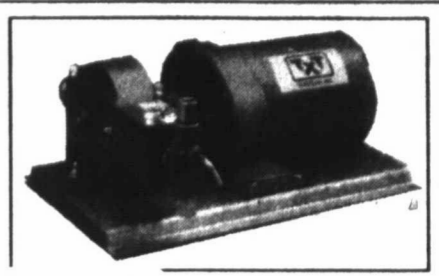




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THE Pampa NEWS

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004

NEWS

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PEDC holds off decision on bids

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

Wayne Wilson, president of W & W Fiberglass Tank Co., offered \$150,000 for the Crall Products land, buildings and equipment note at last night's specially called meeting of the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, but PEDC board members declined to accept the offer.

After comments by Hal Cree and Jeanne Townson, who both had expressed interest in buying the property at December PEDC meetings, the board went into executive session for 13 minutes.

Upon their return, board member Gary Sutherland moved to postpone a decision on the sale of the property until the next regularly scheduled meeting, set for 5 p.m., Jan. 26. The motion passed.

Cree pointed out to the board that at their meeting on Dec. 10, they had decided to schedule the next meeting at the end of January after receiving written requests to do so by Cree and by Carl O'Neal of Lone Star Technical Service. Both Cree and O'Neal had



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Wayne Wilson, president of W & W Fiberglass Tank Co., offers a bid on the Crall Products buildings, land and equipment note at last night's PEDC meeting. Listening to the bid are, left, Dalton Lewis, PEDC board member, and John Horst, right, city finance director.

expressed interest in buying the Crall Products property in their letters to the PEDC.

"The primary reason for this meeting is to receive bids on the property commonly known as Crall Products,"

Doug Locke, PEDC president, had said at the beginning of last night's meeting.

O'Neal, in a letter to the PEDC board dated Dec. 10, had asked for a 30-day "grace period" to resolve issues

including ownership of equipment, patterns, and existing or pending patents; and an environmental study and appraisal of the buildings and land. O'Neal did not speak at last night's meeting.

Cree had written in his Dec. 10 letter that he believed matters could be concluded by Jan. 31. Cree had asked for time to complete an environmental assessment; structural inspection of the buildings; personal inspection by Cree Companies representatives, Crall and PEDC in order to identify ownership of equipment and fixtures; and "the ability to identify and satisfy lender requirements."

"At the Dec. 10 meeting we submitted a letter. The offer date we had in the letter is Jan. 31. We do seem to have some companies interested in purchasing this property. I really have objections to the way this is being handled. You should be more proactive instead of reactive. I think a sealed bid method and understanding the ground rules up front would help us all. That's all I have to say," Cree said at last night's meeting.

(See PEDC, Page 3)

Jury seated; IBP trial set to start today

By DAVID BOWSER
 SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- Opening statements were expected today in a class action lawsuit pitting cattlemen against the largest beef packer in the nation.

U.S. Senior District Judge Lyle Strom had wanted to pick a jury and get opening statements over on Monday, but a hearing Monday morning on various motions threw the

Nebraska judge's schedule behind.

Cattlemen are suing IBP, now owned by Tyson Foods, Inc., accusing the meat packer of using captive supplies to manipulate cattle prices in violation of the Packer and Stockyards Act of 1921.

Although the judge is from Nebraska, the trial is being held in the U.S. Middle District Court of Alabama because the man whose name first appears on the lawsuit,

Henry Lee Pickett, lives in this state.

In 1996, Pickett and five other cattlemen from Kansas, Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska filed suit against IBP.

In 2002, the case was declared a class action lawsuit that includes more than 30,000 people who sold cattle to IBP between Feb. 1, 1994 and Oct. 31, 2002.

"It's been a long time getting here," Pickett drawled, as

he watched the legal wrangling Monday morning.

Among those who are expected to testify during the trial, which is expected to last some four weeks, are Mike Smith of Texas Feeders east of Pampa and Jim Hagg of Perryton.

The witness list for both plaintiffs and defense includes some 60 people ranging from ranchers to university professors. The combined teams of lawyers outnumber the jury.

After hearing from lawyers representing the cattlemen and IBP Monday morning, the judge delayed ruling on most of them until he could study the arguments.

Working through the noon hour, a five-man, seven-woman jury was seated.

The judge gave the jurors their instructions following a mid-afternoon lunch and told the lawyers to be prepared to give opening statements this morning.

Perry Lefors Field gains weather station

By MARILYN POWERS
 STAFF WRITER

Another weather observation station has been added to Pampa's roster, bringing the total to at least three.

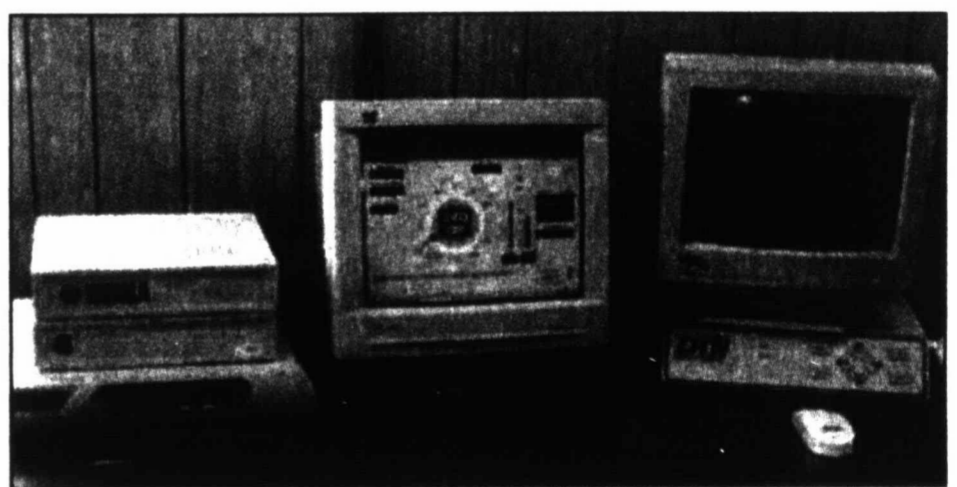
A weather observation station built and maintained by a Texas Tech University group became operational a few weeks before Thanksgiving last year. Pampa also has weather instruments atop the city's downtown buildings, which register information broadcast on the city's cable television channel 11.

Now, television viewers who turn to The Weather Channel, channel 26 in Pampa, will notice that during the local forecast segments broadcast every 10 minutes, Pampa's temperature, wind speed and direction, and general weather condition is included in the chart titled "local observations." That information is from the newest Pampa weather observation station, located at Perry Lefors airport.

The Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) was added at the airport to provide information for pilots and others involved with flying, and for weather services.

"The AWOS will provide pilots with essential weather information including barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, temperature, dew point, precipitation, cloud height, visibility and area lightning activity," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet.

Information from the system is also fed into the National Airspace Data Interchange Network (NADIN), which



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Perry Lefors Airport's new Automated Weather Observation System measures a variety of weather conditions which are displayed on the computer screen in the center of this photo, taken in the airport lounge. The information is also accessible by telephone, aviation radio and weather services such as the National Weather Service and the Weather Channel.

distributes the airport's weather observations to the National Weather Service, the Weather Channel, aviation flight service stations, air traffic control and other commercial vendors.

The information is updated every minute and can be accessed by telephone at 669-1333, aviation radio 118.725, or visually on the display in the airport lounge building. The radio broadcast may be heard up to 50 miles away.

"The addition of the equipment at the airport will have a positive impact on Pampa and Gray County by enhancing safety and allowing increased utility of the airport during periods of inclement weather," Peet said.

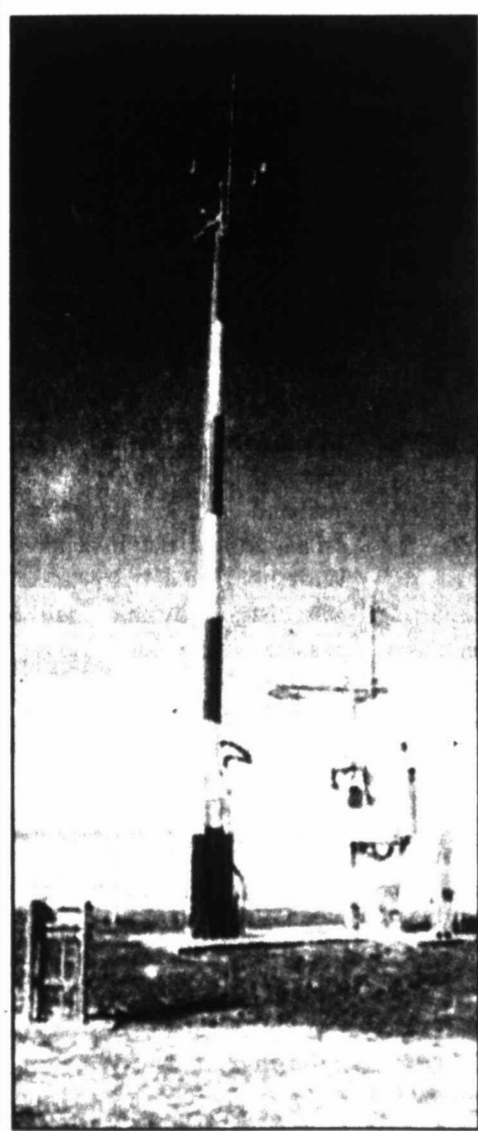
The weather observation system

will enable certain planes such as private jets and charter jets to land at the Pampa airport even if weather conditions are not good, said Paul Loyd, chairman of the Gray County Airport Advisory Board.

He explained that Federal Aviation Administration regulations require that certain types or sizes of planes must land at airports having the AWOS system in times of less-than-excellent weather.

"It is almost necessary to airports of this size for private jets and others that must have AWOS to legally land here. United Parcel Service deliveries occasionally had to go to Borger or Amarillo due to marginal weather con-

(See WEATHER, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Perry Lefors Airfield's new Automated Weather Observation System measures wind speed and direction, visibility, precipitation, lightning strikes and other weather conditions.

LOCAL

Lefors school board to meet on Thursday

LEFORS -- Lefors Independent School District board plans to meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, in the High School Library, 209 5th St.

Items listed on the agenda include the 2002-2003 audit by Howard Hammerbeck, superintendent's evaluation, budget amendment, personnel, superintendent's report, current billings, tax collections and cash position of the district.

DEATHS

Karen Sue Belt, 52, volunteer, missions worker.

Bobbe J. Moore, 72, secretary.

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Tree Planting Season Is Here

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OBITUARIES

KAREN SUE BELT 1951-2004

Karen Sue Belt, 52, died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004, in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004, at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Jerry Arrington, associate pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pagosa Springs, Colo., officiating. Entombment will be in Memory Gardens Mausoleum under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Belt was born March 7, 1951, in Pampa. She had been a resident of the Pampa area all of her life. She was a graduate of Lefors High School. She married Harlen M. Belt on Jan. 1, 1970, in Lefors. She was a member of the WMU and Aderholt Bible Study. She was a Special Olympics supporter, a volunteer for the Pampa Sheltered Workshop, Special Friend Camp, and Vacation Bible School. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and was involved with Missions work with the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Harlen M. Belt, of the home; two daughters, Kyla K.

Andres and husband Lance, and Anna L. Laury, all of Pampa; her mother, Ruby L. Stanton of Pampa; one grandson, Andrew H.C. Laury of Pampa; nieces, nephews and extended family. She was preceded in death by her father, W. Clark Stanton.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Potter/Randall Chapter, P.O. Box 50433, Amarillo, Texas, 79159, or the Pampa Sheltered Workshop, P.O. Box 2808, Pampa, Texas, 79066-2808.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



BOBBE J. MOORE 1931-2004

Bobbe J. Moore, age 72, left this world to go on to another place of happiness and beauty on Wednesday, January 7th in Fort Worth, Texas. Services will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. Bobbe was the eighth sibling born to Homer L. and Beulah D. Bennett in Anton, Texas, on February 21, 1931.

A long time resident of Pampa, Texas, and Las Vegas, Nevada, she graduated from Pampa High School in 1949. Bobbe has been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints since 1952. During her life in this world she had been a member of the Moose Lodge, Order of Eastern Star South Gate #18, El Giza Temple #139 of Daughters of the Nile, a Clown with the Shriners, and her daughter's Girl Scout leader. Bobbe retired from Clark County School District in March 1993 where she had worked at different schools as a secretary and then in the Purchasing Department.

Bobbe is preceded in death by her ex-husbands Carl Moore and Charles Trego; her parents; her sister and brother-in-law, Evadean and James Herring; one sister, Lilan Bennett;

her brothers, William Ray, Boyd L. and Roy C. Bennett; and brother-in-law, Bill Morse. Along with these close family members she had many other family members and friends to welcome her home and help with her journey.

Bobbe was very close to her two daughters and son-in-laws: "Gidget" Carletta and Willis Frazier of Justin, Texas, and Gena and Al Izzard of Las Vegas, Nevada; two brothers and sister-in-laws, Troy and Jean Bennett of Pampa, Texas, and Jimmy and Gaye Bennett of North Glen, Colorado; one sister, Nadean Morse of Las Vegas, Nevada; and two sister-in-laws, Maxine Bennett of Pampa and Dorothy Bennett of Las Vegas; eight Grandchildren; five Step-Grandchildren; eight Great-grandchildren; 11 Step-Great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will be receiving friends at Palm Mortuary, 7600 South Eastern Avenue, on Friday, Jan. 16th from 5-7 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 17th, visitation will be at 10 a.m. and services will begin at 11 a.m. at the Vegas Manor Ward, LDS Church, 1707 S. Sloan, Las Vegas.

SERVICES TOMORROW

BELT, Karen Sue — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

ON RECORD

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Theft under \$50 was reported at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart. Medicine was stolen. Estimated value was \$6.

Sunday, Jan. 11

Evading was reported in the 500 block of Harlem.

Minor in possession was reported in the alley of the 2100 block of Mary Ellen. Two cigarette lighters were confiscated.

Monday, Jan. 12

Retaliation was reported in the 2100 block of Hamilton. Two tires valued at \$300 were damaged.

Assault with injury was

reported at the intersection of Browning Avenue and Starkweather Street. The victim was hit in the face.

Wendy Ward, 17, 612 N. Dwight, was arrested on a capias pro fine for assault.

Kimberly Rose, 34, 325 N. Dwight, was arrested in the 300 block of Wells on a capias pro fine.

FIRE

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

Monday, Jan. 12

3:05 p.m. — Three units and seven firefighters responded to a fire alarm at Pampa Regional Medical Center. Hospital officials determined it was a false alarm and canceled the firefighters en route.

6:54 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a report of smoke north of the hospital. The smoke was part of a controlled burn at 8756 Texas 70.

STOCKS

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Lists various grain and stock market quotes.

AMBULANCE

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

Monday, Jan. 5

10:16 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2500 block of Aspen and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:21 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Baptist-St. Anthony's West, Amarillo.

2:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient to Clements prison unit, Amarillo.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

4:32 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Carr and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo.

SHERIFF

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests.

Monday, Jan. 12

Shery Rae Aylor-Hall, 39, Tucson, Ariz., was

arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety as a fugitive from Kentucky.

Kasey L. Crockett, 19, Collinsville, Ill., was arrested

by DPS for possession of marijuana over 50 pounds. Kourtney Crockett, 18, Collinsville, Ill., was arrested by DPS for possession of marijuana over 50 pounds.

Mammoth skull discovered near Gulf Coast

CLUTE, Texas (AP) — The skull of a woolly mammoth unearthed here has been tentatively dated to an age of 38,000 years, paleontologists say.

The remains were unearthed in a sand pit by Texas A&M University students and the Brazosport Archaeological Society. No mammoths had earlier been discovered on the Texas Gulf Coast. Brian Miles, paleontology curator at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science, told The Brazosport Facts in Tuesday's online edition.

Digging that began Friday had by the weekend produced about 40 strands of clumped hair, presumably from the mammoth, said lead researcher Robson Bonnichsen, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M.

"It's highly unusual for this

to be preserved," he told the Houston Chronicle.

Such samples would allow scientists to collect DNA from a Columbian mammoth for the first time, said Bonnichsen, and determine how closely it is related to the woolly mammoth. Other DNA samples were collected from the woolly, and some Texas A&M researchers have even talked of cloning the mammal.

A backhoe operator, Joe Kimble, said he was working in the pit in November 2003 when he came across a tusk, said Kenny Vernor, president of Vernor Material and Equipment Co. Kimble, 46, ran into a single tusk, but the scientific community had little interest in the discovery, said Vernor.

But he found a pair of tusks a short distance away about a week later. Researchers were down the next day, Vernor said.

Miles said part of the skull and miscellaneous bones were also found in addition to the tusks. The Columbian mammoth is a warmer climate cousin of the woolly mammoth.

The sand pit's owners have allowed archaeologists to cordon off an area of interest with a 50-by-50-foot fence, where they will dig for at least three or four more weekends, said Bonnichsen. Researchers plan to place the bones — or at least a cast of the bones — in the nearby Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

City Briefs

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

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Controversy over gunfighter continues

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Legend has it that Billy the Kid was gunned down by a sheriff in 1881. But was he?

Homer Overton will tell you that the dead man was an unwitting impostor, a drunk shot point-blank in the face by two unlikely chums — the lawman and the legendary gunfighter himself.

Overton learned this some 63 years ago, at age 9, from the widow of the sheriff, Pat Garrett.

Overton's sworn statement was offered as evidence for exhuming the body of the Kid's mother, Catherine Antrim, to compare her DNA with that of a Texas man who claimed until his death in 1950 that he was William Bonney, known in Western lore as Billy the Kid.

Authorities in Lincoln County, where the Kid was convicted of killing a sheriff in the 1870s, want to know if that man — named Ollie "Brushy Bill" Roberts, of Hico, Texas

— was the real Billy the Kid. A hearing on the exhumation petition is set for Jan. 27 in Silver City, where Antrim is buried. Town officials oppose disturbing the gravesite.

Coroner's jurors concluded in 1881 that Garrett killed Bonney that July in the Fort Sumner bedroom of Pete Maxwell, son of New Mexico land baron Lucien B. Maxwell.

Garrett's widow, Apolonaria Garrett, told Overton and a buddy that her husband and the Kid shot a drunk passed out in a street. With no face left, the drunk was just a body that could be passed off for Bonney, Overton's court affidavit says.

Overton's boyhood friend, Bobby Talbert, has not been located for comment. Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan has said it is important to determine what is true and what isn't. He has noted that Garrett's image is part of the logo on Lincoln County sheriff's department uniforms.

Overton lives in Alta Loma, Calif., where he issued a nota-

rized sworn affidavit Dec. 27, 2003, that was filed in court in Silver City a week ago. The affidavit says the boys visited Apolonaria Garrett in the summer of 1940, about 32 years after her husband was shot to death in 1908 near Las Cruces.

"I believe what Mrs. Garrett told us that day was the absolute truth. ... It made such an impression on me that I have remembered it in detail these 63 years," Overton's affidavit says.

Historian Leon Metz has said word of a faked death would have leaked; Silver City's motion to reject exhumation says suggesting that such a cover-up could have worked "strains credibility."

Stories have persisted for generations of connections between Bonney and Garrett, said Sherry Tippett, attorney for Sullivan, Deputy Steve Sederwall and DeBaca County Sheriff Gary Graves, who favor exhumation.

"It varies from 'They just knew each other from a card game' to 'They were pals,'" she said.

Advertisement for Allison's Quality Quick Lube featuring Pennzoil products and a service certificate.

Thank you message for NBC Fund In Our Name, signed by Carol & Roy Hermanski.

Advertisement for John Mann Lawyer, 115 W. Foster, 806-665-2555.

PEDC

Part of subsequent motion decision on the property was will be brought lic at that tim will not be a Wilson ask purpose of a decision on property. "At the 10, we sche meeting for Mr. Cree t response. B meeting earlie kind of doing Locke. "We ask C bid an open Allison, board Townson a Products lea PEDC and C formally term asked when it knowledge" the property was that a list of PEDC note w "We weren she said of the Townson owner of N Welding and which had ma the Crall Pro December, \$125,000 for and fixtures offered for the

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PEDC

Part of Sutherland's subsequent motion to postpone a decision on the Crall Products property was that "any bids will be brought and made public at that time (Jan. 26), and will not be a sealed bid."

Wilson asked the board the purpose of a delay in making a decision on his bid for the property.

"At the last meeting Dec. 10, we scheduled the next meeting for Jan. 26 to allow Mr. Cree to prepare his response. By holding this meeting earlier than that, we're kind of doing him dirty," said Locke.

"We ask Cree to make his bid an open bid," added Bill Allison, board member.

Townson asked if the Crall Products lease between the PEDC and Curtis Heard was formally terminated. She also asked when it "became public knowledge" that a hoist at the property was collateral, and that a list of equipment on the PEDC note was available.

"We weren't aware of that," she said of the hoist.

Townson is a principal owner of N & T Specialty Welding and Manufacturing, which had made three bids on the Crall Products property in December, the last being \$125,000 for the land, building and fixtures. No bid was offered for the equipment note.

The PEDC turned down the bids.

"There was never a formal lease signed. It was a verbal lease. The third payment has never been made. It is my opinion that that lease is now terminated," Locke said in answer to Townson's question. The third lease payment was for December 2003.

Vanessa Buzzard, attorney for the PEDC, told Townson that she had offered information on the equipment to Bob Finney, attorney for N & T Specialty Welding and Manufacturing, and he declined it.

"We're trying to be as fair as possible and do a better service to our community in recovering as much money as possible. You always have the right to request information, and it can be made public," said Steve Phillips, secretary-treasurer of the board.

Wilson's bid included \$125,000 for the buildings and land, plus \$25,000 for the equipment note, with a closing date of Jan. 22. He said he wished to buy the property "for the purpose of starting another business, manufacturing steel tanks. We currently buy them out of Odessa and freight them all the way up here.

"We have need for some land to put in another business, a pipeyard for the company that does business with our trucking company. We can use

Crall to build pipe racks for that pipeyard," Wilson said.

In other business, board members voted to pay off a note of \$208,875 concerning property at 1133 Price Road, site of American Energy.

A request letter will be written by Buzzard and sent to Guardian Corrosion Control. The Montrose, Colo. company had received \$150,000 at five percent interest from the PEDC in 1998 to open a business in Pampa. The terms of the note are that if Guardian documented it paid \$220,000 annually in wages the first five years of the 10-year note, \$75,000 of the note would be forgiven, with decreasing percentages forgiven for decreasing amounts of annual wages. The same agreement would be followed for the second five years of the note. The first five years ended Dec. 31, 2003.

A letter will also be sent to George Kilcrease, who is 12 payments behind on his note with the PEDC for a total delinquent due of \$1,692.

Cross Calf Ranch is five payments in arrears with the PEDC, but Phillips said a representative had talked with him and "they will be catching this up. He's a good customer."

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 in city commission chambers on the third floor of City Hall, 201 W. Foster.

Lamar musical



(Courtesy photo)

Alex Marrufo, Cory Ponce and Jonathan Fogle, Lamar Elementary students, played the cymbals in a musical program staged recently in the school gym. Under the direction of music teacher Cynthia Hauck, "Shakin' It Up" included such numbers as "Shake My Maracas" and "The Old Soft Shoe" performed by fifth grade choir students and second graders at Lamar.

Prairie Rivers Musical sets first performance for 2004

CANADIAN — "Prairie Rivers Musical" will present its first show of 2004 on Saturday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium, 404 S. 6th Street.

"There was a tremendous and appreciative crowd at our last show of 2003 and we are excited about bringing our live music in to another year," reported Jay Godwin, one of the original founders of Prairie Rivers Musical. "We are just amazed at the number of new fans we get each show, coming from many places. Western Oklahoma and most communities in the Eastern one-half of the Panhandle are represented on a regular basis."

Regular performers include Hank and Venita McPherson, Lonnie Cox, George Briant, Phil Ridgway, Wayne Wright, Frankie McWhorter, Scott Campbell, Pat Popham, Mary Lynn Schafer, and Jay Godwin.

"We've had very talented regular guests, several members of the Jenkins family, at the last two shows and we look for some of them to be back with us on Saturday," said Godwin. "Lonnie Cox had to miss the December show, and we will be happy to have him back on stage. Other musicians who have played in past shows may also be here."

There is no admission charge and the auditorium features theatre-type seating in an alcohol and smoke-free environment. Coffee, hot chocolate, soft drinks, and cookies will be available at an intermission.

For information, call 806-323-6213.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

WEATHER

ditions," Loyd said.

UPS planes, which are twin engine planes having either turboprop or piston-driven engines, land and take off at Perry Lefors Field once or twice a day on workdays.

Information gathered by the system is updated constantly for radio and telephone distribution, and about once an hour for distribution to the National Weather Service and others. Information to the NWS, the Weather Channel, and others may be updated more frequently in times of severe weather.

The lightning detector has a maximum range of 25 to 30 miles and measures intensity and location of lightning when it occurs. It joins one already

in place which Pantex installed at the airstrip several years ago. Information from that detector is monitored at Pantex; Perry Lefors Airfield does not get information from it, Loyd said.

Gray County's airport board asked to have the AWOS installed six or seven years ago, Loyd said. There are only about two companies which install and maintain the systems nationwide, he said.

Pampa's system, installed last October, cost about \$88,000. Seventy-five percent of the cost, or \$66,000, was paid for with a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division, with the remaining \$22,000 paid by Gray County.

The AWOS, anchored in a

concrete pad three to four feet deep, has a five-year warranty from CLH Inc. of Minnesota, who makes, installs and maintains the system. At the end of the five-year period, a maintenance contract can be renewed for the system's upkeep. No maintenance or repair work other than minor work, such as cleaning a surface for better information gathering as directed by CLH, is done by county or airfield personnel.

"It's a state-of-the-art piece of equipment," Loyd said.

The Pampa system joins AWOS units already installed at airports in Borger, Canadian, Childress, Dalhart and Dumas.

Perry Lefors Field averages three or four planes taking off and landing each day, or 90 to 100 per month, Loyd said.

Merger of credit unions announced

AMARILLO — THD District 4 Credit Union recently merged with The Education Credit Union.

Consequently, Education Credit's field of membership has been expanded to include all employees of Texas

Department of Transportation in 17 counties of the Texas Panhandle including Gray, Dallam, Sherman, Hansford, Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Hartley, Moore, Hutchison, Roberts, Hemphill, Oldham, Potter, Carson, Deaf Smith, Randall

and Armstrong. Membership is also open to the relations of those eligible for membership. For more information, call (806) 358-7777, 1-800-687-8144 or log onto www.educationcu.com on the Internet.

PFLA to sponsor divorce seminar

AMARILLO — Panhandle Family Law Association is sponsoring a *pro se* seminar to reach out to individuals who are unable to afford the services of an attorney but who feel they would like to process their own divorce.

Amarillo Senior Citizens Center, 1217 S. Tyler, on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Admission is free, but pre-registration is required by calling Jo Ann Holt at (806) 371-7226.

Speakers will include Carry Baker, Mike Watkins, Cindy

Barela, and Joel Jackson. The seminar will last approximately one-half day and focus on the basics of court pleadings and preparation taught by knowledgeable and effective Amarillo trial attorneys familiar with local rules, judges, and procedures.

Medical examiner: Remains are those of missing girl

SAGINAW (AP) — They had been preparing for this call for nearly five years, since the 6-year-old with big blue eyes under a fringe of thick bangs was snatched from the front yard in the middle of a spring day.

Opal Jennings' family had expected the worst as months turned into years without her and as a child molester was convicted in her kidnapping.

But as relatives watched home videos of the raven-haired youngster grinning and cradling her dolls, they couldn't stop hoping that Opal might come home alive.

The heartbreaking confirmation of their worst fears came in a phone call from the Tarrant County medical examiner on Monday, about two weeks after two people on horseback found

part of a small skull in woods and brush in northwest Fort Worth.

The remote area is about 10 miles from the working-class neighborhood in Saginaw where Opal had been playing in her grandparents' yard when she vanished in March 1999.

After the skull was found in late December, authorities scoured the area and found more bone fragments, a toy and a pair of pink Barbie tennis shoes similar to those Opal was wearing when she disappeared, the medical examiner said.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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TELEPHONES: (806) 669-2525
1-800-687-3348 • FAX: 669-2520

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Uncontested (non) races

To the editor:
The following incumbents running unopposed have been recognized in various newspapers for their contributions in 2003.

State Sen. David Swinford: Proposed to the 78th Legislature that state budget deliberations be kept secret from the public, that "the information could ruin the careers of public officials." Poor judgment.

State Sen. John Smithce, chairman of the state Insurance Committee: After reaching agreement within his committee re: changes in insurance procedures, left Austin and after leaving, his committee members changed provisions of the agreement to favor insurance industry and were rewarded with cash contributions almost immediately after by insurance officials. Poor leadership.

State Rep. Warren Chisum, chairman of Environmental Committee: Has been unwilling or unable to propose the Texas Committee on Environmental quality at least consider the effect of groundwater pumping when reviewing applications for CAFOs. A quote from the chairman, "What we are saying is, if you have an impact on the environment you are going to pay an impact (fee)." This at a clean energy policy forum. He is further quoted as saying, "granted some of you have a greater impact than others but still everybody has an impact." Apparently CAFOs drew a pass. The environment and conservation of natural resources have no champions in this group. Another state senator from south Texas fits with this group as did Sen. Teel Bivins. Sen. Todd Staples, Palestine, drafted a bill that would prevent evidence collected by a private citizen from being used by the state to enforce environmental violations! A full page could include Gray County office holders. In unopposed incumbency situations, a "none of the above" block on the ballot would be most helpful.

Bill Reeves
McLean

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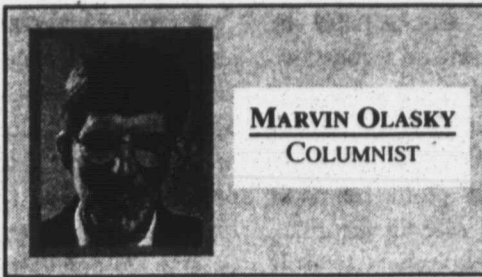
Lesson: India's abortion problem

As the 31st anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade decision arrives later this month, U.S. newspapers will run a few stories about America's quietly continuing abortion plague. But in India, where cars stop for sacred cows but abortion or infanticide of little girls is rampant, the problem is very visible on streets where young men without women prowls.

Skewed birth statistics tell the story. For example, look at the district-by-district birth figures for areas surrounding the ancient pilgrimage region of Madurai in south India. Usilampatti in December 2002 had 910 male births and only 690 female ones. Chellampatti had 848 male births and 623 female ones. And so it goes: Boy babies are desired, girl babies despised and, probably one out of four times, killed.

Most Indians desire male sons for both theological and economic reasons. Only sons can perform the funeral rites that purportedly help give souls safe passage to good rebirths. Only a son can snag a dowry from the family of a bride that must provide cash or cattle to have him take the daughter off its hands.

What one journalist (The Hindu, July 24, 2003) called "the fear of giving birth to female babies" now has technological teeth. Health officials say that many parents still obtain sex ID scans despite legal pressure on doctors not to provide such information. When one mark on the screen is missing, abortion beckons. Among those not so technologically



MARVIN OLASKY
COLUMNIST

adept, infanticide of just-born little women remains a threat. (Once the right to abortion is secured, why not view infanticide merely as a late abortion?)

All of this occurs despite the anti-abortion messages inscribed in Hinduism's sacred texts. For example, in the 10th volume of the ancient Rig Veda, the 162nd aphorism advocates the safety of pregnancy and strongly protests against abortion: "O! Pregnant women: Whichever monster approaches you with the evil intention to destroy your pregnancy/Whoever approaches your womb/Let fire destroy him ..."

The hymn continues, "O! Pregnant women: Whichever devil kills the pregnancy that lives in your womb/ Whichever monster kills the fetus that is taking human shape by three months/ Whoever intends to kill the baby that is evolved in 10 months/ I destroy him in the presence of this sacred fire. ... Whoever carries you to a dreamy state of a fool and tries to abort your pregnancy, tries to kill your baby/ I destroy him in the presence of this holy fire."

Today, though, abortionists are not destroyed. Indian feminists don't like sex-selective abortion, but they do like

the availability of abortion generally, so most don't speak out both for fear of upsetting the applecart and out of general principle: If a woman has "the right to choose" and chooses to abort an unborn girl because she's not a boy, what's wrong with that?

It's obviously wrong for the individual child who is killed. Some writers equate the pro-life movement now with the U.S. civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s or the Dalit ("untouchable") rights movement in India now, but the situation of unborn children in the United States or India now is even worse, since an unborn child has only subjective rights: If she's "wanted" by the mother, she is protected; but if "unwanted," she has no rights.

Abortion is also wrong for nations. European countries that provide equal-opportunity abortion -- boys and girls are killed in approximately the same numbers -- face a general birth dearth that is jeopardizing their governmental pension systems. India has millions of mateless young men who may provide eager cannon fodder for neo-fascist demagogues ready to rumble with Pakistan.

Solutions? Maybe bards can deal with the problem better than politicians have. The great 17th century Indian poet Tukaram wrote, "That man is true/ Who takes to his bosom the afflicted. ... The heart of such a man is filled abrim/ With pity, gentleness and love/ He takes the forsaken for his own."



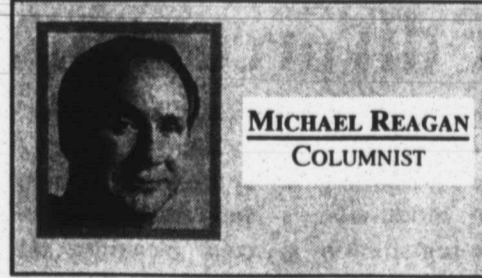
Michael Jackson needs help, lots of it

I don't know what happened to Michael Jackson when he was a child, but whatever it was it created a badly scarred human being capable of badly scarring a new generation of youngsters.

Think about it, nobody does to their face what he has done to his if they are happy on the inside. It's very obvious that he is anything but happy on the inside. It shows that he can't even face himself in the mirror, and that's why he has tried to change his appearance so radically. Then he discovers that even though he can change his appearance, he can't change what is on the inside, gnawing away at him. Every time he looks in the mirror he sees himself, and he hates what he sees.

I don't know what happened to him as a child - I don't know what happened in that home, - his brothers and sisters aren't talking, his parents aren't talking - but something so traumatic happened to that child in his home that it has made him the way he is today - weird - and a danger to today's children and tomorrow's.

This is a man who needs therapy, very badly. He needs deep immersion therapy. He never had a real childhood, but that is not an excuse for him to say that because he never had his childhood he can look into the eyes of children, claim he can see God, and is therefore



MICHAEL REAGAN
COLUMNIST

free to sleep with them.

If you want to take Michael Jackson at his word, he thinks it's just hunky dory to sleep with little 12-year-olds and 11-year-olds and 10-year-olds. As one of my son's teachers once said, there are more things caught than there are things taught, meaning we can teach our children not to do something, but if we do it ourselves or allow bad things to happen in their sight, they catch that and think it's okay. As the old saying put it "actions speak louder than words."

So if you've got parents out there who think it's okay for their children to sleep with Michael Jackson it isn't surprising that a child catches the idea that if his parents think it's okay for him to sleep with an adult male, it must be okay for a man to sleep with a child. When he grows up you may well have an incipient pedophile on your hands who was taught as a child that an adult man is free to sleep with children - and maybe even touch them as well.

The fact of the matter is, that

Michael Jackson is one sick puppy who has the bizarre notion that it's okay for him to sleep with children. I don't care if he never lays his hands on them - the idea of a grown man sleeping with children is sick even if he never touches them. The damage is done.

Think about it: you don't know, I don't know, Ed Bradley doesn't know any man who sleeps with children except for Michael Jackson. And because in America, so-called stars are allowed to get away with everything, if a child sleeps with Michael Jackson, it's okay. He's a star.

But if it was me, or you, or anybody else sleeping with a child, we'd already be in handcuffs headed for the slammer or we'd be shot dead by the parents. But mega-stars like Michael Jackson get a pass, and the message goes out to all the world, that if it's okay for a widely admired star like Michael Jackson, to sleep with children, then it's okay for children to sleep with Michael Jackson and that's where they climb up the slippery slope.

His celebrity protects him, and incredibly he sees nothing wrong with sleeping with children, and because he's a star he's been allowed to get away with it for years.

This is a man who needs our prayers - and lots of therapy. And the kids he slept with also need our prayers.

A News
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A Newspaper Activity Page for Young People



This Week: Overcoming Bullies

© 2004 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 20 No. 3

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Peace on the Playground

Bullying makes playgrounds, schools and even neighborhoods feel unsafe for some children. This week, in honor of Martin Luther King's message of peace, Kid Scoop looks at ways children can help themselves and others be safe on the playground.

Weekly Writing Corner

Peace on the Playground

I know that there are bullies at my school. If someone bullies me, I will tell the principal. If I see someone bullying someone else, I would tell them to stop. If they don't stop, I'll tell the principal. That is just what the bully wanted, to get into trouble.

Rosa,
5th Grade

If someone bullies you, don't fight back. The whole thing could just get worse. Ask them to stop and if they don't, go tell a teacher about it. Chances are they won't come around you again.

Jamie,
6th Grade

All over the world, people fight a problem called *bullying*. I've experienced a situation like this. What should you do? First, ignore it, pretend it doesn't exist and give no wavering reaction. If the bully still troubles you, speak in defense of yourself, do not use inappropriate language, name-calling or foul comments. If it persists, ask a teacher or your parents for help.

Sydney,
6th Grade

I don't have bullies at my school but I do know how to stop them. You say, "STOP IT!" or you can turn around and walk away and ignore them. If they are being really mean you should tell an adult. That is my opinion.

Kelsea,
5th Grade

One time I got bullied. I tried to ignore him but he kept following me. I told him to go away and then I told an adult. They helped me. That's what you should do too if you are bullied.

Sydney,
5th Grade

There are many ways to deal with a bully. You can change the subject, talk to them, tell a teacher, try to be friends with them or just walk away from any trouble. But don't smack a bully back, don't say bad words to them or try to stare them down. Try not to show fear, just walk away.

Jordan,
7th Grade

Write On!

My Favorite Part of the Newspaper

Describe your favorite part of the newspaper and why this was your choice.

Deadline: February 8, 2004
Published: Week of March 7, 2004

Send your story to:

THE PAMPA NEWS
PO Box 2198 • Pampa, TX 79066-2198
Attention: Weekly Writing Corner

Please include your school and grade.

Find the Bully

You can't tell a bully by his or her looks. You can tell who is a bully by the way he or she acts. Here are some of the things a bully might do:

- Hit, kick or push to hurt people.
- Call others bad names, tease or scare people.
- Say mean things about someone.
- Grab someone else's stuff.
- Leave a kid out of a game on purpose.
- Threaten another kid.

What else have you seen bullies do?

Standards Link: Health: Make decisions about feelings and safety issues that support mental and emotional health.

A World of Bullies

Bullying is a problem in schools all around the world. Kid Scoop found information from anti-bullying programs in Scotland, Australia and Canada as well as the United States. For more information about bullying go to www.kidscoop.com.

Standards Link: Health: Identify support systems.

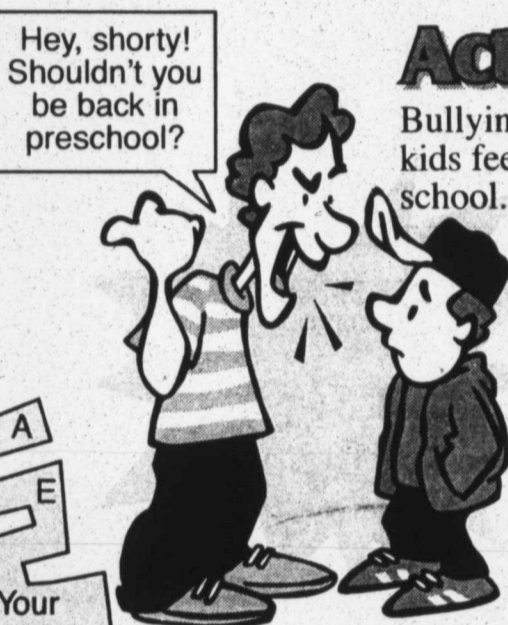


Eric Kevin Stacy Miguel Abby

Bully Clues:

The bully is not wearing a hat. The bully isn't wearing a striped shirt. The bully is not wearing glasses. Which kid is the bully?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow written directions.



Hey, shorty! Shouldn't you be back in preschool?

Action Plan

Bullying hurts. It hurts a lot. Bullying can make kids feel sick. It can make them not want to go to school. And, no one likes to watch other kids getting picked on. No one likes a bully.

Stan is the shortest boy in the fourth grade. Greg, the tallest boy, picks on him every day. Abby and Eric are tired of watching this. What could Stan do or say? What could Abby do or say? What does everyone want Greg to do?

Extra! Extra!

Anti-Bully Armor

When you feel good about yourself, you're less likely to be hurt by what others say. Take a little time to build up your anti-bully armor. What is anti-bully armor? Feeling good about yourself! Look through the newspaper for words and pictures that show something that is good about you. Glue these onto a sheet of paper titled: **What's good about ME!** Post it where you can see it everyday.

Standards Link: Health: Develop and use effective coping strategies.

Who Can Help You?

Make a list of people you can talk to if you are being bullied. Cut the list out and keep it with you.



Get Through the Bully Maze

Many, many children are bullied everyday. These children can feel lost in a maze made up of bad feelings – sad, stressed, embarrassed, nervous, depressed, helpless. These feelings

can make it hard to do well in school and to make friends. Experts say that there is something that can help a child who has been bullied. To find out what that is, complete the maze. The letters along the correct path of the maze spell the answer!



START

Standards Link: Health: Identify ways to seek assistance if concerned, threatened or abused.

How to Deal with Bullies

▶ **Pretend not to hear.** Instead listen to your own ~~words~~ and tell yourself, "That's their problem, not ~~mine~~" and "I'm OK just the way I am."

▶ **Find a safe ~~place~~ to talk to.** Make a list of people you could talk to about being bullied or about ~~what~~ you have seen others being bullied.

▶ **Be a buddy.** Kids who are alone are more likely to be bullied. Make a plan to walk with a ~~friend~~ wherever you think you might meet a bully.

▶ **Don't bully back.** Getting angry and ~~bullying~~ back sometimes is just what the bully wants. It's dangerous too, because someone could get hurt.

A bully scribbled over some of the words in our list of tips! Find the missing word or words in each tip below.

- fighting
- friend
- mine
- person
- times
- thoughts

Standards Link: Health: Develop protective factors that help foster resiliency.

Double Double Word Search

PLAYGROUND Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

- PEACE
- BULLIES
- HURTS
- NERVOUS
- THREATEN
- HELP
- BUILD
- FRIEND
- TEASE
- ARMOR
- GAME
- FEELINGS
- PATH
- MEAN



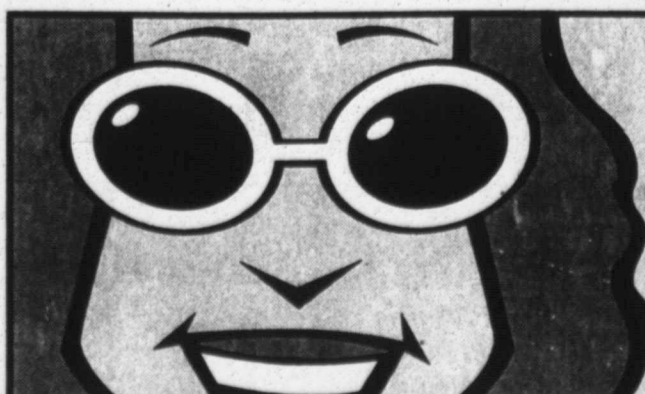
Standards Link: Letter sequencing, Recognizing identical words. Skim and scan reading, Recall spelling patterns.

BEYOND Kid Scoop

Bullies in the News

Look through the newspaper for an article that portrays a person or a group of people who are hurting other people. Could this also be called bullying? Identify who in the article you think is the bully and who is being bullied.

Standards Link: Health: Recognize and respond appropriately to situations involving destructive behaviors.



Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?

ANSWER: Because her class was so bright!

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TUESDAY • JANUARY 13, 2004

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Travelers With Alzheimer's Require Companion's Company

DEAR ABBY: I work for a major airline and saw something today that was very disturbing but more common than you might think. A relative of an 87-year-old lady with Alzheimer's disease put her on a plane with a card pinned to her clothes with her name and information written on it. It was not a non-stop flight, and we were asked to make sure she didn't get off the plane before her final destination. The traveler obviously had no idea where she was going or what to do.

Abby, as you know, things can happen when people fly. Weather and mechanical problems can leave passengers stranded away from home or their destination. Can you imagine how that would affect an already scared and confused lady?

Airline personnel are not baby sitters. People with this mental capacity should be escorted when traveling. Between elderly travelers and inexperienced travelers, we have a lot to deal with during peak seasons.

CONCERNED AIRLINE EMPLOYEE, AMARILLO, TEXAS

DEAR CONCERNED: I can see why you're concerned. All it would take for tragedy to strike is a flight attendant who is momentarily distracted and a traveler with diminished capacity who follows people off the plane and blends into the crowd in the terminal.

The Alzheimer's Association urges families to always have a caregiver accompany someone with Alzheimer's while traveling. It also offers helpful travel tips for the caregiver. Read on:

(1) Get plenty of rest before the trip.
(2) Dress the patient in clothes that are easy to put on and remove (skirts with elastic bands for women; sweatpants for men).

(3) Have the patient wear an ID bracelet at all times. Information on it should include: name, address and phone number. In addition, inside the patient's purse or pocket, place a card with the name of the

hotel or person you'll be visiting.

(4) Be sure to carry pertinent medications, medical records and insurance cards with you. (Also the tickets and money.)

(5) Check all luggage at the curb through to the final destination.

(6) Realize that change may create confusion and disorientation. Be realistic. Know going in that strange people, accommodations, time changes and busy terminals are all known to precipitate panic in AD patients.

(7) Keep the patient's diet and dining times simple and consistent.

(8) Do not travel at peak hours and seasons if at all possible.

(9) Carry a small sign that reads, "Please be patient. My () has memory loss/Alzheimer's disease" to alert others of your special situation.

(10) If the AD patient is of the opposite sex and in a public restroom, ask someone to look in on him or her if it seems like it's taking a long time. Or place an "Occupied" sign on the door.

(11) Be patient. Reassuring the traveler with memory loss may mean reminding him or her repeatedly of where he or she is going.

Readers, for more valuable tips and suggestions, call the Alzheimer's Association toll-free at (800) 272-3900. Someone will be there to help you 24/7.

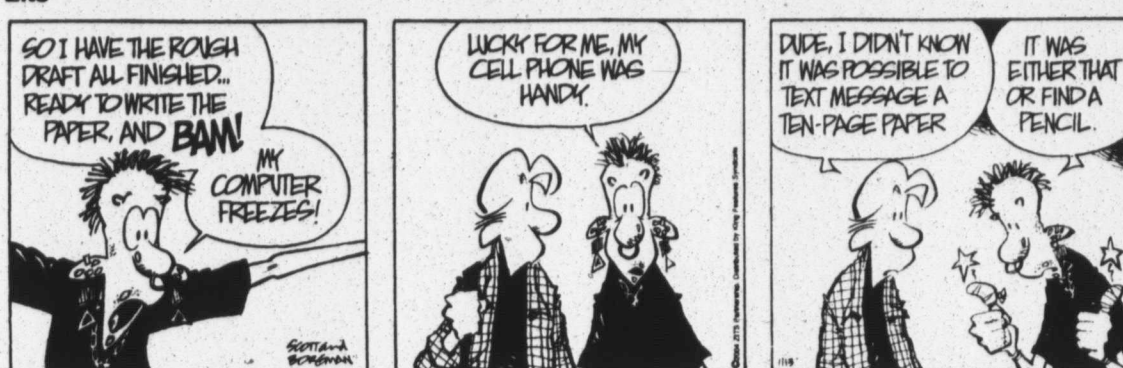
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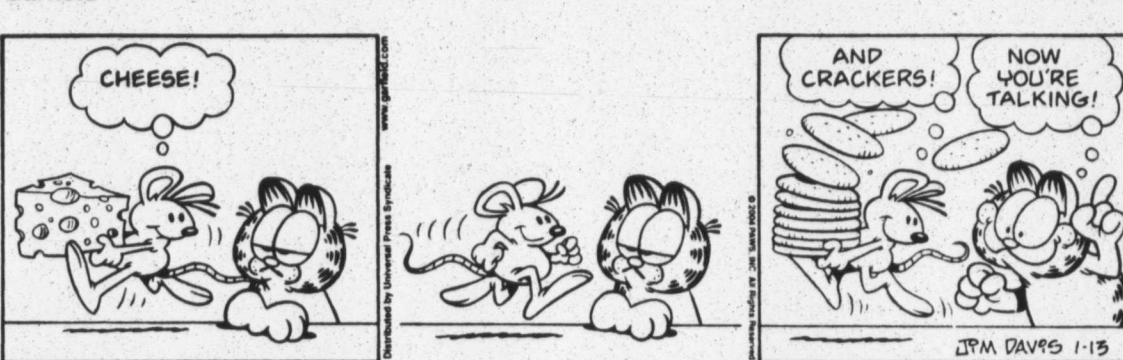
For Better or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



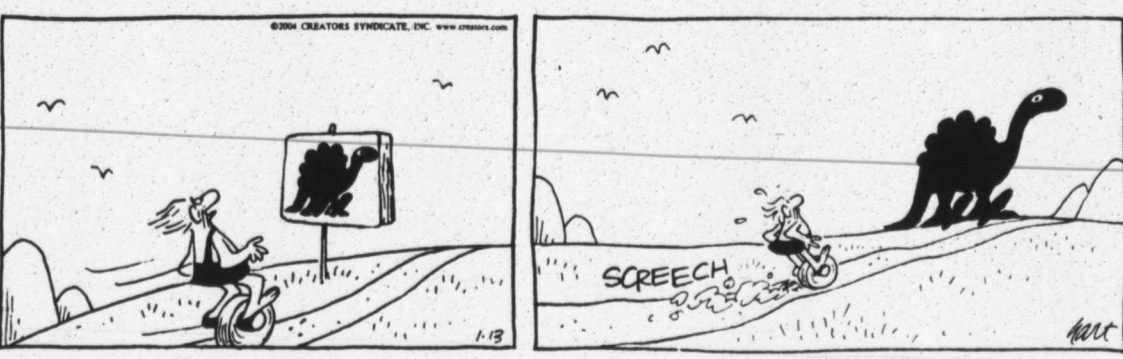
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Marvin



B.C.



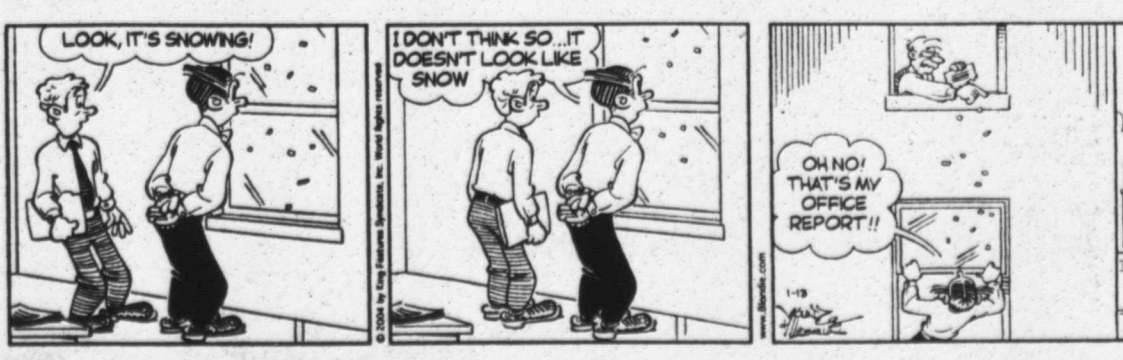
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Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

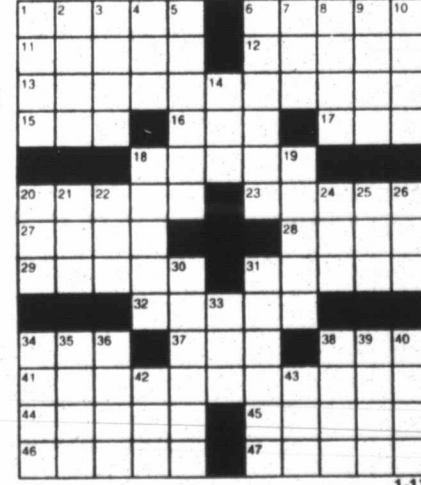
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

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- 11 From the East
- 12 Perfect
- 13 "Master and Commander" hero
- 15 Needle part
- 16 Cook's need
- 17 Call for help
- 18 Jamie Lee's mother
- 20 Insinuate
- 23 Increase
- 27 Like some cheese
- 28 Long ride?
- 29 Goes a bout
- 31 Beg
- 32 Super-market section
- 34 Blockhead
- 37 Lingerie item
- 38 Heating choice
- 41 Cartoon foe of Aku
- 44 Most writing
- 45 Laced with profanity
- 46 Knowing fellows
- 47 Clear

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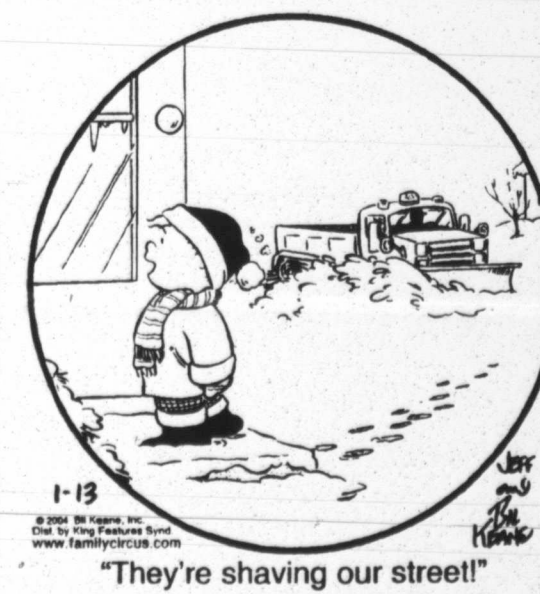


Marmaduke



"My boss here thinks it's only a matter of getting your foot in the door. Could you give him a taste of running for your life?"

The Family Circus



"They're shaving our street!"

Flo & Friends



BUSINESS REVIEW

Innovative Staffing Solutions dedicated to solving staffing needs

Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC, in Pampa, located behind National Bank of Commerce in NBC Plaza 2, Suite 11, prides itself on providing qualified personnel to a myriad of clients, delivering both temporary and permanent staffing "solutions" to businesses both large and small.

Owner Regina Partain and her partner, the late Dr. Myron McCartor, Ph.D., established the first office in Perryton in 1996. Now Innovative Staffing Solutions has offices in Pampa, Perryton, Hereford and Dalhart, employing approximately 100 employees in total.

"We do all walks of employment basically," Partain said. "There are very few positions that we cannot fill."

Partain holds the prestigious Senior Professional Human Resource certification bestowed by the Society for Human Resource Management.

Since Innovative Staffing Solutions is primarily a staffing agency and its clientele businesses, prospective employees may make application through the agency for free.

Ronnie Lance is staffing manager for the



(Courtesy photo)

Deawn Guess, staffing coordinator, is the newest member of Innovative Staffing Solution's professional staff.

agency. "I tell potential applicants," he said, "We find people for jobs — not necessarily jobs for people."

Partain places particular emphasis on safety and maintaining a safety-conscious staff.

"We have a safety program," she explained. "We work with other safety companies to provide safety training to our employees. We preach safety. In short, we care about our people and want them to be safe."

Other staff members are Deawn Sims, staffing coordinator, and Jamilou Garren, regional personnel consultant.

Innovative Staffing Solutions is also in the business of human resource consulting, conducting seminars for its clients and for groups within the communities it serves including area chambers of commerce.

"We are a community-oriented company," Partain said. "We want to be very involved in the communities we serve and give back what we can. We do that by getting involved in civic organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce."

Some of the topics covered in the human resource seminars, Partain said, include "Hiring Legally and Effectively," "Team Building," "Gender Diversity in the Work Place," "Behavioral Interviewing," and other courses specific to each client's individual needs.

"We can help them (the customer) with their hiring processes," Partain observed. "Through our affiliations with other companies, we can develop hiring systems and teach how to hire legally and effectively."

Partain is a Rotarian, a member of Perryton-Ochiltree Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and of Texas Workforce Commission's Regional Workforce Development Board. She is also a member of, and instructor for, the Leadership Perryton Committee, a community program organized to develop community leaders.

Garren is a Kiwanian and Rotarian, a CASA volunteer, and a football booster at Pampa High. She is chair of the 2003 Country Fair Decorating Committee for Pampa Chamber of Commerce as well.



▶ (Left-right) Owner Regina Partain and staff members at Innovative Staffing Solutions Jamilou Garren, regional personnel consultant, and Ronnie Lance, staffing manager, will put that "can do spirit" to work to help meet your business staffing needs.



▲ (Left-right) Regina Partain, owner of Innovative Staffing Solutions, confers with staff members Jamilou Garren, regional personnel consultant, and Ronnie Lance, staffing manager.

▶ The helpful staff at Innovative Staffing Solutions, located behind National Bank of Commerce in NBC Plaza 2, Suite 11, is ready to supply your staffing needs. Above, left-right: Ronnie Lance, staffing manager, Jamilou Garren, regional personnel consultant, and Regina Partain, owner.



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SPORTS

Clemens signs to play for hometown Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The Rocket blasted out of retirement and landed back home in Houston.

Three months after Roger Clemens threw his final pitch for the New York Yankees in the World Series, the six-time Cy Young Award winner signed a one-year contract for \$5 million Monday with his hometown Astros.

"The Astros worked real hard to get me off that fence after I'd gotten up on it," Clemens said. "I feel I still have a lot to give. We want to try to make memories together. That's the only reason I came out of retirement."

Clemens and agents Alan and Randy Hendricks agreed to give Astros owner Drayton McLane quite a bargain.

Clemens will pitch for a big pay cut from last year's \$10.1 million salary. The Astros will defer \$3.5 million of Clemens' salary until 2006, general manager Gerry Hunsicker confirmed.

Clemens can earn an additional \$1.4 million based on the Astros' home attendance: \$200,000 for each 100,000 fans starting at 2.8 million and running through 3.4 million. The Astros drew about 2.45 million fans last year.

In addition, Clemens has a 10-year personal services contract with the Astros, beginning when he finishes playing.

Clemens also has an unusual clause that will permit him to attend his sons' games at times during the season when he's not scheduled to pitch for

the Astros.

"Because of who he is, there are a few exceptions we are allowing him to make with our rules," Hunsicker said. "His family is a big part of this, so we worked it out. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. He is one of the greatest to play the game."

Clemens said his family had a major part in his decision.

"The hat I'm wearing is the one the boys gave to me for Christmas," Clemens said of his Astros hat. "They've never given me a present like this from under the tree. I've always had to go and get my own, but they handed me this and got the video camera. I knew that was a hint that I should start lifting weights

again."

Although Clemens said at the end of last season he was 99 percent sure of retirement, baseball commissioner Bud Selig applauded Clemens' decision.

"It's a great thing for Houston and, frankly, Roger has earned the right to do whatever he wants to," Selig said.

Clemens, 41, was 17-9 with a 3.91 ERA last season, his fifth with the Yankees. He spent his first 13 seasons in Boston, then went to Toronto for two years before moving on to New York, where he won World Series titles in 1999 and 2000.

The Astros started their off-season by trading ace closer Billy Wagner and his \$8 mil-

lion salary to the Philadelphia Phillies in a cost-cutting maneuver to give them flexibility in McLane's budget. The Astros spent that and more last month by signing Yankees left-hander Andy Pettitte to a three-year \$31.5 million contract.

Pettitte went to work on Clemens, a close friend and offseason workout mate, trying to convince him to join him with the Astros.

"I heard it on the radio picking up my kids from school that he was thinking about it," Pettitte said. "As soon as I heard it, I called him and he said, 'Lefty, everything has changed since you signed with the Astros.'

"I said, 'All right.' I knew he was thinking about it."

Pampa Junior Varsity claims Perryton crown

PERRYTON — Pampa held off Dumas 56-51 last weekend to win the Perryton Junior Varsity Boys' Tournament.

Against Dumas in the finals, Pampa opened up with a 24-4 commanding lead at the end of the first quarter. Dumas rallied and Pampa hung on for the five-point margin of victory.

Sharod Young led Pampa in scoring with 21 points, followed by Aaron Anguiano with 14.

The championship win was especially gratifying for Pampa JV coach Dustin Miller, since Saturday was his birthday.

Pampa defeated Borger 69-62 in the semi-finals to advance against Dumas.

Borger took an early 18-14 lead by hitting four 3-point goals in the first quarter.

Pampa came back to take

the lead when guard Weston Teichmann hit three consecutive 3-point goals in the second quarter. Pampa stayed on top the rest of the way.

Young paced Pampa in scoring with 30 points and Teichmann added 12.

Pampa JVs have won 10 of their last 12 games. Their next game is Friday at Caprock.

Pampa 69, Borger 61
(Semi-finals)

Pampa scoring: Sharod Young 30, Weston Teichmann 12, Braydon Barker 9, Tyler Hall 6, Aaron Anguiano 4, Eric Kingcade 3, Brett Ferrell 3, Tyson Hickman 2; 3-point goals: Teichmann 4, Barker 1, Young 1, Ferrell 1.

Pampa 56, Dumas 51
(Finals)

Pampa scoring: Sharon Young 21, Aaron Anguiano 14, Braydon Barker 7, Tyler Hall 6, Eric Kingcade 5, Tyson Hickman 2, Craig Crowell 1; 3-point goals: Young 1, Barker 1.



The Pampa JV team poses for a photo after winning the Perryton Tournament. Team members are (front, l-r) Braydon Barker, Eric Kingcade, Brett Ferrell and Weston Teichmann; (back, l-r) coach Dustin Miller, Tyson Hickman, Aaron Anguiano, Craig Crowell, Tyler Hall and Sharod Young.

Texas Tech finally cracks top 25 basketball poll

DALLAS (AP) — Texas Tech finally got into the Top 25 on Monday, but it didn't take a nine-game winning streak and a national ranking for the rest of the Big 12 to know how good coach Bob Knight's team is this season.

"This could be Bob's best team since he's been at Tech," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "Defensively, they're playing better, they're executing their offense better than they have been, and they

get to the ball to (Andre) Emmett in positions he can score."

Sutton should know better than any other Big 12 coach. His Cowboys (10-2) lost their conference opener 83-62 in Lubbock over the weekend.

Emmett scored 32 points to lead the Red Raiders.

"He's the best player in the conference," Sutton said.

Emmett on Monday was named the league's player of the week for the third straight time, a first for the 8-year-old league. He's won the weekly award four times this season, already matching the record held by Kansas' Drew Gooden (2001-02) and Iowa State's Marcus Fizer (1999-2000) — and league play is just getting starting.

Texas Tech (13-2), which won 45 games in Knight's first two seasons, moved into the poll at No. 22 on a winning streak that followed losses to Georgia Tech and SMU. The Red Raiders were ranked for

just two weeks last season.

Oklahoma (10-1) is still the Big 12's highest-ranked team. But the Sooners, whose game at Texas Tech on Jan. 19 will be their third in six days, dropped six spots to 11th after their first loss since the NCAA Final Four last season, 86-59, at No. 1 Connecticut on Sunday.

"We were playing against a team better than us," Sooners coach Kelvin Sampson said. "We don't quite have the identity we'd like to have with this year's team that we've had in the past."

Kansas (9-2), dropped a spot to 14th in the poll despite a three-game winning streak. Texas (9-2), which has won four in a row, remained No. 18.

Canadian cagers sweep WT

STINNETT — Canadian claimed a 41-40 overtime win over West Texas High last weekend in District 6-2A action.

Kyle Jahnel led Canadian in scoring with 13 points. Tony Livingston followed with 7.

Calvin Curry and Paul Contreras were the WT scoring leaders with 10 points

each.

Canadian rolled to a 65-32 victory in the girls' contest.

Four players, led by Tandi Rankin's 15 points, scored in double figures for the Lady Wildcats. Kari Robinson and Carlee Culver had 13 points each, followed by Kayla Graham 12.

Randi Reed was WT's top scorer with 15.

Wrestling medalist



Pampa Take Down Club wrestler Krysten Miller (far right) claimed fourth place at the Cotton Bowl National Tournament last month in Dallas. Krysten participated in the Division One 60-pound class.

PHS swimmers have impressive times at Lubbock Invitational

LUBBOCK — Pampa swimmers had some of their best times of the season at last weekend's Lubbock Invitational.

There were teams from all across Texas. Elkins, which was coached by former Pampa coach Bob Pink, won the girls' division.

The PHS boys' team was

led by Joe Johnson by placing in the 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 200 individual medley and 400 freestyle relay. Other relay team members were Thomas Wilson, Derek Wishon, Tyler Wishon, D.J. Dalton and Michael Martinez.

Following the Lubbock meet, coach Greg Miller

noted that Johnson is ranked No. 1 in the 200 freestyle and No. 2 in the 500 freestyle in Pampa's region. Johnson is on his way to a fourth consecutive trip to the state meet, Miller said.

"Our girls' team did well in the relays, having their best times of the year in the 200-medley relay, 200-freestyle

relay, and the 400-freestyle relay," Miller added. Relay team members are Kandice Maddox, Jessica Hall, Angel Henthorn, Whitney Penrod, Wendy Stephens and Kirby Broadus. Penrod once again led the girls' team and bettered her own school record by 24 points.

"She is certainly ranked

first in the region and is working hard to get to state this year," Miller said. "A side note is that three of the girls diving in the meet scored high enough to qualify for All-American, so Whitney was in good company."

Pampa returns to Lubbock on Jan. 23-24 for a district meet.

NOTEBOOK

SOCCER

WICHITA FALLS — The Pampa boys' soccer team competed in the Wichita Falls Winter Cup last weekend.

The Harvesters lost to Wichita Falls (2-0), Amarillo High (6-0) and Denton Ryan (6-0).

PHS coach Byron May said senior forward Johnny Story, senior mid-fielder Justin Joutitt and senior forward Sammy Silva shown exceptional effort during the tournament.

Pampa's next game is Jan. 19 at Lubbock High.

BASEBALL

PAMPA — There will be a Harvest Baseball Booster Club meeting at 7 Thursday night in the Ready Room at the high school athletic building.

All baseball parents are encouraged to attend.

GENERAL

The Pampa News sports department now has its own e-mail address.

Stories and photos from coaches and volunteer reporters can be submitted to

moosescur@yahoo.com

Photos need to have a JPEG format.

Stories can still be submitted by fax to 669-2520.

BASKETBALL

VALLEY — Valley defeated McLean 60-46 last weekend in a District 4-1A opener.

Douglass Payne was Valley's scoring leader with 11 points. Kevin Ortiz added 10.

Tyler Hanes led McLean scorers with 14 points. Andy Ritchie followed with 9.

Valley won the girls game 72-21.

Katherine Pigg tossed in 27 points to lead Valley to victory.

Danielle Dampier had 7 points and Keisha Menefield 6 to lead McLean.

FOOTBALL

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — He was at his best in the pocket, where he became the most prolific passer in NFL history.

Now Dan Marino embarks on a new career in an office as an inexperienced executive. But his goal remains the same: lead the Miami Dolphins to a Super Bowl title.

"I'm back home again," Marino said Monday, when he became senior vice president of football operations. "I love everything about this place."

The Dolphins pulled off a quarterback sneak, hiring Marino without a hint that the deal had been in the works for two weeks.

Marino said that since retiring, he often talked with owner Wayne Huizenga about returning to the organization. But his interest was a well-kept secret while Huizenga and team president Eddie Jones interviewed seven candidates for the new position of general manager.

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Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2004:
You tend to get what you want when you put your best foot forward. Others are highly responsive to your diplomatic ways. Be cautious with your temper, as you could take it out on the family cat or a roommate. You need to learn healthy ways to discharge your frustration and express your anger if you want a calm domestic life. You also might have a tendency to move, renovate or rearrange furniture a lot. Remember, anger is hurt gone too long without being expressed. You might choose to put a lot of energy into your work this year, and you will see the results after early fall. If you are single, you know how to draw someone in. Just don't live with him or her yet this year. If you are attached, your relationship could go through some changes as you work on expressing the negative feelings in a more positive manner. LIBRA pushes you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
**** Temper flare, and you might be right in the midst of an argument when you least want to be. Stop. Pull out. Evaluate whether you might be oversensitive right now. Take an overview if possible. Seek out more facts. Tonight: Happy to nestle in.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Take it easy, and don't push too hard. You might want to see someone take another view, but you cannot change what is. A partner or associate helps you pull things together and get the job done. A friend could have strong feelings. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

***** A boss pushes you very hard; resist having a strong reaction. How you handle this situation could make a huge difference in what goes down. Let your imagination flow, and don't let someone put you down. Tonight: Midweek romp.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Basics do count, but convincing someone who might be a bit high-strung in your life could be difficult, to say the least. Your feelings detach some, allowing you to see a situation much differently. Always take the high road when possible. Tonight: Happy at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
***** You might want to keep the conversation going, even if you hit a stalemate or a hot situation involving another person. You can make peace through discussions and understanding the other's point of view. Tonight: Indulge this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
*** Expenses soar, causing you to feel a bit out of sorts. Understand why others or a specific associate needs to spend so much. Others seek you out for help. Be there for them. Express your unique flexibility, which marks this year. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
***** Your charm might unnerve someone close to you. You will know, because this person tells you everything he or she thinks you are doing wrong. Don't take what this person says to heart, but evaluate his or her comments openly. Tonight: Don't let anyone take the moment from you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** Don't take out your aggravation on someone else; rather, throw yourself into your job. You could be unduly tired from all the energy you have been expending. Schedule a massage or a

round of golf — whatever works for you. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
***** Aim for more of what you want from a situation involving a group of several friends, recognizing that you don't have control over everyone, only yourself. Expenses are going overboard. Tonight: Where your friends are, having fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Take charge in a situation. You actually might not have a choice, if you think about it. Nevertheless, use your people skills to the max. Be sure of yourself and make solid choices, just for you. Take time for a special person. Tonight: Could be a late night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
***** You might be reaching out for an expert or hopping on the computer. Carefully review a situation that involves your finances. You could be giving too much of yourself or indulging someone way too much. Be honest with yourself. Tonight: Slow down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
***** A partner could be instrumental in what goes down, should you let it happen. You might want to put a halt to a spending spree, or find other ways to express your feelings. Keep in mind your ultimate goals. Tonight: Togetherness works.

BORN TODAY
Singer Jack Jones (1938), rapper, actor LL Cool J (1968), journalist Andy Rooney (1919)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

IMSKU IMRT ULJ XOR MR
GVBSKJYI MIVBDMYY
MRKWMSJ XORYMRJKK MR

VULJSK. — **KVBSHJ VZKHBSJ**

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE PEOPLE SO ADDICTED TO EXAGGERATION THEY CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH WITHOUT LYING. — JOSH BILLINGS

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British doc hangs self with sheets

LONDON (AP) — A British family doctor blamed for killing at least 215 elderly patients over several decades hanged himself with bed sheets in his prison cell, a Prison Service spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Dr. Harold Shipman was found hanging in his cell at Wakefield Prison in northern England at 6:20 a.m. He was pronounced dead about two hours later after attempts to resuscitate him failed, the Prison Service said in a statement.

Shipman, 57, who worked in the Manchester suburb of Hyde, preyed largely on elderly women, killing them with lethal injections. His crimes horrified the nation and raised questions about how he was able to evade detection for so many years.

He was convicted in 2000 of murdering 15 elderly patients and sentenced to life in prison. A judge who investigated the case later said Shipman murdered at least 200 other people since 1975.

Shipman, who maintained his innocence, hanged himself by using bed sheets attached to the window bars in his cell, a spokeswoman for the Prison Service said on condition of anonymity.

He had not been placed on suicide watch since arriving at the high-security Wakefield Prison in June and had followed a "normal regime," the Prison Service said.

"He was showing no signs whatsoever of pre-suicidal behavior," the spokeswoman said.

The new Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, Stephen Shaw, will investigate Shipman's death, Prisons Minister Paul Goggins said.

The daughter of one of Shipman's victims expressed regret that the doctor never acknowledged his crimes.

"I am not sorry he has gone, but it brings it all back and it stirs it all up for us again," said Kathleen Wood, whose 83-year-old mother, Elizabeth Baddeley, was murdered by Shipman in 1997.

"I just wish he had been forthcoming and admitted he had done those things — it would have put a lot of people's minds at rest."

High Court Judge Janet Smith, who investigated Shipman's activities after he was jailed, concluded in 2002 that he killed 215 of his patients, including 171 women and 44 men.

Smith said she also found a "real suspicion" that Shipman was responsible for 45 other deaths, and there was insufficient evidence to form any conclusion in another 38 deaths.

Shipman's motive was a mystery. In all but one case there was no evidence that he killed for money and "no suggestion of any form of sexual depravity," Smith said. However, in at least one case the victim had made Shipman the beneficiary of her will.

China denying report of new SARS patient

BEIJING (AP) — China cleared a sick businessman of having SARS, while the World Health Organization warned Tuesday that the country's health-care system could be overloaded if everyone with cold or flu symptoms were treated as a potential SARS case.

The businessman was hospitalized in the southern city of Shenzhen with a fever and cough, and some news reports cited him as China's fourth suspected SARS case of the season.

But the man has been found to have bacterial pneumonia, the official Xinhua News Agency and newspapers reported, citing the head of the city's health bureau, Zhou Jun'an.

Chinese authorities say they have one confirmed and two suspected SARS cases, all of them in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, which includes Shenzhen. Shenzhen borders Hong Kong, which is screening people crossing the border in hopes of keeping out the flu-like disease.

The confirmed SARS patient was released from a hospital last week after being pronounced recovered, while the two suspected cases still were being treated.

WHO spokesman Bob Dietz said China must take care to screen out cases of cold and flu before committing the huge resources needed to isolate and treat a SARS patient.

"No one wants to overdiagnose, which is just as dangerous as underdiagnosing in terms of overloading the health care system," Dietz said in Beijing.

"You can't just willy-nilly isolate everybody who walks into a hospital because they have a fever. First you have to exclude ... the possibility of other diseases before treating them as SARS cases."

Severe acute respiratory syndrome emerged in Guangdong in late 2002 and sickened more than 8,000 people worldwide before subsiding in June. The disease killed 774 people.

Authorities have launched an emergency effort to prevent a new outbreak of the disease, ordering the slaughter of thou-

NJ to grant benefits to same-sex partners

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Same-sex partners in New Jersey have been granted unprecedented legal, health care and financial rights under a new bill, though the measure stops short of authorizing gay marriage.

Gov. James E. McGreevey signed the state's Domestic Partnership Act on Monday, making New Jersey the fifth state to recognize same-sex partnerships and extend certain benefits to gay couples.

Under the measure, domestic partners will gain access to medical benefits, insurance and other legal rights. New Jersey also will recognize such partnerships granted in other states.

"This legislation is a matter of fundamental decency," McGreevey said.

The bill does not authorize gay marriage, which is against the law in New Jersey. McGreevey said he will not back legislation that would amend the state's marriage laws to include same-sex partners.

However elated they are by the new law, gay rights advocates said it was not enough.

"We are pursuing all roads to justice," said Laura Popel, president New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition, adding that the group will continue to push for same-sex marriages.

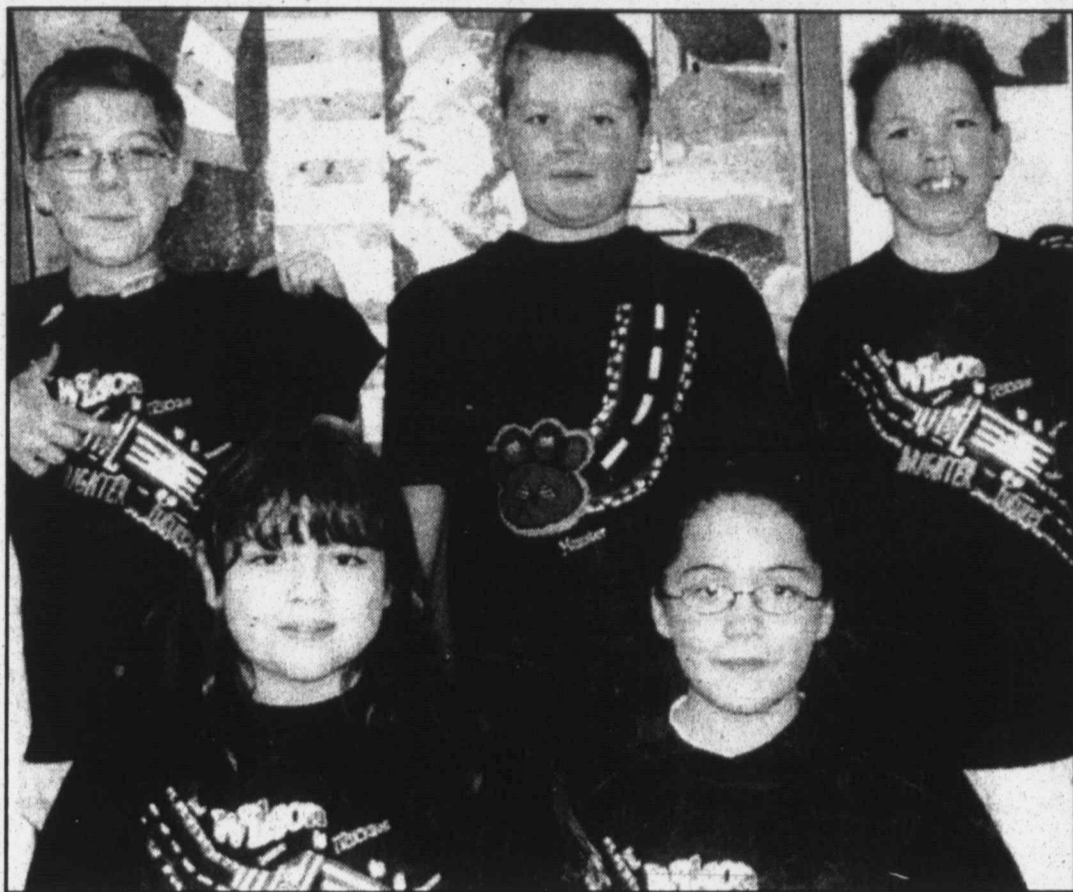
sands of animals seized from markets and launching a campaign to exterminate rats to eliminate possible sources of disease.

China's strictness in defining SARS cases led to confusion earlier when officials first denied that a waitress in Guangzhou had tested positive for the disease and later announced that she was the country's second suspected case.

Beijing's policy is to report only cases that are verified by experts as "suspected SARS," said Health Ministry spokesman Mao Qun'an, quoted Tuesday by the official China Daily newspaper.

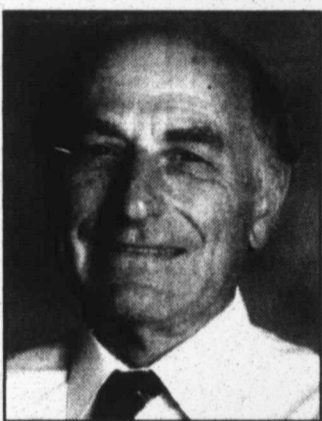
"The Ministry of Health has not received any report about the case in Shenzhen. But it would not be surprising that some people are revealed by nonofficial channels as suspected SARS cases in the coming days."

T-shirt winners



(Courtesy photo)

(Back, left-right) Brennan Dickinson, Hunter Shay, Dakota Turlington, (front, l-r) Jessica Gutierrez and Rudj Rivera, all fifth graders at Woodrow Wilson Elementary, designed T-Shirts for the 2003-04 school year at Wilson, following the theme "Wilson is trucking to a brighter future!"

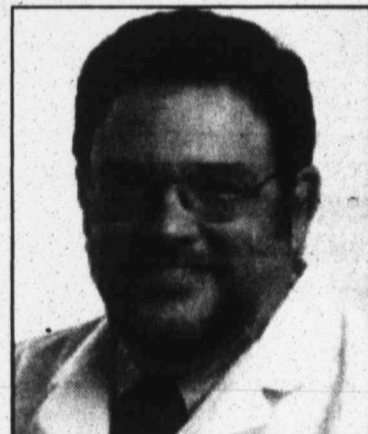


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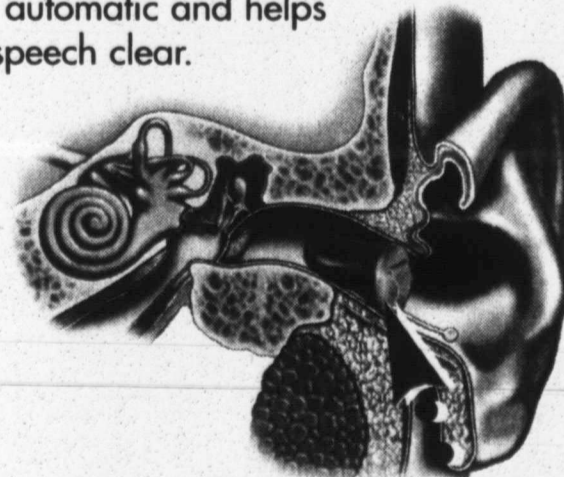
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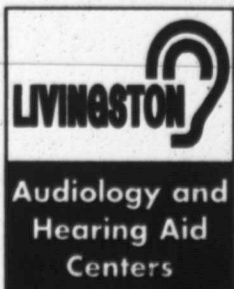
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