the sedan, were all wearing seat belts, officers said.

PAMPA — The Pampa United Way will have a check-in for the current fund-raising campaign at 5 p.m. Thursday in the M.K. Brown Meeting Room of the Pampa Community Building.

At last week's check-in, the total collected and reported by volunteer campaign workers stood at \$76,061, or 25.4 percent of the \$300,000 goal.

At that meeting, Executive Administrator Katrina Bigham challenged the campaign workers to bring in donations this week to push the total to date to \$150,000, or half of the goal for the drive.

Sponsors for tomorrow's check-in are Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Tralee Crisis Center and Southside Senior Citizens Center. Entertainment will be provided by ACT I members, who will present a skit, and Tiny Duncan on the piano.

NATION

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation placing permanent limits on cost-of-living pay raises for members of Congress, senior executive officials and the judiciary is awaiting President Clinton's signature into law.

The government management reform bill, passed by voice vote Tuesday in the House, states that any automatic COLA raises for lawmakers and the others may not exceed those given other federal employees.

The measure has already cleared the Senate.

Congress passed a spending bill last week excluding lawmakers and other senior Washington officials from any COLA raises in fiscal year 1995. Other federal employees were given an average 2.6 percent raise.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Postal Service will begin accepting payment nationwide by credit and debit cards.

Seattle, Denver and San Diego are to start in the program next April and it is to be national by 1996.

Payment by credit card has been tested for the last 15 months in Dallas-Fort Worth, Orlando, Fla., and Washington, and will continue to be available in those cities.

The plan was approved Tuesday by the Postal Service's governing board, meeting in Seattle.

Officials said they anticipate accepting Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards, and possibly others.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smoking would be banned on all domestic airline flights and international flights to and from the United States under legislation passed by the House.

Nearly all domestic flights in America already are non-smoking, but current legislation, enacted in 1989, exempts flights of six hours or more to or from Alaska or Hawaii. That exemption would disappear under the new bill.

WEATHER

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ONE SECTION

U.S. troops step up patrols in Haiti

By ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Helicopters hovered over the Haitian capital this morning and U.S. military patrols prowled the streets, apparently in search of army "attaches."

The increased activities of the American soldiers came after Michel Francois, the coup leader who master-minded squads of attaches, or army auxiliaries, fled before daybreak Tuesday to the neighboring Dominican Republic.

The hasty departure of Francois, whose army auxiliaries were responsible for most of the human rights abuses here, eliminates one of the leaders who might have been an obstacle to the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

people, many of them attaches, have been detained and more than 4,000 weapons seized, a military spokesman, David Smith, said today.

Soldiers have worked with Haitians in recent days to identify the homes of suspected army auxiliaries who instilled fear with their harsh crackdown against Aristide supporters.

Aristide was ousted Sept. 30, 1991, in a coup orchestrated by Francois, Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras and Brig. Gen. Philippe Biamby.

Francois, Cedras and Biamby were to leave power under a last-minute agreement negotiated with former President Carter. Cedras, the most visible of the Haitian military leaders, has vowed not to leave the country.

Aristide supporters applauded Francois' departure, and urged the other coup leaders to do the same.

"It is an important step toward the re-establishment of democracy and peace. ... The others (Cedras and Biamby) should follow his example," Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, an Aristide supporter, said Tuesday.

The U.S. agreement with the Haitian military averted an invasion but paved the way for the arrival of 20,000 U.S. troops to ensure the return of Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president.

Aristide told the U.N. General Assembly in a speech Tuesday that he would return home by Oct. 15.

The Roman Catholic priest, who has been living in exile in Washington, said he hoped to bring peace to the nation.

"We say yes to reconciliation, no to violence, no to vengeance ... yes to justice," Aristide said.

In what could be another promising sign for Haiti, a feared paramilitary leader

Tuesday claimed a conversion to pacifism. Emmanuel Constant, leader of the paramilitary group the Front for the Advancement and Progress of Haiti, which has tortured and killed pro-democracy activists, urged Haitians "on every side" to put down their weapons and renounce violence.

But Constant's sincerity was in doubt: FRAPH is considered responsible for much of the terror waged in Haiti over the past year. And violence on Tuesday showed Aristide's peaceful resumption of power is far from assured.

U.S. troops found themselves in the delicate position of protecting Constant, one of Haiti's most notorious figures, as he addressed reporters outside the presidential palace.

Constant just days ago was one of Aristide's — and Washington's — most despised enemies.

Motorcycle Papa



Steve DeVoll, left, a retired farmer and oil field operator, checks out the air in the front fork air suspension on his new 1995 Gold Wing motorcycle this morning as a friend, Dan Parsons, watches. DeVoll and four others with the Gold Wing Club recently returned from a foliage tour near Red River, N.M., they took on their motorcycles. (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Coronado Hospital's parent firm merges with Columbia-HCA

Compiled from Staff and AP reports

Pampa's hospital administrator said today he was excited concerning a merger of the hospital's parent company with a Kentucky-based chain.

"I'm excited," Doug Garner, administrator of Coronado Hospital in Pampa, said today. "I've worked for HCA before. We used to belong to HCA."

Coronado's parent, HealthTrust Inc., and Columbia-HCA Healthcare Corp., the nation's two largest health care chains, agreed to a \$5.4 billion merger Tuesday, creating a single corporation with 311 hospitals and 125 outpatient centers in 37 states.

Garner said he thought the merger would be positive, although he said he knew nothing about it prior to today.

"My employees told me this morning when I walked in," he said.

HealthTrust Inc., based in Nashville, Tenn., operates 118 hospitals in 12 states including Coronado Hospital in Pampa. Most of the hospitals are concentrated in Florida, Tennessee and Texas. The company has 33 hospitals in Texas, 13 in Tennessee and 10 in Florida. They also have hospitals in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The agreement comes amid widespread consolidation in the health care industry.

The companies each expect annual savings of about \$125 million from the transaction, according to a report from the Associated Press. Together, their combined annual revenue is expected to exceed \$15 billion.

"This consolidation will enhance our efforts with physicians and managed care organizations as we together seek cost-efficient, quality results," said R. Clayton McWhorter, chairman and chief

executive of the Nashville, Tenn.-based HealthTrust.

Columbia operates 195 hospitals with 44,000 beds, and HealthTrust has 118 hospitals with 16,000 beds.

McWhorter will be chairman of the board of the new company. Thomas F. Frist Jr., Columbia's chairman, will be vice chairman of the new company and Richard L. Scott, president and chief executive of Columbia, will keep his positions.

The boards of the two companies agreed to the merger late Tuesday, Rosalyn Elton, vice president of finance for Columbia, said in a telephone interview.

Columbia will pay 0.88 share of its stock for each HealthTrust share and assume about \$1.8 billion in HealthTrust debt. Elton said the stock portion of the transaction works out to \$3.6 billion when Columbia's Tuesday stock close is used.

Columbia stock ended Tuesday at \$42.75, down 87 1/2 cents a share on the New York Stock Exchange. Columbia was on the list of 150 most active stocks traded early today on the exchange. It was down one dollar today to \$41.75 from Tuesday's close. HealthTrust ended down 37 1/2 cents at \$32 at the close Tuesday on the NYSE. The merger was announced after the close of trading.

The merger requires regulatory approval and the acceptance of shareholders, who are expected to vote on the proposal early next year.

Meanwhile, industry consolidation continues. A Wall Street Journal report last month said National Medical Enterprises Inc. was negotiating to acquire HealthTrust and American Medical Holdings Inc., another hospital company. That move would have created a company with \$9 billion in annual revenue, second only to Columbia's anticipated pre-merger revenue this year of \$11 billion.

Showers bring rain to Pampa area

Compiled from Staff and AP reports

Showers and thunderstorms were reported in the Texas Panhandle early today after a night in which violent weather moved through the area.

Large hail and locally heavy rainfall accompanied the storms that moved through the Panhandle Tuesday night. Hail ranged from dime-size to baseball-size.

Patchy fog, misty rain and lightning was reported in the eastern Panhandle this morning as a thunderstorm moved through northern Potter County near Fritch into Carson County around dawn.

"We're finally getting some of that rain we've been looking for," said Sharon Keener with the Hemphill County Sheriff's Office in Canadian. She reported it was still raining at 8 a.m. today.

Ann Bryant with the Roberts County Sheriff's Office in Miami reported a light sprinkle shortly after 8 a.m. today following heavy showers overnight.

Fred Herrick with the Carson County Sheriff's Office said all rain had stopped by sun-up in Panhandle today.

Reports of rain in the Amarillo area varied from a quarter to an inch and a quarter overnight. Jennifer Brownlee with the Donley County

Sheriff's Office said deputies there reported an estimated tenth of an inch of moisture overnight.

"It has been raining, but it's not anymore," said Shari Hicks with the Ochiltree County Sheriff's Office in Perryton.

Lupe Cenicerros with the Ochiltree County Sheriff's Office said there was still a light mist falling in the northern panhandle.

"It's good and wet," she said, "but at least there's no fog. For a couple of days there the fog was really bad."

Mrs. Dusan Pakan reported 1.40 inches Tuesday plus rain over night at the Pakan community in southern Wheeler County.

"We needed it," she said. "That ought to bring the rye up."

In Pampa, the showers dropped 0.84 inch of precipitation, according to KGRO/KOMX meteorologist Darrell Sehorn. Tuesday's high was 77, with an overnight low of 61.

The local forecast calls for a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the Pampa area tonight, some possibly severe, with southerly winds 15-25 mph and gusty. Wednesday will see a high in the upper 70s, with southwesterly winds 20-30 mph and gusty, according to Sehorn's forecast.

Miss Texas Arian Archer to visit at Pampa school

Miss Texas will go to school in Pampa Friday. Arian Archer, Miss Texas and one of the ten finalists for Miss America last month, will be featured in a 10 a.m. assembly at Horace Mann School in Pampa, according to Tom Lindsey of Pampa ISD.

"She will give a motivational speech," he said.

Miss Archer is also scheduled to sing and play the piano during the 45-minute assembly, he said.

Archer, 20, is a Borger native.

She won the Miss Texas crown in July in Fort Worth. She is the daughter of Dickie and Crista Archer of Borger and the grand-daughter of Howard Archer and the late Virginia Archer of Lefors and Myrtice Evans of Friona.

Crista Archer, the mother of Miss Texas, is a counselor at Horace Mann and Baker elementary schools.

Miss Texas is a senior at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where she majors in education.

Food

Touchdown cocoa cake gives tailgate party a sweet hurrah

By The Associated Press

Editor's note: The recipe given last week for the touchdown cocoa crunch cake was missing ingredients.

When hosting a tailgate party, the best strategy is to keep the menu simple. Choose foods that are easy to make, transport and serve. For a sweet ending, serve cocoa crunch cake.

Touchdown Cocoa Crunch Cake
 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
 1 cup sugar
 1/4 cup cocoa
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 cup water
 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 1 tablespoon white vinegar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 Broiled topping (recipe below)
 Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour an 8-inch square baking pan. In large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Add water,

oil, vinegar and vanilla; beat with a spoon or whisk just until batter is smooth and ingredients are well blended. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake in a 350-degree F oven for 35 to 40 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Meanwhile, prepare broiled topping; spread on warm cake. Set oven to broil; place cake about 4 inches from the heat. Broil 3 minutes or until top is bubbly and golden brown. Remove from oven. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Makes 9 servings.

Broiled Topping
 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, softened
 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
 1/2 cup coarsely chopped nuts
 1/2 cup sweetened coconut flakes
 3 tablespoons light cream or evaporated milk
 In a small bowl, stir together all ingredients until well blended.

Nutrition facts per serving: 390 cal., 3 g pro., 51 g carbo., 20 g fat, 20 mg chol., 270 mg sodium, 25 mg calcium.

* Recipe from: Hershey's Cocoa

A nice and easy dish

Salad is super for supper

By The Associated Press

A refreshing main dish salad pleases the palate. And best of all, salads can mean "cool cooking."

Lime-sesame beef salad is a cinch to toss together. Buy roast beef cooked and sliced to order at the supermarket deli. For extra convenience, you can pick up other ready-to-use salad ingredients like pre-washed and pre-cut vegetables from the salad bar or produce section.

Lime-Sesame Beef Salad
 12 ounces deli roast beef, sliced 1/4-inch thick
 1 small cucumber, cut lengthwise in half and crosswise into thin slices
 1 medium carrot, cut into julienne strips
 1 small onion, cut lengthwise into thin wedges
 1 medium red bell pepper, cut into julienne strips
 1/4 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro

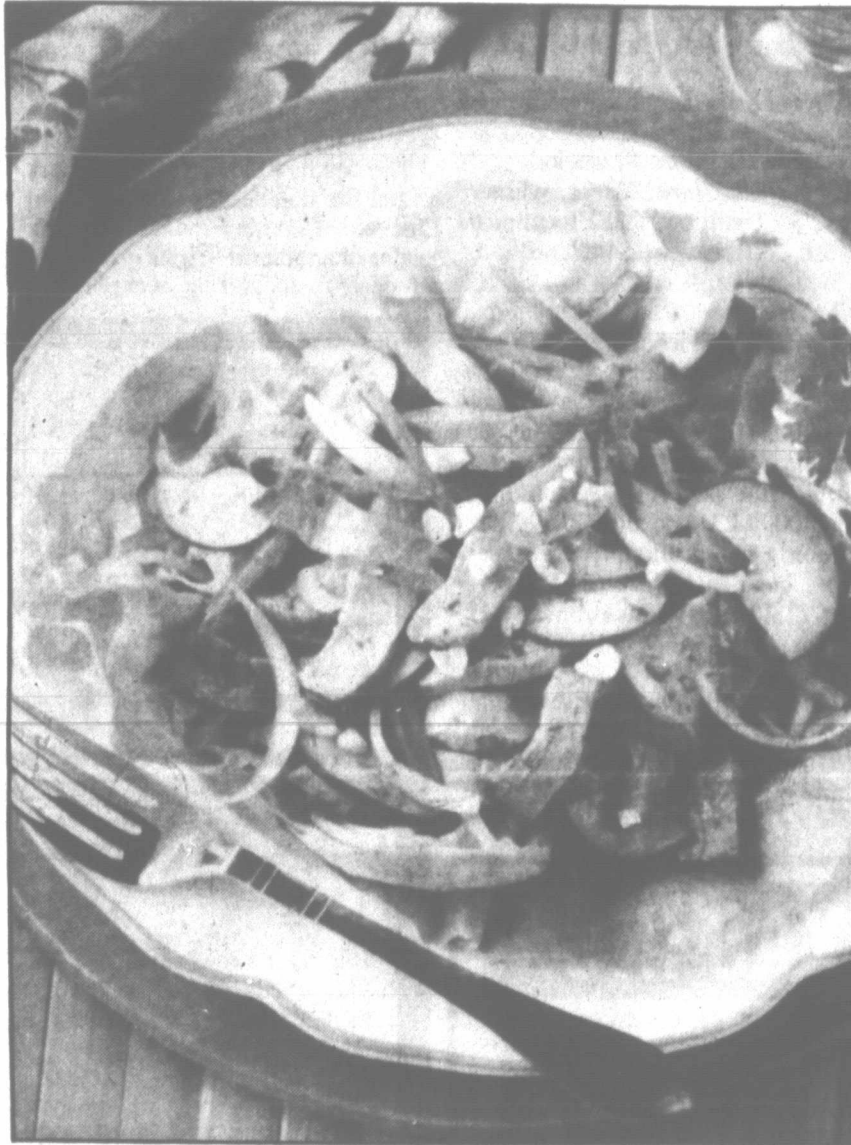
3 tablespoons fresh lime juice
 2 tablespoons sugar
 1 tablespoon dark sesame oil
 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 1 clove garlic, crushed
 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper

Stack beef slices; cut lengthwise in half and then crosswise into 1/2-inch wide strips. In medium bowl, combine beef, cucumber, carrot, onion, bell pepper and cilantro; set aside.

In 1-cup microwave-safe glass measure, combine dressing ingredients. Cook on high (100 percent power) for 30 seconds or just until bubbly, stirring until sugar is completely dissolved. Add dressing to beef mixture; toss to coat. To serve, arrange lettuce on serving platter. Spoon beef mixture over lettuce. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition facts per serving: 261 cal., 26 g pro., 18 g carbo, 10 g fat, 3.2 mg iron, 329 mg sodium, 69 mg chol.

* Recipe from: Meat Board Test Kitchens



Enjoy flavorful lime-sesame beef salad for a quick and cool weeknight dinner. (AP photo/Meat Board Test Kitchens)

An ice and easy home milk shake

By The Associated Press

It's hot. Your throat is parched. How to quench that summer thirst? Try a frosty cold milk shake. Frozen chocolate latte is a mixture of chocolate milk, espresso powder, vanilla and a touch of sugar. The mixture is frozen in ice-cube trays to be popped out and blended whenever needed.

Frozen Chocolate Latte
 4 cups chocolate milk
 2 tablespoons instant espresso powder
 1 tablespoon sugar
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

In a small saucepan, heat 1 cup of the chocolate milk and the espresso powder until the milk is warm and powder dissolves. Stir in sugar and vanilla. Pour into an ice-cube tray. Cover with foil, freeze until firm, about 4 hours. For each serving: In a container of an electric blender place 2 or 3 ice cubes (cover remaining ice cubes with foil, return to freezer, use as needed). Add 3/4 cup of the remaining chocolate milk. Cover, blend until smooth and thick. Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition facts per serving: 227 cal., 8 g pro., 30 g carbo., 8 g fat, 151 mg sodium, 30 mg chol.

Cook talk

Venison varies the menu

By NANCY BYAL, Food Editor Better Homes and Gardens Magazine
 For AP Special Features

During hunting season, venison has long been the hunter's favorite way to replenish meat supplies in the freezer. Today, however, you can enjoy the savory taste of venison anytime, without having to don hunting gear.

Farm-raised venison is less gamey tasting and more tender than wild venison. It is available frozen in some specialty stores and supermarkets or can be ordered through the mail year-round.

Hints for Cooking Venison

Venison has a fine texture, with a flavor similar to beef. It is generally leaner than beef. When prepared properly, the taste of veni-

son rivals the best beef or lamb. Follow these hints:

Choose the cut to fit your schedule. As with beef, venison cuts include roasts, steaks and chops, with roasts requiring longer cooking than steaks or chops. Quick-cooking ground venison and fully-cooked venison luncheon meats are also available.

Because the fat carries most of the strong flavor, trim away as much fat as possible, leaving only a thin covering to keep the meat from drying out as it cooks.

Remove any sinew or skin before you pan-fry or grill venison. Also be sure to remove the silver membrane around the meat muscles. (You can purchase deskin and desinew

venison.)
 Marinate wild venison cuts from the shoulder or leg to tenderize the meat. Marinate the more tender cuts from the ribs, loin or rump to complement the venison flavor. Fruit marinades, such as pineapple, raspberry or kiwi, accent the venison flavor deliciously.

Because farm-raised venison meat is more tender than wild venison, it really needs no marinating. Instead, use light-flavored marinades or sauces to enhance the flavor of the mild-tasting meat.

Serve venison rare or medium-rare (130 degrees F to 135 degrees F). If it's cooked to 140 degrees F or above, venison dries out and toughens because the meat is so lean.

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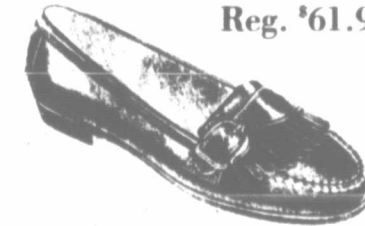
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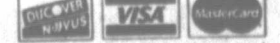
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED GAS RATE CHANGE

On September 20, 1994 Energas Company filed Statements of Intent to change its gas rates and service charges with the Texas Railroad Commission and each incorporated city listed below. The proposed changes will take effect no sooner than 35 days after filing.

The Company proposes to increase its customer charge by 89 cents per month with no other changes to its gas rate schedules. The change would apply to General Service (residential and commercial) and Small Industrial Service. The Company also proposes the following increased service charges:

	During Business Hours	After Hours
Turn on new service with meter set	\$23.50	\$35.25
Turn on service (shut-in test required)	19.00	28.50
Turn on service (meter read only required) and miscellaneous service calls	10.50	15.75
Reconnect delinquent service or service temporarily off at customer's request	29.50	39.00
Dishonored check charge	25.00	

The proposed changes are expected to increase the Company's annual revenues by approximately 1.9% and therefore do not constitute a "major change." The proposed changes could affect approximately 217,000 gas consumers in the following communities and surrounding rural areas:

Abernathy	Hart	O'Donnell	Southland
Amherst	Hereford	Olton	Springlake
Anton	Idalou	Opdyke West	Stanton
Big Spring	Kress	Pampa	Sudan
Bovina	Lamesa	Panhandle	Tahoka
Bruffield	Levelland	Petersburg	Tanglewood
Buffalo Springs	Littlefield	Plainview	Timbercreek
Canyon	Lockney	Post	Tulia
Coahoma	Lorenzo	Quitaque	Turkey
Crosbyton	Los Ybenez	Ralls	Vega
Dimmitt	Lubbock	Ransom Canyon	Welch
Earth	Meadow	Ropesville	Whitharral
Edmonson	Midland	Seagraves	Wilson
Floydada	Muleshoe	Seminole	Wolforth
Forsan	Nazareth	Shallowater	
Frisan	New Deal	Silverton	
Hale Center	New Home	Slaton	
Happy	Odessa	Smyer	

Copies of the filing are available at the Energas Office at 5110 80th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79408-1121, and your local Energas Office. Affected persons whose gas rates are subject to the original jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission may file in writing comments or a protest concerning the proposed changes with the Docket Services Section of the Legal Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, at any time within 30 days following the date on which the change would or has become effective.

ENERGAS

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C-32

American Red Cross



The Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross offers a variety of services to the area citizens, including swimming classes for youngsters like the two pictured above. On an average month, the local chapter provides 150 blood pressure and blood sugar tests, 20 loans from the medical supply loan closet, two service-to-military calls, and 30 to 40 students in the adult, infant and child CPR and first aid classes. This summer, more than 200 students signed up for the summer swim program and 30 students have participated in a disaster training program. In July, 20 students took a Home Alone course. The Red Cross helps pay utility bills in some emergency situations. Without the funding assistance of the Pampa United Way, some of these programs would have to be curtailed. (Pampa News photo)



'River Wild' sweeps to top of box office

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *The River Wild* with Meryl Streep topped the weekend box office with \$10.2 million in ticket sales, and *Forrest Gump* passed *The Lion King* as 1994's highest-grossing release.

The Tom Hanks film has made \$269.7 million, according to figures released Monday. *The Lion King*, to be re-released Nov. 18, took in \$267.4 million.

The action film *Timecop* was in second place last weekend.

The Top 15 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters over the weekend, as compiled by Entertainment Data Inc. and Exhibitor Relations Co. from actual returns and studio estimates:

1. *The River Wild*, Universal, \$10.2 million, 2,074 locations,

\$4,925 per location, \$10.2 million, one week.

2. *Timecop*, Universal, \$5.4 million, 2,274 locations, \$2,395 per location, \$31.5 million, three weeks.

3. *Jason's Lyric*, Gramercy, \$5.1 million, 804 locations, \$6,371 per location, \$6.3 million, 1 1/2 weeks.

4. *Forrest Gump*, Paramount, \$4.4 million, 2,360 locations, \$1,851 per location, \$269.7 million, 13 weeks.

5. *Quiz Show*, Disney, \$3.4 million, 439 locations, \$7,665 per location, \$8.4 million, three weeks.

6. *Terminal Velocity*, Disney, \$3.3 million, 1,797 locations, \$1,838 per location, \$10.5 million, two weeks.

7. *Clear and Present Danger*, Paramount, \$2 million, 1,490 locations, \$1,344 per location, \$115.7 million, nine weeks.

8. *The Scout*, 20th Century Fox, \$1.5 million, 1,585 locations, \$920 per location, \$1.5 million, one week.

9. *The Mask*, New Line, \$1.3 million, 1,360 locations, \$922 per location, \$110.2 million, 10 weeks.

10. *Natural Born Killers*, Warner Bros., \$1.2 million, 1,212 locations, \$1,022 per location, \$44.8 million, six weeks.

11. *True Lies*, 20th Century Fox, \$976,000, 1,000 locations, \$976 per location, \$140.8 million, 12 weeks.

12. *Corrina, Corrina*, New Line, \$909,000, 972 locations, \$935 per location, \$17.5 million, eight weeks.

13. *Milk Money*, Paramount, \$860,000, 1,231 locations, \$699 per location, \$16.3 million, five weeks.

14. *The Little Rascals*, Universal, \$723,000, 898 locations, \$805 per location, \$46.4 million, nine weeks.

15. *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, Gramercy, \$620,000, 183 locations, \$3,386 per location, \$6.8 million, eight weeks.

Swiss police find 48 bodies in mass suicide, suspect link to religious sect

By CHRISTIAN HUMBERT
Associated Press Writer

CHEIRY, Switzerland (AP) — At least 48 people, including children, were found dead this morning after fires destroyed a farm and three chalets in an apparent mass suicide by members of a religious sect, police said.

Twenty-three bodies, many of them with gunshot wounds and plastic bags over their heads, were found at a farm in Cheiry in the canton of Fribourg, about 45 miles northeast of Geneva, police said.

Seventeen more were found in three chalets in a ski area at Les Granges in Valais canton, about 45 miles southeast of Geneva.

All of the victims at the farm were adults, and French, Swiss and Canadian passports were found among the bodies, said Albert Torche, a neighbor. He told The Associated Press the farm was bought about three years ago by a group that said it wanted to do biological research.

Police said they were assuming the deaths were a mass suicide by a religious sect.

Andre Piller, an investigating judge in Cheiry, said the people at the farm were involved with a group called the Cross and Rose, but did not provide details. Police said they believed there was a direct connection between the deaths at the farm and those at the chalets.

It was unclear if the group was related to the Rosicrucians, a 17th-century secret society with beliefs in occult lore and power, whose symbols include the rose and the cross.

The deaths followed by just hours a fatal fire that destroyed a duplex in Quebec, Canada, owned by the leader of another religious group that advocates stockpiling weapons to

prepare for the end of the world. Two bodies were found in the wreckage.

The group leader, Luc Jouret, described by police as founder of the Order of the Solar Temple, is believed to have fled to Switzerland. A Dr. Luc Jouret is listed in the telephone directory for Salvan, a village near the Valais chalets, but calls by The Associated Press to the number were unanswered.

Valais police said they found 15 bodies at one chalet and two at another. Later in the morning, they found eight more bodies in a third chalet, and said it was possible they would find more.

Officers said they were assuming a connection with the fire at Cheiry because cars parked outside the chalets had Fribourg license plates.

Children were among the victims

at the chalets, Valais police spokesman Carlo Kuonen told Swiss radio. He said the identities of the victims at the chalets were not known, but they could include foreigners.

There was no sign of force at the chalets, Kuonen said. "Apparently they were somehow put to sleep," he said.

The bodies of children were found lying next to each other, he said. Some couples were lying in beds.

At the Cheiry farm, a man was found in the farmhouse with a bullet wound to the head, and 21 other people were found in a basement under the barn, where they appear to have suffocated themselves with plastic bags, said Piller, the judge.

He said a 23rd body was found in another building.

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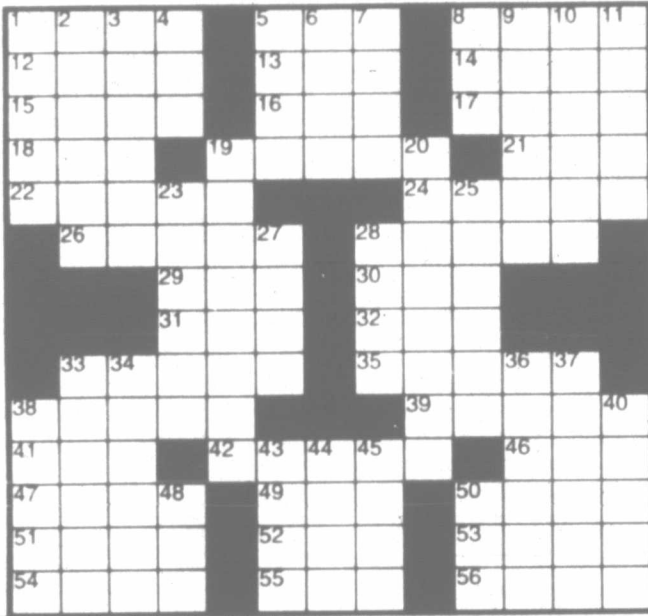
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The Pampa News

NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rock star
 - 5 Marsh
 - 8 By the time
 - 10 English streetcar
 - 13 Long
 - 14 — China
 - 15 Family member
 - 16 Deteriorate
 - 17 Character in Othello
 - 18 Imitate
 - 19 Sat for a portrait
 - 21 Humorist
 - 22 Affirmations
 - 24 Walks unsteadily
 - 26 Strip of leather
 - 28 Actor — Patinkin
 - 29 Roman 1,051
 - 30 Female sheep
 - 31 Follower of (suff.)
 - 32 Title of
- DOWN**
- 1 To whom
 - 2 Wine fruits
 - 3 Most
 - 4 Entertainer
 - 5 Gambling game
 - 6 Selves
 - 7 Observe
 - 8 Roman 3
 - 9 Chewed on
 - 10 Skittishly
 - 11 Beeps
 - 19 Zitherlike instrument
 - 20 Prints
 - 23 Valuable fur
 - 25 Vigor
 - 27 Dock
 - 28 Tableland
 - 33 Age
 - 34 Type of
 - 36 Coin
 - 37 Sleeping-sickness
 - 38 Tin, e.g.
 - 40 Irish poet
 - 43 Cannonballs (sl.)
 - 44 — do-well
 - 45 Small vehicle
 - 48 Anglo-Saxon letter
 - 50 Everything



Answer to Previous Puzzle

PECK PEGS RBI
OMRI OMTI YUL
PTED PUNY ARI
STA RES GENRE
MOOS RIN
TESLA FEATURE
OBOE PENN ROY
ROD PLEA OGLE
ONASSIS TWEED
AVE PEEN
YELIC RON CEE
ROE HOOK PISA
OAT TUBE SETS
TINY COED TISEE

WALNUT COVE



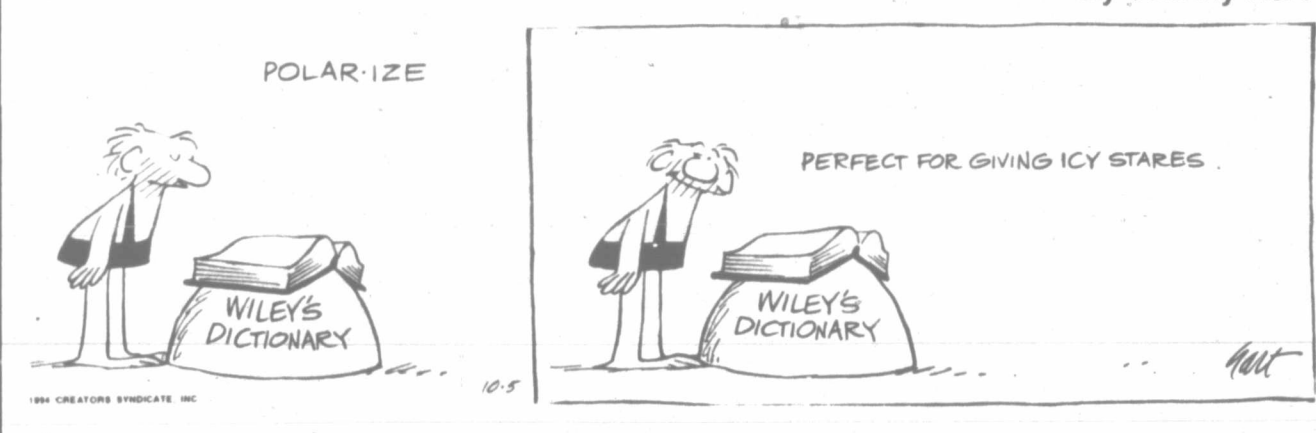
ARLO & JANIS



EEK & MEEK



B.C.



Astro-Graph

By Bernice Bède Osol

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) There aren't any free rides being offered today, but that doesn't mean your powers of acquisition are restricted. Hard work is the ticket to gains and success. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2 to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Involvements with old friends can give you a lift today in ways only you can truly appreciate. What occurs should be just what the doctor ordered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Successful end results are very probable today, provided you are persistent and tenacious. Early setbacks can be reversed and changed into victories.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Desirable results are likely today, even when working on new endeavors. It'll seem like each time you need expert guidance, help will be at your disposal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Interesting trends are presently stirring and it looks as though you will finally be properly acknowledged and compensated for something you've earned the hard way.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Seeing life for what it really is can be a big help to you today. You'll not be intimidated or take things too seriously, yet you'll be able to be practical when necessary.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you're in need of someone to confide in today, seek out an old trusted friend with whom you've exchanged confidences previously. You must be able to open up without fear or restriction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Because you'll be cooperative and make hard concessions, so will persons with whom you deal today. You're the one who'll write the script they'll follow.

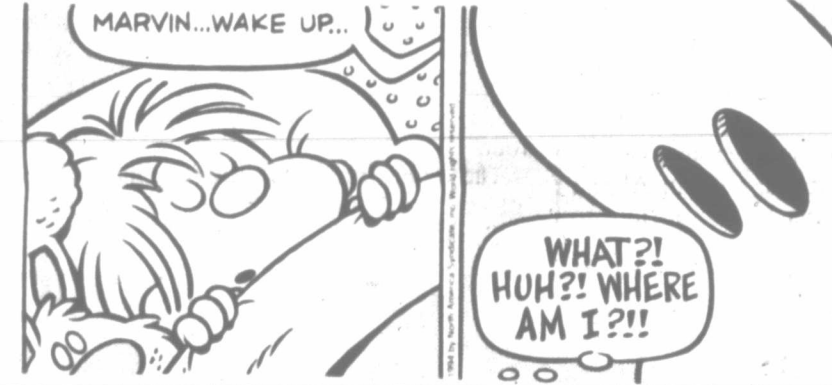
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Unity of purpose and total dedication to your objectives today could be the reasons you'll accomplish things that others find impossible to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You're not likely to feel comfortable and effective today around individuals whose philosophy and standards don't match your own. However, where there is parity, outstanding results are possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) A longstanding personal matter may finally be put to rest today. It should be concluded in your favor with a valuable lesson as a bonus.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you ask for advice today, you might have to be prepared to swallow some bittersweet counsel. Heed it, however, because the medicine will make you well.

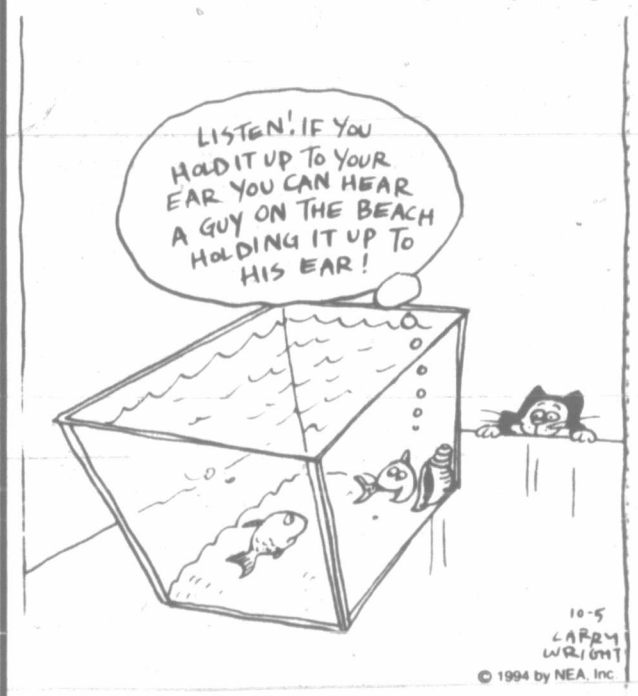
MARVIN



MARMADUKE



KIT N' CARLYLE



ALLEY OOP



BEATTIE BLVD.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



Mallard Fillmore



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



PEANUTS



GARFIELD



By Tom Armstrong

By Brad Anderson

By Larry Wright

By Dave Graue

By Bruce Beattie

By Bill Keane

By Bruce Tinsley

By Bill Watterson

By Art and Chip Sansom

By Bob Thaves

By Charles M. Schulz

By Jim Davis

WHO officials: India's plague will end soon

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — For the first time in two weeks, no deaths were reported Tuesday in India's plague, and the government and the World Health Organization said the epidemic will soon end.

"The country will be free from the plague problem by mid-October," Health Secretary M.S. Dayal said. He said nearly 95 percent of people seeing doctors for plague symptoms have tested negative.

For the first time the World Health Organization agreed with the government's prognosis.

Still, people continued to go to hospitals in New Delhi with high fevers, coughs and chest congestion, the early symptoms of pneumonic plague, but also of many other illnesses. Indian hospitals were checking more than 4,000 people.

India's government has been saying for days that the plague is almost over. WHO officials were not ready to agree until Tuesday, the first day in two weeks no deaths were reported from the disease.

"The pneumonic plague will almost be nil by mid-October," said Dr. Nayrayan Keshary Shah, WHO's representative to India.

But he cautioned that it will take longer to stop the bubonic plague, a less fatal but more stubborn disease that has been spreading through the western state of Maharashtra since August. No deaths have been reported.

Pneumonic plague has killed 61 people since it broke out Sept. 20 in the western town of Surat, where the two latest victims died Monday. Hundreds of thousands of people fled Surat, spreading the plague to many other regions.

Officials throughout India have been handing out antibiotics that cure the pneumonic plague, spraying poison to kill rats and fleas that transmit the disease, searching slums for people with plague symptoms, and cleaning up many garbage-strewn city streets.

Many other countries have closed their airports and seaports to planes and ships traveling to and from India. Infected people can spread the disease with a sneeze or a cough.

In the capital, where the pneumonic plague has killed four people, the government reopened public schools Tuesday. Classes had been suspended Thursday after the first cases hit New Delhi.

Thousands of children walked to school with surgical masks over their faces, but many parents kept their kids home in protest. Most private schools, which do not depend on government funding, defied the order and remained closed.

"The capital's children have been manipulated like pawns by the Delhi government," the *Indian Express* newspaper said in a front-page commentary Tuesday.

Like other papers, it criticized the city for failing to meet with medical experts, parents, teachers or federal officials before making the decision.

Many parents also wondered how the government could reopen schools while continuing to keep cinemas closed and to tell people to avoid traveling in buses.

Body identified as missing girl

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A body found in a shallow Arkansas grave was positively identified Tuesday as a 16-year-old girl who was abducted from her Texas apartment while making a panicked 911 call more than a week ago.

The state Crime Laboratory said the body recovered from a 4-foot-deep grave in dense woods Sunday was that of Lisa Rene of Arlington.

An autopsy revealed that Miss Rene "died of asphyxia due to obstruction of the airways and blunt force trauma," said Dr. Frank J. Peretti, associate medical examiner for the crime lab.

Miss Rene was abducted from her home Sept. 24 while calling emergency operators. Her screams are heard on a tape of the call, as well as male voices.

The body was found in a wildlife preserve in Pine Bluff, about 40 miles south of Little Rock.

A two-line statement from the medical examiner's office did not say when the girl died or how long she may have been in the grave before being discovered. No one was available to comment further, employees at the office said.

Meanwhile, one of three suspects in her abduction was extradited to Arlington. An Arlington police official who visited Arkansas in connection with the case Monday picked up Demetrius Hall, 19, of El Dorado, on the officer's way back to Texas, officials said.

The extradition of the other two men was pending.

The three suspects — Hall, his brother, Orlando Hall, 23, and Steven Beckley, 22, of Irving, Texas — are being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond on a charge of aggravated kidnapping.

Espy says farm bill a priority in final months

By ROBERT GREENE
AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy pledged Tuesday to spend his last three months in office preparing a major farm bill, although a widening probe into his conduct promises to be a distraction.

A day after announcing his resignation, Espy was in Kansas City, Mo., promoting a more ethnically diverse Department of Agriculture and speaking to the Kansas City Board of Trade about government policy.

As Congress was poised to finish work on bills revamping disaster assistance to farmers and reorganizing the Agriculture Department, some farm groups and lawmakers questioned what the loss of Espy will mean for agriculture.

"Mike Espy was a very able secretary," said Don Lipton, director of information for the American Farm Bureau Federation. "He tackled a wide variety of issues. He had credibility in the ag community and had credibility, at least before he got into this mess, with his colleagues on the Hill."

Espy is leaving before meeting the ultimate test: shaping a farm bill that maps out government policy on everything from conservation to price supports for the next five years.

Until he leaves office Dec. 31, Espy must look over his shoulder at the squad of attorneys and six FBI agents assembled by Donald C. Smaltz, the Los Angeles lawyer appointed by a three-judge panel to investigate him.

"We're going through a very critical period," said Sen. Thomas A. Daschle, D-S.D., one of Espy's most loyal backers in the Senate. "Mike has been a very aggressive and successful secretary, and this transition will have some effect on our momentum."

Daschle and Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., the top Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, say Espy can use his last few months to start the work of

merging departmental agencies and closing field offices.

"A great deal ought to be done swiftly," Lugar said. Smaltz, the independent counsel, is looking into gifts Espy received from individuals and firms doing business with the department. Since the investigation originated with the department's Office of Inspector General in March, questions have also been raised about Espy's personal use of official travel and vehicles.

Espy, 40, has denied wrongdoing, but told departmental employees in Kansas City: "In politics, perception is reality. ... I have to leave."

The latest tangle involves a \$1,200 scholarship his companion, Patricia Dempsey, received from a foundation created by Tyson Foods Inc., the Arkansas poultry empire with close ties to President Clinton.

A senior administration official indicated Monday that while no law may have been broken, the incident looked like a breach of ethical standards.

Dempsey's attorney, Jim Cole, refused to comment about the matter except to say Espy had nothing to do with the scholarship and Dempsey appears to face no legal difficulties herself.

"She is her own individual person," he said. Dempsey has accompanied Espy on several trips, including one in May 1993 when Espy spent the night at a Tyson-owned facility and flew back to Washington on a Tyson jet.

She also accompanied him to a football game with tickets provided by Tyson. Espy has not repaid her portion of the travel and lodging expenses.

Even if Espy, or his deputies, can manage the next three months, the choice of a successor will be critical, say lawmakers and interest groups.

Critics complain that agriculture has been low on Clinton's list of priorities. But White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta is a former member of the House Agriculture Committee and could make a difference.

Congress reaches tentative compromise on desert plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposal to create 6.6 million acres of wilderness and federal parkland in the California desert overcame a key hurdle in Congress on Tuesday with a tentative compromise aimed at getting final approval.

But final passage was not yet assured as Congress neared adjournment and small groups of lawmakers in both the House and Senate appeared intent on slowing down, if not blocking, the legislation.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who had made the California desert issue a top legislative priority, said "there is a package together" ready for final action by House and Senate negotiators.

A House-Senate conference was expected to approve that package later Tuesday, opening the way for floor consideration by both chambers later in the week. If the bill passes Congress, it likely will be on Friday, expected to be the final day of the congressional session, aides said.

The legislation would create the biggest wilderness area in the country outside Alaska, covering more than 6.6 million acres of newly protected land in the southeastern California desert. It calls for creation of two national parks and a park "preserve" as well as scattered areas of protected wilderness totaling 3.75 million acres.

But California lawmakers from the desert region have strongly opposed the measure, arguing that it deprives people living there of their rightful use of the land.

In an expression of their frustration, those lawmakers forced a string of 10 procedural votes Tuesday lasting four hours — a rare and time-consuming tactic — before agreeing to send the bill to the conference with the Senate.

Procedural delays still could sidetrack the legislation in the Senate.

The bill, which cleared both the Senate and House by wide margins earlier in the year, may be one of the few environmental bills to be approved in the two years of the 103rd Congress.

Environmentalists have fought for years to get protection for the desert area, arguing that commercial activities and creeping urbanization is threatening the land and rare animal and plant species.

Feinstein has had to make concessions. She abandoned her hope of making the 1.5 million-acre East Mojave region the nation's 53rd national park. Instead, she agreed to allow hunting in the East Mojave and declare it a "preserve" under the U.S. Park Service's jurisdiction. And she agreed to some land-rights provisions for landowners within the park and wilderness areas.

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