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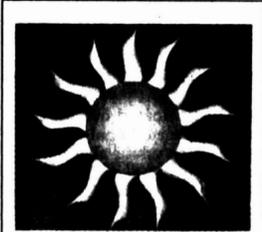
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Pampa

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 For weather details see
 Page 2

Confessed serial killer dies in cell

HUNTSVILLE, (AP) — Former confessed serial killer Henry Lee Lucas, who was rescued from death row by Gov. George W. Bush, has died in the cell block where he was serving a sentence hundreds of years in length for nine slayings.
 Lucas, 64, who was best known for making bogus confessions that prompted law officers nationwide to clear hundreds of unsolved killings, was found dead in his bed at the Ellis I prison unit, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice said.
 The one-eyed ex-driver was narrowly saved from execution three years ago when then-Gov. Bush commuted a death sentence to life in prison because of flimsy evidence in his capital case.

- Sina Jane Evans, 87, homemaker.
- Alberta M. Huffhines, 91, former employee of the old Highland General Hospital.
- William A. 'Bill' Peters, 92, retired employee White Deer Elementary School.

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ROGER DAVID
 Investment Representative
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 1540 N. Hobart

BEN WATSON
 Investment Representative
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PAMPA'S CINEMA 4
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Census 2000: Gray loses population

Pampa count down 2,072 since '90 tally

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Disappointed, but not surprised, that is the reaction today from Pampa and Gray County leaders as the 2000 census figures came in showing a 5.1 percent decline in population from 1990 in Gray County.

Gray County 2000 - 22,744
 Gray County 1990 - 23,967

City of Pampa 2000 - 17,887
 City of Pampa 1990 - 19,959

Preliminary figures from the United States Census show Pampa's population is down by 2,072 residents in the past 10 years. Community leaders have been waiting for the release of the figures, which came Monday afternoon, to see the actual census for the community.

Included in Gray County's census in 2000 are 1,389 inmates with Criminal Justice Division of Texas which weren't included in the 1990 census. Inmates are counted by the census in the

county in which they are incarcerated. The Baten and Jordan Units were constructed in the early 1990s in Gray County.

State Representative Warren Chisum said today he is not surprised the with the decline in Pampa and the rural areas. "We knew it was coming," he said. "Everybody in West Texas is in the same shape. We're losing people."

The Pampa representative has lost 25,492 people in his district with the preliminary figures released Monday and Tuesday. He has introduced legislation to provide a helping hand to rural

Texas. House Bill Seven is a comprehensive bill to give rural Texas an opportunity to come together to help the declining and stagnant smaller areas of the state.

"Rural Texas is in real trouble," said Chisum. He said one of the main functions of the agency would help rural communities develop their economies by assisting with grant-writing, marketing and developing tourism and other industries.

"This is a high-priority bill. We will meet Wednesday to hear concerns on the bill," said Chisum, "and we hope to have

it in by next week."

He said that more statistics will be released later in the week, that data is being inputted into state computers during the next four days.

Susan Tripplehorn, Pampa Economic Development Corporation Executive Director, said, "We are disappointed in the loss in population. However, we are very encouraged that the local workforce of several local companies has shown an increase the past year."

She said National Oil Well has reported an increase of 200 (See CENSUS, Page 3)

Below, the 2000 Census figure is listed first, followed by the 1990 count and the difference is shown in actual numbers and percentages. Note that state prisoners are included in the latest count in Dallam, Potter, Childress and Gray Counties. Those prisons did not exist in 1990.

DALLAM	SHERMAN	HANSFORD	OCHILTREE	LIPSCOMB	
6,222	3,186	5,369	9,006	3,057	
5,461	2,858	5,848	9,128	3,143	
+761	+328	-479	-122	-86	
+13.9%	+11.5%	-8.2%	-1.3%	-2.7%	
HARTLEY	MOORE	HUTCHINSON	ROBERTS	HEMPHILL	
5,537	20,121	23,857	887	3,351	
3,654	17,865	25,689	1,025	3,720	
+1,903	+2,256	-1,832	-138	-369	
+52.4%	+12.6%	-7.1%	-13.5%	-9.9%	
OLDHAM	POTTER	CARSON	GRAY	WHEELER	
2,185	113,546	6,516	22,744	5,284	
2,278	97,874	6,576	23,967	5,879	
-93	+15,672	-60	-1,223	-595	
-4.1%	+16.0%	-0.9%	-5.1%	-10.1%	
DEAF SMITH	RANDALL	ARMSTRONG	DONLEY	COLLINGWORTH	
18,561	104,312	2,148	3,828	3,206	
19,153	89,673	2,021	3,696	3,573	
-592	+14,639	+127	+132	-367	
-3.1%	+16.3%	+6.3%	+3.6%	-10.3%	
PARMER	CASTRO	SWISHER	BRISCOE	HALL	CHILDRESS
10,016	8,285	8,378	1,790	3,782	7,688
9,863	9,070	8,133	1,971	3,905	5,953
+153	-785	+245	-181	-123	+1,735
-1.6%	-8.7%	+3.0%	-9.2%	-3.1%	-29.1%
BAILEY	LAMB	HALE	FLOYD	MOTLEY	COTTLE
6,594	14,709	36,602	7,771	1,426	1,904
7,064	15,072	34,671	8,497	1,532	2,247
-470	-363	+1,931	-726	-106	-343
-6.7%	-2.4%	+5.6%	-8.5%	-6.9%	-15.3%

Setting night drop animals loose no favor, says Burns

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Animals are being released from cages at the local animal control shelter and it is not doing the animals a favor, said Sandy Burns, local director of the center. "Also, it can be very dangerous to whomever is doing it," cautions Burns.

The Pampa Animal Control Department has 11 cages available 24-hours a day for local and area residents to place animals when department personnel are not at the local center. Burns said a large volume of animals is handled through the night drop at the shelter. "We cannot always be here (at the animal shelter), and this is the best solution to the problem," said Burns.

Burns said the latest incident involved a local woman's dog which was placed in the night drop facility over the week-end. She said the facility had previously been notified the Scottish terrier was lost and it was on the center's lost list.

(See ANIMALS, Page 3)

Shamrock's celebration coming up March 16-18

SHAMROCK — It's St. Patrick's Day West Texas style. Shamrock's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration this year will feature bull riding, bullfighting and team roping.

The 55th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration begins Friday, March 16, and runs through Sunday, March 18.

With four former world champions and several top-ranked bullfighters, Sunday's bullfighting field will be one of the most star-filled this side of the National Finals.

Five-time World Champion Bullfighter Rob Smets, who organized the bullfighting, is bringing three time World Champion Bullfighter Mike Matt, 1999 World Champion Lance Brittan and 1998 World Champion Jerry Norton to Shamrock's St. Patrick's Day celebration.

(See SHAMROCK, Page 3)

Crash at Sonic causes damage

A woman stopped at a fast food drive-in window got more than she bargained for when her SUV was hit from behind hard enough to send it into the building, causing damage to the structure.

The driver of a sports utility vehicle and a passenger in a convertible were treated for minor injuries suffered Monday afternoon before being released from the Pampa Regional Medical Center emergency room.

A red 1995 Chevrolet Camaro convertible, driven by Contessa Nicole Kingcade, 16, rural Gray County, was in collision with a white 1994 Chevrolet Blazer, driven by Angela Diane Anderson, 24, 2110 Williston, about 2:30 p.m. at Sonic Drive-In in the 1400 block of North Hobart.

Anderson and Jacob Shorter Abel, 17, 837 E. Campbell, a passenger in the Camaro, were rushed to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Rural/Metro Ambulance following the collision.

Officers said neither Kingcade nor Ashton Nicole Anderson,



(Photo by Grover Black)

Emergency personnel render aid at scene.

Anderson's 1-year-old daughter and a passenger in the Blazer, nor a Sonic employee standing beside the drive-up window appeared to have suffered any injuries.

Three trucks and seven firefighters from the Pampa Fire Department responded to the accident which first came in as a

mis'hap with tire.

Upon arrival, firefighters discovered the "smoke" was a powdery chemical propellant used to inflate the air bag in the Blazer.

A witness's statement to the Pampa Police Department said the red Camaro rounded the corner of the driven-in restaurant.

(See CRASH, Page 3)

Father, daughter indicted on federal mail theft charges

AMARILLO — A father and daughter from Pampa remained in Potter County Jail today after a federal grand jury indicted the pair on federal mail theft charges.

A spokesman with Potter County Jail today confirmed that Laleanna L. King Downs, 21, and John Hardy King, 49, both of Pampa, were incarcerated there on federal mail theft charges and the elder King was also being held without bond for violating the conditions of his parole.

An Amarillo federal grand jury last week indicted Downs on two counts of mail theft for allegedly taking a JC Penney bill from a residential mail box in Amarillo on Jan. 31. A second indictment alleged that Downs had stolen a check drawn on a Bank of America account of Amarillo residents which had been contained in a letter to Farmers Insurance in Austin on Feb. 5. John Hardy King was also named in the second indictment.

Two other persons were indicted on federal mail theft charges in connection with incidents on Feb. 5. Grand jurors issued four indictments naming Bonnie C. Russell and Jeremy B. Turlington, age and address unavailable. Both are currently free today on \$10,000 unsecured bonds, according to the U.S. District Clerk's office.

In the indictments against them, Russell and Turlington

(See INDICTED, Page 3)



72nd Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet And Citizen Of The Year Award April 10th 7:00 PM In The MK Brown Auditorium - Tickets \$20 Per Person - Guest Speaker: Marsha Sharp, Lady Raiders Head Coach

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Daily Record

Services tomorrow

ELLIS, Gloria Jean — 1 p.m., Macedonia Baptist Church, Pampa.
 EVANS, Sina Jane — 11 a.m., First Baptist Church, Shamrock.
 PETERS, William A. "Bill" — 2 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, White Deer.

Obituaries

SINA JANE EVANS
 SHAMROCK — Sina Jane Evans, 87, died Sunday, March 11, 2001, at Mineral Wells. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the chapel of First Baptist Church with Joe G. Jernigan, pastor of Calvary Christian Fellowship Church, officiating. Burial will be in Shamrock Cemetery under the direction of Wright Funeral Directors of Shamrock.

Mrs. Evans, a homemaker, was born in Collingsworth County Feb. 21, 1914.

Survivors include a son, Lloyd Leo Evans Jr. of Mineral Wells; a brother, Leroy Westbrook of Granbury; four grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren and stepgrandchildren.

ALBERTA M. HUFFHINES
 Alberta M. Huffhines, 91, a longtime Pampa resident, died Sunday, March 11, 2001, at Glendora, Calif. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Huffhines was born Feb. 1, 1910, at Havana, Kan. She married Oliver Q. Huffhines on Nov. 6, 1926. She had been a Pampa resident since 1944, moving from California, and had worked in the kitchen of Highland General Hospital of Pampa. She returned to California in March of 1998.

She was a member of First Church of the Nazarene.

Survivors include a daughter, Doris Scott of Covina, Calif.; two sons, Oliver Huffhines and Everett T. Huffhines, both of Pampa; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM A. "BILL" PETERS
 LIBERAL, Kan. — William A. "Bill" Peters, 92, a longtime resident of Liberal Good Samaritan Center, died Sunday, March 11, 2001, at Southwest Medical Center in Liberal. Memorial services will be at 7 p.m. today in Kitch-Brenneman Funeral Home in Liberal. Additional services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Sacred Heart Catholic Church at White Deer with Monsignor Kevin Hand officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Born Feb. 25, 1909, at St. Anthony, Ill., to Henry George and Mary Christine Thein Peters, Mr. Peters moved with his family to Panhandle, Texas, in 1912. He married Beatrice Malinda Kamphaus on Jan. 7, 1942, at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church at Canute, Okla., and was a self-employed farmer/dairyman prior to working as custodian at White Deer Elementary School, retiring in the 1970s after 20 years of service.

He had been a Liberal resident since 1985 and belonged to St. Anthony Catholic Church in Liberal.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a grandson, Michael Black; a great-grandson, Austin Castillo; four brothers; and two sisters.

Survivors include four daughters, Carolyn Rouillard of Oklahoma City, Okla., Margaret McWilliams of Hooker, Okla., Betty Gregg of Liberal and Mary Beth Matkin of Carrollton; a son, John Peters of Amarillo; 15 grandchildren; and 29 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to American Diabetes Association and Liberal Good Samaritan Center in care of Kitch-Brenneman Funeral Home, 1212 W. 2nd St., Liberal, KS 67901.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa		Columbia/HCA	
Wheat	2.72	Enron	61.16
Milo	3.27	Halliburton	41.36
Corn	3.68	KMI	56.89
Soybeans	3.76	Kerr McGee	68.11
The following show the prices for which these mutual funds were bid at the time of compilation		Limited	16.50
Occidental	24.52	McDonald's	27.66
Fidelity Magellan	106.49	Exxon Mobil	82.85
Puritan	18.38	New Atmos	23.26
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa		XCEL	28.00
BP Amoco	36.00	NOI	37.86
Colgate	18.20	OKE	41.80
Cable	31.54	Penney's	16.52
Cabot O&G	20.50	Phillips	55.30
Chevron	90.55	Powder Nat.	18.38
Coca-Cola	46.84	SLB	66.09
		Tenneco	3.07
		Texaco	68.00
		Ultrasat	37.86
		Wal-Mart	47.97
		Williams	42.52
		New York Gold	272.55
		Silver	4.43
		West Texas Crude	28.12

Police report

Pampa Police Department reported the following arrest and incidents during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 12
 Mary L. Contreras, 18, 1316 E. Francis, was arrested in the 100 block of South Starkweather for public intoxication.

Two juveniles were reported as runaways in the 900 block of Twiford. Both were located and returned home shortly after the report was taken.

A missing child was reported in the 2000 block of Williston. The child had come home by the time officers arrived to take the report.

Theft of a gazing ball was reported in the 900 block of South Hobart.

An employee of Energas, RR2, Box 387-F, reported someone had removed a gas meter in the 1100 block of Varnon and installed it in another location.

A red AMT bicycle was found in the 600 block of North Somerville.

Police took an information report in the 1100 block of Charles concerning theft of newspapers, valued over \$50/ under \$500, between March 1 and March 12.

A runaway was reported in the 400 block of Hughes.

Tuesday, March 13
 A burglary was reported in the 100 block of South Russell.

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Accidents

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 12
 2:26 p.m. — A 1995 Chevrolet Camaro driven by Contessa Nicole Kingcade, 16, RR 1, Box 150-4, and a 1994 Chevrolet Blazer driven by Angela Diane Anderson, 24, 2110 Williston, collided in the Sonic Drive-In parking lot, 1404 N. Hobart. Two persons were taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center by Rural Metro Ambulance where they were treated for non-incapacitating injuries and released. No citations were listed on the accident report. (See related story)

Ambulance

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

Monday, March 12
 2:26 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of North Hobart and transported three to PRMC.

6:37 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing facility and transported one to PRMC.

Tuesday, March 13
 4:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported one to PRMC.

Fires

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Monday, March 12
 9:27 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a false alarm at Rheam's Diamond Shop, 111 N. Cuyler.

2:04 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a natural gas leak in the 200 block of East Foster. The leak was caused by a broken gas meter.

2:32 p.m. — Three units and seven firefighters responded to what was initially reported as a vehicle fire at the Sonic Drive-In, 1404 N. Hobart. When firefighters arrived, they found two vehicles had collided at the drive-up window of the restaurant and the "smoke" was caused by propellant used to inflate an air bag. Firefighters eliminated possible hazards from the damaged vehicles and helped ambulance personnel prepare two victims for transport to the hospital.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance	911
Crime Stoppers	669-2222
Energas	1-888-Energas
Fire	911
Police (emergency)	911
Police (non-emergency)	669-5700
SPS	1-800-750-2520
Water	669-5830

Texas Round Up

Census figures show suburbs, border, Hispanics fueled Texas growth

UNDATED — All it might take would be a jog down a big-city street, a stroll through a suburban mall or a drive across a lonely West Texas prairie to anticipate what the 2000 census said about Texas.

The major cities, and especially their minority populations, are still growing. Their outlying areas are expanding even faster. And rural points, especially in West Texas, simply can't keep up.

"If you drive west of I-35, it's a very lonely place," said University of Houston political science professor Richard Murray, who said the clique of West Texas lawmakers likely will shrink after redistricting.

The first detailed breakdown of the 2000 Census headcount, released Monday, showed 91 percent of the 3.86 million in population growth occurred in the metropolitan counties and their suburbs.

Maintaining meteoric growth that began in the 1970s, suburbs accounted for the eight fastest-growing counties. Among them: Collin, north of Dallas; Williamson, north of Austin; and Montgomery, north of Houston. Texas' population was pegged earlier this year at 20.9 million, supplanting New York as the second-most populous state.

Census 2000: Collin County tops list of fastest growing counties

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — In some Frisco subdivisions, developers don't wait to tear down abandoned farmhouses before surrounding them with 3,000-square-foot homes selling faster than they can be built.

The region's largest shopping mall opened in August and lines at area restaurants can take hours on a weekend night.

The population explosion in Collin County is sweeping over this former farm town like a swarm of grasshoppers on a hot summer day. After consuming nearly every empty lot in Plano, which swelled to 222,000 residents in the 1990s, the masses are moving north. Frisco, now at a population of about 34,000, grew 450 percent in the '90s and could become home to as many as 300,000 residents by 2020, officials predict.

Growth in both cities helped Collin County outpace Texas' 253 other counties in the past decade, according to newly released Census 2000 figures. Collin County grew 86.2 percent between 1990 to 2000, from 264,036 residents to 461,675.

And Collin County still remains 60 percent rural. Whether propelled by the region's strong economy, a quieter piece of suburbia or reputable schools, one thing is sure to many Frisco residents. This town will never be the same.

Lawmakers consider bill to establish office for rural affairs

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers are considering throwing rural Texans a rope, an outlet connecting the isolated communities to grant money and other government assistance that can pull them out of a deepening rut.

The Office of Rural Community Affairs would be established as a stand-alone executive branch agency to focus on rural issues, monitor governmental actions affecting rural Texas, research problems and recommended solutions and coordinate rural programs among state agencies.

"Rural Texas is in real trouble," Rep. Warren Chisum, the bill's author, told the House Land and Resource Management Committee Monday. "This may in fact be among the last times we'll have an opportunity to do something about it."

One of the main functions of the agency, which Chisum, R-Pampa, calls a "one stop shop," would help rural communities develop their economies by assisting with grant-writing, marketing and developing tourism and other industries. Health care would also be a priority.

In a state becoming more urban by the minute, the new agency could help protect agriculture interests, especially as legislators undertake redistricting — the process of adjusting political representation to reflect the current population. Stagnant rural Texas populations are expected to lose several representatives to fast-growing urban areas.

Spacewalkers get space station ready

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Two space shuttle Discovery astronauts floated outside early Tuesday and prepped the international space station to receive a robotic arm while also fixing a sticky solar-panel latch.

During a spacewalk scheduled to last 6 1/2 hours, Andrew Thomas and Paul Richards completed critical wire connections that will provide power, data and video links between space station Alpha and its robotic arm — set to be delivered in April.

This was the second and final spacewalk of Discovery's mission. Besides continuing work on the space station, the shuttle is delivering Alpha's first replacement crew, made up of astronauts Jim Voss, Susan Helms and their Russian commander Yuri Usachev, and an Italian-made module filled with 5 tons of supplies.

The wiring was considered the most difficult task of the two spacewalks. The work was left undone during Sunday's record-breaking nine-hour spacewalk by Voss and Helms.

Thomas and Richards got a late start and did not exit the shuttle until well after midnight Monday. The astronauts also climbed to the top of the station and fixed a latch on one of the station's giant solar wings that wasn't deployed when the electricity-producing wings were installed in early December.

People in the News

NEW YORK (AP) — Maximilian Schell is recovering from an appendectomy that kept him off the stage of Broadway's Longacre Theatre, where he is headlining previews of a new production of "Judgment at Nuremberg."

Schell, 70, portrays an aging minister of justice on trial in 1948 for sentences he handed down under Hitler.

He won a best actor Academy Award for the 1961 film "Judgment at Nuremberg," in which he gave a passionate performance as a young German defense lawyer.

Schell was hospitalized Saturday in New York City but is expected to resume performances Thursday, according to Joe Trentacosta, a spokesman for the production.

"He wants to come back earlier," Trentacosta said. "He wants to go now. But everyone's saying, 'take it a little easy.'"

The play is scheduled to open on March 26.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Slacking is not part of Jo Dee Messina's schedule.

The country singer is on tour for her "Burn" album, but she already has plans for what she'll do when that's over.

"I really want to get involved with charities," Messina told AP Radio.

"I want to be able to spend some time writing. I'd love to do some writing for my next album. It's always been a goal of mine, and even to try to get cuts on other people's. I think developing myself as a writer is something I would love to really focus on this year."

Messina is nominated for best female vocalist at the Academy of Country Music awards, which will air on CBS on May 9.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hollywood rebel Dennis Hopper is hooked again — this time on golf.

"Golf is addictive. It replaces the drugs. It replaces the alcohol. I see it as a natural progression. I suppose that if you survive your drug days, you have golf ahead of you. That is, if you have any brain left at all," Hopper told Maximum Golf for the magazine's April issue.

The "Easy Rider" and "Apocalypse Now" star said golf became his drug of choice 18 years ago, and candidly discussed his addictions.

"At the time I thought they were a great help to my acting," Hopper said. "They were really crutches. They make you schizo and paranoid and out of control."

"Even though I thought I was doing great work, I was really doing OK work. I had to return to the basics of acting, to what I learned from (acting coach Lee) Strasberg, and to create out of that rather than out of some nose powder or martini."

LANHAM, Md. (AP) — Mike Tyson, who spent three years in prison on a rape conviction, says he loves women passionately, but "I don't think they like me."

His explanation: "Because I'm real with them and I elicit everything that they hide from the world."

The former heavyweight champion also philosophizes about love in the April issue of Sister 2 Sister, an urban entertainment magazine.

"Listen, we have 8 billion people on this planet, right? And if you ask all 8 billion, they would give you a different definition of love," Tyson says.

City Briefs

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

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Officials: Ground controller cleared mistaken attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. serviceman at the scene of the accidental bombing in Kuwait directed the mistaken attack and then belatedly called on the F/A-18 Hornet pilot to abort the mission, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

Many details of the incident remain unclear, including the exact sequence of events Monday Officials speaking on condition of anonymity Tuesday said a forward air controller mistakenly directed the Hornet's bombing and tried too late to call it off Five American servicemen and one New Zealander were killed.

Some news reports said the ground controller was a member of the Navy, but Navy officials said they could not immediately confirm that.

The Pentagon identified the Hornet pilot as Cmdr. David O.

Zimmerman, who commands the VFA-37 Hornet squadron aboard the USS Harry S. Truman, on patrol in the Persian Gulf.

Zimmerman has more than 3,000 flying hours. Pentagon officials are scrambling to understand what went wrong in the training exercise.

The Hornet was participating in live-fire "close air support" for ground troops at the Udairi bombing range near the Iraqi border when it dropped explosive ordnance "on or near" an observation post, the U.S. Central Command said. Those killed and injured apparently were in the target area, but it was unclear what went wrong.

The command said six were confirmed dead and five American military personnel were taken to hospital with injuries that were not life-threat-

ening. Two of them were released.

An accident investigation board has been appointed and will arrive in Kuwait this week, the command said.

"We will work hard to take care of the families involved, and to find out how such an accident could occur," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in a statement.

The New Zealand government pressed for answers in the accident that killed one of its soldiers, acting Maj. John McNutt, 27, as well as five Americans.

"This was a live bomb basically dropped on observers. It shouldn't happen and we all need to know precisely what went wrong," said Defense Minister Mark Burton.

The New Zealand Army said McNutt was killed instantly.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, mostly sunny with highs in the upper 60s. Southwest to south winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight, mostly clear with lows near 40. South to southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Wednesday, increasing clouds with a less than 20 percent chance of late afternoon showers or thunderstorms. Highs near 70. West to northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

STATEWIDE — Clear skies returned across much of Texas on Tuesday in the wake of showers and thunderstorms that began the week.

Along the Gulf coast, students

on spring break were hoping for continued clear skies after show-ers put a damper on the first weekend of spring break.

Foggy skies were reported in Brownsville with visibilities of one-half mile.

It was mostly fair and cool overnight, except for high-level cloudiness in the Big Bend.

Early-morning readings ranged from the mid- and upper 30s in the Panhandle to lower 60s over the lower Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.

Extremes were 31 degrees at Dalhart and 62 at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi and Port Isabel.

Other readings included 39 at Junction and 50 at Fort Stockton.

Winds were mainly light and variable at 5 to 10 mph.

Daytime highs were expected from the 60s to 70s with a few 80s along the Rio Grande.

Increasing cloudiness was expected through Wednesday with a chance of showers and a few thunderstorms in North Texas, along with some rainfall in southern parts of the state.

Overnight lows should range from the 30s to 50s.

A chance of showers and thunderstorms was predicted in the north Wednesday with occasional brief heavy downpours.

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CENSUS

employees and Titan has added 37 during the last year. The addition of United Medicorp, Inc. to the community a few months ago added 68 jobs, she added. Also, she said Hanover has increased their labor force by five employees.

Tripplehorn said the future looks very promising for Pampa and Gray County even though the population figures are down. She said American Energy, Nichols and Duke Energy are all hiring right now.

"Even though Celanese and Mundy have laid off approximately 90 workers combined the past year, they are now more viable," said Tripplehorn. "Our economy is strong and going great guns."

Pampa Independent School District Board President Jay Johnson said, "The large metropolitan areas are having growing pains and the rural areas like Pampa are having shrinking pains."

Johnson was not surprised at the decline in the population. "We've known this was occurring because of the consistent decline in school enrollment the past few years," he said. "We're shrinking in enrollment, but we still have the same fixed costs."

"The increase of the Hispanic population to 13.7 percent of the total population was not a surprise to

us either," said Johnson. "We are having a constant demand for English as Second Language teachers because of the increase in the number of students needing the class."

Johnson added it is a concern of the board and administration to find enough qualified teachers for the students qualifying for ESL.

County Judge Richard Peet said he is always saddened at the loss of any people in the area.

"What concerns me is the less people we have," he said, "is the less voice we have in Austin." He was referring to the loss in Chisum's district of 25,492 residents in the 16-county area he represents.

"Warren does an excellent job for us, but you can't compare with a city like Houston with 26 representatives," said Peet.

He said he is anxious to receive the official breakdown of the census which is due by April 1. Peet said, according to the 2000 census, Lefors has 559 residents and McLean is home to 830 people.

City Manager Bob Eskridge was unavailable this morning as he and Community Services Director Bill Hildebrandt were in a meeting at Panhandle Regional Planning Commission in Amarillo regarding the census figures.

Finance Director John Horst said the subject of the PRPC meeting is how to interpret the census numbers.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SHAMROCK

Top-ranked Bullfighters Doug Forzani and Dusty Essick will also be there.

Sunday will also feature a 30-man bullriding event at the Shamrock rodeo grounds on the north side of Interstate 40. Bullriding begins at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

A jackpot team roping is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday at the roping arena a half mile north of I-40 on U.S. 83. Books open at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Roping begins at 1:30 p.m. each day.

The St. Patrick's celebration begins Friday with the Bareface Jail opening at 10 a.m. The carnival and street fair open at 6 p.m.

The kick-off banquet at 6:45 p.m. at the Shamrock Area Community Center features The Motifs.

The carnival and arts and craft show open at 9 a.m. Saturday. The Donegal beard contest will be

judged and the Old Settler's Plaque will be presented.

The parade takes to Main Street at 10:30 a.m. The parade entrants luncheon will be at the school cafeteria at 11 a.m.

The Colleens' luncheon is at noon.

A motorcycle rally and poker run will take off from Shamrock Area Community Center at 12:30 p.m.

Chuck wagon competition will begin at 1 p.m. next to the First National Bank. The car show is scheduled for 1 p.m. at U Drop Inn.

The Miss Irish Rose Pageant will be at 4 p.m. Gospel singing is scheduled for 7 p.m., a Christian youth rally is planned for 8 p.m. and the annual dance featuring The Motifs will be at 9 p.m.

On Sunday, the arts and crafts show runs from noon to 5 p.m. The carnival opens at 1 p.m.

The Lad and Lassie competition will be at 1:30 p.m.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ANIMALS

However, Burns said some unknown persons released the lost animal before a staff member could get back to the facility to get the dog reunited with its owner.

For those dropping off animals, there is a place where notes can be left about the circumstances.

"Whoever is doing this doesn't have a clue what they could be dealing with by releasing these animals," said Burns. "If they are taking these animals to their homes, they could be endangering family members as well as other pets."

She said each animal has to be assessed to determine if the animals are sick or need medical attention. "We have some who are turned into us which have parvo," said Burns. "If people are taking

them home, they could be taking home parvo." "Some of our staff have seen animals which have been in the cages run over on the street only hours later," said Burns. She said if animals are just being released on the streets, it is not helping them. "It's very dangerous," she said. "The animals are often trying to get back home when they are run over."

She explained that animals with tags are reunited with their animals.

Burns isn't sure who is responsible for releasing the animals from the night drop cages, but said children have been seen at the facility when staff members are not there.

"Luckily, the lady who lost her Scottish terrier found it. The animal was on Wilks St. near Doug Boyd's, so apparently someone had let it out," she said. "At least, it was unharmed."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CRASH

struck the curb, then smashed into the Blazer.

Kingcade told officers she was going too fast around the curve when her right front tire struck some curbing on the drive, knocking her foot off the brake pedal and onto the accelerator. The front of the Camaro struck the right rear of the Blazer, pushing the Blazer into the wall of the Sonic.

An employee at the window narrowly escaped injury from the impact, officials said.

Damage to the building was estimated at \$10,000, according to the accident report.

No charges were listed on the report.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

INDICTED

allegedly had taken two credit card billing statements and two personal checks from four separate Amarillo residential mail boxes on Feb. 5.

The charges resulted from an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspector's Office, authorities said, following a high speed chase near Pampa on Jan. 31.

A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper had stopped a pickup truck for speeding on a state highway east of Pampa. When the driver was told the trooper intended to detain the vehicle until a search warrant could be obtained, he took off with the trooper in pursuit.

The chase ended on a rural road with authorities arresting the driver. Downs, a passenger in the pickup, was also arrested at the scene and charged with possession with intent to manufacture methamphetamine after authorities discovered a "rolling meth lab" in the back seat of the pickup.

Further search of the truck revealed a number of pieces of mail dated Jan. 31, that appeared to have been taken from Amarillo mail boxes and the U.S. Postal Inspectors Office was called to investigate.

Downs was out on bond on the Jan. 31 charges when Amarillo police arrested her and her father for allegedly attempting to pass a "washed" personal check at the Wal-Mart at I-40 and Grand on Feb. 5.

Potter County Sheriff's Office said today that the forgery charges against Downs and King filed by the City of Amarillo had been dismissed.

August graduation cut

DENTON, Texas (AP) — Seniors planning to graduate from Texas Woman's University in August are upset that the university has dropped plans for their commencement.

"Bring it back. It's not fair. Bring it back. It's not fair," students chanted Monday on campus.

The university is cutting one of three annual graduation exercises because of a budget shortfall. The August graduation was cut because it involves the smallest number of students and costs the most. Six-hundred students are in the class planning to finish in August.

Students learned of the dropped commencement last week in the student newspaper. Jim Stiles, TWU registrar, told Dallas television station WFAA that letters are being sent to the students explaining the decision and apologizing.

"I feel like I'm a second-class citizen," student Jennifer Minchey said. She said she had earned the right to walk across the stage with her peers at her time.

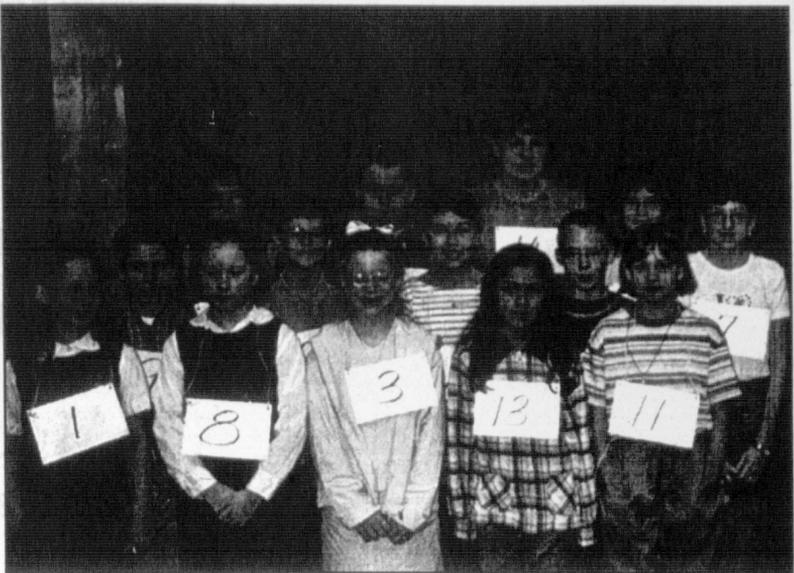
Mira Rhodes, another student, said the decision showed no respect for them.

The university is trying to make up the final \$1 million of a \$5 million budget shortfall caused by state cutbacks and lower enrollment. Cutting the August graduation will save \$20,000.

The students can participate in graduation ceremonies in either May or December.

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Gray County Spelling Bee



(Community Camera photo)

The Gray County Spelling Bee was held Friday at Lovett Memorial Library. The winner will represent Gray County at the Regional Spelling Bee slated at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, April 7 at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Winner of the Regional Bee will go on to compete in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. The champion of the county bee is Jon-Nathan Stewart, a sixth grader at Pampa Middle School. Eighth grader Shantillee Hemphill was runner-up and Kayla Mendoza, a fifth grader at Travis Elementary, was junior champion. Above: Students competing in the county bee were (front row) Diana Meschay, Leda Jungerman, Marli Street, Arlene Puentes, Keah Reel; (middle row) Madison Wilson, Josiah West, Mendoza, Heath Skinner, Hemphill; (back row) Stewart, Kristopher Boyd, Emily Elliott and Dayla Newman.

Police ticket Girl Scouts for selling their cookies

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — DeKalb County police are pretty tough cookies — so much so that they'll ticket Girl Scouts for selling Thin Mints and Tagalongs without a permit. A boss later chalked the whole thing up to overzealousness.

An officer ticketed two groups of Girl Scouts on Sunday. Troop leader Angelia Latners was with a group of girls selling in the parking lot of a closed restaurant. She argued with the officer until a sergeant showed up. He, too, insisted that the little girls had broken the law.

"I mean, this is crazy!" Latners said. "After he finished with us, he went down to the Kroger store and ticketed another (group of Scouts)."

Latners had written permission from the restaurant owner for her girls to use the parking lot.

She was unaware of a DeKalb ordinance that requires a permit for anyone soliciting in neighborhoods.

Angela Jackson, southeast

DeKalb service unit director for the Girl Scouts, was at the Kroger location Sunday. She said the officer told her the fine would be \$100 to \$200.

Monday morning, police Maj. Ron Slade received several media inquiries and calls from irate Girl Scout Leaders. He quickly apolo-

gized and voided the tickets. "We're not the big bad guys. We love the Girl Scouts," Slade said. "I just bought some of their cookies."

He said soliciting by youths in that area had gotten out of hand recently, and the officers apparently were overzealous.

Texas counties that lost the most population

The 10 Texas counties that lost the most residents between 1990 and 2000, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics:

County	2000	1990	Difference	Percent Chg
Loving	67	107	-40	-37.4%
Reagan	3,326	4,514	-1,188	-26.3%
Upton	3,404	4,447	-1,043	-23.5%
Terrell	1,081	1,410	-329	-23.3%
Reeves	13,137	15,852	-2,715	-17.1%
Winkler	7,173	8,626	-1,453	-16.8%
Ward	10,909	13,115	-2,206	-16.8%
Yoakum	7,322	8,786	-1,464	-16.7%
Stonewall	1,693	2,013	-320	-15.9%
Cottle	1,904	2,247	-343	-15.3%

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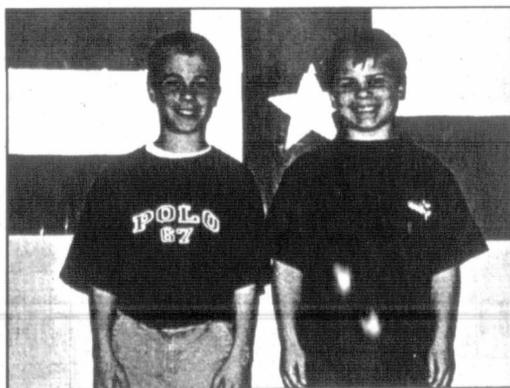


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Austin Elementary bee



(Community Camera photo)

Fourth grader Madison Wilson, above, won the Austin Elementary Spelling Bee, representing the school recently at the Gray County Bee, along with Marli Street, not pictured. Tanner Jean, above, was fourth grade runner-up. Other winners, in their respective categories, were Kevin Frels, Gregory Wariner, Aaron Dunn, Tyler Rhoades, Jacey Wagner, Nicole Heersema, Lacy Crain, Monica Schepp, Taylor Busse, Street, Ariel Parry, Colden Fortenberry and Anna Julian.

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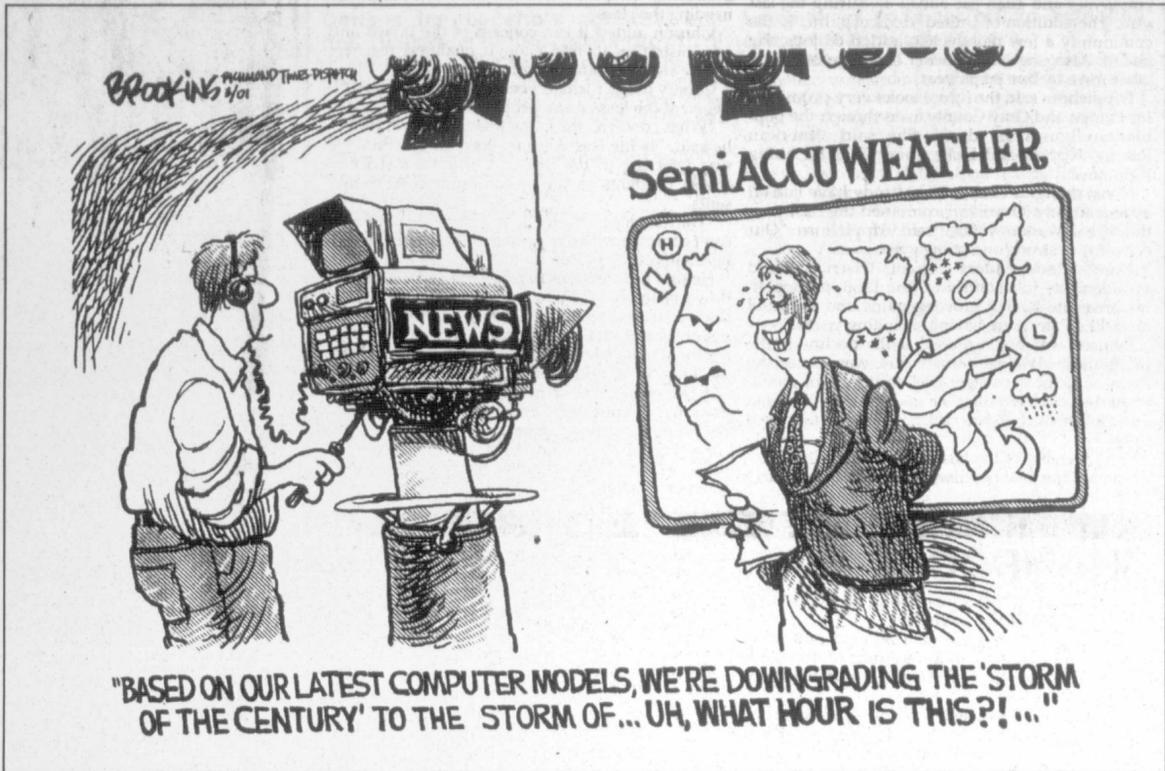
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Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:
 Austin American-Statesman on juries and death penalty:
 As thorough as criminal justice can be, there is as yet no sure-fire guarantee against faulty memories, lousy or indifferent lawyering, mistaken identity or malicious prosecution.

Until there is, questions about the fairness of the Texas justice system — especially when it comes to the death penalty — will continue to dog the state.

Texas juries are notoriously tough when it comes to sentencing. So tough that Texas executes more prisoners than any other state. Executions have become so commonplace in Texas they draw little notice except from a handful of opponents who protest either here or in Huntsville on execution days.

Texas has become known for its assembly-line style of killing prisoners, but the trouble is, assembly lines can break down. Assembly lines can malfunction. When this one does, it commits the irretrievable act of taking an innocent life.

DNA-testing may offer some insurance against wrongful conviction, but as lawyers defending O.J. Simpson proved, even that kind of scientific evidence can be cast in doubt.

As it is now, chances of being handed the death penalty are largely dependent on geography. In Harris County, for example, commit a capital crime and your chances of being sentenced to death are extremely high. They are also high in Bexar County, but much less than in Harris, about two hours away on I-10. Travis County, by contrast, has imposed the death penalty only four times between 1995 and 2000. The Harris County count was 70 in that same five-year period. In Bexar County, the number of death sentences imposed was 25.

Those numbers suggest a kind of macabre lottery. For the death penalty to be fully effective, it has to be applied equally, not randomly. Wealth, or lack of it, also shapes the odds a defendant has of receiving the death penalty. So does ethnicity and race.

There are enough examples of the system having been wrong in the state that juries ought to be given an option of imposing a sentence of life without parole. It is not a new or even original idea. But judging from the opposition extending that option draws from prosecutors and some interested groups, you'd think the idea was linked to selling the Alamo.

At a House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee, the proposal met opposition from prosecutors and a victims' rights advocate who argued that the life without option would lead to a dilution of the death penalty.

That testimony was followed by a Houston businessman who offered compelling testimony that if he and his fellow jurors had had the option, they would have exercised it. But they didn't, so they voted the death penalty.

The argument that life without parole would somehow lessen use of the death penalty is baffling. Juries would still have the option of imposing ultimate punishment, but would have another weapon with which to deal with criminals.

It is past time — way past time — for Texas legislators to show enough confidence to give the state's jurors more latitude when it comes to the very serious choices of life and death.

Sports isn't this reporter's long suit



Dee Dee Laramore

Staff writer

Kate Dickson inspired this week's column topic after I made a comment about Texas Tech University considering Bobby Knight as its next basketball coach. As I read through the wire story, I blurted something to the effect of, "You've got to be kidding!"

"That sounds like a column to me," she said. "Why don't you write about that?"

I thought awhile about writing on the subject before I came to an inescapable conclusion... You could put what I know about sports — all sports — in a thimble.

Maybe it's because I'm athletically challenged. Maybe it's because I'm competitively challenged. Maybe it's because I have a testosterone deficit, even for a female.

Whatever the reason, I just have never learned much about sports.

Back in the 1900s, I was a pretty fair trivia game player. Anyone who played a trivia game with me soon learned, however, that if they wanted to keep me from winning, all they had to do is ask me a sports trivia question.

Sports reign in Louisiana where I graduated from high school. During the 1970s, only boys were encouraged to participate in sports. Girls were encouraged to sit in the stands and encourage the boys as they played football or baseball or competed in track events.

If sports reigned in Louisiana, then baseball was king. One year I had the enviable position of dating a college guy who, as part of his internship, worked as assistant coach to our

high school's state champion baseball team.

As a result, many of our dates centered around attending baseball games, either school-sponsored or for the semi-pro league team he played on. By osmosis, I became fairly knowledgeable about baseball rules and great at sitting behind the plate and yelling.

On the other hand, the only thing I know about football is that it never works to run the ball through the middle of the line. I have watched that play a million times and all anyone ever seems to gain from it is a concussion.

In Louisiana, it's okay for girls to play a form of football once a year to help raise money for the junior-senior prom. It's called Powder Puff Football. Freshmen and senior girls team up against the sophomore and juniors in a bloody battle that would chill Roman gladiators.

My single brush with sports fame came when I almost scored a touchdown playing Powder Puff football my senior year. Probably

would have, too, if I hadn't slowed down to see who had nearly ripped my shorts off me.

See, that just proves I don't have the right competitive spirit. True athletes would have been entirely focused on the goal line, not on whether or not their shorts were about to fall off in front of a stadium full of people.

Originally, athletes in the Olympic games in Greece chose to compete in the nude. The first Olympic winners wore nothing more than a crown of laurel leaves and a smile. Why should it matter to me if I was only half dressed?

As a reporter of a small town newspaper, I've had to fill in for every position in the newsroom at one time or another, including sports. I love to take sports photographs. They're so full of action it's impossible to take a bad picture. But my limited sports knowledge becomes a real barrier when reporting such events.

Once I was called to pinch hit for L.D. Strate and cover a Pampa Harvester football game. My eternal gratitude goes to Sam White. When I admitted my failings to him, he graciously let me park my notepad and ignorant carcass next to him in the press box as he guided me through the maze of football terms, team background, player names, and game strategy.

After all was said and done, thanks to Sam, my story almost looked like I knew something.

Even so, chances are good that my next job won't be as a writer for *Sports Illustrated*.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 13, the 72nd day of 2001. There are 293 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On March 13, 1852, "Uncle Sam" made his debut as a cartoon character in the New York Lantern.

On this date:
 In 1781, the planet Uranus was discovered by Sir William Herschel.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson began in the U.S. Senate.

In 1901, the 23rd president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, died in Indianapolis.

In 1906, American suffragist Susan B. Anthony died in Rochester, N.Y.

In 1925, a law went into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of evolution.

In 1933, banks began to reopen after a "holiday" declared by President Roosevelt.

In 1964, in a notorious case, 38 residents of a New York neighborhood failed to respond to the cries of Kitty Genovese, 28, as she was being stabbed to death.

In 1969, the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the Lunar Module.

In 1980, Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down.

In 1980, a jury in Winamac, Ind., found Ford Motor Co. innocent of

reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women riding in a Pinto.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, during a visit to Ottawa, Canada, warned Iran against seizing Iraqi territory in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War. Exxon Corp. agreed to pay a \$100 million criminal fine and more than \$900 million in civil damages in the wake of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. The deal fell apart when the Alaska House rejected it. A new settlement was reached later.

Five years ago: A gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire on a class of kindergartners,

killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself. World leaders, including President Clinton, held a summit in Sharm El-Sheik, Egypt, where they vowed unequivocal support for the Mideast peace process.

One year ago: A quarter century after the end of the Vietnam War, U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen arrived in Hanoi to push the pace of reconciliation.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Liz Anderson is 71. Country singer Jan Howard is 71. Opera singer Rosalind Elias is 70. Songwriter Mike Stoller is 68. Singer-songwriter Neil Sedaka is 62. Actor William H. Macy is 51. Actress Deborah Raffin is 48.

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America is not responsible for the world



Charley Reese

Syndicated columnist

One of my readers was slightly perturbed recently because I didn't supply solutions to the problems I described in a column.

Well, I could have. You name a problem, and I can write you out a solution right off the top of my head. Most of you could do the same thing. But, you see, we have no power, and so it would be a pointless exercise. Nobody would take our advice.

Our influence on government occurs for one day every two years. That day, Election Day, is like a magic gate that opens only for 12 hours. During those 12 hours, the American people have the ability, if they choose to exercise it, to effect a peaceful revolution.

But when Election Day ends, our influence on the national government drops practically to zilch. And, in part, it was planned that way. Under the republican (little r) form of government, elected officials are expected to exercise their own judgment on issues and then submit to a review of their record on Election Day. They are not supposed to try to twist and turn with every change in public opinion.

But it was also intended by the founders that the majority of governing would be done at the local level, where people do have influence. James Madison, often called the father of the Constitution, stated in the Federalist Papers (still the best explanation of the original intent of the

Constitution) that, except in time of war, the federal government would do 5 percent and the states 95 percent of the governing.

Unfortunately, we have evolved into a society in which, it often seems, every level of government is trying its best to write as many laws and rules as possible. An old Greek had it all figured out a long time ago:

"Virtue is not advanced by written laws," Socrates said, "but by the habits of everyday life; for the majority of men tend to assimilate the manners and morals amid which they have been reared. Furthermore, where there is a multitude of specific laws, it is a sign that the state is badly governed."

There's a powerful lot of wisdom in that statement. Because children today learn by the habits of everyday life and assimilate the manners and

morals in which they've been reared, that gives you a clue to problems in public schools.

But as for influencing the federal government, I'm content. We at last have a president who is diligently pursuing exactly what he said he would pursue. It's going to take a while, I realize, to get used to having an honest man in the White House.

George W. Bush was quite specific in what he promised, and he's not going beyond that. He's certainly not going to adopt the laissez faire, isolationist policy that I would prefer.

But that's OK. I'm content to have someone who recognizes the folly of using American soldiers as step-and-fetch-its for the United Nations. I'm content to have a man who won't make sleazy appointments.

To move the current centralized welfare state from where it is to where the forefathers intended it to be is work for many generations. Besides, we need to get over the idea that we have to mouth off and solve every single problem that arises on a daily basis.

This attitude, of course, is encouraged by the news media and special-interest groups. But it's silly. We should see to our own affairs and not try to run things that are not our business and that we have no authority to effect. If you feel something is urgent, ask yourself, "Will this matter 15 years from now?"

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Do-It-Yourselfers Offer Ways To Fix Rear-End Damage

DEAR ABBY: "Watching My Assets" put a dent in the door of his friend's pickup when he closed it by pushing it with his rear end. Please pass on this information: In newer cars, one can take off the door panel and pop the bent body back out. Only minor paint damage will remain to be repaired. Most repair persons won't tell you this because repairs are their bread and butter.

Another "fix-it" for such a problem is to put dry ice on the spot. Due to contraction, the dent will pop out. It doesn't work on all materials, but on many. This is an old science trick — hope it helps.

SCIENCE TECHS AND BACKYARD MECHANIC

DEAR S.T. AND B.M.: Yours is not the only letter that arrived from helpful readers wanting to resolve "Asset's" problem. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Watching My Assets" reminded me of a similar incident that happened to me many years ago. My friend "Carmen" "rear-ended" my passenger door while trying to close the already locked door and she, too, left a large dent.

Without a moment's hesitation she asked if I had a toilet plunger (we had just pulled up to my home). Plunger in place, out popped the dent! Good as new, no insurance claim necessary.

GENIE SAFFREN, LOS ANGELES



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

DEAR GENIE: The longer I write this column, the more I learn from readers. Your letter is a hoot. I wonder if that solution would work today on cars that are made largely from plastic instead of metal. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Watching My Assets," who had a question about whether or not a claim should be filed under his friend's insurance policy, prompts my own.

Your answer was wrong for a few reasons. Yes, his friend should file a claim. This was an accident. Granted, it was not your run-of-the-mill accident, but it was an accident. If the guilty party wants to help his friend, he should volunteer to pay the deductible.

Second, the only time an accident counts against you is if you are the majority at fault — in California, 51 percent or more at fault — for the accident. In this case, the person filing the claim would not have his rates go up or have his policy canceled.

Please advise your readers that if

they are in an accident and have any questions, to refer the question to their insurance agent. After all, they are paying a premium for insurance, and if they get into an accident, the person who sold them the policy is obligated to help them out.

ADJUSTING CLAIMS FOR AAA IN FRESNO, CALIF.

DEAR CLAIMS ADJUSTER: Thank you for pointing that out. I'm grateful for the reminder. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You were correct in advising "Watching" that although it was unintentional, he did, indeed, damage his friend's door by denting it with his posterior. Therefore, he is the one who should be responsible for the repair.

He should be able to put in a claim under his homeowner's or renter's liability coverage, since it covers damage to other people's property, as well as injury to others.

Hope this information is helpful, Abby.

BEA IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR BEA: You bet it is. Thank you for the golden nugget of information.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61064-0447. (Postage is included.)

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



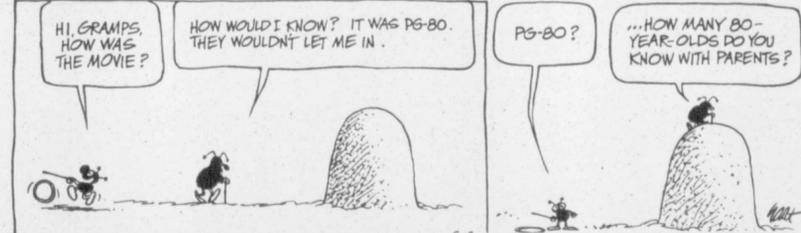
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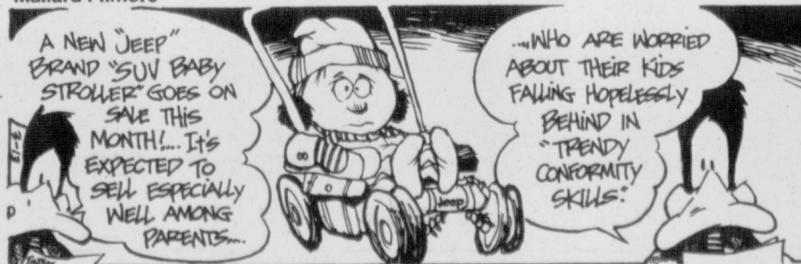
Peanuts



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Mallard Filmore



Horoscope

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 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)

What seems like a mess this morning clears up and becomes a source of creativity. Steer clear of negativity and gossip. Step back and do whatever you need to do to make what you want happen. Seek out those at a distance. Talk about what you want. Tonight: Buy a favorite CD.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You could be more out of sync than you realize. Take your time making a decision that could involve relationships. You discover that there are many options you haven't considered. Let another spout off ideas. Be a good listener. Someone has much wisdom. Tonight: Go along with another's suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Don't let a slow start ruin your day. You feel as if someone isn't working with you. Stay focused on your must-do list. Success follows concentration. Laughter surrounds a fun relationship. Be open to suggestions. Tonight: Just be yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

You could feel let down by another. Finding an answer takes talent. Your imagination is a huge resource that you sometimes don't acknowledge. Trust

your judgment and ideas. You have unusual insight and direction. Be open to experimenting. Tonight: Answer your mail.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Another's insecurity has a way of distancing you. Don't kid yourself about this person's behavior. Be creative and open to potential. A meeting gives you many options. Your creativity and your ability to network merge. Open doors. Tonight: Remember that anything is possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You might not believe another's news, but you might be hard pressed to change or disprove it. Stay focused on one item at a time as you attempt to verify information. Someone you count on comes through for you. Let this person know how important he is to you. Tonight: Head on home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Confusion surrounds communication and finances. Steer clear of any risks. Doors open later in the day, especially if you are willing to ask questions and seek out information. Someone makes an offer that seems too good to be true. Tonight: Return calls and e-mail.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You might be upset by someone who simply doesn't seem to want to understand. Try as you might, right now you cannot get through to this person. Remain optimistic and positive with others. Deal with finances. Seek out advice. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You swing from low to high. Don't make decisions based on this morning's news and information. You

could be overly sensitive or reactive until later. Your smile and personality bring others toward you. You draw many opportunities. Tonight: Get together with favorite friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Accept a problem rather than balking at it. You might not like what you are hearing about a friendship and funds. Take your time and explore options. Dig into work, and you'll become centered. Consider a new health or nutritional system. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your information might cause a problem for someone you deal with regularly. Understand this person and where he might be coming from. Schedule a meeting or get-together. Your success comes through others. Tonight: Do only what you love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your nerves might be getting the better of you. Understand what is happening. Take a walk, or distance yourself from a problem. Make a point of speaking to a key adviser or confidant. Together, the two of you can work out almost anything. Tonight: A must appearance.

BORN TODAY

Actor Michael Caine (1933), scientist Albert Einstein (1879), actor Billy Crystal (1947)

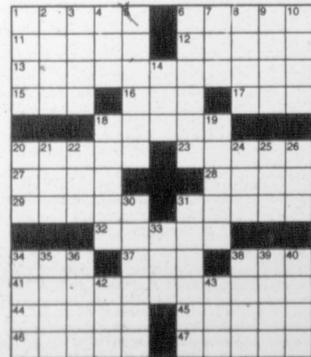
For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$3.99 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Ballet
- 6 Bundled hay
- 11 Cheering loudly
- 12 Rust, e.g.
- 13 West African nation
- 15 "2001" computer member
- 16 Choose
- 17 Siesta
- 18 Hog the mirror
- 20 Foundation
- 23 Rx amounts
- 27 Actor Bates
- 28 Scarlet's home
- 29 Take exception
- 31 George W. Bush, for one
- 32 City on the Seine
- 34 Play part
- 37 Peach center
- 38 Topper
- 41 "Fistful of Dollars" director
- 44 Massage
- 45 Thrill
- 46 Flight parts
- 47 Middling cards



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



"It might be raining, but you still can't have my shower cap."

The Family Circus



"This cap is one-size-fits-all."

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SPORTS

Notebook

GOLF

SAN ANGELO — Pampa shot a 634 to place seventh in the Class 4A Boys Division of the San Angelo Classic last weekend.

Pampa scores were Daniel Heuston (78-52-150), Anthony Tiedt (82-78-160), Daniel Williams (83-80-163), Cory Fowler (80-86-166) and Crait Stout (89-81-170).

BASEBALL

PAMPA — The Pampa baseball team competes in the Boomtown Classic, starting Thursday in Burkburnett.

The Harvesters will look to get back on the winning track after dropping their last two games in the Snyder Tournament last weekend.

Hereford beat Pampa by a score of 2-0.

Randy Tice, who pitched the entire game, struck out 7, walked 2 and gave up 4 hits for the Harvesters.

Harvesters who had hits were Tice, Adam Jones, Evan Miller, Adam Wright, Kyle Keith and Wes Martin.

Pampa's final game was a 9-0 setback to Lubbock Cooper.

Michael Galloway had a pair of hits for Pampa. Jared Snelgroves and Wright each had a hit.

Jones, Shawn Strate, Keith and Wright pitched for Pampa.

FOOTBALL

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys are reportedly looking at Tampa Bay quarterback Ryan Leaf in their search for a replacement for Troy Aikman, who was waived last week after 12 years with the team.

A team source told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Tuesday's editions that the 24-year-old Leaf re-entered discussion of the Cowboys' quarterback mix after a three-year NFL bust in San Diego.

"The door is still open," the source said. "There's definitely interest there."

Two sources told The Dallas Morning News in Tuesday's editions that the Cowboys contacted Tampa Bay about the possibility of acquiring Leaf in a trade. The Bucs acquired Leaf two weeks ago when he was released by San Diego.

Leaf's agent, Leigh Steinberg, on Tuesday did not return a telephone call to The Associated Press.

The Cowboys were believed to be offering one of several players for Tampa Bay to choose from. It said none had major roles with the team last year.

Leaf's contract calls for him to earn \$1.5 million this season.

Blue Devils match UCLA's final-poll run

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Duke joined UCLA in the record books by being No. 1 in the final Associated Press poll for the third straight season.

The Blue Devils (29-4), a top seed in the NCAA tournament for a fourth straight year, moved from third to first Monday in the voting by a national media panel.

The only other school to finish No. 1 in three straight final polls was UCLA, which did it from 1971-73.

Victories over Maryland and North Carolina capped a third consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference tournament title run for Duke (29-4), which received 45 first-place votes and 1,701 points.

Stanford (28-2), a unanimous No. 1 the last two weeks, dropped to second after losing to Arizona last week.

The Cardinal, the only team in Division I with less than four losses, were No. 1 on 23 ballots and had 1,674 points.

Michigan State (24-4) and Illinois (24-7), the other No. 1 seeds for the NCAA tournament, were third and fourth in the poll.

The Spartans dropped one place after losing to Penn State in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten tournament, while Illinois (24-7) held fourth after losing to Indiana one round later.

Duke, Michigan State and Stanford were 1-2-3 in last season's final poll.

Arizona, which was fourth at

the end last season, was fifth this year. The Wildcats (23-7) received one first-place vote and improved three spots from last week.

North Carolina remained sixth and was followed in the Top Ten by Boston College, Florida, Kentucky and Iowa State.

Five teams were ranked No. 1 this season, one short of the record set in 1993-94. Stanford was on top for seven weeks, while Duke was there for five, Arizona three and Michigan State and North Carolina two each.

Maryland led the Second Ten for the second straight week and was followed by Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, UCLA, Virginia, Syracuse, Texas, Notre Dame and Indiana.

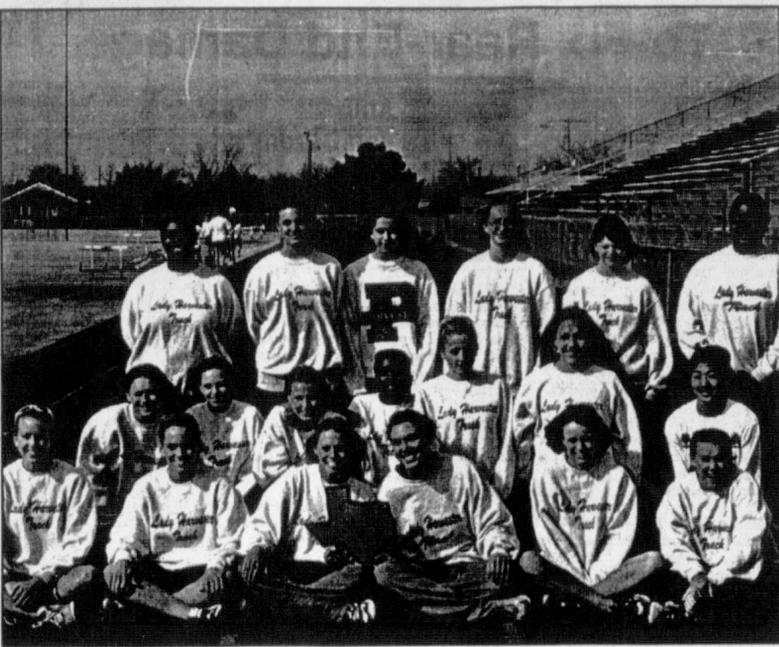
The last five ranked teams were Georgetown, St. Joseph's, Wake Forest, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Indiana (21-12) and Iowa (22-11), the finalists in the Big Ten tournament, were the new teams in the final poll. Indiana, which lost the title game, was ranked for the first time this season. Iowa, which had been struggling since star Luke Recker fractured his kneecap in late January, returned to the poll after being out the last three weeks.

Ohio State (20-10), 24th last week in its first poll appearance of the season, was beaten by Iowa in the Big Ten quarterfinals and dropped out.

Fresno State (25-6), which was 25th last week, fell out after losing to Hawaii in the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference tournament.

Top O' Texas champs



Pampa High girls track team displays the first-place trophy they received after winning the Top O' Texas Relays. The Lady Harvesters also have runner-up finishes in the Randall and Borger meets. Team members are (front row, from left) Rebecca Fatheree, Kristen Stowers, Chelsea McCullough, Ashleigh Patton, Teryn Stowers and Neysha Rogers; (middle row, from left) Abby Cavalieri, T'Andra Holmes, Shelly Sims, Narissa Perry, Heather Day, Denise Solis and Andrea Lee; (back row, from left), Angela Phillips, Randa Morris, Anna Johnson, Meredith Fleming, Beth Platt and Angie Cornish.

Groom Relays results

Groom Relays At Groom
Boys Division
Team totals: 1. Miami 145; 2. Groom 123; 3. Chillicothe 63; 4. Hedley 62; 5. Lefors 49; 6. Chanung 44; 7. Silverton 23; 8. Samnorwood 12; 9. Silverton JV 10; 10. Trinity Fellowship 7.
Area Results
Boys Division
Long jump: 1. Gray, Groom, 19-2; 5. Hathaway, Lefors, 17-2.
Triple jump: 1. Ritter, Groom, 41-8; 2. Gray, Groom, 38-5 1/2; 3. James, Miami, 37-5; 4. Lackey, Groom, 5; 5. Browning, Miami, 33-2.
High jump: 1. Ritter, Groom, 5-10; 5. James, Miami, 5-8; 6. Ratteree, Groom, 5-4.
Discus: 1. McDowell, Miami, 126-1 3/4.
Shot put: 1. McDowell, Miami, 43-7; 2. Manley, Miami, 40-5; 6. Kidd, Lefors, 35-10.
3200: 2. Browning, Miami, 11:54.32; 5. Culver, Lefors, 12:14.81; 6. Pavlovsky, Groom, 13:29.26.
400 relay: 1. Groom, 46.43; 2. Lefors, 48.25; 5. Miami, 49.44.
800: 1. Conrad, Groom, 2:13.65; 2. Davenport, Miami, 2:28.38; 4. 29-0.
Slaughter, Miami, 2:31.62.
110 hurdles: 1. James, Miami, 18.53; 3. Ratteree, Groom, 22.38.
100: 1. Howard, Miami, 12.06; 4. Manley, Miami, 12.53; 6. Williams, Miami, 12.95.
400: 1. Thoms, Miami, 3. Murray, Lefors, 56.50; 6. Fields, Groom, 1:01.75.
300 hurdles: 1. James, Miami, 47.40; 2. Ratteree, Groom, 51.57; 4. Culver, Lefors, 56.88.
200: 1. Thoms, Miami, 24.18; 2. Ritter, Groom, 24.50; 3. Hathaway, Lefors, 24.81; 4. Howard, Miami, 25.06.
1600: 1. Conrad, Groom, 5:26.71; 4. Slaughter, Miami, 6:00.37.
1600 relay: 1. Groom, 5:26.71; 2. Miami, 3:51.06; 3. Lefors, 3:54.00.
Girls Division
Team totals: 1. Groom 193; 2. Silverton 89; 3. Miami 73; 4. Hedley 71; 5. Lefors 39; 6. Chillicothe 38; 7. Higgins 14; 8. San Jacinto 3; 11. Trinity Fellowship 2.
Long jump: 1. Davis, Groom, 15-3 3/4; 2. Conrad, Groom, 14-1 1/2; 4. Cox, Miami, 13-9 3/4; 6. Davenport, Miami, 13-4 1/4.
Triple jump: 1. Davis, Groom, 33-2; 2. Cox, Miami, 32-2; 3. Davenport, Miami, 30-10 1/2; 5. Conrad, Groom, 29-0.
High jump: 1. Bohr, Groom, 4-9; 3. S. Britten, Groom, 4-4; 4. Howard, Groom, 4-4.
Discus: 1. Noack, Groom, 103-2; 3. Black, Miami, 89-5 3/4; 5. Kilcrease, Miami, 83-1.
Shot put: 2. Noack, Groom, 29-7; 3. James, Miami, 29-5; 5. Black, Miami, 26-7; 6. Jenkins, Groom, 25-9.
3200: 2. J. Britten, Groom, 14:18.13; 3. Horn, Groom, 17:15.56.
400 relay: 1. Groom, 54.12.
800: 1. Barnett, Groom, 2:43.50; 2. Daugherty, Lefors, 2:57.81.
100: 1. Davenport, Miami, 14.03; 2. Conrad, Groom, 14.18; 5. Cox, Miami, 14.62.
800 relay: 1. Groom, 1:57.46; 4. Lefors, 2:13.18.
400: 1. Britten, Groom, 1:06.00; 2. Cox, Miami, 1:10.31; 3. A. Martin, Groom, 1:16.56; 5. Greenwell, Lefors, 1:36.50.
300 hurdles: 1. Davis, Groom, 52.56; 5. Howard, Groom, 1:01.94; 6. Smith, Lefors, 1:04.20.
200: 1. Davenport, Miami, 30.21; 2. Cox, Miami, 30.56; 4. B. Martin, Groom, 32.50.
1600: 2. Daugherty, Lefors, 6:59.94.
1600 relay: 1. Groom, 4:42.15; 3. Lefors, 5:17.18.

Craig appointed as Babe Ruth League Baseball Commissioner

PAMPA — Larry Craig has been appointed Commissioner of the Babe Ruth Baseball League by the Board of Directors for the Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

"We need additional coaches and umpires so that our kids can have the best season possible," Craig said.

Babe Ruth sign-ups and tryouts will be held March 19, 20, 21, at Optimist Park.

Craig has coached Optimist baseball for nine years, including the past three years for Cree Companies in the Babe Ruth

League. Craig is a training coordinator for Celanese, where he has worked 10 years.

"I just love coaching kids," Craig said. "For the past nine years our family's summers have revolved around Optimist baseball."

Married to Melany, the two are the parents of three boys, Charlie 17, Hunter 15 and Jake 13.

"All three of our boys have played baseball in the Optimist program from the time they were six years old," Craig added. "I try to make the game fun for all the kids."



Larry Craig will be reunited with his son, Jake, in the Optimist Babe Ruth Baseball League this season. Craig is the manager of Cree Companies. Jake will play as a 13-year-old this year. Sign-ups and tryouts are scheduled for March 19-21.



Optimist Sign-Ups

Sign-ups & Tryouts for Baseball & Softball
March 19, 20, 21 • 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
Optimist Park • 601 E. Craven
Boys & Girls 5-15
for more information call 669-3397
scholarships available

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Monday 4-7:30pm, Tuesday 4-7:30pm, Wednesday 4-7:30pm, Thursday 4-7:30pm, Friday 4-7:30pm, Saturday 4-7:30pm, Sunday 4-7:30pm

<p>3 Personal</p> <p>BEAUTICONTROL Cosmetics, sales, service, makeovers. Lynn Allison 1304 Christine, 669-3848</p>	<p>14e Carpet Serv.</p> <p>NU-WAY Cleaning service. carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...! It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.</p>	<p>14t Radio/Tv</p> <p>RENT TO RENT RENT TO OWN We have tvs, VCRs, camcorders, to suit your needs. Rent by hour, day, week. We do service on most major brand of tvs & VCRs. Call for estimates. Johnson Home Entertainment, 2211 Perryton Pkwy. 665-0504.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>LVN's & CNA's 6-2, 2-10 shift needed at Pampa Nursing Center, contact Tava Porter, 669-2551.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>JANITORIAL serv. needs Night Floorman. Good work record & references. 848-2517 or 273-7578.</p>
<p>5 Special Notices</p> <p>ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News, MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.</p>	<p>14h Gen. Serv.</p> <p>COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>WE ARE THE FASTEST GROWING VALVE COMPANY IN WEST TEXAS. We have doubled our employee base in the past two years - and we are STILL growing. Come join a winning team. UNIVERSAL VALVE CO. Now hiring EXPERIENCED VALVE TECHNICIANS. Salary DOE. 3501 W. Industrial, Midland, TX (915) 689-6341</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>SALESPERSON Wanted! Chance of a Lifetime-Sell All 6 GM Lines-Hard Work-Huge Benefits-No Hassle Selling. 401K-Hospital Insurance and Other Benefits. Call Jim Blackbert at Chamberlain Motor Company 376-9041 or 874-3527.</p>
<p>12 Loans</p> <p>MAD? Banks don't give mortgage loans due to credit problems. 1st! L. D Kirk, (254)-947-4475 Texas Fair Rates.</p>	<p>14i Amarting</p> <p>50 yrs. exp. We paint, dry-wall, texture, comm., residential. Free Estimates. Happy Painters 665-3214</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY National Bank of Commerce, Pampa, Texas, is now accepting applications of Loan Officer. Apply at 1224 N. Hobart. NBC is an equal opportunity employer.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>ATTENTION Owner-Operators Regional heavy oil transporters needs owner-operators who live within 75 miles of the Pampa/Borger area for year round haul. Earn 70% of gross revenue and safety bonuses. Must be 23 yrs. of age with Class A CDL with X endorsement and clean driving record. For more information call 1-800-725-3635.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>LOOKING for someone to work every Saturday. Must be 18 yrs. Apply at Bartlett's Ace Hdw., 500 W. Brown.</p>
<p>14b Appl. Repair</p> <p>B&B Electric, 779-3252, 779-2517, 800-834-6058. Service on all appliances, in or out of warranty.</p>	<p>14r Plowing/Yard</p> <p>TC Lawn Service-mowing, rtoiling, tree trimming, flowerbeds, clean-up. Reas. 665-1102</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>NEED A Career? Become a Licensed Vocational Nurse! Make plans to enter Frank Phillips College's Nursing Program today. 12 month, TASP waived program with financial aid avail. to those that qualify. Clinical training sites in Borger, Dalhart, Dumas, Guyton, Pampa & Perryton. Frank Phillips College's LVN program prepares you to function as a vital member of the health care team. Please call (806)274-5311 or 1-800-687-2056, ext. 745 for testing dates or for more info. today!</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>ABSOLUTELY free info! Earn online income \$2,000 - \$5,000 mo. www.budget4life.com.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>ST. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle has the following positions open: FT 3-11 LVN & CNA, FT 3-11 CNA, PRN LVN's & CNA's all shifts. Apply in person or call Andi @ 936-3194.</p>
<p>14d Carpentry</p> <p>CUSTOM homes, additions, remodeling, residential / commercial Deaver Construction, 665-0447.</p>	<p>14s Plumbing/Heat</p> <p>JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115- faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>MADISON Avenue Temporaries is seeking qualified applicant for a long-term assignment in the Borger area. An accounting degree is preferred w/ a minimum of 2 yrs. accounting exp. Computer exp. in Lotus / Excel and data base mgmt. is required. If interested, please fax resume 273-5441.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>PURCHASING Agent needed. Must have experience. Call Clifton Supply for appointment, 665-0089</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>OUTREACH Health Services needs provider in Pampa. Please call 1-800-800-0697 EOE.</p>
<p>OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.</p>	<p>Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/ Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>OUTREACH Health Services needs provider who lives in Skellytown for 3 hrs. on weekend. Please call 1-800-800-0697. EOE.</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>Corporate New furniture Bills pl. Lake 2600 N. Hobart</p>	<p>21 Help Wanted</p> <p>Corporate New furniture Bills pl. Lake 2600 N. Hobart</p>

21 Help W
NOW hiring ment Staff. 1 to work eve shifts. Apply Kingsmill & Banks.

CALDWELL Co. needs Sh 6 paid holi week paid va Hwy 60 W 665-8888.

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OILFIELD V tools Sales Co. individual for instrument r. houseman. Send resume writing to P. Pampa, Tx. 7

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~ Business Review ~

Families have fun at local McDonald's

Spring into McDonald's. Signs of the upcoming spring are arriving. Soon the cold, snowy winter season of 2000-2001 will be just a memory, flowers will be blooming and grass will be

green. Pampan are ready for spring, and McDonald's is, too. McDonald's New Tastes Menu is new for Spring of 2001 at the local McDonald's. It features Big N Tasty Sandwich, Lettuce and

Tomato Sandwich and New McChicken Sandwich. New Tastes Menu will feature additional new tastes to be introduced throughout the upcoming spring and summer.

And the perfect place to begin your day year-round is McDonald's. Employees providing the service are your neighbors and friends.

They offer a full service breakfast menu— everything from biscuits to bagels to hotcakes. Breakfast may be obtained by driving up at the drive-up window or going inside knowing the service will be excellent. The morning meal is served from 6 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Bill and Marietta Benda, owners of the local McDonald's, are proud of their employees and the service they provide. "It's nice to have good quality people," said Bill Benda. "This isn't a big corporate giant. It's a family business."

While the Benda's live in Perryton, they love Pampa. At least one of them is in Pampa on a daily basis.

"We like to get involved with the community and encourage our employees to get involved in community activities," said Marietta Benda. "We like to know what goes on in the community."

Enjoying their business is the most important factor to the Benda's. "Our paycheck is our customers," said Bill Benda. "Without them we wouldn't be here. Customers are the most important part of our business."

Birthday parties at McDonald's are very popular with parents and children alike. The children's mess along with the noise is confined to McDonald's.

McDonald's offers three choices of parties. An Ice Cream Sundae Party includes an ice cream sundae along with one-quarter sheet cake (choice of chocolate or yellow), soft drinks, party favors and balloons. It is limited to ten children, which includes the birthday child, for \$25.

A Hamburger Party will include ten children, including the birthday child. Served will be hamburgers, fries, a drink, a cake, party favors and balloons, all for \$30.

The Cheeseburger/Chicken McNugget Party will feature either cheeseburgers or nuggets. Also included are fries, drink, cake, party favors and balloons. It will serve ten children, including the birthday child.

McDonald's welcomes anyone interested in their birthday parties to contact them at the local restaurant.

Family Night is another popular attraction at McDonald's. Held on Tuesday nights from 6-10 p.m., Happy Meals are featured for \$1.49. It can be your choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or Chicken McNugget.

The Pampa staff of McDonald's will soon be competing with other McDonald's restaurants in the annual All-American competition. Employees compete with others at different work stations.

Pampa's restaurant drive-through is consistently the best of the restaurants as it is always in first or second place.

Special values at the local restaurant are a 42 ounce drink for \$.42 cents and a \$.99 cent value message which includes McDonald Chicken Sandwich, Homestyle, Big N Tasty and breakfast Burrito.

Customers are urged to watch for details of the upcoming Who Wants to be a Millionaire game at McDonald's coming April 19.

People mean the most to the Bendas. Their strong interest in their employees and customers is evident. "We're only as good as our people, and we're one big McFamily," said Marietta. And they really mean. Their son is now managing the store in Dumas.

The couple said they would appreciate any comments from their customers, good or bad. They can be reached at AC 806-435-3380.

"We're not a hamburger business serving people, we're a people business serving hamburgers," said Bill Benda.



Cory Phillips, age 7, and Kirstin Hood, age 4, recently enjoyed an afternoon at the Playplace at the McDonald's in Pampa as Bill and Marietta Benda, owners, watched.

(Pampa News photo by Nancy Young)

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