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Highs, 55-60
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For weather details, see
Page 2

**Snow could mask
copter from searchers**

AMARILLO (AP) — Winter weather, including snowfall, is a concern for crews continuing to search for a Texas Panhandle couple whose helicopter disappeared while they were returning home from their granddaughter's basketball game.

More than a week after Gene and Bobbie Sue Webb failed to arrive home in their Robinson R-22 helicopter, the Civil Air Patrol was still pursuing their trail that led from Gruver to Randall County south of Amarillo.

The fact that the Webbs' helicopter was white with black markings has made the search tougher, said Maj. Rich Sumerson, Amarillo CAP squadron commander.

- Rev. Rick Wadley, 56, died in San Diego
- S.J. Williams, 87, father of Pampa resident
- Bettany Cisneros, 50, beautician, actress

Classified 11
Comics 8
Religion 7
Sports 9

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Water district tables Mesa request

Officials say proposal is incomplete

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER — T. Boone Pickens, Dallas oilman and Roberts County rancher, pondered his options today after the

Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District here tabled Pickens' permit request to pump water from beneath his ranch, and that of his neighbors, to sell to thirsty cities downstate.

Following two hours of sometimes contentious discussion, John McKissack, the district board member representing the newly annexed part of Potter County, moved to table pumping permit requests made by Pickens and his neighbors, operating at Mesa Water, Inc.

District officials said the permit request was incomplete. McKissack's motion, which passed unanimously, tabled the

request until Mesa returned with the name of a buyer for the water.

The board said they had required such information of Salem Abraham of Canadian when he sold water rights to Amarillo and of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority when they had requested a pumping permit for water for the 11 member cities, including Pampa.

Mesa had requested a pumping permit to pump water from the Ogallala Aquifer, a huge underground water formation that extends from the Texas South Plains to the Dakotas. Pickens, in the past, said

the intentions of Mesa Water was to get water rights to some 200,000 acres in Roberts, Ochiltree, Lipscomb and Hemphill Counties; pump water from well fields there, and sell it to one of three areas downstate.

Pickens said, it allowed to pump one acre-foot of water per acre of water rights, Mesa planned on selling water to either El Paso, San Antonio or the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He has said in the past that Mesa would not be producing enough water to sell to more than one of the three urban areas. Communities along

(See WATER, Page 2)

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper ushers in Lent

By NATALIE REEVE
St. Matthew's publicity chair

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church will hold its 46th Annual Pancake Supper from 5-8 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Parish Hall of the church, 727 W. Browning.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the church office or from church members. Children five and under eat free.

Father Jake Clemmens, rector of St. Matthew's, while discussing the Pancake Supper, said, "St. Matthew's has always appreciated the support given by the whole community of Pampa. It is a time to remind ourselves of the common nature of our faith."

This year's festivities will follow the traditional theme of a Mardi Gras atmosphere — with candles and decorated tables — and patrons being served by church members.

All income from the supper is given toward the education of young children. The first Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Matthew's, held in 1956, provided funds for St. Francis Boy's Home in Salina, Kan. This year, as in years since 1976, all proceeds from the supper go to St. Matthew's Episcopal Day School.

Lori Boyd, Day School administrator, explained that the Day School is able to provide scholarships to preschoolers and kindergartners through the proceeds of the Annual Pancake Supper.

"Many children in our surrounding area are allowed an excellent

(See SUPPER, Page 2)



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church with hold its 46th Annual Pancake Supper from 5-8 p.m. on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 27, in the Parish Hall of the church, 727 W. Browning. Above: (back row, left-right) Fr. Jake Clemmens, Maggie Thomas, Hal Cree; (front row, l-r) Josie Aler, Cade Ferguson and Tyler Smith.

White Deer ISD seeks input on cost-savings

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER — Danny Ferrell is looking for a few good ideas today.

With lagging enrollment and dropping property tax valuations, the White Deer school system needs to cut costs, said Ferrell, superintendent of the White Deer Independent School District.

In a called school board meeting Thursday night, Ferrell asked some 100 residents from the district who had gathered in the White Deer elementary school cafeteria for the meeting for suggestions in cutting

'We're going to have to figure out a way to save a minimum of \$240,000.'

— Danny Ferrell
Superintendent

that was going to happen, it would have to be on the agenda."

Ferrell said the meeting was called to go over the financial condition of the school district.

"Eight weeks ago," Ferrell said, "the school board asked me to provide them with some information, anything I could think of that might help the district."

Ferrell, who assumed the job of superintendent only six months ago, said he visited different campuses and talked to the teachers and staff in the district, searching for ideas on how to cut the budget.

(See WHITE DEER, Page 2)

Shamrock official faces charges

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

A Wheeler County grand jury has indicted a former municipal judge on felony theft charges.

Sue Gallagher, Shamrock city magistrate and secretary to a justice of peace there, was indicted for theft over \$20,000 and under \$100,000, a third degree felony.

The indictment last week stems from discrepancies found in a routine audit of the Shamrock

justice of the peace office over a two-year period from January 1996 through June 1998, District Attorney Rick Reach said.

Texas Rangers were called in to conduct an extensive audit, followed by an audit by the Texas Comptroller's office to determine how much fine money that should have gone to the state "had gone somewhere else," the DA explained.

He said the majority of the fines were for traffic

(See OFFICIAL, Page 2)

Pampan dies in fiery head-on crash

REYDON, OKLA. — A Pampa man and two Canadian residents died Wednesday night in a fiery head-on collision in Roger Mills County, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

The crash also took the life of a Reydon volunteer fire fighter who had just left a firefighters meeting in Reydon.

Pronounced dead at the scene of the crash were Euterio Cano, 41, of Pampa, Justin Earl Folk, 21, of Canadian, and Kevin C. Bodkin, 28, Canadian. All were in a 1994 Ford crew-cab pickup which was westbound on State Highway 47 14 miles south of Reydon, according to the OHP.

The crew cab reportedly crossed into the other lane and struck an eastbound 1988 Ford flatbed pickup head-on, according to police reports.

Driver of the flatbed pickup, David Swope, 35, of Reydon was also pronounced dead at the scene.

(See CRASH, Page 2)

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Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP
If interested in the ADHD/ADD Support Group call Connie at 669-9364.

ST. MARK CME CHURCH
St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

MACEDONIA CHURCH
Macedonia Church will host a monthly breakfast the third Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 441 Elm Street with the Rev. I.L. Patrick. Donations will be accepted and the public is invited.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COWBOYS
The Fellowship of Christian Cowboys potluck will meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Clyde Carruth Pavilion. For more information, contact Keven Romines at 665-8547 or Jim Greene at 665-8067.

PAMPA FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION
Pampa Fine Arts Association Board of Directors will meet at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at Pampa Community Building.

GED TESTING
Clarendon College-Pampa Center will conduct GED testing at 9 a.m. Feb. 26 and March 26. Test-takers must bring a government-issued picture ID such as a driver's license and a Social Security card. Pre-registration is not required. Cost is \$45 or \$10 for each re-test.

SHRINE CLUB
Pampa Shrine Club holds a covered dish meeting at 7 p.m. every third Friday of each month at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR
Lovett Memorial Library will sponsor a pre-school story hour at 10 a.m. every Tuesday this spring beginning Jan. 9. The free program is open to children 18 months to 5 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

CPF
Cerebral Palsy Foundation is seeking families with children (birth to age 12) affected by cerebral palsy in an effort to establish a chapter in the area. CPF offers financial and emotional support as well as many free services. For more information, call 1-888-872-7966 toll-free.

CLASS OF 1961
Pampa High School Class of 1961 will hold its 40th class reunion this year. Anyone interested in helping plan and organize the event should contact Zip Swaney at 665-5532.

GCGS MEETING
Gray County Genealogical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Education Classroom of the Gray County Sheriff's Office. The program will be the Genealogy/History Connection Video "The Sweetwater Story." The facilitator will be Bobbie Hill of Old Mobeetie Jail Museum.

PAS VALENTINE DANCE
Pampa Area Christian Singles will host a Valentine's dance from 8-11 p.m., Feb. 24 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Entertainment will be by Mike Porter. Cost is \$6 per person. Please bring your own snack. The event will be alcohol and smoke free. For more information, call 665-7059.

EXTENSION WORKSHOP
On March 23 and 25 at Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service will conduct a two-day "Wildlife and Leadership Development" workshop for adults interested in youth development, wildlife and natural resource management. Cost of the workshop is

\$50. Topics will include: Quail behavior, ecosystem, management, deer aging and evaluating predation. Attendees will participate in a tacky deer survey, a hunter safety skills course and wildlife trivia activities. Registration deadline is March 9. To obtain a registration form or for more information, contact Helen Holdsworth at (210) 467-6575.

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). Flu vaccines will also be offered at designated clinics. 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: 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-4 p.m., Feb. 7 and 21, Pampa Family Clinic, 700 W. Kentucky; 2-4:30 p.m., Feb. 5, McLean Clinic, McLean; 9:30 a.m.-12 noon and 1-3 p.m., Feb. 8, Shamrock School Clinic, Shamrock; 9-11 a.m., Feb. 16, Groom School, Groom; 10 a.m.-12 noon and 1-3 p.m., Feb. 26, Miami School, Miami.

LAD N' LASSIE PAGEANT
A new Pre-Teen Pageant is planned in conjunction with the Ninth Annual Lad n' Lassie Pageant to be held at 1:30 p.m. in Shamrock High School Auditorium at Shamrock during the Saint Patrick's Day Celebration. The Lad n' Lassie pageant is open to boys between 0-9 years of age and girls between 0-13. The boys may come dressed in either casual wear or Sunday best. The Pre-Teen Pageant is open to young ladies between the ages of 10 and 13. These contestants will compete in both Casual Wear and Sunday best as well as photo judging, short interview and public speaking. All participants must submit an entry form along with two photos and a \$10 entry fee. The photos will be published in the local paper. Late entries will pay an additional \$5. Deadline for entry is March 1. For more information or to obtain an entry form, contact Betty Lee at

(806) 256-5337 or Lynette Kidd at (806) 256-3044.

LOVETT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
During January, Lovett Memorial Library will offer four introductory hands-on computer workshops: "Computer Comfort I" for beginners; "Computer Comfort II" for individuals who can open and close files and use the mouse; "What is the Internet?"; and "Introduction to E-Mail," for individuals who wish to learn how to establish a free web-based e-mail account. All classes are free but registration is required. Class size is limited to 10, so space is limited. For information, contact the library at 669-5780.

The workshops will continue monthly through the spring. **THC PRESERVATION AWARD**
Texas Historical Commission is seeking nominations for individuals, groups or organizations meriting recognition for outstanding contributions to historic preservation. Awards are divided into several program areas and will be presented at the statewide Annual Historic Preservation conference slated April 19-21 in Austin. To request an awards packet, write: THC History Programs Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276; or call (512) 463-5853. The deadline is Feb. 28.

HPEA FUND-RAISER
High Plains Epilepsy Association will hold its 18th Annual Spring Art Soiree fund-raiser March 16-18 at Amarillo Civic Center Grand Plaza in Amarillo. The annual fine art sale will feature artwork in many different mediums created by a variety of artists. For more information, call (806) 352-5426. A cocktail buffet will get under way at 6 p.m., Friday, March 16 followed by the live art auction at 7:30 p.m. Show hours are: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 17, and 12-4 p.m., Sunday, March 18.

POETRY CONTEST
New York Poetry Alliance is sponsoring Poetry 2001 contest. A \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded the grand-prize winner. Deadline for entry is March 3. To enter, send one poem, 21 lines or less, to: New York Poetry Alliance, Box 1588, New York, NY 10116-1588; or enter on-line at www.freecontest.com.

GREEN THUMB INTERNET SITE
Green Thumb, Inc., the nation's

oldest and largest provider of training and employment for mature workers, now offers consumers Geezer.com, an on-line service featuring the handwork of seniors from across the country. The site is a must for shoppers looking for distinctive, often one-of-a-kind gifts. Geezer.com includes scores of artisans and craftspeople with more than 2,000 hand-wrought products in more than a dozen categories — apparel, art, doll houses, home and hearth, music and videos, pet store, sports, recreation, toys and games, yard and garden and more.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER
The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: March 12, First United Methodist Church Educational Building, and March 23, Shepard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; Feb. 7, 14, 21, 22, Hemphill County Hospital, Canadian; Feb. 12, Lovett Memorial Library, McLean; Feb. 15, Family Care Center, Shamrock; Feb. 16, United Methodist Church, Miami; Feb. 20, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors; Feb. 28, Parkview Hospital, Wheeler. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with 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 by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

DIALOGUE
The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1:30 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

CHRISTIAN MUSIC CONTEST
Embassy Music of Nashville, Tenn., is currently conducting its Seventh Annual Artist and Song

Talent Search. The contest will offer over \$50,000 in prizes including a publishing contract for the grand prize winning song. The grand prize winning artist will receive a recording which will be distributed nationally to Christian radio stations. Deadline for entry is Feb. 28. For more information, visit www.embassymusic.com or call the Ultimate Hotline at (615) 345-2500.

FPS CONTEST
Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a poetry contest. The contest is free and open to anyone. The winner will receive 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; or enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com. Deadline for entry is Feb. 24.

FIFTH ARMY TOUR
World War II veterans of the United States 5th Army will tour battlefield sites in Italy in June 2001. For more information, contact: Sy Canton, executive director, 5th Army Association, 465 Shore Rd., Ste 7P, Long Beach, NY 11561 or call (516) 432-3022.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE SCHOLARSHIPS
President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is hosting three scholarship competitions for post-secondary students with disabilities for the 2000-01 academic year. Two competitions are open to candidates with disabilities seeking financial assistance for undergraduate study at a four-year college or university. The third competition is open to female candidates with disabilities seeking financial assistance for graduate study. For more information, visit the President's Committee website at www.pcep.gov and click the "Scholarships" link on the home page.

MSAA
A wide range of free, direct support services is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com on the Internet.

FAN BOOKLET
The Financial Assistance Network in Washington, D.C., is offering the following booklets, "Free & Low Cost Medical Care" and "How to Get Government Help To Pay Your Energy Bills." The first booklet includes information on how and where to get free and low-cost medical care under the Federal Hill-Burton program. The second booklet gives information on how and where to get government help to pay your heating bills. Consumers can obtain a copy of "Free & Low Cost Medical Care" by sending \$5 to cover printing, postage and handling to: Financial Assistance Network - Free & Low Cost Medical Care Booklet, Dept. MCB-0725, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. To get a copy of "How to Get Government Help To Pay Your Energy Bills" send \$5 to: Financial Assistance Network - Government Help for Energy Bills, Dept. GHEB-1219, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. The information is also available at www.FinancialAssistanceNetwork.org.

FHRC BOOKLET
Family Health Research Council recently published the booklet "Overcoming Depression and Anxiety." The booklet gives information on how and where to get free and low cost prescription drugs to treat depression and anxiety. Consumers can obtain a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Fulfillment Center East, Overcoming Depression and Anxiety, P.O. Box 3176, Elmira, NY 14905-3176. For additional information, visit the Council's website at www.FamilyHealthResearch.org.

AIYSE
American International Youth Student Exchange Program is seeking American high school students, ages 15-19, to participate in its foreign exchange program. Students will spend a semester or year with an European family or participate in a 4- to 6-week family stay abroad in the summer. Students are screened by AIYSE school counselors and educators in local schools. To qualify, students must have evidence of maturity, superior character and knowledge of English and a foreign language. For more information, call 1-800-347-7575.

'Support a Buff' program helps new students settle in at West Texas A&M

CANYON — It takes a little time for new university students to learn the ins and outs of a particular campus. That's why the Student Advising Registration and Retention (STARR) Center is doing its part to speed up that process for new students at West Texas A&M University.

The STARR Center, located in Room 112 of the Classroom Center, makes it a point to contact all incoming freshmen and transfer students during the early stages of WTAMU's fall and spring semesters. The program is called "Support a Buff," and student employees who make the calls and e-mails remind new students about important deadlines such as the last day to drop a class and about campus services such as tutoring, medical services and student employment services.

"We want all of our new students to have the information they need to succeed here at WTAMU," Sammie Artho, assistant director of the STARR Center, said. "It is especially important during the spring for students who were not here for fall orientation. New students do not always know the campus basics, and this is a way that we can provide general information in a personal way."

The program was established to help the University retain new students. About 850 students are attending WTAMU for the first time during the 2001 spring semester, and the STARR Center has already begun making those calls.

Tanner Robertson, a junior mass communications major from Petersburg, is a STARR Center caller who enjoys helping new students increase their comfort level on the WTAMU campus.

"Most people seem surprised that we even have this service," Robertson said. "But before you know it, they're asking you questions about the campus. People might be aware that we offer things like medical services and supplemental tutoring, but they aren't always aware of how to access them."

"This is such an easy campus to know, yet we get a lot of transfer students from the larger schools that didn't think they would ever get to know their professors or that someone would care enough about them to call. This is all about personal contact," Robertson said. "I think a lot of the people we call really appreciate the service."

STARR Center callers usually work the phones between 1-5 p.m. weekdays.

For more information about "Support a Buff," contact the STARR Center at 806-651-5300.

The Family Healthcare Clinic of Pampa
Located at 600 W. Kentucky Ave.
will close its Pediatric Clinic
effective February 23, 2001

"Well Child" Healthcare & Immunizations
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FEB 23 2001

Sub captain reportedly was aware other ship nearby before collision

WASHINGTON (AP) — The captain of a U.S. submarine that collided with and sank a Japanese fishing trawler two weeks ago told Navy investigators he was aware of sonar soundings indicating that a ship was in the vicinity before the accident, a newspaper reported.

But the sub's skipper, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, maintained that when he looked for a ship through his periscope before ordering a rapid ascent to the surface, he didn't see anything and was not warned of any danger by a sailor whose job it was to plot positions of nearby ships, The Washington Post said in Friday's editions.

The Washington Times, meanwhile, said a confidential Navy report outlines a series of errors made by the crew of the USS Greenville, stating that the periscope sweep was too brief and not high enough to detect the Japanese vessel. The report also blamed the presence of civilians inside the sub's control room for disrupting communications between Waddle and a technician tracking the fishing vessel in busy waters near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

A less crowded area around the periscope "could have dramatically improved this situation," the Times quoted the report as saying. The newspaper said excerpts of the report were read to it Thursday by a Navy source.

The Greenville, a nuclear-powered attack submarine, had 16 civilians aboard when it collided with the fishing vessel Ehime Maru on Feb. 9. The Japanese boat, on a cruise to teach commercial fishing to high school students, sank, and nine people were lost at sea. Two civilians were at control positions aboard the Greenville at the time as the sub made an emergency-surfacing-training maneuver from 400 feet depth, although the Navy says the civilians did not cause the accident.

Nonetheless, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is going to order a moratorium on allowing civilians at the controls of any military ship, aircraft or vehicle, officials said Thursday. Rumsfeld's spokesman, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said the order is a "work in progress."

"All the services know this is coming," Quigley said. On Feb. 14, Rumsfeld was asked whether there was evidence that the civilians played a role in the Greenville accident. "None whatsoever," he replied.

The Times said the report of a preliminary investigation conducted by Rear Adm. Charles Griffiths Jr. said his findings "suggest a significant departure from the expected level of professionalism and performance of the ship's key watchstanders and senior leadership" just before the accident.

The report said there were a "significant number" of crew and guests pushed together on the periscope stand when Waddle and the

officer of the deck, Lt. j.g. Michael J. Coen, were trying to locate the ship associated with the sonar readings.

"The location and number of civilian visitors did interfere with the ability of the OOD (officer of the deck) and commanding officer to use the fire-control system and converse with the (technician) in ascertaining the contact picture from the time the ship was preparing for periscope depth until the (rapid ascent) was conducted," the Times quoted the report as saying.

The Post, quoting an unidentified person close to the investigation, said Waddle told investigators he checked the compass bearings of the nearby ship indicated by sonar readings. He then increased the periscope's magnification and ordered his sub to ascend 2 feet closer to the surface so he could peer over the waves, but he still didn't see anything.

A sailor in the sub's control room had calculated that the Greenville and the Japanese ship were only 2,000 yards apart, but concluded that he must have been mistaken because the captain had just pronounced

the area clear, the Post said. The sailor then arbitrarily plotted the position of the Japanese vessel as 9,000 yards away from the Greenville, the Post said.

Shortly after the accident, the Navy stopped allowing civilians in the control rooms of submarines.

Rumsfeld wants the military services to review their safety guidelines on civilian participation in military activities. He supports involving civilians in military exercises and maneuvers, Quigley said, but wants to ensure that relevant policies are reviewed considering what happened aboard the Greenville.

The possibility that the presence of civilians aboard the sub could have contributed to the accident is one of the subjects to be examined in a formal Navy court of inquiry scheduled to convene in Hawaii next month.

The inquiry also will seek to determine whether the Greenville undertook the emergency-surfacing drill only as a demonstration for the civilians aboard, officials said.

Lovett Library story hour



Thomas Lusk peeks out from behind his mother, Amy Lusk, as she holds younger son Ryan and provides support for daughter Sarah as Children's Librarian Shanla Brookshire reads about a boy and a tiger.

Bush tries to nurture 'special relationship' in Blair summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair are going into their first meeting facing plenty of issues that could test the "special relationship" between their countries.

Bush and Blair were holding their first face-to-face session Friday in bucolic mountains at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland. The hope was that the face time would help them establish a solid friendship "before they have to address issues as they come up," said Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice.

The issues already have come up. The two leaders are getting together after their recent joint action to contain Iraq's military and amid questions on how they should view Russia's sketchy plan for a missile defense system and whether a possible European defense force will ruffle feathers in NATO.

Beyond that are the political contrasts between Bush, a conservative Republican, and Blair, head of Britain's Labor Party who patterned himself after Bush's predecessor, Bill Clinton.

The White House insisted that having such a tall order in a first meeting will not rock the "special relationship" cultivated by President Reagan and his fellow conservative, Margaret Thatcher, nurtured during the Persian Gulf crisis by Bush's father and Thatcher and, in midcrisis, John Major, then built up even more by Clinton and Blair.

"Those words really do mean something," Rice said. "Our relations with the British are broad, they are deep, they are of common culture and common history, not to mention common language."

The two leaders planned to talk about the idea of forming a defense force for Europe and worries in the United States that such a force would undermine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization alliance that has endured since early in the Cold War.

Rice said the United States and Britain are "on common footing" about the force. "It really, now, will come down to implementation," she said.

"We believe this is a good thing, as long as it is consistent with the enhancement of NATO," Rice said. "We believe that we share that goal with the British."

Like Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Blair has not taken a firm position on the national missile defense system that Bush has made a priority for his administration. The British want Bush to consult more with Russia before deciding.

Blair told Forbes magazine in a recent interview that missile defense "is definitely in the box marked 'handle with care' on all sides." But he held open the prospect of finding a solution that "meets America's objectives and other people's concerns," suggesting Britain might serve as a bridge between the United States and other nations on the question.

Rice said Bush envisions that Blair can provide vital assistance in shaping European Union policies on defense or trade or other issues. But, she said, Bush does not expect Blair to serve as "some sort of intermediary" between the United States and Europe.

"I don't think the British would want to be put in that position," Rice said.

Elder Bush, Schwarzkopf to mark anniversary of Gulf War

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — On the 10th anniversary of the start of the ground offensive in the Gulf War, former President Bush, retired Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and other top principals from the war planned to recount their experiences. Former British Prime Minister John Major, former Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates and former press secretary Marlin Fitzwater were joining Bush and Schwarzkopf at Texas A&M University to share their recollections of the ground assault that began Feb. 23, 1991. After initial air strikes early in 1991, Bush approved a plan that would start the assault by forces of a 28-member coalition he put together to eject Iraqi troops who had invaded Kuwait. The American death toll for the six-week war was 79, including 28 in the ground battles. Iraq put its losses at nearly 100,000, plus as many as 45,000 civilians.

Friday. Police said the violence has so far claimed at least 143 lives and was getting worse. A navy landing craft and two transport ships were speeding to the Sampit river port to pick up refugees from the fighting between native Dayak people and immigrants from Madura island. The refugees, mostly Madurese and other non-native groups, were to be evacuated to the port of Surabaya on Java island. Other refugees were heading overland to other parts of the province to flee the fighting. In Sampit, meanwhile, mobs were hunting down and killing any Madurese remaining in town.

Russia opens first new nuclear plant since Soviet times

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia (AP) — Russia officially opened its first new nuclear power plant Friday since the Soviet era, with officials calling it a breakthrough for the industry after years of financial troubles and public opposition. More than 20 years after construction began, the first reactor at the Rostov Atomic Energy Station in southern Russia has been turned on to minimal output. It will gradually be cranked up to full power over the next several months, said plant spokesman Yegor Obukhov. It will provide electricity to the Rostov province and elsewhere in the North Caucasus region.

Clark Johnson remembers bus "Boycott"

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the HBO movie "Boycott," Clark Johnson took off the porkpie hat he wore on television's "Homicide: Life on the Street" and replaced it with a director's cap. "Boycott" re-creates the 1955 bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus to

a white man. The movie premieres Saturday (8 p.m. EST) as part of HBO's tribute to Black History Month. Jeffrey Wright stars as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., with Terrence Howard as the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy. Johnson said that his goal was to show King and Abernathy as "real human beings as opposed to the icons that they became in other people's eyes." Johnson played police Detective Meldrick Lewis on "Homicide" for six seasons.

Partial ID made on Mission remains

MALLEN (AP) — Skeletal remains found in an isolated field are those of a young woman, anthropology professors participating in a police investigation have determined. Professors from the University of Texas-Pan American said Thursday the woman was about 5 feet 4 inches and in her late teens.

A rancher working came across bones in a field Saturday. He contacted sheriff's deputies, who later found more remains strewn over several acres. Deputies said animals probably scattered them.

Sheriff's deputies also found a pair of boxer shorts near the bones, but were not sure if the clothing belonged to the woman.

Detectives have not been able to find out her name or cause of death, Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Priscilla Lopez said in The (McAllen) Monitor's online editions Friday.

A surgical wire also was found near the woman's skull near the eye socket.

Anthropologist Shelia Pozorski helped examine the bones. She said the surgical pin indicated the woman had undergone surgery to repair some "pretty serious head injuries" at some time in her life.

Pozorski said that these injuries probably were not related to the cause of death.

The skull had retained most of the upper teeth, and Pozorski said the woman had a number of fillings. She said that the woman could be identified through dental records, but that it would be unreasonable to begin searching until detectives can narrow the scope of the search by determining where she was from.

BRIEFS

Death toll hits 143 in Indonesian town as refugees flee fighting

SAMPIT, Indonesia (AP) — Thousands of people were fleeing brutal ethnic clashes on the Indonesian part of Borneo island

THE PAMPA NEWS

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There are two types of planners

How quickly the snow fell. Much too quickly it disappeared. The ever-needed moisture tempered the irritation of digging out. There are rumors that more snow is on the way. Bring it on!

Cold, snowy weather interrupts a gardener from chores. As the seed catalogues arrive, planning for the new season commences in the comfort of the easy chair while drinking hot cocoa.

Abundant choices for new plants and old favorites leap from the pages. The increasing hybrids for improved this or taller that scream to be purchased. A word of caution: Total the bill before you give Burpbee your Visa number. The figure could be shocking.

Each year I scrutinize the new geranium colors. I want purple. Not lavender. Not maroon. Kings' robe purple.



**Kathy Davis
Morris
GARDEN WISE**
(Watson's
Garden Center)

Visualized in my mind are window boxes packed with

purple and red geraniums with a hint of sweet alyssum and asparagus sprengeri.

Purple zinnias, a relative newcomer, are stunning planted in front of the shorter sunflower varieties. Nothing beats tall cosmos for airy mass plantings. Layer masses of these three flowers for a shock wave of color.

Oh, the planning we gardeners do. Planning and execution are frequently different matters. I make hefty plans in January. My creaky bones often limit the accomplishment. It is that salad bar mentality.

There are two types of planners. The meticulous person who uses graph paper. (They also write gardening books.) I am the sketch-in-on-the-back-of-the-checkbook variety. Since my wallet travels with me, so do my garden plans.

Activists continuing to back slave reparations, support federal study

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — From the campus of one of the nation's oldest historically black universities, politicians and activists are preparing another call for a government study on what the country should do to make amends for slavery.

Fisk University's Race Relations Institute is holding a conference that is part of an ongoing effort to get Congress to study the impact slavery has had on generations of blacks.

"Some believe the institution of slavery is long gone, and we shouldn't be considering reparation for it," said Melvin Black, a Nashville city councilman and panelist at the conference, which starts Friday. "It's an uncomfortable issue when it's centered around African-Americans — even more so than when the same issue is raised by other races like American-Indians and the Japanese."

The government issued formal letters of apology and \$20,000 in reparations to Japanese-Americans interred during World War II, but Congress has repeatedly balked at proposals for reparations to blacks whose ancestors were kept in slavery.

Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. has called for a commission to examine slavery's legacy and possible compensation during each of the last 12 congressional sessions.

Nashville is among about a dozen cities, including Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Dallas, Washington and Baltimore, that have urged Congress to pass Conyers' bill this year.

"We're certainly not putting forth any dollar

amount," said Black. "We're asking for a study. And if the results of that proposed study indicate the necessity of some form of reparation — those reparations could possibly come not in dollar amounts, but through some other program."

The Fisk conference follows the first National Reparations Convention that was held two weeks ago in Chicago.

Some activists there called for reparations in the form of free financial aid, education and medical care with no taxes for the next half century. One suggested million-dollar payments for blacks who want to leave the country. A high-powered group of attorneys also discussed plans for a class-action lawsuit in pursuit of reparations.

Enslavement of Africans in America began in the early 1600s and continued until the 13th Amendment was ratified in 1865. Newly freed slaves were promised 40-acre parcels and the loan of a federal mule in 1865, but President Andrew Johnson went back on the pledge.

Theeda Murphy, a spokeswoman for the Fisk University Race Relations Institute, said monetary compensation wouldn't be the only positive thing to come of a reparations study.

"Even if there is never a cent paid, if the discussion is undertaken seriously and thoroughly it will play a large part in the healing this nation needs," Murphy said. "Don't get me wrong, I would like to be paid as much as any other African-American, but the healing is much more important than any money."

Arbor Day Foundation Hosts Vote for America's National Tree

Now, for the first time, you can help choose a national symbol

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb. — The National Arbor Day Foundation is hosting a process that makes it possible for people to vote for America's National Tree, either by visiting the Foundation's Web site, arborday.org, or through the mail.

"America has the grandest trees on earth — the largest, the oldest, and, we think, the most beautiful," John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation, said. "It's time for the American people to select a national tree as an enduring symbol of all of our magnificent trees, and of our natural heritage."

The United States has a national emblem, the bald eagle, a national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner," a national motto, "In God We Trust," a national flower, the rose, even a national march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

But a national tree has not yet been designated.

The voting process hosted by the Arbor Day Foundation will make it possible for Americans of all walks of life to help select the tree that will best serve as this important national symbol.

You can vote directly on the Arbor Day Foundation's Web site, arborday.org, which contains educational material on the list of tree candidates. You are invited to visit arborday.org, learn more about each broad tree type or genus, and then cast your vote.

Vote Before National Arbor Day

Online voting will take place from January 1, 2001, through midnight before National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, April 27, 2001.

If you don't have Internet access, you can mail your vote to National Tree, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410, by April 1, 2001. Include your

name and address on a 3 x 5" card and the tree of your choice. The Foundation will add these votes to those made online.

"Voting for America's National Tree is important for many reasons," Rosenow said. "For one, schoolchildren will have their first opportunity to vote for something of national significance. Our arborday.org Web site includes classroom activities relating to the Vote for America's National Tree, and a special voting process for schools."

"The United States is blessed with a wealth of tree species, twice the species as in all of Europe. It is important that we plant the right tree in the right place, if they are to have their greatest environmental and economic value. Our arborday.org Web site helps people select the right tree for plant-

ing according to factors such as their local hardiness zone, and soil, sun, and moisture conditions. [Arborday.org](http://arborday.org) visitors also learn how to plant trees correctly, to prune them as they grow, and other important aspects of tree care."

The results of the vote will be announced on National Arbor Day, the last Friday in April, at Arbor Day Farm in Nebraska City, Nebraska and throughout the nation. Then America's National Tree can take its place with those which have been designated in other countries around the world.

The National Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit education organization which helps people plant and care for trees. More information on the Foundation and the Vote for America's National Tree is available at arborday.org.

VOTE for AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREE
arborday.org
Vote online before National Arbor Day, April 27, 2001

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RELIGION

Don't miss the joy of the journey

Several years ago I had the privilege to spend some time on a camping trip with several other Christian men. Most of these men were giving their time and lives to work with boys in the RA programs of their churches. They were men committed to helping boys become the kind of men who accept and live out their Christian faith and call. I was blessed by being allowed to be with them.

There were so many life lessons illustrated in the activities of the week. A lesson of shared burdens stands out in my mind.

Part of our trip involved backpacking up a mountain. Each member of the group had their own pack containing their personal clothes and items needed, sleeping bag, water bottle and rain gear. Then there was food, cooking utensils and tents that were for the whole group. These items were divided among the group so no one carried more than he was able. It was all necessary but more than just a few could handle. The distribution of the items made the burden bear-



By Pastor
Derrell Monday
Central
Baptist Church

able by all. Those who could carry more did, but all carried a share of the load. Together we were able to carry everything we needed.

That's what the Church is about. All of us have burdens to carry in life. God has provided us with a wondrous group of people (the church) to help carry one another's burden. If I insist

on being a loner and carrying life's burdens by myself, I will miss the joy of the journey. However, if I will allow my brothers and sisters to share that burden I find it can be carried and life can be made more rich.

The Bible says "Cast all your burdens on Him because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7). God uses His children to embody His presence and help be burden-bearers.

A shared burden is a lighter burden. If you are burdened, share your load with your church family. If you're carrying your load without trouble, make yourself available to help another carry theirs. Together we can accomplish far more than separate.

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Harmony Music Outreach seeks community support

Pampan Paul Searl hopes to turn a vision he's held for 10 years into a reality.

For years he's dreamed of sponsoring a series of non-denominational Christian music concerts for Pampa and area citizens.

"This is something I've had on my heart for 10 years," Searl explained.

Searl, a longtime member of the Harvesters Four a cappella gospel quartet, said he wants to bring top name Christian musicians to Pampa once a quarter in a free or low-cost concert for the public.

"I don't intend for it to be associated with any one church," he said. "I'd like to think of it as a morale booster for the whole community."

Searl said the musicians would be paid through a free will offering taken at the concert.

"It would be no cost or a bare minimum cost to attend," he said. "It's my vision to never have to turn anyone away."

Searl and a group of Pampanians who share his dream have begun planning the project with informal meetings at The Coffee Shop in downtown Pampa. They've chosen a name for the project - Harmony Music Outreach based on Psalms 133.

"I call it HMO for the soul," he said with a smile.

They've also established a board of directors and selected officers, Searl said. Searl has been elected as the first president, with Alan Snapp as the vice president and Phyllis Jeffers as secretary-treasurer.

"We've filed for a tax number and we are going to try to get a 501(c)3," Searl added. A 501(c)3 is federal designation as a non-profit organization, eligible for tax exemption.

Pampa Ministerial Alliance members seemed receptive after he outlined his plan to them, Searl said.

"I'm speaking to the pastors of different churches around town, also," he added. "One has already offered \$1,000 to help get us started."

Searl said the group is working on, but haven't finalized, plans for a gospel concert in early June at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

"We're still getting organized," he said.

The group will next meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 1, at The Coffee Shop. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Anyone interested in being a part of Harmony Music Outreach or who would like more information can contact Searl at 669-3535.

Women become consecrated virgins in rare Catholic rite

By BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — At the bridal shop, the saleswomen were puzzled.

Angela Scannapieco didn't want to register. Junette Romero didn't want a consultant. Both women were buying dresses, but not for a regular wedding.

Instead, they needed gowns for an ancient Roman Catholic rite so rare that fewer than 100 American women have gone through it: The Solemn Rite of Consecration of Virgins for Women Living in the World.

The rite formally affirms the chastity of women who are devoted to the church, but who do not want to become nuns.

"The woman in the shop says, 'OK, she doesn't want spangles, she doesn't want sparkles, she doesn't want a train. She's not getting married, she's being consecrated,'" Scannapieco recalled with a laugh. "The people in the store may not have understood what was going on, but I decided I was going to use every opportunity to tell everybody."

Romero walked around the bridal shop for four hours praying.

"I said, 'Lord, the way these young girls are fussing about \$1,500 dresses, I'm going to walk

around here and pray that God be the center of their weddings — not the party, not the dress, but the actual church part of it," she said. "I was calling the holy spirit to enlighten these young girls' minds. I said, 'Lord, my marriage to you is going to last, but who knows what's going to happen with their marriages.'"

The two women wore their dresses for the ceremony, which was performed Jan. 28 by Bishop Thomas Daily of the Brooklyn Diocese. And both now wear gold bands on their ring fingers to symbolize their marriage to Christ.

"Their calling is not to live in a convent or live a cloistered type of life, or wear a habit or be known as sister," Daily said. "Their calling is to remain in the world as lay people, but at the same time make this dedication."

The rite can be traced back to the year 500, but it was revived by Pope Paul VI in 1970.

The U.S. Association of Consecrated Virgins, based in Oregon, has 45 official members and estimates another 1,000 live around the world. Consecrated virgins have no formal obligations other than daily prayer, but most also have lay ministries.

Scannapieco works for an organization that sponsors Catholic youth retreats; Romero offers a

prayer telephone line from her home. Both women teach Sunday school and are deeply involved in their parish churches.

As children, both flirted with the idea of joining a convent.

Growing up in Brooklyn, Scannapieco, 43, was taught by nuns, so the convent life was "attractive to me." But when she was in her 20s — the age most women enter convents — "I was away from the church a little bit. I did the bar scene. I went through that stage — 'I'm free now, I'm 21!'"

Still, there were limits to her partying. "I grew up with the idea that you didn't have sex until you got married," she said. "I wasn't planning on being a consecrated virgin when I was 20, 21. I thought, 'OK, it'll happen eventually when Mr. Right comes along.'"

Then a friend asked her to teach Sunday school, and she loved it. She now works for Youth 2000 New York, organizing retreats for young Catholics. The wall over her desk is covered with photos of what she calls her "spiritual children" — girls who call her "Ma," send her their college graduation photos, and drop by to join her for Mass. Her relationship with them, she says, was a "big motivating factor" in consecrating her virginity.

"Things like this tell them that it's OK not to sleep around, it's OK that sex is not a recreation," Scannapieco said. "They're discovering now there are other people out there trying to be chaste. ... Not that I want everyone to be consecrated virgins! We have to have babies, too. We need good Catholic families."

Romero wanted to be a nun growing up in Trinidad, but her mother forbade it.

"I have a maid!" she told Junette. "Why would I let you go to a convent and scrub floors?"

"The woman in the shop says, 'OK, she doesn't want spangles, she doesn't want sparkles, she doesn't want a train. She's not getting married, she's being consecrated,'" Scannapieco recalled with a laugh. "The people in the store may not have understood what was going on, but I decided I was going to use every opportunity to tell everybody."

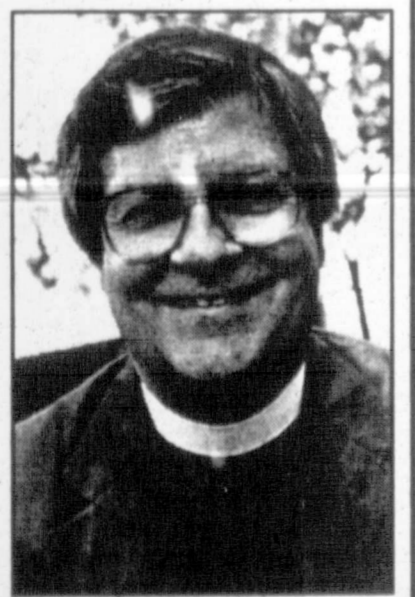
Pampa native to minister during preaching mission

The Rev. Charles Cook, Pampa native, will minister during St. Matthew's Episcopal Church annual preaching mission March 4-5. The theme of this year's event is "Downward Mobility: Reflections on the Temptations in the Wilderness."

The program is as follows:
—Sunday, 8 a.m., and 10:30 a.m., "The Three Temptations"; 6 p.m., "Temptation One: Revelation."

—Monday, 12 noon, "Temptation Two: Power"; 7 p.m., "Temptation Three: Performance."

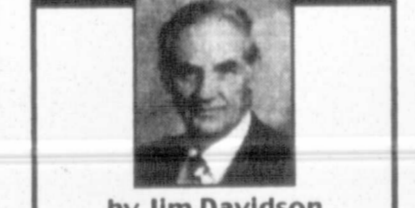
Cook was ordained to the diaconate at St. Matthew's and later to the priesthood at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Lubbock. Since 1984, he has been a professor at The Episcopal Theological Seminary of The Southwest in Austin.



Rev. Charles Cook

The special two-day event is open and free to the public.

Let's Talk Real Estate



by Jim Davidson
Realtor

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO GAIN?

When you sell your home, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 allows you to keep tax-free capital gains of up to \$500,000 if you are married filing jointly (\$250,000 for single taxpayers or married taxpayers filing separately). To qualify, you must have utilized the home as your principal residence for at least two of the prior five years. The Federal Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 provided further clarification of the residency requirement. It says that you can prorate the \$500,000/\$250,000 exclusion if such unforeseen hardships as illness or a job change were to force you to sell before meeting the two-year residency requirement. This tax exclusion should make an upward move very attractive to homebuyers.

For more tips on buying and selling a home, and for the best in personalized service, call CENTURY 21 - PAMPA REALTY INC. We are here to share our knowledge with our clients, and we are available to our customers 24 hours a day. Our address is 312 N. Gray Street and you can reach us at 669-0007. We are an independent, locally owned agency serving the people of the Pampa area and Gray County.



Have You Ever Wondered

- Where is Heaven?
- What is it going to be like?
- How can we prepare for it and are we sure we are going there?
- What will we be doing in Heaven?
- Will we know each other in Heaven and what will we look like?
- What are some misconceptions about Heaven?



"HOMEWARD BOUND: HEAVEN, THE CHRISTIAN'S REAL HOME"

This series of sermons, by Pastor Richard Bartel, will answer your questions about Heaven. Beginning this Sunday and continuing for 6 weeks.



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Worship - 10:00 A.M.
(8:30 a.m. - Channel 5)
www.calvary-baptist.pampa.com

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First Presbyterian Church
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For NEW
"INFORMAL" WORSHIP
(music will include hymns, contemporary, folk tunes)
8:30 a.m.
Every Sunday

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Truth About Dad's Birth Opens Wound That May Never Heal

DEAR ABBY: My father was born 50 years ago, and only learned the truth about his birth in the last few years.

The woman he always believed was his mother was, in fact, his grandmother. His older "sister" was really his mother. She was 16 when she became pregnant by a young soldier who denied responsibility.

His grandmother, a strong-willed woman, took his mother to another state and pretended she had given birth. She was deeply ashamed of her daughter, and went to great lengths to carry out the plan. She wrote letters home to relatives informing them of her "surprise" pregnancy — even describing her terrible morning sickness.

Abby, my father has been estranged from both women since learning the truth. My great-grandmother is 88 years old. I pray that our family can be healed before it's



Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

too late. Dad is angry, betrayed and bitter. He refuses to discuss the matter, much less forgive. The saddest part is that some family members have told me they knew the truth all along, but kept silent.

His grandmother felt the charade was the only thing she could do under the circumstances. However, this kind of deception reverberates through several generations.

SECRETS ARE DANGEROUS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SECRETS: I feel sorry for everyone involved in this fiasco. Your grandmother was trying to protect her daughter's reputation, because in 1950 being unmarried and a mother was considered a disgrace to the girl and her family. She was trying to protect your father, too, by bringing him up when her daughter couldn't, and from the knowledge that he was born out of wedlock.

He should have been told the truth more than 30 years ago. But family secrets sometimes have a life of their own, and she probably couldn't find the words by the time he was an adult.

That your father is bitter and hurt because he was lied to about his history is understandable.

Horoscope

SUNDAY, FEB. 25, 2001
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)
***** You feel renewed. You gain if you put yourself on the line. Use your high energy to help others get going. Your ability to communicate draws friends and loved ones closer. Get together with friends and do something that you love to do as a group. Tonight: All you need to do is smile.

This week: Maximize your energy on Monday, and you'll be on cruise control for the remainder of the week. Clarify all money matters.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
***** You want to discuss a key matter with an older relative or an authority figure. You might not be sure about your choices until you hear other points of view. Remember, a strong response is better than no response. Your instincts lead you in a new direction. Tonight: Slow and easy.

This week: Do whatever you need to do behind the scenes on Monday and Tuesday. Doing your homework pays off on Wednesday and Thursday.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
***** You make waves where it counts. You help energize others as well as yourself. You might have been thinking about taking up a new sport or hobby with friends. Why put it off? You will draw a new friend soon, and someone quite different will enter your life. Just be yourself. Tonight: Wish upon a star.

This week: Ride the waves of success on Monday. Late on Tuesday, the effect slows down. Think carefully about taking a stand.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
***** You instinctively know which way to go. Share more of yourself with an older friend or relative. You know what this person wants to hear, but be true to yourself. Allow a partner to have greater say in family plans. A discussion about a money matter can now have most positive results. Tonight: Start thinking about tomorrow.

This week: Stand your ground on Monday. Another's immediate reaction might not be final. Watch what happens for the remainder of the week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** Listen to a friend or loved one, even if he blurts out his feelings. Focus on the long-term objectives and what might be important. A special invitation is forthcoming, but understand a family member's or roommate's strong reaction — he wants to be included more often.

Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

This week: Read between the lines. Check out some of the facts yourself. Prepare to make strong decisions from Wednesday on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
***** Deal with someone head-on. You cannot stall or hem and haw any longer. Speak your mind. Recognize that others admire the way you handle this matter and that they will be observing. A partner's suggestion comes from a caring place. Tonight: Say yes to a loved one.

This week: Honor an associate and get plenty of input. Two minds do work better than one this week. If need be, seek out other opinions on Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Defer to a friend or loved one for the sake of peace. Sometimes not everything has to be said. Work on your understanding and discover more of what is going on with others. Treat another to a day out to clear the air and renew your friendship. A different setting recharges everyone's perspective. Tonight: Where people are.

This week: Build on and establish pivotal relationships. Do your share of wining and dining if need be. Play "the game."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
***** A project has been on the back burner for way too long. Listen to what a family member whispers in your ear; otherwise, the next time you might find this person yelling. Work with a loved one, not against him. Sometimes you come off much stronger than you realize. Tonight: Complete your errands.

This week: Plunge into your work. You get a lot done, quickly. Save Wednesday and Thursday for networking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Dreams infiltrate your actions. You feel renewed and restored. If you have what seems like an impulsive idea, it might not be quite so spontaneous; you have been mulling this over in your sleep. Talk to a partner, loved one or friend. Clear the air, and good feelings will abound. Seal a bond with a meal. Tonight: Be your ever-frisky self.

This week: Your budding imagination takes you in new directions. Test your ideas on others before acting on them. You draw another toward you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
***** Build on established ground. Anything is possible if you open up to a friend or loved one. Excitement surrounds your home. Make a call to someone at a distance and catch up on news. Discuss a purchase, especially if you feel it will improve the quality of your life. Enjoy your family. Tonight: Have a favorite dinner.

This week: Fundamental issues need to be handled on Monday and Tuesday. Unless you shore up the foundations, all your work could be meaningless.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** Your dreams finally develop into realities. You might want to pinch yourself. Your playful, childlike side draws others toward you. Invite a loved one to the movies or browse a favorite store. An article you purchase will remind you of this day for a long time. Tonight: Stop at a favorite spot for dinner.

This week: Speak your mind. Seek out others on Monday and Tuesday. Openly discuss decisions on Wednesday with those who care.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** You have been searching for something special — a present or an item. Browse through a flea market or several favorite stores. You just might find it. Make an extra effort toward a friend or loved one. Start planning or at least discussing a vacation. Half the fun is in the planning. Tonight: Let another know how you feel about him.

This week: Express your financial wisdom on Monday and Tuesday. Others seek your advice on Wednesday and Thursday. Share.

BORN TODAY
Painter Pierre Auguste Renoir (1841), poet George Harrison (1943), TV host Sally Jessy Raphael (1943)

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS	40	Green hue	
1	Haber-dashery	42 "Death buys Be Not Proud"	
6	Was visibly stunned	43 poet	
11	Island greeting	44 Place	
12	Make amends	45 Used up	
13	Candidate of 2000	1	Maine city
14	Prisoner's place	2	The "Graduate" girl
15	Combo's job	3	Western tree
16	"Golly!"	18	Performed
18	Performed	4	Common article
19	Small bill	5	Painter John Singer
20	Lisper's problem	17	Fancy homes
21	Night before	23	Terminus
22	Turn from sin	24	Take the trophy
24	Songbird	7	Devoured
25	New York neighbor	8	Western tree
27	Adventurous	9	Salad base
29	Prepared to be hit	10	Make numb
32	Hink material	31	Abhor
33	Flower's spot	33	Reduced
34	Heady brew	39	— tear
35	Vitality	41	Sassiness
36	Volcano output		
37	Favorite		
38	"The Waste Land" poet		

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



"I don't think he's impressed with how tough you had it when you were younger."

The Family Circus



"All 'cept the one that came out yesterday."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



Not Softball

PAMPA Pampa Department the folk Spring Men's Open, Mixed Op The ent fees for team. The pl player wi persons Women's Church, a Mixed Church. The ent 21 at 5 p.m. There added after Schedule after 1 p.m. Recreation Play wi April 2. Roster and by-la the Recrea Hobart be a.m. and through Fr. If you h would lik about the Leagues, p Stokes at business h

BASEB

RIVER Road ralli over Pam baseball of The gam six innin darkness. Pampa's River Roa the distan for both t Harvester with at Travis La was the on hit for Pam Others y Pampa ve Martin, A Keith and

RODEO

FORT V Salzbrenn was a men onship tea event at the Show. Otl were Greg N.M. and Canyon.

BASKE

BRISCO senior Ky named D valuable f Ashley Kinnamor of Fort Eo the all-dis The Lac district c year. Jessica Howard, Kylee Fr Katie Do Lonnberg Jessica W all-distr Fort Schaub e year honc

AUTO F

ROCK (AP) — I belt was after the champion in a crash NASCAR A brok came apa dent Mik don't kn where, y our invest Dr. St head of services Internatic ulated the belt, Ear have be and to flying int

SPORTS

Pampa boxers floor regional foes

Survival Club members claim 7 championships

PAMPA — It was very cold that February 16th morning when coach Michael Chaney was telephoning his boxers to be on time at the Youth Survival Club.

He didn't want to be late for the trip to Lubbock and the Regional Golden Gloves Tournament.

By 4 a.m., nine boys and three girls had loaded up their boxing gear and were ready to go. The blue van that Bill Allison Auto Sales always provided for the Pampa boxers was fully packed with gear, coaches and board of director member Chris Perez.

"The kids have been working out very hard for this tournament," said Youth Survival Club founder J.R. Moreno. "Trainer Abel Rios and coach Chaney have been working extra hard to prepare the boxers for the tough competition in Lubbock. This was the day they had all been waiting for. They knew they had a tough day ahead of them."

Moreno said the team members knew this for the championship and boxers would be coming from all over the state to compete for first place in the different divisions.

"But they knew they were ready for anything Lubbock had. On the way some were sleeping and some were wondering what it would be like to be in the ring for the first time, especially the girls," he said.

After checking in at their motel, the boxers left for the weigh-ins at that morning at the Lubbock Civic Center. Coaches Chaney and Kevin Harris then took the boxers to a light breakfast. Later in the day, they underwent physicals and the matches began.

Bobby Sanchez, representing the Youth Survival Club in the 65-pound division, stepped into the ring first to face Zachary

Rodriguez of the Lubbock Warriors. Rodriguez, an experienced fighter, was knocked down by Sanchez, who dazzled him with his fancy footwork. However, after his first-round knockdown, Sanchez would be out-pointed by Rodriguez.

Sanchez would take the runner-up spot for the regional state title.

Jerry Ruiz, another Pampa boxer with a Muhammad Ali style, slipped twice during his three-round bout. That cost him the runner-up spot.

Next came Joshua Perez, a classic little fighter that knows how to use the ring. Perez faced Nicklas Rendon, another Lubbock Warrior, in the semi-finals. Perez was able to take the runner-up spot in the regional tournament.

Next came the moment the whole Pampa team was waiting for, the appearance of "Poison" Ivan Perez.

"This boxer is not only their hero, he's also the best boxer in the club. It was time for the big boys to compete," Moreno said.

Perez was ready as he stepped into the ring, but his coaches were nervous.

Perez was to face Ryan Boeka of the Amarillo Mavericks in the 156-pound division.

Boeka was a taller, bigger opponent, but Perez used his skill and technique to out-point his opponent all three rounds. He won the semi-finals and was ready for the next day.

Going for the championship Perez stepped into the ring as his teammates looked on at ringside.

Across from him was Rito Morales of Levelland.

"Ivan knew he was going to need all of his skills and fancy footwork to win this match. This was going to be for the Texas State Regional Golden Gloves title," Moreno said.

Perez, who stunned Morales with a left hook and a mean

right cross, won the title with a third-round knockout. Morales was left hanging on the ropes and the referee had to pull Perez away.

"Perez knew he had won the championship title. He's a very skillful boxer," Moreno said. "He again came to me and said the same thing he told me after he TKO'd a boxer in a Woodward, Oklahoma tournament: 'This is for you.'"

Moreno said Perez has been with the Youth Survival program from the beginning.

"This kid has turned his life around," Moreno said. "He stuck with the program."

Larry Clark, another first-time boxer from Pampa, took runner-up honors in his division.

"He's another promising boxer," Moreno added.

Next up were the female members of the Pampa team.

Nikki Medley and Amanda Hood, both of Pampa, had to

compete against each other because the opposition didn't show up. As they stepped into the ring for the first time, the crowd cheered them on.

Moreno said the girls put on a good show as Medley took the championship and Hood was the runner-up.

"We're the first in this area to have a girls' boxing team. Now, we've got other towns wanting to have girl boxers," Moreno said.

Celia Mora, another of the local female boxers, wasn't able to be matched up.

Back in the boys' division, Pampa's Luis Aguilar took on Plainview's Enrigue Melendez with Aguilar coming out the winner. Aguilar knocked down his opponent with a mean straight left in the second round. The fight lasted three rounds and Aguilar became the regional champion.

However, Aguilar won't be representing Pampa anymore. He's moving to Lubbock and joining the Warriors.

Sam Gamble, another Pampa boxer, went into the ring for only his second time. He brought home the regional title by defeating Ronnie Gonzales of Amarillo.

"Sam is another tough boxer," Moreno said.

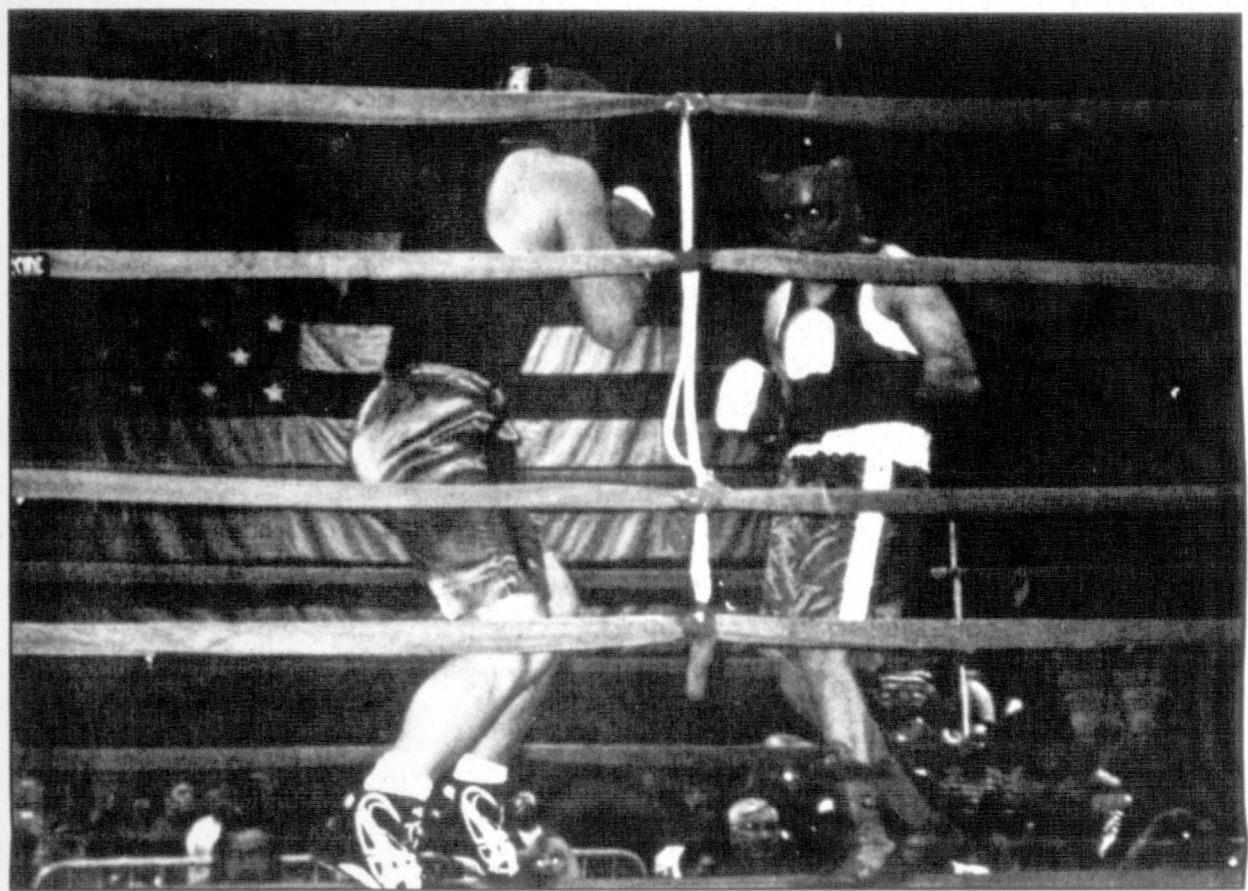
Chris Perez, entered in the 139-pound division, was boxing for the first time.

He also claimed the regional championship.

Michael Wilkinson wasn't able to box because his opponent failed to show up, but he will represent Pampa in future bouts.

The Pampa team will be fighting in Amarillo on Saturday. Their next big bout is March 24 in Midland and Odessa.

"Our boxers won seven regional and Texas state titles, and four runner-up titles (at Lubbock). Everyone is very proud of these kids," Moreno said.



"Poison" Ivan Perez (right) of Pampa faces Rito Morales of Levelland in the championship finals. Perez, competing in the 156-pound division, knocked out Morales in the third round.

Notebook

SOFTBALL

PAMPA — The City of Pampa Recreation Department will be offering the following leagues for Spring Softball: Men's Open, Men's Church, Women's Open, Mixed Church and Mixed Open.

The entry fees or sponsor's fees for teams are \$200 per team.

The player's fee is \$12 per player with a minimum of 11 persons for Men's Open, Women's Open and Men's Church, and 12 persons for Mixed Open and Mixed Church.

The entry deadline is March 21 at 5 p.m.

There will be no teams added after this date.

Schedules will be available after 1 p.m. on March 28 at the Recreation Office.

Play will begin the week of April 2.

Roster Forms, fact sheets and by-laws are available at the Recreation Office at 816 S. Hobart between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Spring Softball Leagues, please contact Shane Stokes at 669-5770 during business hours.

BASEBALL

RIVER ROAD — River Road rallied for a 6-5 victory over Pampa in a high school baseball opener Thursday.

The game was called after six innings on account of darkness.

Pampa's Adam Jones and River Road's Seth Hall went the distance on the mound for both teams. Jones was the Harvesters leading hitter with a triple and single. Travis Lancaster's double was the only other extra-base hit for Pampa.

Others with base hits for Pampa were Randy Tice, Wes Martin, Adam Wright, Kyle Keith and Evan Miller.

RODEO

FORT WORTH — Robbie Salzbrenner of White Deer was a member of the championship team in the penning event at the Fort Worth Stock Show. Other team members were Greg Nash of Melrose, N.M. and Nancy Pierce of Canyon.

BASKETBALL

BRISCOE — Fort Elliott senior Kyleigh Trimble was named District 2-1A's most valuable player this season.

Ashley Estes, Kirby Kinnamon and Julie Zybach of Fort Elliott were named to the all-district team.

The Lady Cougars won the district championship this year.

Jessica Cates, Aaron Howard, Leah Cates and Kylee Freeman of Follett; Katie Donaldson and Alicia Lonnberger of Allison, and Jessica Waite of Higgins were all-district picks.

Fort Elliott's Russell Schaub earned coach of the year honors.

AUTO RACING

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt's lap belt was found to be broken after the stock car racing champion was fatally injured in a crash at the Daytona 500, NASCAR officials said Friday.

A broken left lap seat belt came apart, NASCAR president Mike Helton said. "We don't know how, when or where, yet. We will continue our investigation."

Dr. Steve Bohannon, the head of emergency medical services at Daytona International Speedway, speculated that with the broken belt, Earnhardt's body could have been thrown forward and to the right, sending him flying into the steering wheel.

Illinois' loss To Ohio State opens up Big Ten race

By The Associated Press

Sean Connolly's game-winning 3-pointer for Ohio State made a lot of people at Michigan State happy.

Connolly's 3-pointer with 30 seconds left gave Ohio State a 63-61 upset of No. 3 Illinois on Thursday night and tightened the race for the Big Ten title.

The Illini (21-6, 11-3), who had a five-game winning streak snapped, lead Michigan State by a half-game in the conference. Illinois can clinch a share of the title by beating Iowa and Minnesota in its final two games.

"This will just make us more hungry," Illinois' Sergio McClain said. "We still control our own destiny."

In other games involving ranked teams, it was No. 1 Stanford 75, Washington State 64; No. 2 North Carolina 95, Florida State 67; No. 15 UCLA 88, Oregon 73; and No. 25 Providence 119, Binghamton 58.

With Illinois on top 61-60, the Buckeyes' Brent Darby was guarded by Sergio McClain in the backcourt and couldn't find an open man. But he was able to toss a pass to Connolly, who broke open along the baseline. He turned and hit the 3-pointer to put Ohio State ahead 63-61.

"I came off a couple of screens and just came open," said Connolly, a transfer from Providence in his first year with the Buckeyes. "It felt like it was going in when it left my hand."

Brian Cook missed a 3-point attempt with 9 seconds remaining for Illinois. The Buckeyes' Tim Martin rebounded and was fouled, but missed both free throws.

Williams, who beat Ohio State in the Big Ten opener a year ago with a 3-pointer at

the buzzer, took the inbounds pass. Pressured by three defenders, his shot with 2 seconds left wasn't close.

"They did a good job of trapping me and they did a good job of making it so I couldn't see anyone to pass to," Williams said.

Ohio State (18-9, 9-5) lost its first four games against ranked teams this season, but has now knocked off four ranked teams in the last month — including another team that was No. 3 at the time, Michigan State.

"How about our kids?" Buckeyes coach Jim O'Brien said. "They hung in there, they didn't lose their composure and they just toughed it out. We had to play like we did against Michigan State — anything else and we lose."

Brian Brown led Ohio State with 18 points, while Ken Johnson had 16 points and Darby had 14. The Buckeyes have won five straight Big Ten conference games.

No. 1 Stanford 75, Washington State 64

Casey Jacobsen scored 21 points as host Stanford overcame an eight-point halftime deficit to beat Washington State.

Stanford (24-1, 12-1 Pac-10), which returned to No. 1 this week, also got 13 points and six rebounds from Jaron Collins.

Jerry McNair scored 29 points for Washington State (11-13, 4-10).

No. 2 North Carolina 95, Florida St. 67

Joseph Forte scored 36 points as North Carolina rebounded from its first loss in 2 1/2 months.

The host Tar Heels (22-3, 12-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) saw their 18-game winning streak broken at Clemson on

Sunday, but led by 10 at half-time this time around and shot 57 percent to win going away.

Adrian Crawford and Delvon Arrington led Florida State (7-19, 2-11) with 12 points each.

No. 15 UCLA 88, Oregon 73

Matt Barnes scored 21 points and Jason Kapono had 20 points and 13 rebounds as

UCLA held off a second-half comeback by Oregon.

Dan Gadzuric added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Bruins (18-6, 11-2 Pac-10), who have won 14 of 16 games.

Bryan Bracey led Oregon (13-11, 4-10) with 21 points and 10 rebounds.

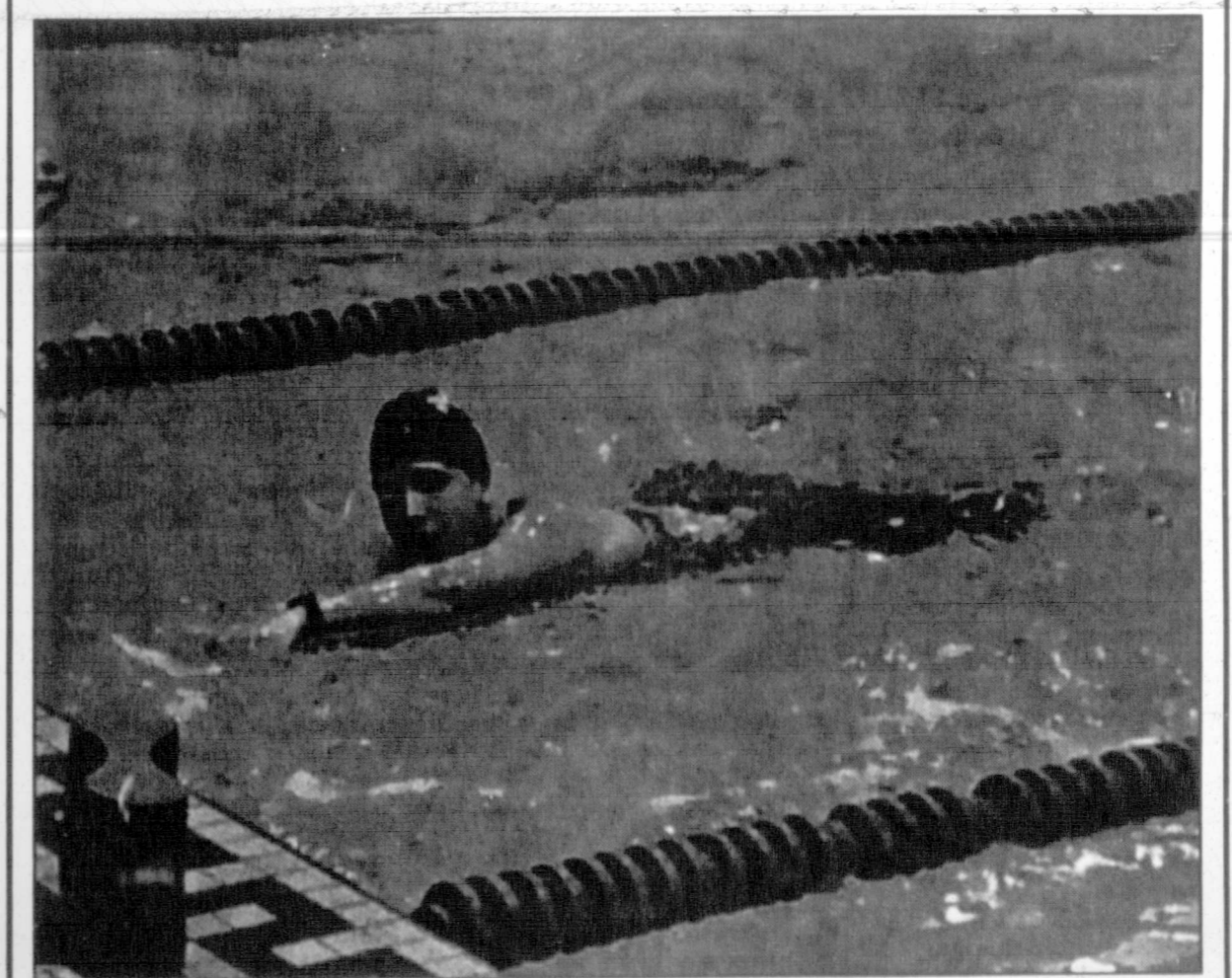
No. 25 Providence 119, Binghamton 58

Romuald Augustin scored

17 points in 15 minutes as host Providence routed Division II Binghamton (14-12).

The Friars, who entered the Top 25 this week for the first time since Jan. 24, 1989, were in control throughout. Providence (20-7, 10-4 Big East) shot 80.6 percent from the field in the first half to take a 61-22 lead.

Swimmers in Austin



Pampa's Megan David finishes up a practice lap last week at the Pampa Youth Center. David is a member of the 200-medley relay team which is in Austin this weekend for the Class 4A swimming and diving meet. Nine PHS swimmers qualified for the state meet, which concludes Saturday with the finals at the Joe and Lee Jamail Swimming Center on the University of Texas campus.

FEB 23 2001

Hilary decries brother's taking money for pardon work

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton called her brother's decision to take money to lobby for pardons a "terrible misjudgment" as a House committee began investigating whether President Clinton's brother, Roger, influenced the last-minute executive actions.

Mrs. Clinton said Thursday she "did not have any involvement" in the pardons her husband granted on his way out of the White House. However, she said she was "very disappointed" with her brother, lawyer Hugh Rodham, and the \$400,000 he received for his work on behalf of a prison commutation request of Carlos Vignali and the pardon of Almon Glenn Braswell.

"I was just heartbroken and shocked by it and, you know, immediately said it was a terrible misjudgment and the money had to be returned," the former first lady said.

Rodham returned the money to the families of the men. As Mrs. Clinton, D-N.Y., was expressing her dismay, the House Government Reform Committee was sending a letter to the former president's brother asking him whether he was involved in any of the pardons.

"The committee has received reports that you were involved in representing individuals seeking pardons from President Clinton," the committee's chairman, Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., wrote.

Burton asked specifically for Roger Clinton to explain whether he was involved in the pardons or commutations of Vignali, Braswell, Phillip Young and Mitchell Couey Wood before the committee holds its next hearing March 1.

Committee spokesman Mark Corallo refused to comment on the letter.

The former president's office confirmed late Thursday that Roger Clinton lobbied the president on behalf of several friends and associates who were seeking pardons. The president turned down all of them, a Clinton spokeswoman said.

"Roger did ask the president to consider a list of less than 10 names of friends and acquaintances," the spokeswoman, Julia Payne, said. "None of those pardons were granted nor did he receive any money."

Young, of Little Rock, Ark., was convicted of interstate transportation and sale of fish and wildlife, while Wood, of Sherwood, Ark., was convicted of conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine.

Vignali, the son of a major campaign contributor in Los Angeles, was serving a 15-year sentence on a drug conviction; Braswell was convicted for fraud and other crimes stemming from false claims in 1983 about the effectiveness of a treatment for baldness.

Roger Clinton, a singer, got his own pardon — one of 140 the president made on his final day in office — for a 1985 drug charge. Roger Clinton was arrested Monday for investigation of drunken driving in Los Angeles. His personal manager, Vickie Crawford, refused to

comment.

President Bush said he believes Congress has a right to investigate the pardons granted by his predecessor, and Burton insisted on "full compliance" with a subpoena for records from the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation.

The group, chartered to establish Clinton's presidential library, received \$450,000 in donations from Denise Rich, the ex-wife of fugitive financier Marc Rich, who was one of Clinton's pardon recipients.

In addition, there was a fresh disclosure Thursday that Mrs. Clinton's campaign treasurer was paid \$4,000 in legal fees to prepare two pardon applications that were sent to the Justice Department. William Cunningham III said he had never contacted the White House about the cases, or spoken with either of the Clintons about them. Cunningham's law partner is Clinton adviser Harold Ickes, but he, too, said he never spoke to the couple about the cases. Cunningham said Ickes referred two Arkansas pardon-seekers, both Republicans, to him about a week before Clinton left office.

The two men, Robert Clinton Fain and James Lowell Manning, were convicted in the 1980s on tax charges.

The former first lady described Cunningham as a "fine lawyer and a fine man. ... Lawyers from all over the country were involved in these matters."

Mrs. Clinton is struggling with an issue that has contributed to a drop in her popularity as well as her husband's, and has overshadowed the beginning of her Senate career.

She refused to answer questions about the pardons themselves, or whether her husband should appear voluntarily before Congress to respond to questions about them.

Bush commented somewhat gingerly, telling reporters he had other issues to attend to. Asked what advice he would offer his own relatives — who include a former president and a sitting governor — the president replied sharply, "My guidance to them is behave yourself — and they will."

Apart from the pardons, the Clintons felt compelled to return furniture they moved out of the White House after questions arose about ownership. And one reporter asked Mrs. Clinton whether there was any connection between furniture delivered to her Washington home during the day and Ms. Rich.

"Nothing to do — not at all," she said.

Co-workers say spy suspect left trail of clues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Veteran FBI figure Robert Philip Hanssen left a trail of clues that led authorities to arrest him and charge him with spying for Moscow, say former co-workers and intelligence experts.

Russian documents and letters that Hanssen allegedly sent to his Soviet handlers contained hints of his identity — from his code name "B" (Hanssen went by Bob) to using the name of his hometown Chicago as a signal, these former associates said in interviews.

FBI officials would not publicly discuss how they came to pinpoint Hanssen as the agent whose alleged spying activities were detailed in internal Russian documents they obtained.

But two former FBI counterintelligence agents who worked with Hanssen said his letters and other bits of evidence made public in the 100-page affidavit filed in the case

provided many clues about what had transpired.

"He increased his chances of getting caught" said Paul Moore, a former FBI counterintelligence analyst who has known Hanssen for 20 years.

Until Hanssen was targeted by the FBI last year, federal investigators focused on a CIA agent who may now be cleared because of Hanssen's arrest, The Washington Post reported.

The CIA official has been suspended on paid leave for the past 18 months, the newspaper said in a report for its Friday editions. He had passed several polygraph tests and some officials told the Post the evidence against him was marginal.

An intensive search for spies began in 1994 when CIA officer Aldrich Ames pleaded guilty of spying for the KGB, the newspaper said. But there may have been

loopholes in the investigation.

Moore said Hanssen was never polygraphed. The FBI has declined to comment on whether Hanssen took the test. Not only that, Hanssen was meticulous about checking to see whether the bureau was aware of his activities, FBI officials have said.

FBI officials have said that Hanssen's identity was not known to the Soviets. The letters and documents about Hanssen refer to him as "B". But these documents had details about the information that Hanssen was accused of leaking, which the FBI could then use to narrow its search.

"They had a lot to work with," said Richard Alu, a retired FBI counterintelligence agent who worked with Hanssen for several years.

The FBI said Thursday that tighter controls over top-secret documents, and other improvements recommended after the Aldrich Ames spy case, helped it to apprehend Hanssen, a 20-year FBI counterintelligence agent accused of passing top-secret information to the Soviets and Russian for 15 years.

Bureau management had been cautioned four years ago by the Justice Department inspector general to enhance training and communications. The FBI was criticized at the time by the Justice Department inspector general for not doing enough to find out how Ames leaked sensitive information to the Soviet Union. Ames pleaded guilty in 1994.

FBI spokesman John Collingwood said recommenda-

tions made in the inspector general's 1997 report were implemented and had a direct bearing on the arrest of Hanssen.

"The IG's recommendations were constructive and incorporated into the FBI's counterespionage program," Collingwood said. "The post-Ames focus on the possibility of additional compromises led directly to the charges against Hanssen. Substantial resources and expertise are being afforded to this effort."

Despite the improvements, Hanssen's spying went undetected for 15 years.

Meanwhile, President Bush said he was "deeply concerned" about the Hanssen case and said he would wait for an independent review of internal FBI security procedures to be completed before considering whether FBI agents should be given routine polygraph tests.

"We ought to be concerned about espionage in America," Bush said, responding to questions about the spy case at his first news conference since his inauguration.

He said he has confidence in FBI Director Louis Freeh and praised him for asking former FBI and CIA Director William Webster to head the review. "I look forward to seeing what Judge Webster has to say. I presume he's going to review that issue and will make a recommendation to the director and to me."

Bush sidestepped a question about whether he believed U.S.-Russian relations were damaged by the Hanssen case.

Insurance companies to raise rates despite state effort to lower them

DALLAS (AP) — Many of Texas' largest auto insurance companies have opted to raise rates this year despite a move by the state's top insurance regulator to force rates down slightly.

Filings by the 10 largest insurance companies last month indicate that seven are raising premiums statewide in 2001.

Three companies lowered rates slightly, but not as much as the 1.3 percent reduction recommended by state Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor.

The increases have prompted the Texas Department of Insurance to examine whether the higher rates being charged by some of the companies are justified.

The commissioner can direct companies to revise their premiums if he feels they are excessive.

Insurers are given some leeway in setting their premiums, which under state law may be as much as 30 percent above or below the standard — or "benchmark" — rates set by the commissioner.

But the vast majority of companies in Texas charge more than the state benchmarks, which are supposed to reflect rates that allow them to earn a reasonable profit.

Consumer groups said they are

not surprised by the rate increases.

"For the past five years, insurance companies have been making hundreds of millions of dollars in excess profits in Texas," D.J. Powers, a lawyer for the Center for Economic Justice and former general counsel for the Texas Department of Insurance, said in Friday's editions of The Dallas Morning News.

The center represents low-income consumers and small businesses in insurance matters.

"We are seeing the largest profits that insurance companies have ever made in Texas, and yet every year we see them charge higher rates," he said.

Farmers Insurance, for example, raised rates at two of the top 10 companies it owns.

Its preferred-customer company, Mid-Century Auto Insurance, had one of the largest statewide rate increases this year — 9.5 percent. Texas Farmers raised rates 1.3 percent.

A spokesman for Farmers said the higher rates are needed to offset losses in Texas.

"The increase was attributed to the higher costs for repairing damage to cars as well as rising medical costs," said spokesman Bob Huxel.

4-H Sew Fine Club



(Community Camera photos by Judy Elliott)

Cam Moore, former Pampan and current weatherman for KVII-TV Channel 7 in Amarillo, recently addressed a meeting of Gray County Sew Fine 4-H Club. Above: Moore visits with (back, left-right) Joy Hart, Sarah Schwab, (middle, l-r) Megan Petit, Julie Schuneman, (front, l-r) Erica Schepp, Monica Schepp and Leda Juengerman.

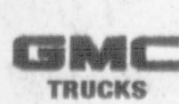
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Keeping an Eye on Texas

American Heart Month

Every 33 seconds an American dies of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease, which includes heart disease and stroke, is the number one killer in the nation and in Texas. More than 56,000 Texas residents died from this disease in 1998 — that translates into two of every five deaths.

February is designated as American Heart Month. Take preventative action against a heart attack by recognizing the following warning signs:

- nausea or dizziness
- palpitations, cold sweat or paleness
- shortness of breath and difficulty breathing
- unexplained anxiety, weakness or fatigue
- abnormal chest pain, stomach or abdominal pain

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us), and the Texas Affiliate of the American Heart Association.