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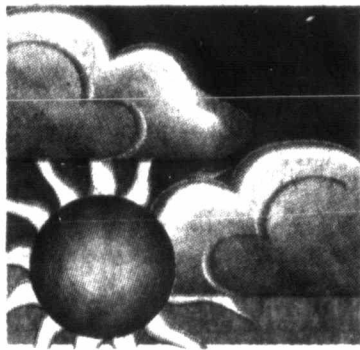
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Pampa

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High today 95
Low tonight low 70s
For weather details see
Page 2.

DEER PARK, (AP) — Residents of this South Texas town finally get their chance to tell the Navy what they think about a shipment of napalm that's headed their way.

But first, a U.S. Congressman wants to give his opinion on the controversial topic.

U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen, D-Houston, has planned a news conference for 3 p.m. Wednesday at Deer Park City Hall. Three hours later, the Navy has scheduled a public hearing on the matter.

"He believes there needs to be a place where hard-hitting questions can be asked," Bentsen press secretary Vince Willmore told The North (San Diego) County Times of Escondido, Calif. The congressman considers the later meeting "more of an open house," Willmore said.

The Navy agreed earlier this month to hold off on shipping about 3.3 million gallons of Vietnam-era napalm from just north of San Diego to Texas for at least a month to allow for public input.

Environmental Protection Agency officials want all the napalm moved for recycling by July 15.

An Indiana company dropped a controversial \$28 million contract to recycle the napalm after residents and elected officials protested. Bentsen said four Texas firms have bid on the project, but Navy officials won't confirm that report.

• **Carrie Hutchison Outhier**, 90, longtime Pampa resident.
• **Marie K. Stewart**, 83, retired teacher.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Editorial 4
Sports 7

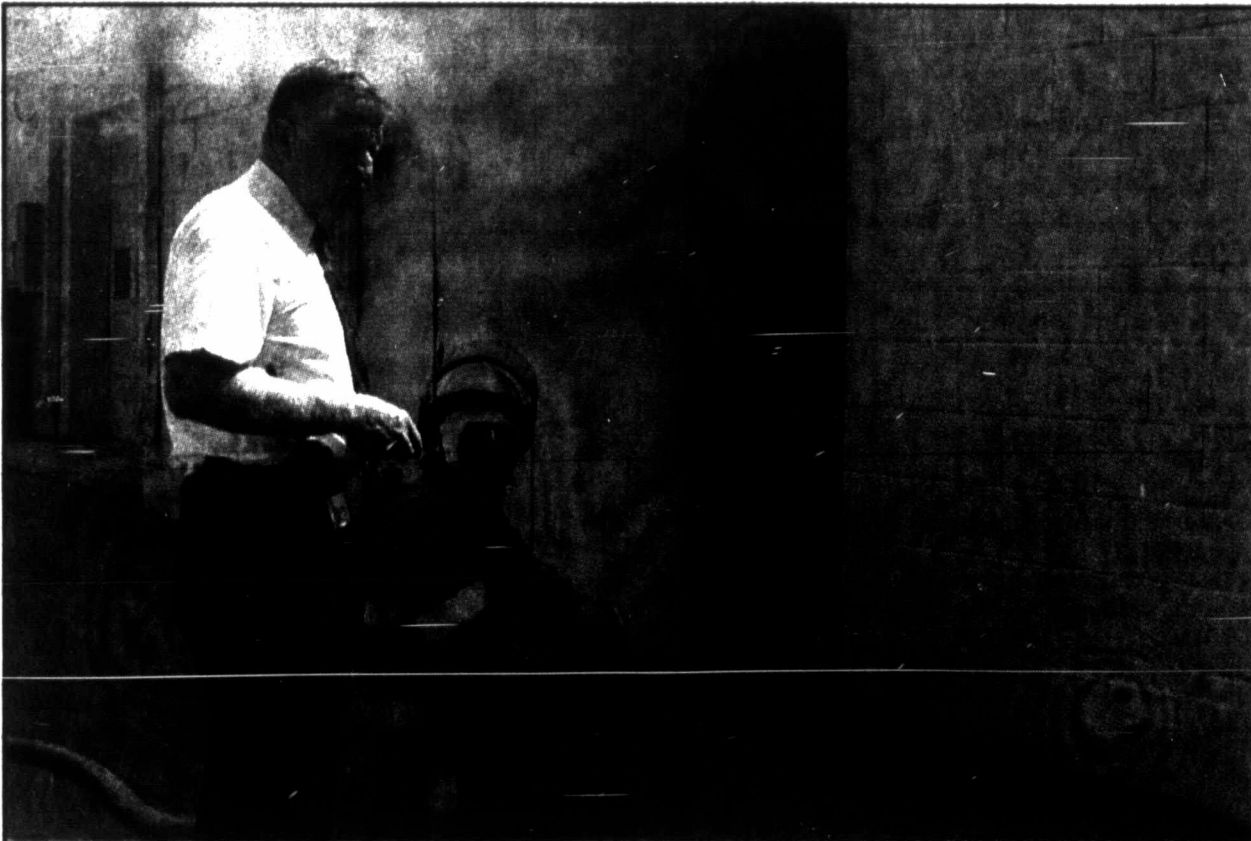
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Fire erupts in furniture warehouse



Pampa Fire Chief Claudie Phillips and a firefighter discuss the best way to handle a smoky fire at Graham Furniture this morning.

Heavy smoke blanketed the area; traffic detoured

A late morning fire broke out in the 1400 block of North Hobart in the Graham Furniture Warehouse.

The warehouse is believed to hold mostly mattresses for the furniture company.

While no flames were spotted outside the building, smoke filled the sky in the area and nearby streets had to be blocked.

According to Fire Marshal Gary Stevens, the call came in at 10:52 and because of the quick response of the Pampa Fire Department, he said none of the other businesses in the strip mall were in danger.

Two fire units and command vehicles responded along with police vehicles for traffic control and a Rural/Metro ambulance which was standing by.

A television station crew from Amarillo's NBC affiliate (Channel 4) was in town filming

No cause of the fire could be determined immediately but Fire Marshal Gary Stevens said he will investigate when the danger is past.

a commercial for Graham Furniture. One of the station's cameramen said they were planning to enter the warehouse before the fire was discovered.

No cause could be determined immediately but Stevens said he will investigate when the danger is past.

Despite dry spell rain totals ahead of normal count

Despite an extended dry spell, Pampa is still ahead of the norm for moisture, and thunderstorms the last two days have helped.

Darrell Sehorn, Pampa's weatherman, said today that the city has had a total of 11.67 inches of rain for the year. That's well ahead of the 7.80 inches Pampa normally has received by this time of year.

Sehorn reported that the city received only 0.09 inches from late afternoon and evening thunderstorms Tuesday. That brings July's total rainfall to 2.58 inches.

Despite roaming thunderstorms Tuesday, rain reports across the area were spotty.

"We got some but not enough to amount to much," said Sharon Keener in Canadian.

Hemphill County Sheriff Dean Butcher reported a half inch.

Ann Bryant with the Roberts County Sheriff's office said Miami received only 0.02 inches of moisture from Tuesday afternoon's storms, bringing their

monthly total to a scant 0.55 inches.

Pat Childress reported enough rain to cause puddles at Briscoe.

"They're the first puddles I've seen in three months," she said.

Rosa Bilderback said thunderstorms Tuesday afternoon dropped about a half inch of rain in White Deer. Evening storms brought more rain giving the Carson County community a total of 1.25 inches for Tuesday.

Sam Pakan of the Pakan Community near Shamrock said they didn't receive any rain out of the clouds that built up Tuesday.

"But we could smell it," he said wishfully.

Amarillo weather service reported 0.29 inches in the central panhandle while Etter, north of Dumas, reported 1.24 inches.

Perryton reported 0.60 on an inch of rain.

The weather forecast calls for a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms today increasing to 30 percent tonight.

Quick way to get \$50

The Pampa/Gray County Crime Stoppers is once again starting the "Fast \$50" program. It is a list of misdemeanor fugitives. A \$50 reward will be paid to the first person who supplies information that leads to the arrest of any fugitive on the list.

Callers must report information to the Crime Stoppers Hot line at 669-2222 to be eligible for the award. All fugitives are also listed on the Crime Stopper web site linked to www.pan-tex.net. A list of the "Fast \$50" is also located at the Pampa Police Department, Gray County Sheriff's Office and the Municipal Court Building.

The "Fast \$50" list includes:

See QUICK, Page 2

Bigger rodeo purses help draw top cowboys

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The hot, dusty winds is blowing in some changes for this week's Top O' Texas Rodeo, and if everything goes well, the winds of change will continue for next year.

"We changed a few things around this year as far as what we're going to do," said Michael Craig, secretary of the Top O' Texas Rodeo, Horse Show and Fair Association this year.

This year's rodeo won't have steer tripping. There just hasn't been that much interest in it in years past, Craig

There will be free barbecue with admission before Thursday's rodeo performance. Friday night, Susie Luchsinger will return.

explained, but the money from that event will go to increase purses for other events.

"We're trying to put more money back in the pot for the cowboys," Craig said. "We're trying to cut back on the things that weren't making us money."

The association that stages the rodeo every year hopes that the fatter purses will draw some of the bigger names on

the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuit.

Of course, some events will return.

"We're going to have our Kid Pony Show again this year," said Craig, a Pampa native with trophies from the 1967 Kid Pony Show. "Boys Ranch is back this year along with Cal Farley's Girlstown. We're going to be taking donations to help

pay their kids entry fees. We've done the last couple of years, and the kids have really enjoyed it."

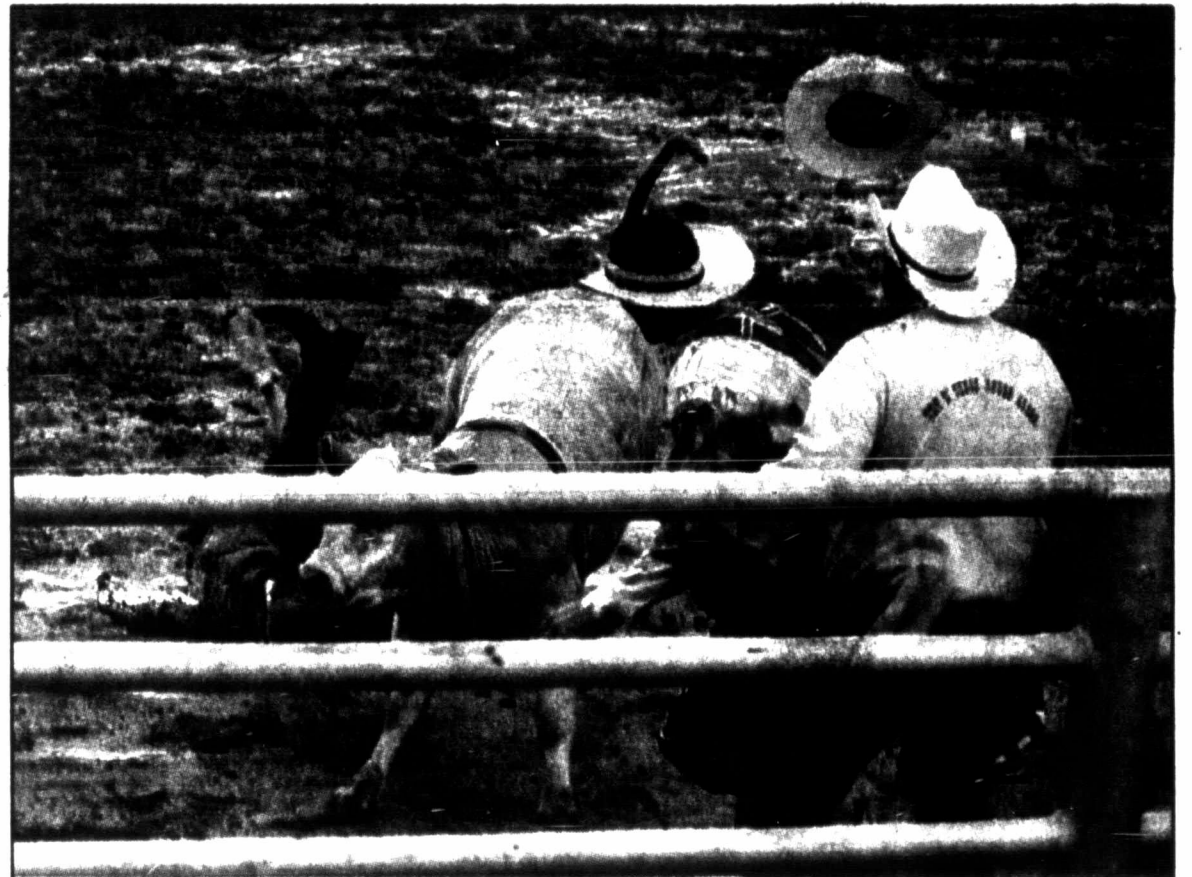
There will be free barbecue with admission before Thursday's rodeo performance. Friday night, Susie Luchsinger will return.

"I think we would have had a lot better turn out for her last year, but we had a massive rain storm right before the rodeo," Craig said.

He said a lot of people indicated they wanted her back.

"We'll have our double mugging as our amateur event," he said, "and there will

See RODEO, Page 2



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Staying on an upset calf isn't as easy as it looks as one young cowboy found out at the Kid Pony Show Tuesday night.

After first night delay, Pony Show gets going

After being knocked out of the saddle by a severe thunderstorm Tuesday evening, all was on go last night for the Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show.

Another performance takes place at 7 tonight at the rodeo grounds and the make-up show for the first night will be Sunday at 1 p.m.

Results of Tuesday's 1998 Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show are as follows:

CALF RIDING BOYS GROUP III: Stormy Wing, Dalhart - first place; Austin Pritchett, Pampa - second place; Cody Elam, Dalhart - third place.

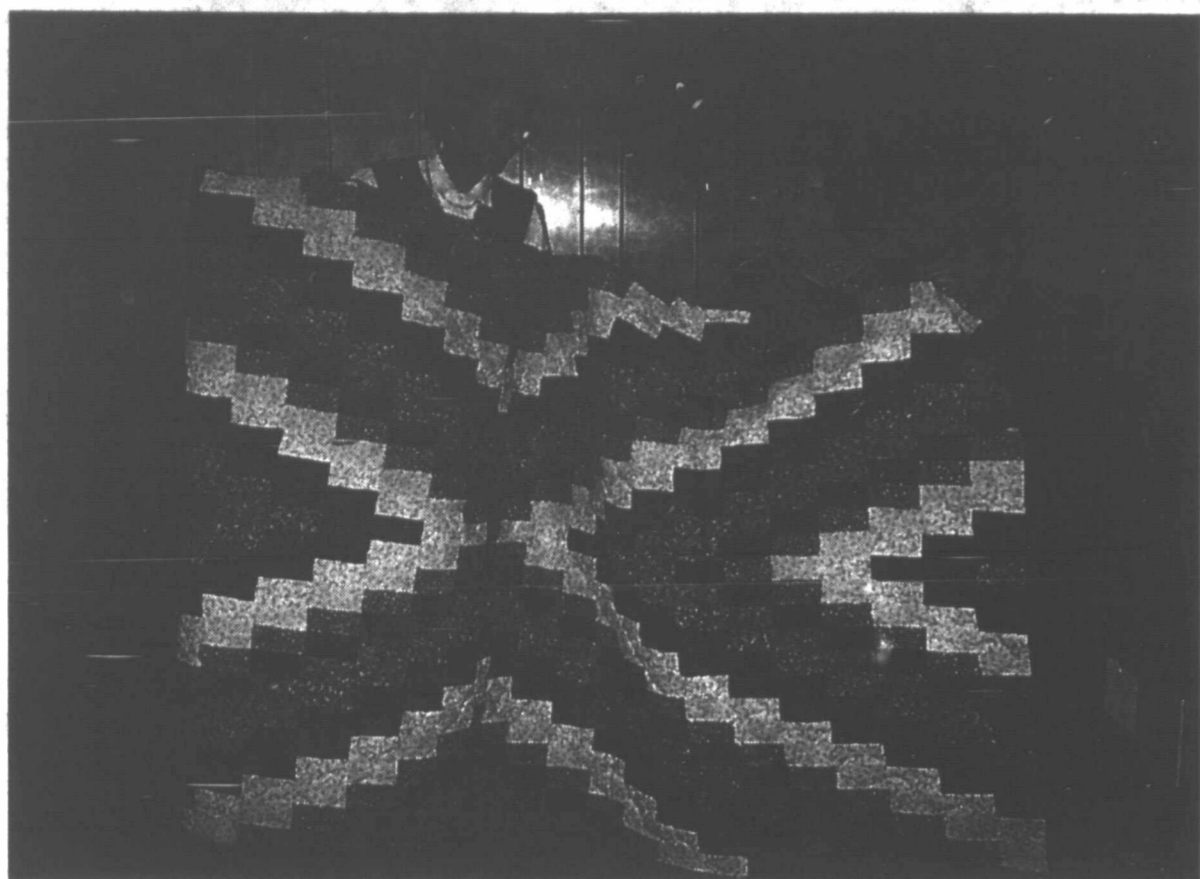
FLAG RACE GIRLS GROUP III: Bridget Craig, Pampa - first place; Keeley Longo, Groom - second place; Shea Craig, White Deer - third place.

See PONY SHOW, Page 2

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Quilt winner



Barbara Smith (left) was the proud winner of king size quilt raffled off at a garage sale last month. Mildred Thrasher made the quilt in a record time of one month.

(Community Camera photo)

Bargainers pessimistic despite longer-than-usual talk session

By BRIAN S. AKRE
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Bargainers held one of their longest sessions yet to end the United Auto Workers strikes at two General Motors Corp. parts plants, raising hopes that a settlement may be closer.

Negotiations resumed at both plants this morning. Talks had gone late into the night Tuesday at the Delphi Flint East plant, while discussions at the Flint Metal Center didn't recess until shortly after midnight.

"We're very pleased with that," GM spokeswoman Mary Irby said today. "They wouldn't have met that long if it weren't for good reason. It fits in with where we want to be in terms of sticking with it until there's a settlement."

High-level talks between UAW and GM executives also continued Tuesday, but neither side would comment on the substance of the discussions.

Analyst Stephen Girsky of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter said he saw some reason for optimism in the tone of a statement made Tuesday by Donald C. Hackworth, vice president of GM's North American car group. He noted that for the first time Hackworth didn't attack the UAW's position.

"There's been a noticeable change in tone," Girsky said. "It's different from what it has been."

The strikes are the costliest for the No. 1 automaker since a 67-day walkout in 1970. GM's strike-related losses through June totaled \$1.18

billion. The resulting parts shortages have caused GM to idle 26 of its 29 major, wholly owned North American assembly plants.

The strikes by about 9,200 workers are over staffing levels, work rules and health and safety issues at the Flint Metal Center, a stamping plant, and the Delphi Flint East plant, which makes instrument clusters, spark plugs and other engine components.

About 162,000 GM workers at assembly and parts plants throughout North America remained idled by the strikes. GM said it idled an additional 400 skilled trades workers Monday at its Kansas City, Kan., assembly plant.

Through June, GM estimated the strikes had cost production of 227,000 vehicles, or about \$1.2 billion. That's the equivalent of about one year's production at a high-volume assembly plant, said Donald C. Hackworth, who heads GM's North American car group.

Also Tuesday, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. announced several new rebates and financing discounts for the rest of the model year. Chrysler's summer rebates range from \$500 off the price of the Ram cargo van to \$2,000 off the Eagle Talon sports car.

Ford's summer rebates remain mostly unchanged. They range from \$750 off the Ford Taurus-Mercury Sable models and Ford Mustang to \$2,000 off the Mercury Villager minivan.

Both automakers are offering low financing rates as alternatives to the rebates. All the rebates and discounted interest rates are for 1998 models and are scheduled to expire in early October.

Massachusetts weighs \$20,000 sign-up bonus for new teachers

BOSTON (AP) — If the simple desire to teach isn't enough to draw the best to the classroom, maybe cold cash will. A top Massachusetts legislator is proposing a \$20,000 signing bonus to lure top college graduates to become teachers.

"We're never going to pay teachers what corporate lawyers get, but that doesn't mean you can't do something to attract better people," Senate President Thomas Birmingham said in today's Boston Globe.

Of nearly 1,800 prospective teachers who took Massachusetts' first teacher certification test this year, 59 percent failed.

Nationally, schools must replace 2 million of their 2.7 million teachers during the next eight years, and a few school districts have offered signing bonuses for new teachers, according to the Globe.

But the amounts are much smaller: Dallas offered \$1,500; Baltimore offered \$5,000 toward a new house.

Bonuses of \$20,000 would compare favorably with recruiting offers from other fields, said

Birmingham, a Democrat.

\$60,000.

Average starting salary for a teacher in Massachusetts is \$26,000; top salaries reach about \$60,000.

Court upholds death sentence

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals today upheld the death sentence of a Harris County man sentenced to die for a 1995 robbery-slaying at a convenience store.

Daniel Angel Plata was convicted and sentenced to death for the May 6, 1995, robbery and shooting of Murlidhar "Mike" Mahubani at a Harris County convenience store.

Plata, whose case was appealed automatically to the Court of Criminal Appeals because it's a death penalty case, didn't challenge his conviction but only his death sentence.

Among other things, he challenged the jury's determination that he would be a continuing danger to society, which is one of two questions a jury must answer in a death penalty case.

Odds and ends...

On the hunt for Godzilla

CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP) — Godzilla is loose! Godzilla is a big lizard — a monitor, to be exact, about eight feet long. That's not as big as its movie namesake, of course, but more than enough lizard to bend the bars of its temporary cage Monday and escape.

Police are on the lookout for the carnivorous former pet and are warning that the animal may become aggressive.

"Zoo officials feel the animal will prey on other animals that it feels it can handle, such as rodents and even small cats," said police spokesman Dave Hughes.

The lizard got loose when its owner put Godzilla in a dog cage to clean its usual cage. It wasn't nearly strong enough to hold Godzilla.

Dennis McNamara, reptile manager at a pet store in Virginia Beach, said Godzilla could survive for a couple of weeks without food or water and could hide all summer in a wooded area.

"If that thing was up in the woods, no one would ever see because he's afraid of people," McNamara said. "He'd probably end up hiding more than hanging out."

Romantic stroll anything but

HAMILTON, Ohio (AP) — Ah, to be engaged. Young love, a romantic stroll — and nearly being run over by a train.

It started like this: Brett Lay proposed to Mandy Cook and she said yes. So the two 17-year-olds decided to follow up Monday evening's happy occasion with a walk along the railroad tracks, and then to a wooded trail they knew.

The tracks turned out to be a big problem. "All we saw were lights — and it was too late," said Ms. Cook as she stood at her fiancé's hospital bed Tuesday.

The couple had walked about 50 feet of a 68-foot-long railroad bridge when they realized a train was coming.

"We couldn't run. We would've fell," Ms. Cook said. "So we started walking fast — but we didn't make it."

Lay pushed Ms. Cook out of the way, but the train clipped his leg. They were able to scramble to safety. He was in fair condition Tuesday.

As if that's not enough, Butler County authorities have indicated that both teens can expect to face criminal trespassing charges. Ms. Cook's father has already received the paperwork.

There's nothing like a few cats

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — A woman is vowing to put up a cat fight in order to keep 80 stray felines.

Elizabeth Peterson-Lacey went before the City Council on Tuesday, asking it to amend its ordinance that limits six animals per household. Thirty-five neighbors presented a petition opposing any changes.

The council took no action, but a city attorney said Mrs. Peterson-Lacey could apply for a residential kennel license to keep her pets.

The 31-year-old office manager said she would do just that in order to keep her pets, despite opposition from her neighbors.

"They are going to have a fight on their hands. I'm not going to give up," she said. "My animals don't go outside. You don't hear them, see them or smell them."

In addition to the cats, Mrs. Peterson-Lacey also shares her three-bedroom home with her husband and her parents.

Monument company callers get ear full

PERRY, Okla. (AP) — Grieving relatives have been getting an earful of lively sex chat due to an error in a local Yellow Pages.

The toll-free number for Perry Monument was printed wrong by one numeral. Instead of being connected to Perry, callers are put through to the "Penthouse Live Sex Line," and told how they can talk to "uncensored phone mates" for \$4.95 per minute.

"Any wrong number would be bad, but this is as bad as it could be," said Cindy Branscum, who owns Perry Monument with her husband, Ron.

About 63,500 of the 1997-98 Southwestern Bell directories were distributed in Perry and 16 other towns and surrounding areas.

A spokeswoman for Southwestern Bell said it would not charge Perry Monument for the listing and is crediting \$150 to Perry Monument's account for next year.

Report: Dow Corning to agree \$3.2 billion bankruptcy plan

NEW YORK (AP) — Dow Corning Corp. has tentatively agreed to a bankruptcy plan that would pay \$3.2 billion to about 400,000 women for ailments related to ruptured silicone breast implants, The Wall Street Journal reported today.

The settlement between Dow Corning and representatives for the women could be announced by a bankruptcy court in Bay City, Mich. as early as today.

The deal, which calls for Dow Corning to end its three-year stay in Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, opens the way for women to be compensated for immune system illnesses allegedly caused by

silicone and to receive payments for ruptured implants.

Women could also choose to receive \$5,000 to have the implants removed, the paper reported.

The agreement is similar to a November 1995 deal signed by other corporate defendants, including Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., in which women have received an average of \$26,000. The Dow Corning deal calls for women to receive an average of \$31,000 for disease and disability compensation, the paper said.

Women who prefer to litigate rather than accept the payments may do so, but amounts will be limited, the paper said.

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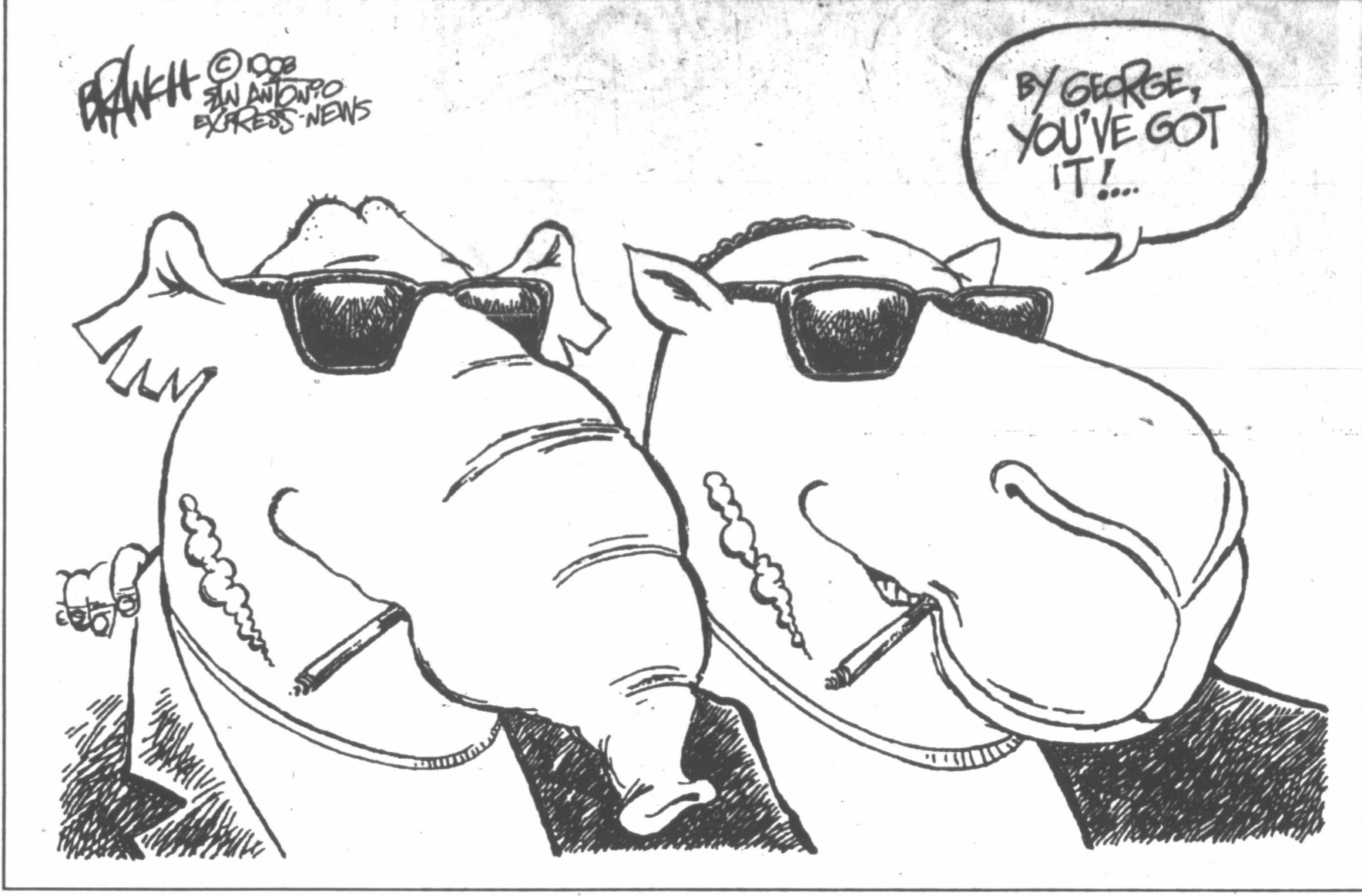
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Opinion

Creating trade balance could be an evil move

■ Protectionism simply doesn't get the job done in today's world.

We better get used to the hysterical predictions from labor unions, Buchananites and other opponents of free trade. They point to record-high U.S. trade deficits to justify their calls for protectionist policies.

They say that when Americans buy more goods from foreigners than we sell to them, that it erodes the nation's industrial base and makes us more dependent on other countries. This argument has a certain gut-level appeal, but its logic doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

Free trade certainly wreaks havoc on the most inefficient American industries, but it creates far more jobs than it takes away. And open trade is the most conducive to individual freedom. Few things are more important for individual liberty than the right to run a business and sell your products or services to whomever wants to buy them in this country or elsewhere.

Protectionism lets government bureaucrats and politicians, rather than the sovereign consumer, pick and choose economic winners and losers. It rewards those companies who may be terribly run and provide poor products to Americans, but who may have made savvy political contributions or who have friends in high places.

The focus of recent debates about the trade deficit and free trade in general is usually on the jobs won or lost because of these policies. Lost in the debate is the benefit to consumers. A competitive market provides the best goods at the lowest costs. Protectionism, then, isn't so much an attack on other nations, but on U.S. citizens. When trade quotas and tariffs are imposed, prices go up — benefiting certain small groups of workers and business owners at the expense of everyone else.

That is terribly unfair.

If American politicians are serious about tackling the so-called trade-deficit problem, there is an easy way to handle it. According to Daniel T. Griswold, author of a new Cato Institute study on the trade deficit, "the surest and swiftest way to tackle it would be to engineer a deep recession." Griswold, of course, is being facetious. But his point is an important one: Trade deficits are a "problem" mainly facing prosperous, job-producing nations, not economically troubled ones.

The trade-deficit numbers will make good campaign-trail fodder, especially in parts of the nation where older industries are closing and newer ones have yet to take their place. But no crisis is at hand.

"Our trade deficit reflects the benign fact that America remains an attractive haven for international investors," Griswold wrote. "The trade deficit allows Americans to maintain a level of investment in our future productivity that would be impossible if we were required to rely solely on our current level of savings."

Those deficits, he added, "cannot be blamed for unemployment or slower growth, nor are they a sign of unfair trade practices abroad or declining industrial competitiveness at home." Instead, they may result in greater prosperity because they allow "a nation's productive resources ... to flow to the best and highest use, raising the nation's overall standard of living."

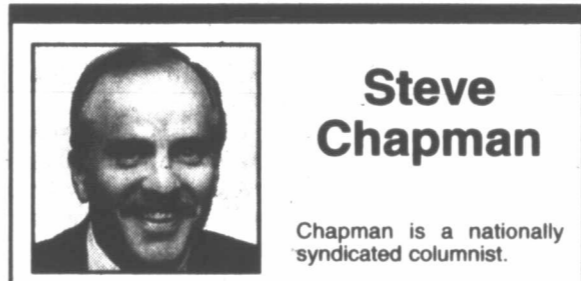
The late Murray Rothbard, a renowned free-market economist, explained that a national economy isn't so different from a family's economy when it comes to the trade deficit. If a family were to insist that it did not run a trade deficit — that it sold outsiders more goods than it bought — its members would soon die of starvation.

That America runs a trade deficit is merely a sign of its relative prosperity. It is foolishness to risk that prosperity in a pointless campaign to balance the trade books.

—Odessa American

Art and taxpayer money

While most of the nation baked in a heat wave, some people in the arts were pulling on sweaters and cranking up furnaces. They felt a severe chill emanating from Washington after the Supreme Court ruled that artistic freedom does not mean taxpayers are obliged to finance works intended to outrage those same taxpayers.



A few years ago, many Americans were displeased to learn that the National Endowment for the Arts was cheerfully dispensing money so that creative sorts could do such things as submerge crucifixes in urine. Congress shared this displeasure and voted to instruct the agency that in the competition for federal grants, "artistic excellence and artistic merit are the criteria by which applications are judged, taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American people."

Most people would read that mandate to suggest that decency is inseparable from artistic merit, which is undoubtedly true: "Schindler's List" would not have been critically acclaimed if it had portrayed the extermination of the world's Jews as a commendable objective.

But many people in the arts tend to believe that artistic excellence is wholly incompatible with the loathsome values of middle-class America. A shocked audience is usually taken as a sure sign that the artist is doing something right. Until the backlash of the 1990s, the NEA shared this assumption, with one of its panels declaring that a work that is "disturbing" is therefore "worthy of consideration."

So the new congressional instructions were treated by some artists as the second coming of Joe McCarthy. Four performance artists

whose applications were rejected by the NEA's advisory council went to court, arguing that their constitutional right to express themselves freely had evaporated with the passage of the law — even though two of them later received grants from the agency. But, with only one dissenting vote, the court told them they were mistaken.

The majority opinion, noting the impossibility of handing out federal grants without exercising discretion, said the decision to finance one project and reject another is not the equivalent of permitting one project and censoring another. No one objects to funding only those artists whose works meet the test of "artistic excellence," even though that standard compels the government to favor some types of expression at the expense of others.

Federal law says the NEA should use its money to encourage public "understanding and appreciation of the arts." Does the Constitution require it to also fund works carrying the message that the arts are worthless?

When the government subsidizes artists, as when it funds public libraries, it has to decide that some works are more valuable than others. A library may subscribe to Newsweek magazine and not Hustler without trampling the First Amendment rights of pornographers.

As long as it doesn't decree that certain points of view are beyond the pale, the court said, Congress has the right to make judgments about what it wants to pay for.

The people who complain about the suffocating conformity imposed by the appeal to decency didn't complain when the NEA was upholding a different set of values. Joseph Epstein, a Northwestern University professor who served on the National Council of the NEA, recalls that "by the end of my term, every member of the council had been appointed under the Reagan or the Bush administrations — and yet, despite this, the reigning spirit in the room, as among the staff of the Endowment generally, was preponderantly liberal-left. Time and again, when arguments about standards and quality came up against what was taken to be democratic fairness and sensitivity to minorities, the latter invariably won the day."

The NEA officers, writes Epstein, felt a "special obligation" toward "cutting edge" art — which, he says, "almost invariably was anti-capitalist, anti-middle class, anti-American." What the critics mind is not NEA discrimination against certain attitudes and beliefs but NEA discrimination against *their* attitudes and beliefs.

The consolation for them is that most arts funding in this country comes not from Washington but from private donors, leaving them plenty of other possible sources of support for their efforts to offend and insult the masses without the risk that Congress will butt in. Of course, if the NEA is going to decline to fund their sort of art and the Supreme Court is going to let the NEA get away with it, artists may begin to wonder if there's any value in federal art subsidies. Hmmm. Good question.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
 Today is Wednesday, July 8, the 189th day of 1998. There are 176 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On July 8, 1776, Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence to a crowd at Independence Square in Philadelphia.
 On this date:

In 1663, King Charles II of England granted a charter to Rhode Island.
 In 1853, an expedition led by Cmdr. Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.
 In 1889, The Wall Street Journal was first published.
 In 1891, Warren G. Harding married Florence K. DeWolfe in Marion, Ohio.
 In 1907, Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.
 In 1919, President Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles Peace Conference in France.
 In 1947, demolition work began

in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.
 In 1950, Gen. Douglas MacArthur was named commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea.
 In 1975, President Ford announced he would seek the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1976.

Clinton's costly trip to China

William J. Clinton is an expensive president. His 1,000-person-plus, 100-ton-plus entourage for his China trip is so out of the ball park, even The New York Times got snippy about it.

It's all on our dime, too. That's too much money for the pleasure of having Clinton out of the country. After all, he's not doing anything but having a couple of inconsequential meetings and staging a bunch of photo ops.

The Chinese have him where his barber doesn't work, and he knows it. The idea of Clinton pressuring the Chinese government: to do anything is a joke. Once he gets past White House interns and ambitious gals looking for connections, Clinton is a feather when it comes to pressure.

The Chinese will score a propaganda home run, the American people will get nothing and Clinton already has all he's going to get, which apparently was a lot of cash.

In a safe world, Clinton's tap to China would be merely amusing. But the world is never safe, and neither are the humans who live in it. Bad or corrupt politics and inept diplomacy just create the next war. Anyone who in any way contributes to starting a war is guilty of a crime against humanity.

And China is a good candidate for starting the next war. It remains a communist dictatorship. Its economy, despite its propaganda, is not doing much for the Chinese people. It has

an enormous population. Sooner or later, it will try to expand its territory. So today it is pursuing what it needs to become a military power: foreign capital and technology.

We made a big mistake when we put a cheap grifter with a greased zipper in the White House. He's doing nothing but giving the Chinese government what apparently it paid for — a propaganda show, technology and capital.

From the Chinese government's point of view, Clinton is a propaganda prop. They are using him to paint a false picture of a "new China" with a vibrant economy. They are using him to tell Chinese and Tibetan patriots that they can expect no help from the United States.

That's the why of the Tiananmen Square ceremony: to put the American president on the blood-stained stones, smiling and shaking hands with the men who shed the blood. It amounts to a glob of spit on the graves of the martyrs to Chinese freedom. No decent American would have agreed to it.

I don't think most Americans have come to

grips with how corrupt the federal government has become. It's corrupt in the money and moral sense, but it is also corrupt in the sense that there are hardly any public officials left who wouldn't sacrifice the interests of the American people for their own financial and political interests. And they'd do it in a New York minute.

Some Americans are so ignorant of government they suppose that politicians who vote to give them money are good people. It does not occur to them that it doesn't cost the politicians a dime to buy some fool's vote with somebody else's money — often, the fool's own money.

As far as anyone looking out for the American people, the people don't have a government in Washington. The transnational corporations have one. The foreign lobbyists have one. The rich have one. But the American people are left out in the cold.

If there were no such thing as consequences and payback, we could all try to live well and not worry about it. But there are always consequences, and the consequences of a bad national government are likely to be poverty, loss of liberty and wars we lose instead of win.

That may seem like a leap from a cheap politician's photo-op trip, but the present is always where the future is planted. The crop Clinton is planting will yield a bitter harvest.

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 Betty



(Photo courtesy of White Deer Land Museum)

Workers help Indian Jim, far right, lay brick on Cuyler Street in 1927.

Champion bricklayer Indian Jim paved downtown Pampa

Museum Mementos
Eloise Lane
White Deer Land Museum

By 1926, Pampa was feeling the results of the oil discovery in neighboring territories. It had long been known as the town with muddy streets, and it became necessary that something be done. Eleven of the muddy streets were paved with brick in 1927.

Miss Top O' Texas Rodeo and Teen pageant made possible by area sponsors

The Miss Top O' Texas Rodeo and Teen pageant wouldn't be all that it is without the assistance of area businesses. In addition, the contestants are generously sponsored by area individuals and businesses.

In the queen pageant, Erin Cobb of Pampa is being sponsored by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Shaw, Rick Locke, CTW Brake Rims, First American Bank, Texas Furniture, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard White, Dunlaps, Bob Clements, Jerry Harrington and Lyndon Fields Photography. Queen contestant Camie Frazier of Dalhart is being sponsored this year by Mrs. J.D. Petty. Deawn Guess of Pampa is being sponsored by Mrs. Frank Guess, Mr. and Mrs. James Schaffer, J.Q. Russell Electric, Inc., Grantham, Cory & Heare, P.C., Royse Animal Hospital and Anita's Brandy Kempf of Pampa is being sponsored this year by B & B Pharmacy, Bill Allison Auto Sales, Melissa Bye, Celebrations, Culigan Water Conditioning, Holmes Gift Shoppe & Sports Center, Wilbur & Betty Kempf, Billy & Colleen Neal,

Roberta's Flowers, Stokes Industrial Radiator and Mr. Muffler, Watson's Garden Center, and Keith, Melinda, Mindee, Celeste & Kristen Stowers.

In the teen pageant, Shani Brown of Dalhart is being sponsored by the XIT Rodeo & Reunion Directors. Nicole Bruton of Pampa is being sponsored by Parsleys Roofing, Utility Tire, Quality Sales, Eye Care Plus, Fototime, Holmes Gift Shoppe & Sports Center, NBC Bank, Dr. Depee, D.D.S. and Dorman Tire, Co. Mandy Poole of Pampa is being sponsored this year by The Wagner Company, Anderson Photography, Sadie Hawkins Store, Mojave Petroleum Co., B&G Electric, Signal Fuels, Gray Co. Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Meganne Walsh, Keys Pharmacy, Pampa Machine, Roberta's Flowers and Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Inc. Whitney Swafford of Amarillo, is being sponsored by Potter County 4-H Horse Project, Hillybilly Auto Sales, Cavender's, Debi Swafford and Mike & Stephanie Swafford.

Pampa with the Stuckey Construction Company. The year previous, he had made a world's record by laying 64,644 bricks in seven hours and 48 minutes at Olathe, Kans., on Sept. 12, 1926.

The Indian bricklayer laid nearly all the million and more bricks, and Pampans declared that he worked so fast it kept three men busy hauling the bricks to him, and even then he would sometimes be without bricks. Some of the original brick paving remains, in the business district today.

Indian Jim was born in 1869 on Oneida Reservation in New York, educated at Carlisle and Ontario Agricultural College, was six feet in height and weighed 180 pounds.

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Smaller video stores fear they're headed for cutting-room floor

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — One of Matt Feinstein's family video stores is in a supermarket, right across the parking lot from a giant, blue Blockbuster store. And that's not the worst of it.

Feinstein suspects Blockbuster gets better terms from studios, enabling it to load its shelves with 10 to 20 times the new releases that Feinstein's Marbles Entertainment can afford to stock.

"What we want is the studios to offer the same types of deals and put everybody on the same playing field," said Feinstein, whose family runs 15 California stores. "Otherwise, some of the independents are going to go out of business."

As video retailers gather this week for their annual convention in Las Vegas, there is an undercurrent of fear, frustration and anxiety about an \$8 billion industry that has rebounded from a gloomy 1997.

Rental revenue is up about 6 percent so far this year after last year's 4.2 percent loss. The video release of "Titanic" in September won't hurt.

But the resurgence is fueled by a radical change in the basic economics of the business, prompting complaints of inequity. Some retailers are so angry they planned a rally today at the convention.

"It's definitely an adverse time, and I think it's going to be contentious in the desert," said Robert Wittenberg, MGM studio's senior vice president of sales for home

entertainment. "It's a brave new world and it's a world virtually turned upside down like never before."

At the center of many debates is Blockbuster's bold adoption in recent months of a revenue sharing program. In the past, Blockbuster would buy a movie for as much as \$69 and keep all rental income. Under revenue sharing, it pays as little as \$6 per movie, giving up a percentage of the rental dollars to the studios in return.

Smaller chains, which also share revenues with studios, are complaining that Blockbuster, through its size and influence, is getting better deals and handing over less money. The smaller stores also have to pay for a company to track rentals, a task Blockbuster does on its own.

Other problems with revenue sharing include the question of ownership, storage, what to do with aging hits, who gets used video sale profits and whether stores focus on hits to the exclusion of selection.

All this comes as the industry is getting more crowded. There are stores on every corner, VCRs in every home and the public is hungry for hits.

"This was such an easy business for a long time," said Jeffrey Eves, president of the Video Software Dealers Association, which is sponsoring the convention. "Competition and the maturing of the market place will encourage excellence for those who remain in the business. But there will be some casualties."

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Come In And WIN!

Clinging Church Widow Needs Compassion and New Company

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wit's end concerning a widow at our church. This woman should know better because her late husband was a minister.

Every Sunday, she makes a point of looking for my husband and me, and she's constantly touching and flirting with him. He is very uncomfortable with her behavior and runs the other way when he sees her coming. Many times she waits for us at the back of the church where we pick up our nametags.

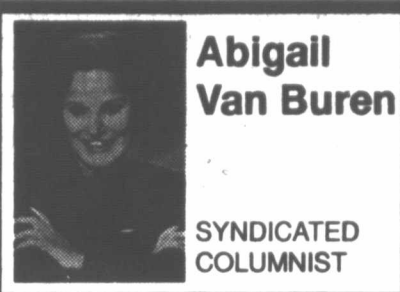
Neither of us can understand why a Sunday school teacher so well versed in the Scriptures would act like she does. We can't discuss this with anyone at church, so what would you suggest? If you print my letter, perhaps she will read it and see herself.

IRRITATED IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR IRRITATED: It seems that you think the widow is "coveting" more than the Ten Commandments allow. She is obviously lonely and probably needs verification that she is still attractive to men.

Since your husband isn't interested in her and you see her only once a week, please show some compassion. And should you happen to know an eligible man, for heaven's sake, introduce him to her!

DEAR ABBY: I've had it with my mother-in-law, who has come to live



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

with us. I recall that some time ago, you printed a letter from a woman who had also been made miserable by her widowed mother who had come to live with her. The writer said she had come up with some rules for herself, which she would observe if she ever found herself having to live with her children.

Abby, never in my wildest dreams did I think I would need those rules, but times have changed. Will you please reprint it? HAD IT IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR HAD IT: Certainly. That letter is timeless:

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, when my widowed mother came to live with my husband and me, she made our lives so miserable that I determined that I would never bring such misery to my children if I ever had to live with them.

One day I sat down and wrote myself a letter. In it were some pertinent rules, and on the outside of the envelope I wrote, "To be opened on the day I go to live with my daughter, heaven forbid." I tucked it

away in an old book and forgot about it.

I've been widowed and self-sufficient for six years, but I was recently forced to give up my job and go live with my oldest daughter. I've opened that letter, and I think your older readers might benefit from it, as I intend to.

The rules are as follows:
 - Give what you can toward your keep. Any budget will stretch just so far.

- Keep yourself clean and neat.
 - Remember, it is their home. Be especially considerate of him. He allowed her to bring you here.

- Give them privacy at every opportunity.

- If they want to go away on a vacation but are hesitant because of you, offer to visit another relative or friend so they can be free to go.

- Don't offer any advice or express any opinions unless asked.

- Volunteer information that they might be too embarrassed to ask for, such as arrangements for your burial, hospitalization, etc.

These rules were written more than 20 years ago. I read them often and am determined to keep them.

WIDOW X

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 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)

★★★ The full moon challenges you to be everywhere. Do prioritize, if only for your sake. A family member wants it his way, but you are more concerned with maintaining your image and improving work. Be careful with an associate who tends to be a spendthrift. Tonight: Run the show.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Pace yourself. News seems to pop in from every direction, and you are expected to respond ASAP. Don't let anyone pressure you. Decide the where, when and hows of your life. Schedule an important meeting for the end of the day. Tonight: Off visiting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You might be juggling finances. Avoid robbing Peter to pay Paul. Stay steady and determined. Intuition is right on with a money matter. Avoid negativity. Don't let others pressure you into a commitment or into doing anything you don't want to!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You have decisions to make about a partnership. Avoid letting moods dominate you. Pull back, to do some solid thinking. Don't react;

respond. When you calm down, aim for what you want. Attend an important meeting later in the day. Ask questions when you are unsure. Tonight: Dine out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Sometimes, you take on too much. Now is a prime example. Juggling the different forces in your life overwhelms you. Pull back, and reorganize. Eliminate everything that isn't a high priority. Take care when dealing with a boss. Tonight: A favorite summer sport.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Allow your imagination to burst forward. There are answers contained in this process. You have been questioning yourself about what you want for the future. Stay on top of choices. A friend does his best to make you happy. Look at the overview. Tonight: Fun and games.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You seem to have forgotten to please yourself in the twists of the day. Bosses are demanding; a family member wants it his way. It's difficult to stretch the budget as far as he would like. Be realistic about your limits. Examine this partnership carefully. Tonight: Do some deep soul-searching.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You hear others' opinions, whether you care to or not. Plans change rapidly. You regroup as a result. Think through a decision with care. It could have long-range implications vis-à-vis a partnership. Be sure you aren't only seeing what you want to. Tonight: Escape into music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ Extreme fluctuations attack your wallet. Certainly, you don't need anyone else's help in spending. Think about how to cut recent extravagance. Work is key now. You might not like it or feel overly burdened. Consider alternatives. Tonight: Put in that extra effort with a partner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Keep smiling. Others need your air of self-confidence and happiness. Realize how confused a friend is. Consider a possible change. Discussions involve children and a deeper commitment. Don't hold back; this is the time. Tonight: Share your cheer with others!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You are hard pressed to keep up with conversations. No question about it, you have a lot on your mind. Try to frame the periods when you will allow your mind to wander. Work demands your complete attention. Don't let concerns with home interfere. Tonight: Bring home work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others come to you with requests, invitations and ideas. You are overwhelmed by all that you must process. Stay centered. Schedule an important meeting for the afternoon. Let your creativity flourish. Others need your imagination. Tonight: Do exactly what you want!

BORN TODAY

Actor Brian Dennehy (1938), actor Tom Hanks (1956), actor Fred Savage (1976)

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Jeweler's units
 - 7 Sailing park
 - 11 Maine
 - 12 Lifeline site
 - 13 Expel from a country
 - 14 Black
 - 15 Staggered
 - 17 Umb's call
 - 20 Singing group
 - 23 Yale player
 - 24 Dante subject
 - 26 Russian space station
 - 27 Scoundrel
 - 28 Bother
 - 29 Pole features
 - 31 Place
 - 32 Writer Ernest
 - 33 Nile serpents
 - 34 Brought up
 - 37 Actor Sharif
 - 39 Hubbub
 - 43 Trims
 - 44 Hope
 - 45 Rx amount
 - 46 Caught
- DOWN
- 1 Bounder
 - 2 High card
 - 3 Public Enemy's genre
 - 4 Idolize
 - 5 Exhaust
 - 6 Fill completely
 - 7 Each
 - 8 Bunkers
 - 9 Wapiti
 - 10 Sister of Jo
 - 16 Hay sites
 - 17 Big rigs
 - 18 Ralph's wife
 - 19 Dangerous buildings
 - 21 Finish
 - 22 Hom
 - 24 Tehran native
 - 25 Siesta
 - 30 Far from fine
 - 33 Make suitable
 - 35 Read over
 - 36 Different
 - 37 Archaic
 - 38 Low sound
 - 40 "Good Hunting" setting
 - 41 Mine yield
 - 42 Blushing

RADAR RABID
ALICE ALONE
FACTS OF LIFE
TIE TURTLE
SALUTES
SATUP RHINO
ADAM ACID
GONER BREED
TITLE
ART SEA PAD
LARGE AS LIFE
SNEER TITAN
ODETS START

Yesterday's Answer

- 11 Sister of Jo
- 16 Hay sites
- 17 Big rigs
- 18 Ralph's wife
- 19 Dangerous buildings
- 21 Finish
- 22 Hom
- 24 Tehran native
- 25 Siesta
- 30 Far from fine
- 33 Make suitable
- 35 Read over
- 36 Different
- 37 Archaic
- 38 Low sound
- 40 "Good Hunting" setting
- 41 Mine yield
- 42 Blushing

Marmaduke



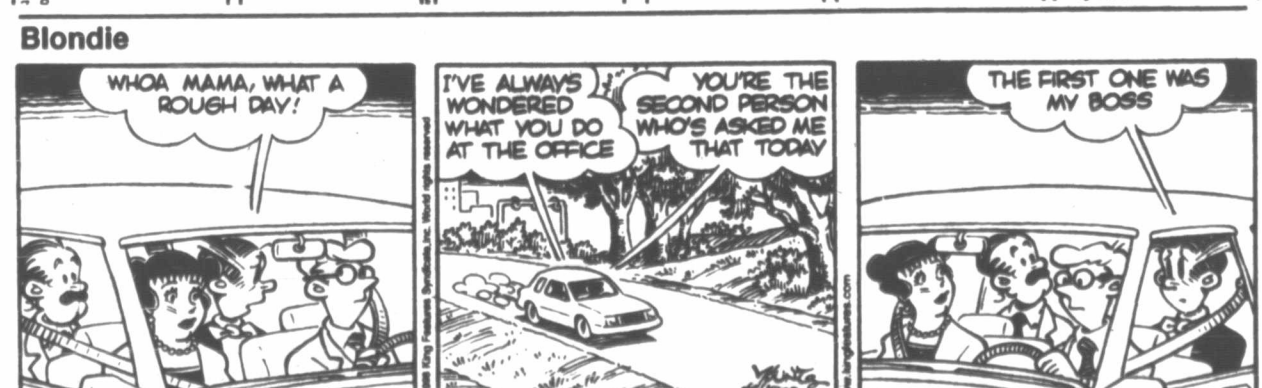
"He's a real hammock potato."

The Family Circus



"I'd rather play in a band. They have better uniforms."

For Better or For Worse



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SPORTS

Notebook

GOLF

LONDON (AP) — Jack Nicklaus has pulled out of next week's British Open, ending his streak of consecutive majors at 154.

In a statement released today, Nicklaus, the winner of 18 majors, also announced he would not play in the PGA Championships.

Nicklaus, 58, has played in every major for which he's been eligible since earning a spot in the 1957 U.S. Open. His most recent major was last month's U.S. Open at the Olympic Club in San Francisco.

"After 42 years of playing major championship golf, I feel that my ability to compete at the highest level on a continuous basis is marginal at best," Nicklaus said. "I feel this is the time to end my streak of consecutive majors, for which I have been eligible."

Nicklaus said he had planned to end the streak at this year's Masters until the USGA gave him an exemption to play at the U.S. Open.

SOCCER

NEW YORK (AP) — Television ratings for the World Cup showed some improvement in the quarterfinals, but still trail the numbers from 1994.

ABC averaged a 3.4 overnight rating for its three quarterfinal games, the highest ratings for any game not involving the U.S. team. Each ratings point represents 980,000 households.

In 1994, when the excitement of the World Cup being played in the United States helped boost ratings, ABC averaged a 4.0 national rating for three quarterfinals.

ABC got a 3.9 for Brazil-Denmark on Friday and, on Saturday, a 3.0 for Argentina-Netherlands and a 3.3 for Croatia-Germany. Those numbers will drop when national ratings are released Thursday.

ABC's highest rating this year is a 3.5 for the United States-Iran and the highest non-U.S. rating is the 2.3 for Nigeria-Denmark.

ESPN2 got a 1.4 (833,000 households), its highest rating to date, for Friday's Italy-France quarterfinal.

BASEBALL

DENVER (AP) — Roberto Alomar's production, unlike his popularity, was never in doubt.

A year after his brother won the All-Star MVP award, Alomar earned the honor for himself Tuesday night.

"This is a special trophy for myself and for my family," the Baltimore second baseman said after going 3-for-4 with a solo home run in the American League's 13-8 win over the NL.

Despite being elected once again by fans for a starting spot, Alomar was booed in pregame introductions. He gets the same reaction in most every park except Camden Yards, the result of him spitting on umpire John Hirschbeck during the final weekend of the 1996 season. "He still hears about it," NL All-Star Tony Gwynn said.

Alomar bunted for a single in the first inning and stole a base. He walked in the fourth, singled to start a three-run sixth and homered off Trevor Hoffman in the seventh.

By the end of the game, his bat was on its way to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. His MVP trophy was headed elsewhere.

"I'm going to give it to my mom," he said. "I think she's the one who deserves it. When we were young, she used to take us to the ballpark. Without her, we wouldn't be here."

Marie Alomar watched the game back home in Puerto Rico along with her husband Sandy, a major leaguer from 1964-78.

American League wins All-Star slugfest

DENVER (AP) — No wonder no one wants to pitch here. Coors Field lived up to its billing as a hitter's haven and a pitcher's house of horrors Tuesday night as solo homers by MVP Roberto Alomar and Alex Rodriguez helped the American League beat the Nationals 13-8 in the highest-scoring All-Star game ever.

A crowd of 51,267 and a national TV audience that tuned in to see a run-fest got exactly what it wanted. Barry Bonds' three-run homer was among the record-tying 31 hits.

Tom Glavine, Roger Clemens and most of baseball's best pitchers were powerless to stop Ken Griffey, Cal Ripken, Tony Gwynn and the rest of the majors' top hitters.

And the runs came in all sorts of ways. While three balls flew over the fences, several others carried a

long way in the Mile High air. At one point, Clemens pointed skyward when he thought Bonds had hit a popup — the ball wound up on the warning track.

Sometimes, outfielders playing deep had no chance to rush in and catch bloopers. Other times, batters took advantage of curve balls that don't curve well in Denver to hit wicked grounders past helpless fielders.

Alomar got three hits and won the MVP award a year after his brother, Cleveland catcher Sandy Alomar, earned the honor. Rodriguez also had three hits for the AL and Devon White, a substitute, had three for the NL.

Walt Weiss got two hits and the cheers of his 3-year-old son, Brody, recently out of the hospital after fighting off a life-threatening strain of E. coli bacteria.

Rafael Palmeiro's RBI single in

AL ninth accounted for the 21st run, breaking the record set in the AL's 11-9 win in 1954.

All that, and still a couple of defensive plays enabled the AL to cut the National League's overall lead to 40-28-1.

Left fielder Paul O'Neill threw out Fernando Vina at the plate to preserve a 10-8 lead in the eighth, and shortstop Omar Vizquel followed by turning a nifty double play on the next batter.

In a fitting twist, Cleveland's Bartolo Colon got the win despite giving up Bonds' homer in the fifth, the only inning he pitched. Montreal's Ugueth Urbina was the loser.

In an odd twist, sluggers Mark McGwire and Juan Gonzalez did little. McGwire, leading the majors with 37 homers, was 0-for-2.

Gonzalez, leading the majors with 101 RBIs, got up with nine runners

on base and drove in just one.

The AL bounced back quickly after Bonds' homer, scoring three times in the sixth for an 8-6 edge. A couple of infield hits, a wild pitch by Urbina and a passed ball by Javy Lopez did most of the damage.

Ripken broke Willie Mays' record with his 15th straight start, then hit a two-run double that keyed a four-run fourth off Glavine for a 4-2 lead. The Iron Man didn't exactly drive the ball, but his opposite-field fly had no problem riding the light air and reaching the top of the right-field wall.

Weiss' second single off the game closed the NL to 4-3 in the bottom half and earned him another ovation from his family and fans.

Gwynn, playing in his 13th All-Star game, put the NL ahead 2-0 in the third against Roger Clemens by grounding a two-run single off

Alomar's glove at second base.

The AL put runners on first and third to begin the game, but Greg Maddux expertly escaped. He got Griffey on a foul pop to McGwire — those two guys are bound to be linked all season — in getting out of trouble.

Notes: Maddux and Glavine are tied for the NL lead with 12 wins. The last time an All-Star starter was relieved by a pitcher from the same team was 1973 when Oakland's Catfish Hunter started and Ken Holtzman followed. The last time it happened in the NL was 1969 when St. Louis' Steve Carlton started and Bob Gibson relieved ... NL reliever Jeff Shaw, celebrating his 32nd birthday, pitched the eighth. He was traded from Cincinnati to Los Angeles on Saturday, making him the first All-Star ever to be dealt between the time he was selected and the game itself.

Pampa advances to 9-10 championship

CANADIAN — Pampa's 9-10 year-old girls' All-Stars defeated the Borger All-Stars, 23-15, Tuesday night in a hard-fought game to advance into the finals of the Area Softball Tournament.

Kari Terrell started pitching for Pampa and ran into some trouble. She was relieved by Amy Youree in the first inning. Borger scored 10 runs in the first inning before Youree came in and shut them down. She pitched the next four innings to get the win.

Pampa battled back from a 10-run deficit for the win. Leading hitters for Pampa were Amy Youree, two singles, a home run and two walks; Kari Terrell, sin-

Softball

gle and four walks; Britteni Rice, single and three walks; Ashlee Lucas, single and four walks.

Pampa meets Spearman at 6 tonight in the finals of the winner's bracket.

AUSTIN — The East defeated the West, 7-2, Tuesday in the Texas Girls Association All-Star Game.

Katy's Lisa Klam for the East hit the game's only home run. Winning pitcher was Britini Sneed of Houston Cypress.

Fort Elliott's Barr makes TSWA All-State Squad

BRYAN — Fort Elliott outfielder Donnie Barr has been named to the 1998 Texas Sports Writers Association Class 1A all-state baseball team. Barr made all-state for the fourth straight year.

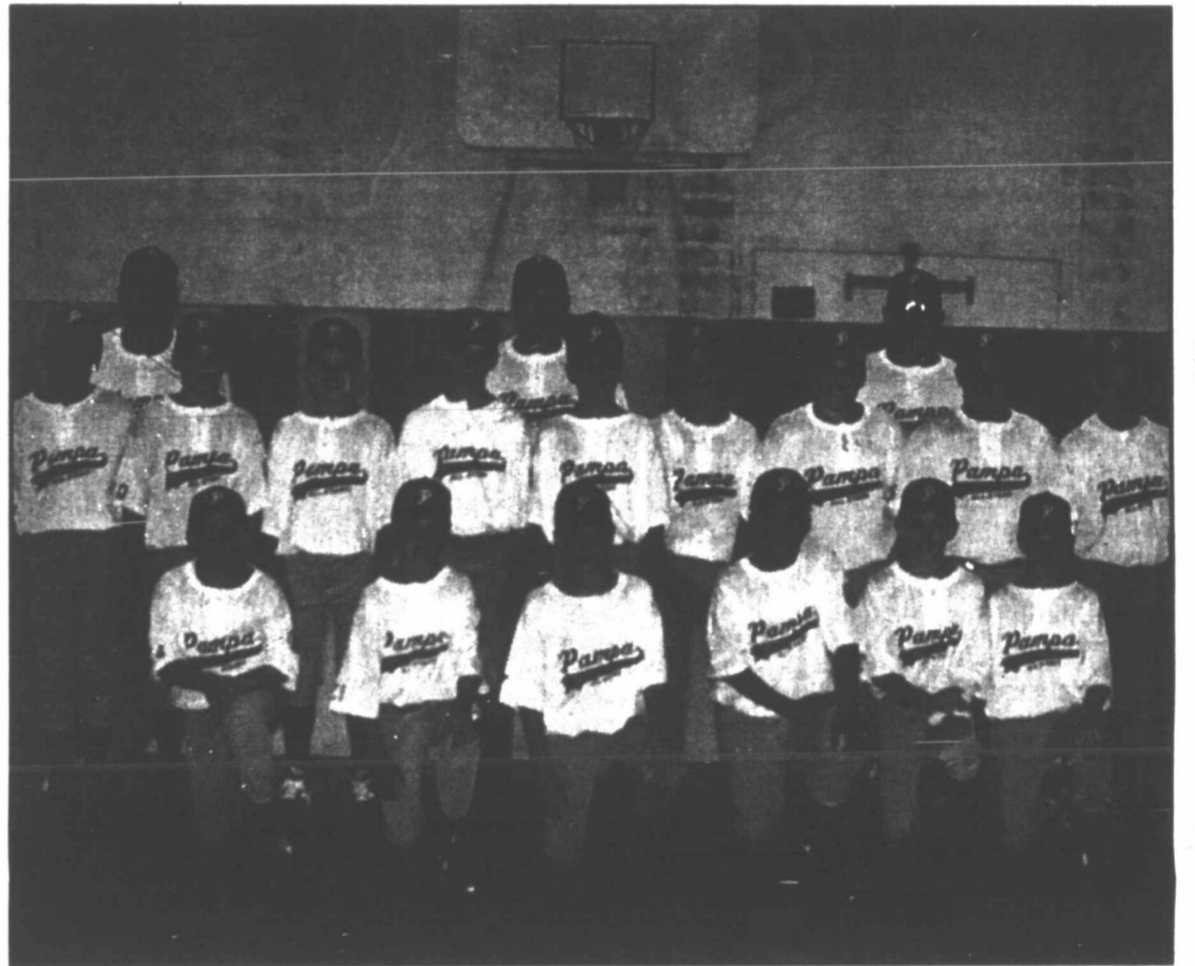
Barr is a senior and a four-time all-district selection. He helped Fort Elliott (11-6) make the playoffs with a .625 batting average. Barr hit eight doubles and eight homers, with 39 RBIs, scored 28 runs and stole 12 bases.

Class A baseball team

FIRST TEAM Pitchers: Anthony Abrameit, Thrall, jr.; Jake Mellon, Collinsville, sr.; and Scott Sanders, Maud, jr. Catcher: Shannon Mauney, Gorman, sr. First base: B.J. Stewart, Colmesneil, sr. Second base: Ty Knox, Claude, soph. Shortstop: Ryan Sladek, Thrall, sr. Third base: Robert Reyna, Covington, jr. Outfielders: Lucas Mikulencak, Thrall, sr.; Donnie Barr, Fort Elliott, sr.; Cliff Bishop, Covington, sr.; and Matt Sanders, Ponder, sr.

Designated hitter: Wesley Johnson, Windthorst, sr. Coach of the Year: Eric Smith, Thrall. Player of the Year: Anthony Abrameit, Thrall. SECOND TEAM Pitchers: Jason Penney, LaPortynor, jr.; Roy Sixton, Falls City, jr.; and Cody Hanna, Mildred, jr. and Wesley Johnson, Windthorst, sr. Catcher: Ricardo Fuentes, Bartlett, sr. First base: Clint Moss, Evadale, sr. Second base: Gage Davis, Collinsville, soph. Shortstop: Cassidy Bostick, Ponder, sr. Third base: (tie) Ryan Harris, Normangee, soph. and Jason Hodge, Burton, sr. Outfielders: Lee Stephenson, Milano, jr.; Brian Haggard, Claude, sr.; Chris Ford, Collinsville. Designated hitter: Zeb Land, Cotton Center, jr. THIRD TEAM Pitchers: Joe Lujan, Rotan, sr.; Chris Newman, Ponder, sr.; and (tie) Aubrey Buchanan, Sliedell, sr. and Rodrick Douglass, Colmesneil, soph. Catcher: Will Wright, Ponder, jr. First base: Derek Wigi, Collinsville, jr. Second base: Kiley Smith, Thrall, freshman. Shortstop: Stoney Carillo, Rotan, sr. Third base: Brent Ferguson, Claude, jr. Outfielders: Brian Jennings, Mildred, sr.; Brian Durden, Collinsville, jr.; Demetrius Rector, Celeste, sr. Designated hitter: (tie) Rodrick Douglass, Colmesneil, soph. and Joey Hernandez, Avalon, jr.; Mark Wills, Evadale, sr.

All-Star Team



(Pampa News photo)

The Pampa 11-12 All-Star Team will meet Lockney at 8:30 Saturday night in the opening round of the West Texas State Babe Ruth Bambino Tournament in Lockney. Team members are (front row, l-r) Dusty Lenderman, Adam Etchison, Hunter Craig, Mateo Campos, Chance Henley and bat boy Dylan Henley; (second row, l-r) Eddie Palma, Tyler Doughty, Derek Lewis, Cody Jenkins, Ryan Barnes, Jason Brown, Zach Hucks, Aaron Simon and Nick Story; (back row, l-r) coach Joe Palma, manager Larry Lenderman and coach Dick Henley. There are eight teams entered in the double-elimination tournament. The championship game will be played at 8 p.m. July 16.

Rangers' age: A blessing or curse?

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — With age comes wisdom — and for the Texas Rangers, age also brings aching bodies after a long, hard game.

There's a run on ice after the final out of all Rangers games. First baseman Will Clark uses ice on his left elbow. Second baseman Mark McLemore ices both knees. Shortstop Kevin Elster uses it to soothe his back, shoulder and ankles. Reliever Xavier Hernandez gives his right shoulder a double dose. "Our club is experienced," general manager Doug Melvin told The Dallas Morning News. "It helps having those veteran guys down the stretch. But you have to be careful from the physical standpoint that they don't burn themselves out."

How well those experienced players hold up will help shape the second half of their season.

A baseball player's peak years are said to be between 28 and 31.

The Rangers have 10 players who are at least 31. By comparison, Baltimore opened the season with 18 players at least 31 years old, and Seattle began with 14 players 31 or older. Both teams have had disappointing seasons.

Age helped the Rangers during the first half. Their experienced players did not panic during the troubles of June.

However, age also hurt the Rangers during the first half. Elster and McLemore, both 33, went on the disabled list in June and showed signs of decreasing defensive range. The running game stopped. Righthanders John Burkett, 33, and Bobby Witt, 34, struggled. The Rangers traded Witt to St. Louis in June.

The old legs must compete with two young-blood teams in the second half: Anaheim and Boston.

Anaheim, which leads the Rangers by one and a half games in the American League West, has six players at 31. Only two are position players: First baseman Cecil Fielder (34) and third baseman Dave Hollins (32). The Angels use their young legs to

create scores with the running game.

Boston, which leads the wild-card contest, does not have an everyday player older than 30. The staff has three greybeard righthanders: Dennis Eckersley (43), Bret Saberhagen (34) and Tim Wakefield (31). Clark, 33, says there are no drawbacks to age.

Advertisement for Sadie Hawkins Store featuring golf tips from Jack Nicklaus. Text includes 'Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS', 'MOST "TOPPED" SHOTS ARE CAUSED BY SWINGING DOWN SO STEEPLY THAT THE CLUBHEAD NEVER GETS LOW ENOUGH TO CONTACT THE BACK OF THE BALL', 'BETTER GOLFERS' "TOPS" ARE USUALLY THE RESULT OF THE LEGS AND BODY GETTING TOO FAR AHEAD AT IMPACT', 'IMPROVING THE OVERALL SWING MECHANICS IS THE ONLY SURE CURE', and 'This Weeks Special ... COKE, SPRITE and DR. PEPPER 6 pk. \$1.69'. Address: 1301 S. HOBBART.

Jury convicts teen of killing Ennis Cosby

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — No one picked Mikail Markhasev out of a police lineup. His fingerprints were nowhere to be found at the murder scene. Only a single hair tied him to the gun that killed Bill Cosby's only son.

It was his own words — in jailhouse letters and in a taped phone conversation with a police informant — that persuaded jurors to convict Markhasev of killing Ennis Cosby on a dark highway while he stopped to change a flat tire last year.

Cosby's family wept and hugged each other as the verdicts were read Tuesday after less than six hours of deliberations. The actor and comedian, who had avoided most of the trial, was not in the courtroom.

"The whole thing was open and shut, or at least close to that," said juror Joseph Burnett Vagner, 78. "In those letters he convicted himself."

Markhasev, a 19-year-old Ukrainian immigrant, stared stonefaced at the jury as he was found guilty of murder in commission of an attempted robbery. He also was found guilty of two special circumstance allegations: attempting to rob Cosby and using a firearm in the commission of attempted robbery.

The jury's finding on all counts automatically mandates a life prison term with no possibility of parole at his Aug. 11 sentencing. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty, presumably because of the defendant's age.

Cosby had no comment. "The Cosby family is satisfied with the judicial process that has led to this conviction," Cosby spokesman David Brokaw said.

Markhasev's family arrived too late to hear the verdicts, but his mother, grandmother and a female cousin were allowed to see him later. Mother and son exchanged words in Russian, then the family left without comment, heads and faces draped in scarves.

Deputy Public Defender Henry Hall said he will appeal the conviction.

He said he didn't think the "celebrity" of the Cosby family had a direct impact on the trial, but he blamed the media for the conviction.

"I think it's very clear from the tenor of the coverage in the case that there was an expectation that Mr. Markhasev would be convicted, and it's hard to operate in a country with a presumption of innocence when the societal presumption or expectation is a conviction," he said.

Of his client's reaction to the life sentence, Hall said: "He's 19 years old and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how he feels about that."

Cosby, 27, a vacationing graduate student from Columbia University, was shot Jan. 16, 1997, while changing the flat on a dark road near Bel-Air. Markhasev was arrested nearly two months later.

Prosecutor Anne Ingalls claimed Markhasev was a member of the Mexican mafia, a feared prison gang, and she showed jurors a series of jailhouse letters, including one with the comment: "It was a robbery gone bad."

Pampa High School Class of 1968 holds 30th reunion, presents surprise band FLASHBAK



Mark Lang, above, strums his guitar, and Jim Benton, bottom, left, and Mike Russell get into the swing of things.

Pampa High School Class of 1968 held its 30 year reunion recently. Members met for an informal get-together at the Biarritz Club before gathering the following day for registration at the high school library which included breakfast, books and T-shirts. Members spent the afternoon at Recreation Park and concluded the festivities at Pampa Country Club with dinner, pictures, presentations, a D.J. and FLASHBAK, a surprise band. Members of FLASHBAK were: Bobby Chase, vocals, drums; Mark Lang, lead guitar; Mike Russell, bass guitar, vocals; Jim Benton, guitar, vocals; Dustin Chase, sound.

Chase is a 1967 graduate of PHS. He and wife, Rhoda, married 29 years, have two children, Brandy and Dustin. Dustin also plays in the band and plans to pursue a degree at Oklahoma City University.

American teacher killed in Belize

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Maryland science teacher on a family vacation in the Central American country of Belize has been shot to death while trying to protect his wife and son from robbers.

Raymond Kirk, 47, of Chesapeake City, was killed Sunday at the Singing Sands Inn on the Caribbean coast, about 80 miles south of Belize City. His wife and 12-year-old son were uninjured. Police were searching for the killers.

In a telephone interview, Bruce Larkin, the owner of the inn, said Kirk was shot by one of three men who held up his restaurant and apparently were about to rob Kirk's cabin nearby.

Both Brandy and Chase are PHS graduates. Chase owns

Members spent the afternoon at Recreation Park and concluded the festivities at Pampa Country Club with dinner, pictures, presentations, a D.J. and FLASHBAK, a surprise band.

Chase Production Company, Chase Steam Service and Chase Racing.

Seen warming up are (top, left-right) Jason Benton, Matt Benton, Michelle Russell, Wes Lang and Dustin Chase. Mike Russell, bottom, is bass guitar, vocalist, for FLASHBAK.

Lang is a 1971 graduate. He and his wife, Karen, married 22 years, have two children, Wes and Courtney. Wes is a PHS graduate and Courtney will graduate from PHS in 2000. Lang is a chemist at Cabot R&D, and Karen is a loan officer at NBC Bank. Russell is a 1965 PHS graduate. He and wife, Marilyn,

married 31 years, have two children Ashley and Michelle. Both are graduates of PHS. Russell owns Russell Electric. Benton is a 1968 graduate. He and wife, Debbie, married 25 years, have three children, Jana Kay, Matt and Jason. Both Matt and Jason are 1995 and 1998 PHS grads respectively. Russell is a heavy

equipment operator for the City of Pampa and he and his wife own Benton's PHD Professional Hair Design. Serving on the Class of 1968 Planning Committee were: Jackie Harper, Donny Nail, Judy Sims, Bob Doucette, Karen Barnes, Shiela Dallas, Jim Benton and Gail Anderson.

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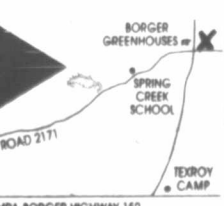
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