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Pampa

Vol. 91 No. 97 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1

County to get \$423,283 in tobacco deal

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

With an agreement finally signed between the tobacco industry and the State of Texas, Gray County is in line for \$423,283.

The attorney general's office said the money is to be distributed to Texas counties and hospital districts for costs associated with indigent health care.

The settlement agreement is in the hands of U.S. District Court in Texarkana which will distribute it 30 days after final approval.

Every county and hospital district in Texas is eligible for a part of the settlement proceeds based on population. An initial payment of nearly \$400 million will be deposited with a total of \$1.279 billion to be paid this year.

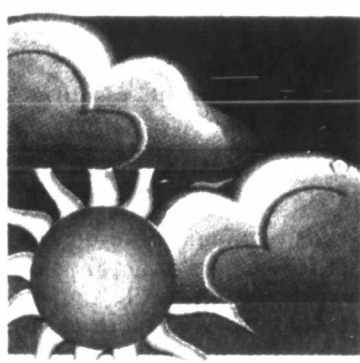
Every county and hospital district in Texas is eligible for a part of the settlement proceeds based on population. An initial payment of nearly \$400 million will be deposited with a total of \$1.279 billion to be paid this year.

The total amount of the settlement was

raised another \$2.275 billion above the original pact due to a provision in the original settlement that allows enhancement of the Texas deal if other states obtain more favorable terms. Minnesota recently negotiated a more favorable settlement.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet said he has not received notice whether the money must be used exclusively for indigent care or whether it will be seen as payment for past money expended for the care and could therefore be placed in the general fund and used on other county expenses.

The rest of the money that is to be paid to the state is to be put in a trust fund and the interest distributed to the counties. The amount of the payout will depend on interest rates and a county's population, according to the attorney general's office.



High today mid 90s
Low tonight 68
For weather details see
Page 2.

PAMPA — Commissioner of Agriculture Rick Perry, the Republican candidate for Lt. Governor will speak tomorrow at the Gray County Courthouse at 4:15 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend.

PAMPA — A 33-year-old Pampa man was sentenced today to four months in the Gray County jail on assault charges.

Joe Reyes Solis pled guilty in 31st District Court today to assault charges in connection with a fight at a Halloween party last fall.

Authorities said today the charges stem from a fight on Oct. 16, 1997, at a party in Pampa.

Judge M. Kent Sims sentenced Solis to 120 days in Gray County jail.

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$7 million.

The ticket was sold in Irving.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 10, 13, 15, 19, 27 and 43.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$4 million.

- Maggie Rush, 81, homemaker.
- Ione Pate Cartee, 93, retired U.S. government employee.
- Herman Wisdom Oldham, 75, retired farmer.
- Randy Sumner, 80, retired Sante Fe Railroad employee.

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A little quality time...



Colten Kates (left) and Kade Johnson get a helping hand on Pampa swings from "grandpa" Jim Hash during a visit from Canadian to attend a family gathering here.

(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Two drown in Lake Greenbelt

Donley County authorities were awaiting the results of autopsies today in the unrelated drownings at Lake Greenbelt of two Amarillo men.

Richard Clayton Adams, 17, drowned about 9 p.m. Saturday while swimming in the lake. Curtis Fields, Jr., 58, drowned Saturday night while fishing from shore.

Lake Patrol Officer Faylon Watson said Adams and three or four friends were swimming about 9 p.m. Saturday some 40 yards off shore when Adams was apparently caught in an undercurrent. Adams body was recovered shortly after 2 a.m. Sunday.

Officers said the water was between 10 and 15 feet deep where Adams body was found.

Fields was reported missing by his wife early Sunday morning.

Richard Clayton Adams, 17, and Curtis Fields Jr., 58, drowned in separate incidents.

officials said.

Watson said the couple had come to the lake to fish. Fields was fishing from a chair Saturday night on shore when his wife went to sleep in the couple's car. She told officers that when she awoke about 6 a.m. Sunday, he was gone.

Authorities recovered Fields' body about 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Fields said it was about 30 feet from the chair on the shore in shallow water. Autopsies are planned for both men, Watson said.

National Night Out Pampa event, Aug. 4

On Tuesday, Aug. 4, neighborhoods throughout Pampa are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 15th Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime/drug prevention event.

National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Pampa Police Department and local neighborhood crime watch groups, will involve over 9,250 communities from all 50 states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, over 30.5 million people are expected to participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime" on August 4th.

National Night Out is designed to (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support and participation in local anticrime efforts; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations; and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Residents in neighborhoods throughout Pampa from 7 to 10 p.m. are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. Many neighborhoods throughout the nation and Pampa will be hosting a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and anticrime and drug rallies.

National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, "National Night See NATIONAL, Page 2"

Hearing is today in brutal beating

A 32-year-old Pampa man charged with aggravated assault in the brutal beating of a convenience store clerk last fall was expected to be in court today as his attorney argues pretrial motions before Judge M. Kent Sims.

Dewayne Gordon "Dax" Hickman is charged with aggravated assault in the beating of a 46-year-old clerk at the Minute Mart early on the morning of Oct. 21, 1997.

"This was a particularly brutal attack," said Pampa Police Chief Charlie Morris.

Officers claim Hickman was inside the Minute Mart at 1106 Alcock when the clerk came to open the store about 4 a.m., Oct. 21, 1997. Law enforcement officials said she came to the store earlier than usual and apparently surprised a would-be burglar. Hickman is accused of attacking the woman and beating her. She suffered two broken arms. Authorities said it took 80 stitches to close gashes in her head and body.

"It was a heinous crime," said Pampa Police Sgt. Terry Young.

Hickman was arrested without incident at his home, 2116 Coffey, on Oct. 25, 1997. He was held on \$250,000 bond on the assault charge and without bond for parole violations.

Hickman's attorney, Harold Comer, filed pretrial motions in 31st District Court including motions for a speedy trial, to suppress evidence, to voir dire character witnesses and expert witnesses, to suppress extraneous transactions, to suppress exculpatory and mitigating evidence.

See HEARING, Page 2

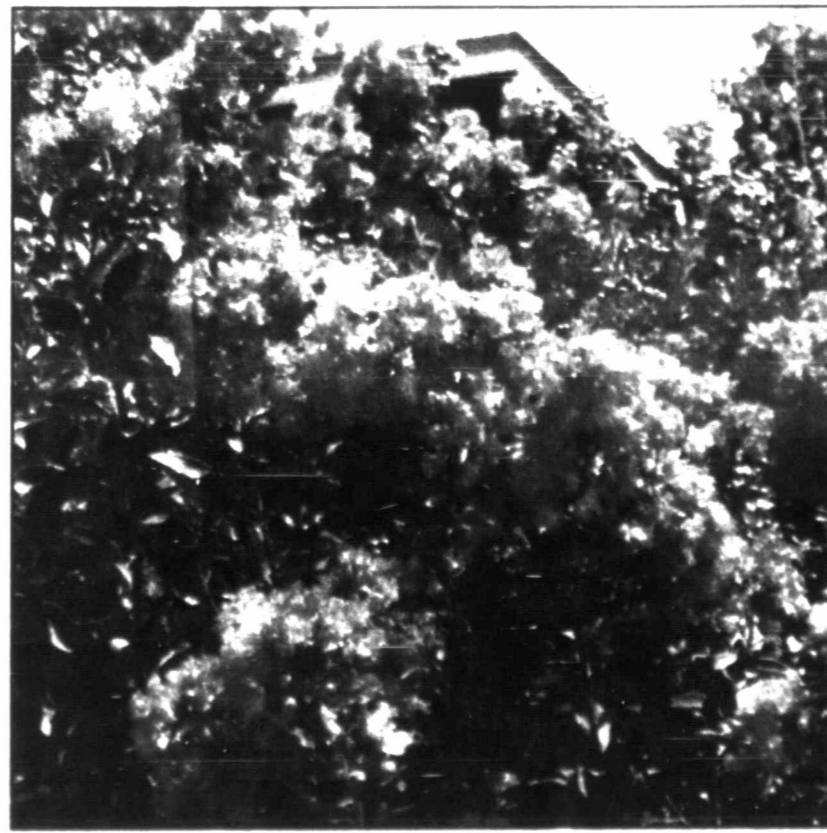
Man gets 125 days for drugs

A 39-year old Pampa man is free after being sentenced to time served in a drug possession case.

Stephen Lee Spencer, free on \$5,000 bond, was sentenced to 125 days in Gray County jail, equal to the time he has served awaiting trial.

Spencer, charged with possession of a controlled substance, was stopped Aug. 2, 1997, on a traffic violation while riding his motorcycle in Pampa. Officers said after transporting him to jail, they found a small amount of methamphetamine in the squad car in which he was riding.

Judge M. Kent Sims sentenced Spencer in 31st District Court this morning.



Bright pink crepe myrtle blooms grace the garden of Doug Smith, 726 Lefors.

(Pampa News photo by Danny Cowan)

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Summer Arts Program



Emily Elliott (left) and Girven Kissell (right) discuss technical aspects of a manual 35mm camera with James Hinkley, education director of the Carson County Square House Museum. The museum recently held a Summer Arts Program in which children could attend photography, woodworking, leather crafting, pottery or china painting.

(photo by Judy Elliott)

Older women staying independent longer

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The share of elderly Americans, especially women, continuing to live independently after losing their spouse has increased sharply.

Some 70 percent of elderly widows lived by themselves in 1997, up from 56 percent in 1970, the Census Bureau reported today.

During the same period, the share of widowers living by themselves increased from 53 percent to 60 percent, Census statistician Terry Lugailla said.

Overall, 46.3 percent of American women over age 65 were widows, down from 54.4 percent in 1970. That change occurred as men began living longer and as more couples divorced, Lugailla noted.

In 1970, just 2.3 percent of elderly women were divorced; that figure now is 7.4 percent. The share of elderly women still living with their husbands has risen from 34 percent to 40 percent.

The changes were disclosed in the Census Bureau's annual update of Americans' "Marital Status and Living Arrangements."

The analysis also found that, for the first time, the number of unmarried couples in America has topped 4 million. The bureau estimated there were 4,130,000 unwed couples as of March 1997, up from 3,958,000 a year earlier.

As young people choose to delay marriage, or to try life as a couple before making the formal commitment, this group has been growing steadily in recent years.

In 1960, there were fewer than a half-million such couples. The total topped 1 million in 1978, passed 2 million in 1986 and reached 3 million in 1991.

Of the unwed couples, 1,470,000, or about 36 percent, had a child under age 15.

As people delay marriage, the average age when

they finally decide to tie the knot is increasing.

As of last year, it reached 25 years for women marrying for the first time, up from 24.8 a year earlier. Women's age at first marriage had averaged 24.5 for several years.

For men, the average age at first marriage was 26.8, down from 27.1 a year earlier. That figure also has been rising gradually in recent years.

On the other hand, about 109.2 million adults (55.9 percent of all people age 18 and over) were married and living with their spouse in 1997.

Also for the first time, the report found more than 3 million children under age 18 living with their fathers.

About 85 percent of children with a single parent lived with their mother — 16,740,000 in 1997, down from 16,993,000 the year before. The total living with their father climbed from 2,750,000 to 3,059,000.

Of those living with their mothers, 40 percent resided with mothers who had never married, 35 percent with divorced moms, 22 percent with separated mothers and the rest with widowed mothers. Single fathers caring for children were more likely to be divorced, 45 percent; followed by never married, 31 percent; separated, 19 percent; and widowed, 4 percent.

The Census study also found:

— There were 1,264,000 interracial married couples in the country. Of the total, 311,000 were black-white couples. The majority, 896,000, were whites married to someone of a race other than blacks, such as American Indians or Asians. There were 57,000 black-other couples.

— Approximately 19.3 million adults, about 10 percent of the adult population, were divorced.

— Nearly 14 million people (34.5 percent) between 25 and 34 years old had never been married. More than half (54.2 percent) of the blacks in this age group had never married.

Report: Whites off welfare quicker

NEW YORK (AP) — Whites are leaving the welfare system faster than blacks or Hispanics, resulting in the highest minority percentage on record among welfare recipients, according to today's New York Times.

Now, blacks outnumber whites on welfare. The Times also said the Hispanic share of the rolls is growing the fastest, and black and Hispanic recipients combined outnumber whites by about 2-to-1.

In New York City, which has a caseload second only to the state of California, the number of whites on welfare has dropped 57 percent since March 1995, compared with a 30 percent decline for blacks. The Hispanic decline was just 7 percent.

The growing minority domination of the rolls is a new, little-noticed and as yet largely unexplained phenomenon, the newspaper said. Most officials reacted with surprise when presented

with the figures, which were compiled in a New York Times analysis of recent state data prepared by the Census Bureau.

One reason why whites may be leaving faster is because their economic situations could be less grave than blacks or Hispanics. Other explanations include possible job and housing discrimination, more children born to minority recipients and less education in minority communities.

Woman dies when pickup drives through window of restaurant

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A woman died when a man drove his pickup truck through the window of a restaurant and then drove away, police say.

Restaurant owner Leonel Ochoa said his wife, Argelina, 52, was giving a customer change when the truck drove through the glass front of the Jalisco Restaurant on Sunday afternoon.

R.L. Wangler, a detective with the traffic investigation unit of

Fort Worth police said the woman was pronounced dead at a local hospital about an hour after the accident.

The vehicle drove through the restaurant's parking lot and slammed into the storefront, Wangler said. Police said they don't know how much structural damage was done to the building.

The driver backed the vehicle out of the restaurant and drove

away before witnesses could obtain a license plate number or a good description of the vehicle.

"Most of the people that were witnesses were in the business, so they didn't have time to get a license plate," Wangler said. "The first thing they saw was the truck coming through the storefront."

The family has operated the restaurant for about three years.

Slain officers will lie in state in rotunda

By JONATHAN D. SALANT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal lawmakers remembered the two police officers shot to death protecting them from a gunman. "They died saving lives, they died doing their duty," said Rep. Tom DeLay, whose office was a site of the gunfight Friday.

"It was a death in the family," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said following moment of silence in the chamber.

The House, meanwhile, began work on a resolution to formally allow the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a memorial service for the slain officers, to install plaques to the two men in the area where they were shot, and to pay for their funeral expenses.

Both chambers also are scheduled to consider another resolution honoring the two officers, Jacob Chestnut, 58, and John Gibson, 42.

"These men died defending the Capitol of the United States of America, the symbol of freedom across this world," DeLay continued, his voice halting and hoarse.

In Albuquerque, N.M., Clinton opened a national Social Security forum this morning with a moment of silent prayer for the two officers and their families.

The first resolution authorizes the Rotunda ceremony for the two men, an honor usually reserved for president and national heroes. Speakers at the memorial ceremony will include Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Lott. The officers will lie in the Rotunda from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Gibson will be buried Thursday after a funeral in suburban Lake Ridge, Va. A day later, Chestnut, a 20-year Air Force veteran, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The suspect in the shootings, Russell E. Weston Jr., 41, of Rimini, Mont., remained in serious condition at D.C. General Hospital this morning with bullet wounds to the chest, arms, thigh and buttocks.

His parents, Russell Weston Sr. and Arbah Jo Weston, said today they hadn't spoken to their son since the shooting. "I feel so bad about it," he said on NBC, speaking from his home in Valmeyer, Ill. "I feel so bad for the people that he killed. I apologize to the nation."

Weston, who authorities said has a history of mental illness, was to have a hearing in absentia today in U.S. District Court on charges of killing a federal law enforcement officer. The case was being transferred from a District of Columbia court where papers had been filed Saturday charging him in the deaths of the two 18-year veterans of the Capitol force.

The shooting suspect visited CIA headquarters on July 29, 1996, sat with a CIA security officer and began to ramble on at length, getting into "some pretty bizarre stuff," according to a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His parents, Russell Weston Sr. and Arbah Jo Weston, said today they hadn't spoken to their son since the shooting. "I feel so bad about it," he said on NBC, speaking from his home in Valmeyer, Ill. "I feel so bad for the people that he killed. I apologize to the nation."

Weston claimed to have been cloned at birth; said that President Clinton had been cloned at birth; and claimed Clinton may have played a role in the Kennedy assassination out of anger at Kennedy "for stealing his (Clinton's) girlfriend, Marilyn Monroe."

A logbook or diary of Weston's and a voluminous amount of his papers were recovered by agents who searched his truck and home, according to law enforcement officials who requested anonymity. They declined to describe the writings in any detail but there was an indication they revealed some instability. One law enforcement official said prosecutors did not want the writings discussed because they went to Weston's state of mind and might aid defense attorneys.

As the flags over the Capitol remained at half-staff, congressional staff and employees, returned the Hill for the first time since the shootings. "We're beginning to move back in, and attempting to create an ongoing, ordinary office atmosphere," House Oversight Committee Chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif., said on NBC's "Today."

Security was heightened, with additional police officers stationed on the Capitol grounds, at entrances to the building and throughout its corridors. The area where the killings occurred was off-limits to the public, a yellow rope draped across the entire center portion of the building's famous east front, including the entrance that the gunman used.

The shootings did not scare tourists away from the Capitol, which remained open all weekend to visitors as usual. Outside, the pile of flowers left by passers-by in memory of the two men grew steadily. This morning, Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., was part of a group that somberly placed flowers at the site and then stood in silence for a few moments.

The deaths of Chestnut and Gibson have given new impetus to efforts to improve security on the Capitol grounds, which have been open to the public even as access to other federal buildings grew tighter in recent years.

One plan given new impetus is for construction of a visitors' center, possibly underground, to serve as a way station for tourists as well as provide for greater security because visitors would be screened for weapons before they entered the Capitol building.

Technology stocks down sharply in trading today

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology shares fell sharply today, extending a four-session plunge from record terrain spurred by last week's rash of profit warnings.

At noon on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 27.29 at 8,910.07, recovering from an early 81-point drop that put the blue-chip barometer nearly 500 points below the record close of 9,337.97 on July 17.

The Dow lost slightly more than 400 points last week, a slide that was barely interrupted by Friday's 4-point gain.

Most broader indexes also trimmed their early losses, but the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index remained sharply lower, falling 36.03 to 1,894.96.

It would be the fifth straight losing session for the technology-heavy measure, which before that

had closed at record highs for nine straight sessions, pushing above 2,000 for the first time.

Stocks were pressured at the open by a troubling day overseas, where the Japanese yen slid against the dollar and Tokyo's Nikkei Stock Average fell 2.6 percent.

Japanese traders cited concerns that outgoing Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's likely replacement, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi, is ill-suited to push through tough reforms needed to reverse the sagging economy.

Boeing, one of the big names that stepped forward last week with discouraging earnings news — including a mention of Asia's continuing negative impact — was down 1 11/16 at 38 5/8 as one of the Dow's biggest decliners, along with IBM, down 1 1/2 at

122 3/4.

Among leading Nasdaq technology names, Dell Computer was down 1 15/16 102 15/16, Microsoft was down 1 3/4 at 112 1/16, and Cisco Systems was down 2 1/8 at 95 5/8.

Declining issues outnumbered advances by nearly a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 271.38 million shares, down from Friday's early pace.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 6.52 at 1,134.28, the NYSE composite index was down 3.97 at 572.35, and the American Stock Exchange composite index was down 7.47 at 711.19.

Overseas, Frankfurt's DAX index fell 2.2 percent and London's FT-SE 100 fell 1.0 percent.

King Hussein has chemotherapy

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — King Hussein has undergone chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic, where he is being tested for lymphatic cancer.

The king's brother, Crown Prince Hassan, said the monarch may leave the hospital in Rochester, Minn., after initial treatment but would remain in Minnesota to rest.

"We hope to hear the good results of the first stage of treat-

ment in the coming two days, and the king will possibly leave the hospital in the coming few days," Hassan told Jordanian soldiers Sunday. His remarks were published by Amman newspa-

pers today. Hussein, 62, disclosed the possibility of lymphoma in a letter to his brother Hassan that was read on Jordanian television last week.

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This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days, by The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa, Tx. 79065. Periodicals postage paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066-2198.

Publisher: L.W. McCall
 Ass. Publisher-Editor: Kate B. Dickson
 Advertising Director: Rick Clark
 Office Manager: Helena McKnight
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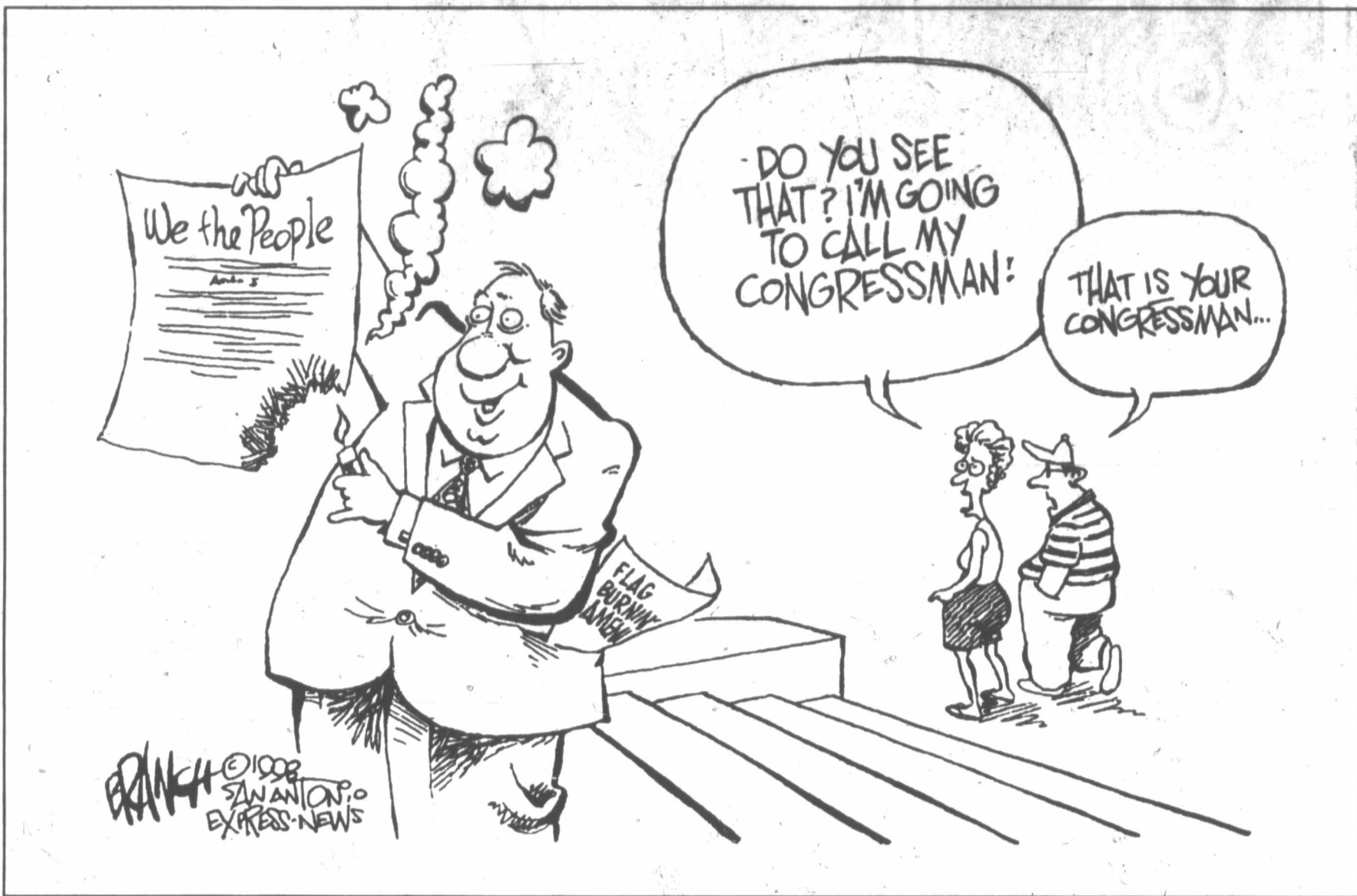
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Opinion

Disabilities Act can severely limit freedom

A recent Supreme Court decision is being hailed as a victory for people who are infected by the HIV virus that causes AIDS. But the 5-4 decision, stating that HIV is a disability covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act, is another in an endless string of federal "civil rights" expansions that undermine our individual freedoms and personal choices.

When the ADA was being debated in Congress, supporters emphasized it was limited in scope, and was needed mainly to assure access to public facilities by handicapped people. As often happens with broad federal legislation, the bureaucrats and the courts expanded it incrementally to go far beyond what its authors may have intended.

In its decision, the court ruled that HIV is protected under the ADA, which defines a disability as something that "substantially limits ... major life activities." The woman who brought suit under the act claimed that she has foregone child-bearing because of her disease, which the court agreed is a limitation on a major life activity.

The case arose in 1994 when a Maine dentist, Randon Bragdon, would not treat Sidney Abbott because of her infection. Abbott's suit eventually made it to the nation's high court, which ruled: "HIV infection must be regarded as a physiological disorder with a constant and detrimental effect on the infected person's hemic and lymphatic systems from the moment of infection. HIV infection satisfies the statutory and regulatory definition of a physical impairment during every stage of the disease."

Under this overly broad definition, virtually every affliction, disease or disorder could qualify for federal protection, from color blindness to obesity, from fear of heights to arthritis. The federal bureaucracy and courts will increasingly decide matters that should be left in the hands of free individuals.

In this case, a dentist decided he did not want to subject himself to the risk of infection by treating an HIV-positive patient. The majority agreed with the Centers for Disease Control, which called such a risk "so low as to be unquantifiable." Yet, in his dissent, Justice William Rehnquist pointed to many documented cases of health care workers who had been infected. And there have been cases where the AIDS virus was transmitted through dental procedures.

The question boils down to this: Who should make the safety determination, the state or the individual who could possibly become infected?

In a free society, citizens should not be coerced by the government to put their lives at risk, even if their concerns are deemed by the authorities to be negligible.

The court also ruled it was up to the appeals court to examine the issue of risk. "The disability act provides an exception under which a person with an infectious condition need not be treated if the condition 'poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others,' defined as a 'significant risk' that cannot be eliminated by appropriate procedures," The New York Times reported.

In other words, another panel of federal judges will determine what risks individual Americans must assume in order to be in compliance with federal disabilities law.

We're not arguing that Bragdon was right in his refusal to serve Abbott. But it was his decision to make. As disabilities law expands further from its original intent, expect courts and administrative agencies to increasingly determine what actions business owners, health-care workers and all of us must take.

Rather than celebrate, as liberal activists did following the court's ruling, Americans should wonder what "disability" the ADA will cover next. And they should ponder what free choices we will be forced to give up to keep the federal government satisfied.

—Odessa American

Senior-friendly tax laws

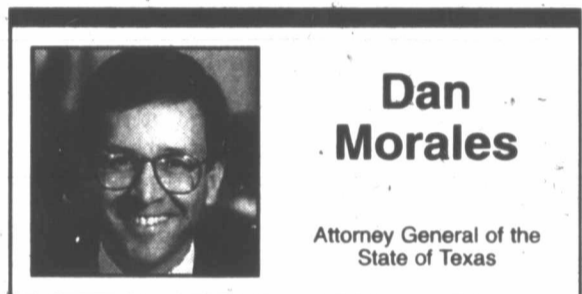
Texans are growing older. By the year 2020, the number of senior Texans will double to four million, up from nearly two million today. Nationwide, a majority of citizens over age 65 own their homes. Most senior citizens have worked hard to own their homes and keep them in good repair.

To many seniors who live in their own homes on reduced income, rising property taxes and appraisals pose a looming threat to their financial security. As attorney general, I fully support efforts to ensure that senior homeowners remain independent and secure in their own homes.

Fortunately, older Texas homeowners of all income levels can take advantage of several senior-friendly tax laws that reduce the taxes they pay on their homes.

Texas requires school districts to provide homestead exemptions for all property owners. Additionally, the law allows districts the option of enacting extra benefits for the elderly. All senior property owners, regardless of income level, are eligible for these extra tax benefits.

All Texas homeowners qualify for a \$15,000 homestead exemption from school taxes on a residence's homestead value. For example, when a home appraised at \$50,000 is granted a



\$15,000 exemption, the tax amount is for a house worth \$35,000. For owners who are age 65 or older, any taxing unit, including a school district, may offer an additional exemption of \$3,000 or more. Seniors should check with their local property appraisal district to learn if this extra benefit is offered on their county or school taxes.

When homeowners turn 65, the amount of their school property tax is frozen until they leave that home. School taxes on that home may decrease but cannot increase as long as that senior (or a surviving elderly spouse) owns and lives in the house. Of course, if the elderly owner makes a significant improvement to the home, such as adding a garage or a game room, then the tax assessment may rise.

Seniors (65 and older) may also take their school property tax ceiling with them should they move to a different home. The ceiling on the taxes paid on the new home would be the same percentage as that on the original home.

For example, if a senior pays \$100 in taxes on a home with assessed taxes of \$400, he or she has a tax ceiling at 25 percent of the assessed taxes. If that senior moves to another home with a tax assessment of \$1,000 then his or her tax would be 25 percent of the taxes assessed on the new home, or \$250.

In Texas, homeowners age 65 or older may defer or postpone paying taxes on their homes as long as they own and live in them. To postpone payments on delinquent property taxes, an over-65 homeowner must file a tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district.

A senior citizen may also suspend any lawsuit resulting from delinquent taxes by filing a deferral affidavit with the court. The deferral is for all delinquent property taxes levied on the home by any taxing unit (school district, county, etc.).

A tax deferral postpones, but does not cancel, paying a senior citizen's taxes. Once the senior no longer owns the home or lives in it, the past taxes, penalties and interest become due and payable.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 27, the 208th day of 1998. There are 157 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 27, 1953, the Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting.

On this date:

In 1694, the Bank of England received a royal charter as a commercial institution.

In 1789, Congress established the Department of Foreign Affairs, the forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1861, Union Gen. George B. McClellan was put in command of the Army of the Potomac.

In 1866, Cyrus W. Field finally succeeded, after two failures, in

laying the first underwater telegraph cable between North America and Europe.

In 1940, Bugs Bunny made his official debut in the Warner Bros. animated cartoon, "A Wild Hare."

In 1967, in the wake of urban rioting, President Johnson appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes. In Washington, black militant H. Rap Brown called the violence "as American as cherry pie."

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee voted 27-11 to recommend President Nixon's impeachment on a charge that he had personally engaged in a "course of conduct" designed to obstruct justice in the Watergate case.

In 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in

Washington by President Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam.

In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at the public Centennial Olympic Park, killing one person and injuring more than 100.

Ten years ago: U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar held separate peace talks with the foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran on a cease-fire in the eight-year-old Persian Gulf war.

Five years ago: IBM reported a record \$8.4 billion quarterly loss. Bombs exploded in Rome and Milan, killing at least five people. Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis died after collapsing on a Brandeis University basketball court during practice; he was 27.

One year ago: United Auto Workers approved a deal to end a six-day strike at a General Motors parts plant that forced four assembly plant shutdowns and threatened GM's entire North American production.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 76. Movie and drama critic Vincent Canby is 74. Actor Jerry Van Dyke is 67. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 59. Actor John Pleshette is 56. Singer Bobbie Gentry is 54. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 50. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 50. Singer Maureen McGovern is 49. Actress Janet Eilber is 47. Actress Roxanne Hart is 46. Rock musician Karl Mueller (Soul Asylum) is 35. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 31. Actor Julian McMahon is 30.

Americans have right to bear arms



The easiest way to resolve, in your own mind, the gun control debate is to take this little test.

1. Do you believe you have a right to live?
2. Do you believe your spouse and children have a right to live?
3. If someone is threatening to kill you and your family, do you think you have a right to defend yourself?

That's the objective, yes-or-no part of the quiz, and now here is one final essay question:

How will you defend yourself and your family if you are confronted by an armed intruder or intruders?

You could call 911 unless, as often happens these days, the intruders have taken the trouble to cut your telephone wires before they kick down your door. But if you did get the call off, you still have a problem: The intruders are there in your house and the police aren't.

The sad fact is that, because of logistics, police can't protect you. In more than 99 percent of the cases, by the time the police receive a call, and certainly by the time they arrive, the crime has already been committed.

The hard truth is that when you are confronted by a criminal, you're in the same situation today you would have been if you had lived alone on an isolated ranch on the American frontier. There's nobody at the dance but you and the criminal. You have to

fight. You win, you live; you lose, you die. Simple as that. There's no alternative unless you want to depend on your begging and on some thug's mercy.

But in serious encounters, by the time the cavalry gets there, there will be dead and wounded lying around. The question you have to answer is, Do you want to be among the dead or among the living?

Now you may suppose that you are a glib talker and that when some crack-crazed thug sticks a gun in your face, you can reason with him. That's a very far-fetched supposition. I'd bet on the thug.

Any honest street cop will tell you that the predators roaming around today are far more dangerous than even mob hit men of the past. The hit man would never kill without a reason. Today's thugs kill on a whim for no rational reason at all. And many of them will kill everyone there, including babies and children.

The neototalitarians, sometimes known as the gun control crowd, will repeat the big lie that a gun kept for self-protection is more likely to injure you or your family than a criminal. The flawed study that lie is based on was discredited years ago.

If you take a gun to a gunfight, you may not win; if you don't, you will surely lose. Credible studies by respected scholars with no bias show what common sense tells you — that thousands of Americans every day save themselves from criminal harm by using a firearm — most of the time without having to shoot.

To me there is no more outrageous insult or bigger example of stupidity than a government that is such a gross failure at preventing criminal armed attacks on the population to take the position that the answer is to disarm the future victims.

I take it as a given that any politician who proposes to deny honest people the means to defend their lives and the lives of their children is too evil or too stupid to tolerate in public office.

Some guy once wrote that a characteristic of Southerners is that they take things personally. I know that's true in my case. When I hear some politician talk gun control, I think, "You (expletive deleted), you're endangering my children."

You have a right to own a firearm. Don't let anyone take that right away from you.

Maybe you fancy yourself a tough guy who can disarm the thug and punch his lights out. I'd still bet on the criminal. I know several very tough Korean taekwon do masters, some of them former Korean central intelligence officers, and they all say, in a serious self-defense situation, use a gun.

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum
 Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
 Pampa Phone: 665-3552

State Sen. Teel Bivins
 Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994

U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry
 Washington Address: 412 Cannon House Office Building,
 Washington, D.C. 20515, phone: (202) 225-3706

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
 Washington Address: 283 Russell Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C. 20510, phone: (202) 224-5922

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm
 Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building,
 Washington, D.C. 20510, phone: (202) 224-2934

Texas Gov. George W. Bush
 P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711.
 Constituent Hotline: 1-800-843-5789

Mother gets life term in murder of daughter's ex-boyfriend

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — A Brownsville woman was sentenced to life in prison today for arranging the murder of a teen-age boy who had jilted her daughter.

Dora Cisneros had received the same sentence four years ago for the 1993 death of 18-year-old Joey Fischer, but she was released in 1996 when her conviction was overturned on appeal.

This morning, Joey's family said a wrong had finally been made right.

"We all think that Joey finally got his justice," said Vernon Nelson, Joey's stepfather. The victim's mother, Corinne Nelson, burst into tears and embraced her family after the sentencing.

"I feel relieved that justice was served," she said. "I hope that it will prevail."

Mrs. Cisneros, 60, was convicted in May on federal charges of participating in a murder-for-hire scheme that involved interstate communication and transportation facilities, specifically telephone calls and travel from Mexico.

Under federal sentencing guidelines, she will not be eligible for parole. In addition to the life sentence, U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela fined Mrs. Cisneros \$25,000.

Before handing down the sentence, Vela asked Mrs. Cisneros whether she had anything to say.

"All of us who are acquainted with you and all of us from my community have to ask — why?" Vela said. Mrs. Cisneros, dressed in green prison garb, declined to respond.

Fischer was shot to death March 3, 1993, as he washed his car before school at his family's home outside of Brownsville. He had broken up with Mrs. Cisneros' youngest daughter, Cristina, about 10 months before.

Mrs. Cisneros' first trial in 1994 drew national attention when details of the bizarre murder plot surfaced.

The defendant, the wife of a prominent Brownsville surgeon, was accused of commissioning her elderly fortuneteller to find someone to kill Fischer. The fortuneteller turned to another client, who then hired two hitmen from Mexico.

Mrs. Cisneros was quickly convicted on a state capital murder charge. But that was overturned when an appeals court found prosecutors provided insufficient jury instructions.

She could not be retried in state court, so federal prosecutors pursued the second trial, moved some 350 miles to the northeast to Houston because of publicity in the Rio Grande Valley.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mervyn Mosbacher said the verdict and life sentence should give South Texans "a sense that the correct outcome was finally achieved."

The federal trial featured testimony both from the fortuneteller, Maria Mercedes Martinez, and Daniel Garza, a San Antonio housepainter who hired the hitmen. Ms. Martinez, 77, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for her role. Garza is serving a life term.

Defense attorneys have vowed to appeal the second conviction, arguing federal prosecutors failed to prove that interstate facilities were used in the slaying.

Garza testified he discussed the plot with Ms. Martinez during four phone calls he made from Mexico. However, there is no documentation the calls were made.

Prosecutors also presented evidence that a car — with the same license plate listed on the hotel registration of one of the hitmen — crossed the international bridge from Matamoros, Mexico, to Brownsville the day before the slaying.

However, defense attorneys contend the government failed to prove the travel was related to the murder.

Vela denied a defense motion requesting Mrs. Cisneros be released on bond and restricted to her Brownsville home while the case is appealed. She has remained jailed without bond since her federal conviction in May.

Defense attorney David Botsford said he is confident the conviction will be overturned on appeal and that Mrs. Cisneros will again win her freedom.

"We believe that the case will be reversed and that egregious errors were made during trial," he said.

Mrs. Cisneros' husband, who closed his eyes as her sentence was announced, left the courtroom without commenting.

The victim's father, A.J. "Buddy" Fischer Sr., said he had hoped for the life term. But he said his family's ordeal would end only "when the last of her appeals is exhausted and she is locked away for good."



Pampa students were among those attending Oklahoma's oldest and largest band camp at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The camp drew over 500 junior and senior high students from four states. Pampans were (front row, from left) Desiree Vigil, Amanda Lee, Carolyn Morse, Holly Myers, Ashleigh McWilliams and Vanessa Fisher. (Back row, from left) Justin Myers, Ryan Bradley, Cory Bromwell, Michael Leland and Douglas Warren.

Around the Lone Star state...

Bids for meteorite fall far short of owners' expectations

MONAHANS, Texas (AP) — A Big Spring man is the proud owner of a soccer ball-sized space rock today after placing the high bid of \$23,000 for the meteorite found by seven West Texas boys.

Mike Craddock bought the object in an auction held via the Internet on Sunday, said Cathi Casper, a spokeswoman for the auction company.

Ms. Casper said Craddock has no apparent scientific interest in the rock but wanted to help the boys who found the meteorite and then had to fight with Monahans city officials to keep it.

"He said that he is a native Texan and he apparently was pretty upset when he read about the rock being taken away from those boys," Ms. Casper said. "He just wanted to help them out."

A telephone listing for Craddock got no answer early today.

High lows break North Texas record

DALLAS (AP) — In Texas, it's hot even when the sun isn't shining. The 82-degree low on Sunday

morning was the 24th time this year that the low temperature was not below 80, according to the National Weather Service. The old record of 23 was set Saturday.

The low temperatures have not been this high since 1980's infamous hot summer, when the lows hovered above 80 for 22 days.

That kind of sustained heat, without any respite in the mornings or evenings, can be deadly, said Charles Gaylor of the Dallas County medical examiner's office.

"It's like running a fever: You can't run a fever indefinitely," Gaylor said. "If your body temperature was raised during the day when you didn't have air conditioning, it just stands to reason that if it doesn't cool off,

you're not going to cool off."

More motorcyclists dying since helmet law change, early figures show

AUSTIN (AP) — A state lawmaker is calling last year's partial repeal of the mandatory helmet law an obvious mistake and vows to reverse it.

Lawmakers last year made wearing a motorcycle helmet optional for riders and passengers 21 and older. Younger people on motorcycles still must wear the head gear.

Early state figures obtained by The Associated Press show an increase in helmetless riders dying in crashes in the first four months after the law changed Sept. 1, 1997.

"I knew when this legislation

passed that it was not going to work," said Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth. "I think it is obvious this legislation is a failure."

Moncrief said the mandatory law needs to be reinstated for all riders when the Legislature next meets in 1999.

Notes: VALLEY TARGETED: State GOP candidates are targeting the Rio Grande Valley this year, contending that the Democrats take the area's residents for granted. They claim the Democrats are ignoring the needs of the Valley. ...

SUBURBAN HEROIN: Investigators say a small blue house on the eastern edge of Plano served as a hot spot for teenagers who wanted to buy heroin. Federal authorities say the house in the Dallas suburb was the epicenter of a drug ring.

Business highlights...

AT&T forms joint venture

LONDON (AP) — In the latest move to expand its reach, AT&T is forming a joint venture with British Telecommunications that will combine their international operations and develop a new Internet-type of network.

The tie-up, announced at a news conference Sunday, follows the failure of an earlier plan by BT to acquire MCI Communications Corp., the No. 2 U.S. carrier behind AT&T. BT was outbid by rival WorldCom Inc.

The new company, which has yet to be named, is expected to have revenues of \$10 billion a year and employ some 5,000 people. It will be based in the eastern United States and will be run by executives from both BT and AT&T. The BT chairman, Sir Iain Vallance, will be its first chairman.

GM, UAW shift negotiations in high gear

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Round-the-clock negotiations to settle the devastating strikes against General Motors Corp. raised hopes that a settlement in the seven-week dispute was near.

After a week of minimal talks, negotiations shifted into high gear with the surprise announcement Saturday that the automaker had agreed to return disputed stamping dies back to the Flint Metal Center on Sunday.

Twelve tractor-trailer rigs loaded with the dies lined up and entered the stamping plant at mid-afternoon. The drivers honked their air horns as about 200 strikers and supporters filled an intersection to cheer their arrival.

Japanese prime minister eyes economy

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Fresh from victory at home, Japan's incoming prime minister promised anxious neighbors and the United States on Sunday that his top priorities are lifting Japan out of recession and "making a contribution to Asia."

Keizo Obuchi told Secretary of State Madeleine Albright he will overcome his reputation for indecisiveness by following through on a campaign

pledge and have enacted a package of a \$43 billion tax cut and \$71 billion in government spending, U.S. officials said.

Asia's financial crisis tops the agenda for today's meeting of the states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations with the United States and other countries. Another critical area of concern: last May's nuclear explosions by India and Pakistan.

Tailwind commander rejects financial offer from CNN

NEW YORK (AP) — The commander of the Operation Tailwind military mission in Laos says he rejected CNN's offer of a financial settlement after the network retracted its story that nerve gas was used against American defectors during the mission.

Eugene McCarley, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, also called apologies offered by CNN founder Ted Turner and Chairman Tom Johnson insincere.


CNN, which retracted its June 7 report about the Vietnam-era mission and fired its two producers, has quietly begun trying to reach settlements with potential lawsuit plaintiffs, Forbes magazine reports in its Aug. 10 issue. At least two law firms have offered to sue CNN on behalf of men involved in the mission, Forbes said.

Job violence risks ranked

WASHINGTON (AP) — Policemen, security guards and taxicab drivers were by far the most likely workers to be attacked or threatened with violence on the job in the mid 1990s, the Justice Department reported Sunday.

While workplace violence touched about 1.7 million Americans in 1996, the most recent year studied, the number of such victims dropped by more than one-fifth over the preceding years, mirroring an overall decline in crime in America.

Three of every five assailants was a stranger to the victim, and intimate relatives and friends were far less involved in workplace violence than in overall attacks.



A Non-Profit Organization
"Serving the Texas Panhandle"

**A Special Thank You To
Pampa Blood Donors ...
See You At Pampa
Summer Blood Drive**

Time: Tuesday, July 28th, 1:00-7:00 p.m.
Place: Culberson-Stowers Inc. Showroom

Sponsored by:

- Culberson-Stowers, Inc**
- Pampa Branch-Amarillo Federal Credit Union**
- National Bank of Commerce**
- Keye's Pharmacy**
- Rotary Club of Pampa**
- Columbia Medical Center**
- Dobson Cellular**

FREE! T-Shirts, Hot Dogs,
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Blood Donors may give every 56 days! Please contact the Blood Center if you are unsure of your eligibility to donate
Phone 806-358-4563 or 1-800-658-6178

Parents' Reservations Put Daughter's Vacation on Hold

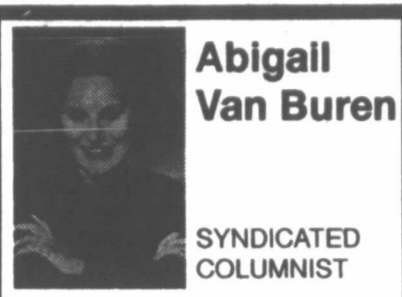
DEAR ABBY: I am 16 years old and will be a junior in high school in September. My boyfriend and his parents have invited me on a family vacation with them.

My parents have known "Ryan" (my boyfriend) and his family for several years. Ryan's parents have offered to talk to mine about this, but so far my parents refuse to let me go.

My dad suggested I write to you and ask if you think it would be OK for me to go. He promised that after we receive your reply, we will discuss the issue again.

DEAR TEEN: The circumstances surrounding your vacation appear appropriate. Your boyfriend's parents will be there to supervise, you will have separate sleeping accommodations, and this is a family vacation.

I am sure over the years you and your family have discussed responsible behavior. Since Ryan's parents have invited you, it means they trust you. If you conduct yourself accordingly, I see no reason why you shouldn't go.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: Some people may think my problem is silly, but they don't realize how serious it is to me. Please don't laugh, because I have no control over this, and it is making my life miserable.

My problem is jealousy. I am jealous of all other females, and it has made my life pure hell. I am 37 years old and the mother of two children. I have a good husband, if he can manage to live with me.

Please help me. This is not a joke. Jealousy is ruining my life.

DEAR JEALOUS JULIA: Jealousy is no laughing matter. As you know firsthand, it can make you and those around you miserable.

Until you learn to feel more secure about yourself, you will probably continue to have these feelings. Short-term therapy, focused specifically on this

issue, will help you recognize that your feelings are not based in reality, and will give you useful tools to manage them. You may have to work hard to conquer this, as any counselor will tell you, but it can be done.

DEAR ABBY: Since I have retired, I go shopping with my wife more often. I have noticed women putting their purses or wallets in their shopping carts, then turning their backs on them while they look for items they may want to purchase.

Anyone could easily pick up these purses or wallets and walk away with them. I would like to see fewer women doing this because I'm the type of person who would chase someone I saw taking another's purse. I'd probably end up in the hospital. So for my sake, please advise women to keep their purses with them, not leave them in the carts.

FRANK LAWRENCE, REDWOOD CITY, CALIF.

DEAR FRANK: Far be it from me to endanger your health and safety. Ladies, for Frank's sake, please keep your purses and wallets with you; never leave them unattended.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in P.O.) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1998

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Position yourself as a receiver for now. Information that comes forth allows your ingenuity to craft a new idea. Brainstorming proves ultimately successful. Associates spew details, data and ideas, now that you give them the space.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Concentrate on work, and make what you want happen. Others team up with you. A family member supports an ongoing project, maybe financially. Remain assertive with others. A boss is pleased with your ability to follow through.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

You express your flirtatious nature. Others cannot resist you. A relationship could be building, but be realistic about what is happening here. Are you wearing rose-colored glasses perhaps? Be honest with yourself, as to the real nature of this person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Focus on family. Someone's positive response delights you. Es-

tablish limits, stay sure of yourself and don't back down. Use care with finances; make sure you are clear, especially if signing any papers. Accept a new work offer. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You like socializing; now is a prime occasion. You have a lot on your plate. Your inquisitive nature lets someone's creativity surge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Remain inquisitive about money. You need more information before making a security-related decision.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Stay on top of changes. Others keep altering plans, and you keep adjusting to them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Take a back seat, and listen to everyone else. Opinions fly; meanwhile, defer making a decision.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Success becomes you. Act on the changes you have been mulling over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You are in the limelight. Others seek you out for advice and feedback.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Reach out for others. Experiment with new ideas and different styles.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Emphasize togetherness. Establish limits, then ask for what you want.

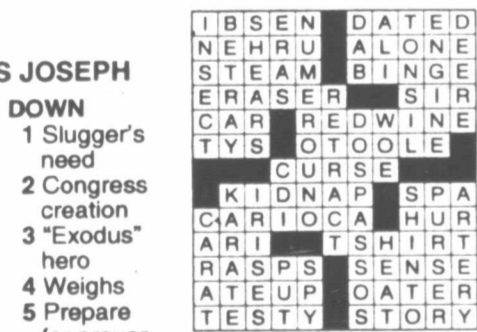
BORN TODAY Actress Lori Loughlin (1964), actress Sally Struthers (1948), musician Rick Wright (1945)

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Without cream or sugar
6 West Pointer
11 Composer Copland
12 Banish
13 Package binder
14 Tenant's paper
15 Barking animal
17 Writer Deighton
18 Founder of Detroit
22 Eager
23 Tops the cake
27 At no time
29 Trap
30 Egyptian symbol
32 Chimney part
33 Lively
35 Little lie
38 Warty hopper
39 Boise's state
41 Asset counter-part
45 Madrid mister
46 Actress Worth
47 Confiscates
48 Honshu port



Saturday's Answer



Marmaduke



"Give me the phone. That call is for me."

The Family Circus



"Damn ants! I keep thinking the punctuation is moving!"

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



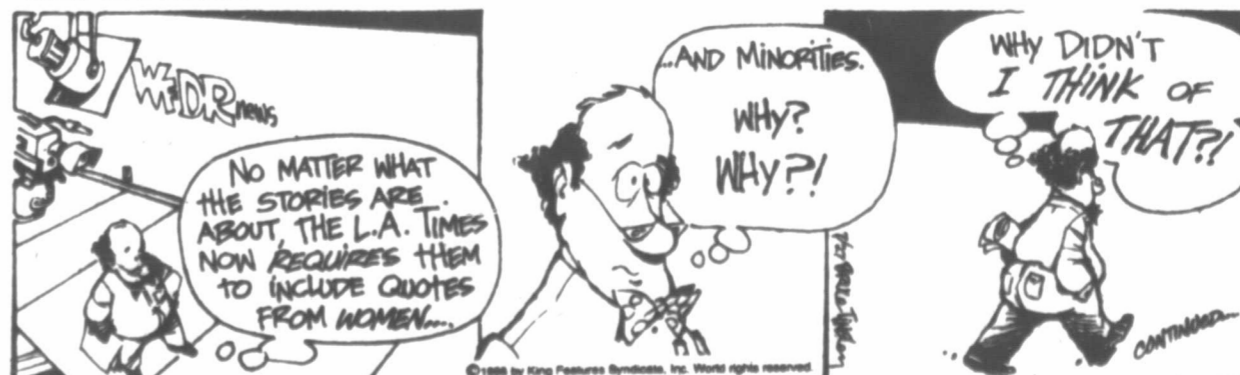
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377...

MEDICAL

Doctors believe successful human hand transplant could come sometime this year

By STEVE BAILEY
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — After three years of work and two years of animal experiments, researchers have been given permission to attempt the world's first successful hand transplant.

While surgeons have been able to reattach severed limbs following accidents for years, they have never been able to successfully transfer a limb from a donor to a living recipient.

But a research team in Louisville is hoping they can accomplish the feat within the next three to six months.

"Potentially, this procedure could be a breakthrough on par with the first kidney and heart transplants," said Gordon Tobin, a University of Louisville professor of surgery. "It all depends on how successful it proves to be once it is done and perfected."

The University of Louisville School of Medicine Human Studies Committee and Jewish Hospital Institutional Review Board granted approval after researching the idea for more than three years and analyzing the findings of an international symposium on the idea held last November.

An ideal candidate for the surgery would be someone between 18

Researchers said the eight- to 12-hour procedure should not be as tricky as a typical limb reattachment, or replantation, which often involves crushed or mangled bones, tendons and ligaments.

and 65 who has had part of an arm amputated below the elbow. A donor hand would be sought through existing organizations that coordinate transplants of organs such as hearts, lungs and kidneys.

Researchers said the eight- to 12-hour procedure should not be as tricky as a typical limb reattachment, or replantation, which often involves crushed or mangled bones, tendons and ligaments.

But at least one surgeon expressed concern over the plan. "It's very, very risky and I think they're pressing the envelope with this," said Matthew Tomaino, chief of microsurgery for the University of Pittsburgh's orthopedic surgery department.

Tomaino cited the risk of death from drugs given to prevent the body from rejecting the limb. The drugs suppress the immune system.

"The risks from taking these drugs, which the recipients will have to take for the rest of their lives, have not warranted the transplant of a non-vital organ," he said Thursday.

Tomaino also said the chances of the recipient ever experiencing much, if any, real feeling in the transplanted hand are minimal.

Members of the team, however, believe that a recipient potentially could experience some motion six to eight weeks after surgery, a wider range of motion after six months and some sensation after a year.

South American doctors attempted a similar procedure in 1964 but the donor hand was rejected in only 14 days. Medical and technological advancements have made the procedure more feasible and the risk of rejection more manageable, the doctors said.

Tobin said the transplant could lead to other breakthroughs. "The potential applications, as one gets into other body parts, are limitless," Tobin said. "If it can be done with a hand, it can be done with any part of the human anatomy."

Doctor: Sperm taken from man after death leads to pregnancy

By JANE E. ALLEN
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sperm taken from the body of a dead man was used to impregnate his widow, who is now a month along in her pregnancy, according to the urologist who performed the procedure.

The woman asked to remain anonymous at least until she reaches the end of her first trimester, said Dr. Cappy Rothman, director of the Center for Reproductive Medicine at Century City Hospital.

The Los Angeles man, who was in his early 30s and happily married when he suddenly died of an allergic reaction, had no children. But after his death, his wife asked that his sperm be retrieved and preserved.

Rothman, a male infertility specialist, led a team that went to the coroner's office and extracted sperm from the epididymis, the tubes behind each testis where sperm mature. He then froze the sperm.

The sperm were used to fertilize eggs from the widow, who is in her late 20s, about 15 months after her husband died. One of the fertilized eggs implanted in her uterus led to the pregnancy, said Rothman, who also is medical director of the California Cryobank, which

stores sperm and embryos.

Rothman has performed or supervised the sperm extraction procedure about a dozen times since 1978, when he retrieved sperm from the body of a man killed by a vehicle. But he said this pregnancy follows the first time a family asked that a dead man's frozen sperm be taken off ice and used.

"I do it so the family has hope and feels a little better," he said in an interview Wednesday from his vacation home in Port Angeles, Wash.

In each previous case, he found that "for whatever reason, being able to do it lessened their pain, lessened their grief and gave them something to focus on other than the death of their loved one."

It's not unusual for a man to have his sperm frozen if he knows he is ill or dying. But for others to make that decision after his death is nearly unheard of. In a highly publicized case, a British woman became pregnant using sperm from her comatose, terminally ill husband.

Arthur Caplan, director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said the Los Angeles case represents "the first publicly admitted post-mortem sperm procurement pregnancy."

It was first reported in a story appearing in the New Scientist magazine.

Women's depression... Three times when most likely

HOUSTON - There are three times in a woman's life when she is at higher risk for depression.

"The greatest risk for depression occurs a week-to-10 days before the period starts, after the birth of a child, and one-to-two years before menopause. In general, women's depression falls between the ages of 22 and 45," said Dr. Lucy Puryear, director of the Women's Clinic at Baylor College of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry.

Premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD) can occur each month before a woman's menstrual period. It affects six-to-eight percent of women and can be severely disabling.

"PMDD shouldn't be confused with the common PMS symptoms of slight tearfulness and irritability," she said. "Women with PMDD cannot function during the week-to-10 days before their period."

Symptoms include an inability to work or go to school, excessive crying, and relationship problems. Once the period begins, the woman's functioning returns to normal.

Treatment with anti-depressants provides immediate relief of the symptoms. "Other types of depression need three-to-six weeks for the medication to take effect. It is not clear why PMDD responds differently," Puryear said.

Women with PMDD have the same hormone levels as other women, but women with PMDD

may be more vulnerable to hormonal changes before their period.

Post-partum depression occurs in one out of 10 women and can last for six months to a year if left untreated. Not to be confused with the "baby blues" which can last for a couple of weeks, women with post-partum depression feel extreme sadness and guilt and are unable to function and to enjoy caring for their baby.

"Post-partum depression interrupts the bonding between a mother and child," Puryear said. "The newer anti-depressants allow mothers to continue breast feeding while being treated."

Researchers believe the rapid drop in estrogen that occurs immediately after birth triggers the depression. Prevention tactics being studied include using oral estrogen or estrogen patches to taper the estrogen decline.

"Women who have been sensitive to hormonal changes in the past should be watchful for signs of major depression one-to-two years before menopause," Puryear said.

Estrogen replacement therapy will treat the mild tearfulness and moodiness that women often experience before menopause, but anti-depressants are needed to treat severe depression.

"Not getting out of bed, not functioning, and wishing you were dead is not a normal part of menopause," Puryear said.

Managed health care firm says doctors routinely fail in proper care

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — One of the nation's largest managed care companies found that its physicians routinely fail to give patients drugs and tests proven to work against conditions ranging from heart disease to diabetes.

United HealthCare looked at patient records of 1,600 cardiologists and internists in Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas. It reviewed treatment of diabetes, congestive heart failure, heart attack and atrial fibrillation, prescription of diuretics and mammography screening.

It found that many cardiologists failed to prescribe widely recommended drugs such as beta blockers for heart attack survivors and ACE inhibitors for chronic heart-failure patients. Current medical literature says the drugs are essential in most cases to a patient's continued health.

Care was also found to be wanting for diabetics.

Doctors gave glucose-monitoring tests to 59 percent of diabetics in Ohio, 60 percent in North Carolina, 65 percent in Colorado and 67 percent in Texas during one year.

It is generally recommended that diabetics get at least one glucose-monitoring test per year. Otherwise, diabetic patients can go blind, suffer

strokes or heart attacks, require amputations or experience kidney failure.

United HealthCare spokesman Phil Southeray said Wednesday there were some flaws in the data, but "we feel the numbers were good enough to show there are areas of concern that need to be addressed."

United said the information was gathered to allow doctors to evaluate whether care needs to

be improved.

About 8 percent of United's 200,000 doctors nationwide were surveyed. The company plans to extend the survey to 20,000 doctors by the end of the year and by next year hopes to survey most doctors in its network.

The findings echoed previous research that said medical care for average Americans often is not up to accepted standards.

JOE M. PIERATT DDS AND STAFF
WELCOME THE ASSOCIATION OF
GINA GREENHOUSE RDH TO THEIR
PRACTICE ON MONDAYS, TUESDAYS,
AND WEDNESDAYS AND THANK
REBECCA PARKER GREENHOUSE CDA
FOR EIGHTEEN DEDICATED
YEARS AND WISH HER GOOD
LUCK AS SHE TAKES A
LEAVE OF ABSENCE THIS
FALL TO BEGIN DENTAL
HYGIENE SCHOOL.



Study: Substance that cuts tumor's blood supply might aid radiation

NEW YORK (AP) — Angiostatin, a drug that has helped eliminate tumors in mice, has also shown promise in treating cancer in the rodents when combined with radiation therapy, according to a study published today.

The combination worked far better than either treatment alone, researchers from the University of Chicago and elsewhere report in the journal Nature. The combination attacks newly forming blood vessels that the tumor creates to assure a blood supply.

The study combined radiation treatment with

low doses of angiostatin, already known to inhibit the formation of blood vessels for tumors. Scientists studied the effects on tumors that were transplanted into the mice — including some from humans.

Radiation is a standard cancer treatment, but tumor cells can develop resistance through genetic mutations. Blood vessels aren't prone to mutations, which makes them more vulnerable to radiation in the combined treatment, the researchers said.



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