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LEPC works to get new weather radar

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

Sometime soon Pampa citizens may tune into the local access channel and see radar images as taken from the roof of Pampa City Hall.

That, at least, is the hope of Emergency Management Coordinator Ken Hall. He told the monthly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee the Emergency Siren Fund has \$37,738 left over after the sirens were installed. A small part of that money will be used to help with the installation of Pampa's old sirens in Lefors and elsewhere in the county but those expenses will be minimal.

Hall outlined a couple of options he believes to be a good use of the money

LEPC Director Ken Hall said the new system will cost \$61,000 more than is currently available, but he hopes extra funds might be donated from local foundations or companies.

while maintaining its original purpose. He said the LEPC could buy one more siren to cover some of the minimal areas of coverage. Or, by adding additional funds, the LEPC could buy its own weather radar to give the city instant access to images of any weather problems.

The commission members discussed adding another siren and talked about comments they have heard about the sirens and the voice messages. Hall said the system is meant as an outdoor warn-

ing system and people in closed houses won't be able to hear it. He had even considered removing the voice messages because of the difficulty some had understanding them but said the people who were near enough to hear the messages like them.

Hall said the radar images his office now has access to came from a company on the internet. Not only does the LEPC have to pay for the service, he said he is worried, in the event of a storm, phone lines could go down preventing access.

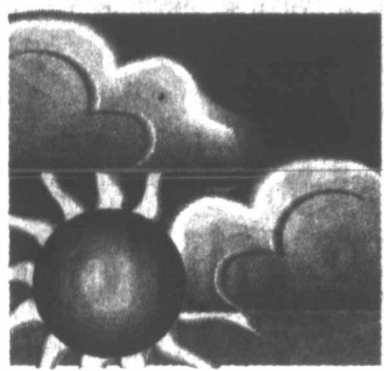
He also said the images were sometimes as much as 12-15 minutes old.

"In this area a storm can move quite a distance in 15 minutes," he said.

Hall said the new system will cost \$61,000 more than is currently available, but he hopes extra funds might be donated from local foundations or companies. He said that more than one feed is available and so a company, donating a substantial amount, could tie into it and have local radar on site. He also said the radar would be put on the community access channel (channel 11) so that cable customers in the city could also see the images live when severe weather warranted.

He said there is such a system in Borger which has operated for six years without

See LEPC, Page 2



High today low 90s.
Low tonight low 60s.
For weather details see Page 2.

McLEAN — There will be groundbreaking ceremonies at McLean Independent School District on Saturday, June 13 at 11 a.m. This groundbreaking is for a new gym that is going to be built on the parking lot at the south end of the elementary school building. The public is invited to attend this event.

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 1-4-16-20-30-43.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$10 million.

DALLAS (AP) — The flight of a Continental Airlines jet today from Love Field began a new era at Dallas' in-town airport, ending a regional carrier's near-monopoly there.

Continental Express Flight 4233 departed at 9:54 a.m. for the half-hour flight to Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

- John J. Archer, 79, former mayor of Lefors.
- Jack D. Brooks, 66, rancher, businessman.
- Jesse Richard "Dink" Potter, 81, retired Santa Fe Railroad employee.
- Samuel Dave "Bub" Smith, Jr., retired Amoco Production Company employee.
- Frances Hopkins Threatt, 92, lifelong Pampa resident.

Obituaries appear on Page 2.

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"It's no accident State Farm insures more cars than anyone else."

Mark Jennings
1615 N. Hobart • 665-1091

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
Home Office Bloomington, Illinois



It's just a minor hang-up. According to the police department, no accident reports were taken for the traffic entanglement yesterday afternoon at Hobart and Alcock when an 18-wheeler got caught in a stop light.

(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

Falwell says GOP will be loser if devout conservatives left out

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Republicans will be "major-league losers" if religious conservatives are shut out of the party, said the Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the now-defunct Moral Majority.

"I see the Republican Party at a crossroads. They will either continue to be a winning party with the religious right heavily involved, or they will drive the religious conservatives right from their ranks and return to their former ranks of major-league losers," Falwell, who was in Salt Lake City this week for the Southern Baptist Convention, said in an interview with The Salt Lake Tribune.

Falwell, 64, pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Va., and chancellor of Liberty University, said there is "some tension" between Republicans and religious conservatives, and cited as an example last week's speech by former President Ford.

Ford accused GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich of excessive partisanship and predicted

Republicans will not recapture the White House in 2000 unless they free themselves from the embrace of the "extreme right."

"We should not permit one element to dictate policies within our party," Ford said. "If we do, the extreme right will doom our party to election defeat."

Falwell said Republicans were able to take over Congress in the 1990s only after former GOP President Reagan built up party support from religious conservatives.

"Republicans had better give many thoughts to a divorce," Falwell said. "I don't think we're trying to elect a Sunday school teacher ... (But) the Republican candidate must be a social conservative if he or she wants to win the general election."

Falwell also took aim at the tobacco industry, saying he favors a cigarette-tax increase to pay for health care — but only if alcohol taxes also go up.

"If tobacco is addictive, and it is, then so is alcohol," he said.

School bond vote June 27

Grandview-Hopkins Independent School District voters on Saturday, June 27, will vote for or against a proposition to allow the district to issue \$2 million in bonds while maintaining the current tax levy rate which would retire the obligation within a seven-year period.

In a correction to a previous news release, a district spokesman said the district has sent about \$3.3 million to other school districts and Austin because of the "Robin Hood" wealth equalization plan.

If the Grandview-Hopkins School District's bond

election is successful, the district will keep about \$160,000 annually in the district. The district would be able over a seven-year period to keep \$1,120,000 in the district.

Early voting is under way now at the district's administrative office on Farm to Market Road 293 off Highway 70. It continues Monday through Friday through June 23 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The election is June 27 from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. in the same location with Cindy Babcock serving as presiding judge and Bernice Maddox as alternate.

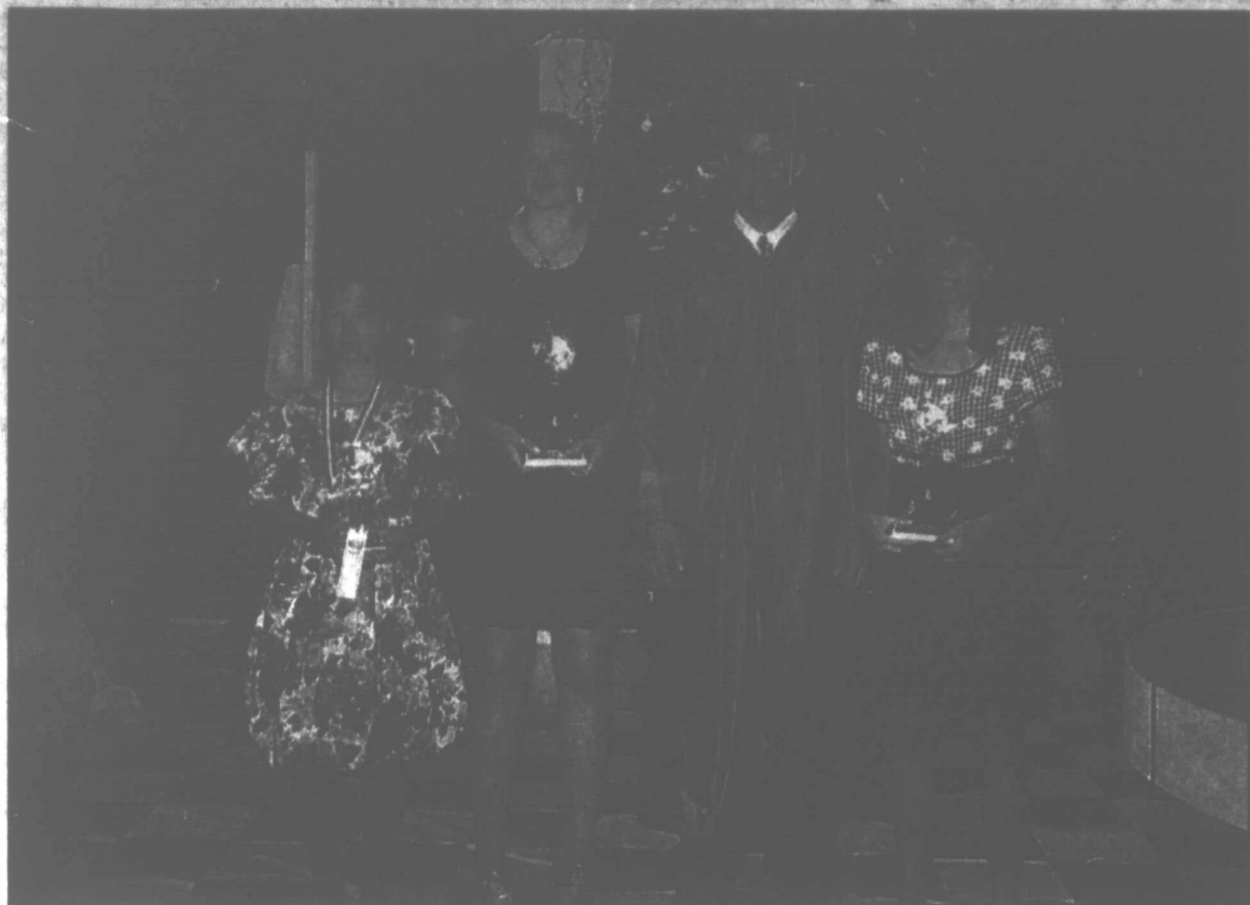


VFW members Tom Adams (left), Mike Porter, John Tripplehorn, and John Chaney pour cement for a new flag pole at von Brunow Park.

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Christian Character awards



(Special photo)

Four students from Pampa Academy of Christian Education received Christian Character awards for the 1997-98 school year. From left to right are Tabitha McCoy, Brienna Taylor, A.J. Taylor and Rainy Hopson. The awards were presented at the school's graduation ceremonies.

Suspect's dad apologizes for son; Rodman offers to pay for funeral

By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

JASPER, Texas (AP) — As this small Texas community tried to heal itself, the father of one of three white men accused in the gruesome death of a black hitchhiker apologized for his son.

"It hurts me deeply to know that a boy I raised and considered to be the most loved boy I knew could find it in himself to take a life," Ronald King wrote in a letter released Wednesday. "Again, I want to say I'm sorry."

Prosecutors are considering a death penalty case against his 23-year-old son, John William King, and two other men suspected of dragging James Byrd Jr. by a chain from the back of a pickup truck.

Mary Verrett, Byrd's sister, said today that she appreciated the elder King's apology.

"As a parent myself I can understand his anguish. As a parent you question yourself, 'Did I do something wrong? Did I over-protect? Did I not discipline enough?'" she told NBC's "Today."

Two of the suspects were monitored by Texas prison authorities because of their involvement in racial hate groups, the Houston Chronicle reported today in a copyright story.

King and Lawrence Russell Brewer Jr., 31, had been monitored for possible affiliation with the Ku Klux Klan and the Confederate Knights of America, a skinhead group, while they were housed at the Beto I Unit in Tennessee Colony, said Sammy Buentello, assistant director of the Texas prison system's gang task force.

Buentello said one of the men had been disciplined for involvement in a 1995 racial disturbance between whites and Hispanics at Beto. Prison records show only King was in that prison at that time.

King and Brewer both have tattoos indicating white supremacist beliefs.

On Wednesday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson led ministers of both colors in a vigil at Byrd's church. He said the 49-year-old man's gruesome death early Sunday could help bring blacks and whites

together.

"There's a sense of agony everywhere," Jackson said. "And that's a step in the right direction. When I looked at those ministers, white and black, I thought what a great opportunity to close the race gap."

Chicago Bulls basketball player Dennis Rodman has offered to pay Byrd's funeral expenses, Jackson announced.

"They always portray Dennis as some kind of buffoon," Jackson said. "I think it was a tremendous gesture."

Rodman played two seasons for the San Antonio Spurs and attended junior college for a year in Cooke County in northern Texas.

"The fact he used to live in Texas was one reason he is concerned," said Rodman agent, Dwight Manley. But even more than this being just a Texas issue, or a racial issue, it's a human issue with him."

The other suspect besides King and Brewer is Shawn Allen Berry, 23. The three, all with criminal records, are jailed without bond on the murder charge.

District Attorney Guy James Gray said prosecutors are considering whether the evidence is strong enough to add a second felony charge, such as kidnapping, which would make it a capital punishment case.

"The very nature of this crime puts it into the death penalty," Gray said.

Gray said it is possible one of the men could be spared the capital murder charge if his testimony is needed against the others.

Federal agencies have joined the investigation.

"We are determined the investigation will be thorough, will be fair and the guilty will be brought to justice," President Clinton said.

Byrd's mangled torso was found Sunday on a bumpy, winding country road about 10 miles from his Jasper home. His severed head, neck and right arm were about a mile away.

Investigators found a trail of blood along a two-mile stretch of road.

Byrd was last seen walking home from a niece's bridal shower Saturday night. He apparently accepted a ride from the suspects, one of whom he knew.

At the church service in this town of 8,000 some 150 miles northeast of Houston, the congregation sang and cried.

"We live together, we pray together, we share each other's food, money, cars," said the Rev. John Hardin of Mount Olive Baptist Church. "You cannot let this divide us. The right word now is 'togetherness.'"

Diana tribute

LONDON (AP) — Mohamed Al Fayed plans to commemorate the first anniversary of the deaths of Princess Diana and his son, Dodi Fayed, with a tribute at Harrods department store.

Al Fayed, the multimillionaire owner of Harrods, is considering erecting an image of the princess and his son encased in the symbol of a dove, spokesman Laurie Mayer said Wednesday.

The tribute may stand outside the store for all passers-by to view, Mayer said.

"It will be permanent," he said. A shrine has been set up beside the store's Egyptian staircase ever since the couple's Aug. 31 deaths in a Paris car crash.

Republicans promise few fireworks at state meeting

By JUAN B. ELIZONDO Jr.
Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Remember the 1996 state Republican convention?

Abortion was the hot topic. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison was nearly dumped as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and GOP-paid television crews did their best to put a pretty picture on the party.

Well now that you remember it, forget it, say party officials.

The Texas GOP's 1998 convention in Fort Worth, with general sessions Friday and Saturday, won't be a convention of contention, they promise.

"I know this sounds like spin, but the story is going to be that this convention was so much different from the last two in that it was calm. Everyone was happier. Everyone was more focused. It was much much less contentious than the last one," said party spokesman Robert Black.

But some heady stuff is on the table.

For the record, political experts say party conventions aren't really for the masses. Only the true blue get a rush from the events and that's the point.

"A party convention is to help energize the people who live and breathe the politics and who are going to go out and knock on doors and volunteer at the phone banks and lick the stamps and do a lot of the behind the scenes work," said Republican consultant Reggie Bashur.

The convention also gives activists a chance to define who they are and what their party stands for. Along that line, party platforms are written, and for Republicans a few key issues are likely to be debated.

One pending proposal for the 14,000 convention delegates and alternates would put party backing behind a change in the way Republicans nominate

candidates for statewide office.

Texas is an open primary state. Voters can choose to help elect either Democrats or Republicans.

But some Republicans want a closed caucus system in which party activists choose delegates to gather and select nominees. Even if delegates adopt the proposal, a change in state law would be required.

Black said regardless of any platform proposals, the party knows it's in the best position in decades to retain control of the governor's office and the state Senate, grab a majority in the House and possibly sweep statewide offices.

"Our grassroots and the delegates realize that the potential of our party is greater than any other time before," he said.

At least one group of Republicans says it will set off fireworks outside the convention.

The Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay and lesbian party members, plan a rally Saturday to protest their party's decision to deny the group exhibit space inside the convention hall.

"These prejudiced party officials in the past few days have used every stereotype in the homophobic book to defame gay people," said group president Steve Labinski, a convention delegate. "They have said that we are 'hateful' and 'extremists' because we believe in simple equality."

Republican Gov. George W. Bush, seeking to become the state's first to be elected to back-to-back, four-year terms, will speak to delegates Friday.

He said he had nothing to do with denying the Log Cabins space. But he believes party members need to focus on unity.

"He urges all Republicans to focus on our common goal of electing Republicans based on our conservative philosophy," said spokeswoman Karen Hughes.

CBS, correspondents disagree over adding another '60 Minutes'

NEW YORK (AP) — A battle over whether to create a second weekly installment of "60 Minutes" is threatening to disrupt the chemistry of television's pioneering newsmagazine.

The CBS brass wants a second edition. But most of the show's correspondents and producers think 120 minutes each week is too much.

CBS put off a decision and didn't include a second "60 Minutes" on its fall schedule, but is considering it as a midseason replacement.

Television's changing economics probably made the conflict inevitable. Networks are finding it harder to develop hit comedies and dramas and costlier to keep the ones that work. Newsmagazines are cheaper to produce, easy to slip into a schedule and consistently among the most-watched shows.

"60 Minutes" was one of just two magazine shows on the air in 1985. Next fall there will be 10 on the broadcast networks, with others waiting in the wings.

NBC will add a fifth night of "Dateline NBC," while ABC will consolidate its two newsmagazines into one, "20/20," and air it three times a week. Even Fox is trying a newsmagazine this summer for only the second time in its history.

Small wonder that CBS executives wish they could duplicate the Sunday night success of "60 Minutes," still the top-rated TV magazine and the network's second highest-rated show of any kind.

"To take what we consider the best newsmagazine franchise and not talk about expanding it would be dumb," said Leslie Moonves, president of CBS Television.

Don Hewitt, the "60 Minutes" executive producer, has opposed expansion. The show's correspondents signed a letter to CBS executives urging the idea be scrapped.

The correspondents worry a second "60 Minutes" would diminish the show's luster. They also don't want their workload doubled, and question whether enough stories and personnel can be found with the current newsmagazine glut to produce a quality second edition.

"It has been the most successful show in the history of television, certainly the most successful show in the history of CBS. Why fool around with it?" correspondent Steve Kroft said.

CBS has a mixed record creating other newsmagazines. "Public Eye with Bryant Gumbel" failed commercially and critically in its first season and was benched for the fall. "48 Hours" was thought to be on its last legs but revived in the ratings and will have a second edition this summer.

The network hasn't said who would staff a second "60 Minutes." Gumbel, who is being paid \$5 million a year, won't have a regular on-air outlet come September.

The "60 Minutes" correspondents discussed their objections this week at a meeting with Mel Karmazin, president and chief executive of CBS Corp., another supporter of expansion.

"They want to do it," correspondent Mike Wallace said. "We don't want them to. In effect, we have agreed to disagree."

The corporate chiefs face the delicate issue of whether they want to publicly alienate legends like Wallace and Hewitt. Moonves has said CBS won't force the "60 Minutes" crew to do something against their will.

Most people on the show believe that CBS will move forward with the expansion, Kroft said.

"They can do whatever they want with the name," he said. "We're just telling them that we think it's a bad idea."

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We would like to thank everyone for the flowers, cards and sympathy during our recent loss.

The family of Fletta Wyatt

VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Across the mayor's desk with Mayor Bob Neslage

Genesis House makes drug rehab center unnecessary

As the Mayor of Pampa, I felt it necessary to share my observations with you in reference to our recent public hearing on the Teen Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Center proposed by the County. From a moral, social and financial stand point, I cannot support this proposal.

I sat for two hours listening to citizens pull on my heartstrings about helping our youth with drug problems. Most of the presenters were totally unaware of the Genesis House, a United Way supported agency, here in Pampa, which handles the identical youth we are planning to help in the proposed County facility. Why are we duplicating resources here in Pampa? The Genesis House is not being utilized by our County and that is tantamount to neglect in terms of assisting our youth in need. The Genesis House can accommodate 16 youth and the nine currently housed there are from Potter and Randall Counties. We are taking care of everyone's troubled youth but our own.

At the County's proposed facility to accommodate 30 youth, only two can be from Gray County due to funding constraints. The two funded positions are currently sent to Corpus Christi. Doesn't it seem strange that the County intends to take in another 28 troubled youth from other counties in addition to the Genesis House youth. Are we really concerned about our own troubled youth? The creation of this proposed facility will in no way enhance our capability to help our own troubled youth.

Through my pursuit of information on this subject, I have found that the Genesis House is in direct competition with the County Probation Office. This revelation answers the question why the County does not utilize the Genesis House.

I encourage all citizens to educate themselves concerning this proposal and make a visit to the Genesis House. If you really care about teen drug use, the effort will be most beneficial.

I am not convinced that a self contained "lock down" facility is the answer. We have not proven that it would be more successful than our Genesis House. We do not need to expand our county government structure and create an additional potential tax burden on our citizens.

Stickers promote prejudice

Bumper stickers should be outlawed. It's bad enough that people judge you by the vehicle you drive. We don't need the added pressure of bumper stickers.

For one thing, the biggest thing, they promote prejudice. Say you get into a car wreck with someone whose tail bumper reads, "Eat —." Call me crazy, but from the get-go, I'm not looking forward to our first handshake.

Take something general and unoriginal like, "Unhappy camper on board." What's the first thing that comes to mind?

Oh great, I just hit Oscar the Grouch. But it only takes one little statement like that to conjur up images of the other driver making you cry, accusing you of being stupid, slamming your head against the car door, etc., etc., etc. (Feel free to replace etc.'s with the totally overused yada's. I do.)

Bumperstickers make big statements about a person. Huge. At least as much as body language, if not more. Like I saw one the other day that said something like "driver on board farts," or something to that effect. What does this say? Some may say a bumper sticker of such caliber would reveal a sense of humor. But what if others, I'm not naming names, find it vulgar?

So who cares! (Yea, I hear you.) Well, I don't really care that much, myself. It just makes



Random Revelations Miranda G. Bailey Pampa News staff writer

me a bigger proponent of the fact that bumper stickers are conducive to unnecessary judgement.

I'll admit, there are the bumper stickers that stay pretty neutral. Like "My kid goes to school at ..." wherever. On the outward appearance, these stickers seem safe. But say you bump into someone like me. I think to myself, oh, they've got kids. The kids were probably screaming in the back seat, which made them bump into me, which means if the kids were screaming, then this driver/parent lets their rug rats go wild, which means they don't own up to responsibility very well, which means they darn well better have their insurance pay for this mess!

No I don't think that.

But I could — on deadline to write a column.

Or how about the well-used "Republican and Proud," conservative-type statement — as is featured on many vehicles in this region. Seems harmless enough.

But what about when you go to California on vacation and you slam into a Democrat — on accident this time.

Think about what kind of conversation could ensue.

Sure, it's fun to think about. But do you really want to find out the hard way that the guy, whose car you just crunched, thinks you're automatically a close-minded, anti-Clinton, gun-loving, gay-bashing American citizen? Even if you are, do you really need that extra element in your "whose insurance is paying what" conversation?

So you do.

Fine.

Perhaps the things are useful, yet.

On the other hand, bumper stickers do have the potential to be a great testimony, a good witness. Then at least people have an idea of what they're getting into.

Cause I tell you what, if I get into a car accident, I'm hoping I bump into the sticker that reads, "Jesus on board," and not the one with a picture of the Christian fish with feet on it ... you know, the one that reads DARWINISM.

Not that I'm prejudging or anything.

Today in history

- By The Associated Press**
 Today is Thursday, June 11, the 162nd day of 1998. There are 203 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlights in History:
 On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence from Britain.
 On this date:
 In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married Catherine of Aragon.
- In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.
- In 1942, the United States and the Soviet Union signed a lend-lease agreement to aid the Soviet war effort in World War II.
- In 1947, the government announced the end of household and institutional sugar rationing, to take effect the next day.
- In 1963, Buddhist monk Quang Duc immolated himself on a Saigon street to protest the government of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem.
- In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Belmont Stakes, capturing the Triple Crown.
- In 1978, Joseph Freeman Jr. became the first black priest ordained in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.
- In 1979, actor John Wayne died at age 72.
- In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, N.J., at age 31.
- In 1986, a divided Supreme Court struck down a Pennsylvania abortion law, while reaffirming its 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion.

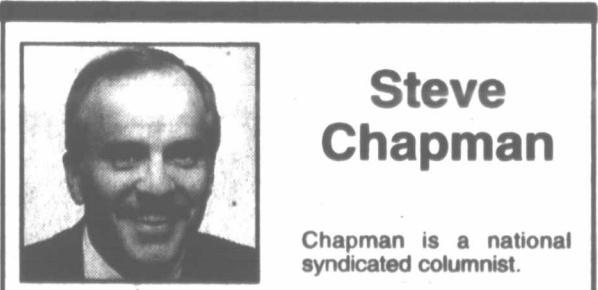
A few degrees below 451° F

At the recent American Booksellers Association assembly in Chicago, conventioners wore grim, defiant expressions and T-shirts with the message "Subpoenaed for Bookselling." These purveyors of the printed word feel themselves under brutal siege by independent counsel Kenneth Starr. He has put himself in the company of the people who conducted the Salem witch trials by trying to drag a Washington retailer into turning over records of book purchases by Monica Lewinsky.

The reaction couldn't have been more hysterical if Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton had joined forces in a campaign to make a bonfire of the First Amendment. Charged former Rep. Patricia Schroeder, head of the Association of American Publishers, "This is a scenario that belongs in Baghdad or Tehran." Chris Finan, president of the ABA's Foundation for Free Expression, warned, "if the government can find out what books we are buying, we'll no longer feel free to buy the books we want."

A lawyer for the store owners was astounded, calling the subpoena an "invasion of privacy and a threat to the First Amendment." Lewinsky lawyer William Ginsburg sputtered, "We have now gone from invasion of the right of privacy to Fahrenheit 451." This is 'Animal Farm.' This is 'Brave New World.' My God, we've got the government in our bathroom.

Charlie Peters, the venerable neo-liberal editor of The Washington Monthly magazine, once said that the trouble with many liberals is that they see themselves as heroes in a novel — noble, selfless and fighting bravely against the forces of evil. The habit breeds not only self-righteousness but delusions of persecution, both of which are on display in the denunciations of Kenneth Starr.



Steve Chapman Chapman is a national syndicated columnist.

The independent counsel has done what prosecutors are supposed to do. He has gathered testimony and information that suggest crimes have been committed, and he has sought out evidence to corroborate or discredit this material. Monica Lewinsky is not under scrutiny because she may have had carnal knowledge of the commander in chief. She came to Starr's attention because she told a friend in taped conversations that she had committed perjury in a civil deposition — and that the president and his friend Vernon Jordan had urged her to do so and then rewarded her by finding her a nice job.

Among their other activities, the president and Lewinsky supposedly gave each other presents, including books. Such exchanges would tend to support the suspicion that the two had sex, in contradiction of what each said under oath.

One of the books the former intern supposedly bought for Clinton is "Vox," a novel about phone sex, whose author of course angrily accused Starr of breaking the law and undermining the Constitution. That gave some people the idea that the special prosecutor has a disgustingly prurient interest in Lewinsky's reading habits, feeding the fear that he is leading the way to book burnings and government monitoring of what we read.

But if a killer beat a victim to death with a rolled-up copy of the Sunday New York Times, it would not offend the First Amendment for police to seize the murder weapon. The content of the book and the fact that book purchases were involved clearly has nothing to do with Starr's interest. If the two had allegedly given each other chocolates, he would be subpoenaing Fannie May Candies, and no one would care.

Is it an invasion of privacy for a bookstore customer to have her purchases revealed to a prosecutor? Well, of course — just as it's an invasion of privacy for prosecutors to read Theodore Kaczynski's diaries or for cops to comb through every square inch of a suspected drug dealer's home. Most of what law enforcement officials do to criminal suspects is extremely intrusive and unwelcome. That's the customary method of collecting evidence of their crimes. Did anyone worry about Richard Nixon's privacy when a special prosecutor demanded to hear tapes of intimate Oval Office conversations?

People who are suspected of breaking the law have a right against unreasonable searches, not against reasonable ones — even though either kind is likely to expose secrets that most people would prefer to keep quiet. The constitutional zone of privacy means the government can't snoop into your affairs just because it wants to. But once police or prosecutors can show a judge probable cause that you've broken the law, they have broad authority to snoop.

Anyone alarmed by the idea of a bookstore having to live by the same laws as the rest of us should relax. The danger that people will be discouraged from buying books by Starr's investigation is roughly equivalent to the risk that they'll give up oral sex.

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum
 Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
 Pampa Phone: 665-3552
 Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
 Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736

State Sen. Teel Bivins
 Amarillo Address: P.O. Box 9155, Amarillo, TX 79105
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 374-8994
 Austin Address: P.O. Box 12068, Austin, TX 78711
 Austin Phone: (512) 463-0131

U.S. Rep. William M. "Mac" Thornberry
 Amarillo Address: 724 S. Polk, Suite 400, Amarillo, TX 79101
 Amarillo Phone: (806) 371-8844
 Washington Address: 412 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515
 Washington Phone: (202) 225-3706

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

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

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

Austin honor roll

Austin Elementary School recently announced its honor rolls for the sixth weeks grading period of the 1997-98 school year.

Second Grade
A Honor Roll
 Layce Beasley, Chris Boren, Claire Elizabeth Boyd, Colby Copeland, Jennifer Cox, Tanner Dyson, Jesse Finney, Colden Fortenberry, Sara Jane Foster, Stephanie Hasskarl, Nicole Heersema, Kailee Intermann, Whitney Jenkins, Cory Johnson, Mitch Kelly, Halli Kotara, Chelsie Kyle, Cameron Martin, Nicole Newhouse, Ashley Price, Tyler Rhoades, Lindsey Riley, Garnett Schafer, Krista Shults, Mark Stone, Marli Street, Taylor Thomas, Briana Wallum, Joe Whiteley, Drew Williams, Kelli Willson and Ashlee Winkleblack.

AB Honor Roll
 Matthew Bolen, Lacy Crain, Kathryn Cree, Alex Curry, Aaron Dunham, Kristen Fowler, Kevin Frels, Anna Julian, Jacob Maciel, Beverly Nunn, Jamie Pergeson, Rusty Snider and Cody Wood.

Third Grade
A Honor Roll
 Daniel Arnold, Michael Arzola, Natasha Bailey, Breanna Bigham, Bryan Bogges, Jarron Clark, Bridget Craig, Craig Crowell, Candice Dildy, Brett Ferrell, Thomas Gilbert, Ryan Hansen, Kebbi Hutto, Alyssa Kelsey, Morgan Ketchersid, Jack Mackie, Kyle McKee, Landon McNeely, Ethan North, Aaron Pepper, Sammie Pereira, Britteni Rice, Devon Shults, Erika Silva, Christopher Stabel, Tanna Stowers and Kasey Tindol.

AB Honor Roll
 Robert Alexander, Kirby

Broaddus, Robbie Dixon, Brady Eakin, Courtney Ericson, Tyler Hall, Katie Holmes, Natalie Knowles, Dock Mackie and Jenee Watson.

Fourth Grade
A Honor Roll
 Cooper Brazile, Justin Brown, Audrey Dunn, Dak Fallon, Taylor Fatheree, Chase Guyer, Bryan Heersema, Tyson Hickman, Clay Jones, Nikolas Julian, Eric Kingcade, Tyler Klein, Jarett Kotara, Antonio Lucero, Aly Mackie, Cody McMinn, Britany Nelson, Lindzi Schaible, Brody Smith, Christopher Smith, Blake Talley, Weston Teichmann, Kari Terrell, Elizabeth Thomas, Myca Vinson and Whitney Wichert.

AB Honor Roll
 Russel Bradley, Katie Darling, Spencer Defever, Allison Hall, Sunil Kamnani, Junior Navarrete, Chase Phillips, Britney Reagans, Zed Richards and Trevor Thomas.

Fifth Grade
A Honor Roll
 Lindsey Ammons, Payton Baird, Kyle Cambren, Rhiannon Casados, Tyler Doughty, Rebecca Gindorf, Clayton Hall, Landon Ketchersid, Dusty Lenderman, Stacy Pepper, Jacey Planteen, Tasha Powell, Anna Schafer, Carissa Snelgroes, Jaclyn Spearman, Trevor Talley, Jerica Timmons and Clayton Young.

AB Honor Roll
 Steven Bolen, Christine Bowman, Ben Briscoe, Alyssa Brownwell, Elizabeth Campbell, Kiley Carbone, Carrie Clay, Luke Dyer, Monica Eakin, Emilea Greer, Angela Henthorn, Keaton Hutto, Billy Morris, Ashley Parker and Holly Winborne.

Relay for Life



Shepard's Crook Nursing team (top, back row, left) Virginia Martinez, Veronica Kirkwood and Chrys Smith, (Front row, left), Gail Preston, JoAnn Adams and Fonda Howard organize walking times for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life that they recently took part in at Recreation Park. Sabrina York (bottom, left), Sylvia Porter, Mike Newberry, Darrell Phillips, Ben Howard and Jimmy Reed all took part in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life by representing Texaco.

Southern Baptist declares boycott 'bothering' Disney

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Southern Baptists' boycott of Disney must be having an effect or Disney executives would not be complaining about it, a Baptist official told the denomination's annual convention.

"This boycott has traction. This boycott has legs. It is bothering Disney," said Richard Land, president of the faith's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

He offered no specifics on how well the boycott was working or what damage it had done to the corporation, but he cited Disney chairman Michael Eisner's interviews with the media about the boycott.

"If we weren't bothering Mickey's Empire, Mr. Eisner wouldn't be attacking us. You keep doing what's right," Land told about 8,500 delegates at the Salt Lake City convention Wednesday.

Disney spokesman John Dreyer said the boycott isn't bothering the company's bottom line. He said Wednesday that Disney's revenue, earnings and amusement park attendance all set records last year.

"I don't think we've seen any

impact from it," Dreyer said. Land's update, on the year-old boycott brought rounds of applause, especially when he mentioned the cancellation of ABC's "Ellen," that featured television's first leading homosexual character. ABC is owned by Disney.

The commission is the Southern Baptist agency charged with applying Christian principles to aspects of daily life, which includes the Disney boycott launched at last year's convention in Dallas.

The Southern Baptists are protesting Disney's practice of extending health insurance to homosexual partners of employees and of hosting homosexual and lesbians at its amusement parks.

Southern Baptists have called on members to boycott Disney amusement parks and movies, as have other groups.

"We respect their right to believe and practice as they see fit and we recognize we have a very honest difference of opinion," Dreyer said.

But, he said, the Southern Baptists want changes that Walt Disney Co. cannot in good conscience make, he said.

Lefors ISD honor roll

Lefors ISD recently announced its honor rolls for the sixth weeks grading period of the 1997-98 school year.

A Honor Roll
 Emily Jackson, Ashlyn Johnson, Kaid Jones, Rebecca Lawrence, Jonathan McAnear, Brandon McBee, Gabriel Miller, Aaron Spotts, Shayla Villalon, Amanda Lawrence, Hannah Manass, Dafydd Vaid, Drake Jackson, Nicholas Miller, Gareth Vaid, Julie Davenport, Savannah Smith, Jennifer Andis, Amanda Daugherty, Zachary Kidd, Sarah Schwab, Thomas Davenport, Dee Preston, Amanda Sprouse, Jeremy Pierce, Gwendolyn Nolte, Linda Schwab, Misty McMullen, Adrian Neal and Tracy Tucker.

AB Honor Roll
 Kyle Boaz, Christina Cook, Dustin Forsyth, Kegan Furgeson,

Clarence Hess, James Hill, Summer Morris, Misty Pairsh, Chad Kent, Billy Klein, Amanda Ponce, Jeremy Sprouse, Jerad Andis, Devan Franks, Krista Hendrickson, Amanda Hicks, Tommy Hughes, Steven Mitchell, Danielle Sprouse, Matthew Daugherty, Richard Middleton, Rachael Stubbs, Andrew Ingersoll, Brad Kent, Katherine Barnes, Dennis Boyd, Erasmo Soto, Clint Culver, Mase Ferguson, Brittney Gilbert, Cory Jackson, Joshua Jackson, Jennifer Sprouse, Caleb Barnes, Evelyn Drinkard, Andrew Johnson, Raymond Turpen, Amanda Woodard, Candid Ray, April Rodgers, Melody Seely, Michael Steele, Dana Crutcher, Heather Howard, Shelly Murray, Penny Summers, Nikki Bockmon, Angie Davenport and Melissa Glass.

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NATO scrutinizing action in Kosovo

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - NATO defense ministers are readying a massive firepower demonstration and air exercises in Albania and Macedonia in an effort to end the violence in the separatist Serbian province of Kosovo.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the exercises will be carried out in the next few days and could include simulated bombing raids by NATO planes and rocket attacks by helicopters. Details are still being worked out.

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe, in remarks to his 15 fellow NATO defense ministers meeting here, said such action, in line with recommendations from NATO ambassadors, "would serve as a serious warning to Belgrade."

The maneuvers should accompany instructions to NATO military planners to look into direct military action in Kosovo, with "particular consideration to air strikes against selected targets and the employment of air and-or ground forces if necessary to enforce a settlement for Kosovo, as a last resort," Ruehe said.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, after a private meeting with NATO Secretary-General

Javier Solana, conferred with his NATO colleagues today on steps the alliance could take to stop the fighting between the Serb-led Yugoslav army and police against ethnic Albanians.

Speaking in Rome prior to flying to Brussels, Cohen said he hoped the West would not have to resort to military action, but he left the option open.

"It is important to end this scandal of the bombing and shelling of innocent people. We will work to achieve that at every level - diplomatic, economic and hopefully not military - but we're not ruling it out either," Cohen said at a news conference with Italian Defense Minister Beniamino Andreatta.

"This is the threat of force to back up diplomacy," said British Defense Secretary George Robertson. "Just as it was in the (Persian) Gulf, so it is in Kosovo."

U.S. support for a warning exercise was signaled Wednesday by White House press secretary Mike McCurry.

Speaking with reporters, McCurry said there had been discussions about "how, working with Albania ... we could advance some planned exer-

cises that we have there that include an air element." He said that was something to be taken up by military experts.

McCurry said the goal is "to clearly indicate that NATO will define and project its interests in the Balkans in a way that reminds the Belgrade authorities of how seriously we take the violence that has occurred in Kosovo, directed against the Kosovo Albanians."

Before leaving London, Robertson said in a BBC radio interview that "days rather than weeks is the timetable because the lessons we learned from Bosnia were that unless decisive action is taken early on to stop the kind of violence we're seeing in Kosovo today, then the situation simply becomes worse."

The NATO air action involving several nations will be conducted under the command of Adm. Joseph Lopez, the Naples-based American officer who heads NATO's Southern Command, a senior U.S. official said. The exercises will involve land or sea-based aircraft flying over Albania and Macedonia.

It wasn't clear how many planes would be involved or how long it would last.

"There is a growing common understanding about the need for a serious warning to Belgrade," said Ruehe. "We have to plan for

meaningful military measures." He stressed that those measures had to be "parallel to the political process. This is not an internal affair; it concerns stability and human rights in Europe."

Beyond possible air maneuvers over neighboring Albania and Macedonia, the ministers also were debating moves to establish military training and exercise centers and use of NATO transport to help cope with refugee flows.

For two weeks NATO military planners have followed earlier instructions to study indirect options for pressuring Milosevic. Among the options are dispatching up to 20,000 troops to Albania and Macedonia to reinforce the existing 750-man U.N. force in Macedonia and help both countries secure their borders while dealing with refugees and arms smugglers.

In Kosovo, more than 250 people have died in clashes between government forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army, the armed wing of the Albanian independence movement. Ethnic Albanians, who comprise 90 percent of the southern province's population, demand independence from Serbia, dominant of Yugoslavia's two republics.

The United States and its allies support autonomy for Kosovo but oppose demands for independence and condemn violence on both sides.

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Relay for Life



Misty Patterson and Anna Lewis, team captains for the Celanese team "The Walk-N-Rollers," participated recently in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Rescuers still searching elevator for survivor

HAYSVILLE, Kan. (AP) - Dangerous wind gusts became the latest obstacle for rescuers scouring pitch black tunnels for one other missing grain elevator worker as

the death toll from an explosion rose to five.

Searchers shoveled through the night and dug through cascading grain again today, hoping to find the last missing worker alive. They discovered two bodies Wednesday and the remains of another were identified.

Storms and high winds twice suspended the intense rescue effort at the badly damaged DeBruce Grain elevator, the site of Monday's grain-dust explosion that was felt 10 miles away. Two bodies were recovered soon after the blast and 11 other workers were injured.

Workers briefly suspended their efforts Wednesday evening because strong gusts were blowing debris off the elevator's roof.

Searchers earlier had found the two bodies in the 7-by-7-foot tunnel and determined that remains found Tuesday were those of

another man, one of the four workers who had been missing since the blast south of Wichita.

The Sedgwick County coroner's office said it appeared the workers were killed instantly.

About 40 workers at a time have been going into the tunnel section where the men were believed to have been working.

Weather wasn't the only obstacle for rescuers. Like quicksand, the rivers of grain trapped two searchers - one up to his armpits, temporarily halting the operation. Neither rescue worker was injured.

"Maybe we were going a little too fast," Fire Chief Ken Cox said. Workers sift through grain and debris in the pitch-black tunnels, using specialized lighting and equipment: super-sensitive listening devices, heat-detecting cameras, tiny video cameras on long poles and gigantic trucks that vacuum up grain and debris.

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Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas highways pave the way for trade

About 80 percent of U.S. trade with Mexico passes through Texas, where truck traffic has increased 19 percent in the past three years. Although the federal government passed the GATT and NAFTA agreements to encourage trade, the state has received no additional federal compensation for wear and tear on roads, highways and bridges. Texans provide more than half the revenue for the Texas Highway Fund through motor fuels taxes paid at the pump and vehicle license fees.

Who pays?
 Texas Highway Fund: \$3.7 billion, fiscal '97.

State motor fuels taxes	47%
Federal funds	29%
Other	4%
Reimbursement from counties	3%

* General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, passed in 1986, and North American Free Trade Agreement, passed in 1994.
 SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Department of Transportation.

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U.S. Senate approves tax cuts to tobacco legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved tax breaks for millions of married couples and self-employed workers in an election-year gambit by Republicans designed to improve the prospects of major tobacco legislation.

The tax cuts were added as an amendment to a tobacco bill that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott had declared near death earlier this week. The voice vote approval Wednesday came after Democrats narrowly failed to kill the amendment.

"Stayin' alive, stayin' alive," Sen. John McCain, sponsor of the tobacco bill, declared with a grin and both fists in the air as he left the Senate chamber following the vote.

The Arizona Republican's bill would charge tobacco companies at least \$316 billion over 25 years, in part by raising taxes by \$1.10 a pack. That was a provision that chafed conservatives who said it would run afoul of the GOP's promise to cut taxes.

A group of senators led by Sen. Phil Gramm of Texas offered an amendment they figured no lawmaker could refuse in an election year. It would offer couples earning less than \$50,000 a year a break from the "marriage tax" penalty, a provision in the tax code that forces couples to pay more than they would as singles.

The \$46 billion tax cut over 10 years also would allow self-employed workers to deduct their health insurance premiums from their taxable income, beginning in January.

It would be paid for with money McCain's bill generates.

"If we're raising taxes for tens of billions of dollars for spending, then why not give part of it back?" Gramm said.

McCain and other supporters of the amendment hoped that it would win votes for the overall bill from conservative Republicans uncomfortable with some of its provisions.

But Gramm said he would not vote for McCain's bill unless other changes also are made. Several GOP leaders still objected to the proposal.

the measure would give the Food and Drug Administration, for example.

"It's a little more palatable," said Assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles of Oklahoma, the bill's highest-ranking opponent. "But it's still a bad bill."

Democrats and a coalition of health care groups said the amendment would spend too much of the bill's money on tax relief at the expense of smoking cessation programs.

Formerly staunch supporters of the McCain bill complained that the tax cuts had destroyed its focus on teen smoking.

"What bill? We don't know what's in it anymore," said Sen. John Breaux, D-La. "It's going in circles."

The tax cut after a long day of behind-the-scenes bickering over parliamentary details. Several issues remain to be determined, such as how much to limit the fees of attorneys who worked on tobacco litigation. That issue was set for debate today.

"I anticipate several more lows before we're done," said Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

Gramm's proposal would grant a \$3,300 tax deduction, phased in over several years, for married couples with incomes of under \$50,000. Only 25 percent of the value of the deduction would be given for 1999, and the break would rise slowly, reaching 50 percent in 2006 and 100 percent in 2008.

Gramm pegged the cost of his measure at \$16 billion over the next four years and \$30 billion over the following five years. In all, he said, it would send one-third of the money raised in the tobacco bill back to taxpayers.

Despite the progress in the Senate, other factors indicated that tobacco policy was a long way from being decided. House Speaker Newt Gingrich on Wednesday morning repeated his opposition to a sweeping tobacco bill like McCain's, preferring instead a cheaper bill that only targeted youth smoking and drug use.

ApTech



(Special Photo by Darlene Birkus)

Pampa Center Foundation (PCF) ribbon cutting for the recent opening of the applied technology school, ApTech, included Gold Coats Katrina Bigham, Susan Winborne, front left, Loyd Waters and Jerry Lane, right, with Major Bob Neslage, center, and ApTech instructor Phil Grant cutting the ribbon. Bigham, Waters and Lane are PCF members. Pictured back, from left, are city manager Bob Eskridge, Richard Morris, city director of public works; Randy Watson, PCF; Tom Etheredge, IRI International; Don Lane, chairman, PCF; Richard Stowers, PEDC and Chamber of Commerce president; Joe Kyle Reeve, Dean of Clarendon College - Pampa Center; Chuck White, PCF liaison and coordinator for ApTech; Bill Hallerberg, IRI International; and Nancy Paronto, PCF.

New Sweetwater Story Exhibit opens at Mobeetie Jail Museum

MOBETTIE — Old Mobeetie Texas Association will host an open house for its new exhibit from 1-5 p.m. June 20. The exhibit, entitled "Sweetwater Story: The History of Wheeler County," is broad in scope, focusing on the land itself, prehistoric and historic Native Americans, buffalo hunters, Red River War, Fort Elliott and Hidetown, later known as Mobeetie.

The collection — begun by Sallie Harris in

1966 — is showcased in the exhibit design. The association found local history and Panhandle history, to a large extent, is not found in Texas public school textbooks. This fact has been the impetus for the organization's pursuing grants that will provide money to build exhibits that interpret the artifacts in a way that supports the classroom teacher who strives to teach local history.

The Sweetwater Story Exhibit will demon-

strate the importance of Wheeler County as well as adjoining counties in the settlement of the panhandle. There will be several hands-on opportunities for children to interact with exhibits. A 6x8 foot reproduction by Kenneth Wyatt of his original work, "Crossing the Sweetwater" will be featured on the title panel. This work depicts the 7th Cavalry expedition led by Col. George Custer across the panhandle in 1868.

Free prostate cancer clinic being offered

AMARILLO — The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will host a free prostate cancer screening from 6:30-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 16. Participating urologists will be Drs. William Anthony, Richard Kibbey and Virgil Pate.

Appointments are required to attend the screening which is being sponsored by the cancer center along with Amarillo Urology Associates, American Cancer Society, Urocor, Inc., Zeneca Pharmaceuticals and Tap Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

For more information, call Kathryn Hughes at (806) 359-4673, ext. 283.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Water: supply and demand

Supply: Texas currently uses surface water—collected from lakes, rivers and streams—for about half of its water needs. As water in underground streams and aquifers is depleted, surface water is expected to supply almost 69% of all the state's water needs.

Water supply in 2000	Water supply in 2050*
10% surface	69% surface
90% groundwater	31% groundwater
	* 1.8% from reuse of wastewater

Demand: Texas' population is expected to double in the next 50 years. Water needed by cities, manufacturing and the electric power industry is expected to be two-thirds of all the state's water supply in 2050.

Water needs in 2000	Water needs in 2050
Livestock: 2%	Livestock: 2%
Municipal: 28%	Municipal: 45%
Manufacturing: 11%	Manufacturing: 17%
Electric and Electric Cooling: 57%	Electric and Electric Cooling: 36%
Irrigation: 2%	Irrigation: 1%

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Water Development Board.

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Mother Protecting Daughter Provokes Ugly Family Fight

DEAR ABBY: My husband, our 6-year-old daughter (I'll call her Marcia), and I recently drove to my sister-in-law's, several states away, for a visit. At dinner, I was introduced for the first time to her new boyfriend, "Joe." The man was sloppily dressed and didn't look very clean.

After dinner, Joe and several of the other male guests who had been drinking during dinner went out to continue drinking. Marcia asked to spend the night at my sister-in-law's, but I was reluctant to let her stay in a home where these men would be returning later, not telling how intoxicated.

I was concerned for Marcia's safety and put up a fight. I got pretty ugly in front of her and my husband. Marcia was crying and my husband was yelling. Nobody cared to listen to my reasons for not wanting her to stay.

Abby, I grew up with an alcoholic father. He used to come home drunk and get very mean with my siblings and me. I didn't want the same thing to happen to my little girl.

Marcia ended up staying there for the night, and Joe did come back drunk. He finally passed out on a couch near my daughter's bedroom. The next day, Marcia said Joe and my sister-in-law were talking loudly for hours after he returned, and she didn't get much sleep.

Now my sister-in-law won't speak to me, and my husband and mother-in-law are upset with me for

Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

the way I acted. I believe I acted as any mother would who has had experience with drunks.
How can I fix this?
A MOM WHO TRIED IN FLORIDA

DEAR MOM: Although your motives were noble, you overreacted. Had you approached the problem calmly and rationally instead of putting up a fight, you might have gained support for your position. Write your mother-in-law and sister-in-law notes of apology for the unpleasant scene, and apologize to your husband and daughter. In the future, make sure the sleeping arrangements are clear to Marcia before you visit this household.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently asked to be a bridesmaid in a friend's wedding. Flattered, I gladly accepted. When I was told that the dress she selected would cost me \$240, I was shocked. I told the bride

that I couldn't afford to spend that much for a dress, but I would be happy to go shopping with her to find something less expensive. When she informed me that changing the dress was not an option, I told her that I would be unable to participate in the wedding.

She did not protest my decision, or try to come up with an alternate solution such as paying for half of the dress. Instead, she asked another girl to take my place in the wedding.

Abby, this has been bothering me for weeks. I feel like she chose a dress over her friendship with me. Am I overreacting? What do you think?

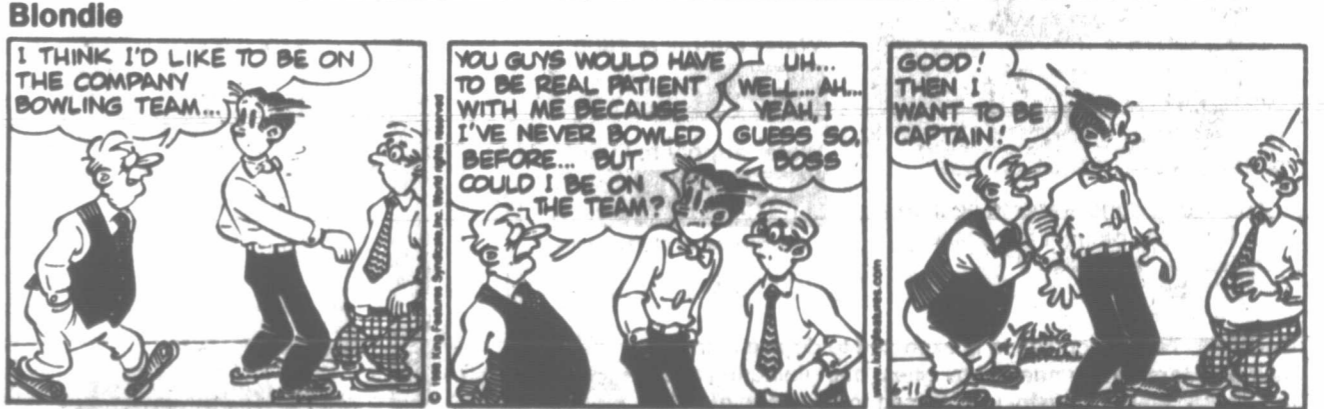
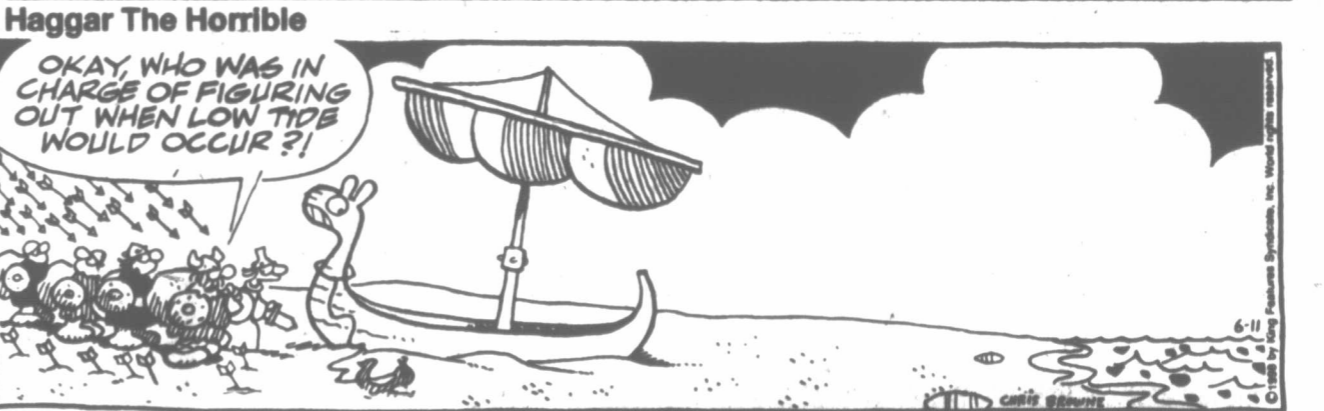
OUSTED IN OREGON

DEAR OUSTED: Obviously it was more important for your friend to have the bridesmaid dresses that she preferred than to have you as a bridesmaid.

Are you overreacting? Only if you let this end your friendship. The bride was insensitive to your financial situation, but releasing you from an obligation to be in a wedding you couldn't afford to participate in is not an issue great enough to lose a friendship over.

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.)

For Better or For Worse



Horoscope

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)

***** Don't let anyone or anything distract you right now. Clearly, you are in control. You win someone's confidence; as a result, you further a key project. Bosses give you the backing you have waited for. Intuition is right on target. Don't worry as much. Tonight: A force to behold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

***** Make waves, if you feel it is necessary. Your actions seem to put you in a position of control. Read the motives of the other players in a situation. Your insights cause others to be more open and willing to pitch in. Team efforts count right now. Tonight: Escape!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Demonstrate your financial savvy. Someone might not understand as much as you but will rely on your judgment. Build another's confidence. A boss appreciates your attention to detail. Don't let someone distract you; stay focused. Tonight: With your best friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

***** Others want to help you.

Evaluate the prospect of a trip, and perhaps a seminar or workshop. You gain enormously when you broaden your mental horizons. Get more information, and don't hesitate to call

in an expert. Be an information gatherer. Tonight: Join buddies.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** Make waves at work, clear up clutter and return messages. You are involved in discussions that could affect your financial structure. Understand that there are many different solutions. A meeting goes on a lot longer than anticipated. Tonight: Out with co-workers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

***** Ideas come from all directions. But you might not have time to reflect on these matters, as others demand attention. Flow with it all, rather than restricting contact. A surprise lies within the interaction. A partner has strong feelings. Listen! Tonight: Ring in the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Overwhelmed by all that you have to do, you end up spinning your wheels, slightly panicked. Settle down, formulate a game plan and go for the bottom line. Prioritizing is key. You might want to bring extra work home this weekend. Tonight: A gym or dance-class break.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Discussions are animated and direct. You need to understand what is happening with others. The best way is to observe their reactions to your questions. A friendship could become a lot more than you thought. Consider what you want to do here. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

***** Expenses go out of whack.

Think about the most effective way to cut spending. Recognize how much you like to indulge a family member.

Building security could make him just as happy. Consider putting in overtime or making money through a hobby. Tonight: Cheap yet fun. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

***** You can sometimes be all business and no pleasure, so don't forget to express your love to someone close to you. You have a far greater impact when you let your humanness and empathy come across. Good news comes via phone or mail. Tonight: Just ask; it's yours!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** Intuition helps you financially. What seems like a gut feeling may be your inner knowledge, as it mixes with information. Follow through. Take time for a family member. Take a long, relaxing lunch. Remember, center yourself first. Tonight: A mystery intrigues.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

***** Make calls, and reach out for others. Make a list of what you would like to accomplish, and then get to work. Your ability to make an impression helps you professionally and socially. Schedule a workshop. Open your mind even more to possibilities. Tonight: TGIF!

BORN TODAY

Sportscaster Marv Albert (1943), actor Timothy Busfield (1957), musician Chick Corea (1941)

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD
by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Jane Austen book
- 5 Actress Zellweger
- 10 Elevator features
- 12 O. Henry forte
- 13 Words of denial
- 14 Homer's wife
- 15 Fuss
- 16 Very bad
- 18 Cloyingly sweet
- 20 Epoch
- 21 Boot parts
- 23 Permit
- 24 Practice in the ring
- 26 Choose not to bid
- 28 Pickle holder
- 29 Castor, for one
- 31 Mimic
- 32 Patriotic tune
- 36 Divert attention from
- 39 Boxing great
- 40 Nuzzled
- 41 Doubly
- 43 Direction
- 44 Sheet material
- 45 Classifies

T	U	L	A	N	E	S	P	A	T
I	N	A	F	I	X	T	U	T	U
N	O	D	I	C	E	A	L	E	X
R	E	C	I	A	L	L			
A	C	M	E		P	E	S	O	S
L	O	U		C	A	R	R	O	L
T	L	L		A	R	E	V	I	E
C	E	L	T	I	C	S		E	V
E	S	S	E	N		P	R	E	P
O	N	E	W	A	Y				
R	A	V	E		A	L	L	O	Y
A	B	E	T		S	T	O	R	E
H	E	R	S		H	O	N	E	S

Yesterday's Answer

- 17 Free advance
- 19 Actress Hagen
- 22 Small pianos
- 24 Olympics site of 1972
- 25 Iron user
- 27 Picnic pest
- 28 Outings
- 30 Humorist
- 33 Half of Hispaniola
- 34 Spanish hero
- 35 Bearings
- 37 Big top
- 38 Tacks on
- 42 Kids' card game

Marmaduke



"Stop this... I'm going to work. It's not like I'll be gone forever."

The Family Circus



"You said all our days are numbered, Grandma. What number is today?"

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.

House passes bill to slow tide of personal bankruptcies

WASHINGTON (AP) — With lawmakers alarmed by a rising tide of personal bankruptcies, the House has approved sweeping legislation pushed by credit card companies to make Americans shoulder more responsibility for their debts.

A key feature of the bill, passed Wednesday on a 306-118 vote that split the Democrats while Republicans were in solid support, would make it more difficult for a person to simply file court papers and sweep his or her bills away.

The legislation is the most far-reaching overhaul of the nation's bankruptcy laws in 20 years.

Prospects for a milder measure pending in the Senate are unclear. The Senate Judiciary Committee overwhelmingly approved it last month, but several contentious amendments were deferred for consideration by the full Senate.

The Clinton administration supports some changes in bankruptcy laws but has said it cannot support the House bill in its current form. The administration prefers the Senate measure but also wants changes in it.

Opponents charge that lawmakers are bending to the profitable banking industry and credit card lobbies at the expense of honest working people hit by job losses, medical crises and ensuing financial disaster. The banking and retail credit industries have spent millions of lobbying dollars campaigning for the legislation.

The bill is "nothing more than a special-interest favor to the big credit card companies and the big banks," Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., a leading opponent, charged during the daylong debate.

Nadler also contended the legislation would impose "a death sentence" on thousands of small businesses that would face new paperwork requirements in bankruptcy proceedings.

The House legislation would for the first time establish a "needs" test for people filing for bankruptcy court protection from creditors.

It would require people who earn at least the median U.S. income, about \$51,000, to file for financial reorganization under Chapter 13, subject to a court-ordered repayment plan, if they can pay back 20 percent of their debt within five years.

Credit card companies complain that too many people take shelter under the more lenient

Chapter 7, which erases some debts, when they could afford to reorganize their debts under Chapter 13.

"We need to put personal responsibility back into the system again," said Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., a chief sponsor.

With \$40 billion in unpaid credit card debt piling up, McCollum contended, compa-

Despite the strong economy, the number of Americans filing personal bankruptcies last year jumped to 1.3 million — up more than 300 percent since 1980.

nies are being forced to charge higher interest rates that hurt responsible consumers.

Despite the strong economy, the number of Americans filing personal bankruptcies last year jumped to 1.3 million — up more than 300 percent since 1980.

Factors cited include a rising divorce rate, expansion of legalized gambling, changes in health insurance and uninsured medical expenses, aggressive soliciting by credit card companies and widespread advertising by bankruptcy attorneys.

Credit card companies, retailers and other credit issuers contend the personal bankruptcy system has run amok, with people abusing the laws and some celebrities making it seem almost fashionable to seek bankruptcy protection.

Consumer groups and other opponents of the legislation, however, blame banks and the consumer credit industry, which continues to send out billions of credit card solicitations each year.

To defuse recent criticism by Democrats, the House lawmakers adopted an amendment to give child support and alimony payments top priority in bankruptcy cases — putting them ahead of federal income taxes, bankruptcy attorneys' fees and other obligations. They also approved a requirement that credit card companies receiving payments from debtors who are delinquent in paying child support hold the money in trust and distribute it to single parents and children.

FCC to allow purchase of cable boxes good anywhere in America

WASHINGTON (AP) — Instead of paying several dollars a month to rent a cable TV box from the local cable company, customers will have the option — for the first time — of going to a store and buying one that would work on any system in the country.

Following through on the 1996 telecommunications bill, the Federal Communications Commission plans to adopt rules today to let cable customers buy standalone cable boxes or TV sets, VCRs and other devices with the boxes built into them beginning in July 2000, FCC officials said on condition of anonymity.

FCC rules would apply to both digital and analog cable set-top boxes. But, as more cable TV companies shed analog boxes in their changeover to improved digital technology, the rules' biggest impact would be on the market for digital cable boxes.

Congress' aim was not only to give cable customers a choice in how to obtain these boxes but also to bring more competition to companies that make them.

Currently, a cable customer who needs a box must rent it for a fee that varies among local cable TV systems from \$2 to \$4 a month. Gary Shapiro, president of the Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association, said the boxes could sell from as low as \$30 to \$100, depending on their level of sophistication.

Still, Shapiro said the boxes in the long run "would cost people less than what they are paying now to their cable companies for the rentals."

Consumer electronics makers are particularly interested in building the cable boxes into new digital TVs, VCRs and other devices, allowing people to plug the cable into them and start watching.

In the existing analog world, almost half the nation's 67 million cable TV customers rent analog boxes to receive premium cable channels such as HBO or Showtime or pay-per-view shows. Of them rent because all signals on their cable systems are scrambled and the box is necessary to view them. But in the foreseeable digital world, all customers who want improved pictures and more plentiful channels offered from digital cable service will need a box.

Cable customers would retain the option of leasing boxes once the rules take effect, FCC officials said, and security features to protect the cable TV network from hackers and pirates would be contained in an electronic card, which would be owned and controlled by the cable system.

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