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City cancels fire pact with county

■ Only way to open talks, Pampa commission agrees

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Agreeing it is the only way to open dialogue with Gray County officials, Pampa city commissioners unanimously agreed to end its fire service contract with the county on Dec. 31.

Earlier this month, the city commission, which wanted a \$250,000 yearly pact, voted down a revamped contract. It called for county fire protection to be provided with a \$20,000 annual increase, bringing the payment up to \$125,000. The commission majority based the vote on what it called "inequities" in the amount the county pays and what it costs the city to perform the service.

While the current pact allows for either side to give a 30-day notice to end the agreement, Mayor Bob Neslage said Tuesday the longer period will "...give the county some lead time and allow us to have discussions."

Neslage appointed Commissioners Jeff Andrews and

Jeff McCormick to handle the city side of negotiations with the county.

Last week, County Judge Richard Peet told *The Pampa News* the county is standing pat on the issue of fire fighting service from the city because, "We have a contract and we are going to abide by it."

During Tuesday's city commission work session, Andrews said canceling the contract "appears to be the only way to open discussions." He said Peet had "...laid down the gauntlet," by saying "We have a contract."

Andrews added, "I was probably the most outspoken (about contract "inequities"). I think now we have the opportunity to look creatively at this ... maybe look at the creation of fire district taxes."

Commissioner Bob Dixon pointed out any fire districts would have to be a county, not city, creation.

McCormick made the suggestion to give the county until Dec. 31 before canceling the contract. And, he proposed going up \$30,000 in the first year of a new contract which would reimburse the city for a grass fire fighting attachment on the new fire truck. During the following three years, he said a \$25,000 increase should be made annually.

Added together, McCormick said the changes he sug-

gests will bring the county payment up to \$210,000 a year — something he termed "very fair."

Neslage expressed doubts the county commission will agree to a four-year pact saying, "I think you would have to negotiate every year."

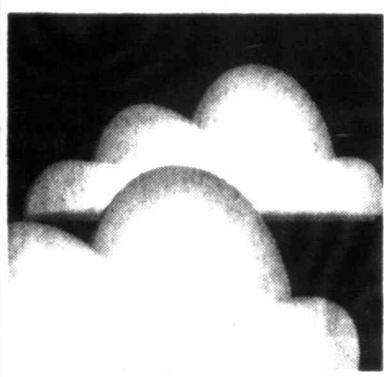
Previously, Andrews, a certified public accountant, said based upon property tax payments and number of annual fire calls, a city taxpayer with property valued at \$50,000 pays \$150 yearly for fire protection. The same property owner, if in the county, pays \$10 a year, or a 15-1 difference. The city picks up the remainder of the cost.

Andrews based calculations upon a Pampa Fire Department budget of \$1,234,656.

In other commission action:

- The 1998-99 city budget was adopted with no tax increase. However, a 50-cent monthly increase in residential sanitation rates was approved and an approximate four percent increase was okayed for commercial users. All the money will go into a dumpster replacement fund.

- Made appointments to various city commissions and boards. A complete list will appear in a later issue of *The Pampa News*.



High today 77
Low tonight mid 50s
For weather details see Page 2.

PAMPA — PHS Class of '99 T-shirts will be on sale Thursday at the school in front of the auditorium. Sale times will be at 7:46 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. The shirts must be paid for when picked up. Prices are \$12 for medium to XL, \$13 for XXL, and \$14 for XXXL. Orders for additional shirts will also be taken; shirts must be paid for when ordered.

PAMPA — The Class of '69 will have a meeting Thursday at 8 p.m. in the board room of NBC bank to plan its 30th reunion.

PAMPA — The PHS Class of 1989 will be having a reunion organizational meeting tonight, Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at 2325 Navajo. Any classmate is welcome to attend.

PAMPA — The PSAT (the Preliminary Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given by PHS Counselors Karla Howell and Starla Kindle on Tuesday, Oct. 20. Freshmen and sophomores may register, but preference will be given to juniors. Students can register in the counselor's office until Friday, Sept. 25. The cost is \$10, payable at registration. Call 669-4800 for more information.

- Jack Bailey, 70, professional musician, former teacher.
- Jean Duenkel, 90, former funeral home owner, champion golfer.
- Roy Lynn Burk Pool, 44, insurance clerk for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Editorial 4
Sports 7

Judge cites track record; man gets 37-year sentence

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Glenn Jack Noack was in Gray County jail today awaiting transfer to the Texas Department of Corrections after pleading guilty Tuesday to charges of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

In a firm, even voice, Judge M. Kent Sims sentenced Noack Tuesday afternoon in 31st District Court to 37 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Noack, 32, pleaded guilty to the drug charge Tuesday morning. During the punishment phase of the trial Tuesday afternoon, a stream of law enforcement officers and former law enforcement officers along with the father of Noack's former common law wife testified that Noack had a bad reputation in the community.

In tearful testimony, Noack's sister and mother testified that following Noack's divorce about four years ago, his life began to fall apart.

Noack testified that with his 1994 divorce he turned to drugs and (See JUDGE, Page 2)

Parks board sets on-site visit

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

The city's parks board members will be looking around Dr. V.E. von Brunow Park tomorrow evening to get a better feel of its layout in preparation for a discussion on a covered shelter for the area.

Members are meeting at the park at 6 p.m. to view the benches and trash receptacles the parks department has been installing this week.

Action was tabled at last month's meeting regarding the selection of a covered shelter until the benches and trash cans

were in place.

In other matters, the designation of board member terms is to be acted upon. Remaining items include a Super Playground update by Eileen Kludt and a water bill donation fund review by Judy Elliott.

Elliott, chairperson of the board, is also on the agenda to give the chairperson's report.

Staff reports from Shane Stokes, recreation department supervisor, and Reed Kirkpatrick, parks department supervisor, will also be heard.

The board meets in the City Commission Chamber on the third floor of City Hall.

Rodeo ready...



(Community Camera photo)

All set for Saturday's Tri-State High School Rodeo in Pampa are officers of the Pampa High School Rodeo Club. From left, April Melanson, reporter; Caryn Lowrey, secretary; Montana Farnum, vice president; and Casey Andreen, president. The event, at Recreation Park rodeo grounds, gets under way at 10 a.m. with the first performance. At 1 p.m. team roping will be judged followed by the second performance at 3 p.m.

Missing old family photos? Museum trying to sort collection

In the late 1960s, Tracy Cary of Pampa began collecting material from area families in order to write a history book. Much of this material was in his home at the time of his death in 1996.

Some of it has been given to the White Deer Land Museum in

Pampa where identification has been made of as many of the photographs as possible.

The museum would like for the public to look at the display photographs and see if they can identify them further. Some of these photographs have been

labeled and many have not. If you recognize that these photos came from your family, you may take them with you. If you are looking for particular pictures, please come by the White Deer Land Museum at 112-116 S. (See PHOTOS, Page 2)

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Lacy and Belle Lee ate lunch with grandson Justin Carlton at Wilson Elementary School as part of the recent "Grandparents Day" celebration.

(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)



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National American Businesswoman's Day



Mayor Bob Neslage signed a proclamation for yesterday, Sept. 22, proclaiming it as National American Businesswoman's Day. Those present at the signing were: Wynona Seely, chairman of the event; Ellen Malone, treasurer; Margaret Hall, vice-president; La Nella Hensley, secretary; Eltha Hensley, president; and Mayor Bob Neslage.

PSAT/NMSQT tests to be administered by PHS counselors

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be conducted by Pampa High School Counselors Karla Howell and Starla Kindle on the morning of Tuesday, Oct. 20 in the Heritage Room of M.K. Brown Auditorium. Students registering for the test will be bused to and from the test site.

Pampa High School freshmen and sophomores may register for the test; however, preference will be given juniors. PHS Middle School students may also register but these students must make their own way to the test site.

Registration will end Friday of this week. Cost is \$10 and is due upon registering. A study guide and bulletin will be provided each registrant.

Students outside PHS may contact their school counselor to make arrangements to register for the exam via the PHS Counselors' Office at 669-4800.

The PSAT/NMSQT is an abbreviated form of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities with other college-bound juniors to compete for National Merit Scholarships. The exam is a qualifying requirement for PISD Superintendent's Scholar Program for all eligible PHS juniors.

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Old Route 66 Expo slated in October

AMARILLO — Relive the fun and excitement of old Route 66 during Old Route 66 Expo '98 Oct. 1-4. The event is being sponsored by Amarillo Convention and Visitors Council, Center City of Amarillo, The Big Texan, Old Route 66 Association of Texas, National Historic Route 66 Federation, Shamrock Chamber of Commerce, Oldham County Chamber of Commerce and Wallis Group.

The Expo will kick-off Oct. 1 with a tour of Route 66 in the Eastern Panhandle. That evening, Route 66 author and 1996 Steinbeck Award-winner Michael Wallis will speak at the Kick-Off Banquet.

Other highlights planned for the four-day celebration will be a Friday afternoon tour of the "Mother Road," along the Western Texas Panhandle, and a 1940s Theme Street Dance and Party on historic 6th Street in Amarillo.

Saturday will begin with a Poker run for motorcycles, classic cars and rollerbladers and will continue with the Old Town Amarillo Fair on Route 66. A juried art show featuring a variety of Route 66 works will also be held Saturday followed by the Main Street Reception where famous authors of the historic highway will be signing their works.

The Steinbeck Award Banquet will be Saturday night. The award is named for John Steinbeck, author of "The Grapes of Wrath" a critically acclaimed novel chronicling Dust Bowl migrants on Route

66 during the '30s. The award honors those who have contributed significantly to the preservation of Route 66. The recipient is selected by the National Historic Route 66 Federation and the Steinbeck Estate.

The Cyrus Avery Award, presented to the winning artist in the Commemorative Poster Art Competition, will also be honored at the banquet. Only 100 copies of the limited edition poster, featuring the tail fin and trunk section of a pink Chevrolet traveling along Route 66, have been numbered and signed by the artist, Darren Dunham of Amarillo. Poster number 66 will be auctioned during the banquet.

Tickets for the Steinbeck Award Banquet must be purchased in advance. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 1. To make reservations, call the Route 66 Museum in McLean at (806) 779-2225.

To receive a Route 66 Expo '98 registration package or to register for the event, contact the Old Route 66 Association of Texas at 1-800-692-1228.

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In celebration and thanksgiving,
St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School
Board of Trustees, and Staff
invite you to
The Blessing of
Our "New" School Building
Thursday, September 24, 1998
7:00 PM
St. Matthew's Day School
727 W. Browning

Shamrock to hold annual Craftfest

SHAMROCK — The Fourth Annual Irish Craftfest "Christmas in October" will be held Oct. 3 and 4 in Shamrock Community Center, south Main Street. Crafters will have booths containing handmade arts and crafts and collectibles. These items can be seen and/or purchased between 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday and 12 noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. There is also a concession stand offering good things to eat and drink.

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Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:55

2nd Week • Stereo
Mafia (PG-13)
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Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10
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The Negotiator (R)
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Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00
Sat. & Sun. Matinee 1:30

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Inside the Beltway
 with
 Sen. Hutchison

Technology can cut both ways

We all want high-quality medical care and are grateful for the scientific and technological advances that have made it possible for us to live longer, healthier lives.

But technology can cut both ways. It can be a bane or a blessing, it can heal or it can destroy. Nowhere is that line of demarcation more pronounced than in the area of information technology. Kids used to worry endlessly about what shortcomings would go down on their (mythical) "permanent record." Today, advances in information technology make such concerns very real.

I think most Texans would agree with me that their personal privacy is of the utmost importance, especially when it comes to the information contained in their medical records.

So news that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was planning to create a federal data base and assign Americans their own health-care ID number set off alarm bells aplenty. I have serious reservations about issuing everyone in America a national health ID card. The plan, as HHS intended to carry it forward, raised questions of excessive government involvement and control — not to mention privacy concerns.

Recently I took action to halt those plans by getting a measure passed that prohibits HHS from proceeding. Congress would be required to approve a health care ID system proposed by the federal agency. The view in Congress is that this plan is not ready, if there is a need for one at all.

The situation arose when HHS moved forward on an obscure provision of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act that mandates the creation of a "unique patient identifier" number for every citizen. Its purpose was to track medical record information. Once established, this data base was supposed to give the government a "new health assessment tool." Many believe that it would allow the government a snapshot of each and every American's medical records, health habits, lifestyle and heredity.

This glitch in the law set virtually no limits on how, when or by whom that data could be used. Sensitive health information might be linked to financial data or other records. Government would have instantaneous access to everyone's medical records. HHS proposed to give state and federal agencies full access to medical, psychological and behavioral data (without patient consent) in four areas of "national priorities": oversight of the healthcare system, public health and emergencies, health research, and law enforcement and court proceedings.

To me it was clear there was no way, under current law, that our privacy could have been protected in one of the most sensitive, intensely personal areas of life. I don't want the government to go there, and I don't think a majority of Texans want it, either. That's why my colleagues in Congress supported my proposal to stop this plan.

How videotapes aid police

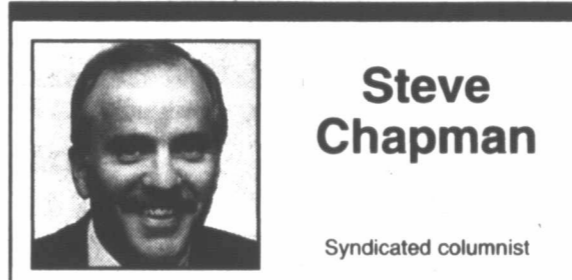
Embarrassed by the disintegration of the case against two boys age 7 and 8 accused of murdering an 11-year-old girl, the Chicago Police Department says it may start requiring officers to videotape interviews with children under 12. This would be a change on the order of putting anti-lock brakes on a stagecoach. Why does the department want to stop at kids? Why does it continue to resist an innovation whose value has been proven beyond any doubt?

The Chicago police treat videotaping as if it were some bizarre idea dreamed up yesterday by naive intellectuals. In fact, it has been in use in some places for nearly two decades and has been enthusiastically endorsed by law enforcement officials nationwide. New York, Philadelphia, Denver, St. Louis, Kansas City and dozens of other municipalities rely on it routinely. They have discovered that it doesn't impede police and prosecutors but helps them. The burden of proof is now on the opponents of videotaping, not the advocates.

Five years ago, after fighting charges that one murder suspect was tortured into confessing, the Chicago Police Board recommended that the department begin videotaping confessions in major cases. The suggestion was ignored.

If you want to know why, though, you're out of luck. Spokesman Patrick Camden cannot be bothered to justify the established policy. "We have a variety of reasons I'm not going to get into," he says. At other times, he has insisted the subject needs "more research."

Well, tobacco company executives say the same thing about the alleged link between smoking and cancer, and a few people still doubt that the Earth is round. But the evidence on videotaping has convinced plenty of other



Steve Chapman
 Syndicated columnist

departments and should persuade anyone whose mind is not sealed shut.

In practice, the benefits are real and important. A 1992 report by the U.S. Department of Justice found that at least one out of every three large police departments used videotaping. Of those surveyed, 80 percent said the practice made it easier to get guilty pleas — and none said it made things harder.

Tapes also help convict suspects rash enough to go to trial after making damning admissions. Jurors may be skeptical about a written confession, but they find it hard to dismiss the sight of a defendant calmly recounting his crime on a TV monitor.

Once upon a time, the fear was that criminals would balk at confessing in front of a video camera. That concern has been put to rest. "It doesn't affect what they say," says Sgt. Jon Priest of the Denver Police Department's homicide division, which videotapes interviews and interrogations as well as confessions.

Police officers may have an understandable reluctance to open themselves to the scrutiny that videotaping can bring. But they soon learn that the camcorder is their best friend. A felon whose questioning has been captured on tape

is deprived of a favorite defense tactic — accusing the police of violating his rights through abuse or trickery. Has videotaping reduced the number of such charges against cops? "Yes," says Priest. Do police officers like that? "They love it."

In cities that refuse to videotape, conscientious cops can be put on trial, in effect, by lawyers claiming mistreatment of their clients. Philadelphia adopted videotaping after two men who had confessed to killing a 26-year-old Illinois woman were acquitted thanks to allegations that their statements had been coerced. That rarely happens when the confessions have been taped.

Prosecutors who are acquainted with videotaping are not shy in extolling its virtues. "It's a wonderful tool," says Lamar Sims, the chief deputy district attorney in Denver. "It makes for a very solid prosecution." You might think that jurors new to the gritty reality of police work might blanch when they see it in unfiltered form. Sims, however, says he has never had a defendant acquitted because a jury was squeamish about how the police behaved on tape.

But videotaping is not a boon only to law enforcement. It also helps people accused of crimes. Though most cops follow the rules, a few don't. A police officer who knows he is being taped will be far less inclined to resort to threats, deceit or physical violence against a suspect in custody. And if he does, he can expect to be exposed and punished — and to see the accused go free.

All videotaping can do is protect the innocent and thwart the guilty, while deterring lies by cops as well as criminals. Isn't that enough?

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 1998. There are 99 days left in the year. Autumn arrives at 1:37 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 23, 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bon Homme Richard defeated the HMS Serapis after the American commander, John Paul Jones, is said to have declared: "I

have not yet begun to fight!"

On this date:
 In 63 B.C., Caesar Augustus was born in Rome.

In 1642, Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., held its first commencement.

In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.

In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition

from the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, the planet Neptune was discovered by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle.

In 1938, a time capsule, to be opened in the year 6939, was buried on the grounds of the World's Fair in New York City.

In 1952, Republican vice-presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon went on television to deliver what came to be known as the "Checkers" speech as he refuted

allegations of improper campaign financing.

In 1957, nine black students who had entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 1962, New York's Philharmonic Hall (since renamed Avery Fisher Hall) formally opened as the first unit of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

Ken Starr is not the bad guy

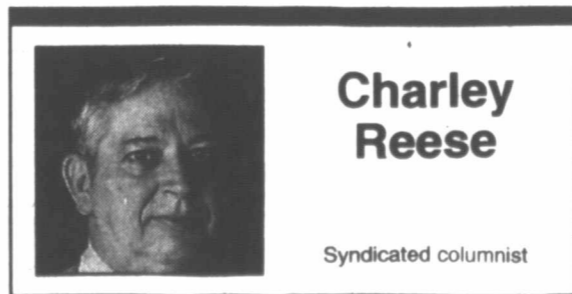
Bobby Unser, three-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, went snowmobiling with a friend in New Mexico. They were caught in a blizzard that created a whiteout and were forced to spend the night in a snow cave and trek 18 miles the next morning to find help. Both were hospitalized.

Unser was charged by the U.S. Forest Service with illegally taking his snowmobile into a federally designated wilderness area. He faced a fine of \$5,000 or six months in prison. Now Unser had not gone snowmobiling in the wilderness area. He had gone in a national park open to snowmobiles.

If he went into the wilderness area — his snowmobile had not been found — it was purely an accident while he was trying to save his life in the zero-visibility blizzard. Yet the U.S. government has spent more than \$600,000 trying to convict Unser.

That's why people don't trust their government anymore. That's why Unser wrote the introduction to the "National Directory of Environmental and Regulatory Victims," published by the National Center for Public Policy Research. It is a record of injustice and government insanity.

For example, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ordered state road workers to wear long pants in the middle of a heat wave because they were dealing with hot tar, as if experienced road builders didn't



Charley Reese
 Syndicated columnist

know that. After several collapsed from heat exhaustion in the long pants, a congressman finally intervened.

But the stories of people deprived of their life savings by federal bureaucrats abusing the Endangered Species Act are tragic, not amusing. What these bureaucrats, egged on by environmental extremists, do is designate private property as the habitat of some bug or bird or animal, thus depriving the owner of any use of his or her property without compensation. Thousands of people lost their jobs over the spotted owl.

Another trick federal bureaucrats use is wetlands. Let some bureaucrat declare your property a wetland and you are effectively robbed of your property — without compensation. This is unjust. This is tyranny. Since when does property, often owned for decades, suddenly become U.S. property if some bureaucrat says the water doesn't drain off of it fast enough?

The political problem is this: There are more renters and folks living in urban areas where they generally don't run into this kind of nonsense than there are property owners who get victimized. So, as people do when it isn't their ox being gored, they don't support the property owners who are isolated and then picked off by the bureaucrats.

That's a dangerous indifference. The principle of the right to own and use property is the foundation of all other human rights. The principle of destroying private property rights so that all live at the mercy of the government is the foundation of all tyrannies.

It is only by acquiring and using private property that a human being can become economically independent — and, thus, politically independent. Slaves and serfs, dependent on the landowners for subsistence, cannot afford to complain or to assert their rights. That's why the basic plank of communism is to eliminate private property. Because the state controls all property, everyone in a communist country lives by permission of the state.

That's why people in the streets and in the burbs ought to be protective of property rights. Property rights are the foundation of human rights and political freedoms. It seems to me it's just kindergarten-level political philosophy not to tolerate the government confiscating private property without compensation.

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum

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 Pampa Phone: 665-3552
 Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
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News shorts...

Alabama man detained in Mexico for driving across border with rifles in van
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Relatives of an Ensley man who is in jail on a weapons charge in Mexico say he was lost when he drove a rented van carrying two unloaded rifles across the U.S. border.

Helen Brown said her brother, Robert Brown, 48, didn't intend any harm with the two unloaded rifles that were packed in the van when he was stopped Aug. 29.

Mexican customs officials thought otherwise about the rifles that Brown uses for target practice. They arrested him on weapons charges when he and 14 relatives accidentally drove into Juarez.

Brown remains locked up with no idea when he will be released.

"When I talked to Robert on the phone he was depressed because he might be there from two weeks to five years, which is very frightening to me," said Mary Scott, a family friend who has been asking politicians and other officials for Brown's release. "He's just hopeful that he'll get out."

Inspector gets \$230,000 for reporting trouble at money factory

DALLAS (AP) — Uncle Sam will have to print a tall stack of bills to reward a fired inspector who blew the whistle on substandard work at a federal currency-printing plant in Fort Worth.

U.S. District Judge Robert Maloney ruled last week that Peter J. Thornton was entitled to \$230,000 paid by contractors to settle complaints he had raised. The government had wanted to give him only one-fourth of that amount.

"This is a major case-law victory for whistleblowers," Thornton, 49, of Plano, told The Dallas Morning News.

"That's why I'm happy. Maybe, we'll stop some of this wild government overspending. This is a win for taxpayers."

Thornton was an electrician employed by Science Applications International Corp. of San Diego.

Surfside's 'blue-collar folks' left to live in Frances' mess

SURFSIDE BEACH, Texas (AP) — Norma Hamby can't help but fret about the future as she surveys the mess her present has become.

The knee-high saltwater, sand and raw sewage Tropical Storm Frances dumped into her home-based business two weeks ago is gone. Left behind is a dilemma: She can't afford to stay and she can't afford to leave.

"They tell you to clean up, but when you don't have any money how do you clean up?" Hamby asked as she and a friend braved mosquitoes and oppressive humidity to make the first floor of her house livable again.

Unlike some of the lavish coastal communities up the coast at Galveston, this island set in the shadow of Dow Chemical's giant Brazoria County complex is lined with modest houses set between the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Not only did Frances inundate the first-floor Sea Pals nautical gift shop that took up most of Ms. Hamby's downstairs living quarters, it also rendered seven of the 10 beach homes she manages uninhabitable.

Convicted killer set to die for 1983

Candidate guilty in public intoxication case

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — A retired ironworker's little-noticed and low-budget campaign for the U.S. Senate has attracted some unwanted attention from the police.

Records at the Montgomery Police Department show candidate Clayton Suddith was arrested Aug. 31 for public intoxication. Police said he was staggering across the parking lot of a hotel a few blocks from the Capitol.

"I had beer on my breath. The policeman arrested me and he done his job," Suddith said Tuesday.

Suddith, a Democrat, was taken to jail, released on \$100 bond and then pleaded guilty Sept. 2. He paid a \$220 fine, according to court records.

Suddith, a former Franklin County commissioner, was the only Democrat to qualify to run against Republican incumbent Richard Shelby.

slaying at Rio Grande Valley liquor store

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Condemned killer David Castillo is convinced the state will be putting an innocent man to death this evening when he's executed for murdering a Rio Grande Valley liquor store owner more than 15 years ago.

"I know I didn't do the crime I'm here for," Castillo said last week in what likely was his final interview on death row. "It's still what I'm claiming, but it's not doing me any good."

"I do find it funny that they're going to kill me for a crime I didn't commit. I know there's somebody still out there that actually killed this guy."

The execution would be the 14th this year in Texas, where a record 37 condemned prisoners received lethal injection in 1997. On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court refused an appeal and denied a request for a reprieve, clearing the way for his punishment.

"He's got a whole bunch of people convinced that he's innocent," Rene Guerra, the district attorney who prosecuted Castillo, said. "But there's no doubt in my mind, no iota of doubt ... I'm that certain. He's never going to own up to it."

Texans in Congress holding steady on Clinton resignation calls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The torrent of new information about President Clinton's trysts with Monica Lewinsky, whether in Clinton's own words or from the independent counsel's voluminous files, hasn't unleashed a wave of resignation calls from Texans on Capitol Hill.

To date, five of the 32 Texans in Congress have officially urged the president to resign. That number remained stable this week, even as the nation's airwaves were blanketed with images of Clinton's videotaped deposition and the public was bombarded with yet more revelations from the nearly 3,200 pages of documents newly released from Kenneth Starr's files.

Republican Reps. Henry Bonilla of San Antonio, Tom DeLay of Sugar Land, Kay Granger of Fort Worth, Sam Johnson of Plano and Pete Sessions of Dallas all have called on Clinton to resign, saying such a move would be in the country's best interest. Nationally, six senators and more than 50 House members have issued similar pleas.

Rep. Ralph Hall of Rockwall, a conservative Democrat who never has been a fan of the Clinton White House, has stopped just short of an official call for Clinton's departure.

Elsewhere

CORSICANA COCAINE: Federal, state and local authorities say they have broken up six drug rings that brought crack cocaine and related violent crime to a rural area southeast of Dallas. Officials said 81 people were rounded up Tuesday, after a six-month investigation nicknamed "Operation Ponderosa Posse." ... **MAURO ON CLASS SIZE:** Democratic gubernatorial candidate Garry Mauro said Tuesday Texas should spend \$2 billion to build new schools to ensure smaller classes. Gov. George W. Bush attacked Mauro's plan for borrowing the \$2 billion from a state education trust fund. ... **PACEMAKER FIRM SOLD:** The largest employer in Angleton, the Sulzer Intermedics pacemaker company, has been sold to an Indiana competitor for up to \$850 million.

Gotti has throat cancer

NEW YORK (AP) — John J. Gotti, the notorious Mafia boss serving a life sentence for murder and racketeering, has throat cancer, his attorney said today.

The cancer was detected after Gotti, 57, had complained of a sore throat, lawyer Gerald Shargel said. Gotti was transferred Sept. 1 from the Marion, Ill., penitentiary to the federal prison hospital in Springfield, Mo.

"As I understand it, it was cancer of the tonsils and then metastasized" or spread, Shargel said. "It's been difficult to get precise information from prison authorities, and the families and attorneys have been doing their level best to find out exactly what's going on."

Another Gotti attorney, Bruce Cutler, told the New York Post that Gotti's doctors have said the disease is serious but treatable. He is expected to undergo surgery soon.

"Everyone feels he's going to lick this," Cutler said.

Gotti was once famous as the "Dapper Don" for his tailored suits and as the "Teflon Don" for

"As I understand it, it was cancer of the tonsils and then metastasized" or spread, lawyer Gerald Shargel said.

his ability to win acquittals at trial.

A federal jury in New York in 1992 convicted Gotti and Gambino family underboss Frank Locascio of murder, murder conspiracy, loan sharking, extortion, obstruction of justice, tax fraud and other crimes. Gotti was convicted of five

murders — including the 1985 hit on Paul Castellano, his predecessor as Gambino crime boss.

Gotti's son, John A. "Junior" Gotti, awaits release from jail on \$10 million bail. He has been held since January, when he was indicted on extortion charges involving a nightclub, and phone card fraud.

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TICKETS available at Henson's in Clarendon. Call 806/874-3723 for more information.

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Chuckwagon Cookoff will be on the Saints' Roost Museum grounds located off Hwy 70 South in Clarendon.

Family History Too Precious To Trust to Computer Disks

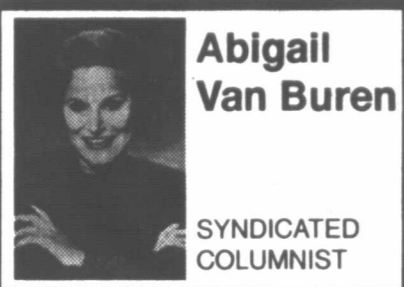
DEAR ABBY: I have been a fan for many years. I grew up with my mother reading your column, and have used your wedding booklet to assist with our special day.

The response you gave to "Wondering Mom" about the computer letter left for her child prompts this letter. My father-in-law passed away six years ago, and I would never think of letting someone read a letter intended for one of my children before he or she had a chance to read it. The letter "Wondering" is father-in-law left for his granddaughter was for her. Had he wanted anyone else to read it, he would have said so. To let someone else read it before the child did would diminish the special meaning to her.

This grandfather created a wonderful thing that his grandchild will have forever. She may want to keep it as her special link to her grandfather, and she should be the one to decide with whom she shares it.

LOVING DAUGHTER-IN-LAW,
 VIENNA, W.VA.

DEAR LOVING DAUGHTER: I disagree. The mother-in-law is mourning the loss of her husband in a more immediate and painful way than the 2-year-old possibly could. The fact that her grandmother had seen the contents of the letter should not make it a less precious link. However, that is not the most important reason why the letter should be shared now with her grandmother. Read on:



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR ABBY: There is a genuine tragedy awaiting "Wondering Mom" and anyone else who thinks that storing precious family information on a computer disk is the perfect high-tech solution to the problem of combining preservation and privacy.

By the time her 2 1/2-year-old daughter is old enough to care about her grandfather's autobiography, no one outside a couple of computer museums will be able to retrieve it from the disk — if she's incredibly lucky. I've been using computers for 20 years, and I have multiple generations of disks gathering dust now that, for all practical purposes, are unreadable. The hardware changes. The software changes. Beware!

If "Wondering Mom" wants to save that document, she should print it out now, giving thought to the printer and print cartridge, on 100 percent cotton or linen rag buffered paper with a neutral pH, and store it in a nondestructive archival folder in a dark, safe place, like a safety deposit vault.

Abby, you should have told her to use the silly disk for a coaster (after printing the file). That way it would be good for something.

DENNIS GRAFFLIN,
 PROFESSOR OF HISTORY,
 BATES COLLEGE,
 LEWISTON, MAINE

DEAR PROFESSOR GRAFFLIN: Thank you for offering your computer expertise, and warning my readers not to blindly expect technology to solve their archival problems. In many instances, paper is still the way to go.

DEAR ABBY: I read your column daily and enjoy your articles. I am a 65-year-old federal agent who is totally disabled from a line-of-duty injury.

You might say I've been there — done that! However, tonight, when I read your response to "An Old Softy in Grand Rapids, Mich.," I was not prepared for "The Rainbow Bridge." I'm not ashamed to admit, I cried! It is sadly beautiful, but gives grieving pet owners hope that they will have their pets meet them down the road, at the Rainbow Bridge. Thank you, Abby.

JACK IN DALLAS

DEAR JACK: I'm not ashamed to admit that I cried when I read your lovely letter. Thank you, Jack.

Horoscope

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24, 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)

★★★★ Others suddenly are ready to let you know where they are coming from. Do you really want to know? Let your more caring and trusting side go with the process. Partnerships benefit in the long run from more open exchanges. Your intuition serves you. Tonight: Go for greater closeness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A freer exchange of ideas at work allows greater creativity. Feel free to put in your two cents. A boss doesn't understand the direction a trend is going in. Be extremely diplomatic. Remember what you want in the long run; don't lose your focus. Tonight: Accept a dinner invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Get a head start on work. Others make demands of you that you want to meet. Willingness to accept responsibility allows you to be in the limelight. Others want to acknowledge you for a job well done. Relish the happy atmosphere at home. Tonight: Where the action is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Others count on your endless creativity and innovative ideas.

When you allow your mind to wander, you will come up with unusual solutions. Reach out for experts; seek out new types of thinking. Your appreciation becomes obvious to others. Tonight: Play you will!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Deal with real estate, personal promotion, greater security and success. When you express your feelings, others will trust you. Partners go overboard in an effort to help you out. Thank someone in a way that he can hear. Good feelings punctuate the day. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Handle money matters promptly. You are unusually gifted in this area. Someone tries to tempt you. Think before you automatically refuse. Why not go along? You are so serious, sometimes you need to be reminded that life is for living. Tonight: Be where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You are unusually bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Learn to speak your mind and express your opinions more frequently. Others will appreciate your feedback. Work might be overwhelming, yet there are good financial possibilities there. Tonight: Treat yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Don't reveal all your ideas; instead, gather information. Listen carefully to someone who means well. Realize that an opinion could be biased because this person likes you so much. A relationship heats up, if you are open to the warmth. Tonight: Happy as a clam at high tide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Demands come from left and right, but on some level you are delighted by all the requests. You enjoy that others acknowledge your expertise. You have the resources and energy to deal with what is going on. A friend lets you in on important information. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ A boss or higher-up speaks his mind. Your popularity could put you on overload. Prioritize, and screen calls. You can get a lot accomplished with ease once you get organized. News from a distance puts a smile on your face. Make time to network. Tonight: Be with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Accept responsibilities cheerfully. You must invest money to make more. Explore options that involve travel and learning. Broadening your horizons comes naturally now. Discussions with a partner prove fruitful. You open a new path of communications. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You have a tendency to go to extremes, and today is no exception. Others are disposed to your ideas and support you. Plunge in, take a risk and accomplish whatever you need to. Pull back, and find solutions through detachment. Tonight: Plan a weekend retreat.

BORN TODAY

Actress Sheila MacRae (1923), sportscaster Jim McKay (1921), actor Anthony Newley (1931)

For Better or For Worse



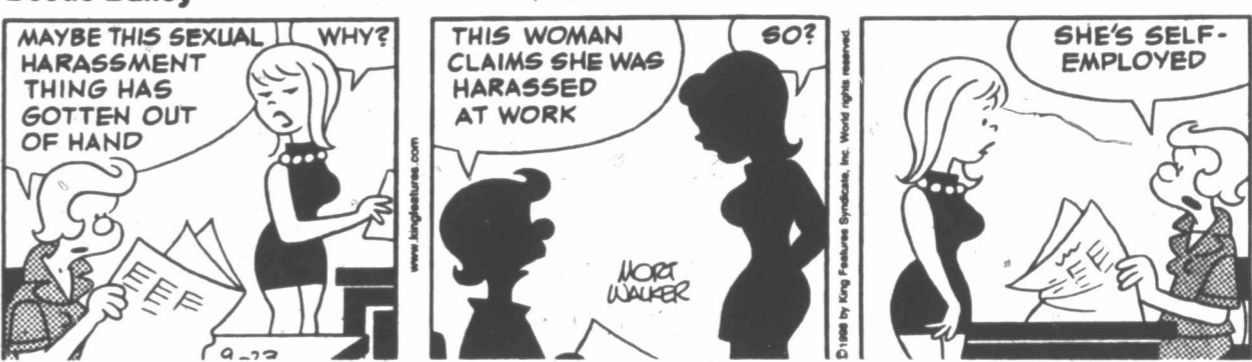
Zits



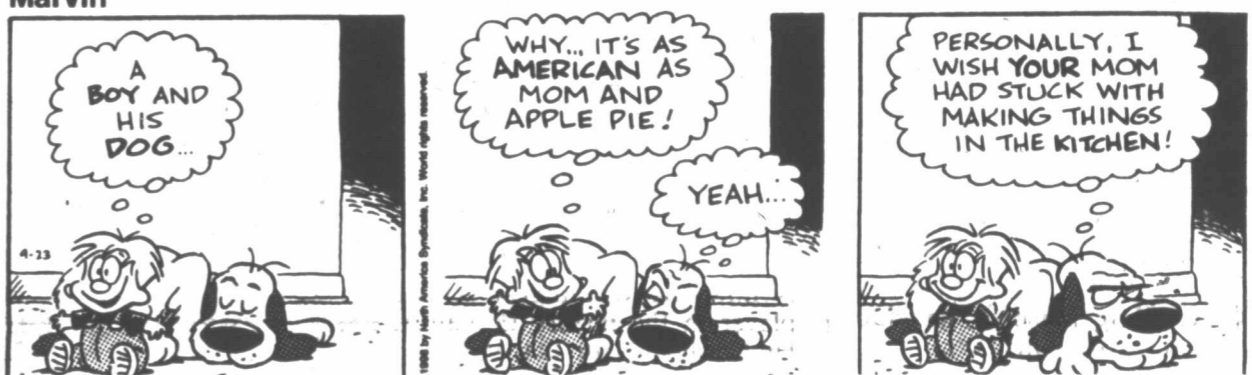
Garfield



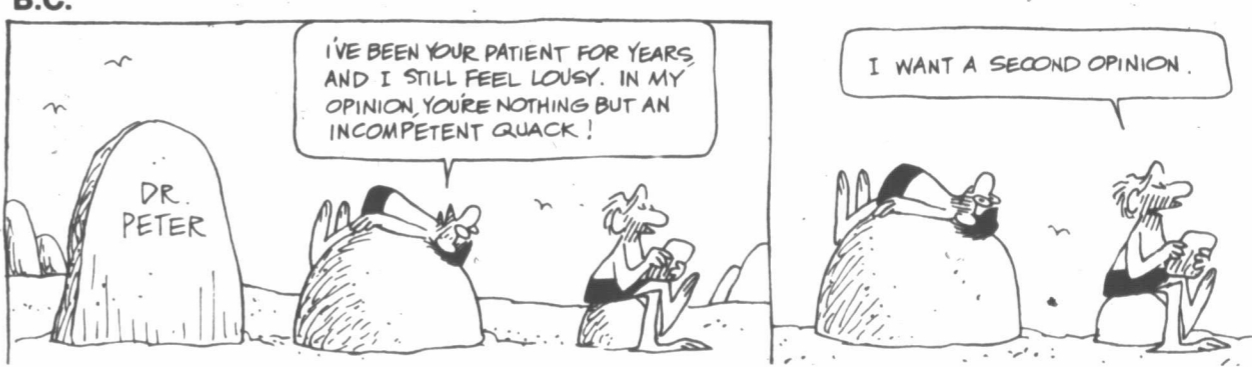
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



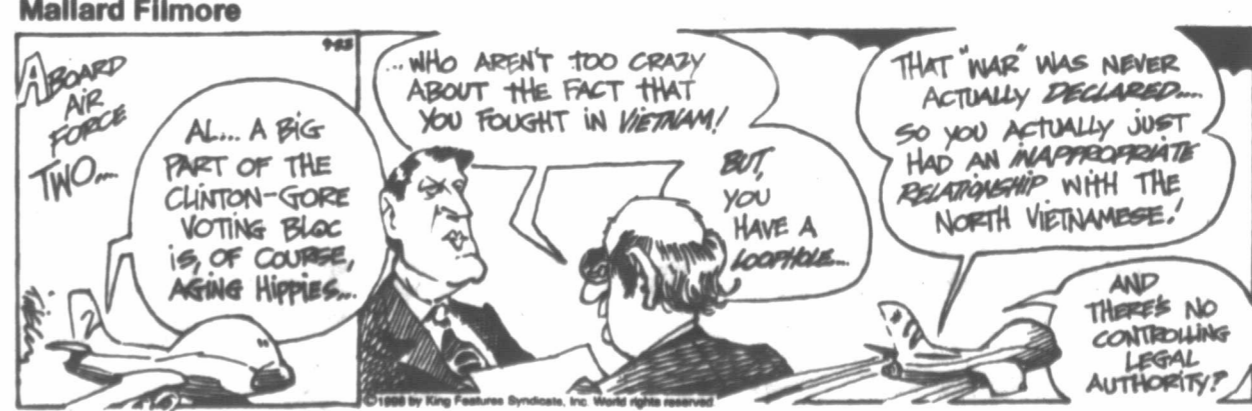
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Lowly worker
 - Playwright Connolly
 - Regions
 - Lover
 - Sample
 - Helps in crime
 - Exploit
 - Mimic
 - Jewelry buy
 - Word
 - Brief job
 - Slippery one
 - Lucy's pal
 - Cherry center
 - Moves carefully
 - Newsman Koppel
 - Mensa offerings
 - Short plays
 - Burst
 - "The final frontier"
 - Wide open
 - Actress Phoebe
 - Bar mixer
 - Heady brews
 - Army vehicle

- DOWN**
- Showed sudden interest
 - Clears
 - Take offense at
 - Portly
 - "— Dick"
 - Don of "Cocoon"
 - Wholesale's counter-part
 - Expenses
 - Trng function
 - Enthralled
 - Stealthily
 - Losing scheme
 - Different
 - Bothers
 - Correspondent
 - Think
 - Sevilla's nation
 - Visit
 - Puccini opera
 - Cold desserts
 - Dot
 - Top cards
 - Attained

V	E	N	D	O	R	S	P	A	R
E	L	A	I	N	E	T	U	B	A
T	I	M	E	I	S	M	O	N	E
T	O	T	A	L					
T	E	E	N		C	E	L	L	
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A	D	O		L	A	W	R	I	O
R	A	P	I	E	R		P	A	G
L	E	N	O		T	A	X	I	
				S	N	A	I	L	
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E	R	I	C		P	E	O	R	I
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Yesterday's Answer

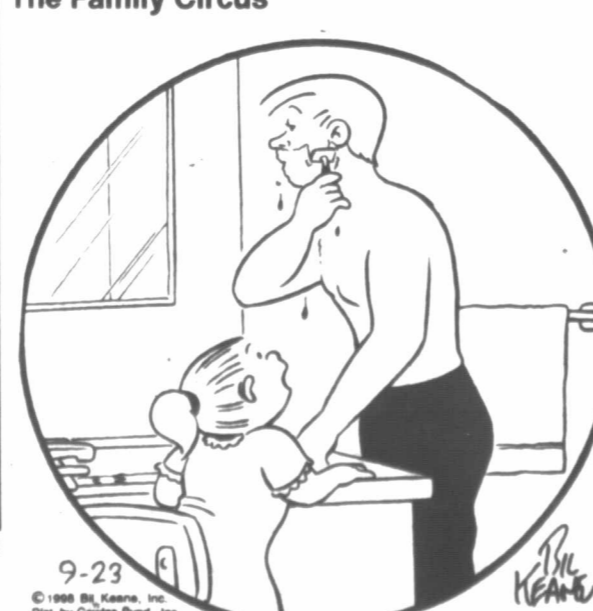
- 18 Losing
- 28 Visit
- 29 Puccini
- 30 Cold
- 31 Desserts
- 32 Dot
- 33 Top
- 34 Cards
- 37 Attained

Marmaduke



"Whenever he finds someone wearing pants with cuffs, he has to check for crumbs."

The Family Circus



"Why do you use a razor to scrape that white soap off your face?"

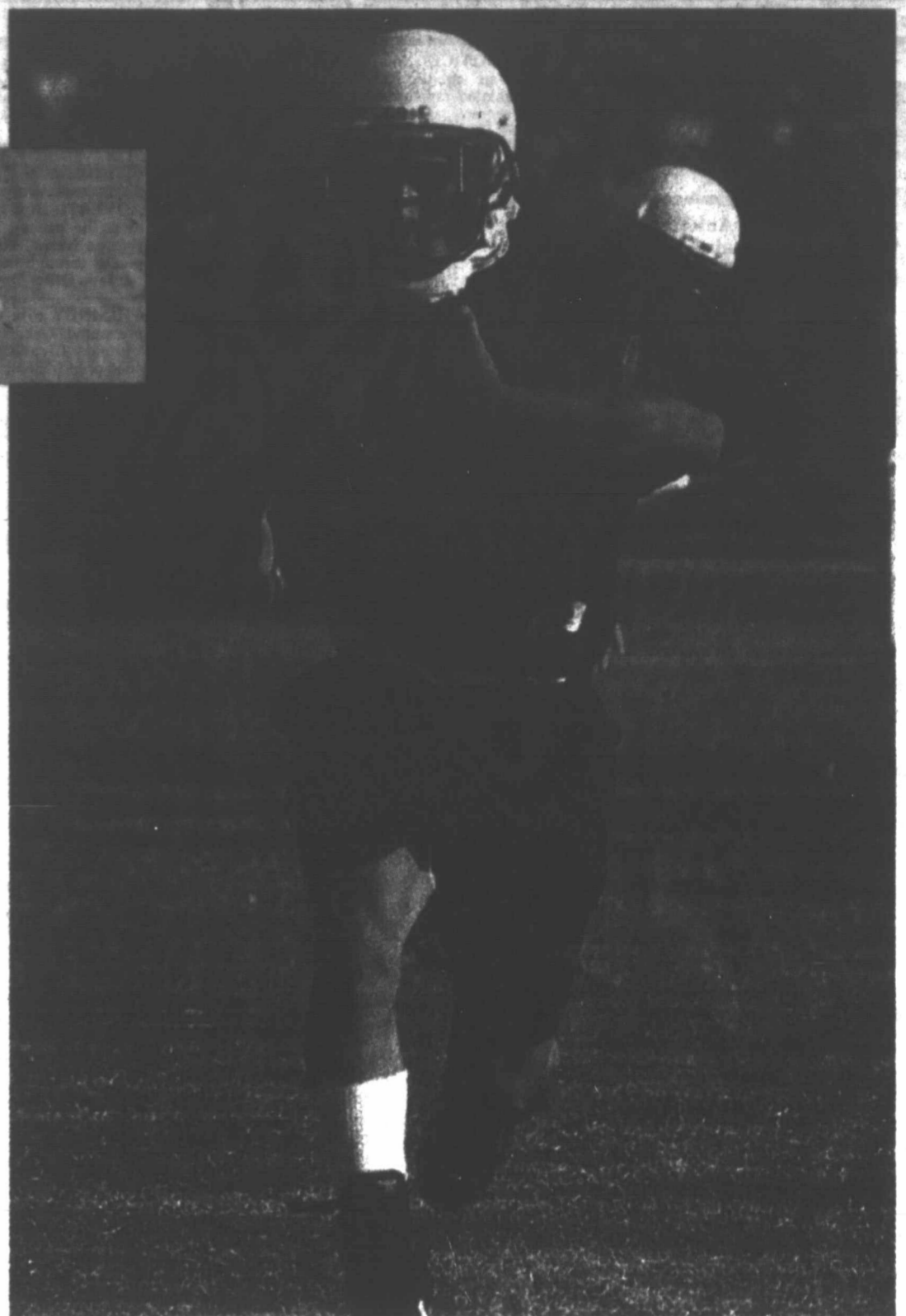
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