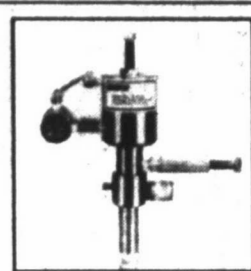


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Officials discuss ambulance options

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

City and county officials met at 10:30 a.m. today to discuss what to do next after Rural/Metro Ambulance Service gave notice that they would be closing their Pampa office when their current contract with local government ends on July 14.

The meeting, held in third-floor city commission chambers at City Hall, was attended by County Judge Richard Peet, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Joe Wheeley, County Auditor Elaine Morris, City of Pampa Finance Director John Horst, Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell, Mayor Lonny Robbins, City Manager Mitch Grant, City Secretary Phyllis

Jeffers, City Attorney Don Lane, and City Commissioners Jeff McCormick, Jeff Andrews, Faustina Curry and Robert Dixon.

"We have been served notice that Rural/Metro is not going to be providing their services for our community anymore. We are here to consider our options," Robbins said, at the beginning of today's meeting.

Peet said the ambulance service had confirmed July 14 as their last day of service in talks with county officials earlier this week. The city had also been notified of Rural/Metro's decision earlier in the week.

"We visited with them the other day, July 14 is the end (See OPTIONS, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

City and county officials meet at Pampa City Hall this morning to discuss ambulance services. Representatives of Rural/Metro Ambulance Service told officials earlier this week that the office here will close on July 14.

City, county receive settlement offers

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

Pampa and Gray County have each received a settlement offer from plaintiffs in the lawsuit brought by Tulia residents against the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force.

In the offer, Gray County would pay a deductible of \$5,000 and its insurance company Trident Insurance would pay an additional sum for a total of \$7,000 to \$9,000, according to County Judge Richard Peet in a telephone interview Thursday.

"That was not a firm figure. It was an estimate given to us yesterday," said Ray Duncan of Duncan Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Inc., the

local agent for Trident. He explained that exact figures were not yet available on the amount of the county's share of the settlement.

County commissioners had voted in a special meeting Feb. 6 to allow attorneys for the county's insurance carrier to mediate for the county in the lawsuit.

Pampa City Manager Mitch Grant said Thursday that the city's share of the settlement would be its insurance deductible of \$10,000. The total settlement amount is \$50,000, with the remaining \$40,000 to be paid by the city's insurance carrier, Texas Management Risk Pool, Grant said.

City Attorney Don Lane said Wednesday that he was

not involved in the lawsuit, and referred calls to Melissa Eastham, an attorney with a law firm in Midland which represents the city in the suit, he said.

Telephone calls to Eastham were unsuccessful, and she had not returned calls from *The Pampa News* as of this morning.

The City of Amarillo was hit hardest in the proposed settlement, agreeing to pay \$5 million, according to an Associated Press report.

The agreement with Amarillo would also disband the multi-agency narcotics task force, the report said.

The lawsuit against the task force and its participating entities was filed Aug. 22, 2003 by two women as a

result of a drug bust in Tulia in July 1999. In the bust, 46 people, 39 of whom are black, were arrested in Tulia after former peace officer Tom Coleman, who is white, had worked alone in an 18-month undercover operation involving the community.

Authorities found no drugs or money during the arrests, and Coleman had no audio or visual evidence to corroborate the busts, according to an Associated Press report.

Some of the first defendants to go to trial after the bust received lengthy sentences, which prompted other defendants to agree to plea bargains.

Drug charges against sisters Kizzy White and Tonya White, the two women who

filed the suit, were dropped after they provided alibis. Kizzy White spent four years behind bars and was released last June. Governor Rick Perry pardoned 35 of the Tulia defendants on the same day the sisters filed their suit.

A total of 26 counties and three cities are named in the lawsuit. Coleman was tried for aggravated perjury as a result of the Tulia cases.

All but one of the 46 arrested in the drug bust will receive some portion of the settlement money from the lawsuit, according to the Associated Press. One defendant died before going to trial and is not included in the settlement. A claims administrator will determine how the funds will be apportioned.

Filing deadline Monday for city, school election

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

Monday is the deadline for filing as a candidate in Pampa's May 15 school board and city commission races.

Place 6 and Place 7 on Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education are up for election. Current officeholders are Joe Martinez, board president, Place 6; and Bill Jones, board secretary, Place 7.

Martinez has filed for re-election to Place 6 and is the only candidate in that race as of Thursday afternoon.

Jones has not filed for re-election to Place 7.

Candidates for his seat on the school board are Kenneth Howard Cargill, Willie E. Nickleberry and Gregory Glenn Brown as of Thursday.

Monday is the first day of spring break for Pampa schools, but the personnel office at Carver Center, 321 W.

Albert, will be open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday for last-minute filers to enter one of the two school board races. No other offices at Carver Center will be open Monday.

The school board election will be held May 15 at Lovett Memorial Library.

Ward 2 and Ward 4 seats on the city commission are up for election this year. Faustina Curry has filed for re-election to her Ward 4 position and is unopposed as of Thursday.

Jeff Andrews, currently the Ward 2 commissioner, has not filed for re-election as of Thursday afternoon. Ray Boring is the only candidate as of Thursday to be entered in the Ward 2 race.

Prospective candidates for the city commission seats may file between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 205 at City Hall, 201 W. Kingsmill.

The election of two city commissioners will be held May 15 at Lovett Memorial Library, the same date and place as the school board election.

Homeland Security officials keeping wary eye on Spain

WASHINGTON (AP) — Homeland Security officials issued a bulletin advising state officials, police and transit and rail agencies to be vigilant in light of the bombings in Spain.

They were asked late Thursday night to consider additional surveillance and to look out for unattended bags and backpacks. Homeland Security spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said.

Homeland Security officials were keeping close watch on developments related to the terrorist attacks that killed or wounded about 1,400 train riders in Spain.

Based on the current assessment of intelligence "we have no specific indications that terrorists are considering such attacks on the United States in the near term," Roehrkasse said Friday.

The attacks on Thursday have not prompted the United States to raise its terror alert level, which remains at yellow, indicating an "elevated" threat.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the Homeland Security Department has been working with

transit officials on emergency preparedness plans.

"Our efforts have focused on awareness, prevention, response, and recovery to a potential attack," he said.

Amtrak increased patrols of its police force and canine units, spokesman Dan Stessel said. Electronic surveillance of bridges and tunnels was intensified, he said. And the company reinforced its message to Amtrak employees to report suspicious activities to police.

"That gives you another 20,000 sets of eyes," Stessel said. The railroad is continuing to review information received from the FBI and the Transportation Security Administration, he said, but there has been no credible threat against Amtrak or other railroads.

Acting TSA chief David Stone said the agency has been working with public transit systems to close security gaps.

"TSA is very much involved in all risk mitigation plans with trains, met-

(See SECURITY, Page 3)

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

OPTIONS

of their budget year. They're fairly concrete on the end date," Wheeley said.

"Judge Peet asked what it would take for them to stay, and they were very noncommittal. They made it known that their next closest office was in Abilene.

"They also said that in the last eight months, they have had five negative months and three positive months (regarding income). And that's with our subsidy. They are getting \$144,000 a year subsidy, equally split between the city and county," Wheeley said.

During the meeting earlier in the week with county officials, an ambulance service

representative explained that the service made about \$6,000 during the period under discussion, but that the corporate offices of the service wanted at least a 10 percent profit, Wheeley said.

"Their uncollectibles were 56 to 58 percent," Wheeley said.

Pampa and Gray County have more than one choice on how to provide emergency medical services to its citizens. A company can be contracted to provide ambulance services or the county can set up a hospital district which would then be able to provide its own ambulance service. A hospital district would involve taxation and government.

"Cities have a lower collec-

tion rate (on ambulance service charges) because residents come to consider it a part of their tax rate," Curry said.

Horst agreed that he knew of some cities collecting 35 percent of their accounts receivable on ambulance services.

Peet said he had contacted six other counties in the area concerning how they provide ambulance service. Randall County has a contract with Baptist St. Anthony's hospital for ambulance service. Some have hospital districts which provide the service, he said.

Peet also talked to Norm Stephens of Pampa Regional Medical Center concerning the local hospital's possible involvement in ambulance

services.

"Their organization typically doesn't operate ambulance services," Peet said.

Some independent providers similar to Rural/Metro have already been contacted concerning Gray County's needs for ambulance services, Robbins said. They included Baptist St. Anthony's and Gold Star, which appeared to be the most interested, he said.

City and county officials also discussed firefighters' possibly providing ambulance service. Powell and others said that a 20/80 rule prevented firefighters from spending more than 20 percent of their time on ambulance-type calls.

The cost of providing ambulance service, including salaries, equipment, liability issues and vehicles was discussed.

"I at first thought it would be a feasible thing to do for the county, but I don't know about the liability aspects. I think since there are interested companies out there, we need to pursue that first," Wheeley said.

"What if we were to put together a joint task force between the county and city? We need to start making inquiries," Robbins said.

"Any task force needs to involve both entities," Peet agreed. "Both entities are obligated to provide for the health, welfare and safety of its citizens."

County commissioners will select four task force members at their regular 9 a.m. meeting Monday in Gray County Courthouse. City commissioners will hold a special meeting Monday afternoon to choose four task force members.

The task force's job will be to come up with a contingency plan for immediate ambulance needs, pursue a contract with an ambulance service, learn what is needed to provide locally-based ambulance service through the county, and long term goals for future service.

No representatives of Rural/Metro Ambulance Service attended this morning's meeting.

Tulia civil rights plaintiffs: It wasn't only about money

TULIA (AP) — Joe Moore lost his home and hog farm and Kizzie White lost years with her children when they, along with about 40 others, were jailed on trumped-up drug charges brought by a rogue undercover agent.

On Thursday, they learned that they will share a \$5 million settlement in a civil rights lawsuit over the arrests and the multi-agency task force that ran the allegedly racially motivated operation will be dismantled.

Moore, 61, said the money doesn't make up for the four years he spent behind bars, but it will allow him to better care for

his health, buy a small house in the country and fund his granddaughter's college education.

White, 27, said getting rid of the federally-funded drug task force that allowed agent Tom Coleman to work alone and build false cases is equally as important as the money.

"They need to be gone and let the city and county do the job," said White, who was released last June after four years in jail. "No matter how much money they bring, they aren't going to bring back those years."

The agreement with the city of Amarillo was cheered by the

NAACP and attorneys representing people who were snared in this Texas Panhandle town by Coleman, the task force's only undercover agent.

Attorneys said it was not just a victory for the 46 people arrested in 1999 — most of whom are black — but also a blow to law-enforcement task forces that they allege allow police misconduct to go unchecked.

"It's not simply that Tom Coleman was a rogue officer," said Vanita Gupta, an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund who helped represent the plaintiffs.

"The city of Amarillo has recognized that federally funded task forces are ineffective tools of law enforcement and they operate as rogue task forces because they are unaccountable to any oversight mechanism."

Marcus Norris, Amarillo's city attorney, called the settlement the responsible thing to do, and added that the city recognizes the "misjustice" done in Tulia by the task force.

"The law on who is responsible for the task force is very unsettled and the city could not risk a \$30-, \$50- or \$100- million dollar judgment," Norris said.

Coleman, who is white, said he bought drugs from the defendants, but had no audio or video surveillance to back it up. Some

defendants received long sentences — Moore got 90 years — and others say they pleaded guilty to avoid harsher punishment.

Coleman is scheduled to stand trial May 24 on perjury charges related to testimony he

gave during evidentiary hearings.

In a move that Norris said was connected to the settlement, two Amarillo police officers who had supervised Coleman will retire before the end of the year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SECURITY

ropolitan transit systems and ports," he said.

In New York, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said authorities had moved to increase security in city subways and commuter trains. Uniformed personnel will be present at subway stations and trains, on the Long Island Rail Road, PATH and Metro-North Rail Road trains. Bomb sniffing dogs will also be in use around the region.

"We clearly are focusing, as you would expect us to do, even more resources on the New York City subway system," Bloomberg said at a news conference. "It goes to show we still live in a very dangerous world."

Bruce Hoffman, a terrorism expert at the Rand Corp., said it's much harder to secure transit systems than airports because it isn't possible to closely scrutinize every person in such large crowds.

"If terrorists want to kill a lot of people, public transportation is always the preferred target, because you get a lot of people in the same place at the same time," he said.

Though airplanes continue to be an attractive target for terrorists, he said, the U.S. government's tightening of

airport security may have made public transit more vulnerable.

"You harden one target and you shift the threat to another," Hoffman said.

Further, he said, the success of the attacks on trains in Madrid may inspire other terrorists to imitate them.

If the TSA gets wind of a threat, the agency's communication system allows it to communicate quickly with transit agencies, railroads, bus companies and cruise lines, officials said. The agency has given \$115 million in security grants to transit systems in the past year.

James Carafano, a homeland security expert with the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, said al-Qaida has shown an interest in bridges and tunnels. Major subway systems are now closely monitoring tunnels, he said.

"The major subway systems are better prepared than they were several years ago, and that's encouraging," Carafano said.

The Federal Transit Administration has sent technical teams to transit systems to assess their vulnerability and given them grants for training their employees.

In Washington, metro subway platforms were cleared of

fixtures that officials thought could be hiding places for bombs. Officials removed trash cans, newspaper recycling bins and newspaper sales boxes.

Mailboxes disappeared from downtown Washington streets as the city tightened its guard against terrorism.

Last month, Homeland Security officials met with a Russian delegation for a debriefing on the February explosion on the Moscow metro that killed 41, TSA spokesman Mark Hatfield said.

"You can bet we're going to be talking to our allies in Spain and try to boil down lessons learned as the investigation into this horrible attack take place," he said.

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RELIGION

Best-selling Christian author declares: 'It's Not About Me'

By BOBBY ROSS JR.
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — To millions of readers, he's a homespun writer whose personal anecdotes help connect ordinary Christians to God. To thousands at his church, he's an honest, humble preacher whose sermons bring grace and glory to life. But to some critics within the Churches of Christ, Max Lucado is an errant theologian whose positions on baptism and instrumental music in worship have strayed too far from their literal following of New Testament teachings.

For his part, Lucado — whose more than 50 books for children and adults have sold 33 million copies — said he answers only to the elders at Oak Hills Church, where he has ministered for 16 years.

"I really gave up on trying to answer to or even please everybody else. I don't think we're called to do that," Lucado said in a recent interview to promote his new book, "It's Not About Me," which hits stores Tuesday.

While Lucado's latest book is not an autobiography — the theme is that God, not man, is the center of the universe — friends say the title fits his life and ministry.

"It would be easy for it to be about him, and I'll just tell you, it's not," said Kenny Wilson, an elder at Lucado's church. "I've heard him preach to 50,000, to 10,000, to three in his living room, and he's the same every place. He's really genuine, without ego, and I don't know how he does it."

Even Lucado's critics don't question his heart.

Howard Norton, editor of Church and Family magazine, published by Church of Christ-affiliated Harding University in Searcy, Ark., said Lucado is a longtime friend.

"He is kind and considerate and generous and all those wonderful things you can say about him," Norton said. "Having said that ... he has really disappointed a lot of us in the direction that he has taken the church and in some of the things that he has said."

Churches of Christ are autonomous congregations with no central headquarters and an estimated 1.3 million members nationwide, according to "Churches of Christ in the United States: 2003" by researcher Mac Lynn, former Bible department chair at Church of Christ-affiliated Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

Most Churches of Christ teach that baptism by immersion is an integral part of salvation — and the vast majority believe the Bible prohibits instrumental music in worship services, allowing only acappella singing.

While Lucado views baptism as important, he suggests it's not essential for redemption. His church allows instrumental music in some services. And in October, Oak Hills dropped the "Church of Christ" from its name — an effort to reach people hesitant to attend a Church of Christ, Lucado said.

So, when Church of Christ-affiliated Abilene Christian University honored Lucado last month as its 2004 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, critics again voiced concern.

"A lot of people ... felt like that came right on the heels of basically a separation from the church," Norton said.

Abilene Christian President Royce Money said Lucado deserved the honor.

"He is a nationally recognized media figure, a counselor to the president ... he's easily the most recognized ACU alumnus in the world today," Money said.

Still, Money acknowledged disappointment at some of the decisions made by Lucado's church. But he said people can disagree and remain friends.

"To understand Max, you have to understand that he has the heart of a missionary. Therefore, that drives everything he does and says," Money said.

In Lucado's view, his church reflects a societal shift. Since the name change, average Sunday attendance has jumped to about 4,500, up from 3,300, he said.

"It just seems like we're in kind of a post-denominational society that those differences are not as important to people as they used to be," Lucado said. "Now, the big issue isn't so much Methodist or Baptist, but Jesus or Buddha."

Lucado, 49, was raised in the West Texas town of Andrews, the son of an oilfield mechanic and a nurse. His conservative Christian parents insisted that he attend Abilene Christian.

After graduation, he was hired as associate minister at the Central Church of Christ in Miami, where the columns he wrote for the church bulletin helped form his first book.

He and his future wife, Denalyn, also an Abilene Christian graduate, started dating in Miami, where she was a teacher.

They later married and moved to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as missionaries. They have three daughters: Jenna, 19; Andrea, 17; and Sara, 14.

After Lucado's father died from Lou Gehrig's disease in 1986, Max returned to Texas to be closer to his mother and focus on writing. The 500-member Oak Hills Church of Christ hired him as pulpit minister in 1988.

Lucado soon gave up his church salary because his book royalties were so strong.

"Also, I felt better then because I need to take time away from the church work to do the writing," he said.

Lucado takes off several weeks a year to write at least one new book for adults and one or two for children.

Still, he preaches at Oak Hills about 40 weeks a year.

Inevitably, out-of-town visitors show up to hear him. Ironically, he's the second most famous minister on staff. Retired San Antonio Spurs star David Robinson joined the church last year as "minister at large."

Thoughts on whether 'under God' should be in Pledge of Allegiance

By RICHARD N. OSTLING
 AP RELIGION WRITER

Does it matter whether the Pledge of Allegiance proclaims that the indivisible American republic is "under God"? In a political sense, the answer is certainly yes. The attorneys general of all 50 states, the Bush administration and many members of Congress joined briefs backing the current wording, an issue to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on March 24.

But the religious answer to the "under God" question is more complicated, as indicated by the unusual lineup of groups taking stands and what they're saying.

Pledge proponents think general acknowledgment of religion is good for society, and dropping God would rewrite history or threaten religion's legitimate status. Opponents, some of them religious believers, argue the phrase violates church-state separation as well as the religious rights of some Americans — or that it's just a meaningless phrase and possibly demeaning to persons of faith.

Formal support for deletion of "under God" comes largely from atheists, secularists, Unitarians and Buddhists. Grass-roots sentiment has silenced most Protestant and Jewish organizations that normally champion church-state separation.

In the biggest surprise, the American Jewish Congress, one of the most militant separatist groups, joined conservative religious organizations in asking the court to retain the God reference.

Marc Stern calls this the "most uncomfortable" decision the Jewish congress has faced during his 27 years as a lawyer there, but political realities left no choice.

Victory for "under God" is inevitable, Stern figured, so his group should offer a path to approval on narrow grounds. Further, he feared that if "under God" is banned, public fury might cause a "train wreck" — a Constitutional amendment undermining the Supreme Court's separation rulings since 1947.

Seven Orthodox Jewish organizations, meanwhile, made an openly religious appeal for the pledge. "Jewish tradition teaches that human recognition of God is the hallmark of civilization," they said. The pledge expresses peoples' universal acknowledgment that "man's destiny is shaped by a Supreme Being" but doesn't endorse any one religion.

Many pledge proponents offer secular justifications to fit Supreme Court rulings. They claim "under God" isn't any sort of religious exercise or prayer but simply a factual acknowledgment of the nation's past heritage of faith, for patriotic rather than religious reasons.

If God is eliminated, they say, what about the Declaration of Independence ("endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights") or Gettysburg Address ("this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom") or the full text of the National Anthem ("and this be our motto: 'In God is our trust'").

Proponents also wonder if the constitutions of the 50 states would become unconstitutional, since all refer to the deity.

To Alan Wolfe, a Boston College political scientist and an atheist who accepts the pledge, such references to God are "relatively harmless" because most people think they point to "a kind of friend and counselor, rather than a commanding judgmental presence."

But pledge opponents don't want to give up the fight.

"Under God" is a classic example of what scholars call "civil religion" or "ceremonial deism," the merest reference to a purposely vague deity acceptable to anyone.

That's exactly why the pledge is objectionable to believers like Episcopalian Randall Balmer, a professor of American religious history at Barnard College, one of the interfaith religion scholars who filed a brief against "under God."

Balmer says such ritual recitations that mention a generic God "lead to a trivialization of faith."

What's the Lenten season all about?

Well, it won't help anyone for Lent this year, but maybe this article will help some of you Christians who don't participate in Lent, to decide to do so next year. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, exactly 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays; 46 days before Easter, counting the Sundays.

It is not just a Catholic observance; it is a Christian observance. More specifically it is a "season of repentance", a "special time to draw near to God with a humble heart", a "chosen time to meditate on the sacrificial price paid by Jesus for our sins."

Most notably it is accompanied by the "giving up" of something that is good and that we have the perfect right to, so that we might specially focus on something more important. The "giving up" is for the 40 days of repentance, not for the six Sundays.

Many Protestant churches ignore Lent, not seeing the personal significance that it can have in the lives of every believer. And yet some Catholics and Protestants who do observe Lent make it trite, almost a game by giving up



Minister's Musings

MIKE SUBLETT
 HI-LAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

something incredibly trivial, something that makes no impact on their personal life.

The key in Lent is giving up something that is "very significant in the individual believer's life" so that they will be constantly reminded to draw near to the Lord in a special way.

At our church we have people who have adopted Lent with their all their hearts and have given up some very peculiar things. I know someone who gave up "eating out at fast food restaurants". That sounded kind of trivial when I first heard it, but not when I realize that her work schedule was so tight that "fast food" was the only way she would normally get any lunch. It almost became a kind of fasting time for her. It wouldn't have been significant for me, but it surely was for her.

Others in our church have given up: Trivial spending,

your family! Do it for your church!

When I moved back to Pampa I didn't have a clue about Lent and now I can't imagine my walk with God without it.

What should you give up? Spend the year thinking of what would really impact your life and make you think each day of what Lent is really all about. The Lord will help you know. But don't be surprised at what He will prompt you to give up. And once He shows you, you don't have any choice then. So begin praying now for a special time with the Lord next February and March.

For more information about Lent: <http://www.christianity-today.com/ct/2000/110/33.0.html>

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 Church • 11:00 a.m.

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FRIDAY • March 12, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Man's Recurring Two-Year Itch Leaves Wife Short of Scratch

DEAR ABBY: I am a 28-year-old mother of three. I have been married to their father, "Carl," for eight years.

Every two years, Carl decides he no longer wants to be a family man and packs up and leaves. When he goes, he leaves me destitute. I am a stay-at-home mom with only a high school degree.

Carl feels he should have to give us money only after his own needs and wants have been taken care of, and then only the amount he chooses. The most he will dole out is \$50 to \$100 at a time.

This time when he left, I warned him I'd file for child support. We were on speaking terms, and he said he loved me and wanted us to reunite. That was until he was served with the support papers. Now he refuses to return my calls until I drop the suit. I love Carl, but I can't let him withhold support from our children. He has a good job, so there is no reason for this.

Am I unreasonable? Should I drop the suit? I want our family back together, but I'm afraid he'll leave again. What should I do? -- NEEDS SUPPORT IN TEXAS

DEAR NEEDS SUPPORT: For the sake of your children, do not allow yourself to be manipulated or emotionally blackmailed. Take your cues from your lawyer. Once a fair amount of child support has been established in a court of law or by mediation, offer Carl the option of marriage counseling. If he's sincere about wanting to reconcile, he will agree.

If he returns, I urge you to use that opportunity to go back to school and prepare yourself to be financially independent. I have said this many times before: No one's future is guaranteed. If something should happen to your

husband, you may need to be the breadwinner. So be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: Several months ago I lost my mother to cancer. I am still trying to comfort myself. My four children were close to their grandmother, especially my 6-year-old daughter, "Vicki."

Vicki comes to me crying and says she misses Grandma. When she does, I comfort her as best I can, but it's hard because I haven't let go and allowed myself to have a really good cry.

Is it OK for Vicki to see me cry? I'm afraid I won't be able to stop once I start. And if that happens, how can I comfort my daughter?

Every week, I take fresh flowers to the cemetery. Vicki always wants to go with me, but I've taken her only twice. Do you think it might help her to go with me? I'm worried that taking her to the cemetery will only reopen the wound of losing her grandma. -- WANTING TO GRIEVE

DEAR WANTING: You have my sympathy for the loss of your dear mother. I am concerned that you do not have an outlet for your grief. Please consult your doctor or clergyman about locating a grief support group to help you through this difficult time.

I see nothing wrong with allowing your daughter to occasionally accompany you to the cemetery. It will teach her that although her grandmother is gone, she is not forgotten. I also see nothing wrong with her seeing you cry. However, if you think you might lose control and be unable to stop, don't do it, because it would frighten her.

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Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
 36 Loosen, in a way limits
 38 Bold one
 5 Cilium
 9 Authorize (over)
 11 Underway
 13 Out-pouring
 14 Of the cheek
 15 Sardine container
 16 First name in map-making
 18 Soft shoe
 20 Morse sound
 21 Long-plumed bird
 22 A very long time
 23 A very long time
 24 Shade
 25 Garbage carrier
 27 Mortise partner
 29 Deli choice
 30 Charon, for one
 32 Cork setting
 34 Time of anticipation
 35 Join

BLUE	TIDES
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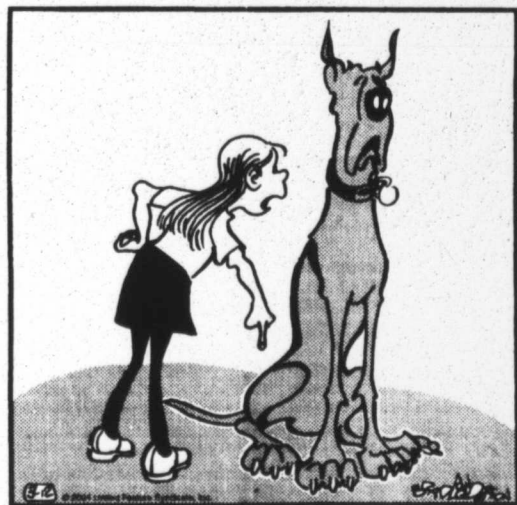
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 12 Easy gait
 2 Like edelweiss
 3 2-D study
 4 Drunk opera house
 5 Debussy
 19 Queued work
 6 Remotely
 7 3-D study
 8 Sub
 24 Lead
 25 Recoiled
 26 Fleshly
 27 Freight weight
 28 Fleets
 30 Dancer's rail
 31 Calls for up look
 33 Lewd
 37 Immediately

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Marmaduke



"Ok then, I command you NOT to roll over."

The Family Circus



"What a dull family! There's nothin' about any of us on Google."

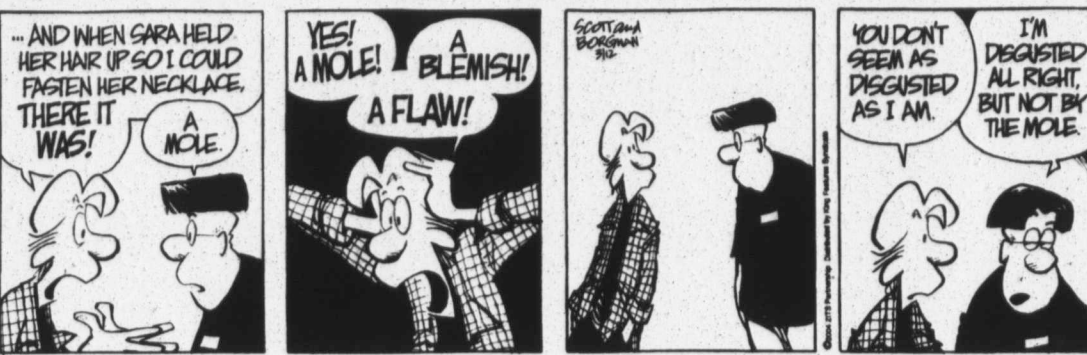
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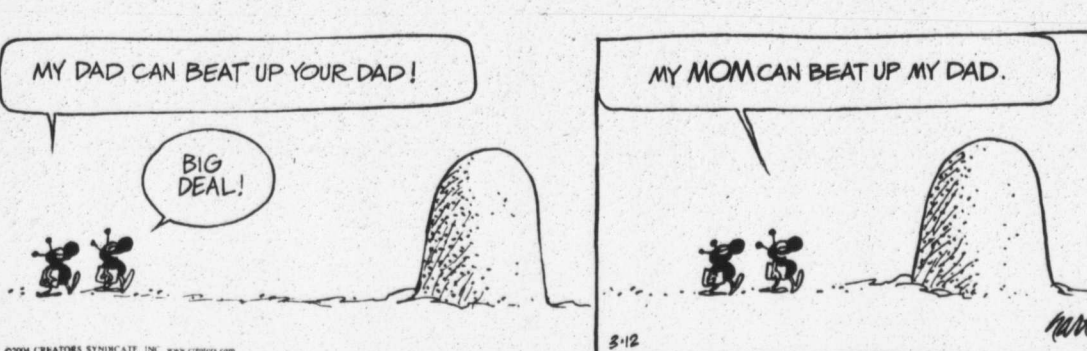
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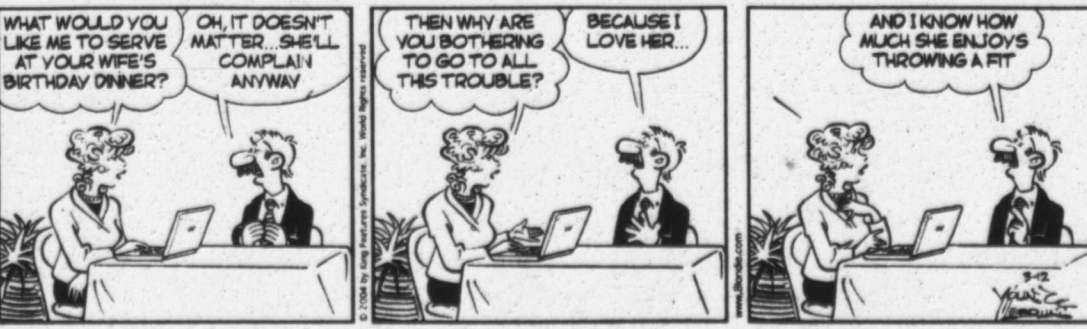
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Optimist Club essay winner

Pampa High School Senior Haley Bowen was recently named the winner of the Pampa Optimist Essay Contest, according to Sheri Tice, Optimist president.

Haley will receive a \$500 scholarship from the local club and a chance to compete on the district and national levels for additional scholarships.

Haley's essay was selected from 51 entries. The judges were chosen by North Texas Optimist Governor Cassie Shulze of Wichita Falls.

Haley's essay was submitted by Nancy McCall, an English teacher at PHS.

Haley is the daughter of Bryan and Glenda Bowen. She has a sister, Lauren, and two brothers, Bryce and Matthew.



Haley Bowen

can all lead to the physical strength that everyone is searching for. Increasing bodily strength is easily seen on the outside but also reflects the inward person. When my body is physically strong and clean everything functions in an orderly manner. I chose to participate in an organized, team sport that pushes me to do the best I can as well as to learn that there is something more important than just myself. Working toward a common goal with a group of people is something that will benefit me throughout my entire life. My physical strength has helped me set new standards for myself and keep discovering my new best.

Another strength that is necessary is to discover my spirit within. It can be found and strengthened by such simple acts as attend-

ing church or just listening to how I feel. "Let your conscience be your guide" is a good motto to live by and will bring peace of mind. I have found my spiritual side broadened by a class through church called seminary that begins every morning at 6 a.m. Even though it is a struggle, it sets the tone for the day by teaching Biblical information and trust in a higher power besides my own. I need to be spiritually tough to survive in today's world and get through the difficult times that lie ahead for everyone.

The last element needed to become the best that I can be is to become very sharp mentally. This goal can be accomplished by dedicating myself to school work and choosing challenging courses to enroll in. The Advanced Placement courses I have taken in High School have enabled me to become mentally prepared to attend and more importantly complete college with confidence. Preparation is the key to becoming successful in anything I decide to do.

Mental, Physical, and Spiritual strengths are the basis of becoming the best I can be in any challenge that my future holds. The best I can be will result from hard work and dedication to continually reach higher than I ever thought possible.

"Being the Best I Can Be" By Haley Bowen

Becoming the best that I can be requires many different elements. Through mastering body, spirit, and mind, I have been able to see the best of myself. Each of these areas need to be strong in order to see all the possibilities that I have the potential of becoming.

The physical aspect of becoming the best that I can be can be worked on in many ways. Things such as organized sports, individual workouts and group games

Unprecedented South Korean impeachment supporters uncertainty amid nuclear standoff

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Roh Moo-hyun was stripped of his constitutional powers Friday in an unprecedented impeachment vote that rattled a government already struggling with the North Korean nuclear crisis and a struggling economic recovery.

The parliament voted to impeach Roh after hours of scuffles and protests that included one Roh supporter setting himself on fire and another man trying to drive his car up the parliament steps and into the building.

Prime Minister Goh Kun was to assume Roh's presidential duties, while the Constitutional Court decides whether to unseat the president. The powers include his role as commander in chief of South Korea's 650,000-member military, which faces off against communist North Korea's 1.1 million armed forces across the world's most heavily armed border.

Goh instructed the Defense Ministry to heighten military vigilance along the inter-Korean border, although the ministry said it has detected no unusual military movement.

The vote marked a spectacular setback for the 57-year-old, self-made human rights lawyer who came to office last February on a populist ticket that promised South Koreans better relations with communist North Korea and a more equal footing with the country's biggest ally, the United States.

His 13-month tenure was dogged by corruption scandals. But Friday's vote was a crowning embarrassment for the feisty, independent leader. It was the first time South Korea's parliament has impeached a president.

The matter now goes to the Constitutional

Court, which has 180 days to approve or reject Roh's ouster.

In a three-line statement issued by Roh's presidential office, the administration said it would subject itself to "the judgment of history and the people" and hoped that the Constitutional Court "will make a quick decision to minimize confusion in state affairs."

Chief Justice Yoon Young-chul could not say when hearings would begin. But he called the impeachment "a matter of grave consequence" and pledged to handle it "in a speedy and precise manner."

The impeachment comes as the government prepares for nationwide parliamentary elections next month.

The pro-Roh Uri Party, which had tried to physically block the vote by commandeering the National Assembly podium from which votes are called, announced that its 47 lawmakers would resign en masse to protest.

Tensions are running high amid the deepening international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons development. North and South Korea have had thousands of troops dug in along their borders since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Roh believes that dialogue is the only way to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons development and is a supporter of his predecessor President Kim Dae-jung's "sunshine" policy of engaging the North.

"The people feel unease because the impeachment bill was passed at a time that the economy faces difficulties," Goh said. "The Cabinet and all government officials must do all they can to stabilize the people's lives and ensure that the country's international credibility will not be damaged."

Aristide to visit Jamaica next week, Jamaican leader says

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will visit Jamaica next week, returning to the Caribbean for the first time since fleeing into exile in Africa, Jamaica's leader said as violence continued in Haiti.

A shootout erupted in Port-au-Prince between police and protesters demanding Aristide's return. Two men were killed and seven others wounded.

In Jamaica, Prime Minister P.J. Patterson said Thursday that Aristide, who fled to Africa on Feb. 29 amid a bloody rebellion, would visit his country early next week and stay for eight to 10 weeks.

Aristide, now in the Central African Republic, will fly with his wife, Mildred, to be reunited with their two young daughters,

Patterson said in Jamaica.

The girls were sent to New York City for their safety days before Aristide fled with rebels closing in on the capital and the United States and France, Haiti's former colonizer, pressing him to leave.

Trying to shore up a fragile peace, Haiti's new Prime Minister Gerard Latortue began choosing a Cabinet on Thursday.

U.S. Marines also raided a house near the presidential palace in their first action of a mission to disarm Haiti's many rebel factions. The search produced no weapons, but "The message out of this is: We are looking, and we will continue to do so," U.S. Col. Charles Gurganus said.

Latortue, 69, a U.N. career officer and business consultant who arrived in Haiti on

Wednesday after years in exile in Florida, said disarmament, reconciliation and eventually elections are his priorities.

But he wasn't welcomed by everybody.

"They've named a new prime minister who we don't know," protested Enock Lubin, 25. "It's an illegal act."

Hundreds of protesters marched Thursday through the downtown Belair neighborhood yelling, "Aristide has to come back! We don't want Bush as president!"

Shots were fired, some protesters pulled out pistols, police fired tear gas and a shootout between protesters and police ensued, witnesses said.

Two young men were killed and seven others were being treated for shotgun wounds, according to hospital officials.

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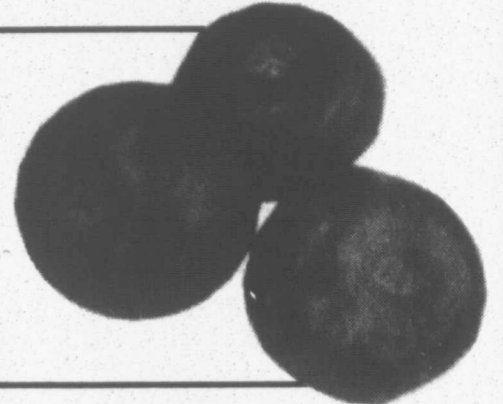


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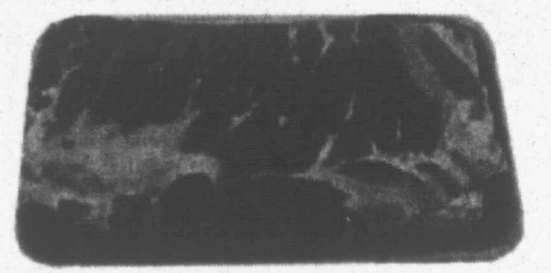
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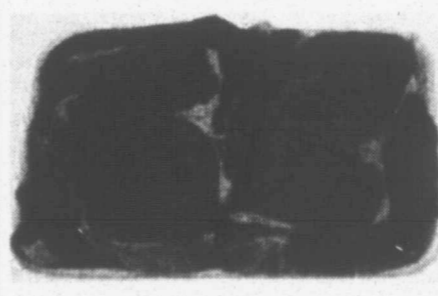
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\$1.99 LB.
WHOLE
\$2.49 LB.
FILLETS



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