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Pampa

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Sunday voting on tap April 22 in city election

15 Petitioners filed request

By KATE B. DICKSON Associate Publisher

A different twist has been added to early voting this year in Pampa's May 5 city election — there will be Sunday voting on April 22 from 2-4 p.m., in room 205 of Pampa City Hall, according to Phyllis Jeffers, city secretary.

The only contested race on the ballot is for mayor. Incumbent Mayor Bob Neslage, owner of C&S Cable Advertising, is being challenged by Lonny Robbins, pastor of Trinity Fellowship Church.

The Sunday voting will be in addition to regular early voting that begins at 8 a.m. Wednesday and runs weekdays through 5 p.m. May 1 in room 205 at City Hall.

On election day there will be one polling place — M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium — where the polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m., Jeffers, city election official, said.

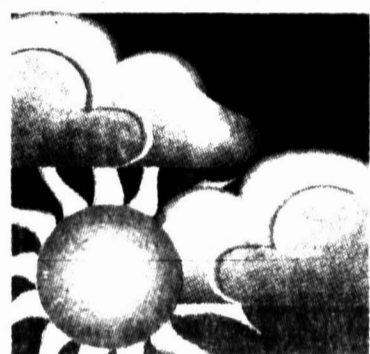
Jeffers said the April 22 Sunday voting has been granted due to a special request. She said the election code provides that if 15 or more people sign a request or petition for Saturday and/or Sunday voting, the request must be granted.

She said the requested Sunday polling hours were from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Jeffers said the city secretary can set the times and the request was altered to have the polling place open from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Asked when there has been Sunday voting previously, Jeffers said if her memory serves correct it was when a proposal to allow Sunday beer sales inside the city limits was on the ballot. The proposal failed and Pampa does not have Sunday beer sales.

The 15 petitioners for Sunday voting were: Jamie Hardman, 1036

(See VOTING, Page 4)



High today about 70 Low tonight near 40. For weather details see Page 2

Choirs to perform in concert tonight

Three Pampa Middle School 7th and 8th grade choirs are to be featured in a pre-U.I. concert for the public tonight at 7 p.m. at the PMS auditorium.

The choirs will each perform three selections in the free performance open to the public.

On April 19 and 20, the choirs will participate in U.I. contest at Austin Middle School in Amarillo. The 7th and 8th grade girls are to perform on Thursday, April 19. The 7th and 8th grade boys choir will perform on Friday.

- Mamie Smith Downey, 91, homemaker.
- Jewell Greer, 93, homemaker.
- Bertie Lee Helton, 94, homemaker.
- Earnest 'Ernie' McPherson, 90, retired employee Sante Fe Railroad.

- Classified7
- Comics8
- Medical3
- Sports5

Payne, rest of crew reunite with family

Pampa parents greet son

From AP and staff reports

OAK HARBOR, Wash. (AP) — Crew members of an American spy plane held by Chinese authorities for 11 days received a hero's welcome and spent a joyous Easter at the Whidbey Island naval base here — their first full day reunited with family and friends.

"We are most of all happy because of the return of the 24 crew members," the Rev. John O'Leary told a crowd of hundreds, which overflowed from St. Augustine Catholic Church on a sunny spring day.

On Saturday, a military pas-

senger jet brought the 21 men and three women back to their base at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station after 11 days on Hainan island, where their surveillance plane was forced to land after a collision with a Chinese fighter jet. They were released after diplomatic talks.

"God has cared for them, watched over them. We are par-

(See PAYNE, Page 4)



Lt. jg Payne

Annual ritual



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Lonny Fowler of Pampa mails his and his son's 2000 tax returns shortly after the local Post Office opened today. Fowler said he usually waits until the last minute to mail his tax returns because he owes the Internal Revenue Service. Though Fowler says he's going to get a refund this time, he waited until the last day to send in his return.

Clock's a-tickin'

Today's tax filing deadline

By DEE DEE LARAMORE Staff Writer

Today, the last day to file income tax returns on time, will be mostly the same as any day except for one more window clerk will be working.

"Since it's Monday plus tax day, we thought we better put on one more clerk," said Pampa Postmaster Jim McNair. Monday is normally a heavy business day for the Post Office, he said. With tax day and many businesses closed for Good Friday, he expects today to be a busier day than usual.

Teresa Conner, a postal clerk for almost 20 years, said most of her transactions this morning have been mailing tax returns.

"It's been pretty much an average turn-out," she added.

Pampans lined up at the service windows shortly after the Post Office opened at 9 a.m., many with their tax returns in hand.

Lonny Fowler said he was mailing both his

return and his son's return at the last minute. "I usually file on the last day because most of the time I owe the IRS," he explained. "But this year, they owe me and I'm still filing on the last day!"

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officials estimate 26 million returns will be filed today, according to Associated Press reports, with approximately 130 million individual returns filed for the year. By law, April 15 is the last day to file income tax returns. Since that day fell on Sunday this year, citizens received a 24-hour reprieve.

Although many post offices plan to stay open until midnight, McNair said the Pampa and Amarillo post offices will be open as usual.

"We're not going to be open late either," he said, adding that no extra mail truck runs are planned. "The main reason is because so many are e-filing."

(See TAX, Page 4)

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YTD sales tax returns reflect gain over '99-'00

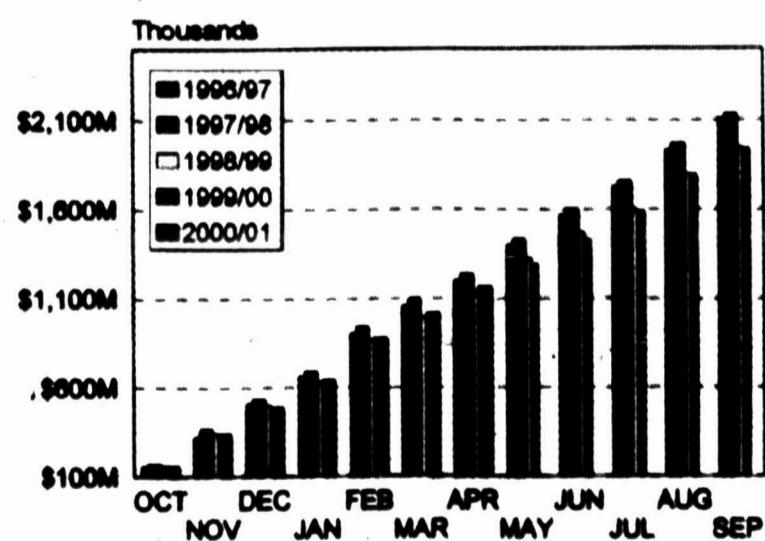
By KATE B. DICKSON Associate Publisher

Pampa's sales tax collections are running \$45,000 ahead of collections posted during the same time frame in the last fiscal year, according to figures released by City Finance Director John Horst.

The April report, which reflects February sales, shows \$149,749 in taxes were collected for the city. The Pampa Economic Development Corporation, which operates on a half-cent sales tax, received \$49,916.

Horst says one of the reasons the city's tax collections are running so far ahead of last year is that the 2000 February receipts (for December 1999 sales) were about \$40,000 off budget.

YTD SALES TAX COMPARISON



Total: '99 - \$2,120M, '00 - \$2,120M, '01 - \$1,942M '99 - \$1,935M

The question of why the February 2000 receipts were so far off the mark has never been answered. City officials have questioned whether December 1999 sales were that far off predictions or whether some taxes were credited in a later month's receipts.

Even so, Horst said this fiscal year's sales tax outlook remains "favorable as it is up over the last seven-year average by

about \$10,000." The fiscal year runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30 and so far this fiscal year, \$1,159,352 in city sales taxes have been collected, according to April report figures. That's 3.8 percent over the budgeted amount.

If the current trend continues, sales tax receipts could come in about \$73,000 over the annual budget amount of \$1,940,000, Horst said.

Probation violation lands sex offender in Gray County Jail

Danella Mayfield with the Gray County Adult Probation Office was refusing comment today on the arrest of a sex offender for probation violation.

Charles R. Gatlin, 61, who lives in eastern Gray County near Mobeetie, pleaded guilty to charges of aggravated sexual assault on Nov. 22, 2000.

Judge Lee Waters, 223rd District Court, deferred adjudication of Gatlin pending Gatlin's successful completion of a six-year probation period, payment of a \$1,500 fine, payment of court costs and attorney fees and 320 hours of community service. Gatlin was also ordered to attend a sexual offender treatment program and submit regularly to a penile plethysmograph.

Mayfield today referred all queries concerning Gatlin's arrest to the District Clerk's office following Gatlin's arrest Saturday by Gray County Deputy Candy McCarthy for probation violation.

Gatlin was in Gray County jail today. Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curtman denied bond.

Curtman said today it is his policy to deny bond for probation violators.

Court records indicate District Attorney Rick Roach filed a motion to proceed with adjudication of guilt last Thursday.

Records indicated that Gatlin was delinquent in payment of court costs and attorney fees. Officials said Gatlin also failed to attend a sexual offender program and failed to submit to penile plethysmograph.



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MEDICAL

New hope for users of fen-phen

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — People who took the diet pill combination fen-phen and a similar weight loss drug have new hope that any damage done to their heart valves may not worsen with time or may even improve, two new studies show.

About 6 million people took the drugs before they were pulled off the market and research has suggested that up to a third of them may have suffered some heart valve damage.

A study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* looked at patients who took fenfluramine, the "fen" in the fen-phen cocktail. A second study, also published in the medical journal, dealt with people who took dexfenfluramine, a chemical cousin of fenfluramine.

The studies found that leaking heart valves got no worse with time and in some cases got better. A leaky valve makes the heart less efficient; severe leakage can cause heart failure.

The research mirrors the results of three previous studies.

The leader of the dexfenfluramine study, Dr. Neil Weissman of the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C., said people with valve damage should be reassured by the findings.

"If you took diet pills and you (developed) a mild degree of (valve damage), it is unlikely that it will go on to become severe, and it is possible it may even get better," he said.

Researchers at Duke University Medical Center and MeritCare Medical Center in Fargo, N.D., looked at 50 people who took fenfluramine and had echocardiogram pictures of their heart taken at least 100 days apart. The first picture showed that 43 patients had damaged aortic valves. The second showed improvement in 19 patients and no change in 22 people. Two patients worsened.

Dr. Jack Crary, one of the study's authors and the first doctor to warn of possible heart damage from fen-phen, said the research confirms what he has seen in his practice.

"Most of them seemed to have improved in the short span of time we've looked at them."

In Weissman's study, researchers examined 914 patients who had either taken dexfenfluramine for up to three months or a placebo. The study found no evidence that the patients who developed valve problems got worse.

"These are two more important blocks in the foundation of our understanding of fenfluramine and its association with valvular heart disease," said Dr. Sid Smith, chief science officer of the American Heart Association, who was not involved with either study.

An *Annals* editorial said that while a study of the long-term effects of fen-phen is still needed, the new studies have "important clinical implications for management of patients in whom surgical intervention might otherwise be considered."

Breast cancer: Early detection key to survival

The statistics are staggering. One out of nine American women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. A new breast cancer case is diagnosed every three minutes and one woman dies from this disease every 13 minutes.

While Anglo American women have the greatest risk of developing breast cancer, African-Americans are twice as likely to die from the disease. The physicians of Texas want all women to know they are at risk of breast cancer regardless of ethnic background. For all women, prevention and early detection are important. For those ethnic groups that are at particularly high risk, careful monitoring is much more essential.

Prevention:

While Anglo American women have the greatest risk of developing breast cancer, African-Americans are twice as likely to die from the disease. The physicians of Texas want all women to know they are at risk of breast cancer regardless of ethnic background. For all women, prevention and early detection are important. For those ethnic groups that are at particularly high risk, careful monitoring is much more essential.

Breast cancer cannot yet be prevented but there are risk factors to be aware of. Having one or several risk factors, does not necessarily mean that a person will get the disease but that their chances of having the disease are greater. Risk factors may include:

- Gender: Simply being a woman is the main risk factor for developing breast cancer. Breast cancer can also affect men, but to a lesser degree.
- Aging: A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases with age. About 77 percent of women with breast cancer are over age 50 at the time of diagnosis.
- Family history of breast cancer: Breast Cancer is highest among women whose close blood relatives have the disease.
- Personal History of breast cancer: A woman with cancer in one breast is three to four times more likely to develop cancer in the other breast.
- Race: Breast cancer is slightly more common among Anglo American women.
- Menstrual periods: Women who started menstruating before age 12 or who went through menopause after age 50 have a higher risk.
- Alcohol: Women who have two to five drinks daily, have about 1.5 times the risk of women who drink no alcohol.

Although most of the associated risk factors cannot be controlled, early detection, and early treatment, may be promoted through routine breast self exam beginning around age 20 and screening mammography after age 40.

For early breast cancer detection, the American Cancer Society recommends the following:

- Women age 40 and older should have a screening mammogram every year.
- Between the ages of 20 and 39, women should have a clinical breast examination by a health professional every three years. After age 40, women should have a breast exam by a health professional every year.
- Women age 20 or older should perform a breast self exam (BSE) every month. By performing the exam regularly, women get to know how their breasts normally feel and can more readily detect any signs or symptoms.
- If a change occurs, such as development of a lump or swelling, skin irritation, dimpling, nipple pain or turning inward, redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin or discharge other than breast milk, women should see their physician as soon as possible for evaluation.

During a breast cancer screening, the two primary methods used are mammography and a clinical breast exam. Mammography is used to diagnose breast disease in women who have symptoms, and also those who appear to have no breast problems. A clinical breast exam is an examination by a physician or nurse.

If detected early, breast cancer can be treated effectively with surgery followed by radiation therapy. With early detection, the five year survival rate after treatments is 96 percent.

Texas Medical Association is a professional organization of more than 36,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 118 component county medical societies around the state. The Association represents 85 percent of the doctors of medicine licensed and residing in Texas. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

Umbilical cords could provide cells for repairing brains

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Cells taken from umbilical cords after birth may offer a vast source of material — free of the ethical concerns of fetal tissue — for repairing brains damaged by strokes and other ills, researchers say.

In animal experiments, at least, these cells appear to greatly speed recovery after strokes. They work with a simple infusion into the blood stream without the need for direct implantation into the brain.

Although many details need to be worked out, Dr. Paul R. Sanberg of the University of South Florida said he hopes to try the approach on stroke victims within the next year or two.

Sanberg described the research at a meeting in San Francisco of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was financed by the state of Florida and Cryo-Cell International Inc. of Clearwater, Fla.

Many experts believe that primitive tissue called stem cells will someday be routinely used to make human spare parts. They might replace tissue damaged by many different diseases,

especially such brain ailments as strokes and Alzheimer's disease. These generic cells can be nudged to develop into all sorts of specialized tissue to repopulate every part of the body from head to toe.

One source of stem cells is aborted fetuses or fertility clinics' discarded embryos. However, this is especially contentious since anti-abortion groups oppose fetal and embryonic stem cell research, and federally funded scientists cannot use stem cells from these sources.

Sanberg said his research suggests that umbilical cords could be an excellent source of stem cells without the ethical headaches of fetal tissue. He noted that 4 million babies are born in the United States each year, and 99 percent of their cord blood is tossed away.

He said one or two cords could probably provide enough stem cells to treat one human stroke victim, if the current approach proves useful. The cells could be frozen for use when needed.

In experiments so far, his team removed stem cells from cords and then used retinoic acid and growth hormones to transform them into immature nerve cells. They then injected 3 million of these cells into the bloodstreams of rats that had suffered strokes.

In experiments on about 60 rats, the team found that after one month, those given the cells

had recovered about 80 percent from their strokes, compared with about 20 percent in untreated rats.

Sanberg said the treatment works best when given within 24 hours of a stroke but still helps up to a week later. Just how the new cells rewire the damaged parts of the brain is unclear,

although the cells can take on the form of distinctly different types of brain tissue, and they also appear to prompt damaged cells to repair themselves.

"They are attracted to the stroke part of the brain more than the normal brain," he said. "Some signal is being sent that attracts them."

Scientists identify gene they say may cut risk of heart attack in moderate drinkers

By LINDA A. JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

Scientists have identified a gene that may help explain why moderate drinking can ward off heart attacks.

The researchers found that a variant of the gene makes the body break down alcohol very slowly. That slow breakdown, in turn, appears to raise levels of heart-protecting "good cholesterol" in the blood.

Moderate drinkers with the gene variant were found to have a sharply lower risk of heart attack than those whose bodies dispense with alcohol more quickly, according to researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Moderate alcohol consumption has long been known to ward off heart disease, but the latest research shows the influence of this one genetic variation.

The gene produces enzymes called alcohol dehydrogenase that break down alcohol. The gene comes in two forms: One metabolizes alcohol quickly, the other slowly. People inherit one copy of the gene from each parent, so they can end up with two genes that make the fast-working enzymes, two that make the slow enzymes, or one of each.

People with two copies of the slow gene — about one-sixth of whites — take 2 1/2 times longer to break down alcohol than those with two copies of the fast gene, said Lisa M. Hines, a Harvard doctoral student. The slow gene is very rare in minorities, she said.

The study examined 396 male doctors who had suffered a heart attack, and 770 who had not.

Those who had two slow genes and averaged at least one drink per day had about an 85 percent lower risk of heart attack than the men who had two fast genes and rarely drank.

When the researchers adjusted for level of alcohol consumption and other factors, such as whether the doctors smoked, were overweight or had a history of heart disease, they still found about a 35 percent lower risk of heart attack in the men with two slow genes.

The researchers theorize that keeping alcohol in the body longer than normal raises levels of HDL, or good cholesterol.

The research was reported in a recent *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"The study has to be viewed as highly provocative and likely to be true, but the magnitude of the effect could be somewhat less," because only five doctors who had a heart attack also had two fast genes, said Dr. Eric Topol, chairman of cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

VOTING

Crane; Tamra Burns, 1236 Hamilton; Gary L. Sutherland, 510 N. Somerville; Karin Sutherland, 510 N. Somerville; Lynn Ferrell, 2213 Chestnut; David Ferrell, 2213 Chestnut; Carol Ziegelgruber,

2208 Lynn; Melba Woelfle, 2105 Zimmers; Mike Woelfle, 2105 Zimmers; Lee Ziegelgruber, 2208 Lynn; Katy Hupp, 1817 Lea; Jerry Ferrell, 1829 N. Price Road; Deborah Ferrell, 1829 N. Price Road; Pam Dunham, 1133 Willow Road; and Timothy H. Dunham, 1133 Willow Road.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

PAYNE

ticularly happy because Lt. Richard Payne is with us again," O'Leary said.
Payne shook hands with well-wishers as he stood quietly along the wall with his mother, Brenda Payne, and other family members. "We're just glad he's home," Brenda Payne said.
She and her husband Richard "Rex" Payne traveled to their son's home base late last week for the welcoming ceremony after days of agony, waiting to hear of news of their son's release. Mrs. Payne said they planned to stay in Washington for approximately a week so they can spend time with their son. They also hope Lt. Payne will be joining them for a visit in the near future, she said.
The Paynes had been in close contact with U.S. Navy officials throughout the time their son remained on the Chinese island of Hainan. As soon as Chinese authorities agreed to release the crew, Mrs. Payne said the U.S. Navy began making plans with them for attending the homecoming ceremony at Whidbey Island.

"They experienced victory over physical death. God can and does intervene."
Ron and Judy Vignery, parents of the crew member, could not remember a happier holiday. "All the parents of the world should just think about what it would be like if it was their son. All they've got to do is think about their own son or daughter, and they'll know how we feel," Ron Vignery said as his son exchanged hugs with church friends. "Our son is our hero."
A big sign outside Southern Baptist Church proclaimed, "Praise God They're Back." Everyone at the ladies' Bible study group, which met before Easter services, talked about the welcome-home celebration that drew 7,000 people to a base hangar.
"To have them home for Easter was incredible," said Sharon Cohen, a member whose husband is retired from the military.
At First United Methodist Church, where the church bell was rung 24 times every day last week for the 24 crew members, the Rev. David Lura gave thanks for their return.
Sunday also marked the first day of up to a month of time off for the crew members. Navy officials want to make sure they are mentally ready to handle a return to duty.
But Lt. Shane Osborn, the pilot who safely landed the crippled EP-3E surveillance plane, told ABC News he just wanted to "take a few days off, go visit home, and get back up flying."
The crew had left Honolulu after 26 hours of meetings with investigators about the April 1 collision and the \$80 million EP-3E plane they left behind on Hainan.
Chinese officials insisted that the U.S. spy plane caused Wang Wei to crash by veering unexpectedly toward his aircraft. But a top Chinese trade official urged Congress over the weekend against linking the incident with an expected

vote on China's trade relations with the United States.
"China doesn't wish to fight a trade war with any country," Gao Yan was quoted by the government-run China News Service.
Several lawmakers said the recent standoff is likely to have lasting effects on everything from the arms deal to trade relations.
"This is not some incident that will pass in the night, this will cause a fundamental change in our relations with China," Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "There will be retribution."

request for an automatic four-month extension, but they still must pay any estimated taxes on time. If they don't, the IRS can assess a late-payment penalty and interest of approximately 8 percent.
Extensions can be obtained by mailing in Form 4868, a single-page, or by calling (888) 796-1074. Expect to provide some information from the 1999 return to verify identity.
For people with a big tax bill that can't be paid all at once, the IRS officers several options including a credit-card payment through one of these two toll-free numbers — (888) ALL-TAXX or (800) 2PAYTAX. According to the AP, the companies providing this service for the IRS charges a "convenience fee" that does not go to the IRS, nor does the IRS collect and store credit card numbers.
Another option is to attach a Form 9465, a request for an installment payment plan, to the tax return. These requests are usually approved by the IRS when the taxpayer owes less than \$25,000 and can pay within a five-year period. The IRS assesses a \$43 fee to set up an installment plan, which also carries 8 percent interest and a penalty of 0.25 percent per month once the installment plan is approved.

Make-A-Wish fund-raisers

AMARILLO — Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Texas Plains will host two fund-raisers this coming weekend in Amarillo — the Make-A-Wish "Texas Music Ball" on April 21 at the Nat Ball Room and the Third Annual Make-A-Wish Foundation Wayne Greear Memorial Poker Run on April 22 at Tripp's Harley Davidson.
Registration for the 75-mile Poker Run will be from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday. The first bike out will be at 12 noon and the last bike out will be at 1:10 p.m. The last bike in will be at 4 p.m. The event will include live entertainment by The Undertakers, complimentary burgers courtesy of Hoffbrau, door prizes, an auction and a \$100 cash award for the best hand and a \$50 cash award for the worst hand.
The ball will begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Amarillo Civic Center, Randy's Music Mart and the local Make-A-Wish office. Music will be by The Mark David Manders and Nuevo Tejas, Kevin Deal, Bo Salling and The Brakes are All Gone Band.

working in the community of Pampa and the surrounding area. My staff, Cheryl Wilson and Lesa Rush, RN, from Pampa, look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you for your continued support," stated Cabrera.
For more information regarding the heart group, call 665-3595 or ask your family physician.

Wanting To Get An Article Or Photo In The Pampa News About Your Community?

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1. Bring in a photo. Be sure it has people in the photo. Scenic photos or just objects may not be used. No disks will be accepted.
2. Type or Neatly Print first and last name of EVERY person in the photo and the correct order that they appear in the photo.
3. Type or Neatly Print a brief description of the event.
4. Bring to the Pampa News or e-mail to deedee@pan-tex.net.

We'll run the information at the editorial departments discretion. No dates can be guaranteed! Photos need to be picked up within 3 days from the date it runs in the paper!

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669-2525

TAX

The front lobby will remain open for people who wish to mail tax returns after the post office closes this afternoon, he said. Those who need postage stamps can get them from the vending machines, he said.
"I'm going to make sure the technicians have them all up and running," he said.
McNair reminded citizens mailing tax returns today to be sure the return has adequate postage. "If the IRS receives a return with postage due, they don't accept it," he said. "They'll send it right back to you and you'll end up filing late."
The local post master said a scale is set up on a table near the service windows for those who need to weigh their returns.
Filers are advised by the Postal Service to use first class postage to send their returns. The IRS accepts the postmark as proof that a return has been mailed on time. One ounce is 34 cents; each additional ounce up to 13 ounces costs an additional 21 cents.
For those taxpayers who still aren't ready to file today, there's still a few hours left to send in a

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Shoplifting, drug suspect sought today

Pampa police were searching today for a man in connection with weekend shoplifting accusations and accusations of possession of a controlled substance.
Officers were called to Beall's Department Store, 1201 N. Hobart, shortly before 2 p.m. Saturday.
Two women were questioned in connection with shoplifting accusations.
Police said today that the women were released after they were questioned, but a man was being sought in connection with the case.
Officers said several hundred dollars of shirts, jeans, sandals and shorts were recovered along with a jacket that the man being sought was reported to have been wearing.
Authorities said today that they found a butterfly knife, brass pipes and a plastic bag containing a white powder in the pockets of the jacket.

Community Camera
669-2525

Amarillo Heart Group to host open house

Amarillo Heart Group (AHG) will host an open house from 1-3 p.m., Thursday, April 19 at its local office, 916 N. Crest Road, Suite 102, in Pampa. AHG Cardiologist Agustin Cabrera-Santamaria, M.D., has served as physician of the Pampa Cardiology Clinic since 1996.



Dr. Cabrera

Dr. Cabrera received his undergraduate degree from St. Vincent College in Pennsylvania and his medical degree from Ponce School of Medicine in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Cabrera practices invasive and clinical cardiology with AHG.
He is an affiliate with the American College of Cardiology and with the American College of Physicians; is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and of the American Board of Cardiovascular Disease; and is a board member of the American Heart Association and of the Potter/Randall County Medical Society.

Dr. Cabrera's research interest has been in pharmacologic stress testing. He has presented his work in medical research to the Puerto Rico Chapter of the American College of Cardiology. His goal is the provide comprehensive risk reduction measures for patients with coronary and other vascular diseases, particularly in the aspects of smoking cessation, lipid management and post myocardial infarction care.
AHG is pleased to serve the needs of Gray Co. "We have enjoyed the past five years of

Economy in Texas outperforms national rate

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Job growth, a rebound in oil and gas exploration as well as beef prices and a growth in call centers are helping the Texas economy outshine the nation's, according to a Texas A&M University economist.
Texas' job growth is almost 3 percent, while the national rate is just above 1 percent. McAllen, Austin, Dallas, Laredo and Brownsville have job growth rates of 3.5 percent or more, said Mark Dotzour, chief economist for the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M.
"Job growth in the Valley continues to expand because of the booming trade between the United States and Mexico," Dotzour said.
As of mid-March, 24 of 27 Texas metropolitan areas have more jobs now than a year ago.
The state economy is also getting a push from rejuvenated oil and gas exploration.
All of the 24 new power plants that are either under construction or have already been built because of Texas' upcoming deregulation of electric utilities will be fueled by natural gas.
A rebound in beef prices has also brought more money into the state's economy.
"Demand for beef is up substantially," Dotzour said. "The American consumer has become tired of eating chicken. Some are calling the phenomenon 'chicken fatigue.'"
The growth of call centers is another positive trend. Texas has 113 call centers, more than any other state.
Texas could also get a boost from California's energy woes as 20 percent of small firms are considering leaving California because of the ongoing situation, according to the National Federation of Independent Businesses.
"Businesses that need to be in constant communication, such as airfreight companies, are especially affected by unreliable power or blackouts," Dotzour said. "Texas, with its positive business climate, low cost of living and reliable power is attractive to these types of companies."

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Monday April 16

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Drinking Leads Woman Out Of Frying Pan and Into Fire

DEAR ABBY: I wholeheartedly agree with "Steaming in Massachusetts" that you shouldn't cook if you have been drinking.

Four years ago, I went out to dinner and had a few drinks. When I returned home, I threw a chicken breast and some oil in a skillet and turned on the stove to cook it for my 17-year-old son who was working late. While the skillet heated, I went into the living room, turned on the TV and sat down.

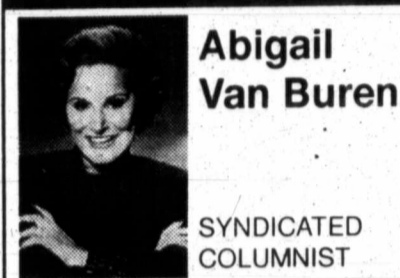
The next thing I remember, I was in my front yard being shaken by my neighbor.

I had consumed only a couple of drinks, but they were enough to make me pass out and not notice the smell of the oil smoking in the aluminum pan. Fortunately, a neighbor walking with her 5-year-old son saw the smoke pouring out of my open windows. She sent her son home to dial 911, while she stood at our fence screaming for us to get out of the house. (Our two Rottweilers wouldn't permit anyone to enter our fenced yard.)

My husband heard the neighbor's screams and went outside. When he realized I was still inside, he re-entered the house and found me fast asleep. He dragged me outside moments before the police were going to shoot the dogs to get in.

I am forever indebted to my neighbor and the fire and police departments. I learned a hard lesson I will never forget: *If you drink, stay away from the stove!*

DEAR KAREN: You had a close call. Since the amount of alcohol you consumed caused



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

you to become unconscious, I hope you called a halt to the drinking. Your frightening experience should have proven to you that when you drink, you're a danger to yourself and others.

DEAR ABBY: When my daughter was young, I told her that sex was something you shared only when you had strong, special feelings for someone. I encouraged her to tell me when she reached the point she might want to become sexually active so that I could take her to the doctor for birth control.

At 16, she told me she was ready to see the doctor and get the pill. I felt she was still too young, but I honored her request and took her to see our doctor.

On the way home, a little angel on my shoulder prompted me to say, "Remember, honey, just because you can, doesn't mean you have to. The choice is still yours, and you still

have the right to say no." She gave a big sigh of relief. I later learned that she postponed having sex until she was 19.

LOS ANGELES MOM

DEAR MOM: How wise you were.

At the age of 16, many teens begin to assert their independence, and they sometimes do so by doing exactly what the parents discourage. Reminding your daughter that the choice was still hers and trusting her to make the right decision was a clever way to handle this tricky situation.

DEAR ABBY: My friends and I recently discussed this question: What is the appropriate cut-off time to call someone on the telephone? Our answers have ranged anywhere from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. What is your thinking on this?

CALL-WAITING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CALL-WAITING: The answer depends upon the parties you are calling and the hours they keep. Ask the people in question what would be the latest they would welcome calls and respect their wishes.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

Have A Story Idea...

Contact Dee Dee or Nancy
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Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

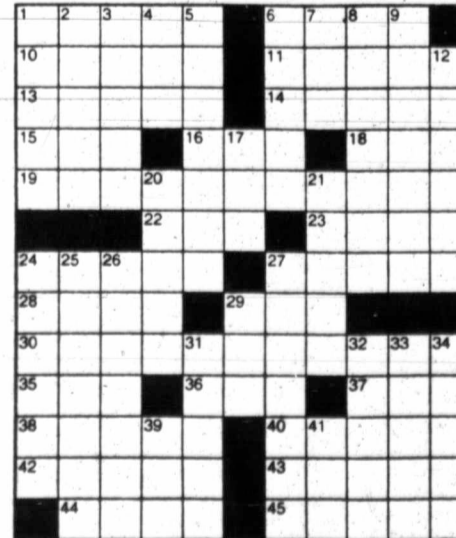
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 45 Lock of
 - 1 "Get lost!" hair
 - 6 Title document
 - 10 Belonging to thee
 - 11 "The King"
 - 13 Talks excitedly
 - 14 Writer Barker
 - 15 Cart puller
 - 16 Relaxing resort
 - 18 Ho from Hawaii
 - 19 Garden sprays
 - 22 Equip
 - 23 Formerly
 - 24 Morocco's capital
 - 27 Played roles
 - 28 Swear
 - 29 Farrow of films
 - 30 Some pills
 - 35 Peach center
 - 36 Shade tree
 - 37 Tell whoppers
 - 38 Thrill
 - 40 Piano piece
 - 42 Of the kidneys
 - 43 Green Party candidate
 - 44 Follows
- DOWN**
- 1 Sipping
 - 2 Pursue
 - 3 Washer cycle
 - 4 Picnic pest
 - 5 Army chow holder
 - 6 Model sticker
 - 7 Building wing
 - 8 Plain to see
 - 9 Split of a sort
 - 12 Detected
 - 17 Glutton
 - 20 Sketched
 - 21 In the area
 - 24 Dr. Dre, for one
 - 25 Served
 - 26 Skater
 - 27 Brian
 - 29 Wire measure
 - 31 Boat bottoms
 - 32 Steer clear of
 - 33 Carnival attractions
 - 34 Visionaries
 - 39 Play-ground game
 - 41 Road goo

REED	CAPS
DELVE	ADAPT
AGNES	SONAR
WRINKLE	ACE
EEN	SAYAMEN
STORES	TART
ITALO	
SHIP	LEMANS
TAGS	SALE
RUN	BERMUDA
ALONE	SOBIG
PEROT	ARISE
REDS	TEST

Saturday's answer

17	Glutton	31	Boat bottoms
20	Sketched	32	Steer clear of
21	In the area	33	Carnival attractions
24	Dr. Dre, for one	34	Visionaries
25	Served	39	Play-ground game
26	Skater	41	Road goo
27	Brian		
29	Wire measure		



STUMPED?

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Marmaduke



"Too late...I ate the last doughnut... but we can get more."

The Family Circus



"Daddy just gave me a big hug."

For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



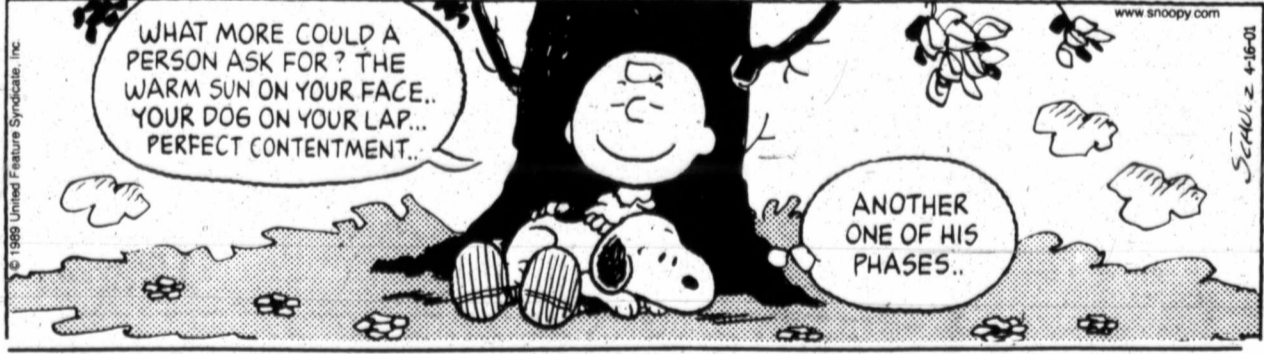
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore

