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Pampa

Vol. 92 No. 24 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday \$1

Pampa receives 2.8 inches moisture

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

While the dawn was clear early today, there's a chance for more rain late this afternoon.

Pampa received 2.81 inches of moisture from Thursday through Saturday as cold weather and heavy clouds moved through the area.

Shamrock reported 2.5 inches of rain from last week's and weekend storms. Amarillo reported 5.48 of an inch of rain from Thursday through early Sunday morning. Canyon reported 4.86 of an inch of rain. Southern Randall County report over 6.5 inches. Dalhart recorded a little over 3.5 inches. West of Dumas, there was a report of 4.25 inches. Childress reported 2.25 inches.

There was little in the way of severe weather late last week and over the weekend in Pampa, although the

storms moving through spawned reports of tornadoes and hail across the southern panhandle.

Pampa weatherman Darrell Sehorn said thunderstorms could return to Gray County this afternoon and this evening.

There is a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms this afternoon, increasing to 40 percent tonight. With the high today expected to reach 80 degrees, some of the thunderstorms could be severe.

Tuesday should be mostly sunny with a high of 77 degrees.

The normal high for this time of year is 76 degrees. The record high for today is 96 degrees in 1996. The normal low is 48 degrees. The record low on this date is 26 degrees set in 1907.

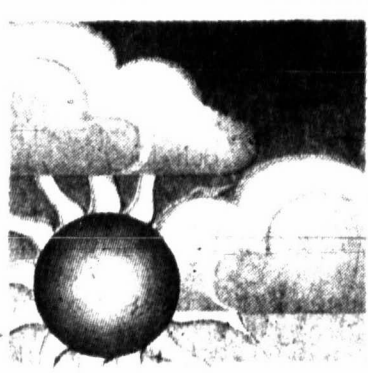
The sky was clear shortly before dawn today in Pampa with an unofficial temperature of 49 degrees at 6 a.m. today. Amarillo reported 46 degrees at 6 a.m.

today. Childress reported 59 degrees at 6 a.m. Dalhart reported 45 degrees.

The National Weather Service in Amarillo recorded 0.01 of moisture early Sunday morning as rain storms that caused flooding in some areas of the panhandle moved on east into Oklahoma.

For May, the Weather Service said they had already received 1.5 inches of rain. That's 1.4 inches above normal, they said. They report a total of 11.82 inches since the first of the year, about 60 percent of normal for the entire year. April was the second wettest April on record, according to the Amarillo office of the National Weather Service. They recorded 6.3 inches of rain in April.

The Weather Service said the average temperature for April was about 54 degrees, a couple of degrees below normal for April. Temperatures ranged from 88 degrees to 30 degrees.



High today 80.
For weather details see page 2.

PAMPA — Pampa Red Cross is holding "CPR for Professionals" on Tuesday, May 4. The cost of the course is \$35 and the course is designed for those who have had training, but never got their certificate or have had the certificate expire. Reservations should be made by calling the Red Cross at 669-7121 as soon as possible.

PAMPA — the PHS Fiesta Dancers will be presenting a special shortened luncheon presentation of their Cinco de Mayo dance on Wednesday, May 5 at 11:45 a.m. at the high school Under the direction of Roger Reyna. Authentic Mexican food will be on sale. Later that night, the full dance will be performed at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and children.

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 9-10-18-23-44-47.

Wednesday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$18 million.

- Leona M. Anderson, 84, mother of a Pampa resident.
- Irma J. Blackwell, 69, Groom homemaker and artist.
- Claudia Everly, 96, former White Deer, Pampa teacher.
- Henry Wilbur Kinnard, 54, Superintendent of International Drilling at Helmerich and Payne Drilling Company.
- Nita Newbury, 73, sister of Pampa residents.
- Juanita Ruth McBroom, 79, Skellytown resident since

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Housing conference deemed success

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

"There are agencies and resources available for local governments to make use of if they desire to do so."

That was the opinion of Housing Conference Chairman Charles Henry after a group of experts from federal, state and regional housing agencies spoke Thursday at an all-day conference.

Officials from Pampa, Gray County, Pampa-1SD and elsewhere gathered to find out what funds were available to help develop low and medium income housing in Pampa and Gray County.

A lack of acceptable housing in that price range has been cited as a problem in attracting medium to large companies to the Pampa area.

While there are a number of programs that can help build new housing and/or

recondition older houses, the funds in some of those programs are limited and unavailable to many, Henry said, but there is a lot of good news, also.

"There are still enough programs out there that people can apply for, it's the way the various commissions want to go," he said.

Henry said the next step is to go to the city and county commissions and see what programs they want to pursue, if

any. He deemed the conference a big success.

"This was a conference that was needed. It was enlightening and encouraging and certainly gave us something to think about planning the future of Pampa, when it comes to housing," he said.

"I want to thank the Planning and Zoning Board, the PEDC, the presenters as well as the attendees," he added.

Storm Spotters

Local Emergency Management office holds advanced storm spotters class on latest tornado information

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

If storms hit the Pampa area this season area storm spotters will be ready.

Pampa's Emergency Management Office held an advanced storm spotters class recently to make sure local storm spotters have all the latest information and theories on spotting tornado activity.

Only Pampa city employees with take-home vehicles are used as storm spotters due to liability issues, according to Emergency

Management Coordinator Ken Hall.

He said the city could pay for any hail or other damage that might occur. Using city employees also allows control over training.

There are 12 members of the emergency response team with approximately six storm spotters at a time.

Some of the training involved going over the basics of spotting severe weather including the different types of tornadoes and standardizing terminology in reporting activity. New strategies and knowledge about storms was also shared.



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Storm spotters from the city and area were present for a recent class to discuss both the basics and new concepts of watching and reporting storms.

County votes to demolish empty building

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

The Gray County Commissioners Court did their part to put some delinquent tax property back on the tax rolls and approved tearing down an abandoned building on another piece of property.

Permission of the county, city and PISD are required to sell any property that has been seized for back taxes for less than the taxes owed, sometimes the accumulated taxes and penalties are more than the appraised value of the property.

The Court approved the sale of 916 S. Faulkner for \$477, 1110 S. Wilcox for \$50, 1109 E. Foster for \$5,001, and 430 N. Summer for \$2,000.

The commission also approved the demolition of structures at 928 E. Scott as requested by the city.

In other matters, the Court approved the sale of some surplus property and approved buying a mower for Precinct 3.

The county also approved continuing to use Bank of America, formerly NationsBank, as the county's bank.

The County Commission meets the first and fifteenth of every month on the second floor of the county courthouse.

Next generation of Internet 45,000 times faster

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

As Pampa computer users explore the world using the internet, computer and software industry leaders are developing the next step in into cyberspace.

"We're going to develop a higher speed internet backbone system," said Jim Sealy of Centramedia in Pampa. "This is all based on the upcoming tech-

nologies for access from homes.

Microsoft Corp. last week joined IBM Corp., Cisco Systems Inc. and 3Com Corp. in a project, called Internet 2, is aimed at creating an ultra-fast, experimental computer network with speeds 45,000 times faster than the best telephone modems people now use to surf the Web.

The fast network will be used solely by academics and other professional researchers, but its

benefits are expected to trickle down to consumers.

But it's not just in Seattle or at MIT or in Silicon Valley that steps are being taken to move into the 21st Century of cyberspace. Pampa's two home-owned internet service providers are also moving into the future.

Traditionally, the internet runs relatively smoothly in it's connections around the world. The

majority of problems are when the major communications trunk lines break out to homes and businesses.

"What we're talking about here is the last mile," said Doug Locke of Pampa Cyber Net. "The distribution to the end user in the industry is called the last mile. Currently that's your phone line."

The future is three pronged, Locke said.

"One possibility is what you have in Amarillo now," Locke said. "The cable modem. When the cable company has fiber optics as their method of deployment, you can have two-way internet over that system."

Locke said that will probably be the most popular medium for the next several years, especially where cable companies have fiber optics.

See INTERNET, page 2

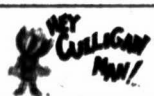
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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

McBROOM, Juanita Ruth - Graveside services, 10 a.m., Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Obituaries

LEONA M. ANDERSON
ERICK, Okla. - Leona M. Anderson, 84, mother of a Pampa resident, died Friday, April 30, 1999, at Sayre Memorial Hospital at Sayre, Okla. Services were to be at 10 a.m. today in Erick First Baptist Church with Jeff Avery, pastor, officiating assisted by the Rev. Lynn Brock. Burial will be in Texola Cemetery at Texola under the direction of Fathere-Albert Funeral Home of Erick.

Mrs. Anderson was born Feb. 23, 1915, near Erick, to Alta and Jay R. Self. She attended school at Hibler and Erick. She married Marvin Anderson on Aug. 9, 1932, at Texola. The couple lived at Texola until moving to Erick in 1964.

She belonged to Erick First Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Marvin; a grandchild, Desiree Cable; and a brother, Millard Self.

Survivors include seven daughters, LeAlta Smith of Pampa, Gloria Joy Dalton of Hope, R.I., Sallie West Chambers of Cypress, TC, Pat Wollitz of Apple Springs, Elizabeth Schnitzer of Houston, Orbruni Linda Anderson of Erick and Kathy Mayernick of Weatherford, Okla.; a son, Marvin Anderson; 10 stepgrandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 20 stepgreat-grandchildren; a great-great-granddaughter; and five great-great-grandchildren.

IRMA J. BLACKWELL
GROOM - Irma J. Blackwell, 69, died Friday, April 30, 1999. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in Groom United Methodist Church with the Rev. Tom Moore and the Rev. Jerry Moore officiating. Burial will be in Groom Cemetery under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Blackwell was born at Ely. She graduated from high school at Memphis. She married O. Page Blackwell in 1984 at Groom. She was a homemaker and an artist.

She belonged to Groom United Methodist Church.

She was preceded in death by a son, Rickey Don Lowe, in 1992.

Survivors include her husband, O. Page; four daughters, Syreta Sharp of Panhandle, Okla., Brenda Hughes of Woodward, Okla., Laura Jean Kastelle of Meridian, Idaho, and Marcia Conrad of Groom; a son, Dan Blackwell of Canon City, Colo.; two sisters, Irene Smith of Clinton, Okla., and Devine Isacs of Wenatchee, Wash.; four brothers, Dee Henry of Panhandle, J.A. Henry of Spearman and Ed Henry and Lenzy Henry, both of Wenatchee; 19 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

CLAUDA EVERLY
AMARILLO - Claudia Everly, 96, died Saturday, May 1, 1999. Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Carmichael-Whitely Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. John Glover, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery at Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whitely Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Ms. Everly was born Feb. 7, 1903, at Sanger, Texas. She held a bachelor of arts degree from Texas Women's University in Denton and a master of arts degree from the University of California at Berkeley. She taught English and journalism at White Deer High School for 33 years and Latin at Pampa High School for six years, retiring in 1968. She resided at Pampa from 1962 until moving to Amarillo in 1988.

She belonged to First Baptist Church of Pampa, Delta Kappa Gamma and Retired Teachers Association.

Survivors include cousins, Maxine Nunn, Sheri Lee Andrews and Vada Lee Olsen, all of Amarillo, Linda Kay Rapstine of White Deer, Kermit Lawson of Pampa, Henry Worthington of Artesia, N.M., Darline Brown of Des Moines, N.M., Modene Verquer of Albuquerque, N.M., and Virginia Hale of Santa Rosa, Calif.

The family requests memorials be to the Lottie Moon Offering at First Baptist Church in Pampa.

HENRY WILBUR KINNARD
WHEELER - Henry Wilbur Kinnard, 54, died Friday, April 30, 1999, at Amarillo. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in First Baptist Church with the Rev. Toby Henson officiating. Burial will be in Wheeler Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Home of Wheeler.

Mr. Kinnard was born Dec. 9, 1944, at Rush Springs, Okla., to Dennis and Clyde Tedder Kinnard. He graduated from high school at Rush Springs. He married Phyllis Callan on Oct. 9, 1964, at Wheeler. He had been a Wheeler resident since 1976, moving from Anaco, Venezuela. He was superintendent of International Drilling at Helmerich and Payne Drilling Company for 30 years.

He belonged to First United Methodist Church of Rush Springs. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis, of Wheeler; a daughter, Tonya Tolley of Wheeler; two sons, Monty Kinnard of Canadian and Henry W. "Jay" Kinnard, Jr. of Tuttle, Okla.; a sister, Phyllis Johnson of Wylie; three brothers, Vance Kinnard and Gordon Kinnard, both of Rush Springs, and Jerry Kinnard of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; and five grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to American Cancer Society or to Baptist St. Anthony's Hospice in Amarillo.

NITA NEWBURY
AMARILLO - Nita Newbury, 73, sister of Pampa residents, died Friday, April 30, 1999. Services were to be at 2 p.m. today in Memory Gardens Mausoleum Chapel with the Rev. Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Schooler Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Newbury was born at Frederick, Okla.

She was raised at Hollis, Okla., and attended school at Arnett, Okla. She had been an Amarillo resident since 1952. She was self-employed in the crafts and upholstery industry.

Survivors include her husband, Robert "Bob" Newbury; a daughter, Glenda Ramsey of Amarillo; four sisters, Helen Robinson and Linda Pierce, both of Pampa, JoAnn Tarpley of Hollis and Enid Kaup of Denver, Colo.; five brothers, Bill Glover of Wilmer, Gary Pierce and Danny Pierce, both of Hollis, Tex. Pierce of Dallas and Autry Glover of El Paso; and two grandchildren. The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice and Life Enrichment Center, P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX; or to BSA Meals-on-Wheels.

JUANITA RUTH McBROOM
SKELLYTOWN - Juanita Ruth McBroom, 79,

died Sunday, May 2, 1999, at Amarillo. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Skellytown, officiating. Burial will be under the direction of Carmichael-Whitely Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. McBroom was born Jan. 30, 1920, at Memphis. She married Neal McBroom on Nov. 28, 1942, at McLean; he died Feb. 19, 1990. She had been a Skellytown resident since 1945. She worked at Heard and Jones Drug Store for 10 years and belonged to First Baptist Church of Skellytown.

Survivors include a brother and sister-in-law, Clevy and Leona Hancock of Midland; a brother-in-law and a sister-in-law, Lowell and Margaret McBroom of Lubbock; and numerous nieces and nephews. The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church of Skellytown.



Accidents

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and reports during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, May 1
Charges of no liability insurance, no valid drivers license and defective equipment were filed against Sarah M. Mitchell, 42, 740 Brunow, when her 1981 Ford pickup lost its brakes and struck the Bell Mart Store in the 1000 block of East Frederic. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, May 2
Charges of following too close were filed against Daniel Ray Jennings, 16, 2501 Duncan, when his 1988 Chevrolet Silverado hit the 1998 Lincoln Town Car driven by Lloyd Gooch, 73, 2145 Chestnut, after both stopped at Harvester and Hobart. Gooch then started a left turn and the Silverado struck the Lincoln. No injuries were reported.

Ambulance

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, May 1
8:54 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Harlem and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

4:01 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Terry and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

Sunday, May 2
2:14 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of East Kingsmill. No one was transported.

7:01 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Varmon and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

10:59 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:39 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported one to Baptist St. Anthony's in Amarillo.

11:29 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of North Davis. No one was transported.

Stocks

Symbol	Price	Change
Coca-Cola	68 3/16	up 1/8
Columbia/HCA	25 1/8	up 7/16
Enron	75 15/16	up 11/16
Halliburton	43 5/8	up 1
IBM	5 5/8	up 1/16
INTEC	21 1/2	up 1/2
Kerr McGee	43 1/8	up 3/4
Limited	44 7/16	up 11/16
McDonald's	42 1/2	up 1/8
Mobil	104 9/16	dn 3/16
New Atmos	25 9/32	up 1/32
NCE	35 1/2	up 1/2
Phillips	47 5/8	up 2
Pioneer Nat. Res.	51 13/16	dn 1 3/16
SLB	64 13/16	up 15/16
Tenneco	26 1/2	dn 1/2
Texaco	63 15/16	dn 1 3/16
Ultramar	22 7/8	up 3/16
Wal-Mart	45 1/4	dn 3/4
Williams	46 7/8	dn 3/8
New York Gold	286.55	
Silver	5.41	
West Texas Crude	18.66	

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	665-5777
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
SPS	1-800-750-2520
Water	669-5830

INTERNET

"The second medium is called DSL, Digital Subscriber Line," Locke said. "This is done over regular copper wire telephone lines. The big telephone companies are currently pushing that. Obviously, that's going to be in big cities to start with."

Locke predicts it will be several years before such services are available in Pampa.

This is where Locke and Sealy disagree. Sealy plans to use DSL, and he thinks it will be available in Pampa in less than a year.

The third alternative is wireless.

"That's what we're doing," Locke says. "We're in the process of doing that here in Pampa."

Locke said a wireless system will increase speed over the internet.

"It zips pretty good," Locke said. There are other approaches, such as a direct satellite link, but cable modems, DSL and wireless seem to be the three that are in the fore front.

"Right now, you have all these internet service providers connecting to the internet and you have only so much bandwidth," Sealy said.

As technology increases and the end user demands more speed, Centramedia is turning to DSL.

"DSL is the key to the whole thing," Sealy said. It allows home and business to have the ability and speed of a T1 line, Sealy said.

"You've got providers that are using a T1 to get to the internet," Sealy said. "You can't have a provider supplying DSL services when he has a 1,000 customers with T1s coming into one facility. The ISP is going to have to expand his facility."

If he expands, the lines internet is going to have to be able to carry more information at a faster rate. Essentially, the pipeline that carries the information over the internet will have to be bigger.

"All the pipes are going to have to be bigger, faster and more efficient with fiber optics," Sealy said.

In doing so, Microsoft wants to integrate applications that will work on Internet 2 because it will literally become a high speed integrated network world wide where you can run a program that's residing in New York. Sealy sees the internet becoming a global integrated network, just like a network in a local office.

As the next generation of the internet develops, people will have to update their hardware, said Sealy, who also sells computers and computer services.

"To go to DSL services, they have meet certain requirements," Sealy said.

The users computer has to have a network card, Sealy said.

"Right now about 40 percent of the computers that are out there will meet those specifications," Sealy said.

However, as business and consumers replace

dated equipment with new systems, this problem will work itself out, he indicated.

The phone service also has to make changes. "I've already talked to Southwestern Bell," Sealy said.

Sealy said he's already planning a year in advance.

"We've already talked to them about wanting to upgrading what we have OC3, optical cable," Sealy said. "It kind of puts Southwestern Bell on the run because they don't have, at this time, the ability to

support what I want. They were very concerned about when I was going to do this. They're wanting more and more, about what our plans are because it's going to affect what Southwestern Bell does."

Southwestern Bell, Sealy said, plans on having DSL capabilities in Pampa by the first or second quarter of the year 2000.

Sealy said he's also been talking with GTE in Perryton concerning his operations in the North Texas Panhandle.

"They can't even run digital services yet," Sealy said. "We're trying to work with them so we can get their services up to standard."

The Pampa businessman said there is a lot of coordination involved.

"It's a never ending process," Sealy said. While predictions are that the faster speeds and being able to take advantage of Internet 2 developments are two to four years away, things move quickly in cyberspace.

Internet 2 is an operation that started several years ago, Locke said.

"Right now, the internet that we've familiar with is connected between various places with speeds of 45 million bits per second," Locke said. "That's a T3. Typical internet service providers (ISP) are connected to the internet using a T1 which is 1.5 million bits per second. The T3 is typically used by larger internet providers in big cities and between cities."

They also use fiber optics in some of those things which can go up to 155 mega bits per second.

"This internet 2," Locke said, "I believe is scheduled to deploy at 155 mega bits and is scheduled to go up to 622 mega bits and beyond."

Locke said Internet 2, for right now offers nothing for the consumer.

"It will eventually get to the consumer, I would guess no earlier than two to four years," Locke said. "What it provides for is more bandwidth for doing more audio and video conferencing and that sort of stuff."

It will be extremely data intensive for calculations, Locke said.

"That's what they're looking at it for right now," Locke said. "When we get to the point where we deliver movies on demand over the internet then that will be important. Right now it's not much of concern for consumers, but it's interesting to talk about among techno geeks."

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Partly sunny and windy today with a high of 80 and a south wind between 20 and 30 mph. Tonight, mostly clear and breezy with a 40 percent chance of rain and a south wind between 15 and 25 mph.

By The Associated Press

Thunderstorms that pounded North Texas to wrap up the weekend brought more than an inch of rain in some locations.

Some showers lingered today along the Texas-Louisiana state line, while drizzle and fog still shrouded southern and eastern

regions. Light rain was falling between Del Rio and San Antonio.

Early-morning temperatures ranged from the 40s to the 60s. It was 46 degrees at Dalhart and Marfa, 66 at Sanderson, 69 at Junction, 59 at Paris, 64 at Conroe, 79 at McAllen and 68 in several sites.

Winds were mainly southeasterly to southerly at 8 to 15 mph. There were a few westerly winds along the Texas-New Mexico state line due to a weak surface trough of low pressure from southeast Colorado into the western Big Bend.

In South Texas, scattered thunderstorms should continue along with mostly cloudy skies.

Daytime highs through Tuesday were expected generally from the mid-70s to the 80s, with a few 90s in the deep south and 100s along the Rio Grande.

Scattered thunderstorms were possible across the extreme eastern half of West Texas, with some storms possibly severe. Thunderstorms may also develop across central and eastern sections of the region through early Tuesday.

Overnight lows should be in the 40s to 50s, with 60s in the Concho and Big Bend valleys.

Sheriff's Office

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Friday, April 30
Johnaton Paul Munn, 17, 961 Cinderella, was arrested on charges of failure to appear/school warrant.

Saturday, May 1
Dana K. Crutcher, 17, 404 S. Gray, was arrested by the Lefors Marshall on charges of evading arrest and being a minor in possession.

Roy Don Devoll, 18, 801 W. Crawford, was arrested by the Lefors Marshall on charges of being a minor in possession.

Christopher, Yarbrough, 23, Amarillo, was arrested by the DPS on charges of possession of marijuana.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests and reports during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, May 1
Wayne Ray Stanton, 27, 1004 S. Wells, was arrested on charges of bond surrender, assault and violation of a protective order. Criminal mischief was reported in the 2100 block of W. Montague.

Burglary of a vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of North Hobart. Theft of \$1500 was reported in the 1600 block of W. Somerville. Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1600 block of West Lincoln.

Sunday, May 2
Phillip Odum, 21, 1111 E. Harvester, was arrested on charges of failure to appear and speeding.

Salvador Rodriguez, 21, 405 Davis, was arrested on charges of evading arrest. Criminal mischief was reported in the 2900 block of North Aspen.

Theft of \$250 in property was reported in the 200 block of West Albert.

Monday, May 3
Aggravated assault was reported in the 700 block of West.

You could have advertised here. Call 669-2525 for details.

City Briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

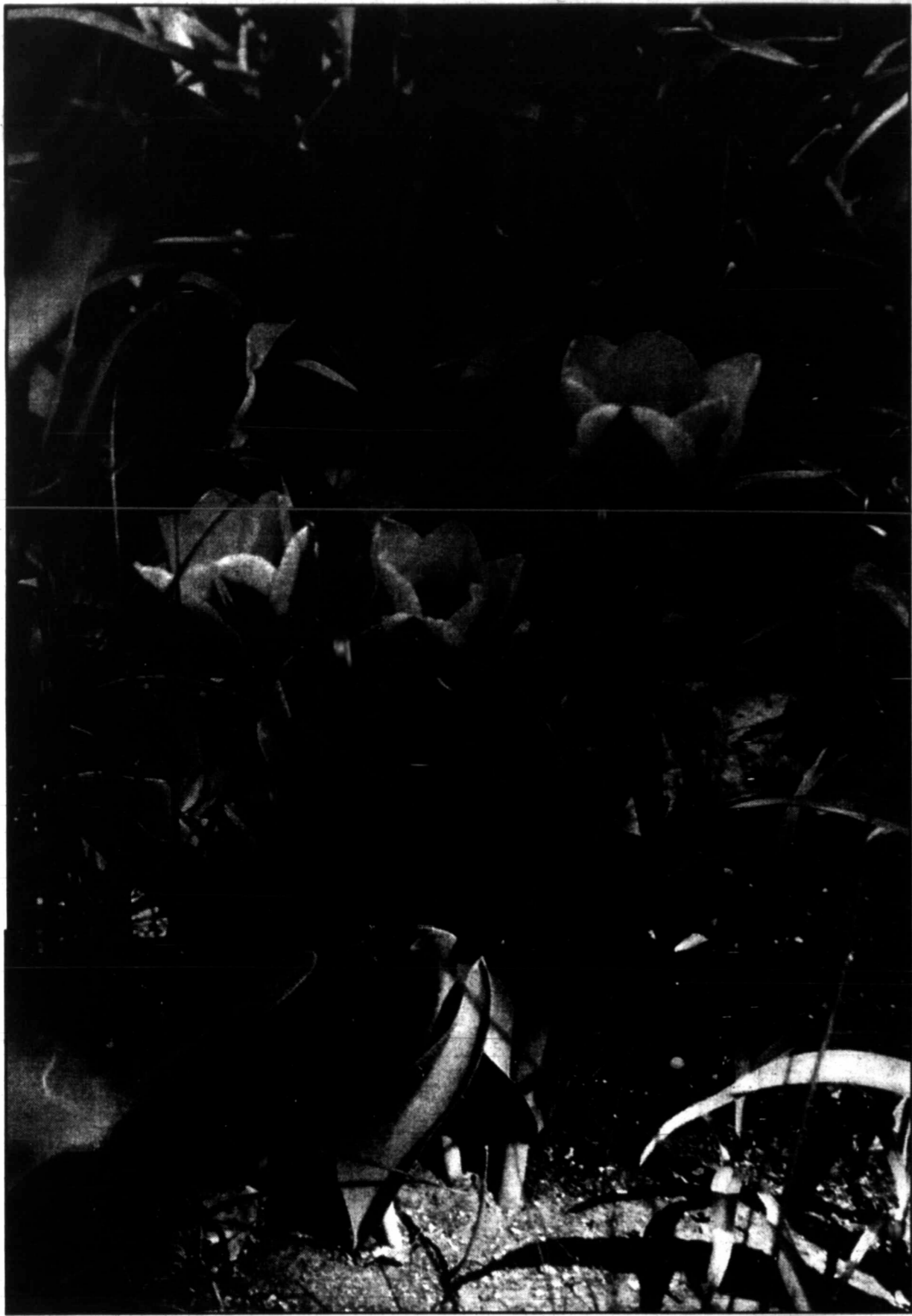
MASSAGE THERAPY, May Special full body massages \$35, gift cert. avail. 665-6067

ROLANDA'S REMEMBER your Mom with a gift from Rolanda's Silk Flowers and Gifts, 301 W. Foster.

TREAT MOM to a wonderful Mother's Day gift from Eyecare Plus! We have a huge selection of frames in a variety of styles and prices. Frame and lens packages start at \$99, all backed with our exclusive two-year warranty. Perhaps Mom would prefer contact lenses, let us pamper her with our guaranteed contact lens program for clear or colored single vision lenses, or Acuvue bifocal contact lenses. Last but not least, consider getting Mom a great pair of sunglasses. All at Eyecare Plus, 1916 N. Hobart, 669-2874.

YARD WORK, bush trimming, Wade Gardner, 665-2386

More Images ...



Brent Williamson submitted this photo in the Countryside category of the recent Images Photo Contest.

Austin Elementary honor roll

Austin Elementary recently announced its honor roll for the fifth six weeks grading period of the 1998-99 school year.

SECOND GRADE
A Honor Roll

Paeg Alvey, Jeffrey Arnold, Amber Bradford, Tucker Brown, Dalton Burrows, Dylan Cain, Gage Carruth, Kenzie Carter, Olivia Chairez, Kendra Clarkson, John Luke Covalt, Keisha Crowell, Eduardo Diaz, Kamie Doughty, Kelby Doughty, Libby Dyson, Krista Ferguson, Cole Guyer, Jennifer Huffines, Tanner Jean, Brittany Klein, Stormi Lancaster, Taylor Little, Shelby Needham, April Silva, Kelly Smith, Lauren Smith, Liz Smith, Matthew Smith, Corey Stone, Chandler Talley, Casey Trimble, Chelsea Wallin, Whitney Webster, Coleby West, Madison Wilson, Jeremy Zellefrow.

A-B Honor Roll

Sky Balay, Jeremy Busse, Victoria Campbell, Shannon Clay, Shelby Clay, Keziah Clendennen, Tabitha Courter,

Colby Dennis, Tyree Johnson, Monica Kohler, Anaid Pedroza, Brett Powell, Chelsey Smith, Katelin Wall, Jack Ware, Kaylee Wariner, Manda White, Jacob Wichert.

THIRD GRADE
A Honor Roll

Claire Elizabeth Boyd, Colby Copeland, Tanner Dyson, Colden Fortenberry, Stephanie Hasskari, Nichole Heersema, Michell Hudson, Kailee Intemann, Mitch Kelley, Haili Kotara, Cameron Martin, Logan McDonald, Nicole Newhouse, Stephanie Polasek, Tyler Rhodes, Lindsey Riley, Krista Shults, Sarah Smith, Mark Stone, Briana Wallum, Joe Whiteley, Drew Williams, Kelli Willson.

A-B Honor Roll

Jesse Finney, Dame Howard, Chelsie Kyle, Jacey Wagner.

FOURTH GRADE
A Honor Roll

Daniel Arnold, Michaela Arzola, Natasha Bailey, Breanna Bigam, Jaron Clark, Nichole Clark, Bridget Craig, Craig Crowell, Candice Dildy, Robbie Dixon, Brady Eakin, McKinsie East, Brett Ferrell, Jareth Fortenberry, Thomas Gilbert, Ryan Hansen, Daniel Heare, Katie Holmes, Kebbie

Hutto, Alyssa Kelsey, Morgan Ketchersid, Natalie Knowles, Karlee Koop, Jonathan Maciel, Kyle McKee, Landon McNeely, Ethan North.

Aaron Pepper, Sammie Pereira, Ashley Proctor, Britteni Rice, Desirae Rochelle, Michaela Scroggins, Devan Shults, Erika Silva, Christopher Stabel, Tanna Stowers, Kasey Tindol, Jenee Watson.

A-B Honor Roll

Michelle Adams, Chelsea Adkins, Bryan Bogges, Kirby Broaddus, Courtney Ericson, Dock Mackie, Jack Mackie, Bryant Noble, Erin Teague.

FIFTH GRADE
A Honor Roll

Cooper Brazile, D.J. Elliott, Dak Fallon, Taylor Fatheree, Chase Suyer, Bryan Heersema, Tyson Hickman, Clay Jones, Nickolas Julian, Sunil Kamnani, Eric Kingcade, Tyler Klein, Aly Mackie, Junior Navarrete, Lindzi Schiabile, Brody Smith, Christopher Smith, Blake Talley, Weston Teichmann, Whitney Wichert.

A-B Honor Roll

Adurey Dunn, Sarah Everson, Allison Hall, Logan Langford, Britany Nelson, Chase Phillips, Lindsey Rhoades, Myca Viinson.

State legislator not happy with ag education

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

A panhandle state legislator expressed concern last week about agricultural education in Texas public schools.

David Swinford, R-Dumas, who has a degree in Agricultural Education, said that Texas used to have 10 FFA areas, each with its own director.

"We have one person statewide now," said Swinford, chairman of the Texas House Agriculture Committee.

"We used to have what was called an area supervisor for each area," said Randy Dunn, ag teacher at Pampa High School. "They were the ones in charge of coordinating all our FFA activities for each area. There are no more area supervisors. Now there is just the state staff which consists of four people in Austin."

Three of those are clerical staff.

"The person that coordinates all our area activities is an ag teacher that is elected by the other ag teachers in the area," Dunn said, sitting in his office in Pampa High School's vocational building. "We have a chairman, vice chairman and secretary."

Pampa is in Area One which covers the counties of the Texas Panhandle down to Lubbock County.

Agriculture classes in the state's public schools have changed since the 1960s when Dunn first started school and Swinford first taught. "It's changed drastically since the 1980s," Dunn said.

Dunn said when he was still a student, before he graduated from high school in 1976, he took Ag One, Two, Three and Four, classes that equated with each year of high school.

"About the mid-1980s we switched to semester courses," he said. "We went from where we were required to have some type of production agricultural project, it became optional."

Swinford said the emphasis has been taken away from learning and encouraging students to expand their horizons.

"There's a lot of places now where the FFA Chapter is a dumping ground for kids that are not qualified to go to college," Swinford said.

He said that because of the new tracking system in Texas schools, bright students are precluded from FFA.

(See, AG, Page 8)

Tumbling, trampoline meet



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Amanda Brown, 15, recently participated in the Southwest Tumbling and Trampoline Meet in Midland. She took fourth in Double Mini Trampoline; second in Trampoline; second in Power Tumbling; and qualified for Nationals. Brown is a member of the All-American Tumbling and Trampoline Team.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literacy Council office will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

PAMPA CHESS CLUB
The Pampa Chess Club meets every Tuesday night at Yummie's Pizza in the Pampa Mall at 7:30 p.m. We offer casual yet competitive games, free instruction, and a quarterly newsletter. For more information contact James A. Shook at 669-0227.

CLEAN AIR AL-ANON
Clean Air Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon at 810 W. 23rd. For more information, call 669-3988.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER FOR WOMEN
Tralee Crisis Center for Women is offering an in-house support group for victims of family violence. Meetings will be Tuesday's from 11 a.m.-12 noon and on Thursday's from 7-8 p.m. For more information call (806) 669-1131. All calls are kept confidential.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR
The Lovett Memorial Library is presenting a Pre-School Story Hour every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This story hour is for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. If you have any questions, call Shanla Brookshire at 669-5780. This schedule will be subject to change pending the move of the library back to 111 N. Houston.

GRAY CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
The Gray Co. Genealogical Society will meet on Monday, May 24 at the St. Matthew's Episcopal Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m. For more information call Dale Roth at 665-0280.

MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION
Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Texas Plains will celebrate its 15th anniversary from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 15 at Amarillo Botanical Garden Center in Amarillo. All who are or who have ever been supporters of the organization are invited to attend the celebration. Refreshments will be served. Clowns and other entertainment is planned. Stars and wish pictures will also be on display. For more information, call (806) 358-9943 or 1-800-242-7167.

USS LONG BEACH REUNION
USS Long Beach Reunion Association will hold its 1999 reunion Sept. 15-19 at Pensacola, Fla. Participants will be staying at the Holiday Inn Bay Beach, 51 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-9990. For reservations, call (850) 932-2214. For more information, contact Don Shade at P.O. Box 69, Clymer, NY 14724-0069, (716) 569-2314, or e-mail LBCGN9@aol.com.

TxDOT: Grants available for qualifying agencies

AMARILLO — Panhandle area non-profit agencies may now apply for federal funds to help provide public transportation to the elderly and people with disabilities. The Texas Department of Transportation's Amarillo District is calling on private, non-profit agencies to apply for its Federal Transit

Administration Section 5310 grant program. The goal of the program is to provide assistance in meeting the transportation needs of elderly and/or people with disabilities where public transportation services are unavailable, insufficient and inappropriate.

The Section 5310 grant program provides 80 percent of the funds for a selected agency's purchase of a vehicle to transport the elderly and/or people with disabilities. The agency must provide the remaining 20 percent of the funds.

Applications are reviewed by a local panel. The funds will be granted to agencies that serve both rural (under 50,000) and urban (above 50,000) populations. Applications will be accepted through May 14, 1999.

Applications and instructions for the Section 5310 grant program are available through TxDOT's Amarillo District office. Contact Bill Harvey, Amarillo District's Urban Transportation Planner at (806) 356-3200 for more information.

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EMAIL: kbd@pan-tex.net • pamnews1@pan-tex.net

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MEDICAL

National High Blood Pressure Month

May is National High Blood Pressure Education Month and this year's theme highlights the threat of uncontrolled hypertension. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute urges Americans: "If Your Blood Pressure Is Not Lower Than 140/90, Ask Your Doctor Why."

The NHLBI is part of the National Institutes of Health. NHLBI sponsors the hypertension month effort with the National High Blood Pressure Education Program which it coordinates.

High blood pressure affects about 50 million — or one in four — American adults. Of those with hypertension, about 68 percent are aware of their condition — but only 27 percent have it under control. The reasons for this include not taking drugs as prescribed and/or not taking a medication that sufficiently lowers blood pressure.

Hypertension can lead to stroke, heart failure or kidney damage. To help prevent that, blood pres-

sure must be lowered to less than 140/90 mm Hg (millimeters of mercury.) Normal blood pressure is

The lifestyle changes to control high blood pressure are lose weight, if overweight, become physically active, choose foods lower in salt and sodium and limit alcohol intake.

less than 130/less than 85 mm Hg.

"We advise Americans to talk about their blood pressure with their doctor," said NHLBI Director Dr. Claude Lenfant. "They should have their blood pressure checked and, if it's high, ask about adjusting their medication and whether they've made the necessary lifestyle changes to bring it to below 140/90."

The lifestyle changes to control high blood pres-

sure are lose weight, if overweight, become physically active, choose foods lower in salt and sodium

and limit alcohol intake.

To help spread the word about the dangers of uncontrolled hypertension — and what can be done about it — the NHLBI and the NHBPEP have set up a special website which can be accessed through the NHLBI home page at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov>.

The NHLBI and NHBPEP are also offering a variety of materials to help Americans learn more about hypertension including:

—"Facts About the DASH Diet." DASH is an eating plan rich in fruits, vegetables and low-fat dairy foods and lower in saturated fat, total fat and cholesterol. It has been shown to reduce high blood pressure. The fact sheet gives an overview of the plan and a week of DASH menus.

—Heart healthy recipes from the NHLBI Stay Young At Heart Program as well as special Latino and African-American recipe books.

—"Controlling High Blood Pressure: A Woman's Guide" which tells how to lower high blood pressure. (A guide in Spanish is also available.)

—"Facts About How to Prevent High Blood Pressure" fact sheet which gives an overview of hypertension.

—Special booklets series for African-Americans and Latinos on how to prevent and control cardiovascular risk factors. The Latino series is in Spanish and English.

—I.Q. Quizzes about the healthy heart and physical activity.

These materials can be ordered from NHLBI Information Center, P.O. Box 30105, Bethesda, MD 20824-0105. Single copies of most of the materials are free; others have a small charge. All are available free at the special hypertension control website.

Also, check out NHLBI's new "Achieve Your Healthy Weight" website. It can be accessed through the NHLBI home page or the high blood pressure education month site. The site offers practical information on weight loss including heart healthy recipes and tips on how to make behavior changes, choose a weight loss program and shop for low calorie foods.

Finally, for recorded messages about high blood pressure prevention and control, call toll-free 1-800-575-WELL.

"May is an opportunity to make a new start on a healthier heart," said Dr. Edward Rocella, NHBPEP coordinator. "The same lifestyle steps that control high blood pressure also may prevent it. So everyone in the family can take action together."

Less blood means longer life for some critically ill patients

By JANET McCONAUGHEY
Associated Press Writer

Cutting back on blood transfusions for the critically ill can actually improve some patients' chances of survival.

A new study by Canadian researchers questions the common practice of giving critically ill patients red blood cells when they become mildly anemic. It suggests that waiting until anemia is severe can save both money and lives.

The study was directed by Dr. Paul C. Hebert of the University of Ottawa and published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Paradoxically, it found that when it comes to blood transfusions, less can be more: Younger and less critically ill patients were more likely to die if they got more transfusions.

Nobody is sure why this was so. However, other studies have suggested that red-cell transfusions may suppress the immune system and cause circulatory problems in the capillaries.

"This is a landmark study. This is big-time," said Dr. Stephen Cohn, chief of trauma and surgical critical care at Jackson Memorial Hospital-University of Miami School of Medicine. He said it will have a far-reaching effect on the treatment of the critically ill.

Cohn and Dr. Robert Taylor, president of the Society for Critical Care Medicine, said they plan to use Hebert's guidelines in their hospitals.

Taylor emphasized the findings don't apply to patients who are bleeding or suffering from heart attacks, cardiovascular disease or emphysema.

Nobody knows just how many patients the

nation's ICUs treat a year, or how many transfusions they get.

But Cohn said one 20-bed intensive care unit at Jackson Memorial gave patients about 125 units of red cells a month in 1997. Hebert's findings would let the ICU eliminate at least one-third of those, Cohn said. At a conservative \$200 per transfusion, that could mean \$100,000 a year in savings in that ICU alone.

Red-cell transfusions are routine to fight anemia. However, doctors disagree on when they are needed.

The study involved 838 critically ill and anemic patients at hospitals across Canada. One group got transfusions when they were slightly anemic, as measured by their hemoglobin levels. The other got transfusions only when they were severely anemic.

The 420 patients in the liberal transfusion group got an average of 5.6 units of blood each. The 418 in the restrictive group averaged 2.6 units; one-third of them did not get any transfusions at all.

Seventy-eight patients in the restrictive group died within 30 days, compared with 98 in the group that got more transfusions. That difference wasn't considered significant.

But there was a big difference in the percentage of younger and less sick patients who died.

Among the patients under 55, 5.7 percent of those in the restrictive group died within 30 days, compared with 13 percent of those in the liberal transfusion group. Among those who were less critically ill, the figures were 8.7 percent and 16.1 percent.

Simple changes can prevent heartburn

HOUSTON — Some relatively simple lifestyle and diet changes can prevent heartburn before it even starts.

"Heartburn refers to a sensation of warmth behind the breast bone and is caused by stomach contents that backflow, or reflux," said Dr. Gulchin Ergun, medical director of the Reflux Center at Baylor College of Medicine and the Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Heartburn can also be accompanied by a sour taste, burning and pressure that can last for hours. These symptoms often become worse after eating.

More than 15 million Americans suffer from heartburn which is one of the common symptoms of Gastroesophageal

Reflux Disease. While the symptoms can usually be alleviated with over-the-counter antacids, there are other ways to avoid the discomfort of heartburn.

"Foods that are acidic and direct irritants to the esophagus should be avoided," Ergun said. She lists orange, grapefruit and pineapple juices, foods that contain large amounts of vinegar, aspirin, alcohol, caffeine, tomato products and chocolate as potential "heart burners."

Ergun also recommends staying away from large or excessively fatty meals and not eating two to three hours before lying down.

However, there is a point when heartburn can become more than a nuisance, warns Ergun. If

symptoms occur more than two to three times a week, are present for long periods of time, do not respond to treatment with over-the-counter medications or include vomiting blood, excessive pain and swallowing difficulties, she recommends consulting a physician for further evaluation.

"Those who have a chronic problem with reflux will probably have it in some version or another their 'whole lives,'" Ergun said.

However, there are options. "People who do not respond with diet modification might find relief with prescription medications, or they might choose to correct the problem with surgery."

HMOs push full-time hospital-based doctors, but some physicians revolt

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, health maintenance organizations have been telling you to see your primary-care doctor for nearly all of your medical needs.

Now, some of the nation's biggest HMOs are restricting the primary-care doctor's role in one of the most sensitive places — the hospital.

Over the past two years, HMOs have been hiring doctors called hospitalists, who work full time in hospitals coordinating care, replacing the role traditionally held by the patient's regular physician.

Insurers say patients tend to get more attention from hospitalists since the doctors aren't splitting their time between the hospital and an office. As a result, tests are scheduled faster and patients often go home sooner without care being compromised.

Shorter hospital stays also mean HMOs can save money, which some critics suspect is the real reason behind the effort.

At first, health plans offered the hospitalists as an option, and the reaction was mixed. But now that some plans such as Prudential Health Care and Humana have all but mandated the use of hospitalists, some doctors and consumer groups are outraged.

"There is incredible irony in this," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA, a national consumer health group.

"HMOs have for the last few years talked about the virtue of having a primary-care physician who coordinates the care for a patient, and yet at a point when the patient most is in need of health care, they are withdrawing the central feature ... by the doctor who knows the patient best."

A coalition of 24 medical groups, including the American College of Physicians, last month appealed to the HMO industry asking for an end to mandatory hospitalist programs.

"This is a direct attack on our profession," said Dr. Cornel Lupu, a Miami internist and Prudential primary-care doctor. "It's a horrible idea."

Prudential started its hospitalist program in March in the South Florida and Tampa areas. Humana began implementing its program in 1997 in a dozen major markets, including Chicago, South Florida, Louisville, Ky., Kansas City, Mo., Las Vegas and San Antonio.

Cigna and some Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans proposed mandatory hospitalist programs in certain markets, but decided to keep it voluntary after primary-care doctors raised concerns.

Humana spokesman Greg Donaldson said a study of the company's use of hospitalists in Kansas City found that they shortened some hospital stays by half, and increased the likelihood that patients were prescribed appropriate medications.

And about 85 percent of Humana's members nationally who had been cared for by a hospitalist said they would want the same hospital-based doctor if they were hospitalized again, the company says.

Neither Prudential nor Humana considers its hospitalist programs mandatory because doctors can continue caring for their own patients in the hospital if they meet certain criteria, such as keeping the patient in the hospital for a shorter-than-average period.

Prudential says fewer than 20 percent of its Tampa and South Florida doctors meet the standard. A Humana official did not know what proportion of its doctors met the test.

"We are trying to improve efficiency in the hospital and improve quality and as a result hopefully save some costs," said Dr. Kirk Cianciolo, Prudential's senior medical director for South Florida and Tampa.

HMO industry experts say more health plans will require the use of hospitalists because they reduce hospital stays.

"More and more plans are considering making it a mandatory program," said Brett Turner, a health care consultant with Hamilton-HMC, based in Minneapolis. "It's a major trend, a much more efficient way to practice quality medicine," he said. "But making the transition is a difficult process for some."

Prejudice may be factor in heart care

By The Associated Press

Subconscious prejudices among doctors may help explain why women and blacks complaining of chest pain are less likely than

men and whites to receive the best cardiac testing, a study suggests.

Researchers have found such differences in care previously, and have attributed them to financial barriers and differences in patients' preferences, medical condition and access to care.

A new study of 720 physicians found that, with all symptoms being equal, doctors were only 60 percent as likely to order cardiac catheterization for women and blacks as for men and whites.

For black women, the doctors were only 40 percent as likely to order catheterization.

Catheterization is considered the "gold standard" diagnostic test for heart disease. It involves squirting dye into cardiac arteries, then X-raying them to find blockages and determine the best treatment.

"Most likely this is an underestimate of what's occurring," Dr. Kevin Schulman of Georgetown University Medical Center said, because the doctors knew their

decisions were being recorded — although not why.

In the unusual study, doctors attending medical conferences were told they were participating in a study of clinical decision making, and viewed medical data and a taped interview with one of eight "patients." The patients were really actors.


There were two black women, two black men, two white women and two white men, divided into two identical groups. In one group, all the patients were said to be 55; in the other group, 70.

The actors described identical symptoms. Information such as insurance coverage, profession and results of a heart stress test also were the same.

Researchers found disparities in doctors' treatment recommendations.

"We still need to understand a lot more about why these differences occur," Schulman said. "This may all be subconscious."






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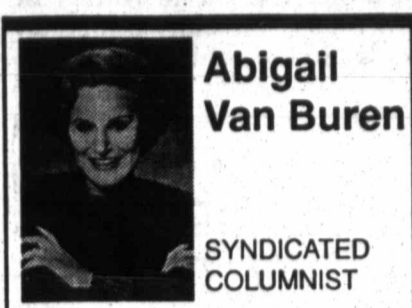
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One Y2K Problem Is Deciding When New Millennium Begins

DEAR ABBY: When I read the letter from "Father Time," I had to write. Please consider the text of the enclosed e-mail that was sent to my daughter, who was a math major in college.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

"Who am I to disagree with the eggheads, but it seems to me that computer types have the same disadvantage the ancient Romans had — no zero! Some say the next century doesn't start until the year 2001. I say that's like saying there's nothing between zero and one!

"From flat broke to \$1 is 99 cents in my book. If you have one penny (1/100 dollar), you're on your way to \$1. From zero to 10 is 10. From 10 to 11 is one. From 10 to 20 is 10. From zero to one is an infinite number of fractions, and these fractions are something to be considered. Or did I miss something in the first grade? Doesn't midnight, Jan. 1, 2000, equal year 2000 plus 1/365th year?"

Abby, I'll bet you're sorry you agreed with "Father Time" about the start of the new millennium. FLOYD IN VICTORVILLE, CALIF.

DEAR FLOYD: Let me put it this way: When I printed that letter, I had no idea I'd wind up in the middle of a hot controversy. I have been deluged with letters arguing both sides of this question, and now I'm beginning to wonder if it isn't just a matter of perspective. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Father Time,"

who reminded us that the new millennium will start Jan. 1, 2001 (and not 2000), is right, of course, but your response raises another "timely" point concerning the century. A century being defined as any period of 100 years, we can talk about the 1900s as a century (1900 to 1999) or we can interest ourselves with the 20th century (1901 to 2000, which will end the instant that the 21st century begins — that is, Jan. 1, 2001.

CLOCK WATCHER, ONTARIO, CALIF.

DEAR CLOCK WATCHER: My head is spinning! Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Father Time" is correct — there are 100 years in a century. However, the first century doesn't encompass the years 1 through 100; it encompasses the years 0 through 99. Babies are not 1 year old when they're born. They turn 1 after a year has passed. All measuring sticks start at 0 — not 1. So don't be embarrassed, Abby. It's "Father Time" who needs to reset

his clock, not you. RUTH IN PHOENIX (SOON TO CELEBRATE THE NEW MILLENNIUM)

DEAR RUTH: Thank you for the kind words. I'll print just one more letter on this subject, because at this point my entire office staff are at each other's throats. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: If Matthew 2:1 is correct, we may have already passed the year 2001. When Dionysius Exiguus looked back more than 500 years and calculated when Jesus was born, he chose a time that secular historians say was four years after the death of King Herod! Not knowing exactly the age of Jesus when the "wise men" entered the "house" (verse 11), we can estimate that Jesus was born between 2 B.C. and 7 B.C., which means that we are now between 2001 and 2006 A.D. or C.E. (Common Era).

Whether we celebrate in 2000 or 2001 has no real significance, but those who wait a year will have 366 days of frustration (don't forget it's leap year).

THE REV. W. CARROLL TINSLEY, DECATUR, GA.

DEAR MR. TINSLEY: That depends on how you look at it. At least those who observe 2001 as the beginning of the new millennium won't have any trouble getting a reservation for their celebration.

Horoscope

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1999

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) ★★★★★ Use the earlier part of the day to research, make calls or check out a spicy piece of office gossip. You pull it together later in the day, when you shift into productivity mode. Use your strong sense of direction to mobilize others. A pep talk or an incentive does the trick. Tonight: Visit with an older friend or relative.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Make time for one-to-one meetings at the office, bank or dentist. What was very serious becomes funny with some perspective. Allow others plenty of slack. Reach out for others, get going on a writing project. You gain because of your broad point of view. Tonight: Time for a movie.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Others are full of personality. Let them call the shots and run with their ideas. You could be delighted by what happens. Take time with a partner; have a needed discussion. Follow through on what is important to you. You can take a stand later. Tonight: Make nice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Plunge into work and get the job done. Balance and handle all the demands others make of you. You need to indulge others is high; you will do as much as you can. On the other hand, your creativity

helps you cut out what is unnecessary. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Let your imagination help make what you want a reality. Others push hard for what they want, but you really don't care. Your congenial mood sparkles. Friends play a big role in your day. However, chores become demanding. Use your time wisely. Tonight: Working late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Take time for family and personal matters. Another's extremes force your hand; you might feel you can't keep it all together. Use humor, and explain your limitations. Talk about what you want and expect. Others respond. Brainstorm; look past details. Tonight: Add some wildness to your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Make that additional effort. Express what is on your mind, but be aware that another at a distance is more emotional and less focused than you are. Perhaps a clearing discussion is needed. You might need to spend on your home and family. Tonight: Find a cozy chair.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Deal with money matters before returning calls. Business proves to be demanding, though you can certainly meet another's requests. You get a lot done because of your energy and your sense of direction. You could be a bit more caustic than you realize. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Beam in exactly what you want this morning. Others are more than willing to go along with your ideas. Your charisma speaks. Your intuition serves you when dealing with others. Be clear about your frustrations. Make a long-overdue financial

decision. Tonight: Juggle the budget.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Take a back seat and think through an important decision. Another might not look at problems the same way that you do. In fact, he could be quite laid back. Be realistic about diet and health — are you pushing your limits? Tonight: Your wish is another's command.

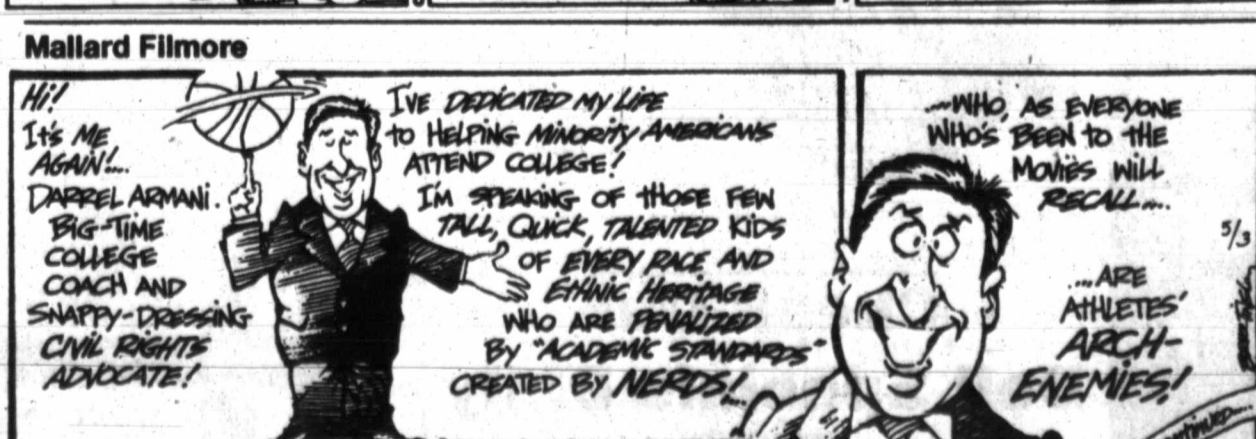
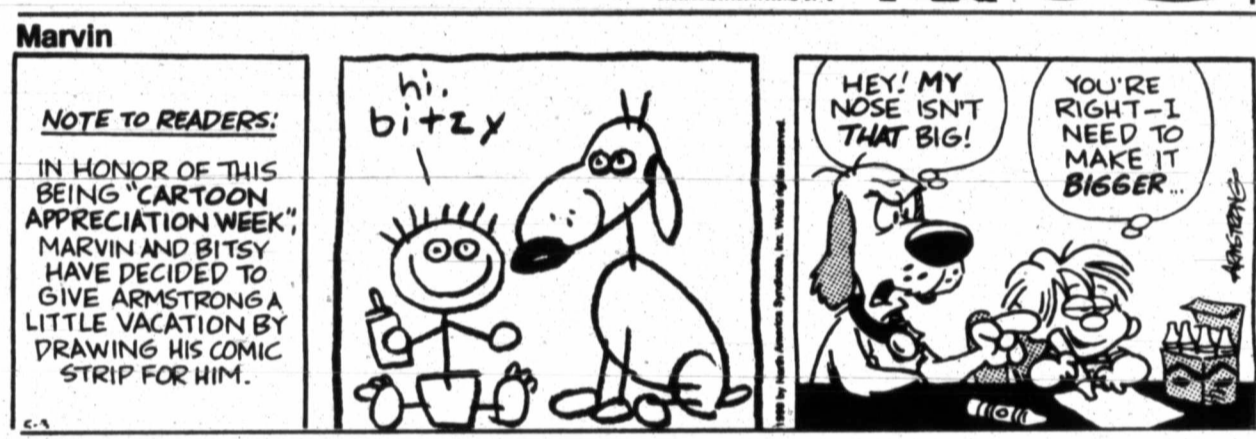
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Use the morning to further a special wish that surrounds a child or loved one. Another cares deeply about you. Extremes punctuate your day. Respond to a boss who could be aggressive and pushy. Your instincts guide you on the right course. Establish limits. Tonight: Bring home extra work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You are in the limelight. Others look at you with a fresh perspective. News from a distance could cause you to regroup and go in a different direction. Your softness comes out, even if you would rather keep it a secret with everyone but family. Schedule time for a key meeting. Tonight: Where the gang is.

BORN TODAY
Singer Randy Travis (1959), columnist George Will (1941), singer/songwriter Nickolas Ashford (1942)

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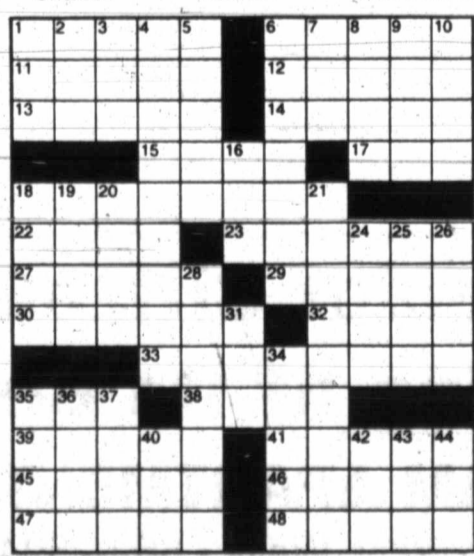
For Better or For Worse



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- Coffee shop order
 - Stories
 - Expect
 - Martini garnish
 - Use a scale
 - Actor David
 - Bee abode
 - Finish
 - Closing time at the bar
 - Burden
 - Less taut
 - Office workers
 - Car choice
 - Downward arcs
 - Garden starter
 - Circus swings
 - Naughty
 - Way out
 - "My Fair Lady" heroine
 - Fleet-based
 - Horse
 - Actor Kevin
 - Carries
 - Enjoy the rink
- DOWN**
- Attorney's specialty
 - Reverence
 - chi (self-defense method)
 - Difficulty
 - Set of values
 - "Wild Thing" rapper
 - Actress
 - MacGraw
 - Not taped
 - Flat
 - Mail
 - Actor
 - Kilmer
 - Parking sites
 - Freshly
 - Wrestling variety
 - Idle chatter
 - Noted canal
 - Fencing sword
 - Cincinnati team
 - Butter and jam
 - Jazz
 - Wrestling instrument
 - Idle flowers
 - Optimum
 - Choir singer
 - Losing plan
 - Last letter
 - By way of
 - Picnic pest
 - Confederate hero



STUMPED?

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Marmaduke



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The Family Circus



"I love May! It's so outdoorable!"

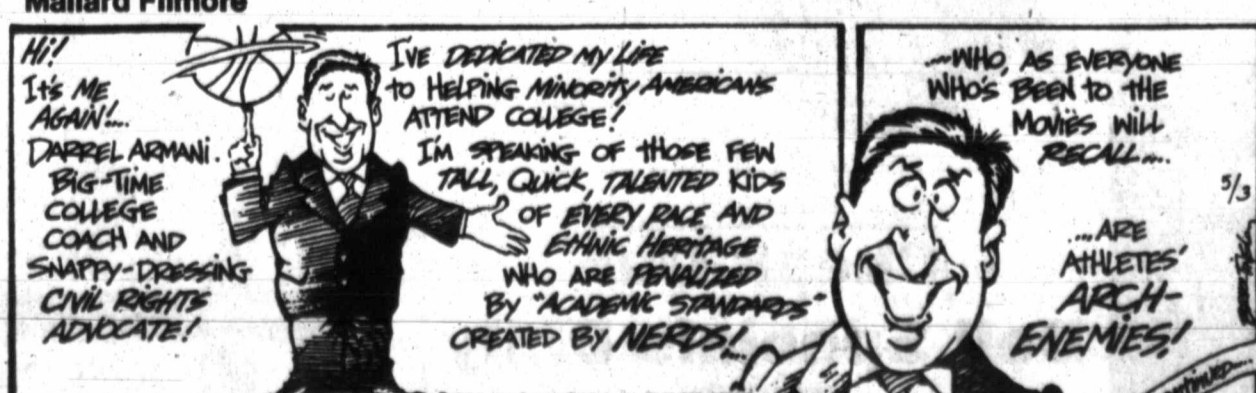
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



SPORTS

Lady Harvesters advance to Region 1-4A semis

Notebook

GOLF

PAMPA — Hidden Hills Public Golf Course held a seniors 4-man team handicap tournament last week.

Results are as follows:
First place: Jack Mitchell, Travis Taylor, Glen Downs and Dale Hawkins, 257.

Second place: Whitey White, Howard Wells, John McGuire and Paul Buchanan, 264.

Third place: Travis Johnston, B.F. Dorman, Jerry South and Rex Courter, 266.

Fourth place: Bob Swope, Harvey Malone, Bob Brandon and Ken Reeves, 266.

Closest to the hole: Buddy Epperson, No. 6.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa-Borger District 3-4A baseball game was postponed Saturday because of wet weather. The game has been re-scheduled for 4:30 p.m. today at Harvester Field.

Pampa can clinch the district championship with a win over the Bulldogs. Pampa, Dumas and Palo Duro have all clinched playoff spots.

OBITUARY

COUSHATTA, La. — Joe Adcock, who hit 336 home runs during his career and broke up baseball's longest no-hitter, died today. He was 71.

Adcock had Alzheimer's disease and died at his home in Coushatta, La., at 3:15 a.m., said his daughter, Jan Adams.

The first baseman came to the majors in 1950 with Cincinnati and was traded to the Milwaukee Braves in 1953, the team's first year in that city. He played on the Braves' World Series championship team in 1957 and National League pennant winner in 1958.

A teammate of Hank Aaron, Eddie Mathews and Warren Spahn, Adcock's best season was 1956 when he hit 38 home runs and batted .291.

Adcock was perhaps best known for turning a perfect game into a loss for Pittsburgh's Harvey Haddix on May 26, 1959, at Milwaukee.

Haddix retired the first 36 batters he faced — 12 perfect innings. In the 13th, the Braves' Felix Mantilla reached on an error and moved to second on a sacrifice by Mathews. After Aaron was walked intentionally, Adcock homered to end the no-hitter and win the game.

The score was listed as 1-0 because Adcock inadvertently passed Aaron on the base paths. Adcock recalled the game when Haddix died in January 1994.

"He knew what he had in mind when he let the ball loose," Adcock said. "The wind had been blowing in all night and maybe it was a freak because when I came to bat, the flag in center field was still. I was thinking he'd been keeping the ball away from me all night and maybe he'd do it again and he did and I hit it."

ODESSA — The Pampa Lady Harvesters advance to the Region 1-4A semifinals by downing El Paso Parkland 4-3 on Saturday at Ratliff Softball Complex.

The Lady Harvesters improved to 14-4 on the season. Parkland finishes at 17-11. Pampa got off to a slow start as Parkland's Lopez retired the side on just three pitches, get-

ting all three Pampa batters to ground out on the first pitch. Pampa's Kimberly Clark retired the El Paso batters in order in the bottom of the first, fanning all three batters.

of the third. Their leadoff batter reached on a walk, the only base on balls issued by Clark in the contest. That runner was forced out on a 4-6 fielder's choice. The next bat-

and leaving the trailing runner representing the tying run on third. K. Clark struck out the next batter, ending the game and securing the win.

Kimberly Clark struck out 11, issued one walk and scattered four hits for the win. Parkland's Lopez struck out two, issued two walks and gave up four hits. Her team's stingy defense kept her in the game.

At the plate, Kelsey Yowell, Dwight, Buck and Covalt each singled for Pampa.

So far, in post-season play, Kimberly Clark has struck out 22, issued three walks and allowed six base hits — all singles without allowing an earned run.

"The girls did a good job playing as a team," said head coach Jamie Greene. They stayed mentally focused throughout the game. I have five senior starters and they are hungry for this playoff."

Pampa will face the winner of the Weatherford-Wichita Falls Rider in the Regional Semifinals later this week.

"Actually, I thought we played pretty well given our traveling situation the last few days," said assistant coach Carmen Pennick.

Regarding the next opponent, Pennick said: "We're not going to worry about what we can't control."

Pampa was forced to play a game Thursday, which had been scheduled for Lubbock in Midland and return home, arriving at 3:30 a.m. Friday. The team left for Odessa Friday afternoon and did not arrive until 11:30 p.m. due to flooding highway conditions from Lubbock to Andrews.



Serving as team captains this year are Kelsey Yowell (left) and Kimberly Clark.

"The girls did a good job playing as a team. They stayed mentally focused throughout the game."

— Jamie Greene, PHS head coach

In the second, with one out, Lisa Dwight singled, but was stranded as the next two batters were retired. For Parkland, Sanchez reached on a leadoff single and K. Clark struck out the next three batters she faced, stranding Sanchez on first.

In the third, Shanna Buck reached on a walk and Cali Covalt singled, advancing Buck to second. Cassi Scott reached on a groundball when Parkland failed to get the lead runner on a force at third. Stephanie Cameron drew a walk, fording Buck home. Scott scored on a passed ball to bring the score to 2-0, Pampa's favor. With one out, K. Clark had an RBI 6-3 groundout to score Cameron. Lisa Kirkpatrick, who had reached on a fielder's choice, scored Pampa's fourth run of the inning when Lisa Dwight reached on an error.

Parkland scored two unearned runs in the bottom

inning, putting runners on first and second with none out. A bunt attempt was popped into the air and caught by Dwight for the second out. Then, with two outs, a single and an error on the play allowed the runners on first and second to score before the side was retired.

The fourth, fifth and sixth innings were scoreless for both teams. In the seventh, Pampa was retired on three pitches on 1-3 and 5-3 groundouts and a flyout to right field. Pampa continued to lead 4-2.

In the bottom of the seventh, a 1-3 groundout and a groundout to first had Pampa just one out away from advancing to the state playoffs. What appeared to be a routine groundout to end the game turned into an error and a runner on first. The next batter hit to the outfield and the ball went off the fielder's glove for an error, scoring the runner all the way from first

Pampa girls take second at regional track meet

SAN ANGELO — Pampa's Lady Harvesters qualified three individuals and the 800-meter relay team to the Class 4A state track meet after regional competition last weekend.

Bringing home second-place medals from the regional meet were Jenny Fatheree in the 800 (2:17.28) and Beth Lee in the 1600 (5:11.19). Fatheree finished right behind Lee in the 1600 with a third-place time of 5:13.

Pampa's 800-meter relay team of Lacrese Ford, Joy Young, Vaughn Evans and Kristen Stowers finished second with a time of 1:42.52.

The top two finishers in each event qualified for the state meet May 10-14 in Austin.

Samantha Hurst placed third in the 3200 at 11:20.27, but she moved into a qualifying spot after Canyon's Jennifer Marable indicated she would not be going to Austin. Marable, who has asthma problems, placed second in the 3200.

Pampa's 400-meter relay (Ford, Young, Evans and Stowers) finished third with a

time of 48.64. Tandi Morton and Lacrese Ford had near-misses for Pampa. Morton was third (50.12) in the 100 hurdles and Ford was third in the 100 (12.39).

The Lady Harvesters finished second in the team stand-

ings with 70 points. Crowley won the title with 72 points.

"It was disappointing that we didn't win, but we just missed by two points and that's not bad," said Pampa coach Mike Lopez.

The Lady Harvesters had entered the regional meet

unbeaten this season.

"Everyone improved their times, so I was real pleased with the way the girls ran, Lopez said. "Everybody medaled."

In the boys' division,

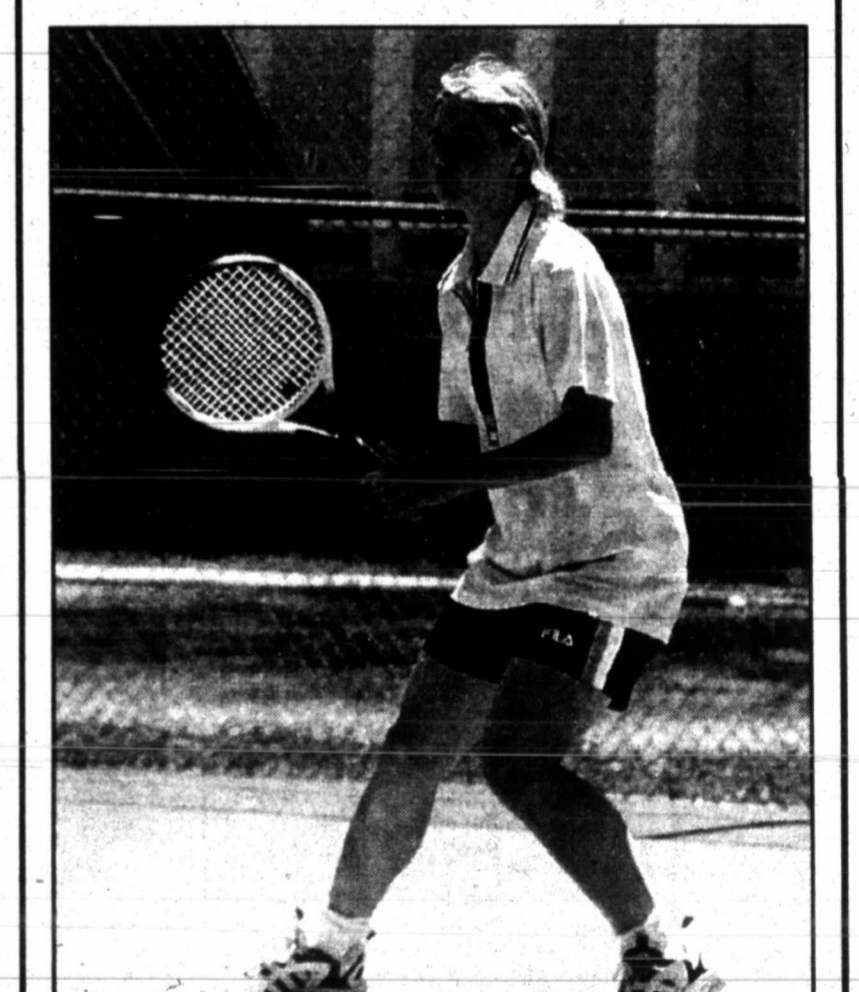
Pampa's Curtis Johnson finished second in the 200 with a time of 21.65 to qualify for the state meet.

Johnson, a senior, just missed qualifying in the 100 with a third-place medal and a time of 10.56.

Major League standings

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Atlanta	17	7	.708	—
New York	17	9	.640	1 1/2
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	5
Montreal	7	16	.304	9 1/2
Florida	6	19	.240	11 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Houston	15	9	.625	—
St. Louis	14	9	.608	1/2
Chicago	12	10	.545	2
Pittsburgh	11	12	.478	3 1/2
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	5
Cincinnati	9	14	.391	5 1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
San Francisco	16	10	.615	—
Los Angeles	14	11	.560	1 1/2
Arizona	14	12	.538	2
Colorado	9	12	.429	4 1/2
San Diego	9	16	.375	6
Saturday's Games				
Pittsburgh 9, Colorado 3				
New York 9, San Francisco 4				
Chicago 2, San Diego 1				
Arizona 5, Milwaukee 3				
Houston 6, Florida 4				
Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 1				
St. Louis 16, Montreal 5				
Los Angeles 12, Philadelphia 6				
Sunday's Games				
Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 3				
New York 2, San Francisco 0				
Pittsburgh 6, Colorado 5				
Philadelphia 12, Los Angeles 3				
Chicago 9, San Diego 2				
St. Louis 8, Montreal 7, 10 innings				
Milwaukee 6, Arizona 5				
Houston 3, Florida 2				
Monday's Games				
Los Angeles (Park 2-2) at Montreal (Hermanson 2-2), 7:05 p.m.				
San Diego (Hilchcock 1-1) at Philadelphia (Olea 2-1), 7:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Woodard 2-2) at Florida (L.Hernandez 1-3), 7:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Nathan 2-0) at Pittsburgh (Peters 0-1), 7:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Barnes 2-2) at Cincinnati (Parris 0-0), 7:05 p.m.				
Houston (Holt 0-3) at New York (Reed 1-0), 7:10 p.m.				
St. Louis (Jimenez 2-1) at Atlanta (Glavin 1-3), 7:40 p.m.				
Colorado (Bohanon 4-0) at Chicago (Trachsel 1-2), 8:05 p.m.				
Tuesday's Games				
Colorado (Kile 2-2) at Chicago (Farnsworth				
1-0), 2:20 p.m.				
Los Angeles (Valdes 3-0) at Montreal (Pavano 0-4), 7:05 p.m.				
San Diego (Williams 1-0) at Philadelphia (Lower 1-2), 7:05 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Eldred 0-1) at Florida (Sanchez 0-3), 7:05 p.m.				
San Francisco (Ortiz 3-2) at Pittsburgh (Silva 0-1), 7:05 p.m.				
Arizona (Deal 2-2) at Cincinnati (Bere 2-0), 7:05 p.m.				
Houston (Hampton 2-1) at New York (Leiter 1-2), 7:10 p.m.				
St. Louis (Mercker 2-1) at Atlanta (Maddux 4-0), 7:40 p.m.				
American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
New York	16	7	.696	—
Toronto	14	12	.538	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Boston	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Baltimore	7	17	.292	9 1/2
Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Cleveland	17	7	.708	—
Chicago	12	10	.545	4
Detroit	12	13	.480	5 1/2
Kansas City	9	19	.409	7
Minnesota	10	15	.400	7 1/2
West Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Texas	14	11	.560	—
Anaheim	12	13	.480	2
Seattle	12	13	.480	2
Oakland	11	15	.423	3 1/2
Saturday's Games				
Minnesota 7, Baltimore 2				
Boston 7, Oakland 2				
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 3				
New York 9, Kansas City 4				
Cleveland 5, Texas 3				
Toronto 5, Seattle 3				
Chicago 6, Anaheim 5				
Sunday's Games				
Baltimore 6, Minnesota 0				
Detroit 8, Tampa Bay 2				
New York 9, Kansas City 3				
Oakland 7, Boston 5				
Seattle 3, Toronto 2				
Anaheim 6, Chicago 3				
Texas 6, Cleveland 6				
Monday's Games				
Cleveland (Wright 2-0) at Texas (Morgan 4-1), 2:35 p.m.				
Boston (Portugal 2-1) at Oakland (Haynes 1-4), 3:05 p.m.				
Chicago (Snyder 3-1) at Anaheim (Belcher 1-1), 4:05 p.m.				
Toronto (Wells 3-1) at Seattle (Garcia 5-0),				

All-time leader



(Pampa News photo)
 Pampa High senior Mandy Wells finished her high school tennis career as the all-time leader in victories with 177. Wells won the District 3-4A title in girls' singles this season. She advanced to the semifinals of the regional tournament.

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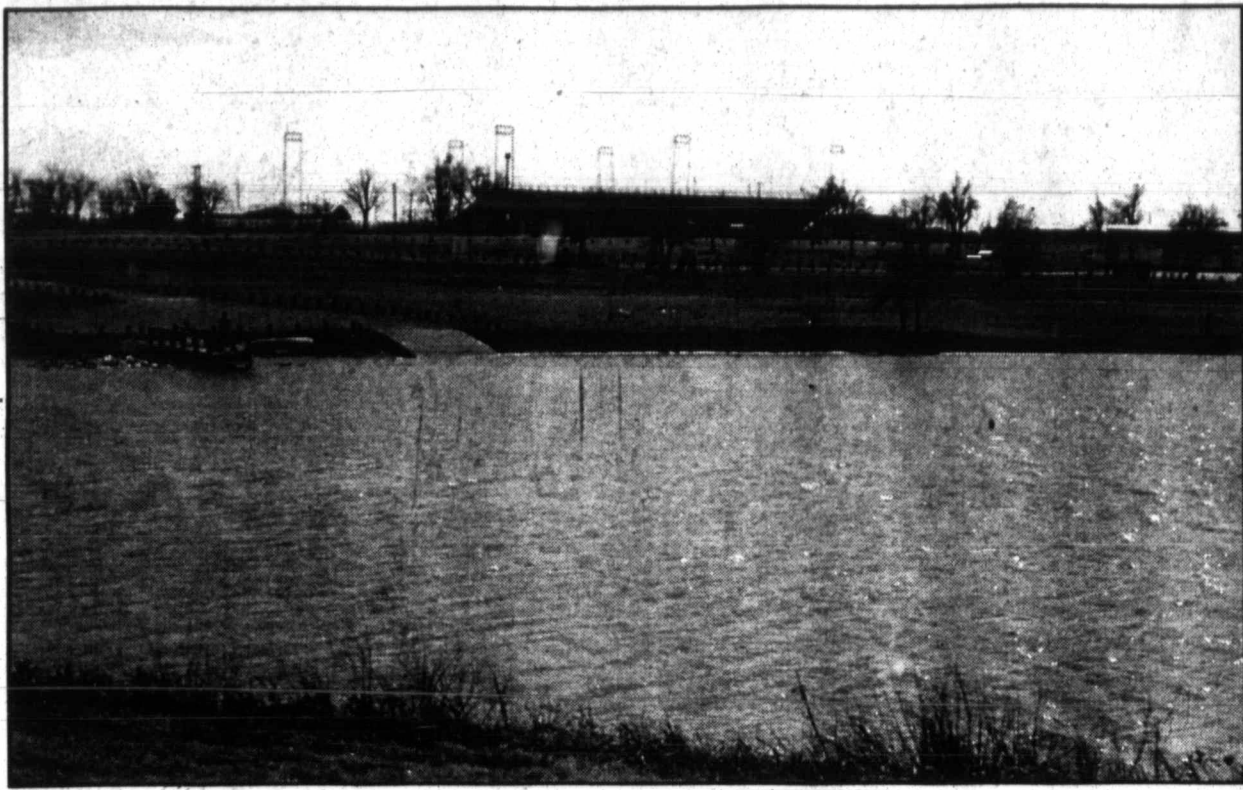
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More Images ...



Ora Mae Hedrick entered the photo at left in the Countryside category of the Images Photography Contest. The second photo was submitted by Pat Goodwin also in the Countryside category.

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More Images ...



The above photographs are entries from the Images Photo Contest held recently (clockwise from top) Ms. Jo D. Wisdom, Critters category, Chihuahua Max answer-

ing the door; John Carter, Countryside category, Prairie Village Park at sunrise; Ora Mae Hedrick, Critters, swans at city lake; and Gloria Swires, Countryside.

Federal Internet tax panel exploring taxing cyberspace

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

While Pampa cyber geeks are surfing the net and exploring the world, politicians are one step closer to taxing cyberspace.

A federal Internet tax panel was supposed to begin discussing how to tax on-line commerce in December but had to hold off when city mayors and county government filed a lawsuit to stop them.

The National Association of Counties and U.S. Conference of Mayors dropped their lawsuit this week, however, when U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., announced

that a software business leader would be replaced on the 19 member panel by a county commissioner.

The Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce was created last year when Congress passed a three-year moratorium on new Internet taxes. Its purpose is to recommend by next year the international, federal, state and local tax policy for fast-growing on-line commerce.

The state and local officials were concerned that if the original appointments were permitted, the panel's recommendations would be skewed in favor of business and hurt tax interests of their governments.

"What they're discussing is the taxation of purchases over the internet regardless of region or location," said Jim Sealy of Centramedia, an internet service provider in Pampa.

He said it would be very difficult to do.

"They would be trying to tax purchases whether they're being made domestically or internationally based on a tax rate that is fixed at the state, local or federal level," Sealy said. "It encompasses a lot of different things."

Sealy said he thinks they will eventually settle on a flat rate for Internet purchases.

"That would be the only thing you could do," Sealy said.

"It's extremely hard to track." That, Sealy said, will probably be a couple of years in the future.

"Right now, what they're trying to do is increase the commerce with no taxation at all through the internet until they get more and more people to buy on line to develop the commerce end of it," Sealy said. "Once it's relatively well developed, then they're going to impose some type of taxation."

One of the draw backs, Sealy said, is that the United States may tax it, but other countries may not.

"The taxation that they want to impose would become a nightmare to keep up with," Sealy said.

But the U.S. Congress isn't the only one dealing with taxing cyber space.

"Texas is looking at additional taxes which would impact internet, and both are real possibilities," said Locke. "They are also looking at cutting sales taxes on the internet. Both of those are in the current Texas Legislature and both are real possibilities." The actions of the state legislature could have more immediate impact than the discussions at the federal level.

One area in the Texas Legislature that Locke is concerned about in connection with the Internet is the deregulation of telephone companies. "If that happens, then that could — I'm not saying it would — have severe impact

on internet access," Locke said. An unregulated telephone company could easily say they're going to increase the prices on telephone wires to other Internet providers. They would have to increase the price to their own in-house internet provider, but they may not care if they take a loss. The telephone companies would be large enough to take a loss in one area and more than make up for by the increased rates for Internet telephone line charges. That could force the smaller Internet service providers out of business.

"That's what independent internet people are concerned about today," Locke said.

One of the taxes they're talking about in Austin is a right to do business tax on the Internet, Locke said. The Internet provider would have to pay a two or three percent tax on his gross revenue.

"I can just see the City of Dallas out in California auditing America on Line that has 30 million customers and asking how many of their customers are in Dallas, and telling them 'this is what you owe us,'" Locke said. "It's a bad idea, a really bad idea."

CONT. FROM PAGE 3

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Breast cancer screening in offing

AMARILLO — The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening Clinic May 20 at Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, Inc., 916 N. Crest, in Pampa.

Breast cancer affects on in eight women. The key to winning the battle against cancer is early detection by having an annual breast exam, mammogram and performing a breast self-exam each month.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening mammogram. Each woman screened will receive a breast health risk appraisal and individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are done by appointment only. Call 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.

Attention 1999 Seniors

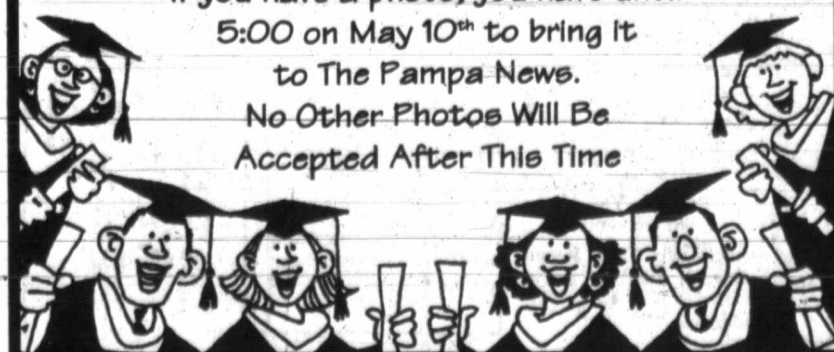
Does Pampa High School Have Your Senior Picture?

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But ...

If you have a photo, you have until 5:00 on May 10th to bring it to The Pampa News. No Other Photos Will Be Accepted After This Time



AG

"If they want to do two things, they have to give something up," Swinford said. "A lot of times, it's the FFA programs. These programs, 4-H and FFA, is where we do a lot of character building."

"Some people don't seem to think that these programs can interact," Dunn said, "but they can."

Dunn pointed out that the FFA offers college scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

"I think what Mr. Swinford here is wanting to do is just get things back to where they're more organized instead of relying on a person that already has teaching duties to coordinate everything," Dunn said.

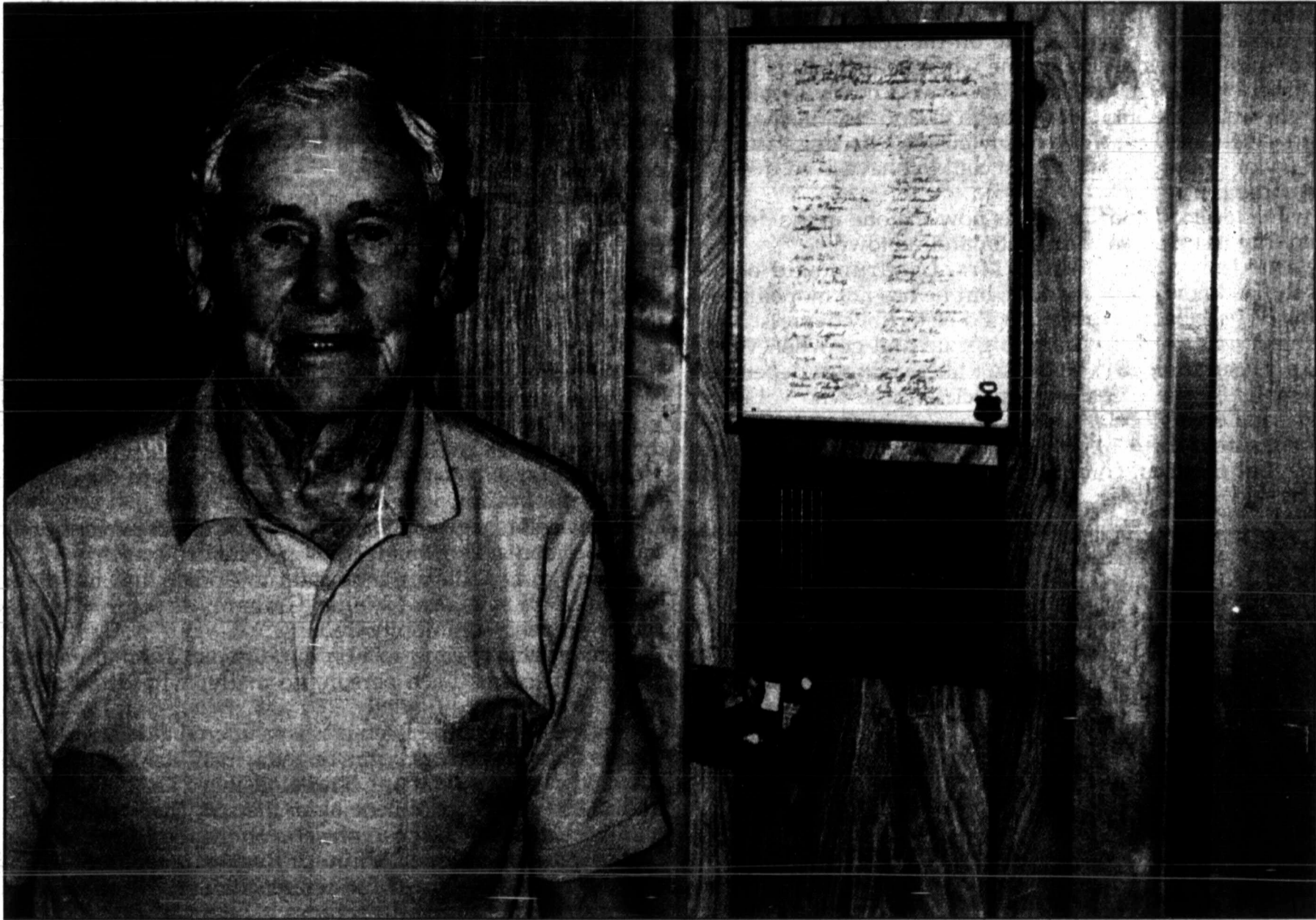
Unfortunately, Dunn said, he's heard a lot about changing the program before, changes he thinks could benefit the students and the schools, but somehow they never seem to make it from the hallowed halls of government to the schools where the changes are needed. Still, he remains optimistic.

"We'll take any help that we can get," Dunn said.

Senior scenes

THE PAMPA NEWS

MAY 1 1999



Charles Harrington stands beside his retirement plaque and a list of employees who were at his farewell party at Phillips Petroleum. Read about him on Page 3.

**Longevity research
looks for key ...
See Page 6**

**High drug costs
take their toll ...
See Page 5**

Older drivers face different challenges

By DEON DAUGHERTY
Abilene Reporter-News

ABILENE, Texas — One year ago, Jack Landrum gave up his ticket to freedom, his passport to paradise and a big part of his independence.

He turned in his Texas drivers license.

Since 1993, Landrum, now 74, has known he has a degenerative eye disease doctors said would eventually destroy much of his eyesight. But he wanted to stay on the road as long as he could.

He reluctantly gave up that life on the road April 1, 1998. Landrum said he was headed home when he turned his Dodge van in front of little car on South 7th. It was nearly a collision, and no one was hurt. But it was enough to stop his cruising.

"I knew then that I didn't have any business driving," said the former Taylor County sheriff. "I just couldn't have lived over it if I'd hurt someone."

His wife, Bernice Landrum, 69, is now the one in the driver's seat, and friends help Landrum motor around town.

"He's taking it really well," Mrs. Landrum said of her husband. "He knows he can't do it, but he has not moped about it. I know he feels bad. If it were me, I'd be terribly depressed."

Having given up the freedom to get up and go whenever he feels like it, Landrum said he doesn't like having to depend on other people. But he sure does appreciate those who volunteer their time and their wheels, he said.

"I'm not sure if they are busy or have something they need to be doing, but they just come around to see if I need any thing done," he said.

Landrum serves as a good example of what Abilene police Sgt. Thad Carey said is important for any driver: knowing when it's time to quit.

In Abilene last year, four of the town's 12 fatal accidents involved elderly drivers, Carey said. In all four cases, the senior citizens who were in the driver's seat were the only deaths. Their age range climbed from 70, 73, 74 to 80.

In each case, Carey said, the elderly person was also the violator. One man drove his car off the side of the road and hit a telephone post. The other three people failed to yield.

No hard facts show elderly people should be targeted as particularly dangerous behind the wheel. Any driver could become distracted, confused or even careless. And experience could compensate for weakened eyesight and hearing, Carey said.

"We'll never really know if age was a factor in any of those accidents," he said.

Recently, an alert buzzed across the police and fire scanner that an elderly woman was driving down Winters Freeway on the wrong side of the road. Before police caught up to her, she had exited and disappeared.

There was no accident, but disoriented senior citizens behind the wheel aren't an uncommon occurrence, Carey said.

Nevertheless, according to statistics from the Texas Department of Public Safety, senior citizens aren't the most common participants in traffic accidents.

In 1997, the most recent totals available from DPS, Texas drivers ages 18 to 28 about 21 percent of all Texas drivers accounted for 35 percent of all traffic accidents in the state. That was the most of any age group.

Texas seniors, ages 55 to 66, were part of 6.3 percent of Texas traffic accidents. They made up 11 percent of Texas drivers.

Still, driving skills are important to update and maintain for people of all ages, said Walter Graham, director of Abilene Senior Citizens Community Centers.

"Senior citizens are probably no different from any other age group," he said. "Each person, no matter what their age, may handle a situation differently."

Abilene senior citizen centers have offered a defensive driving course since the centers began opening in 1974. Most classes have filled to capacity. Graham estimated there are between 17,000 and 18,000 people in Abilene older than 55. Many of them drive, and those drivers, like everyone else on the road, are at risk.

Retired DPS trooper Kenneth Reeves teaches a defensive driving course designed for senior citizens. He said the class offers the same things to seniors it offers to Texans of lesser years.

"Defensive driving instills in people the things they've forgotten. It reminds them of bad habits they have, and it brings out good driving ability," Reeves said. "It makes them recognize their faults and bring to reality what they need to concentrate on for their driving."

As an instructor for the Big Country Safety Association, Reeves said he has probably reinforced the driving skills of more than 400 Abilene senior citizens since he began the work a year ago. He said in addition to the safety skills it instills, taking a defensive driving course makes money sense, too.

Joan Mann, a 63-year-old Abilene resident, said she and her husband try to take a defensive driving course once every three years, mainly to save the extra 10 percent on insurance. However, as people age, Mann said, she realizes some health issues can impair driving skills. The couple hopes to drive well into their own golden years.



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He found a good home in Pampa

Charles Harrington is a native Oklahoman who found a home in Pampa, Texas. Looking back, however, Harrington didn't think it would be a permanent situation.

"Starting out, I sure didn't think I would be here this long," says Harrington, who retired in 1984 after 38 years with Phillips Petroleum Company. "When I retired, some guy asked me where I was going to go. I told him, 'I'm not going anywhere. This is where I raised my family. I'm staying put.'"

After growing up on a farm near Shamrock, Okla., he went into the armed forces at the outbreak of World War Two.

"After the war, I needed a job and went looking for work. I got married before I went into the service and my wife (Artie) had kinfolks in Pampa," Harrington said.

Harrington was trained as an aircraft mechanic at Shepard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls and was later sent to an aircraft factory in San Diego, Calif.

"I also went to a special school in Amarillo to learn how to

work on B-29s, which was the plane we used to drop the Atomic bombs on Japan," he said.

Harrington put his mechanical knowledge to good use at Phillips, where he kept the gas compressors in working order.

"I did various other jobs, but mainly I worked on compressors. I had some good training when I was in the service, so I pretty well knew mechanics before I went to work at Phillips," he said.

The Harringtons raised their children — a son, Jerry, and daughters, Janice and Sharon, — at the old Phillips camp near Bowers City. The family lived there for 24 years and the youngsters attended Grandview-Hopkins School.

"It was nice community to live in. They had their own school and a little grocery store. There's nothing there now," Harrington said.

Harrington remembers the day he approached Phillips supervisor Clyde Mason about a job.

"Clyde told me he could put me on a gang and it might be permanent. I guess it was," Harrington laughed.

Harrington also recalls jogging to work every day in all kinds of weather.

"It was only about a quarter of a mile, but the guys couldn't understand why I didn't drive. I had to run through a lot of snow drifts, but it was good exercise," he said.

The Harringtons stay busy visiting their eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Charles has been a league bowler since 1968 and he also finds time to do a little fishing.

"I read quite a lot. I read more than I watch television and we try to go walking every day," Harrington said.

It appears that Harrington, who turned 80 last November, is a permanent Pampa resident.

Demos propose drug plan under Medicare

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Democrats proposed expanding Medicare to pay for prescription drugs. Republicans warned that the costly plan could bankrupt the program just when it needs to be financially strengthened to prepare for baby boom retirements.

"There are the resources available to put this program into place," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who proposed the plan with Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Reps. Pete Stark, D-Calif., Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and John Dingell, D-Mich.

Kennedy said the funding options for the program, which would be government-funded but privately administered, include using part of the federal budget surplus or Medicare savings from reduced hospitalizations and treatments avoided by increased use of drugs.

One government study put those savings at \$16 billion to \$25 billion annually. Other options include a possible increase in the cigarette tax or recouping health care costs through a tobacco lawsuit being prepared by the federal government.

Under the bill, which has no support from majority Republicans, private insurers or other companies would contract with the government to compete for Medicare beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries would pay the first \$200 in drug costs. Medicare would pick up 80 percent of drug costs up to \$1,500, after which beneficiaries would pay for their own drugs. But Medicare would kick in again, with full coverage, if drug costs exceeded \$3,000.

Virtually all drug costs for the poor elderly — those earning less than \$10,392 for a single person or \$13,111 for a couple — would be covered.

President Clinton, as well as many Republicans and Democrats, have voiced support for Medicare drug benefits. But the costs are daunting, especially since Medicare is expected to run short of cash when the first wave of baby boomers retire around 2010.

One government estimate found that even a modest benefit — having Medicare pay, for example, 75 percent of beneficiaries' drug bills — would cost at least \$20 billion a year.

"I recognize that low-income seniors need help in obtaining prescription drugs," said Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas. But he warned against "creating an expensive benefit that could bankrupt the system."

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High prescription drug costs take toll

By MARTIN FINUCANE
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Jo Sayward, 78, thought she might save some money if she asked her doctor for a less expensive medication for her cholesterol.

"Why don't you give me something else?" she told the doctor.

She tried an alternative — with poor results. After three months, her cholesterol had shot up so high her doctor called her a "walking time bomb."

Now, she says, "I have to go back, unless I want to die" — to the old medicine that cost \$400 for every prescription refill.

Sayward's story was just one of many harrowing tales of high prescription costs for the elderly told at a recent Statehouse hearing.

How did the prescription crisis arise?

Medicare patients, who are entitled to health care because they are 65 and over, can either use a traditional health insurance plan or they can join a Medicare HMO.

Last year, there were about 211,500 elderly people in Medicare HMOs in Massachusetts, about a quarter of the total people eligible for Medicare.

Massachusetts had a unique law requiring the HMOs to offer at least one plan that provided unlimited prescription drug coverage, but a federal judge in Boston ruled in October that, under federal law, the HMOs didn't have to provide that plan.

The major HMOs — Tufts, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Fallon Community Health Plan, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts — have now instituted limited drug benefits and special plans to help low-income people pay for their drugs.

Geoff Wilkinson, executive director of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council, estimated that perhaps 15,000 elderly residents are going to have to pay more because their drug costs exceed the limited benefits offered by the HMOs.

Some will have to pay a little more; others, like a woman who estimated her yearly drug expenses at \$10,000, could have to pay a lot more.

Secretary of State William Galvin, who has been nettled by the HMOs' withdrawal of the benefit, called the situation a "public health crisis."

And Attorney General Thomas Reilly said he plans to launch an examination of pricing and sales practices of pharmaceutical companies in Massachusetts. His office will report its findings later this year.

"We're up against an avalanche that we cannot hold back, the rising price of drugs," said Reilly, whose office is fighting to reverse the federal ruling on unlimited prescriptions.

Jeff Trewitt, a spokesman for the Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America, said drug prices were high because they reflected the rising price of developing new drugs.

Like other witnesses at the hearing, Reilly said he supported loosening the eligibility requirements and increasing the benefits from an existing state program that provides prescription help to low-income elderly people.

Rep. Harriette Chandler, the House chairman of the Health Care Committee, said she supported that, as well as a "catastrophic" drug program that would cover people, even those with moderate incomes, if they face massive prescription costs.

Patty Blake, vice president in charge of the Tufts Health Plan Medicare HMO, applauded the committee's discussion of government help in paying for prescriptions.

"I think it's really a positive step forward," she said.

Blake said, however, the "root cause" was that Medicare doesn't cover prescription drugs.

She tried an alternative — with poor results. After three months, her cholesterol had shot up so high her doctor called her a "walking time bomb."

Now, she says, "I have to go back, unless I want to die" — to the old medicine that cost \$400 for every prescription refill.

Sharing a hug ...



Meredith House Tenant of the Month Lillie Mae Levi (right) and Employee of the Month Glenda Terry share a hug.

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Trying to unlock longevity secret

By ALEXIS CHIU
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Mathematics professor Dirk Struik has learned a lot in his 104 years. But ask him about the secret to living a long life, and he is momentarily speechless.

"I've lived this long because I didn't die," deadpanned Struik, a native of the Netherlands who began teaching at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1926.

After a bit of reflection, the centenarian boils it down to a simple formula: "I have good friends. I'm healthy. Above all, I'm active."

Those are three of the most important factors in living long and staying healthy, according to two Harvard scientists who studied more than 100 centenarians to try to unlock the secret of longevity.

Though only the genetically blessed can expect to live more than a century, the researchers say they have identified some factors that could help everyone extend life and keep its quality high.

"The trick is not staying young; it's aging well," said Dr. Thomas Perls, director of the New England Centenarian Study and co-author of the recently published book "Living to 100."

"We're not trying to say everyone can live to 100," said the book's other author, Margery Silver, associate director of the study and a neuropsychologist. "But most people do not live up to their genetic potential, their maximum age span."

There are as many as 64,000 centenarians in the country, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. By 2050, that number could surge to between 500,000 and 1 million, Perls said.

The study, a joint project of Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, began in 1994 and looked at centenarians — 85 percent of them women, 15 percent men — in eight Boston-area communities.

Several factors showed up in the lives and personalities of many of the subjects, including what Perls and Silver call the "centenarian personality."

"They handle emotional stress incredibly well," said Perls, 39.

Study subjects had lost spouses, endured hardships, even survived the horrors of the Holocaust. Yet they were generally optimistic and, in most cases, funny. "They use humor all the time," Perls said Monday.

"It's incredibly important to keep your mind active and not become a mental couch potato," Perls added. Activities as mundane as balancing a checkbook or tough as learning to play an instrument were reported by many centenarians.

More surprising, among the factors Perls and Silver did not find to be significant in the lives of the over-100s were diet and education.

Diet, considered by many doctors to be central to long life, was tough to study because it varied widely, Perls said. Researchers did find one common factor: Nearly all subjects reported they had always eaten in moderation.

As for education, which has been suggested to have a proportional correlation to longevity, only two of the subjects had advanced degrees.

GOP chair unveils Social Security plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to revive prospects for a Social Security overhaul this year, a prominent Republican lawmaker is promoting a plan to use earnings from individual stock market accounts to help finance future retirement benefits.

"We are meeting the president halfway and putting our plan on the table," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., pledged in a statement to "take a close look" at Archer's proposal.

However, Republican leaders have told the party's rank-and-file that trying to move a GOP Social Security initiative through Congress before the 2000 presidential campaign would be too risky politically.

Archer said he will seek negotiations with the White House in pursuit of a bipartisan compromise based on his plan, rather than trying to push legislation through his committee.

The proposal Archer developed with Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., and unveiled Wednesday would give American workers a tax credit equal to 2 percent of their wages up to the limit of earnings taxed by Social Security. That limit is \$72,600 this year, so the largest possible credit if the plan were in effect for 1999 would be \$1,452.

The money would go into individual "Social Security Guarantee" accounts that workers could invest with private investment firms offering what would essentially be government-approved mutual funds comprised of 60 percent stocks and 40 percent bonds.

Once workers retired, their accounts would go toward buying an annuity plan to help pay their Social Security benefits. For

(See SOCIAL SECURITY, Page, 2)

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SOCIAL SECURITY - From Page 6

people whose accounts run short, the government would make up the money needed to give them retirement benefits equal to what Social Security promises now. Those whose accounts earned extra could keep it.

Money for the accounts would come from Social Security pay all taxes now collected in excess of what's needed to pay benefits to current retirees. With the huge baby boom generation in middle age and still working, those Social Security surpluses are expected to accumulate for about 15 more years.

However, Archer aides said that once baby boomers begin retiring, some additional money may be needed to finance the accounts during a transition period — something that could clash with GOP desires to offer broad income tax cuts in coming years.

Administration officials said Clinton told Archer in a telephone conversation Tuesday evening that he prefers his own approach to reforming the nation's retirement system.

The president's plan includes having the government handle bulk investment of some Social Security cash reserves in the stock market, as well as new government-subsidized personal retirement accounts for low- and middle-income workers that would be in addition to Social Security.

However, Clinton said he would examine the Archer-Shaw alternative and consult with congressional Democrats.

"What the president said was ... he appreciated that chairman Archer was putting forward a serious proposal ... and that if we had criticisms of it that they would be done in a constructive manner," said Clinton's top economic adviser, Gene Sperling.

However, House Democrats quickly called a news conference to question both Archer's intentions and the soundness of his plan.

"It's rhetoric, and in a close look, it's a risky scheme," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn.

Simple test to be life saver

WASHINGTON (AP) — A simple screening test for blood in the bowel can reduce by up to one-third the death rate from colon cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, a study says.

The finding, to be published Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, is prompting a national campaign to encourage people over age 50 to take the test, because they account for most of the 56,000 U.S. colon cancer deaths each year.

Minnesota researchers monitoring the health of 46,000 volunteers since 1976 have found that those who take the fecal occult blood test each year have 33 percent fewer deaths from colon cancer than people who do not take the test. Those tested every other year, the study found, have a 21 percent reduced rate of colon cancer death.

"When you have a positive test for blood, the likelihood of finding a growth in the colon is about 35 percent," said Dr. John H. Bond, the study's co-author. "About 9 percent will have cancer, and the rest will have significant precancerous polyps in the colon."

An analysis of the long-running study in 1993 suggested that annual tests could reduce deaths from colon cancer, and now

(See TEST, Page 8)

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TEST - From Page 7

the new analysis shows that even biennial tests can have a dramatic effect, said Bond, a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota and a staff physician at the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs.

"It is a very valuable way to identify people who are healthy and have no symptoms, who nevertheless have a developing cancer in their colon."

The results confirm findings from two earlier studies in Europe, he said.

Prompted by the research results, federal health agencies on Tuesday announced a new campaign to encourage all Americans over 50 to take the fecal occult blood test.

"The good news is that we can prevent many deaths from colorectal cancer through screening," said Surgeon General David Satcher. "If you've celebrated your 50th birthday and have never been screened for colorectal cancer, start now."

Under a program that went into effect last year, Medicare now pays for the screening, officials said.

About 129,000 Americans, most past the age of 50, are diagnosed each year with colorectal cancer, and about 56,000 die each year. It is the second most common cancer killer, just behind lung cancer.

The fecal occult blood test used in the Minnesota research has long been a common part of physical examinations.

Using a card with small inserts, patients collect specimens for the tests at home. Fecal specimens from several bowel movements are placed into the inserts, and the self-sealing card is then mailed or delivered to a doctor's office where a chemical is applied to

Under a program that went into effect last year, Medicare now pays for the screening, officials said.

About 129,000 Americans, most past the age of 50, are diagnosed each year with colorectal cancer, and about 56,000 die each year. It is the second most common cancer killer, just behind lung cancer.

each specimen. If the chemical turns blue, it is evidence of blood.

If the test is positive, patients then undergo a full colon examination with a flexible tube, Bond said. This exam, called a colonoscopy, will find any evidence of cancer or of precancerous growths called polyps.

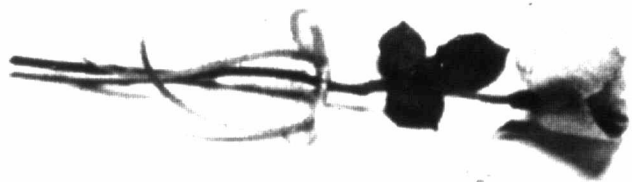
Removing the polyps, performed during the full colon exam, stops the growth from becoming cancer in most cases, he said.

"This type of cancer is preceded in 95 percent of the cases by slowly growing polyps," Bond said. "By taking out the polyps, one can reduce subsequent development of cancer by 90 percent."

The fecal blood tests give false positives 65 percent of the time, Bond noted. But he said "that 35 percent (where a growth is found) is sufficiently high to warrant the examination."

The fecal blood test costs about \$10, said Bond. The follow-up colonoscopy examination can cost several hundred, but he said it is "very cost effective" from a public health viewpoint.

"The cost of the screening and the follow-up tests is much less than finding and treating the cancer later, not only in money, but in the pain and suffering of the patients," said Bond.



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