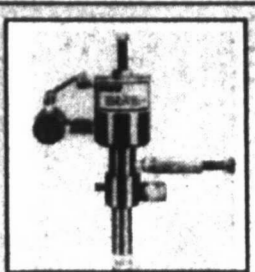


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Caregivers support group meets Mar. 11

Pampa Caregivers Support Group will meet at noon on Thursday, March 11. The meeting will be at Shepard's Nursing Conference Room, 916 N. Crest.

BSA Hospice will present the program and provide snacks. All caregivers - Alzheimer's, stroke, heart attack - are invited to attend. Call 665-0356 for more information.

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(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Clifton Wilson of SBC's Amarillo offices works on sealing minor leaks in underground telephone cable at the corner of Ballard Street and Browning Avenue this morning. The leaks were found as a result of recent rainfall totaling approximately two inches over a 48-hour period. Some Pampa telephone customers were without service yesterday due to the spring storms.

Convicted sex offender arrested here

A 40-year-old man remained in Gray County jail today after he was arrested Wednesday for aggravated sexual assault after failing to register in Pampa as a sex offender.

Britt Allen Jones, also known as Britt Allen Marsh, was taken into custody in the 800 block of North Nelson in connection with the sexual assault of a 77-year-old woman at an undisclosed location in Pampa.

Pampa police and members of the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Task Force served a warrant at 11:41 a.m. and arrested Jones.

The warrant was the result of a two-day investigation, according to a news release by Lt. Fred Courtney of Pampa Police Department.

Under Texas law, Jones is required to register as a sex offender within seven days of his move to Pampa, police said. He had been released in April 2003 from the Florida Department of Corrections, where he was imprisoned on a 1991 conviction for sexual assault of a minor child age 12.

After receiving information in April 2003 from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that Jones was planning to live in the 900 block of Twiford in Pampa, local investigators

(See ARREST, Page 3)

To test or not to test, that's the question

Beef industry leaders mull implications of fighting 'mad cow' disease

By DAVID BOWSER
 SPECIAL TO THE PAMPA NEWS

HOUSTON - To test or not to test, that is the question. Actually, everybody agrees that there is a need to test. The question is how many and under what parameters?

Beef industry leaders gathered in Houston this week to discuss the implications of a bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as BSE or mad cow disease, in cattle around the world.

While the federal government is investigating the circumstances surrounding the report of a lone dairy cow in Washington State last December which was diag-

nosed with BSE, cattlemen, packers, retailers, non-governmental officials and college professors gathered here this week at the International Livestock Congress to discuss the most effective way to combat the disease.

Dr. Richard McDonald, president of Amarillo-based Texas Cattle Feeders Association and part of a multi-national panel here, said that while he supports testing and prevention programs that are science-based, he fears some of the regulations being considered are politically motivated.

Despite the media attention surrounding the disease, little is known about it. Discovered

only about two decades ago, it made headlines after an outbreak in England apparently resulted in the deaths of several people who were thought to have eaten BSE tainted beef.

To date 186 people have died in England of variant Cruetzfeld Jakob disease, the human version of BSE, but studies by British researchers indicate that the genetic makeup of those people made them susceptible to vCJD. Less than a handful have died outside of Great Britain.

Scientists believe that the disease can be contracted only through consumption of infected tissue. In the case of animal-to-animal cases, the disease is thought to have

spread by the feeding of animal byproducts from infected animals to cattle. This practice has been banned in the U.S., and most other countries, since 1997.

BSE manifests itself in the brain, spinal cord and a part of the small intestine in cattle. Those parts of the animal are now destroyed during the slaughter process.

McDonald said a recent tour of a panhandle packing plant brought home to him how much time and effort packers are putting into dealing with the potential problem.

While there have been calls to expand testing of cattle, McDonald noted that BSE doesn't show up except in cat-

tle over 30 months of age. To test cattle younger than that would be a waste of time and money.

"It's a matter of what to test," said Rosemary Mucklow with the National Meat Association, "not how many."

The U.S. tested more than 20,000 head of cattle that fell within the parameters of cattle that might have BSE, already more than required by the OIE, an international animal health organization combating the disease.

Still, Rod Bowling, senior vice president at Smithfield Beef Group, said he would like to increase testing to 300,000 animals in the next two

(See TEST, Page 3)

Continued improvement on DA's docket

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

District Attorney Richard J. "Rick" Roach wants to continue to improve his 31st Judicial District office, and is running unopposed on the Republican ticket in the March 9 primary election.

"I feel that there's still more we can do, such as streamline things a little more, dispose of cases more quickly, and make scheduling changes to get cases tried before judges quicker," Roach said.

Roach was first elected to the district attorney's office in 2000. After taking office Jan. 1, 2001, he worked full-time as district attorney.

"It had been a part-time operation for some time. We changed the philosophy and way the office was handled," he said.

"Since I took office, I have been

operating as a full-time district attorney, as I had pledged. Shortly after I took office, the state legislature passed a bill making the 31st district attorney's office a full-time position," Roach said.

"When I took office, there was a significant backlog of cases. We've pretty much disposed of the backlog," he said. Some cases were dismissed, others were settled through plea bargaining, and some were tried in court, he said.

In his first three years in office, ending Dec. 31, 2003, Roach secured about 600 convictions representing sentences adding up to over 2,000 years. A life sentence was obtained on a driving while intoxicated case, and the death penalty was given to the defendant in a capital murder case in which a Hemphill County deputy was shot and killed.

Total fines secured by Roach's office through plea bargains and jury assessments for those three years are \$1,559,642.75. Amount of court costs received totals \$138,273.15. Restitution judgments against defendants totals \$441,098.78.

"We're busy constantly. There's a lot of work to be done, and a lot of cases to be heard. We're always trying to improve what we do," Roach said.

He has devoted special effort to criminal activity involving drugs in the area. He co-sponsored a four-day training called "Desert Snow" earlier this year in Pampa. In the training, local law enforcement officers learned the latest information about highway interdiction in suspected drug cases.

Forfeiture funds received by Roach's office from previous drug

(See ROACH, Page 3)



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ARREST

met with Jones at that address on May 8, 2003. Jones was told at that time that he was required by Texas law to register as a sex offender. Jones told the officers that he was moving to the Amarillo area and would register there. Investigators checked the residence several

days later, and the residence was vacant, according to the news release.

Upon investigation of the aggravated sexual assault case, it was discovered that Jones never moved to Amarillo, Courtney said in the release. This resulted in a second felony arrest warrant being issued for Jones for failure to register as a sex offend-

er, according to the release.

Justice of the Peace Joe Martinez set Jones' bond at \$35,000 on the charge of aggravated sexual assault, and \$15,000 on the charge of failure to register as a sex offender. Jones remained in Gray County Jail as of press time today in lieu of bond.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TEST

months. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed testing 260,000 to 280,000 head this year.

Bowling wants to use new rapid tests that have not yet been approved by the USDA.

He argues that the industry is hung up on one cow that tested positive in a nation with almost 100 million cattle.

McDonald pointed out that the cow came from Canada.

"It's not a North American problem," McDonald said. "It's a Canadian problem."

In May 2003, a cow in Canada tested positive for BSE. The U.S. and other trading nations immediately

closed their borders to Canadian exports of cattle and beef.

When the cow that stole Christmas was discovered in Washington State in December, 65 nations closed their borders to U.S. beef.

The closing of export markets was devastating to Canada, which exports as much as 60 percent of its cattle and beef.

The U.S. exports almost 10 percent of its beef, but the loss of those markets was still and shock to the cattle industry.

Bowling wants to expand testing of cattle in the U.S. in order to assure trading partners that U.S. beef is safe.

"We need to take a good hard look," Bowling said. "It

would protect market loss."

He said testing that many cattle would eventually cost less than some of the preventive measures that have been proposed.

"Obviously," Bowling said, "I don't think we have it."

Mexico, the second largest beef export market for the U.S., partially opened its border to the beef trade this week.

Randy Blach, chief executive officer with CattleFax, a market information service, said he expects Japan and South Korea to open their borders in the second half of the year.

Japan is the largest beef export market. South Korea is number three.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ROACH

cases helped fund the training, which was also sponsored by 100th District Attorney Stuart Messer, whose district includes Carson, Donley and Collingsworth counties.

"We believe 90 percent of all crime is somehow drug-related," Roach said. "I feel we've made tremendous

headway in that area. Local law enforcement has been working very hard to provide me with good cases. With them working with me, we've made a significant difference," he said.

"We're already seeing some tremendous results since the conference was held," Roach said. He describes his relationship with local law

enforcement as "good, very cordial."

He has been a licensed attorney for the past 25 years, and was Roberts County attorney for 10 years prior to election to his current office.

"I know I'm unopposed this time, but I still would appreciate people voting for me, both in the primary and in November," he said.

Two states eyeing gay marriage bans

By **CHERIE HENDERSON**
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Lawmakers in Wisconsin and Kansas pushed ahead Friday on efforts to amend their states' constitutions to ban gay marriage, two days after Utah's Legislature agreed to put the question to voters.

The moves countered efforts elsewhere to legalize the partnerships, including nearly 3,600 same-sex marriages performed by San Francisco officials in the past three weeks.

The proposal approved by the Wisconsin Assembly 68-27 would prohibit same-sex marriages and civil unions. It now goes to the state Senate. More approval from lawmakers and voters would also be required for it to become law, with a

statewide referendum coming no earlier than April 2005.

In Kansas, the House voted 88-36 for a proposed amendment to ban gay marriages and the granting of benefits associated with marriage to other relationships. It also advances to the Senate; if it passes there, it would only need approval from voters in November to become part of the constitution.

Fourteen states are seeking this year to amend their constitutions to ban same-sex marriages. States in recent years have already acted broadly in opposition to the prospect of same-sex marriages, passing so-called Defense of Marriage laws in 38 states. And four have already amended their own constitutions to define marriage

as between a man and a woman.

President Bush is supporting a movement to amend the U.S. Constitution, citing decisions by Massachusetts' top court that prohibiting same-sex marriages would violate that state's constitution. The court rulings cleared the way for full-fledged gay marriages by mid-May and sparked the parade of marriages in San Francisco.

Shiites in Iraq Governing Council refuse to sign interim constitution

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Shiite members of Iraq's Governing Council refused to sign the interim constitution at the last minute Friday, delaying a signing ceremony after the country's top cleric rejected parts of the document, Iraqi officials said.

The council agreed to the accord unanimously Monday, but Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani rejected provisions put into the text at the request of the Kurds to protect their self-rule area in the north, said a source in the council, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The marja'iyah (al-Sistani's office) will not accept it," the source said.

Also in dispute was a clause outlining the shape of the presidency, a Shiite official

said. The Shiites were reviving a demand that would let them dominate the presidency, he said.

Council members went into an emergency meeting to try to resolve the differences several hours before a signing ceremony was to be held, said a coalition spokesman speaking on condition of anonymity. Several hours past its scheduled time, the ceremony was still not held and there was no immediate word on when it would take place.

The top U.S. administrator, L. Paul Bremer, was observing the meeting but not participating, the spokesman said. He said the delay was caused by a "technical issue" that arose in the past 24 hours.

In Washington, the State Department declined immedi-

ate comment.

The interim constitution is a crucial part of the U.S. plan for handing over power to the Iraqis on June 30.

The sharply divided Governing Council agreed on the draft early Monday only after Bremer pushed them into intensive marathon sessions to overcome their differences. The Shiites' move to reopen the debate throws into disarray the unity shown in that agreement.

Mahmoud Othman, an independent Kurd on the council, denounced the Shiite maneuver as "just a matter of putting obstacles in front of the declaration."

"The way they put it is not right. The minority should not impose their will on the majority," he told CNN.

Perry denies rumors of divorce, blames foes for 'smear campaign'

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry is denying widespread rumors that he and his wife plan to divorce over his alleged infidelity and that he will resign from office, according to a published report Friday.

Perry told the Austin American-Statesman in a copyright story that political enemies are responsible for the "smear campaign."

The first-term Republican, who was elected in 2002, said Thursday he was forced to respond publicly because the "obvious, orchestrated effort" had reached critical mass, with rumors spread by e-mail and on Web sites.

Perry said the rumors "are not correct in any shape, form or fashion. These are irresponsible. They're salacious. They're hurtful to my family."

The governor's press staff has said it has fielded calls about the rumors for about two months. At the Governor's Mansion on Thursday, Perry's 54th birthday, he said he had decided to

publish this week and said Perry wanted to respond. In mid-February, he had referred questions about an interview on the topic to press secretary Kathy Walt. She said then that the governor would not respond to unsubstantiated rumors.

Perry's staff, in trying to track down the source of the rumors, said it has found multiple references on the Internet.

The governor declined to blame a specific source for initiating the rumors, but had harsh criticism for Texas Democratic Party Chairman Charles Soechting, who referred to them at a Feb. 24 political rally in Houston.

Soechting was one of several speakers before the arrival of then-presidential candidate John Edwards. Soechting referred to an event earlier that day in which a

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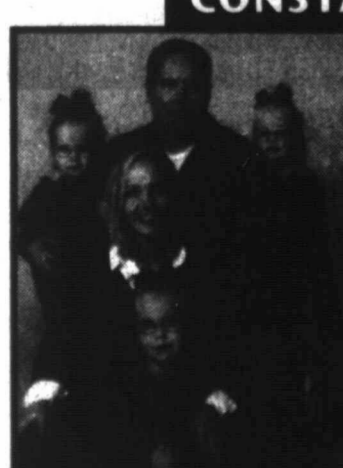
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RELIGION

Former Khmer Rouge soldiers turn to new Brother No. 1: Jesus

ANLONG VENG, Cambodia (AP) — During his three decades with Cambodia's infamous Khmer Rouge, Ung Khorn planted land mines, set booby traps and led 200 soldiers into battle.

Today, he and thousands of other ex-Khmer Rouge who once fought for the movement's Brother No. 1, Pol Pot, are seeking forgiveness and following a new leader: Jesus Christ.

"I had a bitter life when I lived with the Khmer Rouge. ... I caused hardships, committed very vicious and cruel acts," said Ung Khorn, now a missionary who recently helped baptize several dozen former comrades.

"But when I started believing in Jesus, I became a gentler person."

The 1975-79 Khmer Rouge regime, implicated in the deaths of at least 1.7 million Cambodians from disease,

starvation and executions, also preached atheism and sought to eradicate all traces of religion.

The ultra-communists converted Buddhist pagodas into prisons, pig sties and armories, tore down Phnom Penh's imposing Roman Catholic cathedral and killed Muslim leaders.

Now, they're flocking to Christianity, with supporters saying the ex-Khmer Rouge are acting out of religious conviction and critics claiming that they only want the material help that missionaries can provide.

"They're looking, searching for forgiveness because they're full of guilt," said the Rev. Setan Lee, who heads the evangelical organization Kampuchea for Christ. "And they found forgiveness in the gospel message of Christ, where other religions have no forgiveness."

The group has converted at

least a few thousand ex-soldiers, according to Lee, a Cambodian-American who survived the genocide and later settled in Aurora, Colo. About 20 of the organization's pastors were once part of the Khmer Rouge.

In Anlong Veng, Kampuchea for Christ is building the town's only Christian church for its 400 members.

On a recent day, Ung Khorn and a pastor baptized dozens of women and men, some with shrapnel and bullet wounds, in a muddy brown lake dotted with dead trees.

The former Khmer Rouge fighter said of fellow converts: "In the past, they did a lot of bad things like me. But when they were baptized in the water they had their bad acts washed away today, so they can get on with a new life, new happiness and well-being to serve other people."

Although explosive experts

were searching for stray mines nearby, the scene was almost idyllic.

In impoverished areas like Anlong Veng, some converts may be lured by the food and other aid that evangelical groups supply, said Josephine Barbour, director of Church World Service in Cambodia, which doesn't do missionary work.

"That's a bit problematic — to go into an area where people's basic needs haven't been met," she said. "For me, God's not for sale."

Pain Rim, who maintained he did nothing wrong as a Khmer Rouge radio operator, said he converted to improve his life.

"I want to change my car to a new one, hoping it'll give a smoother ride," said Pain Rim, who lost part of his right arm to a land mine and lives near the town of Pailin. He added, "My mind is clearer and not entan-

gled in misery, fear of death."

In Pailin, a former Khmer Rouge stronghold in northwest Cambodia where some of the movement's top surviving leaders live, there are four Christian churches.

Christianity had already started to grow in Cambodia in the early 1990s, with the arrival of United Nations' peacekeepers there to implement a peace accord to end two decades of war. The Khmer Rouge were toppled by a Vietnamese invasion in 1979, but continued a guerrilla war from the jungles.

The number of Christian believers in Cambodia has grown from about 30,400 adherents in 1998 to some 50,000 today, according to the nation's religious affairs ministry.

Among the converts was Kaing Guek Iev, the notorious director of the Tuol Sleng prison under the old regime.

Up to 16,000 Cambodians were brutally tortured and killed at Tuol Sleng.

No senior Khmer Rouge member has ever been convicted for their atrocities, but the Cambodian government and United Nations agreed last June to create a tribunal to try the nation's former leaders.

Youk Chhang, born a Buddhist but now adhering to no particular faith, said he thought the rank-and-file Khmer Rouge soldiers were using Christianity "as a process to share what is inside of them — which they felt no one would listen to."

He said turning to Christianity could not provide instant absolution for the former Khmer Rouge.

"There is a price to pay for it and even God cannot take it away from them," he said. "God has a very clear distinction between sin and responsibility."

CHURCH BRIEFS

Zybach to lead week of gospel meetings

The Church of Christ, 400 N. Wells, will host a series of gospel meetings with Shawn Zybach March 7-14.

A meeting is scheduled at 10 a.m. and again at 6 p.m., Sunday March 7 and 14 and at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 10.

St. Ann's to host Czech sausage dinner

CANYON — St. Ann's Catholic Church in Canyon will hold a Czech Sausage Dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 7 at its Parish Family Center, 605 38th St.

Take out is available. The menu will consist of Czech sausage, sauerkraut, bread, parsley potatoes, cobbler and all the trimmings. Adults eat for \$7, children between 6-12 for \$3.50 and children under 5 for free.

The event will also include a drawing, a country store, games and arts/crafts.

St. Francis plans German sausage meal

AMARILLO — St. Francis Catholic Hall, located on Highway 60 approximately 10 miles east of Amarillo, will hold a German sausage dinner from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 14 in the parish hall of the church.

The event will include a country store and a drawing. Sausage is available for \$3 per pound.

Adults will eat for \$7 apiece, children 6 and over for \$4 apiece and children under 6 free.

Facing abuse allegation, Albany bishop fights back

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard has never shied away from a fight, and now the spiritual leader of 400,000 Roman Catholics in upstate New York is waging an unusually public campaign against sexual misconduct allegations to save his career.

The claims: That he was involved in two gay relationships, one of which led to a man's suicide 30 years ago, and that he sheltered gay priests from abuse accusations.

Hubbard vigorously denies the charges and insists he has kept his vow of celibacy. He has even persuaded the diocese council to hire a former federal prosecutor to do an independent investigation.

And he insists the charges aren't just aimed at him.

"It is not just an attack upon myself. It is an agenda about the direction the church is

moving," Hubbard said. Some conservatives want to "go back to the church of before the second Vatican Council" and see him as a liberal target.

"I'm not going to allow myself to be used that way," he said. "I'm not going to hide."

On Feb. 4, Hubbard was accused of having sexual relations with a man in 1978 who later killed himself. The claim came from the dead man's brother, who said he found a note in his parents' home identifying Hubbard.

The next day Hubbard, 65, denied having sexual relations with anyone, ever. Two days later, a second man claimed Hubbard paid him for sex in the 1970s in an Albany park where the man lived.

On Feb. 15, the scandal deepened. A priest, the Rev. John Minkler, was found dead in his home in the small city of Watervliet, outside Albany.

Two days earlier, he had met with Hubbard to deny involvement in the writing and sending of a 1996 letter to the New York Archdiocese that claimed Hubbard was part of a "ring of homosexual Albany priests."

Minkler had been linked to the letter in a local TV news-cast days before. The cause of his death is unknown, and remains under investigation. Critics of Hubbard claim it could be suicide or foul play.

The conservative Roman Catholic Faithful, a national group, has dogged Hubbard for years as a liberal vanguard and calls the bishop's aggressive campaign a sham.

"What's that saying? 'Thou doth protest too much?'" said

Stephen Brady, leader of the Illinois-based Roman Catholic Faithful. The group, which strongly opposes gay clergy and the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, drew more than 100 supporters to a raucous rally in February a half-dozen blocks from Albany's cathedral.

"If somebody falsely accuses you of a heinous act, an immoral act, you deny it and then you let it go," Brady said. "If they persist, you threaten legal action."

"I've heard a lot of them (bishops) say they encourage an investigation, but never, that I know of, has a bishop hired ... his own lawyer to investigate himself."

Not all winners have highest score

It was so cold on the day of the 1969 Cotton Bowl that I would have left the game after the first quarter if I had not been one of my college's representatives on the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Committee.

My school's team had not played in the Cotton Bowl in more than four decades. Nevertheless, for a few brief moments at halftime our college was the center of attention on the field when the committee presented us with the conference's sportsmanship trophy. Even though we had not been victorious on the playing field, we were winners in the bleachers!

That moment is etched in my mind and replayed each time I read biblical admonitions about living at peace with others. God doesn't care who wins a football game. He does care about the attitudes and actions of people playing on the field and cheering in the stands. It is the same in all of life: Success is not as important to God as is the means used to achieve it.

This is what Hebrews 12:14 means when it says, "Follow peace with all men." How we play the game is more important than whether we win or lose.

In the verse, the King James Version of the Bible uses the word "follow," but other versions use the word "pursue" which more clearly illustrates the point. Pursue is an active verb, because peace does not come naturally to us. Our world is a living testimony to



Minister's Musings

JIMMY FLYNN, PHD
CHURCH OF THE BROTHERS

that fact. And it has been that way since the Fall. Sin disturbs, destroys, hurts and troubles our world. Each of us is affected by it in personal as well as global ways.

Peace begins in the heart. It starts with accepting Jesus Christ as one's personal Lord and Savior. We cannot live at peace with others until we first make peace with God through Christ. Once we experience

God in our hearts, the Bible tells us we are to live in new ways as God's people in the world.

Hebrews 13:14 says we are to be "seekers after the city which is to come." As followers of Christ, we are to be different from others.

Over and over, the Bible tells us this difference is earmarked by the characteristic of love. We are to love others

because God loves us.

People who recognize God's sovereignty over their lives are not arrogant; they are not self-consumed; yea, they strive to live as God would have them, including their relationships with other people.

God does not call us to be wispy, timid individuals. Nor does He call us to be domineering, overbearing people. God gives us a love for others that wants the best for them. We are to treat others as we ourselves wish to be treated. We are to stand for righteousness, yet do it in a loving, genuinely kindhearted fashion.

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DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Hygienist Disgusted by Clients Who Don't Brush Before Visits

DEAR ABBY: I'm a dental hygienist. It's an excellent career, and I've been practicing for nine years.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why so many people get into my chair and tell me they haven't brushed their teeth all day. Even worse, they'll say, "I just ate a roast beef sandwich, so you might find some chunks in there." It's disgusting.

Abby, how can I let people know they should brush their teeth before visiting a dental office? -- GROSSED OUT IN GROSSE POINTE

DEAR GROSSED OUT: People already know they should have brushed their teeth before visiting you. Make it a practice to ask your patients when they arrive whether they have "had a chance" to brush their teeth. If the answer is no, smile, hand them a toothbrush and toothpaste, and tell them to go do it. At first, they may be taken aback, but it won't take them long to get used to the new drill.

DEAR ABBY: My husband started working the graveyard shift two months ago. It has been a hard transition for us, but even harder for our 11-year-old son, "Ryan."

For the past couple of weeks, Ryan has been overly concerned about someone breaking into our third-floor apartment while we're asleep. I've tried my best to reassure Ryan, but he keeps having nightmares about someone breaking into our place -- or my parents' apartment -- and harming or killing us. He wakes up screaming and crying.

Do you have any suggestions about how I can make him feel more secure? -- SLEEPLESS IN NEW WESTMINSTER

DEAR SLEEPLESS: It would be helpful to know what triggered your son's insecurity. Is he watching too much television? Is he playing violent video games? Has something happened at school or afterward that he is not telling you? Talk to your son. If the problem persists, take him to his pediatrician for evaluation -- and a referral to a psychologist, if necessary.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 47-year-old woman with a new (unplanned) baby.

Despite my husband's initial reservations, we both consider her a welcome addition to our lives.

We also have three older children, 25, 21 and 18. My doctor says I need time to adjust to all the recent changes in my life, but I believe there's a bigger problem.

Ever since the baby arrived, I have been overwhelmed with fear about aging. This is completely out of character. Some days, I can't even leave the house. I find myself pushing my husband away and neglecting the needs of the rest of my family. The only one getting the best of me is the baby.

My husband thinks I'm trying to do too much, that I should stop breast-feeding, get help around the house and "snap out of it."

My inability to communicate and be intimate with him is causing problems between us, and they are affecting the rest of our family. My husband has always been my best friend, but he can't understand how I feel these days.

I don't know how to climb out of this hole or what to do. Help! -- TRYING TO DO TOO MUCH

DEAR TRYING: Tell your doctor exactly what you have told me. You may be suffering from postpartum depression caused by hormone changes following childbirth. Please don't wait. Do it now.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS, and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

(EDITORS: For editorial questions, please contact Alan McDermott, [amcdmott\(at\)amuniversal.com](mailto:amcdmott(at)amuniversal.com))
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The Pampa News Comics

For Better Or Worse



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Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

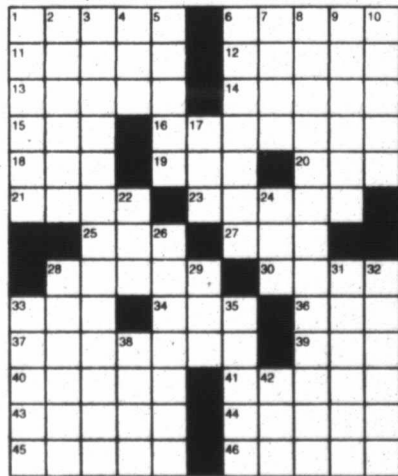
By THOMAS JOSEPH

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 - 26 Rabbit abodes
 - 28 Panda's snack
 - 29 Funny fellow
 - 31 Ludlum's "The — Identity"
 - 32 Monastery heads
 - 33 Get smart
 - 35 Needle heading
 - 38 In — (even)
 - 42 Pitching stat



Yesterday's answer

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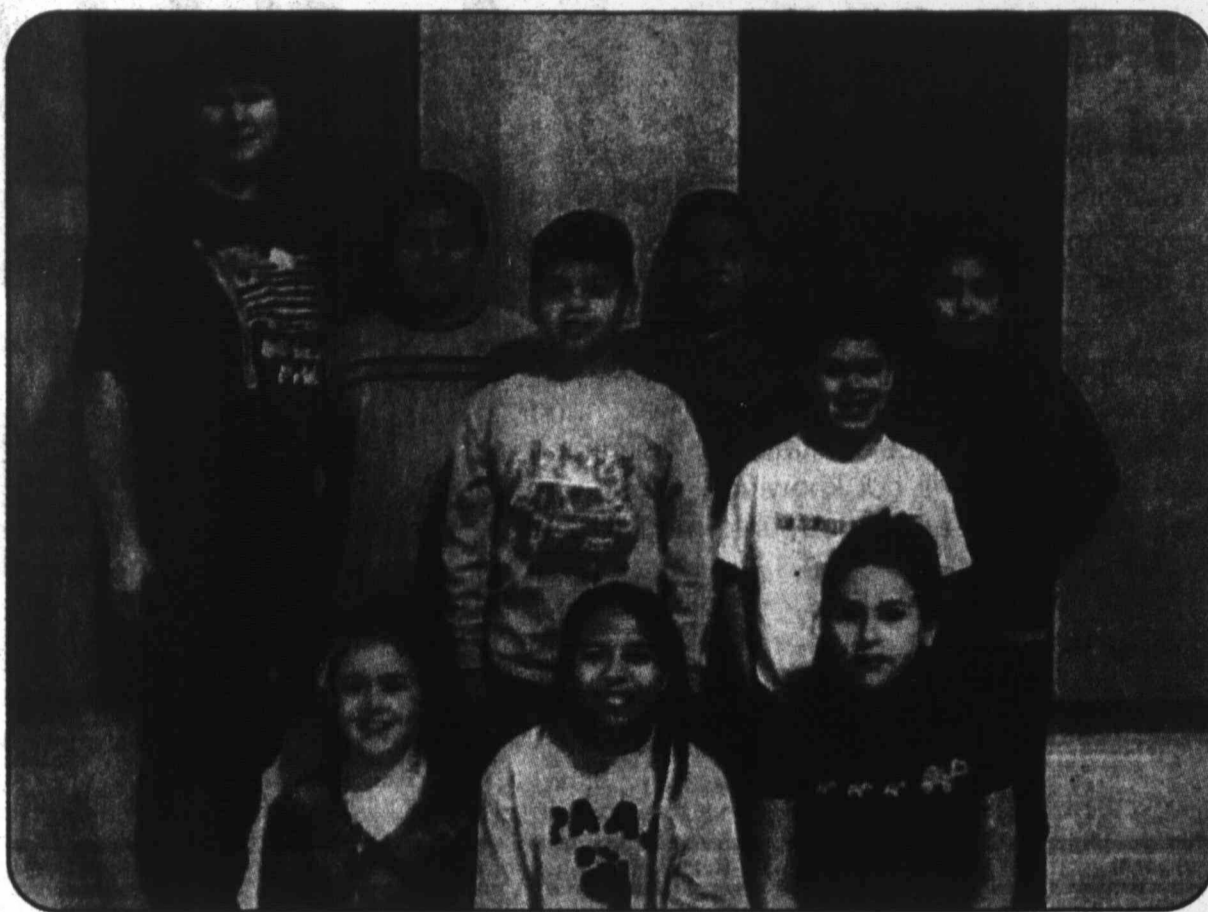


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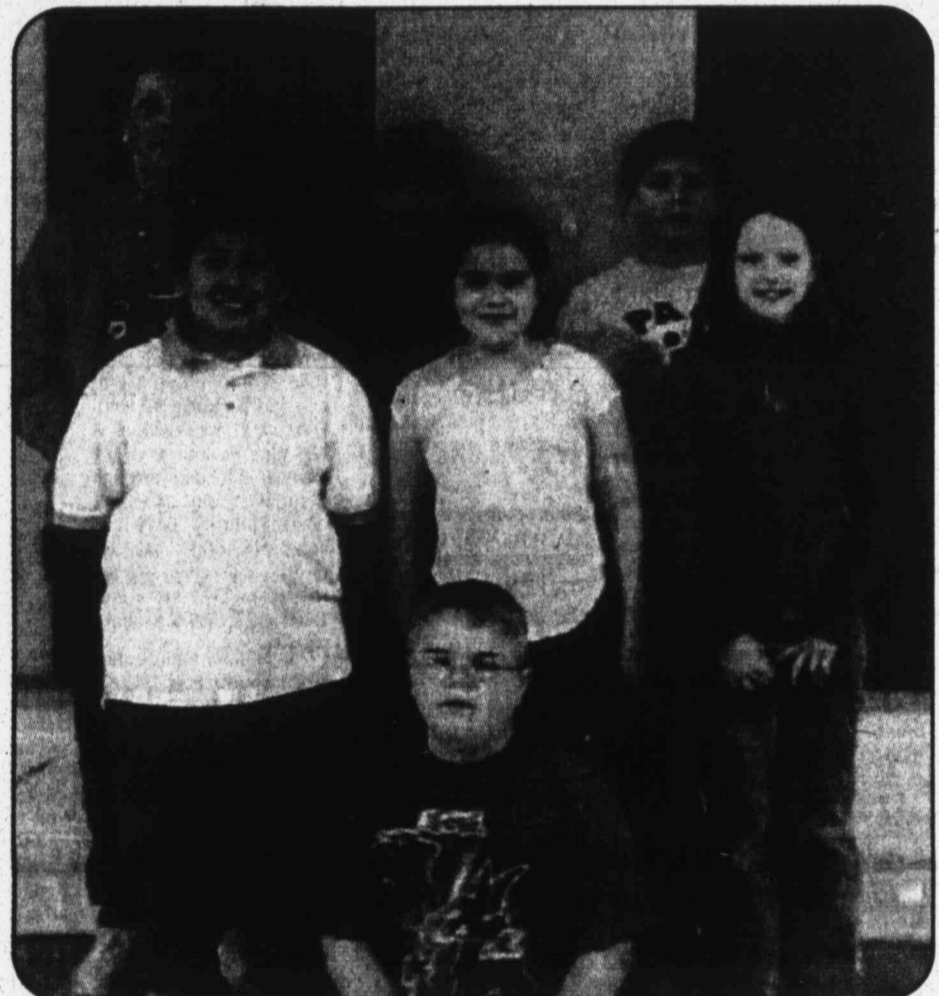


◄ Students from Lamar Elementary School recently participated in Regional Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of Lamar's Destination in Time team were Coach Tammy Rodriguez, Steven Marrufo, Orlando Castillo, Raul Velasquez, Eddie Castillo, Nicholes Rodriquez, Calli Brewer, Bianca Hernandez and Angela Rendon.

■ Courtesy photos



▲ Students from Austin Elementary School recently participated in Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of the Plot and Pendulum team were (left-right) Kaitlynn Rameriz, Kirsten Kuhn, Tara Garcia, Elizabeth Terry, Kate Ellis and Autumn Chidester.



▲ Students from Lamar Elementary School recently participated in Regional Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of Lamar's Cartoon Dimensions team were (back row) Coach Melinda Cox, Andra Cortez, Brandon Cox; (middle row) Aaron Lopez, Julia Soto, Jessica Kenny; and (front row) Dakota Davis. Not pictured: Khale Guthrie and Coach Kelli Guthrie.



▲ Students from Austin Elementary School recently participated in Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of the Rising Stars - Surprise Trip team were (back row, left-right) Emily Terry, Madison Joyce, Taylor Collins, Alec Hendricks, Michael Parnell; (front row, l-r) Gregory Smith and Christopher Smith.



(Courtesy photo)

▲ Students from Austin Elementary School recently participated in Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of the Cartoon Dimension team were (back row) Cole Buck, Coaches Linda Lentz and Micky Davis; (middle) Michael Landverk, Brendon Burrell, Colin Sutherland, Ryan Smith, Ryne Davis; and (front) Nicholas Nelson.



(Courtesy photo)

◄ Students from Austin Elementary School recently participated in Regional Destination Imagination competition in Lubbock. Members of the Austin Destination in Time team were (left-right) Rachel Jones, Trecl Carroll, Coach Paula Carroll, Kara Stabel, Heather Coffee, Shannon Leigh and Coach Brenda Leigh.