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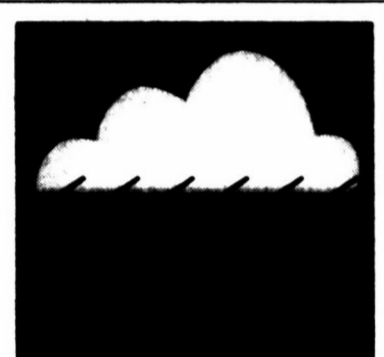
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Page 2.

LEFORS — Lefors Independent School District board is to convene at Thursday, June 29, for a special meeting to discuss personnel.

The board will meet at the elementary school library, 160 Sixth. Items for consideration include an open forum, approval of minutes from the previous meeting and personnel matters.

PAMPA — City commissioners Tuesday accepted the resignation of William L. "Bill" Hallerberg as one of the city's representatives on the board of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority. In a letter, Hallerberg said he is resigning because he and his wife, Betty, are moving to Amarillo. The Hallerbergs have lived in Pampa for 24 years. He is retired from IRI.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A man asking for help with a passport problem and claiming to have a hand grenade entered the office where Archbishop Patrick Flores was working Wednesday morning. It was not immediately clear if the archbishop was being held hostage.

Police said the archbishop and his secretary were inside the office but authorities were not immediately able to contact them. The rest of the building was evacuated.

"We haven't confirmed that he has a grenade," said Gabriel Trevino, a police department spokesman.

"We're trying to establish contact with him as we speak," Trevino said.

Police said they don't know the identity of the man.

- Jessie Mae McKnight Berry, 90, homemaker.
- Willie Page Bradshaw, 71, churchwoman, housekeeper.
- Richard Ray Bright, 63, driller with Murco.
- Frances A. Whittenberg, 60, bookkeeper.

Classified 9
Comics 8
Sports 7

Roach defeats Mann — again

By DEE DEE LARAMORE and KATE B. DICKSON

Roberts County Attorney Rick Roach has emerged as the winner in the bitterly-contested 31st District Attorney Republican primary run-off. He'll now face Democrat Charles Kessie, Hemphill County attorney, in the November general election.

In Tuesday's final tally, Roach edged incumbent District Attorney John Mann by less than 300 votes, with Roach garnering 1,915 total votes to Mann's 1,632. Voter turnout was heavy in the five eastern Texas Panhandle counties that make up the 31st Judicial District — Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Roberts and Wheeler.

It was the second runoff for the two. Roach won the first one also — that time by a six-vote margin.

In analyzing his victory, Roach said, "I think it ultimately came down to the fact the people want

a full-time district attorney. We have a huge backlog of cases in the district."

If reelected, Mann said he would have a private practice and continue to be a part-time district attorney.

In addition to the full-time issue, Roach believes several other factors came into play in the minds of the voters.

"I think the lawsuit Mr. Mann filed offended a great number of people," Roach said. Also, I think my decision not to appeal the lawsuit helped me. The voters were frustrated by it all."

Roach also believes "negative" campaigning by his opponent in both newspaper advertising and direct mail backfired resulting in anti-Mann sentiment.

Roach said his decision to "stick to the issues and run on [Mann's] record as a part-time district attorney" was an important factor in the victory.

Asked how he felt going into Tuesday's election, Roach

laughed and said, "horrible."

"We prayed a lot about this ... for peace of mind and also for the voters not to be dissuaded by the misleading information," he said. "We were not sure how the voters would respond to the negative campaigning."

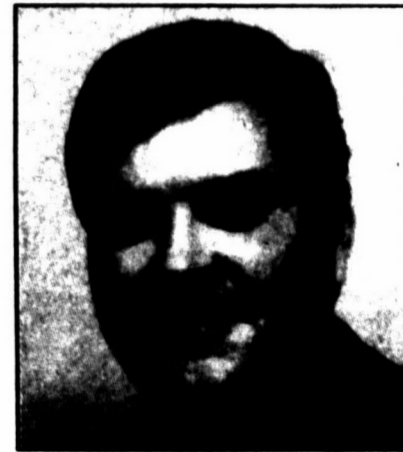
"The people of Gray County and the 31st District did themselves proud," Roach said. "They made the right choice. They didn't buy into [the negative campaigning] and sent a signal. They saw it for what it was and rejected it."

Susan Winborne, Gray County Clerk, reported a "real good turnout" in the district's highest populated area. Roach led the voting in Gray County with a total of 1,270 to 1,094 for Mann. The two candidates were almost neck and neck in early voting with Roach, 523, and Mann, 514.

Hemphill County Clerk Charles Cole said 434 voters turned Tuesday, compared to 222 in the first runoff, almost

"I think the lawsuit Mr. Mann filed offended a great number of people." Also, I think my decision not to appeal the lawsuit helped me. The voters were frustrated by it all."

— Rick Roach



doubling the turnout. Mann led the county with 330 votes to Roach's 104.

In Lipscomb County, voting increased significantly from the first runoff, reported Kim Blair, deputy clerk. Roach won in this county also with 174 votes to 11 for Mann. In the April run-off approximately 30 voters went to the polls, she said.

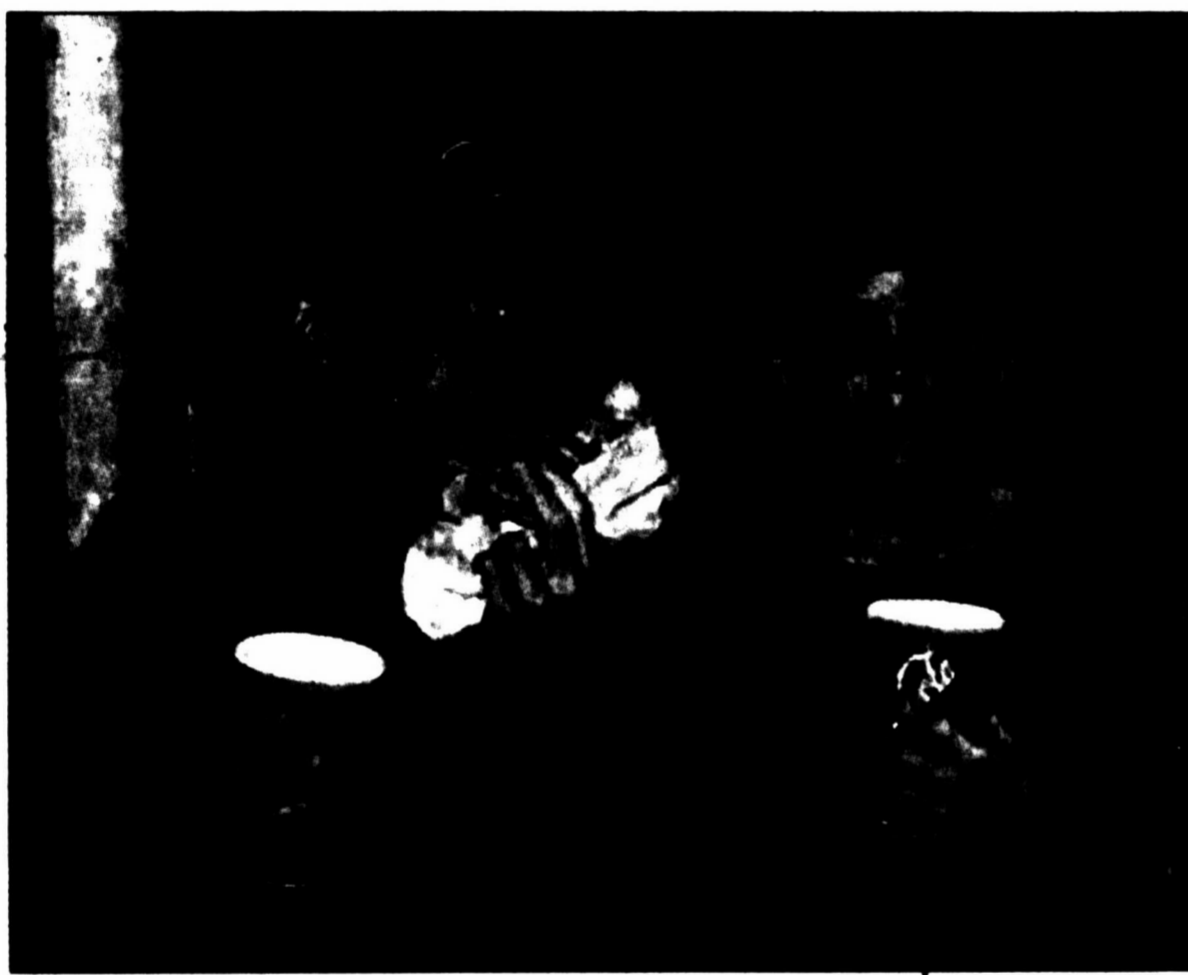
Roach led the voting by a wide

margin in Roberts County where he serves as county attorney. County Clerk Donna Goodman said 47.24 percent of the registered voters went to the polls for the run-off. Roach received 293 votes in this county and 92 votes were placed for Mann.

Mann pushed ahead in Wheeler County, his home territory, leading with 105 votes to

(See ROACH, Page 2)

Baseball and a burger ...



(Photo by Jerry Heasley)

Dustin Kuhn (left) and Keenan Davis of the Cabot 11-12 year-old team have a postgame meal during the City Tournament last weekend at Optimist Park. The tournament continues throughout the week.

Landfill sets holiday hours

Pampa's landfill will close for the July 4th holiday and will reopen the following day, said Rick Stone, sanitation superintendent and Jim Benton, landfill supervisor.

Also, there will be no trash or curbside grass routes run. The landfill's summer hours are 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Last loads must arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. daily.

The Recycling Center at Hobart Street Park is open Thursday afternoons and all day Friday and Saturday.

Commission agenda

Gray County Commissioner's Court is to meet at 9 a.m., Friday, June 30, in the second floor courtroom of the Gray County Courthouse.

Old business to be considered at the meeting include a contract with ArchiTexas architects for courthouse renovation; an agreement with the State of Texas regarding the funding of the restoration; and a preservation easement format.

Commissioners also plan to consider the following new business:

- Payment of bills and salaries, intrabudget transfer requests and budget amend-

ments:

- Additional vehicle registration fees;
- Bids for delinquent tax property at 517 N. Christy, 519 N. Christy, 201 E. Ford, 612 S. Gray, 533 W. Maple, 543 W. Maple, 925 E. Murphy, and 416 N. Wells;
- Precinct judges for the next election cycle;
- IAC loss control program;
- A 911 resolution presented by the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission;
- An award program in the Gray County Sheriff's Office;
- Recognition of training by Head Maintenance person.

Loss of employees problem for police, fire departments

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Pampa's police and fire departments are looking for a few good men and women with one thing in common — being "home grown," that is.

Both departments continue to lose trained personnel because once the employees have experience, most move back to their home areas, City Manager Bob Eskridge told the City Commission Tuesday.

Police Chief Charlie Morris and Fire Chief Kim Powell were given the go-ahead to design a program for the commission to review that centers on recruiting local people for the jobs — people less likely to move away.

The loss of personnel is something that can be directly tied to hiring rules that have changed over the past 15-20 years, Eskridge said. "Before, when you hired a firefighter or policeman you could hire locally and they could go on the street and have a year to become certified," he said. "Then the rules started changing ... and for good reasons."

Now, police officers and firefighters must be certified before they go on the job; something that changed the way many small towns recruited, Eskridge said.

As a result, most of those hired are young people from other areas who are newly certified and looking for a job to start their careers, Powell said.

The announced departure of two non-native firefighters is evidence of the problem, according to Powell. The men have turned in notices with one going to Memphis, Texas and the other to the Amarillo Fire Department.

While Pampa can't match the pay of big city fire and police departments, Powell said the issue often is not the money but the

(See EMPLOYEES, Page 2)

Pantex operator to pay \$75,000 fine

The operating contractor of the Pantex Plant has agreed under a consent order to pay a \$75,000 fine for not following certain fire department procedures.

Mason & Hanger Corporation agreed to the order in accordance with the Department of Energy's Price-Anderson Amendments Act Enforcement Program.

According to Pantex general manager Dr. Ben Pellegrini, the consent order was used in lieu of more stringent options. Also, the DOE concluded that an additional independent investigation is not necessary.

Pellegrini said, "Safety, security and accountability are central to [our] philosophy and are the top priorities of our efforts at Pantex. We have taken the necessary actions to enhance our fire department procedures and increase employee accountability."

Bush accuses Gore of coddling big oil firms

CLEVELAND (AP) — George W. Bush on Wednesday accused presidential rival Al Gore of coddling big oil companies by proposing that deep-water drillers continue to get a break on fees despite soaring fuel prices.

Gore, who often criticizes Bush as a friend of big oil, called for an extension of the royalty moratorium as part of his 10-year plan for nurturing new energy technologies.

Such moratoriums are inappropriate for times when gas prices are skyrocketing, Bush, a former oilman, said.

"The price of natural gas is what's stim-

ulating exploration and the price of natural gas is pretty high now," Bush told reporters during a campaign stop here. "In other words, my opponent is giving major oil companies a huge tax break."

Instead, the Gore campaign called the plan an incentive that would stimulate domestic energy production and reduce the nation's dependence on foreign producers. To oppose the plan, said spokesman Doug Hattaway, is to oppose lower prices.

"Once again Bush is in favor of higher energy prices for consumers," Hattaway said.

President Clinton signed the "Deep Water Royalty Relief Act" in 1995 to stimulate domestic oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico at a time when prices were low. It is scheduled to expire in November, and Gore said Tuesday it should be extended.

Bush's comments came at the end of a swing through three battleground states in which he touted himself a more inclusive Republican than those who took control of Congress in 1995.

Visiting traditionally Democratic neighborhoods, Bush issued another proposal to encourage state and local governments

to help the disadvantaged.

He proposed \$145 million in federal spending to help local governments and community groups make it easier for people with disabilities to find jobs and travel to them.

"It's one thing to have technologies to help people help themselves," Bush said at Vocational Guidance Services, a non-profit organization that helps disabled people find work. "But sometimes people have trouble getting from one place to the other."

His proposal, Bush said, would better

(See BUSH, Page 2)

Calendar of events

TOASTMASTERS

The Toastmasters will meet every Wednesday night from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at Furr's Cafeteria.

WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM

The White Deer Land Museum (112-116 S. Cuyler) visiting hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. There will be history of the White Deer Land Co., and the early area settlers and outstanding arrowhead collection and art gallery. Elevator.

CLARENDON COLLEGE

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will offer GED testing on the fourth Monday and Tuesday of each month. Registration will be at 9 a.m. each day. Cost will be \$45 including a \$20 deposit. For more information, call 665-8801.

LAS PAMPA WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY

Las Pampa Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Austin Elementary School. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Lance DeFever.

HIGH PLAINS EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

High Plains Epilepsy Association of Amarillo, funded in part by Pampa United Way, will have a licensed social worker in Pampa from 9:30-12 noon the second Tuesday of each month at Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. The program assists people with epilepsy and their families. To make an appointment, contact the Amarillo office at 1-800-806-7236.

FRONTIER REGIMENT

Frontier Regiment will hold a 60th anniversary celebration July 1 at Lake McClellan, 25-miles south of Pampa off Interstate 40. The group, a newly formed reenactment of the 1800s, is seeking U.S. Cavalry, infantry and buffalo burgers to participate in the celebration and will be cooking actual buffalo patties with all the fixings at an authentic 1870s military camp. Other activities will include live bands and Indian dancers.

FBC WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

First Baptist Church Women's Ministries will host a program and send-off luncheon for Mark and Kristie Aderholt, International Mission Board appointees, beginning at 11:45 a.m. (noon for working women) Thursday, July 20 in Fellowship Hall, 203 N. West, of the church. The luncheon is open to all women. Cost of the meal (chef salad) will be \$4. Participants must RSVP by Tuesday, July 18 by calling 669-1155. A love offering will be taken and a basket for personal messages will be provided.

CMBC BLOOD DRIVE

Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo will host a pre-Fourth of July Blood Drive from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, July 1 and from 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday, July 3 at the center, 1915 Coulter. All donors will receive a T-Shirt and a hot dog. For more information, call Linda Guthrie at (806) 358-4563.

PARADE OF PONDS

Ogallala Water Gardeners in Amarillo will hold its third annual "Parade of Ponds" Water Garden Tour from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, July 15 in Amarillo. An additional night tour will be from 9-11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 with children under 12 (accompanied by an adult) free. Tickets and a map/brochure will be available on the day of the tour from any of the homes. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the following locations: Amarillo Botanical Gardens, Coulter Gardens Nursery, Pitter Patter Pets, Panhandle Greenhouses and Rolling Hills Aquatic Gardens. For more information, visit the club's website at www.amaonline.com/owg

GREEN THUMB

Green Thumb is launching a search to identify and recognize outstanding employers of America's senior workers. GT will honor three outstanding employers representing small, medium and large businesses during its National Prime Time Awards activities Oct. 3-6 in Washington, D.C. The deadline for nominations is July 30. Details and on-line applications are available at www.prime-time2000.org. Eligibility criteria: 1) employers who hire older workers 65 and over for 20 or more hours of paid employment per week at minimum wage or higher (this does not include older workers whose employment is subsidized through local, state or federally-funded programs); 2) nominations for affiliates, franchises, partnerships and divisions should be consolidated and submitted through corporate headquarters if possible; 3) business size - up to 50 employees (small), up to 1,000 (medium), and over 1,000 (large); 4) winners must be willing and able to travel to Washington for the 2000 event. Applications may be mailed to (if not submitted on-line): Diane Long, Green Thumb, Inc., 2000 N. 14th St., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22201.

BROWN BAG LUNCH PROGRAM

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will host free brown bag lunch seminars at 12 noon each Thursday throughout the month of June with Ben Watson of Edward Jones. The first two presentations will be "Investment Basics" on June 1 and "10 Investment and Financial Risks" on June 15. The presentations are free and open to the public.

NOEP PROGRAM

The Nurse Oncology Education Program and Amarillo College will present "Growing Up With Cancer: A Family Focus" from 7:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m., July 14 in AC's West Campus Lecture Hall, Amarillo. The conference will be worth 7.7 Type I contact hours for nurses and 0.6 CEUs for social workers. Early registration is \$45. Students must provide a copy of student ID and pay a \$10 (post-marked on or before July 7) registration fee. On-site and late registration will cost \$60. For more information, call 1-800-515-6770 or write: The Nurse Oncology Education Program, Growing Up With Cancer, 7600 Burnet Rd., Suite 440, Austin, TX 78757.

GED TESTING

Clarendon College-Pampa Center conducts GED testing the fourth Monday and Tuesday of every month except for May and June. Test dates for these two months are May 22 and 23 and June 19 and 20. Those taking the full test must attend both days. Preregistration is required. For more information, call Jana Wesson-Martin at 665-8801.

ANCH ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

The Agricultural Economics Department at Texas A&M University will sponsor a "Ranch Estate Planning Seminar" Aug. 6-

7 at College Station Hilton. For more information, call (979) 845-2226 or write: 315 Blocker Bldg., Department of Agricultural Economics, 2124 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-22124.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

The Texas Department of Health will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella). The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-4:30 p.m., May 3, 17 and 1, Family Health Care, 600 W. Kentucky, Pampa; 12-4 p.m., May 22, City Hall, Canadian; 12-3 p.m., May 4, Miami School, Miami; 10 a.m.-12 noon, 1-3 p.m., May 8, Shamrock School, Shamrock; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., May 10, Wheeler School, Wheeler.

OUTWARD BOUND COURSE

North Carolina Outward Bound is offering both a 21- and a 28-day "Classic Outward Bound Course" for teens interested in backpacking, rock climbing, rappelling and whitewater canoeing through the wilds of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. For more information, call 1-877-77-NCOB, e-mail challenge@ncobs.org or log-on to <http://www.ncobs.org/summer.html>.

ART CONTEST

Arts and Kids will award \$38,000 in prizes and scholarships in this year's Annual Art Competition. The deadline for entry is July 31. The contest is open to youth 17 and younger. To participate, send one original work in any style and medium to: Arts and Kids, Suite 101-2111, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries

must be postmarked by July 31 and must include the child's name, address and age on the back. For more information, visit www.ArtsandKids.com on the Internet.

FPS CONTEST

Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a poetry contest with a \$1,000 grand prize. To enter, send one poem, 21 lines or less, to: Free Poetry Contest, PMB126, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028. Participants may enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com. Deadline for entry is July 27.

POWER WHEELCHAIRS

Miracle on Wheels is offering Power Wheelchairs to non-ambulatory senior citizens (65 years and up) usually at no out-of-pocket expense if they qualify. No deposit is required. The chairs are provided to those who cannot walk and self-propel a manual wheelchair at their home or independent living quarters and who meet additional qualifications of the program. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled of any age. For more information, call 1-800-749-8778 or visit www.durablemedical.com on the World Wide Web.

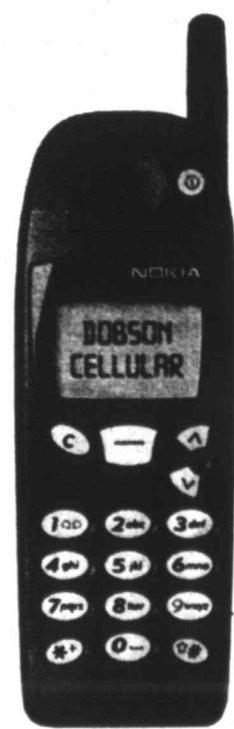
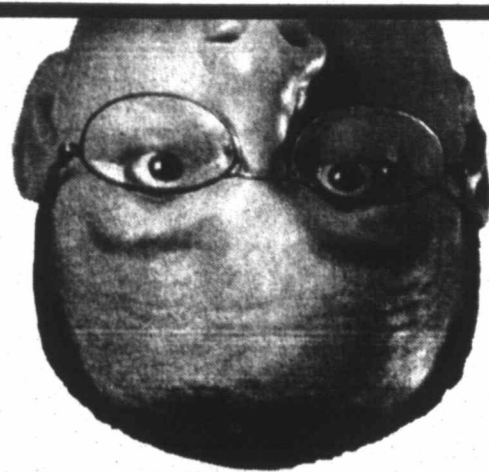
ANIMALPRINTS.COM

AnimalPrints.com has dedicated \$1 from each sale of a newly released series of artist's prints to benefit animals in need. For more information or to view the prints, go to AnimalPrints.com on the Internet.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN CLUB

The Butterfly Garden Club of America is offering free butterfly garden seeds (with growing instructions). To receive a packet, send a long SASE with two stamps to: The Butterfly Garden Club of America, P.O. Box 629, Burgin, KY 40310. Limit one free packet per household. Additional packets are available for \$1 each.

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THE Pampa NEWS

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Preparations for Elian's departure under way

WASHINGTON (AP) — Elian Gonzalez may be heading back to Cuba as early as Wednesday night for the first time in seven months. Assuming the Supreme Court gives the green light, his return home will attract a lot more attention than his departure.

Barring an adverse court ruling, Elian would be free to leave U.S. soil for Cuba after 4 p.m. EDT, and tentative plans were being made for a nighttime arrival in Havana aboard a chartered flight from Washington Dulles International Airport.

Elian would be accompanied back home to Cuba by his family and an entourage of Cuban compatriots, including classmates who joined him here in April.

But the departure plans would have to be put on hold if the Supreme Court agrees to hear an appeal by Elian's Miami relatives seeking a political asylum hearing for the 6-year-old boy.

Cuban officials said the departure plans were being coordinated by Gregory Craig, the lawyer for Elian's father,

Juan Miguel Gonzalez. Elian, just another Cuban boy last November, has since become an international celebrity. He barely survived a perilous boat journey from Cuba that claimed the life of his mother, and since his rescue from the Atlantic Ocean on Thanksgiving Day he has been at the center of a bitter custody battle between his father in Cuba and his Cuban-American relatives in Miami.

For President Fidel Castro, getting Elian out of the clutches of his powerful adversary has been a No. 1 priority. Elian has become a rallying point for anti-Castro sentiments in the United States, particularly in Miami's Cuban exile neighborhoods. He stayed with his Miami relatives until federal agents seized him on April 22 and turned him over to his father in Washington pending the court appeals.

Elian may be in the dark as to what may await him today.

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, former general secretary of the National Council of

Churches and a staunch supporter of Juan Miguel Gonzalez, said Tuesday she believed the father has been careful not to promise his son when he might be returning home.

"My overwhelming impression is that no one is talking to him about going home" yet, she said. "I don't think his father is going to talk about this until they're sure they're going."

On Monday, attorneys for the relatives asked Justice Anthony M. Kennedy to block Elian's departure so the full Supreme Court could address the issue. Kennedy is responsible for dealing with cases from the 11th Circuit Court in Atlanta, which ruled last week that Elian should be allowed to leave on Wednesday.

Lawyers for the Miami relatives have argued that a few weeks' delay in the long legal fight over the boy is a small cost in a case with stakes of such magnitude.

All along, the Miami relatives have said the immigration service erred in not granting Elian

the right to apply for political asylum.

Immigration officials have consistently maintained that the desire of Elian's father to repatriate the boy to Cuba must be respected, a position backed by a succession of court rulings.

On the Net: State Department:

<http://www.state.gov/www/re/gions/wha/index.html>

Cuban newspaper Granma: <http://www.granma.cu>

Durable-goods orders surge

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods shot up in May, rising a bigger-than-expected 6 percent, led by a burst in demand for electronics equipment.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that last month's increase in orders for durable-goods — items expected to last at least three years — was the largest gain since December and left orders at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$218.9 billion.

The gain was twice as big as the 3 percent increase many analysts were expecting. The durable-goods data, economists have cautioned, tend to be volatile and can swing widely from month to month.

In April, durable-goods orders fell 5.7 percent, which was a stronger performance than the 6.4 percent drop the government previously estimated.

Last month's performance largely reflected a 26 percent increase in orders for electronics and electrical equipment, including semiconductors, circuit boards and home appliances. That was the largest gain since August 1997. In April, such orders fell a steep 17.6 percent, not as bad as the record 20.1 percent drop the government estimated a month ago.

The Federal Reserve has boosted interest rates six times since last June to slow the super-charged economy and keep inflation from becoming a problem.

The Fed's rate increases are designed to raise borrowing costs and cool demand for big-ticket items such as cars and homes.

Other recent economic data — including a rise in the nation's unemployment rate in May and lackluster retail sales — have suggested that the central bank's rate increases are working to cool the economy down a bit.

Orders for transportation equipment rose 3.5 percent in May, led by an increase in demand for cars, ships and tanks. That followed a 6.4 percent decline the month before.

Excluding the volatile transportation sector, durable-goods orders went up by a whopping 6.6 percent — the largest gain since January 1985. The transportation sector is volatile from month to month because it includes such costly items as airplanes.

Primary metals, the category that includes steel, saw orders rise 1.1 percent in May after falling by the same amount in April.

Orders for industrial machinery, including computers and machine tools, however, fell in May by a slim 0.1 percent after posting a sizable 3.6 percent gain the month before.

House OKs campaign disclosure legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House and the Senate have spoken: Newly popular but secretive groups should be forced to say who is paying for TV commercials and other political activity.

The House early Wednesday voted 385-39 to require disclosure of groups that organize under section 527 of the tax code, which allows nonprofit groups to run campaign-style commercials as long as they don't directly advocate the election or defeat of any candidates.

The Senate passed a similar measure earlier this month, and the two chambers now must work out the differences before sending a final bill to the White House for the president's signature.

The White House cheered the House action. "The House delivered a rebuke to their leadership and said the public interest is more important than the special interests," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart. "We certainly hope that this is a precursor to more broader and more comprehensive campaign finance reform."

In the Senate, Arizona Republican John McCain and his allies will push GOP leaders to adopt the House bill.

"I hope the Senate will now pass this bill and send it to President Clinton for immediate signature so we will know this election cycle who and what these organizations are," McCain said in a statement.

Proponents of the disclosure measure note that every day of delay allows groups to collect more secret cash. Even if a bill eventually does become law, groups will not have to disclose the names of anyone who donates money before the bill is signed.

Congress has a "very narrow window" to pass the legislation in time for disclosure to mean anything for the 2000 elections, said Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas.

He suggested that opponents purposely have delayed the bill to keep the cash rolling in.

"For months, while we have waited ... there have been those who obstructed reform, who have been working as hard as they can to raise as much secret money as they can," Doggett said.

The House bill that passed is much like one Democrats originally proposed. Republican leaders blocked those efforts, saying the legislation should be broadened to include unions and other nonprofit organizations.

But Democrats complained that if unions were included, corporations should be too. Republicans balked at that.

Democrats also complained that such a broad bill was probably unconstitutional. The GOP version included year-round nonprofit activity, whereas Democrats wanted to limit it to activity within a month or two of an election.

"You shoot as high as you possibly can and end up with something the majority feels is the best practical solution," said Rep. Amo Houghton, R-N.Y., who led the Republican effort.

The final legislation covers any 527 group that raises at least \$25,000 a year. It requires those that do not already report to the Federal Election Commission to report to the Internal Revenue Service, which will make the reports public.

Section 527 is reserved for political groups, giving them certain tax advantages. It was created for political parties and political action committees, which report their spending to the FEC.

But a new brand of 527 is reporting to no one. As far as the FEC is concerned, these groups claim to be involved in issues, not politics.

Other nonprofits also avoid disclosure with the FEC by claiming to be involved in issues, although they too spend large sums on TV ads that attempt to influence elections. Still, unlike 527s, these other groups do face some limit on how much political activity they can conduct without losing their nonprofit tax status.

National groups file in support of paper's quest for information

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Item in its quest to intervene. It seeks to protect the paper's efforts under the Texas Freedom of Information Act.

Former police officer Deneen Ford sued the city after she was fired in 1998, claiming her dismissal was motivated by race and gender discrimination. Ford, who is black, was returned to uniform after a meeting with the city manager, but her lawsuit continued.

The collaborative amici curiae brief asserts that not only was the Item's motion to intervene in the settlement improperly denied by Gilmore's court, but the city of Huntsville was wrong to keep the deal's specifics hidden from the public.

"By trying to keep its settlement agreement with Ford confidential, the city of Huntsville is not acting in the best interest of its citizens, the very people who must finance these settlements through their tax dollars," the brief says.

The collaborative filing is called an amici curiae, or "friends of the court," brief in support of The

More Images ...



Geraldine Boggs of Lefors entered this snapshot in the Images photo contest of Micah Boggs of Buford, Ga., up in a mulberry tree.

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People in the news ...

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Planet Hollywood International is hoping a Shaq Attack will help pull the restaurant company out of the doldrums.

Los Angeles Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal has become Planet Hollywood's latest celebrity shareholder, the company announced Tuesday. O'Neal, who led the Lakers to the NBA championship this season, will make personal appearances at restaurants and have his name added to the menu in the form of "The Shaq Shake."

"I plan to do for Planet Hollywood as I have done for the Lakers," O'Neal said in a statement.

Last year, the Orlando-based company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy so it could restructure its operations. The company also closed nine of its 32 U.S. locations.

Additionally, former president William Baumhauer resigned and Keith Barish, who started the venture with chairman Robert Earl and actors Sylvester Stallone, Demi Moore, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Bruce Willis, also left the company.

Schwarzenegger said earlier this year he also is leaving the company. Earl said he planned to add more celebrity investors.

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. (AP) — The Dollywood theme park has canceled a performance by gospel singer Michael English because he is facing drug charges in Nashville.

English, who was booked to perform two shows on Sept. 24, was scheduled for arraignment Wednesday on 12 counts of fraudulently obtaining the prescription drug hydrocodone, a sedative similar to codeine.

"The circumstances under which we must cancel Mr. English's concerts are unfortunate," Dollywood General Manager Ken Bell said Monday. "However, we feel it is the best decision for everyone at this time."

English, 38, has said he got addicted to hydrocodone after it was prescribed to him as pain medication for an injury. His lawyer is trying to win him probation. Spokesman Jeff Lysyczyn said the singer has not lost any other bookings because of the charges.

English shocked the Christian music industry in 1993 when he returned six Gospel Music Association Awards and acknowledged an adulterous affair with a backup singer. Dollywood is named after country music star Dolly Parton.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Garry Shandling is going from fictional talk show host to primetime awards show host.

The star of the former HBO series "The Larry Sanders Show"

will be the emcee for the 52nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards on Sept. 10.

"I'm really looking forward to the Emmys this year because there is nothing I can lose except my dignity," the comedian and actor said in a statement Monday.

A three-time host of the Grammy Awards, Shandling won a writing Emmy in 1998 for "Larry Sanders."

Emmy nominations will be announced by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences on July 20.

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Jesse Ventura found a few moments between visits with flood victims and city leaders to have a little fun, casting his handprints in cement and signing autographs.

Ventura was in Moorhead on Tuesday to kick off a 12-city tour of the northwestern portion of the state, which was hit by heavy flooding last week.

Between meetings with local leaders and flood victims, the governor agreed to cast his handprints in a cement square that will become part of the Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Center's "Walk of Fame."

He was skeptical at first, but agreed after Mayor Morris Lanning assured him "you don't have to leave them there."

NEW YORK (AP) — It's the fourth time for him, the second for her: Billionaire cosmetics executive Ron Perelman and actress Ellen Barkin are getting married.

"I'll confirm they'll be getting married but give no details in the interest of preserving their privacy," Perelman spokesman Howard Rubenstein said Tuesday.

The New York Post reported that the Revlon mogul — still thick in the fight for custody of his 5-year-old daughter by third wife Patricia Duff — plans to marry Barkin on Wednesday at an East Side synagogue, followed by a reception for 75 people at a restaurant.

Perelman, who is worth almost \$5 billion, has five other children and recently became a grandfather. He is 57.

Barkin, 46, had love scenes with Al Pacino in "Sea of Love" and Dennis Quaid in "The Big Easy." She has two children with actor Gabriel Byrne.

VATICAN CITY (AP) — He sat between two clerics, quoted the pope and helped plug a book recounting a cardinal's battle against church repression in the Soviet bloc.

Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's poll ratings are sagging at home, but he has become a popular figure at the Vatican after forging a friendship with

Pope John Paul II.

Gorbachev sat on a dais Tuesday along with two cardinals, the Italian foreign minister and the president of the European Union's commission to promote the book "The Martyrdom of Patience," the memoirs of Cardinal Agostino Casaroli.

Casaroli, who died in 1998, was considered an architect of the Vatican policy that helped the church survive in Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

Gorbachev called Casaroli "a great personality," recalling their meeting in Moscow to help prepare Gorbachev's historic visit to the Vatican in 1989, the first by a leader of the Soviet Communist party. Gorbachev has met with the pope at least a half dozen times since.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A collection of handwritten manuscripts, poems and letters by Hans Christian Andersen and several first editions of his fairy tales have been acquired by the writer's museum.

The items totaling 600 pages were bought recently for \$456,000, the museum said Tuesday. The documents include the original manuscript of Andersen's tale "The Bell" from 1845, and the leather-bound first editions that all have dedications by the writer.

A Danish collector, Kay Hoeg, had gathered the items in what was the largest privately held collection of Andersen manuscripts. When Hoeg died in 1947, it went to his children, who eventually sold it to the museum in Odense.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former Disney studio chief Joe Roth and the man behind the Internet hype surrounding "The Blair Witch Project" have launched a new sci-fi Web site called DistantCorners.com.

The site will be a proving ground for science fiction, horror and fantasy entertainment that is to be developed into TV shows and feature films through Roth's new Revolution Studios.

The site will also be used to promote movies and shows that Revolution Studios produces.

"DistantCorners.com is the first venture from Digital Corners Entertainment, which was founded by Roth and John Hegeman, former president of worldwide marketing for Artisan Entertainment. Artisan produced "Blair Witch."

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal, criticized for making a Disneyland commercial

during an actors' strike against the ad industry, insists he's a team player.

"I've been through two work stoppages in my career, and I know how difficult they are to union members and their families," the basketball star said in a statement Monday.

The Los Angeles Lakers player filmed an instant "I'm going to Disneyland" spot after his team won the NBA championship June 19. O'Neal's fee went to his charity for disadvantaged children, his agent said.

O'Neal came under fire from the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, which authorized the strike that began May 1.

"As a SAG and AFTRA member, I fully support the strike and hope that negotiations can resume in the very near future so both sides can get back to business as quickly as possible," O'Neal said.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — It may lack Mel Gibson and his glitzy actor friends, but Columbia is having its own premiere party for "The Patriot" on the same night as the Hollywood gala.

"The Patriot" stars Gibson as a reluctant Colonial South Carolinian who is swept into the Revolutionary War when British troops threaten his home and family.

Glinda Coleman, executive director of the Chester Downtown Development Association, said the Columbia screening will have its own glamour.

There will be a red carpet stretching from a sports bar across the street, Coleman said. "Palmetto trees will line the walkway, and we have some old Packard cars what will shuttle some people to the theater."

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Ed Masry, the environmental lawyer whose story was featured in the Julia Roberts movie "Erin Brockovich," is considering a run for City Council.

Masry said he will not make a formal announcement until July 5. Two seats are up for grabs in November.

Dallas-bound plane makes emergency landing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An American Airlines plane headed to Dallas made an emergency landing early Wednesday at Los Angeles International Airport after reporting engine trouble, officials said.

The plane, a three-engine DC-10 carrying 294 passengers and

"Obviously, if I run, I have every intention of winning. I'm not used to losing," Masry said.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Singer Vic Damone, in the midst of a national farewell tour, canceled appearances this week at an Atlantic City casino after being hospitalized with flu-like symptoms.

Publicist Rob Wilcox said Damone, 72, felt ill Monday morning and was admitted to a New Jersey hospital.

Damone, who recorded such songs as "An Affair to Remember" and "On the Street Where You Live," is in the middle of a tour that is scheduled to run until mid-2001.

Damone canceled appearances through Friday night at the Atlantic City Hilton Casino Resort. Those appearances will be rescheduled in the fall.

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Music producer and former Blackstreet group member Teddy Riley has reached a settlement in a slander lawsuit filed against a former bandmate.

The lawsuit claimed former Blackstreet member Chauncey Hannibal defamed Riley on MTV and five East Coast radio stations by playing a rap song called "Shame on You" that accused Riley of dishonesty.

Details of the settlement reached last week are confidential, Riley's attorney, David Ventker, said Monday. The suit was filed last month.

Riley had sought \$2 million from Hannibal, who goes by the stage name Chauncey Black, and also sought an injunction to stop Hannibal from playing "Shame on You" and making further accusations.

Hannibal said that there had been some "creative and artistic differences" between him and Riley and that he wanted "to express my regret for the false statements which were made about Teddy, by the media and others."

Riley formed Blackstreet in 1993, and the band won a Grammy Award in 1997 for best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocal. Blackstreet broke up last year.

Singer LeAnn Rimes' family feud continues

DALLAS (AP) — Wilbur Rimes, father of country music star LeAnn Rimes, has accused his ex-wife of holding part of the fortune she accused him of stealing from their 17-year-old daughter.

Wilbur Rimes filed a petition Monday disputing a lawsuit filed May 2 in Dallas County by Belinda Rimes, his ex-wife. That lawsuit, filed on her daughter's behalf, accuses Wilbur Rimes and a former manager, Lyle Walker, of defrauding the singer out of millions of dollars with an unfair and fraudulent contract.

In Wilbur Rimes' petition, he contends that he and Belinda Rimes split most of the management and producer fees he received from their daughter's career. Wilbur Rimes said he has done nothing wrong, but his petition seeks to make his ex-wife pay part of any judgment awarded from the lawsuit.

Brad Rhorer, Wilbur Rimes' attorney, said his client has check stubs to prove that his ex-wife has the money.

LeAnn Rimes became a top star with the debut of her album "Blue" in 1996. She won Grammy Awards in 1997 for best new artist and best female country vocal. "How Do I Live" is among her other hits.

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4th of July Deadlines

Classified & City Briefs

Run Date	Deadline
Tuesday July 4	Monday July 3 Noon
Wednesday July 5	Monday July 3 4 PM

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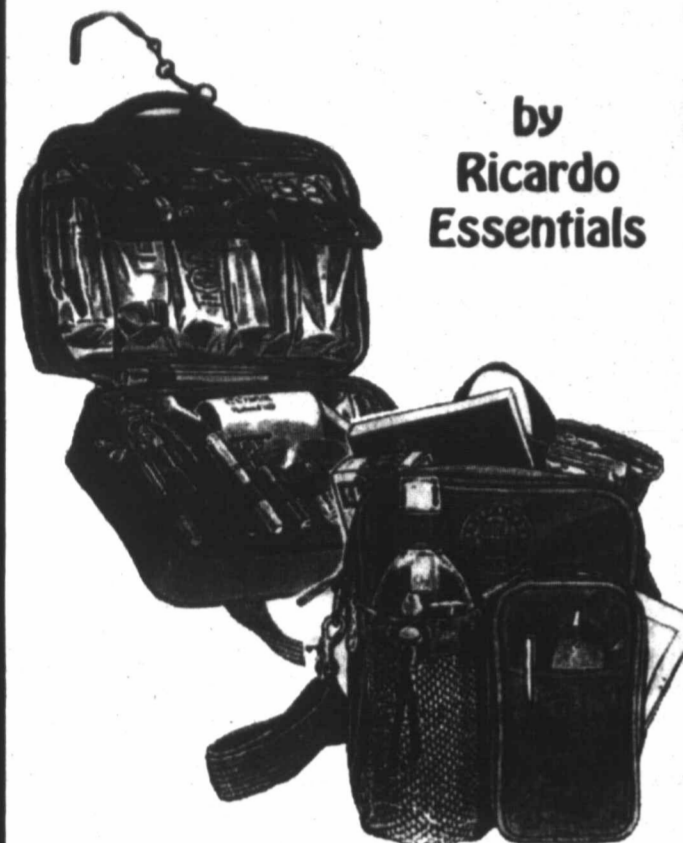
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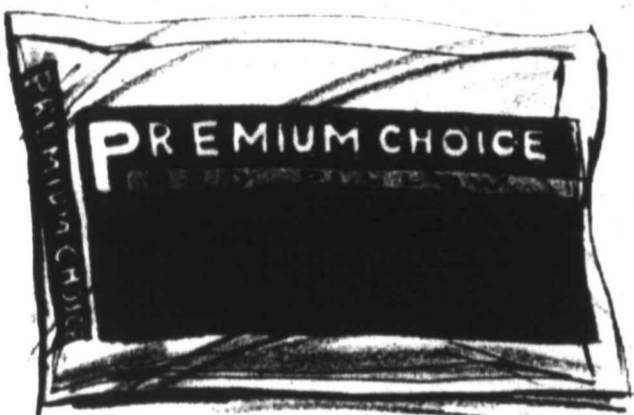
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DUNNAPS

SPORTS

Notebook
GOLF

PAMPA—James Goodwin, Pampa, used a 7-iron for his first hole-in-one last Friday at the Celanese Course. His hole-in-one came on the No. 3 hole.

Witnesses were R.L. Scothorn and Roy Porter.

FOOTBALL

PHOENIX (AP)—Defensive tackle Mark Smith and free agent linebacker Dave Thomas signed one-year contracts with the Arizona Cardinals.

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Leon Johnson's once-promising career with the New York Jets ended when he was waived by the team. Johnson, sensational as a kick returner and third-down back with the Jets in his rookie year of 1997, wrecked his knee in the 1999 season opener.

TENNIS

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Serena Williams took 35 minutes Wednesday to surge into the third round of Wimbledon, routing Dutch qualifier Yvette Basting 6-1, 6-0.

Williams, seeded No. 8, served nine aces and volleyed sharply against an opponent ranked 187th in the world. Basting, making her Wimbledon main draw debut, looked helpless and won only 17 points.

Williams' only lapse came when she double faulted at 40-0 love on match point. She promptly hit an ace on the next point, then skipped to the net, blowing kisses to the crowd.

The 18-year-old Williams is playing in her first tournament since being sidelined in April with tendinitis in her left knee. She reached the third round of Wimbledon in 1998.

Her 20-year-old sister, fifth-seeded Venus, played later in the day against Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Pete Sampras, bidding for a seventh Wimbledon crown and 13th Grand Slam championship, was due back on Centre Court for a second-round match against Karol Kucera.

Top-seeded Martina Hingis and Anna Kournikova were among the women scheduled to play.

On Tuesday, the tournament lost one of the men's title favorites.

The pre-Wimbledon buzz was centered on 19-year-old Lleyton Hewitt, the hotshot Aussie anointed as the man with the best chance of dethroning Sampras.

Maybe next year. Hewitt didn't get past the opening round.

Fizzling in his first appearance on Centre Court, Hewitt went down in straight sets to unseeded American Jan-Michael Gambill.

"It's one of those days," Hewitt said after the 6-3, 6-2, 7-5 defeat. "It's just a shame. You know you're going to have days like this, but you just hope it happens in a (tour) event or a little bit smaller event than Wimbledon."

Hewitt, with a 41-8 record this year, raised great expectations when he beat Sampras in straight sets in the final of the Queen's Club tournament 10 days ago. Sampras hailed Hewitt as a star and one of his main challengers for the title.

"He's awesome on every surface," countryman Patrick Rafter said Tuesday before Hewitt's loss. "He's going to be someone who is going to have multiple Grand Slam titles beside his name."

But on this day Hewitt was just another first-round flame-out.

Gambill, ranked 49th in the season-long points race, overwhelmed him in the first two sets, outslugging him from the baseline and nearly serving him out the court.

"I had very little chances on his serve in the first two sets," Hewitt said. "He just served bombs the whole time."

DFB turns
back 11-12
champions

PAMPA—A team which lives by unearned runs sometimes dies by them. Last week, Glo-Valve Service took advantage of Rotary errors to score 10 unearned runs, then handed Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency four unearned runs in a 6-4 loss.

The DFB victory came during the City Tournament.

Weston Teichmann notched his second complete game win over the regular season champions by permitting only four hits. He struck out eight and walked four. Tyson Hickman started for Glo-Valve. He permitted one run and four hits. He struck out four and walked one. Brett Ferrell relieved in the fourth inning. He surrendered one earned run and four hits. Ferrell struck out two and walked two.

DFB loaded the bases in the first inning on a single by Teichmann, a walk to Shane Goldsmith and a fielder's choice hit by Luke Raber, but did not score. Glo-Valve wasted a single by Eric Kingcade in the bottom half of the inning.

In the top of the second, DFB took the lead. Chris Burns singled and continued to second on an error. He scored on a solid single to center by Chase Harris. Harris went to third on a groundout, but was trapped off base when Hickman fielded a grounder and threw to third.

Glo-Valve had two runners on base, but could not score.

The third inning saw DFB fail to capitalize on Raber's single. In the bottom half of the inning, Craig Crowell walked. He was forced at second by Hickman, who was forced at second by Ferrell. Kingcade followed with a double to knot the score at one.

Ferrell came in for Glo-Valve in the fourth and retired the side in order, thanks to an alert play by right fielder LeKeith Towles. Ferrell walked the second batter he faced. As the third batter of the inning struck out, the Glo-Valve catcher tried to pick the runner off first. The ball bounded into right field. Towles picked up the ball, ran at the runner and forced him out of the baseline to end the inning.

Towles walked in the bottom of the fourth, but was left on.

DFB picked up three runs in the fifth. Braydon Barker was safe on an error and Matthew Trusty singled. Teichmann brought in both runners with a solid double to left center. He scored later when Dane Howard was safe on an error.

Glo-Valve came back to even the score in the bottom of the fifth. Hickman walked with one out and Kingcade also walked after two were out. Both runners flew home on a double by Craig Stone, which cleared the center fielder's head. Robbie Dixon followed with a single scoring Stone.

The sixth inning was a heart-breaker for Glo-Valve. Harris walked and was forced at second by Jared Bivins. Barker lifted a Texas Leaguer to right field. Glo-Valve's catcher made a sensational diving catch of a foul ball for the second out. Teichmann singled to left. When the ball was bobbled by the fielder, Bivins sped home. A throw trying to get Barker at third went into left field making the score DFB 6, Glo-Valve 4.

Teichmann struck out the side in the bottom of the sixth to end the game.

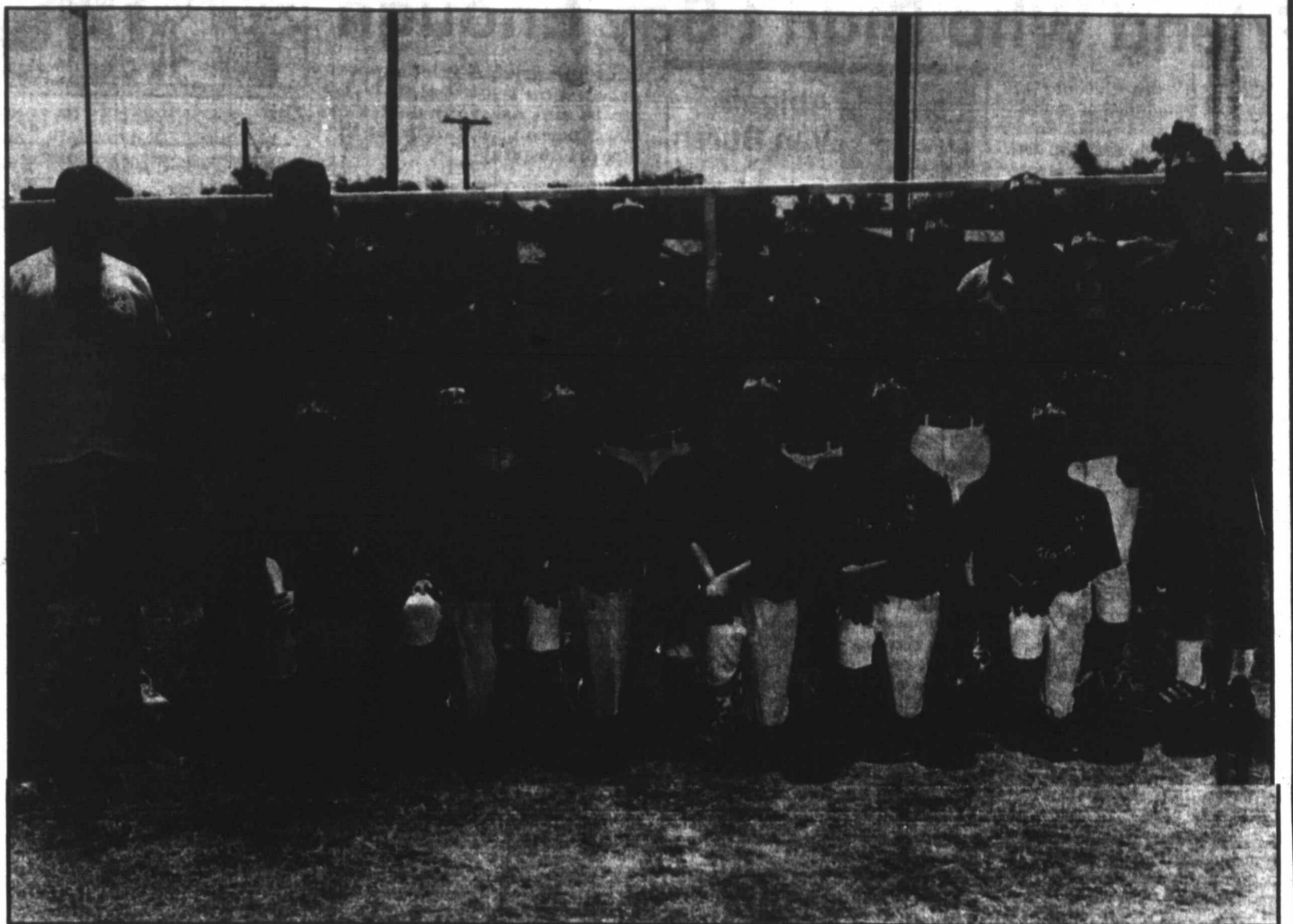
Giants outslug
Rockies, 12-7

DENVER (AP)—Shawn Estes pitched seven strong innings, and Rich Aurilia had three hits and four RBIs as the San Francisco Giants beat the Colorado Rockies 12-7 Tuesday night.

Bobby Estalella and Jeff Kent homered for the Giants, whose first nine runs — and 11 of their 12 — came with two outs.

Estes (7-3) went 7 1-3 innings, allowing just six hits and leaving with a 12-3 lead. Reliever Felix Rodriguez inherited two runners and allowed both to score on RBI singles by Mike Lansing and Jeffrey Hammonds. The Rockies pushed across two more runs before Rodriguez fanned Brian Hunter for the third out.

League champs



(Special photo)

Glo-Valve Service is the 2000 Optimist Cal Ripken 11-12 league champions. Team members are (front row, from left) Jarron Clark, Tyson Hickman, Colby Scott, William Ridgeman, Robbie Dixon and LeKeith Towles; (second row, from left) Brett Ferrell, Eric Kingcade, Ryan Hansen, Bobby Sikes, Matt Parks, Craig Crowell and Craig Stone; (back row, from left); Ed Ferrell, coach; John Warner, manager; Robert Dixon, coach; and Kyle McCullough, coach. Not pictured is coach Jeremy Silva.

Athletics hold off Rangers rally for 7-6 victory

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Athletics built a big lead and hung on for Tim Hudson.

Ben Grieve had two hits and three RBIs as the A's defeated the Texas Rangers 7-6 Tuesday night for their 11th win in 12 games.

Hudson (9-2), who is 8-0 in 12 starts since an April 20 loss at Cleveland, came out after five innings with a split fingernail on the middle finger of his right hand. He allowed three runs and three hits and left with a 7-3 lead.

"It's better to lose a couple of innings than a couple of starts," Hudson said. "I think it happened on the last pitch in the fourth inning. I just looked down and noticed it. I came out for the fifth and it was a little sore. It could have snagged and gotten worse."

A's manager Art Howe said he wanted to protect Hudson, who became the seventh pitcher in major league history to start his career with 20 wins in his first 24 decisions.

"I wasn't going to take a chance of splitting it all the way," Howe said. Hudson likes the sound of his career numbers.

"It's weird when people say I'm 20-4. I'll take it though," he said.

Four relievers combined to hold the lead for Hudson. Jason Istringhausen got the final three outs to convert his 13th straight save chance, his 19th in 22 opportunities overall.

Grieve has a .361 career average against the Rangers, the team his father broadcasts for. He also has nine homers and 31 RBIs, his most against any team.

"I don't have any reason to explain it because I don't do anything different," Grieve said. "It's been fun playing against them and it's nice my dad is there watching me, but it's no big deal any more."

Ivan Rodriguez and Rafael Palmeiro each drove in a pair of runs for the Rangers, who have lost nine of their last 10 road games and 13 of 16 overall.

Texas, which has the second-worst road record (12-22) in the AL, dropped 10 1/2 games out of first place for the first time since ending the 1997 season 13 back.

Matt Perisho (2-1), making his third start for the Rangers, gave up seven runs, six hits and four walks in five innings.

"I gave up some early runs and I tried to keep them right there, but it didn't work out," said Perisho, who has an 11.49 career ERA against the A's.

Oakland scored three runs in

the first with the help of an error by third baseman Mike Lamb. With one out and runners at the corners, Olmedo Saenz's grounder went through Lamb's legs, scoring Terrence Long. Grieve followed with a run-scoring single and Jeremy Giambi hit a sacrifice fly.

Lamb hit a sacrifice fly in the

second, but Grieve's 15th home run gave the A's a 5-1 lead in the third.

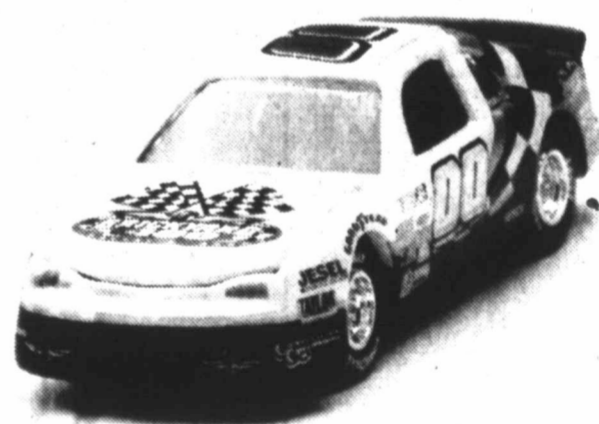
Palmeiro hit his 20th homer leading off the fourth and, after Rodriguez tripled, David Segui hit a sacrifice fly.

Long and Jason Giambi each drove in runs in the fourth, making it 7-3.

Scott Service replaced Hudson in the sixth and didn't retire a batter. After Rusty Greer and Palmeiro singled, Rodriguez doubled home both runners and ended Service's night. Palmeiro added an RBI single in the eighth.

Ramon Hernandez was 3-for-3 for the A's.

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Woman's Death Consumes Her Friend Who Didn't Say Enough

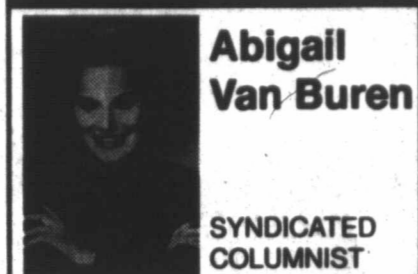
DEAR ABBY: In October of 1998, my best friend died of cancer. She was only 27, and had a long, hard, three-year battle with the disease that eventually made it impossible for her to talk and left her in constant pain until the day she died. She fought hard. She wanted to live for the sake of her two children.

She was the friend I had searched for all my life. We shared everything.

As she was nearing the end, she would ask me, "Am I dying?" And I would reply that she was not. For reasons I will never understand, her mother, husband and physician had decided it was better not to tell her she was going to die soon. The cancer had spread to her liver, and she was well aware that she would die in the absence of a miracle. There was so much she could have done to prepare, and she could have said goodbye to her children.

I am still consumed with guilt for having concealed the truth from my friend. I am nervous all the time and have trouble concentrating and sleeping. I keep repeating in my mind all of the feelings I could have shared with my friend.

I try to occupy my mind — I work, read, write a journal of the thoughts I would have liked to share with her and try to enjoy life. But the depression overwhelms me. I am not sure if I need therapy or medication so I can stop feeling so anxious and can sleep through the night.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

I feel embarrassed and weak for being unable to handle this on my own. You are my last hope. Please help me.

GRIEVING IN L.A.

DEAR GRIEVING: Please don't blame yourself for having not told your friend that she was dying. Although I do not agree with their thinking, you did as her family dictated you must. Your friend was an adult, and, in my opinion, entitled to an honest answer so that she could spend her short and precious time as she wished, made her peace and provided letters for her children. I suspect some families prefer to avoid disclosing a terminal diagnosis because to terms with their own feelings and fears about it.

Short-term medication, under a doctor's supervision, may be helpful. Call your doctor and ask for a referral to a psychotherapist who can help you work through your unresolved

guilt and grief. A grief support group could be helpful. To locate one, ask your doctor or clergyman, or inquire at the nearest hospital.

DEAR ABBY: On Sunday, April 30, my wife called me into the living room to read me a letter from your column. As she read it aloud, I could not hold back the tears. It was the letter from Peter Tran about that day being Memorial Day for the end of the Vietnam War.

I was deeply touched by Mr. Tran's words of gratitude as I reflected back to the year I spent in Vietnam. While I was there, I had witnessed underlying hatred for our being there and ruining the beautiful terrain that existed before the war. It was as though we were fighting a war of no purpose. I am sure other vets felt the same way.

I want to thank Mr. Tran for opening a door that had been tightly closed for many years. It has given me some sense of closure to the many questions I have had about our presence in Vietnam. A huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I no longer feel guilty for having been there. I now feel that it was worth the effort.

DAVID MICHENER, PUYALLUP, WASH.

DEAR DAVID: I'm pleased that the letter brought you closure.

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



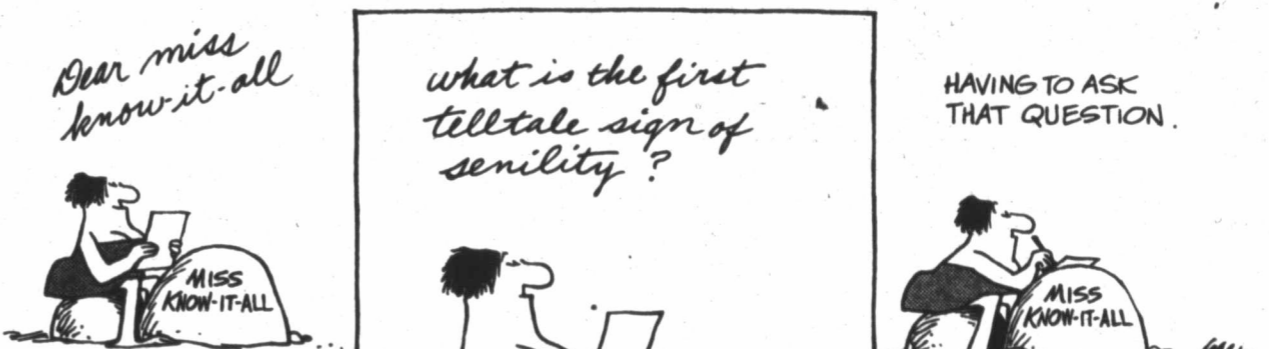
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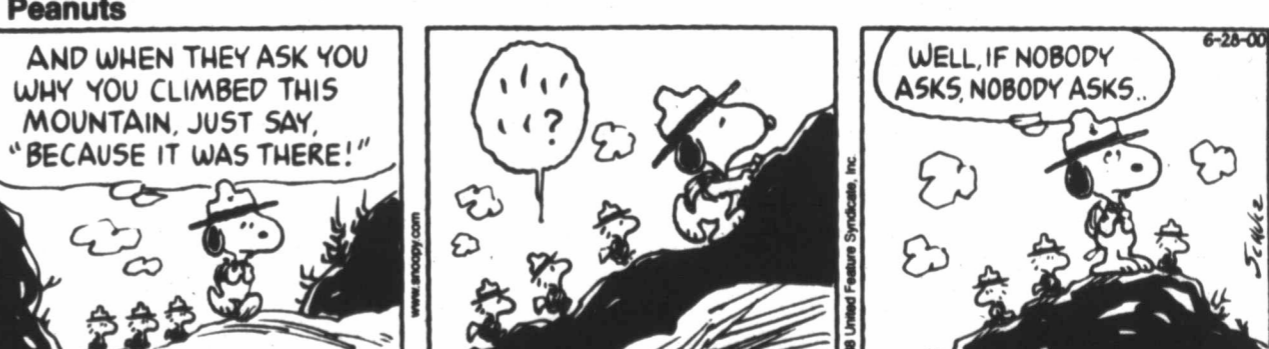
B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 2000

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)

***** Your imagination works overtime. Ideas come from nowhere and, when others speak, your mind takes flight. Use this period to brainstorm. You might have difficulty staying focused with others. Celebrate a change in plans; use gained time positively. Tonight: Hang out with a favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Expenses drive your actions and choices. Discuss a professional vision and tighten up in order to make it a reality. Working as a team helps increase your potential. Reorganize your time, with an eye to completion. Make time to launch a new project. Tonight: Treat another.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** Your personality draws others. Spread good news, but avoid office gossip. Call those at a distance. If you need to, talk to a lawyer, professor or publicist. The time is now. An associate or partner might be jealous. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** You could be cranky because you are tired. On the other hand, work proves to be challenging, which leads to high

frustration levels. Take a brisk walk at lunchtime to recharge your batteries and refresh your mind. A partner inspires you, so institute one-on-one talks.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

***** You shake your head, thinking of the different personalities you are dealing with. One could be esoteric and creative, while another is difficult and manipulative. Express your positive nature, remember the goal and worry less about details. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Work demands all of your attention. Infuse more of your energy into a project. Know that you are heading in the right direction. Others respond to your creativity and leadership. A family member pushes the line. He simply won't accept "no" for an answer. Maintain boundaries. Tonight: In the limelight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

***** Another refuses to listen. Power plays explode. Stay clear and direct. Use ingenuity to get past an immediate snafu. Your mind drifts to more pleasant topics than work. Dote on a child or loved one who needs to know how much you care. Tonight: Take off ASAP.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

***** Relate one-on-one. Expenses could go off the deep end. Review recent decisions concerning a joint matter. An associate gives you important feedback; listen to his opinion. Advice helps you see your options. Worry less about being validated. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

**** Your stubbornness can backfire. Others make an attempt to communicate and eliminate past hassles. Your attitude pushes people away. You might be intuitive about others, but others can't read between the lines. Avoid games and be direct, and you'll gain as well. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Recognize that even you could have burnout. Step back and think about your work and day-to-day life. If you feel like you aren't flowing or that your life isn't working, stop. Take a break, change patterns and ask trusted friends for advice and feedback. Tonight: Finish work; run errands.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

***** A friend reverses gears. You are not only frustrated, you also need to air your feelings. Perhaps your expectations exceeded the potential. You always want the best. Creativity helps you bail out of a difficult situation. Others see you as an idea machine. Tonight: Flirt the night away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

** You feel as if you have been in a pressure cooker. You'll find solutions and come up with winning ideas if you detach. Bosses have expectations that interfere with your needs. Juggling proves to be uncomfortable. You know what has to be done — and don't cut any corners. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

BORN TODAY

Writer Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900); U.S. Representative Fred Grandy (1948); civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael (1941)

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Hardy girl

1 Pea holders

5 Judy's daughter

9 Similar

11 Sheet material

12 Good-mannered

13 Bother

14 Genesis name

15 Generally

17 Oilfield sight

19 Tacit okay

20 Dictation aide

21 Wager

22 Bookish

24 Turf

26 Wendy's friend

29 Jiffy

30 Center, e.g.

32 Country defender

34 Bakery buy

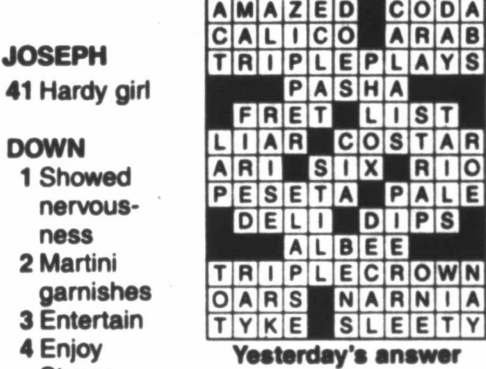
35 Some messages

36 Licorice-like herb

38 Movie noah

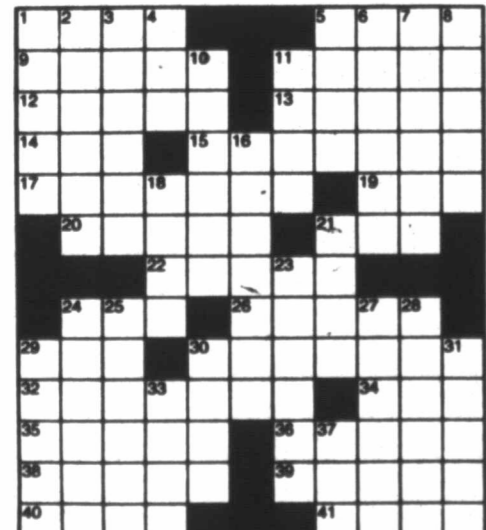
39 Enticed

40 Patella's place



Yesterday's answer

18 Split
21 Memory
7 Fanatic
8 Joined a hand
10 "Seinfeld" character
11 Plumbing problem
16 Fall sign



STUMPED?

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

Marmaduke



"The boss's orders are no checks, no credit cards, and no more bones."

The Family Circus



"Daddy, would you help me practice my home run trot?"

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Midwest drivers filling up, painfully

CHICAGO (AP) — Joyce LeFlore turned on the engine of her shiny black Infiniti and watched the gasoline gauge to see how much \$15 bought her.

It wasn't much. "Less than half a tank," she sighed before driving away. She had paid \$2.35 a gallon for the premium grade required in her luxury car. Regular was \$2.10, mid-grade \$2.20.

LeFlore's frustration is being felt by drivers across the Midwest, who are paying some of the highest gas prices in the nation. Many say they aren't canceling their Fourth of July weekend plans but they are making changes, such as driving from Chicago to Indiana for slightly cheaper gas or organizing car pools.

A survey by the American Automobile Association projects 37.5 million people will travel 100 miles or more from home between Friday and Tuesday. Of those, 32 million are expected to travel by car, a 4 percent increase over last year, AAA spokeswoman Janie Graziani said.

The association expects nearly 5 million of all holiday weekend travelers to be from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, even though gas prices are as much as 90 cents more per gallon in some places than a year ago.

Jerry Pagel of Wausau, Wis., refuses to cancel his weekend trips to his parents' cottage on Lake Nokomis, about 40 miles north.

"Nothing would make me change those plans, even if they put it at \$4 a gallon," Pagel said as he pumped \$25 worth of unleaded regular at \$1.83 per gallon into his minivan.

Graziani was not surprised that most people feel the way Pagel does. She said gas is still a small fraction of travel expenses compared with meals, hotel rooms and tourist attractions. It still costs less for a family to drive than buy airplane tickets, which include a fuel surcharge of up to \$30 per round-trip ticket.

The AAA survey of 1,300 adults was taken in April, before gas prices hit the \$2-per-gallon mark in some areas, but Graziani said it included questions about travel plans if prices continued to rise. Only 1 percent said they would cancel their trips.

Elijah Cunigan has changed his mind about driving 90 miles from Detroit to Lansing, Mich., this weekend to see his sister — or going anywhere else this summer — because he can't afford to fill up his Mercury Villager minivan.

"They're all canceled," he said. "If the prices were like they were last summer, I could do more."

A year ago, the average price for a gallon of regular-grade gas in Michigan was \$1.15 a gallon. This year it's \$1.97, according to AAA.

Some relief is in sight as the holiday draws near. Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon has suspended the state sales tax on gasoline for 60 days. The Illinois Legislature will meet in special session beginning Wednesday to discuss repealing or suspending the state's 5 percent sales tax on fuel.

Energy Secretary Bill Richardson said Tuesday that "unacceptably high" gas prices are falling 7 to 12 cents per gallon in the Midwest. He also said Energy Department figures showed gas prices nationwide dropped 3 cents a gallon over the last week.

BP Amoco, the largest supplier of gas in the Chicago area, announced last week it was lowering prices, which officials attributed to an increase in oil supply.

Presbyterian Church panel urges ban on same-sex unions

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The Presbyterian Church's chief policy-setting body is expected to consider a proposed amendment to the denomination's constitution that bans same-sex union ceremonies.

The church's Committee on the Physical and Spiritual Well-being voted 25-22 on Tuesday to recommend that recognition of such rites be prohibited. The 560-member General Assembly plans to consider the issue Friday at the annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

If the General Assembly passes the amendment to the Book of Order, or constitution, approval must then be sought from ordained ministers and elders nationwide. The church has 2.6 million members.

The proposed ban comes a month after a ruling by the church's highest court allowing individual congregations to hold ceremonies celebrating gay unions as long as they stop short of marriage.

Issues involving the role of gays in the church were brought to the forefront of the annual meeting when 80 gay and lesbian activists and supporters were arrested during a demonstration outside Sunday's opening gathering.

The panel's recommendation disappointed supporters of same-sex unions.

Jury rules in favor of fen-phen users

COQUILLE, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon jury has awarded \$29.1 million in damages to a 58-year-old bus driver and her son who said the diet drug combination fen-phen damaged their hearts.

American Home Products Corp. said it plans to appeal Tuesday's decision by a Coos County jury, which said the drug, sold under the name Pondimin, caused heart problems for Juanita Batson and Richard Wirt.

Fenfluramine, the "fen" in the drug combination, was withdrawn in September 1997 after a Mayo Clinic study linked it to potentially fatal heart valve damage. The second drug in the combination, phentermine, was not linked to any problems.

About 6 million people in the United States had been prescribed fen-phen by the time the study was released.

American Home Products, based in Madison, N.J., faces more than 9,000 lawsuits involv-

ing Pondimin. The company also made Redux, a related drug. Batson used the fen-phen diet drug for nine months to a year. Wirt, 40, who works as a grocery store manager, took the drug for four months.

Their attorneys asked the jury to decide whether American Home Products knew or should have known of the drug's dangers and whether the two Bandon residents were harmed financially from their injuries. The jury also was asked to decide whether Dr. John Abbot was negligent in prescribing the drug.

Mark Spooner, a lawyer representing American Home Products, suggested that Batson and Wirt problems could be related to heredity or age.

Spooner called the trial a "lottery litigation wherein the plaintiffs were absolutely healthy" until their attorneys "took them aside and told them they weren't."

"This was a chance for us to say we believe in families, we believe in couples and relationships, and we didn't take it," said Katie Morrison, 28, of Oakland, a gay candidate for the ministry.

But several who argued for the ban said permitting such celebrations, even though they stop short of marriage, implies that the church condones same-sex relations.

"We cannot bless an act or behavior that we also call a sin," said Elder Ed Gobel of the Tampa Bay Presbytery in Florida.

While homosexuals are prohibited from marrying within the church or serving as ministers, they are not excluded from practicing the faith. The General Assembly approved a ban on same-sex unions in 1995 but the nationwide presbyteries failed to ratify it.

The recommended amendment states that same-sex union ceremonies may not be performed by church officers and cannot be conducted on church property or involve the use of church resources.

A separate proposal to allow individual ministers to make their own decisions on the matter was defeated 26-20, and a resolution for the church to support civil legislation to enact laws permitting same-sex unions was defeated 29-17.

Waco cult survivors take stand

WACO (AP) — Branch Davidian survivor Clive Doyle sat through more than a week of testimony in the \$675 million wrongful death trial against the government.

On Tuesday, he got a chance to tell his side of what happened on Feb. 28, 1993, when federal Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agents raided the compound with search and arrest warrants.

"People were screaming at me, get down, get down, the bullets are coming through the walls," Doyle said. He recalled sect leader David Koresh say: "Hey, wait a minute, there are women, children."

Four agents and six Davidians were killed.

Doyle was expected to return to the stand Wednesday to recount his memories of the April 19, 1993, tear-gassing operation designed to end a 51-day standoff and the fire that later consumed the building.

Koresh and about 80 of his followers died on the final day of the standoff, some from fire, others from gunshots. Doyle escaped the fire but lost his 18-year-old daughter, Shari, in the blaze.

The plaintiffs contend government agents fired indiscriminately during the raid; violated a preapproved plan when they had tanks punch holes in the building to spray tear gas; contributed to or caused at least some of the three fires that engulfed the compound; and failed to have firefighting equipment at the scene.

Government lawyers say sect leader Koresh and his followers intentionally started the fires that quickly engulfed the complex and ended the siege.

Misty Ferguson, another survivor of the final day, recalled Tuesday that her hands were burned as she leaped from the second floor of the complex that was engulfed in smoke and flames.

"The only thing I knew that was burned was my hands. They were already burnt," said Ferguson, who raised her hand on the stand to reveal a stump without fingers.

Ferguson, now 24, said tanks smashed into the building that morning, causing the second-story floor to partially collapse, hindering her escape from the smoke and flames that filled the building.

U.S. Attorney Michael Bradford called Ferguson's testimony contradictory to statements from other witnesses who earlier in the trial testified they had walked down the same hallway Ferguson claimed was blocked.

Superintendent's future uncertain

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The future of suspended Corpus Christi School Superintendent Abelardo Saavedra is still uncertain, but his legal troubles are closer to being settled.

Saavedra will pay the school district \$109.24 and court costs, and he will report regularly to probation officers by phone, according to an agreement made Tuesday with prosecutors.

In return, the prosecutors dropped all remaining misdemeanor charges.

The agreement, called pretrial diversion, means Saavedra does not admit wrongdoing and will not have a conviction on his record.

Saavedra had been scheduled to go on trial Sept. 5 on charges of theft by public servant, misapplication of fiduciary property and abuse of official capacity, all class B misdemeanors. The charges stemmed from a \$109.24 charge made to Saavedra's district-issued credit card for service performed on his wife's car.

Saavedra was suspended from the school district in April. His status as superintendent is still pending. School board members meet July 17 to discuss his future.

Saavedra accepted the deal because he will have a clear criminal record and to avoid thousands of dollars in legal fees, he told the Corpus-Christi Caller-Times.

The agreement does not mean Saavedra is on probation. However, as a condition of the agreement, Saavedra must call the Nueces County Department of Community Services and Corrections once a month for six months.

If Saavedra breaks the law or otherwise does not live up to the terms of the agreement, he could be re-indicted on the same charges.

PFAA summer classes



(Community Camera photos by Judy Elliott)

Pampa Fine Arts Association recently conducted its summer arts courses. Under the direction of Kay Crouch, six classes were taught — beading, watercolor, pottery and drama for youth and basketweaving and photo coloring for high schoolers and adults. Above: Instructor Martha Kothmann encourages Judy Coble, left, and Cara Morris, right, as they color photos with gel pens.

Board denies clemency for convicted killer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The state Pardon and Parole Board voted 4-0 Tuesday to deny clemency for a four-time killer who is scheduled to be executed next month.

Gregg Francis Braun is to be put to death shortly after midnight July 20, although Corrections Department officials are considering beginning executions between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

"They're just discussing it at this stage," spokesman Jerry Massie said. "We may make a decision fairly quickly."

When Oklahoma started executing prisoners again in 1990, reasons for the midnight time included carrying out the execution quickly on the appointed date to avoid last-minute legal issues, and doing it at a time least likely to disturb prison operations.

But as executions have become more frequent, the timing has become a concern.

Massie said changing the time would make executions more convenient for victims' families, who often face long drives home from the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester.

Corrections staff members also would benefit, especially given the increasing pace of executions, he said.

"It would make it more of a normal length work day," Massie said.

Braun, who would be the 10th Oklahoma inmate executed this year, received the death penalty in the July 21, 1989, murder of an Ardmore floral shop worker. Gwendolyn Sue Miller, 31, was killed during an armed robbery.

Miller's death came during a crime spree in which two Garden City, Kan., store clerks, a man at a photo development store in Pampa, Texas, and a Springer, N.M., convenience store clerk also were killed.

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