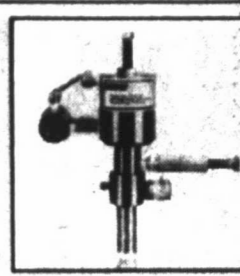


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**DEATHS**

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**Grand jurors hand up 8 indictments**

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
 STAFF WRITER

Gray County grand jury handed up eight indictments yesterday in 31st Judicial District Court. None of them involved an attack by one or more of five Rottweiler dogs on a 4-year-old girl at a house at 1117 Darby.

The girl was mauled on Feb. 16 when she was playing in the backyard at the residence while her father, Steve Organ, was inside with the property owner, Janene Lucas, according to a Feb. 18 news release from Pampa Police Department. Lucas discovered the attack, intervened, and took the girl to Pampa Regional Medical Center, where she was treated and then transferred to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo for further care.

All five dogs were surrendered to Pampa Animal Control, who destroyed the dogs and tested them for rabies. The rabies tests came back negative, according to Sandy Burns, animal control officer.

District Attorney Rick Roach said in a telephone interview March 1 that he would present the case to grand jurors this month to determine whether criminal charges should be pursued against the two adults. Attempts to contact Roach by telephone were unsuccessful as of press time today.

Britt Allen Jones, 41, also known as Britt Allen Marsh, was indicted yesterday for aggravated sexual assault, a first-degree felony. Bond was set at \$250,000. Jones allegedly sexually assaulted an elderly woman on March 1. George Cadena Jr., 29, was indicted

on two third-degree felonies, false statement to obtain property or credit, and theft over \$20,000 and under \$100,000. Bond on each offense was set at \$5,000, for a total of \$10,000.

Cadena allegedly made a materially false or misleading written statement on April 24, 2003 in an attempt to buy a 2002 Lincoln Town Car from West Texas Ford. He also unlawfully appropriated the car, according to the indictment for theft.

Brooke Leigh Malone, 28, was indicted for theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000, a state jail felony. Bond was set at \$3,000. Malone allegedly stole cash on May 10, 2001.

Lalena Renee Moore, 21, was indicted on the state jail felony charge of possession of a controlled substance. Her bond was set at \$7,500. Moore allegedly

was found to be in possession of less than one gram of cocaine on Feb. 8, 2002.

Bruce Wayne Rosenberg, 45, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance. Bond on the state jail felony charge was set at \$7,000. Rosenberg allegedly possessed less than one gram of methamphetamine on Oct. 6, 2001.

Nathan Williams, 26, was indicted for possession of marijuana. Bond on the state jail felony charge was set at \$3,000. Williams allegedly possessed between four ounces and five pounds of marijuana on April 24, 2001.

Reggie Eugene Williams, 33, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance. Bond on the state jail felony charge was set at \$4,000. Williams allegedly possessed less than one gram of cocaine on July 24, 2001.

**City officials look for ways to trim costs**

By **DAVID BOWSER**  
 STAFF WRITER

Although sales tax receipts are up and the city budget may end up with a nice surplus, Pampa officials are still looking at cutting costs.

In a case of hope for the best, but plan for the worst, city officials are exploring a budgeting process that was developed in Eugene, Ore.

Like many cities across the U.S., Eugene faced shrinking revenues and increased demand for public services. In response to the situation, they developed a prioritization process.

John Horst, who as Pampa's financial director is charged with the nuts and bolts of developing the city's annual budget, said the new process would involve com-

mittee-based budget groups. A committee of Pampa residents would be formed and they would be brought more closely into the budgeting process.

"Let's say we take all the commissioners and they name five civic leaders, business leaders, to this group," Horst said. "They prioritize the services that the city provides."

The theory behind the process is that a formal priority-setting method can make balancing a budget a little easier.

The first step in the process is to ask citizens how to balance the city's budget. A survey of a group of citizens would ask them to specify needed service improvements, the dollar amounts of service reductions and new money raising options for city service-

(See EXPENSES, Page 3)

**At the boat wash ...**



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

**Jerry Rhoades of Pampa washes his boat in preparation for a trip to Lake Greenbelt today for spring break. Weather forecasters predict near-perfect boating weather with clear, sunny skies, moderate winds, and temperatures near 80 degrees on Friday.**

**Insurgent attacks, blasts rock Iraq cities**

By **DANIEL COONEY**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — A suicide bomber exploded a car Thursday near a hotel in the southern city of Basra as a British military patrol passed by, killing three bystanders.

In Baghdad, the U.S. military lowered the death toll in Wednesday's suicide bombing at another hotel to seven, after initially putting it at 27.

A man suspected of being involved in the Basra bombing and who got out of the vehicle shortly before the blast, was caught by passers-by and stabbed to death, Lt. Col. Ali Kazem of the Iraqi police said. Two others also spotted getting out of the vehicle before the

explosion were caught by members of the public and later arrested.

At least 15 people were wounded, hospital officials said. Ambulances rushed to the area, and Iraqi police and British forces tried to push the crowd back.

The three civilians killed were two men and a boy, police said. The body of the suspected suicide bomber was still in the vehicle. No British soldiers were wounded in the attack.

In the Baghdad bombing, the military had first said 27 people were killed. On Thursday, U.S. Army Col. Jill Morgenthaler put the toll at 17, and Brig Gen. Mark Kimmitt later lowered it to seven.

Gunmen opened fire on a minibus, killing three Iraqi journalists and wounding nine other employees of a coalition-funded TV station in north-eastern Iraq, police said.

Insurgents also fired mortar rounds at two U.S. military bases on Wednesday, killing three American soldiers and wounding nine others, the military said Thursday. The deaths brought to 567 the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq since the start of hostilities last year, according to Defense Department figures.

Kimmitt said 35 people were wounded in Wednesday's car bombing at the Mount Lebanon Hotel in the heart of Baghdad. One Briton was killed and another was wound-

ed, the British government said.

Morgenthaler confirmed the attack was a suicide bombing but said the destroyed Mount Lebanon Hotel may not have been the intended target because the vehicle loaded with explosives was in the middle of the street and not parked in front of the hotel.

"It may have been a different target, it may have been a different day the bomber intended to use this car bomb," Kimmitt told ABC's "Good Morning America." "It does not appear as if the car was able to pull in front of the hotel and detonate, which is why it is not as declarative as we may have thought at first."

Morgenthaler said it was

not clear what the target may have been.

Shawayas, the council official, said the vehicle was moving at the time of the explosion, indicating it was a suicide attack.

The explosion, which left a jagged 20-foot crater, also set ablaze nearby homes, offices, cars and shops, sending dazed and wounded people stumbling from the wreckage.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Governing Council, Hamid al-Kafai, blamed al-Qaida for the blast but offered no evidence.

"It is aimed at terrorizing the civilians, destabilizing the country and hampering the

(See IRAQ, Page 3)

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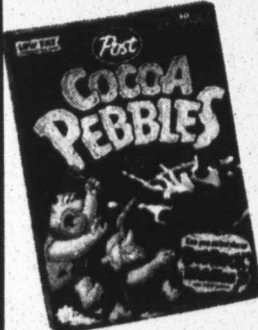
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**EXPENSES**

es they want. In the second step, citizens would select from the options outlined in step one to balance the budget, either by cutting expenses or by raising revenues. The needs and wants of the community would be listed in the priority in which citizens view them. "If you were on the committee, you may say that parks are more important than the library, or visa versa," Horst said. "Then, we'd concentrate on that survey." This isn't going to happen overnight, Horst admitted. There are complexities in put-

ting such a program together and it will take time to work out the kinks. It took Eugene, Ore., 18 months to implement the program. "With the change in ambulance service, we're not going to be able to implement that this year," Horst said. "I don't expect that we will be able to, but perhaps it's something we can start on later when we have the time to do it right." The Oregon city that first developed the concept in 1990, divided the city's services into four broad priority categories and then listed specific services within each category. The commission-citizen

committee was asked to target a level of funding. They were to indicate whether the general fund budget for each service should be increased, maintained or reduced. Over the past decade, Pampa officials have chosen to reduce funding in a number of areas because of falling population numbers. "We've cut and we've cut," Horst said. "We've lost utility connections from people moving away. Those who are in this every year, constantly, can lose sight of something that may be out there that can be changed." Somebody else may have a brilliant idea, he said, that will work.

**Sources: Rest of Tulia settlement may be approximately \$1 million**

TULIA (AP) — Cities and counties not part of a \$5 million settlement reached between Amarillo and plaintiffs in a now-discredited drug bust continue to hammer out an agreement that sources say may reach \$1 million. Twenty-six counties and three cities would pay amounts ranging from a few thousand dollars to tens of thousands of dollars each under the agreement, which has not been finalized, several sources involved in the negotiations told the Amarillo Globe-News in Thursday's editions. Attorneys said they couldn't talk about the details of the negotiations, but they confirmed talks were ongoing.

Amarillo attorney Jeff Blackburn, who represents the Tulia defendants, said he is hopeful a settlement can be reached. "We're eager to settle this case so that the entire Panhandle can put this nightmare behind them, like Amarillo did last week," he said. The city of Amarillo settled with 45 of the defendants March 11, agreeing to pay \$5 million and effectively disband the task force to which Tom Coleman, the lone undercover agent in the busts, was assigned. One defendant died before going to trial. The settlement, if completed, would bring an end to a federal lawsuit filed in August in connection with the controversial 1999 Tulia drug bust. Forty-six people — 39 of whom were black — were arrested, prompting claims by civil rights groups that the busts were racially motivated. Mark White, an attorney representing Randall County in the suit, said details have been mostly worked out with only a few details remaining. "Negotiations are ongoing, and it's really down to a few narrow issues," he said. "I would hope it wouldn't take too much longer to resolve those." Coleman is scheduled to stand trial in May on three charges of aggravated perjury for allegedly lying while testifying at hearings in March 2003 that were related to the busts.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

**IRAQ**

democratic march in the country," he said. A U.S. counterterrorism official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said al-Qaida-linked Jordanian Islamic militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is among those suspected of playing a key role. The Mount Lebanon was a so-called "soft target" because it did not have concrete blast barriers and other security measures that protect offices of the U.S.-led coalition and buildings where Westerners live and work. Shawayas said that suggests "this terrorist group is weak and cannot get to important targets." He said the attackers were foreigners, according to collected evidence, which he did not disclose. The U.S.-funded Arabic Al-Hurra television station captured the blast on video. As a massive fireball explodes into the night sky about a half-mile away and a second later a thunderous boom is heard, an Iraqi woman in a Muslim shawl who was about to be interviewed ducks for cover. Rescuers pulled two more bodies from the rubble before dawn Thursday and smoke

poured from the site 12 hours after the 8:09 p.m. explosion. The nationalities of all the dead were not immediately known. A Moroccan, three Jordanians, two Britons, two Lebanese and an Egyptian were registered at the Lebanese-owned hotel, duty manager Bashir Abdel-Hadi said. He said among those killed were the hotel's three security guards, who were standing in front at the time. Much of the damage was done to surrounding buildings. Across the street, the one-story house of a Christian family of seven was virtually destroyed. Associated Press reporters saw four bodies in the wreckage. "I was sleeping in the room and then I heard a huge explosion. I ran out and then I was hit against the wall," said Jihad Abu Muslah, from a bed in Al Kindi Hospital, bandages on his face. A U.S. soldier less than a half-mile away said the blast felt as though it were next door. U.S. Army Col. Ralph Baker of the 1st Armored Division estimated the bomb contained 1,000 pounds of explosives and was a mixture

of plastic explosives and artillery shells. The Iraqi journalists were killed in the city of Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, when attackers in a car opened fire on the minibus they were riding in, said Sanaa al-Daghistani, information director of Diyala TV. In Fallujah, insurgents clashed with U.S. troops Thursday, leaving a civilian dead, another wounded and two U.S. soldiers slightly hurt, witnesses said. At least 10 masked attackers used AK-47 rifles and rocket-propelled grenades against the soldiers, who were guarding a building where a meeting between local officials and U.S. military authorities was under way. Military helicopters and jet fighters flew overhead as the troops fired back. A U.S. military media official said she had no information on the clash.

**Haiti installs new U.S.-backed government**

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The installation of Haiti's new U.S.-backed government generated complaints from some opposition politicians who charged that members of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party were unfairly excluded. Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, who had said that Aristide's Lavalas party would participate in the government, defended his choice of Cabinet members and promised fast action on organizing legislative elections. "This is a government that is nonpartisan, and I invite everyone to judge it by its results," Latortue said Wednesday at a National Palace ceremony. Both Lavalas and the opposition Convergence coalition were

excluded from the government. Associated Press. Haiti has been in crisis since flawed 2000 legislative elections swept by Lavalas. Aristide fled on Feb. 29 as a three-week rebellion threatened Port-au-Prince. He arrived in Jamaica Monday to reunite with his daughters. Aristide told Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson on Wednesday that he won't interfere in Haitian politics during his temporary stay in Jamaica. Aristide claims he was forced out under U.S. pressure. Washington insists he resigned before the bloody insurrection led by a street gang and former army officers could engulf the capital.



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**WELCOME HOME**  
 Vic and Dee Dee Laramore invite all those who prayed for and supported our son Dave Bridges while he was serving with the 101st Airborne in Iraq to help us welcome him back home on Saturday, March 20.  
 We'd also like to take this opportunity to say "Thank You!" to all those who sent cards, letters and packages that helped shorten his year-long deployment with messages from home. Most of all, thank you for your prayers that sustained him and his fellow soldiers through difficult, dangerous times.  
 Please come celebrate Dave's homecoming at an informal reception from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, at the Pampa Shrine's Sportsman Club on the east side of the 1400 block of South Barnes Street.

THURSDAY • March 18, 2004

The Pampa News Comics

# DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

## Roller-Coaster Romance is Making Boyfriend Queasy

DEAR ABBY: I need help dealing with my ex-girlfriend, "Ashley." We were together off and on for 2 1/2 years and lived together for a year. It was a new experience for both of us.

About a year into our relationship, Ashley decided she wasn't sure that what we had was what she wanted anymore. I was OK with it. We split up for four or five months, and then we started talking and decided to try again. About three months later, she did the same thing.

It has now been another three months, and supposedly she has a new boyfriend, but she's calling me. I love her and would do anything for her, but I just don't know what to do anymore. My romance with Ashley has caused a lot of arguments between me and my parents. Any advice would help. -- HURTING IN PASADENA

DEAR HURTING: Ashley appears to be too immature and indecisive for a serious commitment to anyone -- her current boyfriend included. If it's love you're looking for, she isn't the girl who can provide it. The best advice I can offer is to admire her from a safe distance. She's a heartbreaker.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband, "Ron," for 12 years. We have always gotten along well except for one thing. He smokes pot -- a lot of it. He says he will never stop. I am against pot smoking, but I've tolerated it for his sake.

My daughter, "Erica," just turned 15 and has become involved with a bad crowd. I recently found out she has been smoking pot with Ron. Ron says he'd rather Erica do it at home instead of on the streets.

Now, if Ron and I have even the smallest disagreement, Erica will automatically take his side. The two of them have their own bond and inside jokes; I feel like an outsider. I would take Erica and leave my husband, but I'm not financially able.

How can I make Ron realize it is unacceptable -- that he should be a role model instead of a friend? I really feel

like I am going crazy. Any ideas? -- UNCOOL MOM

DEAR UNCOOL MOM: Rather than behave like a responsible parent, your husband has become your daughter's enabler. I urge you to draw the line. Tell him that you want the house to be "clean" by tomorrow. If it's not, let him know you'll be calling the police to report him for supplying drugs to a minor. Then do it. Let him explain his off-the-wall philosophy to them. And for your daughter's sake, recognize that it's time you started job-hunting. You may need to support the two of you in the near future.

DEAR ABBY: I attended a wine tasting a few weeks ago where a guest accidentally broke a wine glass. The hostess didn't seem concerned that he might be injured, but she did get upset that the glass was broken.

Before he left, the guest offered to pay for the broken wine glass and the hostess accepted, saying that he owed her \$16. He produced a \$20 bill, which she pocketed without offering change -- and later bragged to me that she had made money on the deal. I thought her behavior was inappropriate.

She recently confided that she's going to buy a crate of 99-cent glasses and charge \$5 apiece if any of them are broken. What do you think of this? -- APPALLED IN BEVERLY HILLS

DEAR APPALLED: The hostess appears to be ethically challenged. If she'd cheat her guests on the wine glass, how can one be sure she's pouring the vintage she claims to be? Frankly, I think she's popped her cork, and if I were you, I'd skip her soirées.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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### For Better Or Worse



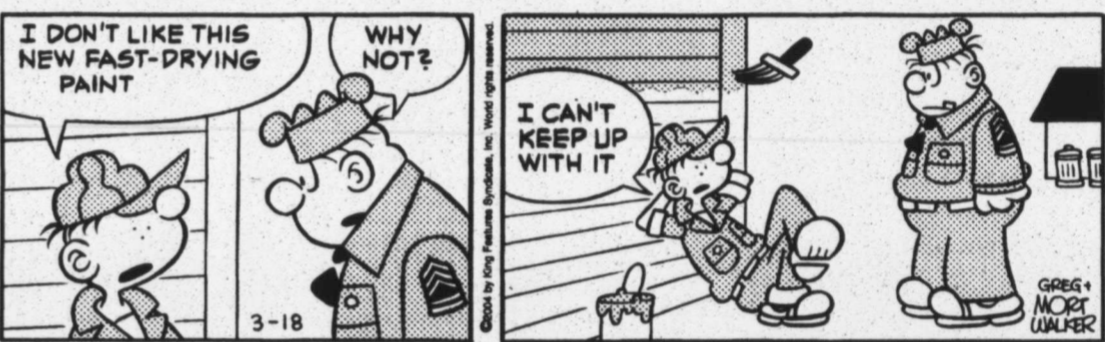
### Zits



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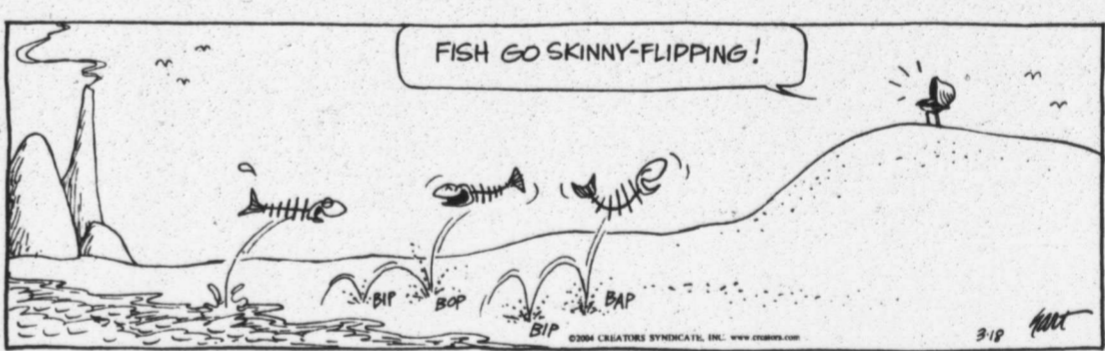
### Beetle Bailey



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### Peanuts



### Blondie



### Crossword Puzzle

#### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

- 1 Monastery jacket item
- 6 Hilo
- 11 Deceive
- 12 Light fare
- 13 State game
- 14 Give in
- 15 Sway
- 17 Jargon suffix
- 19 Harden
- 20 Vampire
- 23 Ellington vehicle
- 25 Make over
- 26 Surpass
- 28 Barn area
- 29 English university town
- 30 Will Ferrell movie
- 31 Nile snake
- 32 Before, in verse
- 33 Bombast
- 35 Come to a point
- 38 Taboos
- 41 Ship sinker
- 42 Cussed
- 43 Bright fish
- 44 Consumed

#### DOWN

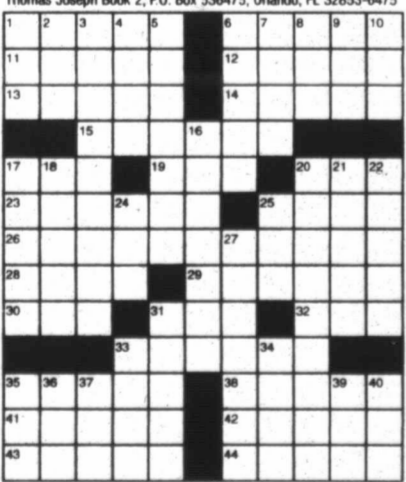
- 1 Wholly



Yesterday's answer

- 21 "Do, --"
- 22 Baseball manager
- 24 Aardvark snack
- 25 Hwy.
- 27 Wide sweep
- 31 Heart line
- 33 Preside you!"
- 34 Waterloo setting
- 35 Chiding sound
- 36 Band-leader Lyman
- 37 Cooking need
- 39 Galena, for one
- 40 Japanese coin

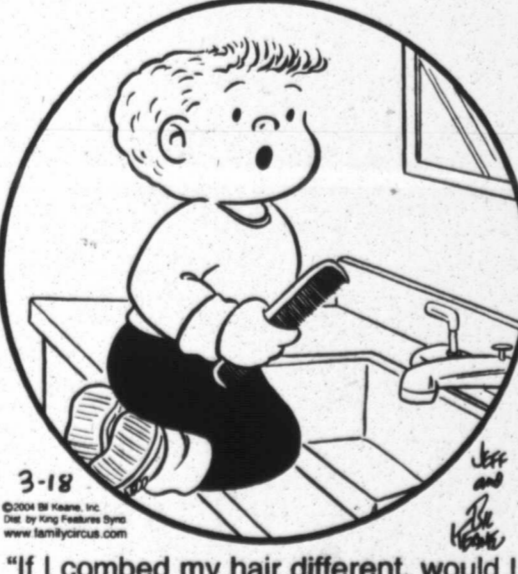
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# Top O' Texas CattleWomen select Ag Family of the Year

Saturday, March 20, is National Ag Day, hosted by the Agriculture Council of America — a time to recognize and celebrate the contribution of agriculture in Americans' lives.

As part of the local celebration of March 20 as National Ag Day and March 14-20 as National Ag Week, Top O' Texas CattleWomen selected their president's family as the Ag Family of the Year.

Liz and Joe Austin of Wheeler represent a large segment of the agriculture industry who have full time jobs, but love the land and a lifestyle that is close to nature.

The Austins own and operate a small family ranch just north of Wheeler in Wheeler County. This land has been in the Austin family for the better part of a century. Joe and Liz reside in town and commute to the farm every evening to check on the livestock.

Joe has been employed by the U.S. Postal Service for 23 years and is a rural letter carrier. Liz has been employed by the Bank of Commerce in McLean as the financial accounting director for nearly two years. Before working for Bank of Commerce, Liz worked for the Wheeler County Extension Service for five years. They have two children — sons Payton, 10, and Korbin, 3.

The Austin Ranch is located approximately five miles north of Wheeler. Part of the land is located on Sweetwater Creek. James Reginald Austin purchased the property in the late 1920s. Since that time, the land has remained in the Austin family, passed on generation by generation.

Joe and Liz volunteer countless hours to the Wheeler 4-H program. Their oldest son Payton is active in 4-H. He exhibits cattle, sheep and swine in local, county and state livestock shows and some jackpot shows. He's also active in the Foods and Nutrition project. Liz coaches Payton in the kitchen and at the sewing

machine. Payton is active in the Santa Gertrudis Association and is a junior member of Premier Santa Gertrudis of Texas. He owns a registered Santa Gertrudis show heifer which is expecting a first calf. With the support of family and friends, Payton is starting his own Gertrudis herd. He also belongs to the Texas Junior Livestock Association, the Texas Club Lamb Association, and the Texas Club Calf Association.

Liz currently serves as president of the Top O' Texas CattleWomen. She has been a member of the club for six years and has served as president for the past two years. She is also involved in Texas CattleWomen, serving as State Ag Day Chairman this year. She often helps educate and promote beef throughout the Panhandle counties by conducting demonstrations, promoting beef at health fairs and serving samples of nutritious beef products. Liz was instrumental in teaming up with TOTCW with the National MS Society to help conduct the 2003 MS Beefathon. Liz and several local cattlemen helped man the phone banks throughout the televised Beefathon.

Liz and Joe are also active in the Wheeler Livestock Boosters organization, where Liz serves as vice president. She is involved in the Wheeler County Livestock Show Association as well. She has been a member of the stock show board for three years and currently holds the office of board secretary. She can often be seen helping out during the County Junior Livestock Show and Auction from year to year.

The Austins occasionally get the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of their land by having family picnics on Sweetwater Creek with fishing and deer watching. They allow friends and family to visit the small ranch for wildlife viewing of deer, turkey, wild hogs, dove and quail. They also extend limited hunting privileges to family and friends.



(Courtesy photo)

Liz and Joe Austin, Top O' Texas CattleWomen's Ag Family of the Year.



(Courtesy photo)

Joe Austin and his sons, 3-year-old Korbin and Payton, 10. Payton who is following in his parents' footsteps, takes part in numerous agricultural activities.

## Crude oil passes \$38 a barrel; higher gasoline prices possible

WASHINGTON (AP) — As oil prices jump to a 14-year high, there is growing speculation that gasoline this summer could reach a national average of \$2 per gallon, and even higher in some regions.

Dwindling stockpiles and increasing demand have put new pressure on both crude oil prices and the tab at the gas pump, analysts said.

Separate surveys this week had the national average of gasoline at \$1.72 a gallon for regular grade and \$1.77 a gallon for all grades. That is a 26-cent increase since the first of the year, according to the Lundberg Survey, which tracks prices at 8,000 stations.

Crude oil closed Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange at \$38.18 a barrel, the highest since October 1990. It had peaked during Wednesday trading at \$38.35, a level not reached since it briefly neared \$40 a barrel a few weeks before the start of the Iraq war a year ago.

The high cost of crude is causing refiners to shy away from buying oil, analysts say. It also is leaving inventories of crude as well as petroleum products, including gasoline, at levels well below normal. That, in turn, is putting pressure on prices.

**D**windling stockpiles and increasing demand have put new pressure on both crude oil and gasoline prices.

"We have very low crude inventory stocks, low gasoline inventory right now. ... We're not seeing the buildup (of stocks) in the rate we normally see," said Ed Silliere, vice president of risk management at Energy Merchant Corp.

"It's a viewpoint that the market will have better supply down the road," he said, adding that refiners at today's crude prices do not want to take on more oil than they can use.

While crude inventories actually increased slightly last week, stocks of gasoline declined by 800,000 barrels to nearly 10 million barrels below the five-year average for this time of year, according to the Energy Information Administration.

The agency said refiners were producing gasoline at a rate of 8.6 million barrels a day, the most since the week just before Christmas. But demand also has risen.

Overall, motorists used an average of 8.9 million barrels

of gasoline a day over the past month, 4.5 percent more than the same time a year ago, the agency said in its weekly report.

Gasoline stocks fell to 199.6 million barrels last week, declining for the first time since Nov. 28 to below 200 million barrels, the report said.

The agency, which uses a different survey method than Lundberg's, put the price of regular-grade gasoline at \$1.72 a gallon last week, a decline of 1.4 cents from the week before. Prices in some regions were much higher — an average of \$2.10 a gallon in California, for example.

Analysts expect gasoline prices to go still higher as the summer driving season approaches, probably eclipsing \$2 a gallon on a national average.

On the Net:  
Energy Information Administration:  
[www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)

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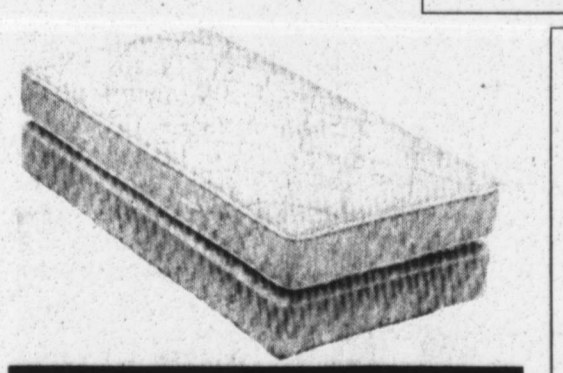
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