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Pampa

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City plans to curb South Pampa floods

By Kate B. Dickson
Associate Publisher

Flood problems may be relieved — at least in part — for residents along Crawford Street from Huff Road east to Barnes Street when Phase 1 of a drainage project is completed.

City commissioners Tuesday gave City Attorney Don R. Lane the go-ahead to acquire the necessary easements after hearing a report from Richard E. Morris, Pampa's director of public works.

While a 1965 report on drainage conditions in south Pampa addressed this problem, the city was unable to finance the storm sewer project and it was dropped.

A recently-completed engineering

Once the easements are granted, drainage areas and street gutters will be cleared of sedimentation, overhanging vegetation and trash in general. This, public works director Richard Morris believes, "will go a long way" in aiding proper drainage and reducing flooding.

study found the same factors at fault, including the "very flat" nature of Crawford Street. Because of that, the report stressed the importance that "every possible improvement" be made when it comes to cleaning the area.

Once the easements are granted, Morris said drainage areas and street gutters will

be cleared of sedimentation, overhanging vegetation and trash in general. This, he believes, "will go a long way" in aiding proper drainage and reducing flooding.

The plans also call for adding some storm drain inlets and keeping the out-fall channel running from the Crawford outlet point maintained by shaping and mowing

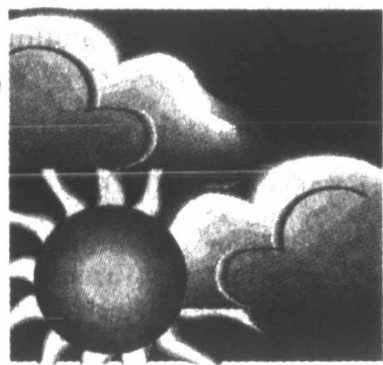
— regularly.

The drainage study was conducted by Merriman & Barber, Consulting Engineers, Inc., who carried their recommendations even farther — something Morris calls Phase 2.

Once the initial work is completed, the public works director said an assessment will be made as to how well drainage has been improved before considering more work.

Though he had no cost estimates, Morris said Phase 2 would be an "expensive project" as it includes curb and gutter drainage, storm sewer pipe, and dredging a Playa Lake.

Water draining from the area ends up in Recreation Park Lake.



High today 68.
Low tonight 32.
For weather details please see page 2.

PAMPA — Tralee Crisis Center for Women is offering an in-house support group for victims of family violence beginning May 5. Two different meeting times will be offered — Tuesday from 11 a.m. until noon and Thursday from 7-8 p.m. For more information call, 806-669-1131.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A San Antonio attorney has appealed the prison sentence that Victoria Dalton, now 15, received three years ago in the murder of two children who had been left in her care.

But he's not sure, considering recent publicity, if it's in the teen-ager's best interest to get a new trial.

In light of the current social climate, Miss Dalton could end up with a stiffer sentence, lawyer Jose Guerrero said.

"The advocate in me wants a new trial," Guerrero said after a hearing Tuesday before the 4th Court of Appeals in San Antonio. "But the lawyer in me is not so sure."

Miss Dalton was only 12 when she was arrested and tried for the Jan. 6, 1995, suffocation deaths of 5-month-old Timothy Manuel Gutierrez and his 2-year-old sister Renee Alicia Gutierrez.

It took the jury five hours to find her guilty of capital murder and five days of deliberation to assess her punishment of 14 years. She faced a maximum sentence of 40 years.

• Sue Little, 63, retired land lease analyst for Mesa Petroleum.
• Paul Morgan, 86, longtime farmer, rancher and oil and gas company employee.

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Female numbers growing on local Crimestopper list

Women have reached near equality in this week's Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers most wanted list. Of the 10 accused felons, four are women.

The top ten this week include:

Sandra Lee Bogart, a white female, 37, who is wanted on charges of forgery by passing.

Aleshia Wylene Crow, a white female, 30, is wanted on charges of probation violation on a burglary.

Shanna Eve Tambunga, a white female, 35, is wanted on charges of forgery.

Bronnie Paul Vaughn, a white male, 30, is wanted on charges of parole violation on the original charge of burglary.

Clyde Croneliues Sirls, a black male, 36, is wanted on charges of probation violation on delivery of a controlled substance charge.

William Michael Landers, a black male, 28, is wanted on charges of violation of probation on felony-non payment of child support and other charges.

Andrew Lee Fennell, a black male, 38, is wanted on charges of violation of probation on a burglary charge.

Kevyn James Gilmore, a white male, 34, is wanted on charges of violation of probation on forgery charges.

Deborah Sue Dillard, a white female, 46, is wanted on charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Norman Wilson Green III, a white male, 30, is wanted on charges of violation of probation of an original charge of burglary.

All these suspects should be considered armed and dangerous, if anyone sees them or know of their whereabouts do not try to apprehend. Call Crime Stoppers at 669-2222 or 1-800-737-8143. Callers may be eligible for a cash reward and all calls are anonymous.

Golf path work gets ok

A smoother ride for golfers is in the works now that city commissioners have given the go-ahead to speed up the cart trail improvement project over the next two years.

Rather than splitting a \$12,000 appropriation between tree purchases and cart trail improvement, commissioners Tuesday went along with a request that all the money, this year and next, go to bettering the trail.

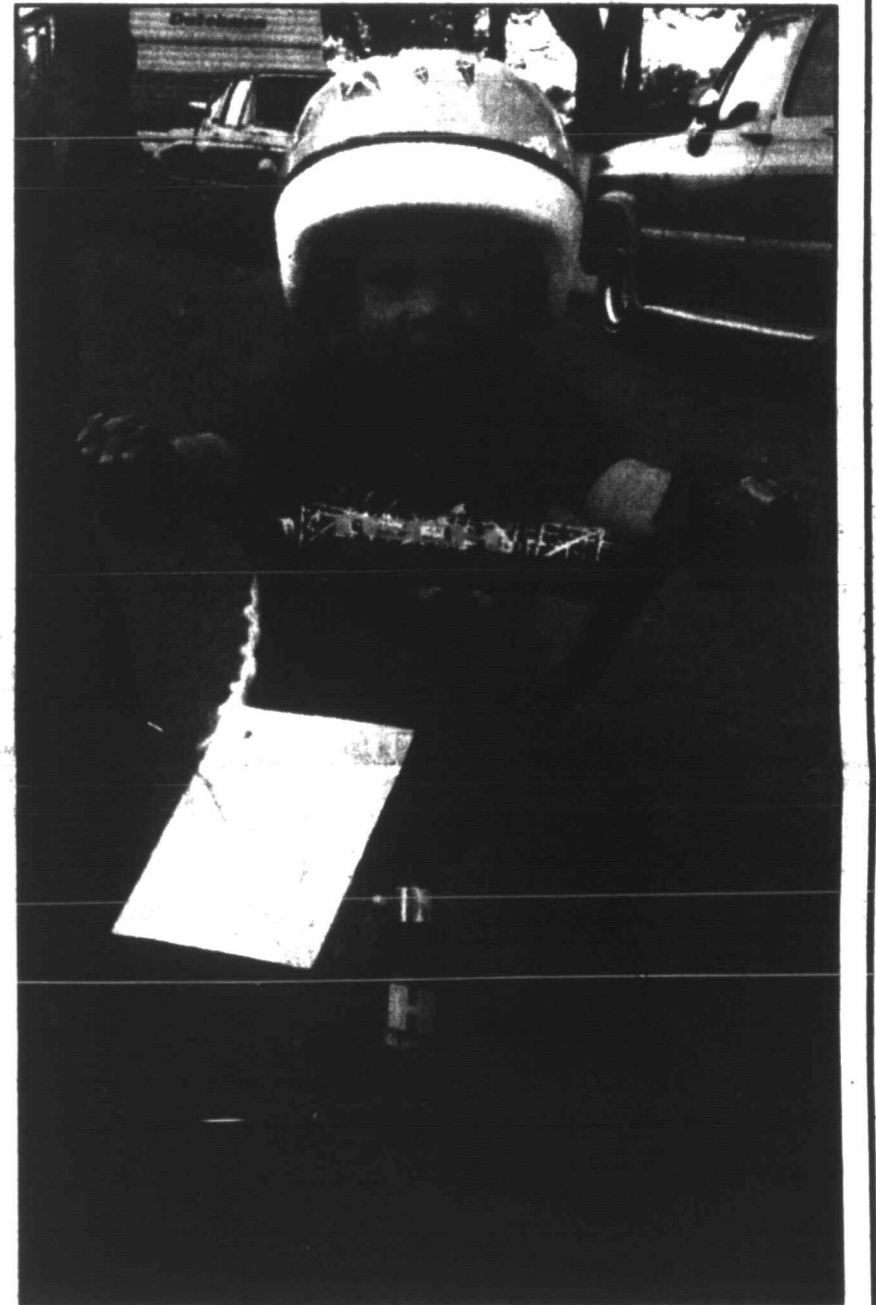
Commissioners agreed that while they support the tree-planting project, rough paths are damaging expensive golf carts at the city's Hidden Hills Golf Course.

Golf pro David Teichmann said improved trails should mean more business for the course because wet and muddy conditions often mean no carts can be used. He estimated improved trails could mean another \$3,000 in fees yearly.

He's ready to roll...

The recently-completed St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Bike-A-Thon raised nearly \$1,200 in pledges for the hospital. Seven youngsters rode laps in Hobart Street Park to raise the money. Ryan Zemanek won in the 11-and-up category, Karissa Noack won for 7-to-10-year-olds and 4-year-old Christian Wells won for 6 and under. Two-year-old Nicholas Wells (right), needed help from his folks with the bike but still managed 21 laps. Each lap was about 1/4 mile according to event organizer Becky Hilton. Another \$800 was raised in street dance pledges even though it had to be rescheduled due to rain.

(Special photo)



Will you help? Fire safety program needs donations

Pampa Fire Chief Claudie Phillips and the Pampa Fire Department have started a Fire Safety Education Program and are seeking donations to help educate Pampa's children.

The program is designed to provide training and material to teach children from kindergarten through sixth grade. The material is designed by the National Fire Safety Council, a tax exempt organization, so all donations will be tax deductible. The cost of the material is about \$1.70 per child and the department is asking concerned businesses and industrial and community leaders to give enough to provide material for 30 to 100 children.

A donation to get the material for 30 children is \$51, for 50 chil-

dren the cost would be \$85 and material for 100 children it would be \$170.

Those contributing for 30 or more children will receive mention on a "prestige page" of all the training manuals.

If a group wishes to contribute a smaller amount, the fire department will be happy to accept those donations as well.

Anyone interested in helping should make the checks out to "National Fire Safety Council," and mail them to the Pampa Fire Department, P.O. Box 2499, Pampa Tx 79066-2499.

Richards' daughter won't seek to chair Texas Demo party

AUSTIN (AP) — Cecile Richards, daughter of former Gov. Ann Richards, won't be the next head of the Texas Democratic Party.

Ms. Richards on Tuesday said she decided against seeking election to the post. She gave a similar reason to that of current party chairman Bill White, who said he was vacating the post to spend more time with his family.

"I couldn't go into this position without being able to give 150 percent of my time and energy," Ms. Richards said after discussing it for several days with her husband and three children.

"For the first time, we really faced what being a full-time party chair would require, and the sacrifices it would mean for us as a family," she said. "This has been a difficult decision. Still, I remain committed to doing my part personally for a successful effort in November."



(Community Camera photo)

The Pampa Shrine Club will host its annual Bar-B-Que Sunday, May 3, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Top O' Texas Sportsman Club on South Barnes. (Left) Alvin Soukup and John Newhouse get in some practice for take-out orders. Proceeds of the event aid crippled children.

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Adopt-a-park



Jim Davidson, left-right, Christi Honeycutt and Jim Howell contribute in picking up East Coronado Park, adopted by Pampa Realty. Lion's Club Park, adopted by Hispanos Unidos, is cleaned up by volunteers Cynthia Davis, left-right, April Shorter, Yolanda Dominguez and Chris Perez.

Cigarette-maker agrees to cooperate with probe without immunity

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cigarette-maker Liggett & Myers' agreement to cooperate in a criminal investigation of the tobacco industry without getting immunity from prosecution shows that federal prosecutors are developing a strong case, observers say.

And Liggett's defection Tuesday also could undermine a campaign by the rest of the industry to water down a bill in Congress that would charge the industry half a trillion dollars for sick smokers and for luring teens to cigarettes.

Liggett, which markets L&M, Chesterfield, Eve and Lark cigarettes in the United States, agreed to tell prosecutors whether the industry hid evidence of smoking's health damage from Congress and regulators, manipulated nicotine levels and targeted children as future buyers.

Liggett also agreed to describe the control of research by the Council for Tobacco Research and the involvement of lawyers in directing research or crafting false or misleading statements by any tobacco company to Congress, the

Food and Drug Administration and American consumers, the Justice Department said.

Tobacco executives told Congress in 1994 they had no knowledge of nicotine's addictive qualities or of health damage from smoking.

The company's decision could save it huge legal fees that arise in fighting any federal criminal probe, but the Justice Department's rejection of Liggett's plea for immunity was seen by Rep. Martin Meehan, D-Mass., as "an indication that the Justice Department has a very strong case."

Cliff Douglas, a leading anti-tobacco attorney in Ann Arbor, Mich., agreed.

Federal grand juries here and in the New York City borough of Brooklyn already have obtained under subpoena key documents from tobacco companies, their advertisers and suppliers, Douglas said. "If the Justice investigators were in trouble, they would have given immunity to Liggett. This increases the likelihood of indictments."

Meehan, a former state prosecutor who triggered the federal probe with a 111-page prosecution memo he gave Attorney General Janet Reno in December 1994, called Liggett's move a major development.

"By turning state's evidence, Liggett's cooperation can break the entire criminal investigation into the tobacco industry wide open," Meehan said.

The company agreed to supply "evidence of crimes and fraud contained in documents" the industry has kept secret on grounds of attorney-client or attorney-work product privileges, Justice said.

Meehan said cooperation by Liggett's executives and scientists "is equally, if not more important" because "witnesses can confirm and interpret the information on those documents."

The smallest of the top five tobacco companies, Liggett has been the leader in breaking a solid front of cigarette-makers before. It was the first to reach a settlement with 22 states that sued the industry to recover Medicaid funds spent on treating smokers. It still is alone in listing ingredients on its cigarette packs and labeling them addictive.

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THE Pampa NEWS

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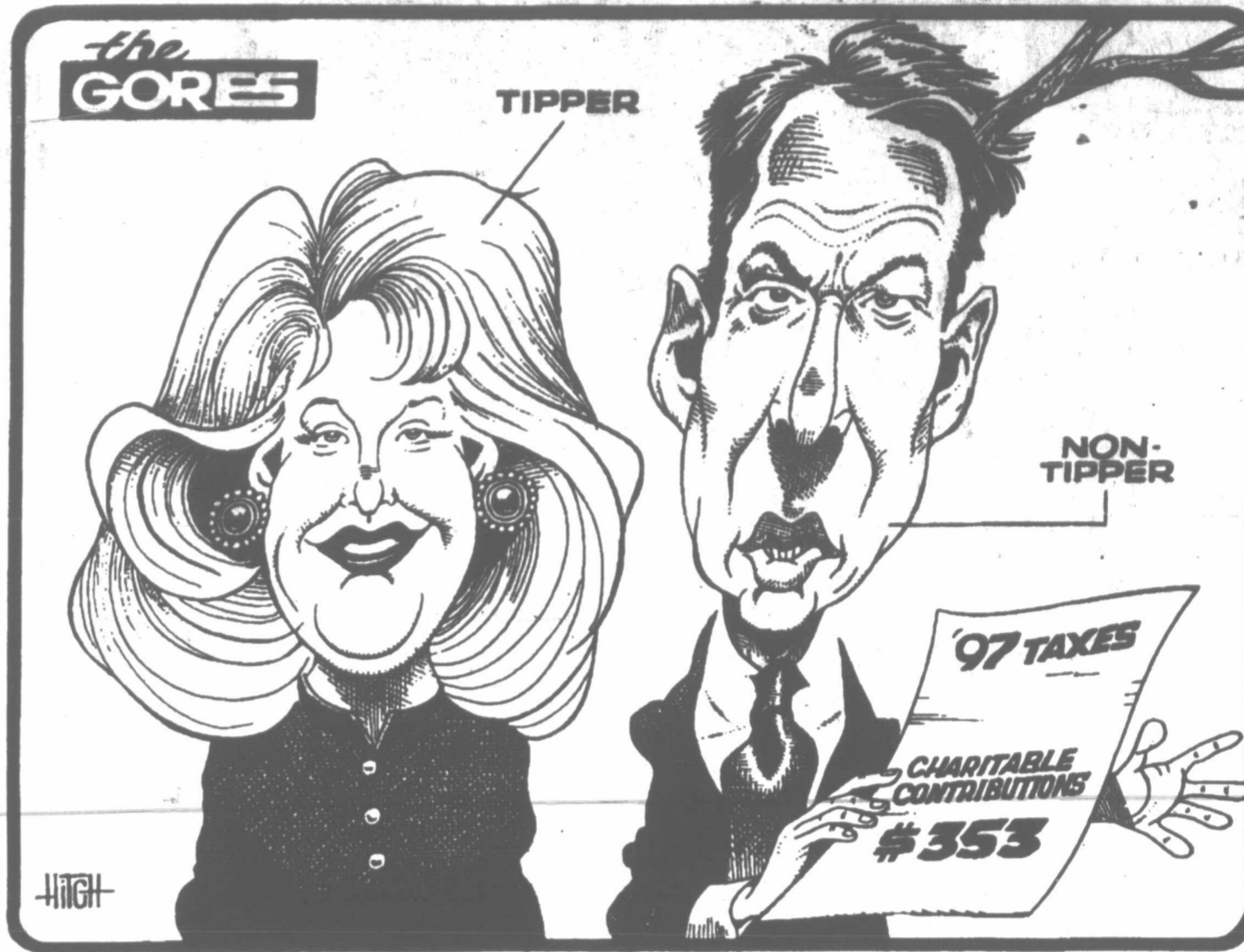
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Opinion

A united Ireland isn't guaranteed

Just because some words have been written doesn't mean that the warring factions in Ireland will put aside centuries of strife.

There are significant reasons to be skeptical about the peace agreement announced recently in Northern Ireland: the centuries of troubled history, the often justifiable bitterness on all sides, guerrilla groups that have refused to take part in any talks, the wary forces that still have an interest in failure.

It won't be easy to translate agreement on paper into peace among people. As Adrian McDaid, information officer for the Irish consulate in New York, said, "Northern Ireland is still a divided society and it will take time and work to bring the parties together. Even if the agreement is approved in the referendum scheduled for May 22 in all of Ireland, that doesn't mean the problems will be solved on May 23."

It's hardly a foregone conclusion that voters will approve the agreement. Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the party associated with the provisional Irish Republican Army, participated in the talks, but says it is up to the grassroots to validate the agreement. He made it a point to say that the Irish nationalist hope of a united Ireland has been postponed, not abandoned. IRA splinter groups are likely to oppose the agreement.

David Tremble, leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party, which has favored continuing union with Great Britain, participated in the talks and supports the agreement, but not all members of his party agree. The more militant Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force - not to mention the Democratic Unionist Party, whose uncompromising leader Ian Paisley will try to undermine the agreement - may not go along.

As in most agreements, all parties gained some goals and gave some up, at least for now. The agreement creates a Northern Ireland Assembly to be elected proportionally, and a North/South Council of elected leaders from both the republic and from northern Ireland. Thus the British government will cease to rule directly and the Irish government will have more say in northern Ireland than it has had since 1921, but with the Northern Ireland Assembly still holding final power. The Irish constitution will be changed to eliminate a provision calling for a united Ireland, and all parties assured the northern Irish that no future change in the status of the country will be made except in response to a democratic vote.

Aside from a few cease-fires, Northern Ireland has not known peace since the current incarnation of "the troubles" began in 1969, when Britain sent troops to put down riots sparked by Roman Catholic calls for a better shake from Northern Ireland's Protestant government. More than 3,000 people have been killed since then, including leading British politicians and nobility. Neighborhoods in Belfast and other cities remain divided by mistrust, brick walls and long memories.

The experts say most people are weary of the killing and ready for peace, that the hard-line advocates of violence are a tiny minority now. Let's hope they're right.

-Odessa American

Consumers think safety

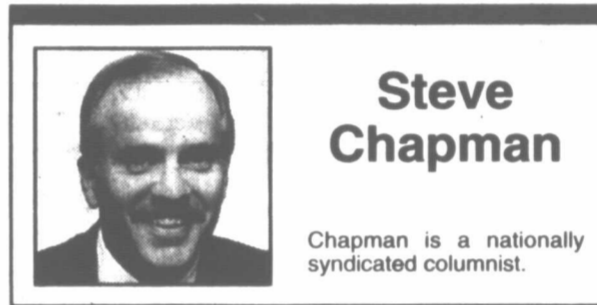
If you want the economy to furnish athletic shoes, computer software or Bruce Willis movies, everyone knows you have to rely on the free market. But asking soulless capitalists to voluntarily provide safe and healthful products is supposed to be like trying to get kung pao chicken at an Irish pub. Safety, we all know, is the job of government. Find an allegedly hazardous product in the morning, and before the sun goes down, someone will have organized a lobby to demand that Washington intervene to protect us from the danger.

So Ford Motor Co.'s announcement that it will start offering side air bags on all its cars and its Windstar minivan comes as something of a shock. This news doesn't square with the assumption that consumers are cheerful dunces who could be talked into boarding the Hindenberg if it had a CD player and leather seats. Can they really be induced to make purchases on the basis of such novel considerations as life and death?

Ford thinks they can, and so does General Motors, which already offers this equipment on several models and plans to expand it to others. Side air bags are also available in high-end vehicles made by BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo. In recent months, we have heard reports about the dangers of colliding with sport-utility vehicles, which generally ride higher and weigh more than ordinary cars. Motorists may have concluded that some protective measures are in order.

The rise of side air bags parallels the experience with anti-lock brakes, which became standard purely because consumers wanted to lengthen their life expectancy. Front air bags also proliferated before they were mandated.

In fact, federal rules on these have been a detriment to safety because they require that front air bags deploy with sufficient force to



Steve Chapman
 Chapman is a nationally syndicated columnist.

protect adults who don't fasten their seat belts - and, it turns out, with sufficient force to injure and even decapitate small children in some circumstances. Lately, of course, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has been erecting hurdles for drivers who would think the danger is too great: Only with bureaucratic permission may car owners install on-off switches to escape a hazard that bureaucrats created.

Auto industry critics lament the growing popularity of Ford Explorers and Chevy Suburbans, but the sport-utility boom is also the obvious result of growing concern with safety - and of federal mandates that raise the risk of driving. Because of federal fuel-economy rules, auto makers have had to reduce the size and weight of cars. That change conserves gasoline but squanders lives by making their occupants more vulnerable in a crash.

A recent study by the Competitive Enterprise Institute, updating an earlier report by John Graham of the Harvard School of Public Health and Robert Crandall of the Brookings Institution, estimates that the downsizing brought about by the fuel-economy rules was responsible for at least 2,700 traffic fatalities last year.

But light trucks are subject to less stringent gas mileage regulations, which means they are bigger and heavier than cars and thus better

able to emerge from a crash without having to call on an undertaker. That's undoubtedly why many people buy them. A recent study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that when a car and a sport-utility vehicle run into each other, the people in the sport-utility vehicle are four times more likely to survive than those in the car.

These stylishly modified trucks have been portrayed as dangerous because they are prone to rollover fatalities, but that seems to be less the fault of their design than of the type of people (including youngish males who don't wear seat belts and have fantasies of winning the Indianapolis 500) who drive them. Minivans are also classified as light trucks and have a higher center of gravity, but in practice, they rarely are involved in rollover deaths - no doubt because their owners are generally sober, middle-aged mortgage holders cautiously ferrying precious youngsters to piano lessons and baseball practice.

Overall, the "upsizing" represented by minivans and sport-utility vehicles has been a boon to safety. Yet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has reacted with alarm. It is contemplating new design regulations to protect cars from sport-utility vehicles. And just recently it proposed that smaller versions carry garish labels warning of the danger of rollover. Hmm. Why not labels warning small-car buyers that federal fuel-economy rules can be fatal?

Motorists aren't waiting for Washington to look after their well-being. Some will soon be shielding themselves behind side air bags that increase the chances of surviving a wreck. Some will get bigger, sturdier cars. And some will simply opt for the tank-like security of their own sport-utility vehicle. On auto safety, to the surprise of their rulers, consumers have shown they can think for themselves.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 29, the 119th day of 1998. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1992, deadly rioting erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost

all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

On this date:

In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a victory over the English.

In 1861, Maryland's House of Delegates voted against seceding from the Union.

In 1862, New Orleans fell to Union forces during the Civil War.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1945, American soldiers liberated the Dachau concentration camp; that same day, Adolf Hitler

married Eva Braun and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz his successor.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese leaders were indicted as war criminals.

In 1974, President Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

KGB wannabes should back off

Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

peer, is the man who said, "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." But most don't know that the same Lord Acton wrote to Gen. Robert E. Lee (please stand to attention while you read his name) after the late unpleasantness.

Acton told Lee, "I grieve more for the government lost at Richmond than I rejoice for the one saved at Waterloo." In other words, Acton knew which side was fighting for the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence and which side was staging America's French Revolution. The new Robespierres were in Washington, not in Richmond.

H.L. Mencken, the Baltimore sage who was no friend of the South, nevertheless said that the one thing wrong with Lincoln's (you can remain seated) Gettysburg Address was that it was the Confederates, not the Northerners, who were fighting for a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

The PC crowds think they are going to intimidate us Southerners into taking down our Confederate monuments, renaming our streets and hiding the flag from public view. But

Southerners aren't intimidated very easily. We are used to being hated.

Wendell Phillips, in 1865, said there would be no peace until 347,000 men of the South were either hanged or exiled. William "Parson" Brownlow got even more warmed up and said in a speech in 1866:

"If I had the power I would arm every wolf, panther, catamount and bear in the mountains of America, every crocodile in the swamps of Florida, every Negro in the South, every devil in hell, clothe him in the uniform of the federal army, and then turn them loose on the rebels of the South and exterminate every man, woman and child south of the Mason-Dixon line."

I believe that fellow was a preacher, but Southerners don't exterminate very easily either.

No, sir, all the politically correct crowd has done is wake up the South so that Southern organizations are rising like biscuits in an oven. Some that had been practically dominant now have thousands of new members. Brand new ones have sprung up strong and feisty.

R.L. Dabney, chaplain for Stonewall Jackson (attention, please), told a group of young Southerners at a graduation ceremony long after the war, "Sirs, you have no reason to be ashamed of your (Confederate) dead; see to it they have no reason to be ashamed of you."

That is our goal, Reverend Dabney, that is our goal.

Berry's World



"I want to do my part for tobacco-related health-care costs. Gimme a pack of cigarettes."

Extension Service to sponsor Panhandle Beef Cattle Conference

AMARILLO — Forage management and performance evaluation of cattle are only two of the topics for this year's Panhandle Beef Cattle Conference set to begin with registration at 8 a.m. May 12 at the Amarillo Civic Center, according to Dr. Ted McCollum, beef cattle specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and conference organizer. The event will be sponsored by the Extension Service.

"We've invited experts in to give outlooks for weather, and cattle and grain markets as well," he said.

Cool-season perennial forage production for cattle grazing is a topic of great interest in the High Plains. Drs. Vivian Allen, professor and Thornton Distinguished Chair at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, and Larry Redmon, forage specialist with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla., will discuss their work with cool-season forages and offer producers some insight for selection and management.

McCollum will be reporting on the 1997-98 Ranch to Rail North program which includes enrollment of cattle from over 100 ranches in six states. David Lust, animal science lecturer, West Texas A&M University, will address breeding stock selection to sustain cow productivity while improving growth and carcass traits. EPDs and trait selection are among the tools to be showcased for participants.

According to McCollum, feedyard performance, carcass traits, cattle value and close-outs can be affected by implant programs. The economics for implant strategies in pasture and feedlot animals will be addressed by Dr. John Hutcheson, technical services nutritionist with Hoechst-Roussel Vet.

El Nino will be the topic for Ed Andrade, lead forecaster for the National Weather Service in the area. He will discuss trends in the weather for the Plains region.

Jim Sartwelle, Extension risk management specialist will give this year's outlook for cattle and grain markets. The conference will adjourn at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call McCollum at (806) 359-5401.

Court rejects death row inmate's appeals, clears way for execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected appeals for death row inmate Frank McFarland, clearing the way for his execution tonight for the rape and fatal stabbing of a woman 10 years ago.

The high court, in a 7-2 ruling, refused to issue a reprieve Tuesday and lawyers for the inmate said they anticipated no additional legal maneuvers to keep McFarland from the death chamber.

"We took the best shot I knew about," said McFarland's attorney, Danny Burns of Fort Worth.

Burns delivered the news to McFarland on Tuesday in a telephone call to the inmate at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Ellis Unit northeast of Huntsville.

McFarland, 34, would become the third Texas inmate to receive lethal injection in eight days and the sixth this year. He was condemned for the Feb. 1, 1988 slaying of Terri Lynn Hokanson, a shoeshine girl at a Fort Worth topless bar. The 26-year-old woman, who had taken the job only three weeks earlier, was stabbed 79 times.

Geranium Sale



(photo by Judy Elliott)

Maggie Ayers, left-right, Emily Elliott and Sarah Schwab are among the many 4-Hers who will be involved with the annual Gray County 4-H Geranium Sale slated to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 2 at Dobson Cellular parking lot and Coronado Center parking lot. The sale will end when all the plants are sold.

Birthday girl



(Special photo)

Alta May Skaggs, above, celebrates her 90th birthday Friday. She was born May 1, 1908, to Oscar and Grace McCoun at near Eva, Okla. She and husband, Clifton, have been married 56 years and have lived in Pampa most of that time. The couple have two sons, Roger Skaggs of Amarillo and Rodney Skaggs of Yucaipa, Calif., five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She enjoys knitting and crocheting.

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CLARENDON - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

6:00-8:00PM	MT	ENGL 0306	WRITING FUNDAMENTALS
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ENGL 1301	ENG COMP RHETORIC I
8:00-12:00AM	MTWTH	ENGL 2311	TECHNICAL WRITING
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ENGL 2332	WORLD LITERATURE I
6:00-10:00PM	MW	GOVT 2301	US & TX CONSTITUTION
6:00-10:00PM	MW	HIST 1301	U.S. HISTORY TO 1865
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	HIST 2301	TEXAS HISTORY
5:00-8:00PM	MW	MATH 0306	DEVELOPMENTAL MATH
8:00-12:00AM	MTWTH	MATH 1314	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
8:00-10:00PM	MW	MATH 1314	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
5:00-8:00PM	MT	READ 0306	READING FUNDAMENTALS

**Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on April 27 in the Student Services office.

CHILDRESS - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

6:00-10:00PM	TTH	COGC 1301	COMPUTER CONCEPTS
6:00-10:00PM	MW	ECOCN 2301	MACROECONOMICS
5:00-8:00PM	MT	ENGL 0306	WRITING FUNDAMENTALS
6:00-10:00PM	MW	ENGL 1301	ENG COMP RHETORIC I
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ENGL 2311	TECHNICAL WRITING
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	GOVT 2301	US & TX CONSTITUTION
6:00-10:00PM	MW	HUMA 1315	INTRO TO HUMANITIES
5:00-8:00PM	MT	MATH 0306	DEVELOPMENTAL MATH
6:00-10:00PM	MW	MATH 1314	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
8:00-10:00PM	MW	PHED 1322	CONCEPTS OF COACHING
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	PHED 1338	INTRO TO RECREATION
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	PSYC 2301	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	PSYC 2308	CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
5:00-8:00PM	MT	READ 0306	READING FUNDAMENTALS

**Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. on May 18 at the High School.

MEMPHIS - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

5:30-8:30PM	MW	BIOL 2401	HUMAN A&P I
5:30-8:30PM	TTH	CHEM 1411	COLLEGE CHEMISTRY I

**Registration will be the first night of class at the High School.

WELLINGTON - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ACCT 2302	ACCOUNTING II
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	BIOL 1322	NUTRITION
6:00-10:00PM	MW	BIOL 2401	HUMAN A&P I
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	COGC 1401	ADV COMPUTER APPS
6:00-10:00PM	MW	CRJ 1307	CRIME IN AMERICA
5:00-8:00PM	MTU	ENGL 0306	WRITING FUNDAMENTALS
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ENGL 1301	ENG COMP RHETORIC I
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	ENGL 2332	WORLD LITERATURE I
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	GOVT 2302	US & TX GOVERNMENT
5:00-8:00PM	MW	HIST 1301	U.S. HISTORY TO 1865
6:00-10:00PM	MTU	MATH 0306	DEVELOPMENTAL MATH
6:00-10:00PM	MW	MATH 1316	PLANE TRIGONOMETRY
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	PSYC 2301	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
5:00-8:00PM	MTU	READ 0308	READING FUNDAMENTALS
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	SOCL 1303	SOCIAL ISSUES
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	SPCH 1315	PUBLIC SPEAKING

**Registration will begin May 18 at 6 p.m. at the High School.

SHAMROCK - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

6:00-10:00PM	MW	GOVT 2301	US & TX CONSTITUTION
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	MATH 1314	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
6:00-10:00PM	MW	SOC 1301	INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY

**Registration will begin May 18 at 6 p.m. at the High School.

PAMPA - MAY 18 - JUNE 25, 1998

6:00-8:00PM	TTH	BIOL 1322	NUTRITION
6:00-10:00PM	TTH	BIOL 2401	HUMAN A&P I
6:00-10:00PM	MW	COGC 1301	COMPUTER CONCEPTS
1:00-4:00PM	TTH	ENGL 0306	PREPARATORY ENGLISH
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	ENGL 1301	ENG COMP RHETORIC I
8:00-11:50AM	MW	ENGL 1301	ENG COMP RHETORIC I
8:00-11:50AM	TTH	ENGL 1302	ENG COMP RHETORIC II
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	ENGL 1302	ENG COMP RHETORIC II
1:00-4:00PM	TTH	ENGL 2307	CREATIVE WRITING
1:00-4:00PM	TTH	ENGL 2332	WORLD LITERATURE I
6:00-11:50AM	MW	ENGL 2332	WORLD LITERATURE II
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	GOVT 2301	US & TX CONSTITUTION
1:00-4:00PM	TTH	GOVT 2301	US & TX CONSTITUTION
8:00-11:50AM	MW	HIST 1301	U.S. HISTORY TO 1865
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	HIST 1301	U.S. HISTORY TO 1865
6:00-11:50AM	TTH	HIST 1302	U.S. HIST TO PRESENT
6:00-8:00PM	MW	HIST 1302	U.S. HIST TO PRESENT
6:00-11:50AM	TTH	HIST 2302	INTRO TO HUMANITIES
1:00-4:00PM	MW	HUMA 1315	INTRO TO HUMANITIES
6:00-8:00PM	MW	MATH 0308	INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	MATH 1314	COLLEGE ALGEBRA
8:00-11:50AM	TTH	MATH 1333	MODERN MATH II
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	MUSI 1183	VOICE CLASS
6:00-8:00PM	MW	MUSI 1301	MUSIC FUNDAMENTALS
8:00-11:50AM	MW	OFAD 2304	WORD PROCESSING I
6:00-8:00PM	TTH	PSYC 2301	GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY
6:00-8:00PM	MW	PSYC 2308	CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
1:00-4:00PM	TTH	PSYC 2308	CHILD PSYCHOLOGY
1:00-4:00PM	MW	READ 0308	EFFECTIVE READING
1:00-4:00PM	MW	SOC 1301	INTRO TO SOCIOLOGY
8:00-11:50AM	TTH	SPCH 1315	PUBLIC SPEAKING

**Registration will begin on May 4 at 9 a.m. at the CC Pampa Center at 900 N. Front. For more information regarding Pampa classes, please call (806) 685-8801.

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Another Texas race track?

Motorplex owner targets Dallas area for NHRA facility

By HOLLY CAIN
The Dallas Morning News

ENNIS, Texas — In National Hot Rod Association circles, Texas Motorplex owner Billy Meyer is considered a visionary, one of the sport's most innovative track operators.

He constructed one of the series' premier facilities, fan-friendly and driver-preferred. The Motorplex offers fans comfortable amenities. Its all-concrete track is an overwhelming favorite with its competitors.

"I wish some of those fans in Dallas could see some of the other places we go," said former champion driver Don Prudhomme, now a team owner. "If we could just pick up the Motorplex and take it to some of these other places..."

But Meyer shrugs off the praise and humbly insists he's just a smart businessman trying to keep up with the Joneses and the Smiths. In this case, he's referring to Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and Texas Motor Speedway chairman Bruton Smith.

So only 12 years after Meyer opened his well-received drag racing mecca, he's ready to build another one, bigger and better. And more importantly, closer to the city. Meyer's good isn't good enough anymore for his purposes.

"I just want things to go forward," said Meyer, whose Motorplex hosts the NHRA's Castrol Lone Star Nationals, April 30-May 3.

"My whole philosophy is that I'm a huge fan of Winston drag racing, and my goal is not personal income, but trying to grow the sport. And you can't do that if you sit still."

"Our competition isn't other drag racing facilities. In this town, our competition is other entertainment facilities... Texas Motor Speedway, Lone Star Park, the Rangers' stadium, the new

For the past six months, Meyer has been negotiating with Grand Prairie and Lancaster in hopes of building a new, ultra-modern 60,000-seat facility he estimates will cost in excess of \$50 million. The city of Ennis is still trying to convince Meyer to stay by promising money for improvements and expansion.

Mavericks arena. Ours will soon be the most outdated facility, and it's only 12 years old."

For the past six months, Meyer has been negotiating with Grand Prairie and Lancaster in hopes of building a new, ultra-modern 60,000-seat facility he estimates will cost in excess of \$50 million. The city of Ennis is still trying to convince Meyer to stay by promising money for improvements and expansion.

In all three instances, Meyer anticipates the local governments will have to pass referendums to approve any public money used for the projects. Conservatively, he'd like to break ground by February and open up for racing in 2000.

Although Meyer refuses to name a favorite, his characterizes his talks with Grand Prairie officials as "extremely promising." The most likely location there would be the Dallas Naval Air Station, but he wants a backup plan as well.

Grand Prairie officials have been proactive in trying to lure Meyer. This month, the city stuffed free ticket vouchers for the upcoming race in citizens' water bills in an effort to expose taxpayers to

the budding sport.

Meyer said talks with Lancaster also have gone well. The city council is awaiting an economic impact study to be completed before any solid offers are made.

The one thing Ennis doesn't have that Grand Prairie and Lancaster do is proximity to Dallas-Fort Worth. And that's a major factor for Meyer, who not only wants to attract the larger population base to his races but to a concert facility that he would incorporate into the drag racing complex.

This big-picture brand of thinking may be old hat in NASCAR's building boom, but it is visionary for the NHRA. And the difference in the series' intentions has dictated their pace of direction.

NASCAR's foundation was built on drawing media attention and attracting massive crowds to its races. The NHRA, however, was formed on a simple concept: Develop a series that would get hot-rodders off the city streets and into a safe, competitive environment.

Consequently, the very first drag racing facility

were built with the drivers' concerns first and the fans' second.

"Thank God there's people like Billy Meyer who want to do what he wants to do," said Prudhomme. "I think this is what the sport needs real bad right now. I want to roll into a track one day and see grandstands that are twice as high as they are now."

"Let's face it, to compete with NASCAR, not only do we need better television coverage, but we need more people in the stands. We're going to get swept under the carpet if we don't get going. Look at NASCAR and all these fan-friendly places they're building."

Drivers say they like the current Texas Motorplex, but its all-concrete track can easily be duplicated as part of a new facility that seats more fans and offers even more amenities.

"My interest is in the good of the sport," said current Funny Car points leader Cruz Pedregon. "This is how I make my living. The current track is great, but if we can make it easier for the fans, more convenient, that's great."

"When we take corporate America to these facilities, we want to showcase what we can, that the sport is growing and the fans are here."

Even Dallas' most famous NHRA product, Kenny Bernstein, understands Meyer's eagerness for change.

"Dallas has always been on the cutting edge. All you have to do is look at Billy and his success and Bruton and his track - the fans love it," said Bernstein, owner-driver of the Budweiser King dragster. "Texas has always been a diamond in the rough in motorsports."

"We have to take it to the next level. It's imperative for the NHRA, the track operators and the competitors. Obviously, I think anything closer to the city 1/8 that 3/8 makes it easier for people to get there makes sense."

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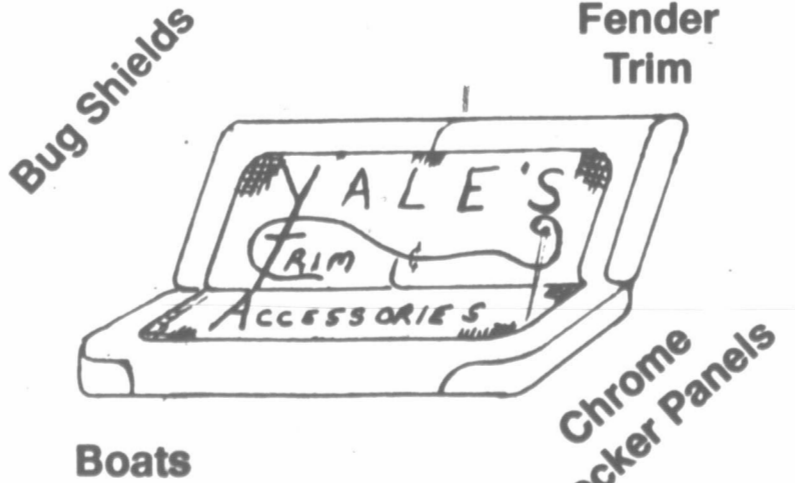
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Agents wanted: Must like outdoor work, 100-degree weather

McAlLEN, Texas (AP) — Border patrol agent Dave Grainger has a boast his police friends back home in Illinois can't match.

"I don't know how many guys can say I seized 1,500 pounds of cocaine," he says. "They get excited when they catch a couple of ounces."

That's one of the reasons Grainger thinks he's got one of the best jobs in law enforcement.

"You're never bored," he said. "There's always something to do."

With his gung-ho attitude, sandy brown hair and hazel eyes, the 25-year-old Grainger could be the Border Patrol's poster boy — and they could probably use one.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service is looking for eager beavers like Grainger as it tries to hire 1,000 new agents per year through the year 2000, as approved by Congress. INS officials estimate that to remain on that pace they actually must hire about twice that many each year to make up for agents who retire or leave.

INS launched Operation Rio Grande last year in an effort to channel more agents and equipment to South Texas. Texas is getting 625 out of the 1,000 new agents being deployed this year.

INS' increased recruiting efforts have included placing ads in major newspapers and attending job fairs and recruitment events on college campuses. INS has also sped up the application process by holding special recruiting events throughout the country where applicants can take written, oral and

physical exams over several days, said INS spokeswoman Karen Kraushaar.

Finding candidates is one thing. Turning them into agents is quite another.

According to INS figures, 55,000 applicants took the Border Patrol test in 1997, but only 16,500 passed.

Of those sent to the border patrol academies in either Charleston, S.C. or Glynco, Ga., 12 percent do not complete training.

Those who do become agents don't always remain agents: 4 percent do not continue in the Border Patrol after their probationary year.

Grainger lasted through all the steps. He was recruited at a special gathering in Kansas City in October 1996. "Within three days, I had a job," he said. By March 1997, he was training in Charleston, S.C. Four months later he was working in McAllen.

"I've done a lot of things and this is, by far, the best," said Grainger, a Western Illinois University graduate whose previous employment included stints at Pizza Hut and Wal-Mart, as well as an internship with the U.S. Marshall's service that led to his current job.

Grainger has two characteristics the agency seeks: an interest in law enforcement and the desire to escape cold weather. His hometown of Macomb, Ill. averages about 15 inches of snowfall a year; it would take more than a decade to top that in McAllen.

While Grainger has adapted well to his new environment (he loves breakfast tacos), life in small, hot, border communities hasn't been easy for others.

"It's a culture shock when you come from New York City and get assigned to Rio Grande City," said McAllen Sector Chief Patrol Agent Joe Garza.

Ms. Kraushaar said part of training includes letting potential agents know what to expect in their new homes.

"There aren't that many surprises when they get down there, except maybe that there's no snow," she said.

For Grainger, who says he applied for other law enforcement positions and tested well but never made it high enough on any list to get hired, joining the Border Patrol was an opportunity to learn Spanish.

"Anything like that you can take with you later on in life, no matter what you do," he said. "I am by no means fluent right now, but I'm working on it."

Grainger usually works six days a week, 12 hours a day (including a routine two hours of overtime at the end of his shifts), but says he enjoys the variety of tasks he does — from going around the city looking for undocumented workers to patrolling the border at night, when there's no telling who or what is lurking around a dark trail.

Grainger, who has a 7-year-old son, said he is sometimes saddened when he rounds up undocumented immigrants.

"I feel sorry for the kids, but, you know, you do

what you got to do, what you're paid to do," he said. "It's not your decision."

With the increased agent presence on the border and the sped-up process to get the agents there, concerns have arisen over the possibility of increased abuse by border agents.

According to INS, between January 1994 and December 1997, only 19 out of 463 complaints of physical abuse were substantiated, a rate of just over 4 percent, Ms. Kraushaar said.

"From our perspective, one is too many," she added.

Nathan Selzer, a human rights advocate with the Valley Coalition for Justice in Harlingen, was not surprised by the low number of substantiated complaints. The current complaint process is complicated, he said, and many people are either unaware of the complaint procedure or afraid to come forward.

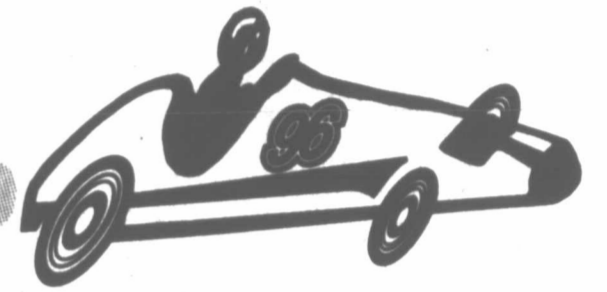
"(The complaint process) seems pretty inaccessible to the community," he said.

"Our concern is that if people are being run through the mill to get out on the field, they might be lacking basic training such as professionalism," he said.

Selzer said although he does not believe that all border agents are disrespectful or abusive, newer agents coming in could be working with and learning from supervisors who pass on unprofessional or abusive behavior.

"If you have new agents come in, they're going to learn from whoever has been there," he said.

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Man Held Back in School Struggles to Gain Ground

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend (I'll call him Timothy) was in special education classes all through school. He is very intelligent, but has a slight learning disability. Because of the way the educational system was set up, he was put into classes with students who had severe learning disabilities. He wasn't even taught addition and subtraction until his senior year.

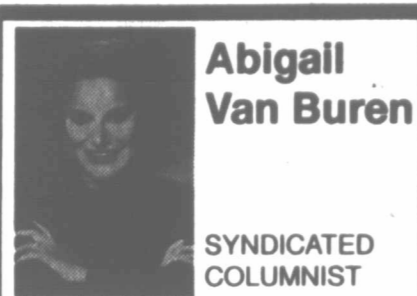
Despite the odds against him, Timothy enrolled in community college. The lowest-level college classes are a huge jump from his high school classes and too fast-paced for him. He has talked with the counselors and tutors, but no one can help him. He has put much time and effort into classes, but still has made only failing grades. He blames himself for this, although it isn't his fault.

It breaks my heart to see Timothy's self-esteem dashed and his ambitions crushed. He is terrified of what his future holds if he cannot get an education.

Abby, aren't there classes for adults who never learned to read and write in school? Timothy can read a little, but not well. Where can I get more information for him?

LOVES HIM AND WANTS TO HELP

DEAR LOVES HIM: Inquire at the high school about remedial reading classes for adults. Also, libraries usually have programs to assist adults and children with reading and writing problems. Perhaps they can refer you to tutors who volun-



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

teer their skills without charge simply for the love of helping those in need.

Another thought: Not everyone learns in the same way. Some people learn more easily when they hear a lecture, rather than from a book. Others learn faster when they see something demonstrated. A trade school may provide a less frustrating environment in which Timothy can learn. Another alternative might be a union apprenticeship program.

DEAR ABBY: Our bridge group has been together for more than 30 years. Our members have always been very supportive of each other.

We do more than play cards; we socialize and travel together. In short, we're good friends.

For the last year or two, we've had a serious problem with one member of our group. She causes discord and irritates the rest of us. So far, we have avoided a direct confrontation with her.

Some of her annoying habits include constantly interrupting,

repeating her own thoughts on what has just been said by others, complaining constantly about her neighbors and her health, loud belching, irritating loud laughter, keeping us waiting while she uses our phones without permission, and embarrassing behavior in public. I could go on and on, and her behavior is getting worse.

We have tried to solve the problem by joking about it, mildly insulting her or just ignoring her. But it doesn't seem to register, and she makes no effort to alter her behavior.

Aside from this, she is a very generous, good-natured individual, and we care about her. We feel she is "fragile," and several members of the group suspect she's mentally ill.

We'd like to salvage our relationship with her, but she's pulling the group apart. We avoid getting together because of her. We must do something if the group is to survive. Can you help us?

HAD IT IN "SPADES"

DEAR HAD IT: Your bridge group has been together for so long that it would be a shame to ask one longtime member to throw in her hand. She may be having mental problems — or she may have suffered a hearing loss as she has grown older.

Alert someone in her family to talk to her, or designate two or three of the club members to do it for the good of the group. The alternative is to slowly exclude her from your gatherings.

a key meeting. Mingling with others comes naturally. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You are feeling somewhat mellow, so take a back seat. Still, stay on top of a situation, and listen to your instincts, but say little. Much happens quickly. High energy allows you to make a change at work. A boss pushes hard to have it his way. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Go for what you want. Read between the lines with a fiery communique. Understand what is motivating someone, then respond to the hidden agenda. Examine goals, maintain a high profile and network. Success is yours. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others push hard to get you to do what they want. All is well, if you all have the same goals. You can use someone's support and feedback. Take a stand, and be responsible. You have a lot going for you. A boss eyes your performance. Tonight: A force to behold.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Reach out for others. You finally hear the other side of the story when the other person decides to speak his mind. Give your opinion, with an eye to the big picture. Question what is going on with a loved one. You head down a new path. Tonight: Dance to the music!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You are a veritable steamroller. The way you charge through

work and get nearly everything done. Your efficiency prompts admiration from a significant associate. You are pleased at the agreements reached through conversations. Tonight: Do not take on a new project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Others dominate the day. You aren't able to make a choice, with so much being tossed at you. Consider opportunities later; try not to commit now. Popularity soars, even if a child or new friend is a little out of sorts. Tonight: Take your charisma for a test drive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Actively stand up for what you believe. There could be limitations where you least expect them. Perhaps you don't know how bossy or pushy you can be. Be aware of what is going on here. Plug your stress into work, to calm yourself down. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Take action, and initiate conversations. An animated discussion could seem angry, but clearing the air is important. Creativity is high. You come from a place of imagination and change. Share your dreamy ideas. You inspire others. Tonight: Live life to the fullest.

BORN TODAY

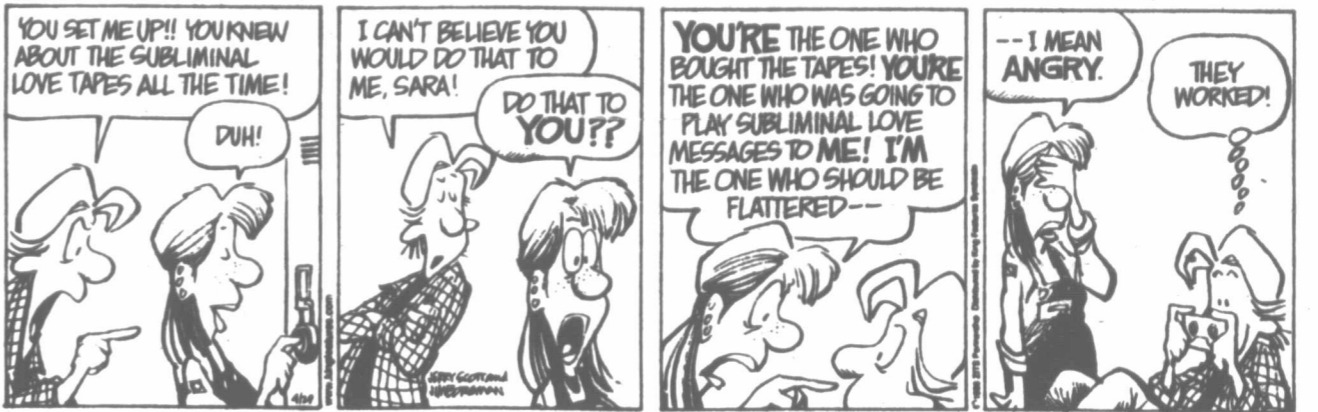
Actress Jill Clayburgh (1944), actress Cloris Leachman (1930), singer Willie Nelson (1933)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.coolpage.com/bigar>. © 1998 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

For Better or For Worse



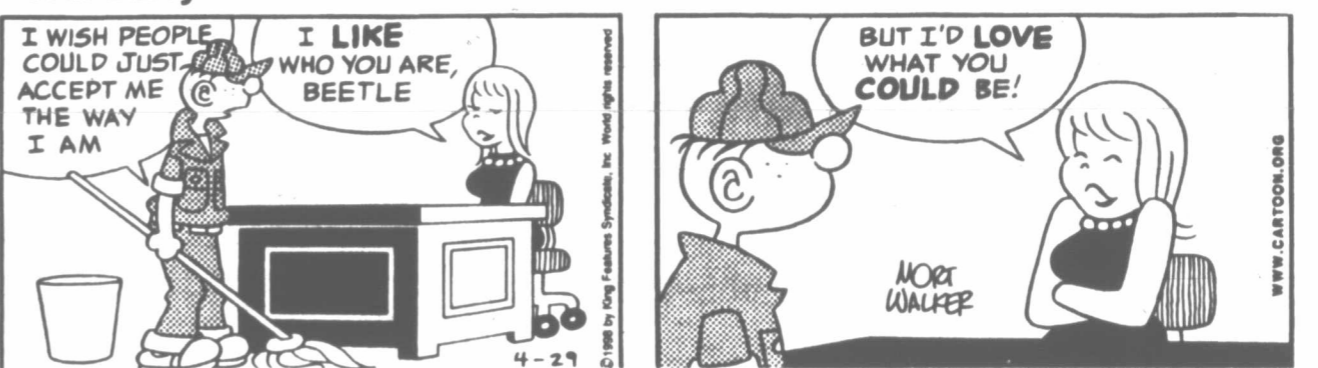
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



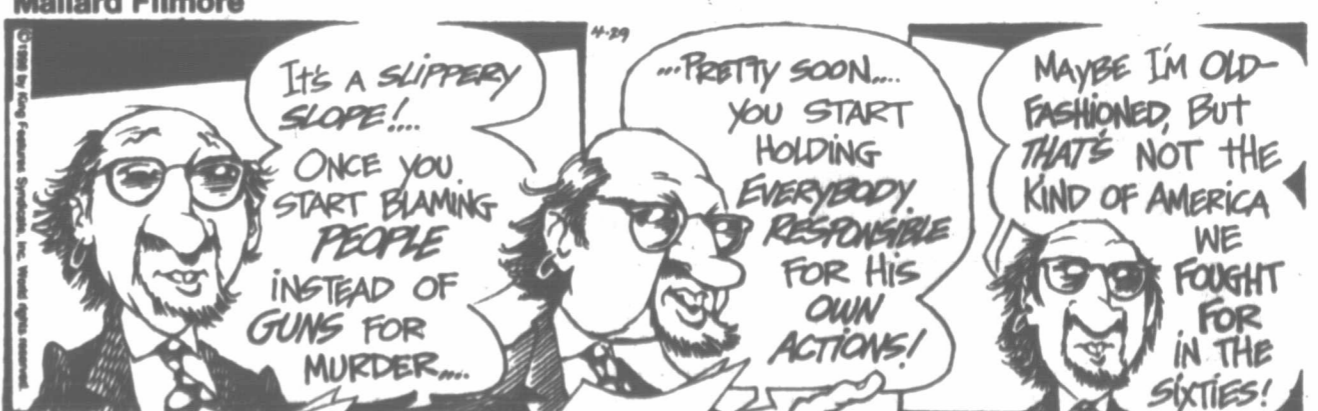
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 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)

★★★ Manage domestic matters first. A long-term investment is excellent for your personal life. A family member is demanding, but you know how to create stability. Put forth that extra effort to build a better connection. Spend carefully. Tonight: Hang out at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your extra effort is appreciated and comes back manifold. You are overwhelmed by what is happening. Make calls, return messages and give feedback. Someone lets you know that you make a difference. Plan a lengthy lunch. Tonight: Breeze through errands.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You have a strong sense of direction. Don't let matters get out of control. Make excellent decisions, and honor a change. You join the world of financial wheeling and dealing. Don't consider yourself an expert just yet! Tonight: Go shopping.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are on a roll. Friends whisper news in your ear, which makes you feel like shouting. Aim for what you want, use your vitality and make a difference. Plan time for

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

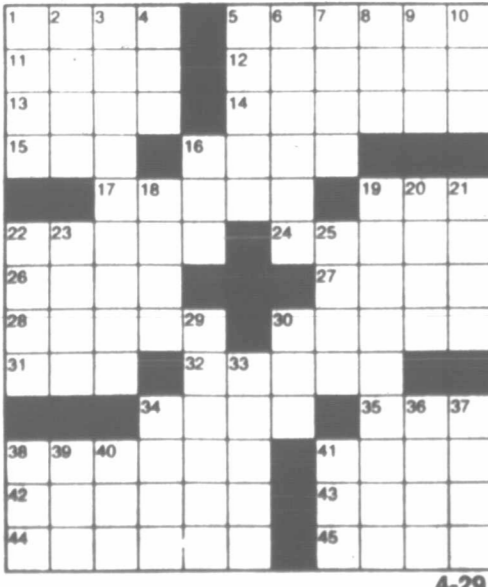
ACROSS

- 1 Almanac bit
- 5 Fitting sound
- 11 Canyon
- 12 Esteem
- 13 Buffalo's lake
- 14 Noted cow owner
- 15 Jiffy
- 16 Enter
- 17 Kitchen need
- 19 Baseball's Ripken
- 22 Donkey cries
- 24 Chump
- 26 Took the bus
- 27 Peruvian capital
- 28 Helps (a felon)
- 30 Strips for breakfast
- 31 Kicker's aid
- 32 Use your head
- 34 Dry
- 35 Swiss peak
- 38 Mariner
- 41 La Scala song
- 42 Rabbit's creator
- 43 Hawk
- 44 Whisk
- 45 Piano parts



Yesterday's Answer

- 1 Pro charges
- 2 Lot unit
- 3 Non-crested titmouse
- 4 Boot part
- 5 Whiskey strength
- 6 Depends
- 7 Pizzeria need
- 8 Pod item
- 9 Go astray
- 10 Actor
- 11 Fernando
- 16 Mil.
- 18 Russian refusal
- 19 Red squirrel's
- 20 Kin
- 21 Bank offering
- 22 Rotten kid
- 23 Lounging garb
- 25 Family user
- 29 Golf-score unit
- 30 Bridge act
- 33 Personnel
- 34 Head
- 36 Stepped down
- 37 Easter flower
- 38 Sonar
- 39 Mimic
- 40 Actress
- 41 Invite



Marmaduke



"This is your last wish. Are you sure you want another bone?"

The Family Circus



"It IS? Gee! What do his uncles look like?"

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Scoreboard

Table with multiple columns for baseball, hockey, and basketball scores, including team names, scores, and game details.

Canadian wins district track title

CANADIAN — Last year, the Canadian girls captured the Class 2A state track championship. This year, it might be the Canadian boys' turn.

are as follows: Boys' Division (district meet results) Chad Carr, second place, shot put; second place, triple jump.

Cowboys defend golf championship

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — Good weather or bad, the Oklahoma State men's golf team always seems to know how to perform when the conference tournament arrives.

shot even-par 70 to lead the Cowboys. His 220 total left him in third place, although he put the exclamation point on the Cowboys' victory with an eagle putt at the par 5 No. 17 hole.

Baffert determined to win Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — One minute, trainer Bob Baffert was rhapsodizing about his latest Kentucky Derby starters, Indian Charlie and Real Quiet. The next, he was clearing a path for his 1997 Derby winner, Silver Charm.

came back strong with Silver Charm, who not only won the Derby, but nearly took the Triple Crown. Silver Charm won the Preakness and then finished second to Touch Gold in the Belmont Stakes.

Sharks nip Stars in overtime to even series

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — As always, San Jose coach Darryl Sutter was the epitome of composure, even after his Sharks beat the Dallas Stars 1-0 in overtime to even their playoff series at 2-2.

and evened the series Tuesday night on Andrei Zyuzin's goal with 6:31 gone in overtime.



Advertisement for Jathere Insurance Agency, Inc. featuring a 'VOTE FOR NICKELBERRY' graphic and contact information for Willie and Margrette Nickelberry.

Weekend box office: ‘The Big Hit’ lives up to name, debuts at top of charts ...

By JOHN HORN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a generally bad week for new releases, “The Big Hit” lived up to its name, knocking “City of Angels” out of the top box office spot.

“Tarzan and the Lost City” and “Two Girls and a Guy” failed to generate solid business in their opening weekend. In a limited debut in slightly more than 100 locations, “Sliding Doors” did well.

“The Object of My Affection” and “Paulie” performed moderately well in their second weekends, but “Major League III: Back to the Minors” floundered. The re-released “Scream 2” finished in the Top 10.

The top 20 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by studio, gross, number of theater locations, receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release as compiled by Entertainment Data Inc. and Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

Box office	
Top weekend movies	
Weekend of April 24-26, 1998	
All dollar figures in millions	
Gross to date, weeks in release, number of screens	Weekend gross
● The Big Hit \$10.8, one week, 2,149 screens	\$10.8
● City of Angels \$46.8, three weeks, 2,433 screens	\$9.0
● The Object of My Affection \$17.1, two weeks, 1,983 screens	\$5.2
● Titanic \$560.6, 19 weeks, 2,912 screens	\$4.9
● Paulie \$10.8, two weeks, 1,757 screens	\$4.4
● Lost in Space \$58.1, four weeks, 2,917 screens	\$4.0
● Neil Simon's The Odd Couple... \$14.1, three weeks, 1,852 screens	\$2.4
● Mercury Rising \$27.9, four weeks, 1,769 screens	\$2.2
● The Players Club \$17.4, three weeks, 624 screens	\$2.0
● Scream 2 \$98.0, 20 weeks, 1,789 screens	\$1.8

Source: Exhibitor Relations Co., Inc. AP

1. “The Big Hit,” Sony, \$10.8 million, 2,149 locations, \$5,030 average, \$10.8 million, one week.
2. “City of Angels,” Warner Bros., \$9 million, 2,433 locations, \$3,704 average, \$46.6 million, three weeks.
3. “The Object of My Affection,” 20th Century Fox, \$5.2 million, 1,983 locations, \$2,629 average, \$17.1 million, two weeks.
4. “Titanic,” Paramount, \$4.9 million, 2,912 locations, \$1,696 average, \$560.6 million, 19 weeks.
5. “Paulie,” DreamWorks, \$4.4 million, 1,757 locations, \$2,494 average, \$10.8 million, two weeks.
6. “Lost in Space,” New Line,

7. “Neil Simon’s The Odd Couple II,” Paramount, \$2.4 million, 1,852 locations, \$1,322 average, \$14.1 million, three weeks.
8. “Mercury Rising,” Universal, \$2.2 million, 1,769 locations, \$1,220 average, \$27.9 million, four weeks.
9. “The Players Club,” New Line, \$2 million, 624 locations, \$3,260 average, \$17.4 million, three weeks.
10. “Scream 2,” Miramax, \$1.8 million, 1,789 locations, \$1,012 average, \$98 million, 20 weeks.
11. “Species II,” MGM, \$1.6 million, 1,777 locations, \$885 average, \$16.6 million, three weeks.

Judge participates in judicial conference

WHEELER — Judge M. Kent Sims of Wheeler has been offering fresh perspectives and tools for the role of administering justice fairly to Texas judges via a series of judicial conferences held this Spring all across Texas.

Sims, judge of the 31st District Court, was selected to serve on the faculty of the 1998 Regional Judicial Conferences sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc., a judicial education provider in Austin.

The Texas Center sponsors the judicial training program at five regional conferences in Galveston, Corpus Christi, Austin, Plano and Kerrville. All Texas appellate, district and county court at law judges are invited to attend the conference in their respective regions.

Each conference offers a one and a half day education program which includes sessions such as Open Records, Inherent Powers and Judicial Discretion, and Judicial Ethics as well as specialized sessions focusing on judicial independence and the public’s view of the court system.

The conference boasts an excellent faculty, including some of Texas’ most respected and experienced judges.

“A big focus of this conference is how judges can improve the quality of service provided by the judiciary in order to address some of the scrutiny the court system has received in recent years,” Mari Kay Bickett, executive director of the Texas Center for the Judiciary, Inc., said.

4-H Fashion Show



(photo by Judy Elliott)

Sarah Schwab and Emily Elliott conduct a mock interview with Maggie Ayers (left) to prepare for the 4-H District Fashion Show to be held at the Pampa Middle School on Saturday. All three students will participate in the fashion design competition with a design portfolio in accessory, apparel or textile. The fashion show and awards presentation will begin at 2:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

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Thank you,
Lola Hix,
for 20 Years of Service!



LOLA HIX IS RETIRING from First American Bank after 20 years of service.

We appreciate her many years of hard work and dedication. She will be missed by her many friends and co-workers.

Thank you, Lola, for making First American a better bank and Pampa a better place to live! We wish you the best in your retirement.

Please join us for a
reception honoring Lola
on Thursday, April 30,
from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
at 221 North Gray

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