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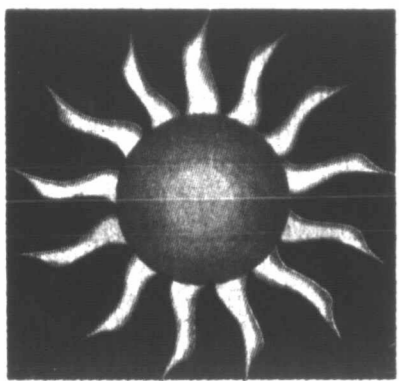
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For weather details see
Page 2.

PAMPA — PHS Seniors and their parents are invited to the "Senior Breakfast" at 7 a.m. tomorrow in the M.K. Brown Heritage Room sponsored by Pampa ISD.

PAMPA — The Gray County Republican Party will canvass votes at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, at headquarters in the Combs-Worley Building on 120 W. Kingsmill, Room 202.

DALLAS (AP) — A 3-year-old girl was beaten, abducted, sexually assaulted and left naked in a creek bed by three boys, ages 7, 8 and 11, police said Monday.

The girl, clubbed with a brick and a shoe, was found bruised and bleeding last week, police said.

"This case has shocked even the detectives who work here," said Lt. Bill Walsh, who supervises the unit that investigates crimes against children.

Children under 10 cannot be held criminally responsible for their actions in Texas, Walsh said.

However, prosecutors expect to use the younger boys, who are brothers, as witnesses against the 11-year-old.

- Naomi Mae Malone Brown, 52, former employee of Mountain West Fabrication.
- James Edwin Carnahan, 74, retired professor at Michigan State University.
- Murel C. Cordes, 97, homemaker, retired nurses aide.
- Junior D. Ellis, 70, retired pumper from Skelly, Getty and Texaco.
- Johnny Weeden, 67, former deputy, security employee.
- Patricia Kimberlyn "Kim" Wilson, 42, nurses aide.

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4-H project helps others...



(Community Camera photo)

Pampa Nursing Center resident Marjorie Triplet enjoys the warmth of a lap blanket presented to her by 4-H members Lori Stephens and Sara Schwab. The girls, along with other 4-Hers (Julie Davenport, Angie Davenport and Jennifer Greer) made the blankets as part of their clothing project.

GOP polls open until 7

The runoff for three GOP races is being held today across the state.

In Pampa Precincts 1, 14, & 15 will be at Travis Elementary School, Precincts 2, 10, & 13 voting is being held in the Gray County Courthouse lobby. Precincts 3, 7, 11, & 12 go to the Horace Mann School Cafeteria Hallway. Precincts 4 & 5 go to the McLean Senior Citizens Center, and Precincts 8&9 vote at Austin Elementary School.

Polls open until 7 p.m.

Cellular phones, youth rehab facility on agenda

Constable Chris Lockridge will discuss cellular phone usage and the court will hear a presentation from the Juvenile Probation Department regarding a potential juvenile rehabilitation facility to be located at the county-owned Lovett Nurses Home during tomorrow's Gray County Commissioners Court session.

Other matters to be addressed include the following:

- Consider courthouse insurance coverage
- Discuss and take any action necessary concerning repair and black top of roads
- Consider and act upon contract for Emergency Management Services with Texas Department of Health
- Consider and act upon request from J.P. Precinct #1 to place additional signature on checking account

The Wednesday meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Gray County Court Room on the second floor of the courthouse.

Elder abuse victim dies; autopsy set

An autopsy was ordered today in the death of a 72-year-old Pampa woman whose husband and son are charged with aggravated assault in connection with injuries the woman suffered last month.

If the investigation reveals that she died of injuries suffered in March, charges against her husband and son could be upgraded to murder.

Opal Ashley, 72, died Monday afternoon at Columbia Medical Center where she had been on life support. Justice of the Peace Margie Prestidge today ordered an autopsy in the case.

The woman's husband, Charles Claude Ashley, 74, and her son, Charles Mathis Ashley, 50, are free on \$10,000 bond after being arrested and charged March 19 with abuse of the elderly.

Pampa police said they were called to the family residence at 707 E. Frederic by a 911 call about 4 p.m. March 19. The next day officers said Adult Protective Services were brought in to assist in the case.

Authorities said at the time that elder abuse cases are handled by the police in a manner similar to child abuse cases. They said that while assault charges were filed, state law makes concessions for any victim over 65 years old.

Mrs. Ashley's body will be taken to Lubbock for an autopsy, Judge Prestidge said, to determine the cause of death. If the investigation reveals that she died of injuries suffered in March, charges against her husband and son could be upgraded to murder.

Woman faces burglary, drug, forgery charges

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

A Pampa woman was in Gray County jail today faced with multiple counts of forgery, drug possession and burglary.

Shirley Orcutt Jones, 49, of Pampa, was in jail today charged with six counts of forgery, one count of possession of a controlled substance and two counts of burglary.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Margie Prestidge was expected to set bond today on each of the two burglary charges. The judge earlier set bond for each of the forgery charges at \$7,500. Judge Prestidge set bond on the possession charge at \$8,000.

"The cases are still under investigation," said Gray County Sheriff's Lieutenant Jim Scott.

Authorities said they expect more charges to be filed.

Officers said the charges stem from a string of recent reports of forged checks and burglaries in Gray, Carson and Donley Counties.

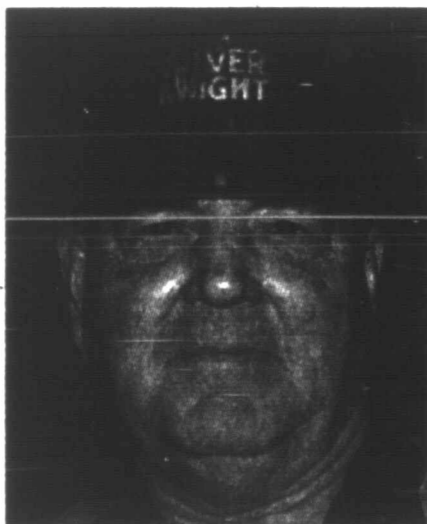
Scott said he became involved after hearing of a burglary in White Deer from White Deer and Carson County officers who reported that a checkbook had been stolen.

About the same time police were investigating a similar case in Pampa, and Texas Rangers were investigating forgery and burglary cases in Donley County.

As area law enforcement officers began to compare notes, the circle widened to include investigators from Hansford and Hutchinson Counties, Spearman and Gruver police departments, the Amarillo

See WOMAN, Page 2

Quite frankly... Tomorrow is income tax day. Have you filed?



"Not yet. I get them done but I don't mail them until the last minute."
— Howard Williams



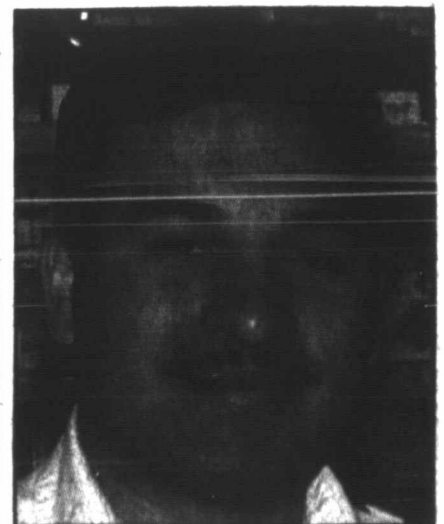
"I get mine in early."
— Glen Clemmons



"I'm going to send them in as soon as I can get my husband to sign them"
— Liz Smith



"My wife does them and spends the money. We've already gotten it back."
— Gary Gatis



"I usually get them in early. I already have gotten my money back."
— Ivan Gutierrez

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Plenty of hard luck stories among summit leaders

By KEVIN GALVIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton will be sitting down with presidents of 33 other Western Hemisphere countries by the end of the week, and many of them probably would be glad to swap their personal problems for his.

Clinton has been dealing with questions about his sexual behavior, his land investments, his campaign contributions. Some of the leaders at the Summit of the Americas likely would think that's small potatoes compared with their troubles.

Take Colombian President Ernesto Samper, for example, a lame duck heading into his last month in office. He would be delighted to be criticized for something as relatively frivolous as hosting coffee klatches at the presidential palace for big money donors.

Samper's popularity ratings have been stuck in single digits since 1994, when evidence surfaced that he took \$6.1 million in campaign donations from the Cali drug cartel. He's also stuck with a

sluggish economy and a decades-old rebel insurgency.

In Paraguay, coup rumors are sweeping Asuncion as President Juan Carlos Wasmosy, whose administration has been accused of corruption and cronyism, fights to overturn the results of his party's primary.

The government of Gen. Hugo Banzer of Bolivia has threatened to declare a state of siege to end strife in the Chapare coca-producing region and a general strike that has shuttered schools and hospitals.

Hundreds of police and army troops seized control of Chapare, where peasant farmers have been blocking roads to protest Banzer's commitment to eradicate the coca trade.

But Banzer has been reluctant to declare a state of siege. The summit is supposed to be for democrats only.

To be sure, there are leaders who will arrive at the meeting on a high note. Guatemala President Alvaro Arzu is credited with helping end the country's 36-year civil war in 1996, and new Honduran President Carlos Flores Facusse is promising to move the country beyond its difficult 20-year transi-

tion from military rule. And the government of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien is highly popular.

Despite his troubles, Clinton

rescuing El Nino flood victims, his approval rating now is only 48 percent. Analysts attribute his troubles to the fact that poverty is still widespread and to his dictatorial manner.

Last year it was revealed that the national intelligence service was routinely wiretapping prominent citizens and journalists. Fujimori's government confiscated a TV station that broadcast some of the tapes.

Menem is at the lowest point in his presidency, with approval ratings stuck at 16 percent. Corruption is widespread, and Menem is accused of manipulating the judiciary. Nevertheless, he is trying to persuade the Supreme Court to allow him to seek a third term.

His opponents charge that Menem is afraid of meeting the same fate as former colleagues Fernando Collor de Melo of Brazil and Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico, who faced charges of corruption after leaving office.

The Salinas legacy is a constant concern for Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. Zedillo's economic policies are unpopular with the nation's poor and middle class,

and recent unrest in Chiapas state have made his administration look weak.

But Zedillo has taken great pains to restore a measure of dignity to the Mexican presidency, and he responds angrily to any suggestion of personal wrongdoing. Sometimes he goes to extremes.

Zedillo delivered a televised address in 1996 to answer charges that he failed to pay property taxes on a beachside condominium.

Clinton's troubles may still fuel the news at home. But all things considered, he could be the guy bucking up the spirits of the other summiteers.

Take Colombian President Ernesto Samper, for example, a lame duck heading into his last month in office. He would be delighted to be criticized for something as relatively frivolous as hosting coffee klatches at the presidential palace for big money donors.

continues to enjoy high job approval ratings and the boost of a blooming economy.

Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera hasn't been so lucky. The country sits on the largest reserve of crude oil outside of the Middle East, but those resources haven't been enough to produce presidential bliss: A poll in February found that 71 percent of Venezuelans had little confidence in Caldera.

When it comes to the other kind of domestic affairs, Clinton has nothing on some of his Latino counterparts: Argentine President Carlos Menem once locked his

section of the presidential palace after she accused him of corruption in 1994. Their divorce was finalized in 1995, but not before she told reporters he was a lousy lover.

His domestic dramas aside, Fujimori's job approval ratings seem to go up and down with the sun. Leftist insurgencies were put down by the national police during his tenure, and his popularity hit 67 percent after commandos ended a rebel siege at the Japanese ambassador's residence last year.

But even as he dashes from village to village, news crews in tow,

Elementary teacher honored for reading program

Judy Forister, teacher, Travis Elementary School, has been honored for outstanding performance in reading education by the Institute for Academic Excellence.

Forister was awarded Reading Renaissance Model Classroom Level I Certification by the Madison, Wis., based institute. Model Classroom certification indicates success in adopting Reading Renaissance.

"Judy exemplifies the kind of commitment to the success of every student that is at the heart of effective teaching," Institute President Stuart Udell said in making the award.

To receive Reading Renaissance Model Classroom certification, a teacher must demonstrate their students have received a minimum of 60 minutes of reading practice time daily. Teachers must also be actively working with individual students to meet Institute recommended standards for reading achievement.

In addition to national recognition, Travis Elementary will receive a grant of \$100 in recognition of Forister's achievement and will receive a discount on educational staff development opportunities.

The Institute works with educators nationwide to disseminate classroom-proven teaching strategies and techniques. The Institute's Reading Renaissance program is a comprehensive reading improvement strategy that combines computer technology with a regimen of extensive reading practice to rapidly build student reading comprehension.

Police: Toddler attacked by three young boys

DALLAS (AP) — Even veteran police officers who deal daily with crimes against children were sickened by the assault of a 3-year-old girl. The suspects: three neighborhood boys younger than 11.

The girl, clubbed with a brick and a shoe, was found bruised and bleeding last week. She had been abducted, beaten, sexually assaulted and left naked in a creek bed.

"This case has shocked even the detectives who work here," said Lt. Bill Walsh, who supervises the unit that investigates crimes against children.

"On a continuum of offenses, this has got to be among the most horrible. At that age, creek beds should be places to play tag, not commit crimes."

Two brothers, ages 7 and 8, are expected to testify against an 11-year-old companion. Children under 10 cannot be held criminally responsible for their actions in Texas, Walsh said.

The 11-year-old, however, was expected to face a charge of delinquent conduct-aggravated sexual assault, which could result in a sentence of up to 40 years, Walsh said. The boy was being held Monday in juvenile custody.

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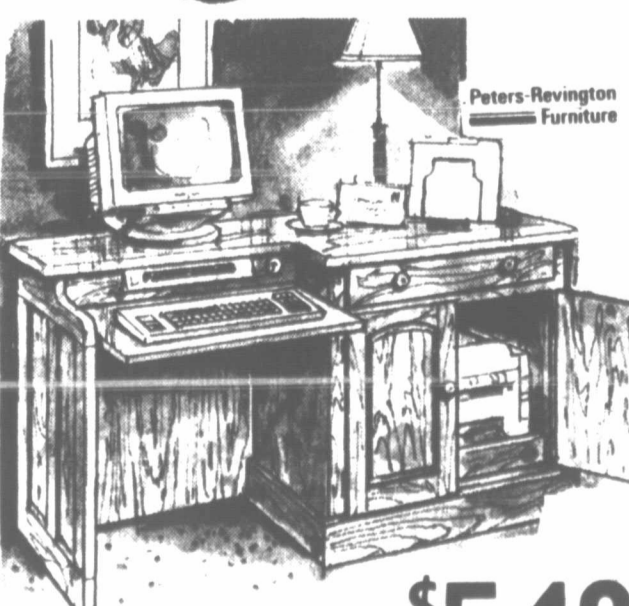
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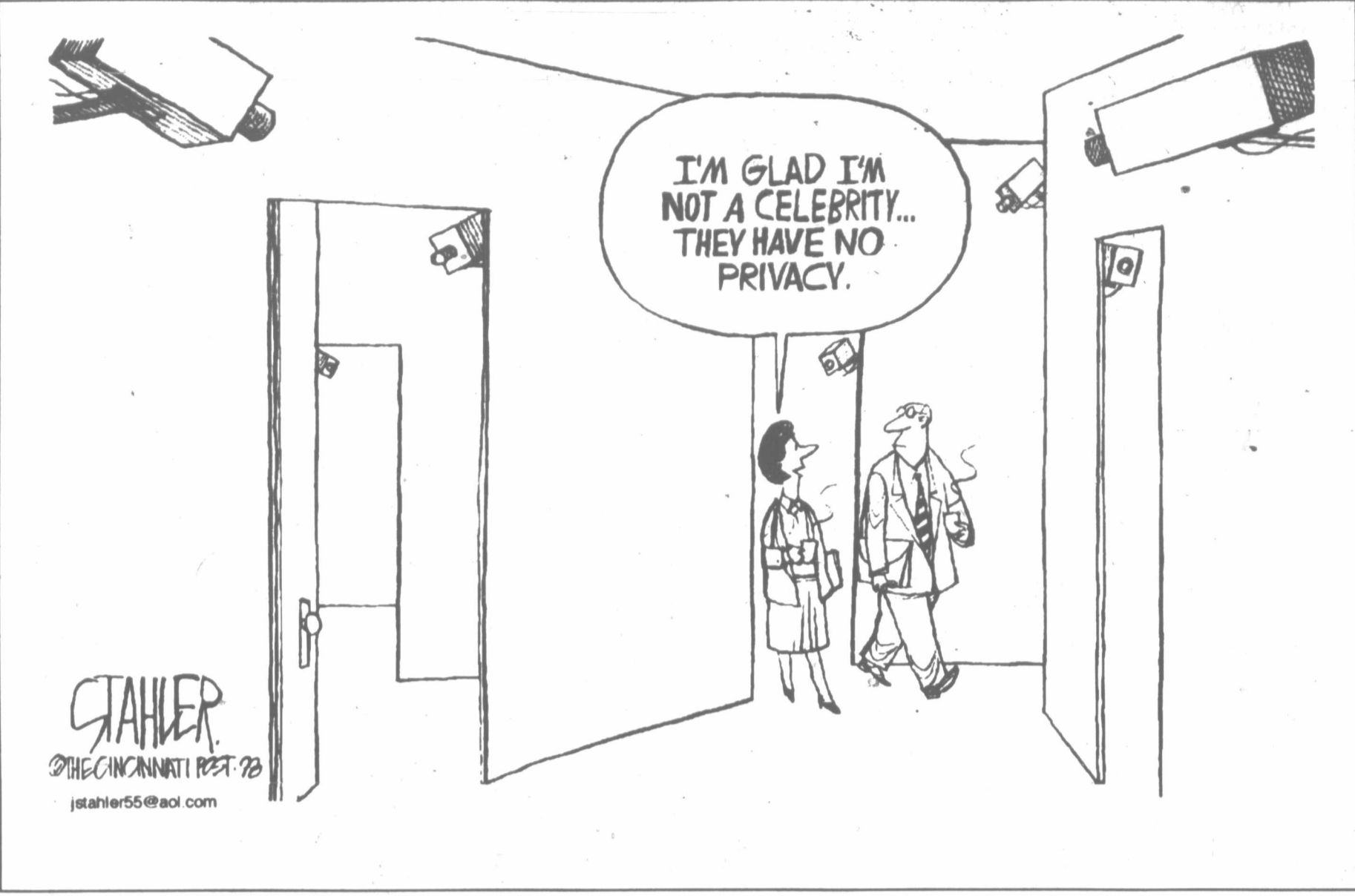
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Opinion

Dismissal of Jones lawsuit likely to be challenged

➔The dismissal of the lawsuit against Bill Clinton is another example of questionable wisdom on the part of the trial judge.

Judge Susan Webber Wright, who dismissed the Paula Jones sex harassment lawsuit against the president, has displayed dubious judgment in this case before, and has been accordingly overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court.

It was Wright who in 1994 initially declared that the president could not be subject during his presidency to a private lawsuit based on alleged personal misbehavior dating from before he became chief executive. The Supreme Court disagreed, ruling unanimously that the president, as much as any other American, has to answer to the mechanisms of the law under a normal timetable.

Interestingly, Wright in her original decision had said that fact-finding could go forward, even though a trial couldn't. But after the Supreme Court had rejected that straddle, she ruled crucial fact-finding off-limits for the Jones team. She forbade them in recent weeks from probing issues relating to Monica Lewinsky's possible sexual connection with the president and her unusual rise from an unpaid intern to a paying job in the Pentagon and the extraordinary help she later got in seeking private-sector employment.

It boggled the mind that Wright would bar the Jones team from this whole area of inquiry because their case rests in part on a contention that Clinton trades employment and other benefits for sexual favors and metes out punishment for women who refuse him.

The Jones filings are dense with evidence supporting this claim. Dolly Kyle Browning, the Dallas lawyer who claims a long affair with Clinton, testified that he wanted her to move to Washington in 1994. "You can live on the Hill," she quotes him as saying. "I can help you find a job." Gennifer Flowers testified in a deposition that then-Gov. Clinton worked to get her an Arkansas state job under false pretenses. A woman identified in the Jones papers as Jane Doe 2 received an appellate judgeship in Arkansas after an alleged affair with Clinton. The examples go on and on.

As for the plaintiff's experiences, two close friends have said under oath that Jones told them immediately after her meeting with Clinton at Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel, May 8, 1991, that he had exposed himself to her and that she, appalled, had rebuffed him. Jones also offered evidence that she subsequently did not move up as she might have expected on a career track as a state employee.

To be sure, we have argued that sex harassment law as currently structured casts too broad a net and too easily invites judicial meddling in the private workplace. Perhaps the Jones case will cause people on all sides of the issue to rethink the proper parameters of the law.

Nevertheless, the evidence amassed by the Jones team, suggesting abuse of power in the public workplace, along with her own contemporaneous accounts of the alleged indecency by Clinton, would seem to make for a more compelling case than many sex-harassment actions that have been allowed to go forward.

Jones' opinion about her own treatment after allegedly spurning her ultimate boss — along with the other claims, perceptions, sworn statements and factual allegations brought forward in her legal case — might all be subject to persuasive counter-evidence in a courtroom. But that's precisely the point. They are, collectively, formidable enough to make for a case to be weighed by a jury, not shut down preemptively by a judge.

We won't be surprised if an appellate court agrees and reinstates Jones's case. Unfortunately, even if that happens, the president will have received a stay of proceedings that the Supreme Court rightly said was not appropriate in a country where even the head of state is merely another citizen.

—Odessa American

Have we had enough — yet?

Kaiser Permanente, an Oakland, Calif., health provider, found that the health costs of their obese members were 44 percent higher than the average. Included in the findings, published by Archives of Internal Medicine, severely and moderately overweight people, respectively, had 24 and 17 percent higher rates of hospital visits, hospital stays were 74 and 34 percent longer, and pharmacy costs were 78 and 60 percent higher.

Each year, over 300,000 deaths are attributable to being overweight. Since we Americans have allowed Congress to establish the principle that they can step in to control our lives when a behavior raises health-care costs, you can bet that food regulation is in the offing.

Being overweight is just as avoidable as cigarette smoking. So why not tax food, candy and pastries? Food companies are just as guilty as tobacco companies; they know that there is no nutritional reason for people to eat candy, pastries and other fatty foods. So let's have federal and state governments sue food companies to recover health-care costs of overweight people.

You say, "Hold it, Williams; our politicians wouldn't go that far. Those smelly cigarettes you smoke are one thing, but my beer, potato chips and candy are entirely another matter!" Check this out. Dr. JoAnn E. Mason of Harvard Medical Schools says, "it won't be long before obesity surpasses cigarette smoking as a cause



Walter Williams

Williams is a nationally syndicated columnist.

of death in this country." Yale University's Professor Kelley D. Brownell, director of the Center for Eating & Weight Disorders, has proposed that fatty foods and those with little nutritional content be taxed and "junk" food commercials be regulated. He recommends that the tax proceeds be used to build bike and hiking trails. But what if people choose not to bike and hike? It's not that far fetched to predict congressionally mandated exercise.

You say, "Williams, that is farfetched!" Pretend you're back in the 1960s, when the anti-cigarette people were demanding no-smoking sections on airplanes. Suppose there was someone prescient enough to have suggested that giving in to that demand would embolden anti-cigarette people to demand bans on smoking in bars, confiscatory taxes and tobacco-company suits. Such a prediction would have been vehemently rejected and the

predictor held up to scorn and ridicule. It's a good idea for people to watch their diets, exercise and not smoke too much. But if people don't voluntarily do what I think is prudent behavior, should Congress punish them? When Washington's politicians talk about federal steps to reduce smoking, steps to reduce drunk driving or steps to put more teachers in classes, the debate shouldn't be whether these are good or bad ideas. The debate should be: Are those congressional acts permitted by the United States Constitution? If you're not sure about what's permissible, read Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

You say, "Williams, what do decent Americans do?" First, recognize that Congress does not have enough marshals, or the states enough police, to enforce every law they write if citizens choose not to obey them. The California legislature banned smoking in bars. Both bar-owners and patrons ignored the law, and bar owners threatened to throw state lottery machines out into the streets. The legislature repealed the ban.

When Congress passed the 55 mph speed limit, Americans ignored it. Frederic Bastiat, the great 19th century philosopher said, "When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law." That's the dilemma facing us. As for me, I prefer to err on the side of morality.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 14, the 104th day of 1998. There are 261 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 14th, 1865, President Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded by John Wilkes Booth while attending the comedy "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington. (Lincoln died the following morning.)

On this date:

In 1759, composer George Frideric Handel died in London.

In 1775, the first American society for the abolition of slavery was organized by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush.

In 1828, the first edition of Noah Webster's "American Dictionary

of the English Language" was published.

In 1902, J.C. Penney opened his first store, in Kemmerer, Wyo.

In 1912, the British liner Titanic collided with an iceberg in the North Atlantic and began sinking.

In 1931, King Alfonso XIII of Spain went into exile, and the Spanish Republic was proclaimed.

"The Grapes of Wrath" was first published.

In 1968, the Matt Crowley play "The Boys in the Band" opened in New York.

In 1981, the first test flight of America's first operational space shuttle, the Columbia, ended successfully with a landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

The children Bill Clinton neglects

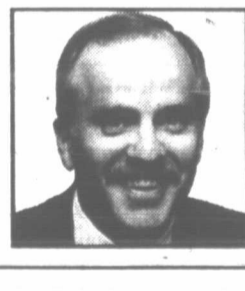
We know Bill Clinton cares deeply about children because he tells us so. Hardly a day goes by that he doesn't unveil some new program to improve the lot of the little ones. Just recently, he's been in Africa proclaiming his determination to help even kids living half a world away "because we want to see the light that is in these children's eyes forever, and in the eyes of all other children."

Well, maybe not all other children. Back here in America, hundreds of kids are born every year infected with the virus that causes AIDS. The president has the power to take action that would prevent many of these infections and save the lives of a lot of children who have not yet been born. But year after year, he has refused to lift a finger on their behalf.

Once known as a gay men's disease, AIDS is increasingly an affliction of drug users. Every day, 33 Americans are infected with the virus because they use a contaminated syringe to inject themselves with illicit drugs — or because they are the sexual partners or the offspring of someone who did. The most tragic cases are the infants. Between July 1996 and June 1997, 552 babies emerged from the womb already infected by their mothers. Most of the mothers either used drugs intravenously or had sex with a user.

Hard-hearted types can say that gay men are to blame when they contract AIDS through unsafe sex or that heroin addicts are to blame when they use dirty needles to do something that is against the law. But they can't very well blame newborns for getting the disease. Infants are in no position to take preventive measures. If they're to be spared the virus, someone else has to take preventive measures for them.

The simplest one is a blindingly obvious idea known as needle exchange. AIDS activists have found that if you give drug users access to ster-



Steve Chapman

Chapman is a nationally syndicated columnist.

ile syringes, lo and behold, many decide they would really prefer not to risk their lives just to get high. Needle-exchange programs let them trade their old, dirty needles for new, sterile ones, thus preventing the virus from making the jump from one addict to another.

These programs have been around for more than a decade, and a wealth of experience has proven their value. In 1995, a panel of experts commissioned by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that "well-implemented needle-exchange programs can be effective in preventing the spread of HIV and do not increase the use of illegal drugs." Last year, a report issued by the National Institutes of Health said, "There is no longer any doubt that these programs work."

A 1997 study in Montreal is cited by critics because it found that one needle-exchange program appeared to raise the HIV transmission rate. But the scientists who conducted the study said it should not be interpreted as evidence that needle exchange doesn't help. And the American Journal of Epidemiology, which published their report, accompanied it with an editorial saying that what drug users in Montreal need "is not less needle exchange, but more."

The issue has been settled beyond serious doubt. Yet this is how much the federal govern-

ment spends on AIDS prevention every year: \$634 million. And this is how much of the money goes to finance needle exchange: zero.

The law says federal funds cannot be used in these programs — unless the president wants them to. As of April 1, all he has to do is direct his Health and Human Services secretary, Donna Shalala, to certify that needle exchanges slow HIV transmission and do not encourage drug use — to certify, in short, what everybody knows. The president's own advisory council on AIDS recently urged him to lift the ban. White House AIDS adviser Sandra Thurman agrees.

But with each new call for him to show some courage, the president has remained in hiding. An HHS spokesman says Shalala is still reviewing the scientific evidence. That makes about as much sense as reviewing who won the 1998 Super Bowl: You can rerun the videotape as many times as you want, but the score always comes out the same. Apparently, her review won't be done until Jan. 20, 2001, at which point it will become somebody else's headache.

Why is the administration stalling? Partly because the president doesn't want to give Republicans a chance to portray him as soft on drugs and partly because he doesn't want to have to overrule White House drug czar Barry McCaffrey. Gen. McCaffrey thinks funding needle exchange would give kids the idea that we don't really object to drug use — which is like saying that allowing alcoholics to get treated for liver ailments under Medicaid amounts to an endorsement of drunkenness.

Clinton clearly would like to be remembered as the president who did more than any other to help children. But when it comes to the kids whose lives could have been saved by needle-exchange programs, he will be remembered for doing nothing.

Your representatives

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 Washington Address: 370 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Phone: (202) 224-2934

Administration plan would improve aviation safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States aviation system already is the safest in the world, but the government wants to make it even safer.

Accompanied by the transportation secretary and the head of the Federal Aviation Administration, Vice President Al Gore today was set to announce at least two steps in that direction: more rigorous engine inspections and the mandatory installation of enhanced ground-warning systems within the next three years.

Both would be steps toward a goal of cutting the U.S. fatal accident rate by 80 percent over the next 10 years. Now there is roughly one major accident per 1 million flights, but with the number of passengers in the United States alone expected to increase from 600 million to over 1 billion a year by 2010, the added number of flights could result in six or seven major accidents annually by then.

Government officials want to go in the opposite direction, taking the current rate of three to four major accidents per year even lower.

"We are proud that flying is already the safest way to travel. The steps we are announcing will make the safest skies in the world even safer," Gore was expected to say during a news conference at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Joining him were Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, FAA Administrator Jane Garvey, officials from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and various labor and airline industry representatives. Slater and Garvey were expected to unveil several other safety goals.

The two priorities highlighted by Gore would address critical problems in the aviation industry.

With airliners increasingly using two engines instead of three or four to reduce maintenance and fuel costs, simpler, more standardized inspections are needed to ensure the safety of the revolving components, including titanium fan blades. The goal of the inspections will be to reduce uncontained engine failures, in which flying engine

parts — usually fan blades — can puncture the passenger compartment.

The enhanced ground-proximity indicators, meanwhile, are aimed at a vexing aviation problem: The unintentional flight of an airworthy plane into the ground. The phenomenon, called "controlled flight into terrain," accounted for 25 percent of all commercial airplane accidents worldwide from 1987 to 1996. Those crashes killed 2,396 people.

The new systems, which some airlines are already installing voluntarily, compare a plane's location to a global database of mountains, while the current system looks down to measure altitude. That makes it difficult to detect sharply rising mountains and other impediments.

The announcement is part of a renewed emphasis on aviation safety that followed the May 1996 ValuJet crash in the Florida Everglades and the explosion of TWA Flight 800 off the New York coast two months later.

State briefs

Former prison chief pleads innocent to kickback charge

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Texas prison chief Andy Collins has pleaded innocent to charges he took thousands of dollars in kickbacks.

Collins rose from prison guard to head of one of the state penal systems. He resigned his \$120,000-a-year job under fire in 1995 after his dealings with VitaPro Foods, Incorporated, became public.

He entered his plea Monday in Houston.

An indictment handed up on March 30 accuses him of accepting at least \$20,000 to extend by five years VitaPro's lucrative contract with the prison system.

VitaPro supplied a meat substitute that was fed to inmates.

Law school asks judge to affirm its affiliation with Texas A&M

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston law school has asked a state judge to affirm its affiliation with Texas A&M University.

South Texas College of Law filed its suit Monday in state district court in Austin.

The lawsuit challenges the view of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. That board contends that Texas A&M should have gotten its permission before entering into the public-private affiliation with South Texas in January.

Under the affiliation agreement, South Texas College of Law of Texas A&M University would remain a privately funded institution. But the affiliation with Texas A&M would provide greater name recognition without having to relocate.

A&M would get a law school at no additional expense.

Union Pacific says service has improved along the Gulf Coast

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Union Pacific continues to have problems with congestion on its rail lines in Texas, but says things have improved along the coast.

For now, the railroad is focusing on traffic problems that have emerged on its busy central corridor in Nebraska.

Now, Union Pacific says it is trying to clear a snarl near North Platte, Nebraska, the site of one of the world's largest rail yards. Part of the problem is that the railroad diverted locomotives from Nebraska to help clear up the gulf region.

A company official said \$400 million will be spent on improvements to Midwestern rail lines.

New president says UT salaries may cost \$30 million

AUSTIN (AP) — The new president of the University of Texas says his top priorities are making salaries competitive and ensuring that minority students are welcome.

Larry Faulkner says he's gained experience wrestling with the salary issue in his most recent post as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Illinois.

Officials have said faculty at UT's Austin campus should be paid more. Also, top graduate students have been lost to universities that offer more money and free tuition.

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Employee-Friendly Offices Allow Personal Calls at Work

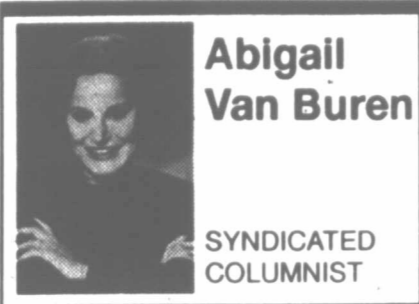
DEAR ABBY: You were way off the mark in your response to "Boss's Wife in Texas," who discovered that her husband's employees were making and receiving personal phone calls at work.

These days it's very difficult to find and retain competent people. The wise employer knows that people do have lives, and those lives do not always neatly compartmentalize into eight-hour blocks.

While some jobs, such as production-line workers, require 100 percent attention at every moment, most jobs simply require that a certain number of tasks be performed well and delivered on time. If workers can accomplish that, there is no reason why they can't be granted some slack to make phone calls, run errands, take extended lunches and work a flexible shift.

Many companies are restructuring their requirements so that productivity is the only thing that counts. Telecommuting, flex-time and other freedoms that were not dreamed of 30 years ago are now encouraged.

As we approach the millennium, companies now have a choice: Be inflexible and autocratic and pay the price in turnover and retraining costs, or structure their needs in such a way as to make the workers feel that they still control their lives. When I managed a graphics shop in the late '80s, I did this and had to fire only one employee for poor performance. Our turnover rate was far below the industry



Abigail Van Buren
 SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

standard.
NOW SELF-EMPLOYED, PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR SELF-EMPLOYED: It will come as no surprise to anyone that I received a barrage of mail from people who thought my answer was wrong. (Only a few readers supported my answer.) Read on for some comments from a personnel specialist:

DEAR ABBY: As a supervisor in a large personnel office for 29 years, I have concluded that employees work much better when they can at least partially settle their personal problems by phone. After all, many of those with whom they are communicating work the same hours the employees do.

Working parents often ask their children to check in with them after school. It usually takes only a few minutes. Sometimes spouses must communicate with each other to determine the schedule for the day.

I agree, personal problems should be left at home — but sometimes a phone call can avert a personal problem that could result in lost work time. Like it or not, employees do have lives outside the office and details to take care of.

Usually, other employees in the office will not allow a slacker to take advantage. When someone abuses the privileges to the point that it's unethical or hurting his or her work, management usually hears about it from more than one person.

The workplace should be an area of give-and-take for both employees and employers. If employees have a boss like mine, they will work twice as hard once they hang up the phone, not only because of the boss's understanding, but because they have solved their problem and can then focus completely on their work.

VOICE OF EXPERIENCE, SAN ANTONIO

DEAR VOICE OF EXPERIENCE: I bow to your many years of expertise in employee relations. When I said that making calls on company time was a form of theft, I was referring to employees who make frequent, lengthy and often distracting phone calls. It was not intended to chastise employees who do not abuse telephone privileges.

Horoscope

Wednesday, April 15, 1998

In the year ahead there is a possibility something profitable might result from an endeavor that started out as a hobby or sideline. What you have to offer will attract partners.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your ingenuity is apt to be a shade more luminous today than that of your peers. Everyone is likely to fare better if they use your bright ideas instead of theirs. Aries, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Strive to keep your focus on goals that have the most promise today. Lady Luck is still a big fan of yours and she is operating on

be luckier than usual today where your worldly and material interests are concerned. Chance could play a significant role in tilting advantageous trends in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Today your most significant returns are likely to come from a partnership arrangement. It binds you with an individual who was lucky for you previously.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Sell imaginatively today if there is something you're trying to promote for a personal profit. However, don't depart from the facts to make the sale.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) When it comes to working out an agreement today you should be able to strike an advantageous bargain. However, don't get careless and overlook the obvious.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Strive to be aware of materialistic matters today without being selfish or greedy. If you let events run their course, rewards from two areas are possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today you'll be right on target in managing matters that require good social judgment. However, this enviable talent might not extend to your commercial affairs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You could

be luckier than usual today where your worldly and material interests are concerned. Chance could play a significant role in tilting advantageous trends in your favor.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Let the pronouncements of gloomy companions fall on deaf ears today. Tune them out and tune in those whose pitch is in harmony with yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You should do well today in your commercial affairs if you conduct them along traditional lines. Use methods you know from experience work effectively.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A disgruntled associate might attempt to throw a monkey wrench into your machinery today. Don't let this upset you, because you won't have trouble finding an equally effective alternative.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) This could be a day when the emphasis will be placed on unexpected developments. Be ready to move swiftly if Lady Luck opens up a window of opportunity.

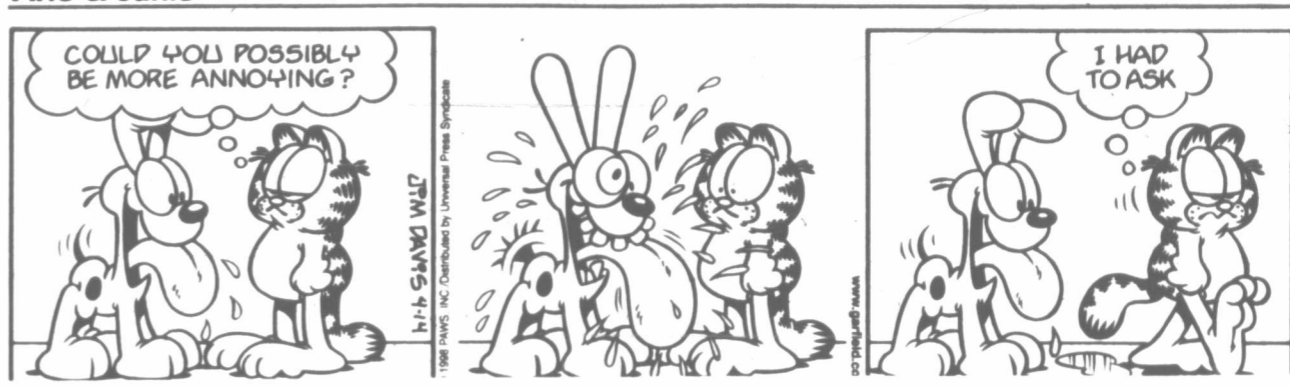
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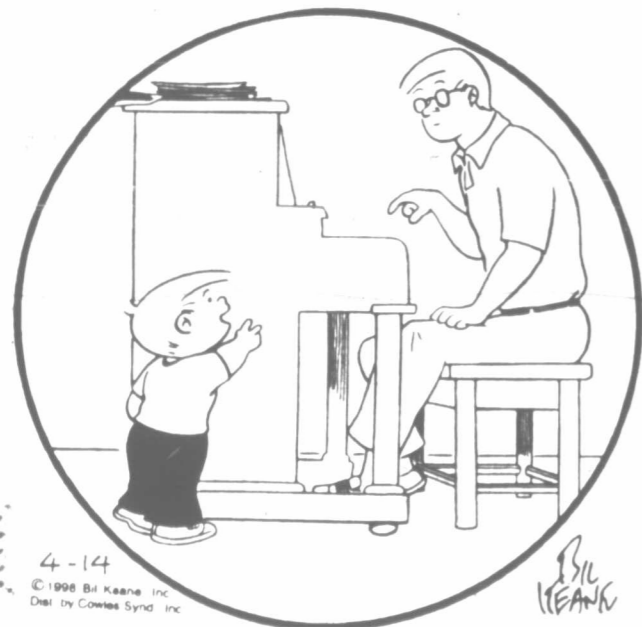
The Born Loser



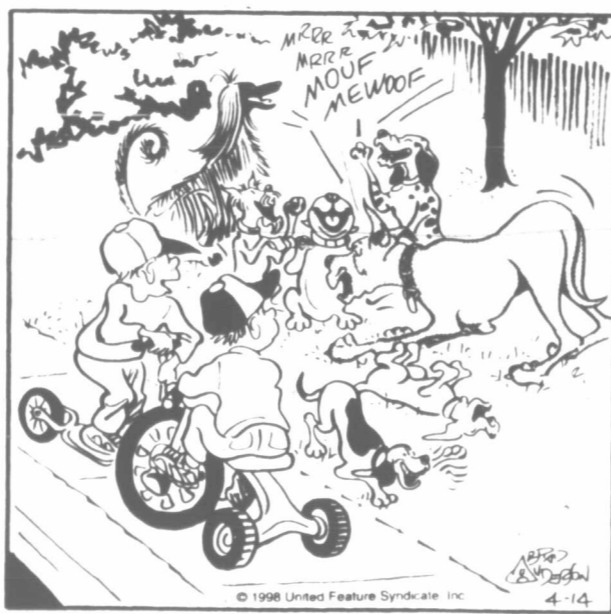
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Mallard Filmore



"You're better than Dick Hyman, Daddy. He hasta use TWO hands to play."



"He must be telling cat jokes again."



Peanuts

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SPORTS

Notebook

BASKETBALL

CLEMSON, S.C. (AP) — Rick Barnes, the Clemson basketball coach that has accepted an offer to go to Texas, said South Carolina's public school system played a part in his decision.

Barnes, whose two children ages 9 and 13 attend Pickens County schools, said Monday the move is right for his family.

He also said he did not intend for his remarks to offend anyone. "I don't want people (in Clemson) to ever think I was too good for them," he said.

Pickens County school officials said they were surprised by Barnes' comments.

"Our test scores pretty well speak for themselves. Many, many kids get an excellent education (here). I don't know what the problem would have been," said district Superintendent Duke Hucks.

He pointed to Morrison Elementary School, which Barnes' daughter attends. Morrison has received state incentive money every year for the last 13 years for its achievement on standardized test scores.

HUNTING

AMARILLO — The 1997-98 Texas Big Game Awards Show and Dinner for the Panhandle Region will be held in the North Meeting Room of the Amarillo Civic Center at 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Trophy mule deer, white-tailed deer and pronghorn antelope may be viewed at 5:30 p.m., followed by a barbecue dinner at 6:30 p.m. and an awards presentation at 7 p.m. Cost for the event is \$10.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children 12 and under. Reservations must be made by calling 1-800-692-1338 by 5 p.m. on Friday.

The annual program, sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Texas Wildlife Association, is designed to recognize quality big game animals and the hunters that harvested them during the 1997-98 hunting season. The program also recognizes the land management efforts of land owners and encourages participation by young and new hunters.

For further information, call Mike Miller at 806-665-5260.

FOOTBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — Curtis Martin exercised a four-year option in his contract to remain with the New York Jets through 2002.

Martin signed an offer sheet with the Jets last month that New England refused to match. The deal allowed Martin to choose between becoming a free agent again after the '98 season or adding five years to the deal.

The one-year deal was worth \$4 million. The longer contract is worth about \$6 million a year, or \$36 million altogether if the Jets exercise their option for the 2003 season.

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Free agent running back Chris Warren agreed to a three-year, \$2 million contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

Warren, 30, was released by Seattle last month after the Seahawks signed Ricky Watters. Warren rushed for 847 yards last season.

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (AP) — A year after Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke died and left his wife nothing, his heirs reached a secret settlement with the widow, estate lawyers said.

The agreement resolves lawsuits filed by Marlana Ramallo Cooke and by lawyers for the estimated \$825 million estate, and averts a trial scheduled for April 20. The Washington Post reported that Marlana Cooke will get \$20 million in the settlement.

Pampa girls win district golf championship

CANYON — The Pampa Lady Harvesters shot a final-round 351 Monday to win their second consecutive District 1-4A golf championship.

Pampa shot a 1,036 in the three-round district tournament while runnerup Hereford had a 1,071. Both teams qualify for the Class 4A regional tournament April 27-28 in San Angelo.

Pampa senior Melissa Gindorf won medalist honors with a 247, while teammate Shelby Allison and Hereford's Amy Killingsworth finished tied for second at 253. Allison defeated Killingsworth on the second hole of a playoff.

The third district round was played at Canyon Country Club.

"With the regionals up next I feel like we're getting ready to play some of our best golf, even though we didn't today (Monday)," said Pampa coach Frank McCullough. "We have a real good chance of going onto state. We finished third in regionals last year and I feel we'll be able to improve on that."

District 1-4A Tournament (third and final round)
Team totals: 1. Pampa 351-1,036; 2. Hereford 372-1,071; 3.

Golf

Borger 395-1,127; 4. Canyon 375-1,132; 5. Randall 381 - 1,146; 6. Dumas 422-1,207; 7. Borger JV 448-1,272; 8. Caprock 453-1,329; 9. Canyon JV 479; 10. Hereford JV 532-1,423.

Medalist: 1. Melissa Gindorf, Pampa, 86-247; 2. (tie) Shelby Allison, Pampa, 87-253; Amy Killingsworth, Hereford, 83-253; 4. Kacey Henderson, Randall, 89-256; 5. Lindsay Ward, Hereford, 91-258; 6. Jacque Bezner, Hereford, 93-261.

Pampa: Shelby Allison 87-253; Melissa Gindorf 86-247;

Cortnie Allison 95-283; Maggie Cowan 93-276; Alison Piersall 85.

Singles: Stephanie Harwood 96; Annie Sims 108; Michelle Qualls 112.

Sunday, April 19, is the last day to make reservations for the 1998 Texas Tech Coaches Golf Day.

Sponsored by the Ex-Students Association and the Red Raider Club, the Texas Tech Coaches Golf Day is planned for 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 21, at a cost of \$10 per person.

The program for the poolside meal at Pampa County Club includes representatives from Texas Tech Athletics Department and Bill Dean, vice president and chief executive officer of the Ex-Students Association.

The Red Raider Golf Classic, an 18-hole scramble, will be held earlier in the day. The \$50 per player fee includes cart, prizes, green fees and evening meal and program.

For more information call Mickey Piersall at the Pampa County Club, 665-8431, or Dr. Joe Donaldson, 2530 Duncan, 665-5914.

Harvester tennis team takes fourth at Dumas

DUMAS — The Pampa High School varsity tennis team played at the Dumas Invitational Tournament last weekend and came away with a fourth-place finish.

Senior McKinley Quarles and junior Mandy Wells combined to win the girls' doubles division without losing a set in four matches. The title was the third of the spring season for Quarles and the second for Wells.

Junior Kellen Waters and sophomore Emily Curtis won three of their four doubles matches. Senior Jason Vickery and junior Russ DuBose teamed up for the boys' top performance with a fourth-place finish in doubles.

Players for the week are Quarles and freshman Michael Cornelison. The team next plays in the District 1-4A Tournament in Dumas Friday and Saturday.

Results from the Dumas Tournament are as follows:

Team standings: 1. Vernon 113; 2. Dumas 95; 3. Plainview 84; 4. Pampa 77; 5. Borger 62; 6. Clovis, N.M. 59; 7. Randall 41; 8. Perryton 38.

Girls doubles
McKinley Quarles-Mandy Wells: First round, def. LaFebre-Pichuskie (PE), 6-1, 6-0; Quarterfinals: def. Boland Gooch (V), 6-4, 6-1; Semifinals: def. Ames-Pendergrass (D), 6-4, 6-2; Finals: def. Dorrity-Mock (PL), 6-1, 6-3.

Emily Curtis-Kellen Waters: First round, lost to Carr-Quintero (V), 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); Second round, def. Flue-Sealock (B), 6-1, 6-1; Third round, def. Baker-Pallas (C), 6-0, 6-1; Eighth place, def. Gammage-Williams (PL), 6-3, 6-0.

Boys doubles
Russ DuBose-Jason Vickery: First round, def. Mills-Pallmeyer (R), by default; Quarterfinals, def. Heden-Knapp (C), 6-2, 6-0; Semifinals, lost to Echols-Petross (V), 6-0, 6-2; Third place, lost to Coggins-Tebeest (D), 6-0, 6-2.

Brandon Coffee-Bryce Hudson: First round, lost to Dill-Milner (B), 6-2, 3-6, 6-2; Second round, def. Salcido-Slaton (R), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Third round, def. Gage-Joyner (PE), 7-5, 6-4; Eighth place, lost to Schmitz-Trahern (B), 6-3, 6-1.

Girls singles
Valerie Lee: First round, def. Crystal Cannon (PL), 7-6 (8-6), 6-3; Quarterfinals, lost to Rhona Foeh (C), 6-1, 7-5; Third round, def. Rae Ann Pattison (V), 6-2, 6-1; Fifth place, lost to Stephanie Lechner (D), 4-6, 6-1, 6-0.

Amanda Browning: First round, lost to Andrea Burrows (R), 6-4, 6-4; Second round, lost to Alicia Gallegos (C), 6-3, 7-5; Third round, def. Amy Hall (PE), 6-1, 6-0; 13th place, lost to Tasha Bryant (R), by default.

Boys singles
Michael Cornelison: First round, def. Josh Stevens (C), 7-6 (7-4), 6-2; Quarterfinals, lost to John Leavitt (V), 6-3, 6-1; Third round, lost to Shelby Melban (D), 6-0, 6-1; Seventh place, def. Jeremy Gray (B), 6-1, 6-4.

Dustin Laycock: First round, lost to Dustin Blankenship (PL), 6-1, 6-4; Second round, lost to Cameron Jones (R), 6-2, 6-3; Third round, def. Brad Foster (PE), 6-1, 6-0; Thirteenth place, def. Yuri Mendoza (PL), 6-4, 6-4.

The Pampa junior varsity team was thrust into the Gold Division of the Amarillo Relays this past Thursday and Friday with some of the top varsity programs in the region.

Sophomores Ryan Mills and Helen Orr led the squad by winning two of four singles matches.

Final team standings were as follows: 1. Wichita Falls High; 2. Tascosa; 3. Carlsbad, N.M.; 4. Amarillo High; 5. Lubbock Monterey; 6. Canyon; 7. Pampa JV; 8. Amarillo High JV.

The team next plays in the District 1-4A JV Tournament Friday in Dumas.

Rangers rout Tigers, 10-1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Lee Stevens struggles when he swings for the fences.

He must have been swinging for singles Monday night as he homered three times into the right-field seats.

Stevens had the first three-homer game of his career to back Bobby Witt's six-hit pitching for 6 2-3 innings as the Texas Rangers routed the Detroit Tigers 10-1.

"When I start looking for homers, that's when I get into trouble," Stevens said. "I was looking to be aggressive and swing at strikes. This is a good park for left-handed hitters. It was a special night for me because I've never done it before."

The lefty-hitting designated hitter hit solo homers in the second and fifth innings before connecting on a two-run shot in the seventh to give him five for the season. Attempting to become the 13th player to homer four times in a game, he walked in the eighth.

Stevens wants to avoid becoming obsessed with home runs, so he took the walk when reliever Doug Brocail pitched carefully to him in the eighth.

"It was important for me not to get out of hand and swing at everything he threw up there," Stevens said. "So I was happy to get the walk and keep the inning alive."

Rangers manager Johnny Oates said the key to Stevens' big night was that he did not give in to the Tigers pitchers. "He made them throw strikes," Oates said. "He's a legitimate hitter when he does that."

Juan Gonzalez added a two-run homer for the Rangers, who have won four of five to lead the West by one game. Witt (1-0) got his 125th career win and 100th for Texas. The right-hander's bid for a 10th career shutout ended in the seventh when Joe Randa doubled, advanced on a groundout and scored on a balk to make it 5-1.

Unbeaten Lady Harvesters



(Pampa News photo)

The unbeaten Pampa girls' track team have won seven meet championships going into the District 1-4A meet Friday and Saturday in Borger. Team members are (front row, l-r) Tiffany McCullough, Katy Cavalier, Lavonne Evans and Audrey Wilbon; (back row, l-r) Tandi Morton, Ashleigh Patton, Lori Lindsey, Jennifer Ross, Joy Young, Barbara Wine and Lacrese Ford.

Dodgers beat Astros on strange play

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Craig Biggio couldn't fault the umpire's decision. It's the rule that makes no sense to him.

"If the ruling is in the book that way, they should rewrite it," the Houston second baseman said after the Los Angeles Dodgers took advantage of a seldom-invoked interpretation in beating the Astros 3-1 Monday night. "That's a strange one, a weird one."

It wasn't a good one for the Astros. The win was the sixth in eight games for the Dodgers after four losses to start the season, and it came one night after a 7-6 win over the Astros on Raul Mondesi's two-out, two-run homer in the 10th.

Mondesi was in the middle of Monday night's biggest play. With the score tied 1-1, he singled off Jose Lima (2-1) to start the seventh, becoming his team's first baserunner since the third.

Mondesi was then hit by Todd Zeile's grounder on a hit-and-run play, and immediately left the field, figuring he was out. But after a brief delay, he was waved back to second

base. The umpires so ruled because first baseman Jeff Bagwell was playing in, and Biggio, covering second, had no play on the ball. Zeile was credited with a single.

"It was a very strange play," said plate umpire Jim Quick, a 22-year veteran. "I've seen runners hit, never like this. Either another player had a play on it, or the infielders were

back." Quick said first base umpire Joe West, who made the call, had seen the play once before.

Pinch hitter Jose Vizcaino then sacrificed, and seldom-used Wilton Guerrero, making his first start of the season, singled up the middle to drive in Mondesi and Zeile for his first two RBIs.

Neighborhood Watch works!

THANK YOU

Pampa Independent School District for your consolation and your continuing prayers during this difficult time, and also for the very generous monetary donations, which greatly helped ease our financial worries of putting our loved one to rest.

Kevin, Loretta & Kisha Grimes
 The Family of Chaz D. Niblett

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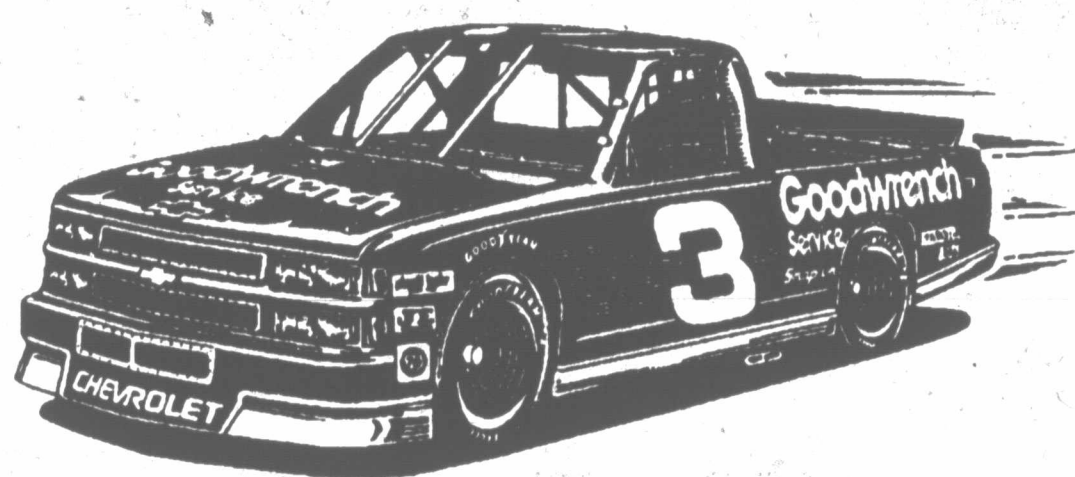
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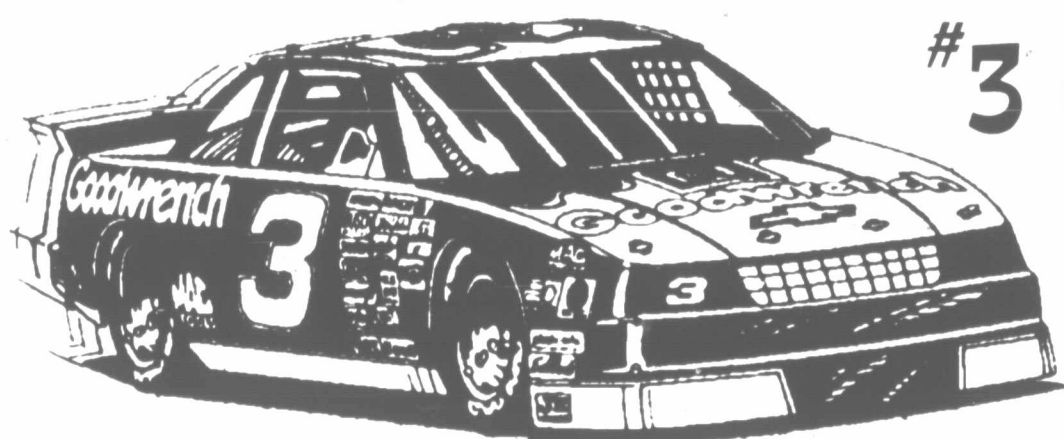
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