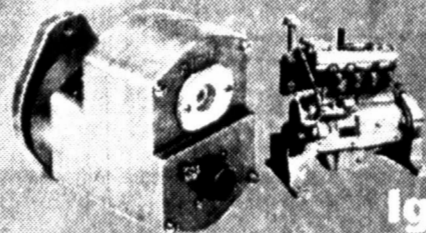


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THE PAMPA NEWS

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Smell leads to meth lab

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Editor

A strong odor wafting from a vacant lot Wednesday morning alerted a Pampa police officer on patrol that something illegal may be happening nearby.

Sure enough, the officer with the sharp sense of smell discovered a methamphetamine lab in operation and arrested a Pampa man in connection with the find.

Steven Lee Spencer, 45, 1029 S. Christy, remained in Gray County Jail today without bond on a warrant for violating parole for felony possession of a controlled substance. He's also charged with evading arrest - enhanced to a state jail felony because of prior convictions, possession of miscellaneous substances with the intent to manufacture a controlled substance

See SMELL, Page 3



(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)
Pampa Police Officer Aaron McWilliams inspects evidence Wednesday morning at the scene of a working meth lab in the 500 block of South Cuyler. McWilliams discovered the lab when he drove by and smelled ether, a component in making methamphetamine. One person was arrested after a brief chase in connection with the incident.

Manager: Supercenter opens Oct. 27

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Nicholas Castagnetta from Precision Concrete smooths recently-poured concrete around the gas pumps at the new Super Wal-Mart.

CRMWA to explore drilling of small wells

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

SANFORD - The Canadian River Municipal Water Authority will explore the possibility of drilling small wells along its aqueduct from Amarillo to Lamesa and Brownfield south of Lubbock.

"We have almost 400 miles of pipeline," Kent Satterwhite, CRMWA general manager, said at the quarterly meeting of the water authority here Wednesday afternoon.

The board of directors approved \$30,000 for a study of the project with a report to be made at their next meeting in October. The study, Satterwhite said, would identify water

sources along the pipeline.

The idea grew out of a meeting Satterwhite said he had with Boone Pickens about two months ago.

CRMWA provides water from Lake Meredith and their Roberts County well field to 11 municipalities in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, including Pampa.

They have been wanting to buy more water rights adjoining their well field, the John C. Williams Well Field, in Roberts County, but a well field along the existing CRMWA pipeline might be the answer to their problems, Satterwhite said.

"I put a pencil to it," Satterwhite said. "The

See WELLS, Page 3

lanes and probably four self-checkouts.

Pampa's new Wal-Mart Supercenter will open Oct. 27 "one way or another," said Pampa store manager Carol Carter at a luncheon meeting Wednesday of Pampa Rotary Club.

Carter was guest speaker at the club's regular meeting, held at Pampa Country Club. She said the opening date is firm regardless of such setbacks as recent wet weather.

The new Supercenter will be almost three times larger than the current Pampa Wal-Mart, she said, with expanded departments for fabrics and crafts, sporting goods, hardware and paint. The snack bar will be larger than the one in the current store. There will be about 30 cash registers, including express

stores and staff it, she said. "We will probably start hiring the first of August," she said. Of the 287 new employees, 70 percent will be full-time workers, with the remaining 30 percent as part-time help, she said. Features of the new supercenter also include aisles that are three times wider than those in the current store, and merchandise that is not stacked so high, Carter said. Merchandise for restocking will be brought in via four to six trucks per night, including two food trucks. The new store's regular hours will be 7 a.m. to 11

Oil changes and tire sales will be new services, along with one-hour photo processing and a vision center. The garden center will be "much larger and mainly inside," Carter said. Gasoline and diesel fuel will be sold from a station in front of the supercenter.

All that additional size and increase in merchandise means more employees will be needed. Wal-Mart is planning on hiring 287 new employees in addition to current workers. The new employees will be needed to help set up the new



Carter

See OPENING, Page 3

Drug seizures

Troopers stop three, get \$100,000+ of marijuana

More than \$100,000 worth of marijuana has been seized by Texas Department of Public Safety troopers in three traffic stops along Interstate 40, DPS officials say.

At 10 a.m., Wednesday, troopers stopped a 1995 Chevrolet pickup eastbound on I-40 in Carson County, DPS officials reported. Later, troopers received verbal consent to search the vehicle and discovered 100 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$58,900, packed in the spare tire and hidden in a rear quarter panel.

Two subjects were arrested in connection with the drugs. David Rocha, 30, of Las Cruces, N.M., and Miriam Rocha, 22, also of Las Cruces, were booked into Carson County Jail in Panhandle.

Troopers believe the load originated in Las Cruces and was destined for Oklahoma City, Okla.

See TROOPERS, Page 3

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1217 N. Russell ... \$47,500
424 Jupiter ... \$50,500

1019 Sierra ... \$68,000
2623 Seminole ... \$45,900

1914 N. Faulkner ... \$38,500
2225 N. Dwight ... \$35,600



Sandra Schuneman

Obituaries

Elvin Wesley Totty, 87

Elvin Wesley Totty, 87, of Pampa, died Wednesday, July 14, 2004. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. Totty was born Feb. 2, 1917, at Burkburnett. He had been a Pampa resident since 1948, working as a welder for Cabot Corporation prior to retiring in the 1970s. He married Drucilla Upton on Oct. 17, 1941, at

Lakeview. Mr. Totty was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during World War II, and belonged to Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, serving as post commander in 1988-1989. Survivors include his wife, Drucilla Totty, of the home; a daughter, Barbara Franklin of League City; a son, Wesley James Totty of Alvin; two sisters, Ola Dunn

of Hayward, Calif., and Gladys Boone of Bakersfield, Calif.; a brother, Johnny Totty of Fontana, Calif.; six grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. The family requests memorials be to BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Hattie Pinrose Hindman, 96

Hattie Pinrose Hindman, 96, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, July 14, 2004, at Borger, Texas. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 17, 2004, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Charley Wasson, a great-nephew, and David Osborne, a friend, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Hindman

Mrs. Hindman was born Aug. 7, 1907, in Winchester, Ky. She married A.J. Hindman on Sept. 21, 1934, in Amarillo. He preceded her in death on July 1, 1989. She worked as a sales clerk for C.R. Anthony's for over 40 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Anna Sunday School Class. She was a volunteer for the Pampa Senior Citizens for a long time.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Carrie Adams Haggard; one brother, Tom Haggard; and one sister, Eddie Martin. Survivors include several nieces, Shirley Eagle and husband Kent of Fritch,

Betty Terrell and husband Bill of Angleton, Linda Iker and husband Denny of Stamford, Conn., and Ruth Roeder and husband Rick of Amarillo; a host of great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews. The family requests memorials be to Caring Heart Care Home, 401 Monroe, Borger, TX 79007; or the Pampa Senior Citizens, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, July 16, 2004.

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

Alexia Kathleen Childers, 77

Alexia Kathleen Childers, 77, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, July 13, 2004, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday, July 16, 2004, at Fairview Cemetery with Pastor Leonard Cummings, of the Pampa Seventh Day Adventist Church, officiating.

Brown. She married Donald Dean Childers on Aug. 15, 1943, in Pampa. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1930 where she had worked as secretary and co-owner of Don's T.V. Sales & Service.



Childers

She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Pampa. She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Dual Lee Brown and Paul Eugene (Bill) Brown. Survivors include her husband, Donald Dean Childers of the home; two sons, Dan

Childers and wife Patty of Louisville, Colo., and Bruce Childers and wife Lee of Keene; one sister, Betty Childers of Bend, Ore.; three brothers, Dillon Leroy Brown of Pioneer, Calif., Bob Ray Brown of Morgan City, La., and Jim Gerald Brown of Redding, Calif.; one grandson, Clinton Childers; and one granddaughter, Hillary Messersmith. The family will receive visitors from 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home in Pampa.

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

Ervin Walter Baker, 89, of Pampa, died Monday, June 28, 2004, at Heritage Manor Nursing Home in Gorman, Texas. Graveside services were held Wednesday in Hillcrest Cemetery at McLean. Mr. Baker was born Jan. 18, 1915, at Denton. He married Etta Vivian Langham on

March 1, 1934, at Wheeler; she died Sept. 8, 1997. Mr. Baker was a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Pampa and was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II. He was preceded in death by his parents, George F. Baker Sr. and Susan A. York Baker; a daughter, Kathy

Palmer; a grandson, John Wilhite; three sisters; and two brothers. Survivors include a son, Bobby Baker of Desdemona; two brothers, G.F. Baker of Pampa and Arthur Baker of Vacaville, Calif.; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

Patsy Ruth Hankins, 72

Patsy Ruth Hankins, 72, of Pampa, Texas, died Tuesday, July 13, 2004, at Pampa. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, July 16, 2004, at Fairview Cemetery with the Rev. Thacker Haynes, pastor of the McLean United Methodist Church, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Hankins was born Aug. 13, 1931, in Cushing,

Okla. She was a 1949 graduate of Cushing High School. She married Luther Hankins on Dec. 18, 1954, in Los Angeles, Calif. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1985, moving from Knox City. She was a homemaker and an avid china painter. Survivors include her husband, Luther Hankins of the home; two sons, Bruce Hankins of Guymon, Okla., and Jeff Hankins of Odessa;

two sisters, Betty McAulay and husband Walter of Sand Springs, Okla., and Phyllis Ramsey and husband Jim of Cushing, Okla.; one brother, Bob Murrell and wife Carolyn of Joplin, Mo.; and two grandchildren, Jeremy Hankins and Larissa Damron, both of Odessa. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Maria Luisa Zuniga, 60

Maria Luisa Zuniga, 60, died Tuesday, July 13, 2004, at Midland Memorial Hospital at Midland. Wake services are scheduled at 7 p.m. today in Sacred Heart Church of McCamey. Funeral mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the church with Father Nilo Nalugon officiating. Burial will be in Resthaven Cemetery under the direction of Shaffer-Nichols

Funeral Home of McCamey. Mrs. Zuniga was born March 11, 1944, at Potteet. She married Pascual Zuniga, Jr. on April 20, 1963, at McCamey. Mrs. Zuniga, a resident of McCamey for 48 years, was a nurse's aide and belonged to Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Survivors include her husband, Pascual of McCamey; two sons, Daniel Zuniga of

Pampa and George Zuniga of San Antonio; two daughters, Armida Zuniga and Margarita Meraz, both of McCamey; her mother, Erlinda Casias of McCamey; three brothers, Robert Casias of Houston, Pedro Casias and Alex Casias, both of Odessa; a sister, Eva Venegas of McCamey; seven grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Services tomorrow

- CHILDERS, Alexia Kathleen** — Graveside services, 12:30 p.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
- EADS, Lucille Grace** — Graveside services, 10 a.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
- HANKINS, Patsy Ruth** — Graveside services, 11 a.m., Fairview Cemetery, Pampa.
- ZUNIGA, Maria Luisa** — Funeral mass, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart Church, McCamey.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Tuesday, July 13

Possession of drug paraphernalia was reported in the 1300 block of Garland.

Wednesday, July 14

Criminal mischief was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway. Lights valued at \$200 were broken out at the Pampa Mall.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart. A motor vehicle inspection sticker valued at \$12.50 was stolen from a vehicle.

A bag of syringes was found in the 300 block of Hazel.

Domestic assault with minor injuries was reported in the 600 block of Roberta.

Burglary was reported in the 500 block of Roberta. An entertainment center valued at \$1,000 was stolen and a window valued at \$150 was broken.

Stephen Spencer, 45, 1029 S. Christy, was arrested on a warrant for parole violation and for evading arrest, possession of a controlled substance, possession of anhydrous ammonia with intent to manufacture, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny and hot, with a high around 97. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 68. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 96. South wind around 15 mph. Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low

near 68. Southeast wind around 15 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 94. East southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. East northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south southeast. Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 93. South wind around 10 mph.

Lubbock, was arrested on a bond surrender for criminal trespass. Mark Allen Haynes, 35, 628 Roberta, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance. Matt Scott Mears, 17, 2128 Hamilton, was arrested for stalking.

Fire

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

Wednesday, July 14
12:54 p.m. — Three units and six firefighters responded to a report of a missing child in the 400 block of Wynne Street. The child was found with the grandmother.

1:21 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Thursday, July 15
2 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 700 block of North Zimmers.

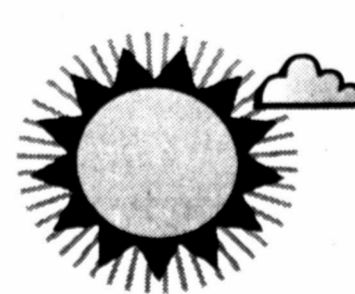
5:46 a.m. — Two units and six firefighters responded to a fire alarm at Meredith House, 812 W. 25th. It was a false alarm.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, July 14

Bridgett D. Murray, 18, Co. Rd. 1 12075, was arrested for the Pampa Police Department on a charge of assault causing bodily injury. Marisa Ramirez, 24,



H 97
L 68

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anebary Grain of Pampa.

Wheat	3.36
Milo	3.69
Corn	4.46
Soybeans	7.05

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	49.16	-0.16
BP	54.88	+0.38
Cabot Corp	38.78	-0.12

Cabot Oil Gas	42.86	+0.26
Coca Cola	51.03	-0.13
VLO	76.44	-0.26
HAL	30.75	+0.24
Trad	37.31	NC
NOI	33.44	+0.29
KMI	60.20	+0.45
XCEL	16.95	+0.12
Kerr McGee	52.94	-0.24
Limited	19.92	+0.17
Williams	12.17	+0.03
MCD	27.91	+0.12
XOM	45.38	-0.08
Atmos	24.91	-0.07

Pioneer Nat	34.97	-0.05
JCP	38.97	-0.45
CBP	78.53	+0.43
SLB	63.69	+0.12
Tenneco	12.43	+0.07
CVX	94.82	+0.07
Wal-Mart	52.63	+0.05
OKE	21.83	+0.03
NS Grp	17.71	+0.26

New York Gold	401.75
Silver	6.38
West Texas Crude	39.44

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Officer McWilliams patrol in the South Cuyler Wednesday y the strong s according to from Lt. Fr the Pam Department. The dist emanated fro

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Lucino River bulldozes a gas pumps

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p.m. The store opened i in 1960, Carte Pampa's

Pit bull

Pampa Ar officers seek a that bit a man at the corner and Lefors.

If they don by July 20, Control head Burns, the 3rd tim will have series of painf Anyone ha tion regardi contact Pa Department a Pampa Anim 669-5775.

Smell

Continued from Page 1

over one gram and under four grams, possession of anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Officer Aaron McWilliams was on regular patrol in the 500 block of South Cuyler at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday when he noticed the strong smell of ether, according to a press release from Lt. Fred Courtney of the Pampa Police Department.

The distinctive odor emanated from a vacant lot

at 524 S. Cuyler.

Ether is commonly used for medical and industrial purposes, but is also known to be a component in making illegal methamphetamine.

When McWilliams got out of the patrol car, he saw a car parked on the property with the driver's door standing open. He recognized the vehicle from another meth lab bust on June 26 at 1029 S. Christy, police said.

As the police dispatcher relayed vehicle registration information to McWilliams, a man stood up from between two chest-type freezers located in a partially torn-down shed in the northwest corner of the property.

The man started walking towards the alley.

McWilliams called to him, but the man ignored him and began running west between the houses, according to the news release.

"Texas law states that you only need three of the ingredients to charge a person with manufacturing a controlled substance."

— Lt. Fred Courtney
Pampa Police Dept.

McWilliams chased the man across Russell Street. He called to some citizens

standing in front of business to help him catch the man. About that time, the fleeing suspect tripped and fell. McWilliams and one of the citizens held the man until more police arrived. At that time the man, identified by police as Spencer, was taken into custody.

Once Spencer was under arrest, Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner, and Lts. Kenneth Hopsop and Courtney returned to 524 S. Cuyler. When they arrived, they could smell both ether and ammonia. After a brief search, the origin of the odors was found between the two chest freezers.

A Pampa narcotics agent was called to conduct the investigation, police said.

The agent discovered what is described as a large lab. He estimated the amount of product to be between 200 and 400 grams.

A search of the vehicle first seen by McWilliams revealed four ingredients needed to manufacture meth.

"Texas law states that you only need three of the ingredients to charge a person with manufacturing of a controlled substance," Courtney said in the release.

The agent took samples of several liquids found for analysis by the Texas Department of Public Safety Laboratory in Amarillo along with other evidence connected with the crime scene.

When officers searched

the suspect, they found \$550 and a receipt for about \$150 from a local business showing he had bought most of the ingredients.

"An attempt to seize both the money and the car will be made by Officer McWilliams," Courtney stated. "Both are believed to have been integral parts in the preparation and implementation of this meth lab."

Courtney said the amount of material associated with the suspected lab "mandated that an approved company" conduct the clean-up of materials not taken for evidence.

He said that police do not anticipate charging any other individuals in connection with the incident.

Wells

Continued from Page 1

more I looked at it, the more excited I got about it. To begin with, you don't have to have a lot of property."

In theory, CRMWA would buy water from farmers and ranchers along their pipeline south of Amarillo. Satterwhite said that south of Amarillo, the pipeline relies on gravity flow through Plainview and Lubbock to its end points at Lamesa and Brownfield.

The pumps would be small and not need permitting to the extent of the large industrial pumps the water authority now uses in its Roberts County well field.

Adding water along the way, Satterwhite said, would free up more water in the northern reaches of their pipeline for Pampa, Borger and Amarillo.

Satterwhite said the goal of the project is to buy 17,000 to 60,000 acre-feet of water annually.

While Satterwhite said he was looking for water within 50 to 100 feet of the aqueduct that almost parallels Interstate 27, other water officials said the project

could possibly go out a mile to a mile and a half from the pipeline. The consensus of opinion was that pipeline costs for anything over five miles from the aqueduct would be prohibitive.

Satterwhite said he hopes that water rights along the aqueduct would be easier to purchase than large blocks of water rights in Roberts County.

Williams, general manager of the Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District, said he thought the plan might work, but only if CRMWA was able to offer farmers along the aqueduct more than they could make irrigating grain sorghum or cotton. He said he thought it would be possible for the CRMWA to come up with a figure that would be profitable for the farmers and still be less than what CRMWA was spending in Roberts County. Everyone would benefit from such a scenario, he said.

Jerry Carlson, board member from Pampa, however, asked about the costs of such a project and who

would bear them. He pointed out that Pampa at the north end of the pipeline system pays for repairs on the aqueduct that reaches east from Lake Meredith and questions whether Pampa or Borger should pay for water development south of Amarillo.

While Satterwhite said that such a project should benefit all member cities by increasing the allocations of water, it is too early to tell exactly how the project might work or even if it would. He said he should have much more information concerning the feasibility of the plan by CRMWA's next quarterly meeting.

Along the same lines, CRMWA decided to delay the purchase of water rights from the Duncan Ranch in Hutchinson County.

Satterwhite said that the new Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District rules were still in flux so he recommended delaying the \$2.5 million

purchase until October.

In other business, the board of directors approved a hydrological study in the John C. Williams Well Field in Roberts County. Satterwhite said the study would consist of two parts. The first would be a \$65,000 study that would give the water authority a better idea of what's happening in the aquifer and allow for better management and a \$180,000 study that would allow for some water exploration within the well field.

Satterwhite noted that the test wells involved would cost about \$10,000 rather than \$1 million or more for a production well. Such studies could save the water authority and the member cities a lot of money in the future, he said.

The CRMWA board also approved a water tap for Slaton to sell water to Lubbock-Cooper ISD during the school year. The water would come out of Slaton's allotment.

The board approved \$96,000 for well indicators to note the water level in the wells of the Roberts County well field, and they awarded a contract to Hinkle Drilling for maintenance of pumps in the field.



Strike!

(Pampa News photo by Marilyn Powers)

Bowling pins aren't the only things falling at Harvester Lanes, 1401 S. Hobart. A food service delivery truck got caught Tuesday on one of the guy wires holding the bowling alley's sign, pulling the sign and pole off its base, according to a Harvester Lanes spokesperson.

"I put a pencil to it. The more I looked at it, the more excited I got about it."

— Kent Satterwhite
General manager,
CRMWA



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Lucino Rivera of DNB Enterprises out of Houston bulldozes a path for concrete to be laid around the gas pumps of the new Super Walmart.

Opening

Continued from Page 1

p.m. The first Wal-Mart store opened in Rogers, Ark. in 1960, Carter said.

Pampa's Wal-Mart at

Pit bull sought

Pampa Animal Control officers seek a brown pit bull that bit a man Saturday night at the corner of Browning and Lefors.

If they don't find the dog by July 20, said Animal Control head officer, Sandy Burns, the 35-year-old victim will have to undergo a series of painful rabies shots.

Anyone having information regarding the dog can contact Pampa Police Department at 669-5700 or Pampa Animal Control at 669-5775.

Troopers

Continued from Page 1

Almost \$50,000 worth of marijuana was seized last weekend in two separate traffic stops along Interstate 40, according to a news release dated July 14 by Trooper Wayne Beighle of Amarillo.

The first drug bust occurred at 10 a.m. Sunday, July 11, after DPS officers stopped a 1999 Dodge Neon eastbound on I-40 just west of Amarillo for a traffic violation. The driver, Bradley James Krueger, 20, Glendale, Ariz., was later arrested after 14 pounds of marijuana was allegedly found concealed in a raft located in the trunk. Krueger was booked into Potter County Detention Center.

Troopers believe the load originated in Arizona and was headed for Minnesota, Beighle said in the release.

The marijuana had an estimated value of \$8,176,

he said.

The second bust happened at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, on I-40 near Shamrock. Troopers stopped an eastbound 2004 Oldsmobile Alero for a traffic violation. The driver, Marikka Angelic Bender, 28, Phoenix, Ariz., was arrested after 70 pounds of marijuana was reportedly found concealed in luggage in the vehicle's trunk. The marijuana is worth an estimated \$41,230, Beighle said.

Bender was booked into the Wheeler County jail in Wheeler.

Troopers believe the marijuana originated in Phoenix, with an unknown destination.

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Viewpoints

Entrepreneur designs pads for tree frogs

I've heard of entrepreneurial wizards, but a guy who begins an on-line business venture designing and building (complete with explanatory brochure, no less) alternate lodging for tree frogs? That's taking free enterprise to a whole new level.

What's next for this potential real-estate tycoon, a "lily pad" day-spa? Dollhouses for tadpoles? A resort-cum-casino for the Kings River Slender Salamander?

If I sound disgruntled, don't let that fool you. I am disgruntled.

I have it on the most reliable of authorities — my family (the people who know me

best, after all) — that I, yours truly, am a veritable caudron of cock-eyed, far-fetched, hair-brained schemes. Yup. That's right.

So how come none of my creative flights of fancy ever morph into a prospective windfall? Lack of creative marketing, maybe?

According to a recent on-line article by The Associated Press, Stanley Decell of Ocala, Fla., is responsible for filling a heretofore unrealized niche in the real estate market for the lowly tree frog.

Decell, a true humanitarian, devised this latest in pool-front property to give the innocuous tree frog a break.

That, and his wife began complaining that the tree frogs were infiltrating the family pool and associated pool equipment.

Decell first went "public" with his invention, the AP notes, during a **Skyla Bryant** **Master Gardener's Spring News Editor** Festival, which saw 35 "hotels" snapped up at a cost of \$10 each. This promising beginning led Decell to go on-line with his ingenious new product.

The article explains that the hotels are made of "compressed paper board" that

appear "similar to a bird house."

"The tree frog," the AP article says, "enters the hotel by jumping up on its roof. It then slides down and eases through a hole in the side of the hotel, using its long legs to balance itself."

The hotels, the article says, (besides being free) offer the tree frogs shelter from predatory snakes and other animals.

I wonder, is it possible to feel critter-envy?

A rent-free, poolside condo in Florida doesn't

sound half-bad.

You know your life is truly pathetic when you lead a less glamorous-sounding lifestyle than a tree frog.

According to the AP, Decell has only to "step(s) out of his screened-in porch, walk(s) across the back yard, and survey(s) his plants, his pool and his hotels."

No doubt his neighborhood real-estate values are soaring. Okay, okay, bad joke.

I wonder, though ... what happens if Decell decides to abandon his amphibian tenants for a pad more befitting of his as yet unrealized rise along the ladder of corporate success?

And tree frogs, the AP

notes, are well worth protecting: "The tree frog is a nocturnal, arboreal species (i.e., they inhabit trees) that feeds on insects but is preyed upon by snakes and birds. More importantly," the article states, "the tree frog is an indicator species, a species whose presence or lack thereof can signal problems within an environment."

What about other members of the animal kingdom?

Are they not just as special as tree frogs?

Who's going to build condos for them?

Is there a lawyer in the house?

I know a squirrel who is interested in filing suit.



Skyla Bryant
Master Gardener's Spring News Editor



Mike Kogge THE DENVER POST 2004 www.cartoons.com

Today in History

(AP) — Today is Thursday, July 15, the 197th day of 2004. There are 169 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Forty years ago, on July 15, 1964, Sen. Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona was nominated for president by the Republican national convention in San Francisco.

On this date:

In 1606, Dutch painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands.

In 1870, Georgia became the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union.

In 1916, Boeing Company, originally known as Pacific Aero Products, was founded in Seattle.

In 1948, President Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.

In 1965, U.S. scientists displayed close-up photographs of the planet Mars taken by Mariner Four.

In 1971, in a surprise announcement, President Nixon told the nation he would visit the People's Republic of China.

In 1976, a 36-hour kidnap ordeal began for 26 schoolchildren and their bus driver as they were abducted near Chowchilla, Calif., by three gunmen and imprisoned in an underground cell. (The captives escaped unharmed.)

In 1978, President Carter, in West Germany for an economic summit, presided over a "town meeting" during which he fielded questions, from about 1,000

'It is astonishing what force, purity, and wisdom it requires for a human being to keep clear of falsehoods.'

— Margaret Fuller
American journalist

Berliners.

In 1979, President Carter delivered his "malaise" speech in which he lamented what he called a "crisis of confidence" in America.

In 1992, Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton claimed the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in New York.

Ten years ago: Microsoft Corporation reached a settlement with the Justice Department, promising to end practices it used to corner the market for personal computer software programs.

Five years ago: The government acknowledged for the first time that thousands of workers were made sick while making nuclear weapons and announced a plan to compensate many of them. China declared that it had invented its own neutron bomb. The Seattle Mariners played their first game in their new home, Safeco Field, losing to the San Diego Padres, 3-2.

Ruling upholds landowner rights

Far too often, Texas and American farmers and ranchers have felt that courts have ignored their private property rights. When it's been the case of "Man vs. Insect," courts have ruled time after time for the insect, leaving farmers, ranchers and other entities with land they couldn't use, develop or sell. In other words, land that was rendered virtually worthless.

The same held true when private property was "taken" for public projects. More than likely, landowners were not fairly compensated and land they did retain was

often devalued or worse yet, destroyed.

Well, something commendable happened on the way to the courthouse.

The Texas Supreme Court recently upheld the decision that the Tarrant Regional Water District "took" the property of O.L. Gragg by flooding when the district discharged water from a reservoir after a heavy rain. In addition, the court upheld

the lower court's award for damages. This is a ruling that has far-reaching implications to property owners

across the state beyond a first glance. It was a crucial decision and one that stands up for private property rights across Texas.

The concept of "takings" comes from the Fifth Amendment of our nation's Constitution, which prohibits the taking of private

property by the government for a public use without just compensation.

The Graggs have owned their land since 1949, and the ranch is one of the largest in East Texas located in both Anderson and Freestone counties. The Trinity River borders the land in some places and crosses the ranch's midpoint. Regular floodings of the river made the land extremely fertile, and the land was excellent for raising cattle with its abundant supply of natural forage.

See RULING, Page 5

Susan Combes
Agriculture Commissioner



Afghan contribution causes concern

WASHINGTON (AP) — When NATO took command of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan last summer, there were high hopes for multiple payoffs for the alliance.

An effective NATO performance could smooth over the American-European split caused by the Iraq war and, perhaps more importantly, create the security environment the Afghans urgently need to hold national elections.

Now, almost a year since NATO took on the task, there is widespread disillusionment with its performance, contributing to doubts about Afghanistan's

future stability.

While accusing NATO of dithering, Bush administration officials say the allies still have time to help ensure a successful presidential election in October.

Parliamentary elections, due to have been held simultaneously, have been put off until spring.

John Hulsman, a European analyst at the Heritage Foundation, says heartfelt allied efforts in Afghanistan is deepening American suspicions about

NATO's utility.

"Our interests are not the same. We have to stop pretending that they are," he says.

Officially, the alliance takes a different view. A communique issued at the NATO summit in Turkey two weeks ago said, "Contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan is NATO's key priority."

"NATO's leadership of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force demon-

strates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to ensure our common security."

Charles Kupchan of the Council on Foreign Relations says NATO's commitment in Afghanistan has yielded little thus far.

While helping to stabilize Kabul, he says, "most of rest of country is the wild, wild west, including the south and east."

Bush administration officials say such comments fail to recognize that the deployment to Afghanistan is a bold departure for an

See Afghan, Page 5

Washington Today

George Gedda
Associated Press Writer

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Pampa News photo by ReDonn Woods

Fresh from the farm

Geraldine Shultz of Pampa checks out produce bargains at Frank's Thriftway recently.

Ruling

Continued from Page 4

The Tarrant Regional Water District is a water control and improvement district that provides for the storage and conservation of water. In 1987, the district completed the 1.2 million acre-foot Richland-Chambers Reservoir to supply water to Tarrant County and the surrounding areas. The reservoir was built to supply water, not control floods, and the district keeps the reservoir as full as possible. A narrow discharge channel connects the dam to the Trinity River. In March 1990, heavy rains caused extensive flooding in the Trinity Basin and for the first time, the reservoir released water through the floodgates. Consequently, for the first time, the Gragg Ranch suffered monumental flood damage, destroying levees and washing away crops and large tracts of land. O.L. Gragg and his partners sued for inverse condemnation, alleging that the flooding made their land useless for extended amounts of time. By the time the case was tried in 1998, the ranch had experienced a number of extensive floods similar to

the one in 1990.

The court ruled that a "taking" had occurred, and damages were calculated based on the value of the property before and after the taking. The court of appeals upheld the verdict, as did the Texas Supreme Court.

For too many years, uncompensated takings have been an expensive burden of private property owners, who have often borne the full burden of the costs for the public good. It's a cruel consequence when landowners lose land to federal, state or local authorities and are not justly compensated for it. It has created an adversarial situation of doubt, distrust and discouragement.

While serving in the Texas Legislature, I was proud to author the Texas Private Property Rights Preservation Act protecting Texas landowners. That's why I applaud the Texas courts and the Texas Supreme Court for their bold actions and just decisions. It was a matter of fairness and responsibility — the water district needed to take

responsibility for its actions and the Graggs and their partners deserved fair compensation for their devastating loss.

There isn't much doubt that Texas must plan for its future water needs. The state cannot afford to be "water short." But when planning water projects — especially when constructing reservoirs — water districts and local authorities must ensure that landowners are justly compensated when their land is used or impacted for the public good. This is a basic right guaranteed by our

Constitution.

It should not only apply to land that is lost when the reservoir is built and filled, but also to downstream easements in case water releases cause downstream flooding.

In addition, if cities should outright condemn property to obtain surface water rights, first they must assure that they have implemented the highest levels of water conservation before going to our rural areas in search of water and private land for reservoirs.

Legislation passed during the 78th regular legislative session makes that a law. In addition, the legislation requires cities to prepare a drought contingency plan; make a good faith effort to obtain practicable alternative water supplies; and show that the city needs the water rights to provide for domestic needs within the next 10 years.

Ownership of private property has been the foundation of this country. I applaud the Texas Legislature and the Texas Supreme Court for upholding this principle.

'For too many years uncompensated takings have been an expensive burden on private property owners ...'

— Susan Combs
Agriculture Commissioner

Afghan

Continued from Page 5

alliance that had never ventured beyond Europe's borders.

At Istanbul, the allies committed themselves to increase troop levels from 6,500 to 10,000. Some of the new forces will be stationed outside the country for use only in an emergency.

The NATO troops serve apart from the 20,000 U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan, which focus on tracking down remnants of al-Qaida and the deposed Taliban government, mostly in the border area with Pakistan.

These militant groups would benefit from any failure of democracy in Afghanistan to take root. Other anti-democratic forces also would profit, including the violent warlord-led militias that control much of the countryside.

The International Crisis Group, which offers analyses on a host of trouble spots, said in a June report on Afghanistan: "Security affects everything from elections to reconstruction to

women's rights to drugs to the disarmament and demobilization of warlords."

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made warlord disarmament a top priority earlier this year but has made almost no headway.

At the Istanbul summit two weeks ago, Karzai implored the Europeans to take Afghanistan more seriously.

'Please hurry. Provide the Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without coercion.'

— Hamid Karzai
Afghan President

"Please hurry," he said. "Provide the Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without coercion."

NATO has agreed to branch out beyond Kabul to the west and north of Afghanistan, setting up

civilian-military teams designed to help the Karzai government extend its authority and to create a secure environment, among other goals.

NATO has had the authority to expand operations beyond Kabul since last October but the only such deployment has been the dispatch of a German unit to the northeastern city of Kunduz, considered a relatively safe area.

Germany, with 1,909 troops in Afghanistan, and Canada, with 1,576, are by far the most generous of the NATO contributors. France ranks next with 565. The remaining 23 NATO countries, plus 11 outside NATO, have pitched in about 2,500 combined.

To the extent that Afghanistan is short-changed, many Europeans say the situation would be less uncertain if the United States had redoubled its efforts there — and not depleted its resources on what they regard as a highly questionable war in Iraq.

EDITOR'S NOTE — George Gedda has covered foreign affairs for The Associated Press since 1968.

Community happenings

• **The Children of Alcoholics Foundation**, an education-prevention arm of Phoenix House, recently launched a website (www.coaf.org) for children of substance abusers of all ages. The website is designed to help educators, physicians, social workers and other professionals. The site includes sections for teens and adults who have grown up with an alcoholic or drug addicted parent as well as information for teachers, social workers and others.

• **Coffee Memorial Blood Center** in Amarillo is now open on Saturdays and will take appointments for blood donations. The new donation hours are: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Friday; and 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday. The center is also promoting The Birthday Club. If a donor donates blood on their birthday, they will receive a Blood Drop Beanie. For more information, call (806) 358-4563 or 1-800-658-6178.

• **Cerebral Palsy Foundation** is seeking families with children (birth to age 12) affected by cerebral palsy in an effort to establish a chapter in the area. CPF offers financial and emotional support as well as many free services. For more information, call 1-888-872-7966 toll-free.

• **The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** will hold "Dialogue," a patient/family education support group sponsored by the cancer center and the American Cancer Society, Thursdays from 12 noon-1:00 p.m. this month. For more information, call Gerry Kelly at (806) 359-4673, ext. 235 or Stan McKeever at (806) 359-4673, ext. 141 or toll-free at 1-800-274-4673.

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New evacuations as Northeast cleans up from flooding

CAMPBELLTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A storm packing high winds ripped through south-central Pennsylvania on Wednesday, damaging at least 50 homes in a housing development and injuring 24 people, including one critically, authorities said.

Thirteen-year-old Christy Hetrick was at home when the storm hit.

She said she heard "kind of like a screeching noise" and looked outside to see many trees knocked over. She said the storm lasted about an hour.

"I had tears in my eyes because it was so horrible," she said.

High wind and heavy rains have

damaged hundreds of houses, stalled cars, breached small dams, downed power lines and closed roadways from spots in the Midwest all the way to the Eastern Seaboard in an onslaught of severe weather since Monday.

The storms wreaked havoc with airline schedules as well, delaying flights Wednesday to New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport by more than three hours.

Other airports along the East Coast — in Baltimore, Washington, Boston, New York

and Philadelphia — experienced delays up to an hour.

In New Jersey, residents of Lumberton — the town hardest hit by floodwaters — awaited word from inspectors on when they could return to their homes to assess the damage and start cleaning up.

'I had tears in my eyes because it was so horrible.'

—Christy Hetrick
Storm survivor

The National Weather Service said Clarks Mills, Wis., was hit by a tornado Tuesday afternoon with winds of at least 73 mph.

Meteorologist Gary Austin said the tornado skipped along a path 4.5 miles long, damaging a dozen houses and farm buildings. There were no injuries.

In nearby Pemberton Township, nearly three dozen homes were evacuated Wednesday night as emergency management officials released water from a storm-battered dam on Rancocas Creek as a precaution.

Inspectors from the state Department of Environmental Protection and other officials had checked the dam earlier Wednesday and determined it was in danger of collapse from a buildup of water.

After deciding to release the water, Pemberton Township Mayor Robert McCullough ordered the evacuation of 32 families, said Burlington County spokesman Dave Wyche.

Officials warned of probable flooding along the north branch.

"The big thing is letting people know before they go to bed," Wyche said. "You don't want to wake up floating."

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Wildfires devastate thousands of acres

LAKE HUGHES, Calif. (AP) — Thunderstorms provided some relief for firefighters in Southern California, but wildfires throughout the state continued to force evacuations as they charred more than 19,000 acres of brush and forest.

A monsoonal flow from the southeast brought heavy rain to the southern flank of a 3,690-acre blaze on the edge of San Bernardino National Forest, said Randy Nugent, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry.

The wildfire was 70 percent contained late Wednesday, as it burned toward unpopulated terrain.

The thunderstorms, however, did not reach into northern Los Angeles County, where a 4,750-acre fire in Pine Canyon west of Lake Hughes in the Angeles National Forest forced the evacuation Wednesday of another 80 homes. About 500 homes were evacuated Tuesday.

"The fire has been unre-

dictable, but now firefighters are trying to make a stand at Highway 138 — just north of the fire — to attempt to cut it off there," said Los Angeles County Fire Inspector John Mancha.

'The minute a plume of smoke starts anywhere in the area, that's when we start getting the phone calls.'

—Linda Martin
Business owner

Linda Martin, who owns a convenience store about nine miles from the fire, said she has no plans to evacuate. Her business is an unofficial information center during wildfires, telling residents which areas are affected and which roads are closed.

"The minute a plume of smoke starts anywhere in the

area, that's when we start getting the phone calls," Martin said. "This is a pretty close community. Information travels very quickly, and if there's someone in distress or need, everyone's there."

In eastern San Diego County, an 8,649-acre blaze sparked by illegal fireworks was 75 percent contained late Wednesday, and was expected to be fully surrounded by Thursday evening.

The blaze, which began as two fires on Tuesday, prompted evacuation of about 100 rural homes and about 200 youngsters from a Boy Scout camp, said California Department of Forestry Firefighter Tyler Ashton.

Two outbuildings were destroyed and four firefighters were treated for minor injuries, he said.

In Kern County, a fire that broke out Wednesday afternoon burned 625 acres and destroyed a 1,500-square-foot house and a motor home, said county fire Capt.

Doug Johnston. The fire was 50 percent contained Wednesday night and authorities expected to have it contained by early Thursday.

In the Sierra, hikers were evacuated and trails were closed in part of Yosemite National Park after a lightning-sparked wildfire grew to 1,300 acres Tuesday.

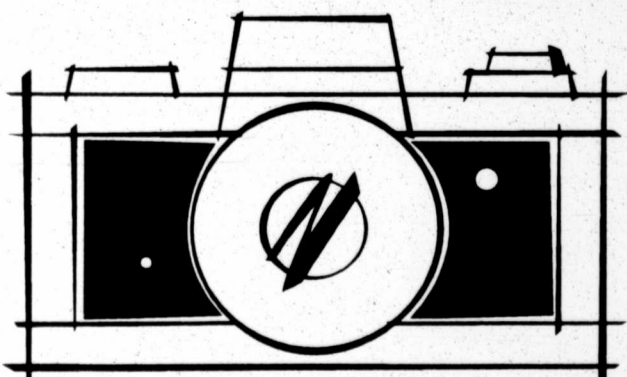
It was one of nine fires burning in the park from lightning strikes two weeks ago, the National Park Service said.

Firefighters on Wednesday contained two fires in Riverside County near Lake Elsinore that burned about 500 acres.

Three firefighters suffered heat-related injuries battling one blaze that was caused by a discarded cigarette.

In Nevada, four firefighters and a TV reporter were injured, 16 structures were destroyed and about 550 homes and businesses were threatened Wednesday by a wildfire burning on the west edge of Carson City.

COMMUNITY CAMERAS



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THE PAMPA NEWS
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Dallas-Edwards Reunion hosts 125-plus in Pampa

Earl and Mary Jane Dallas, their four children and grandchildren hosted the Dallas-Edwards Family Reunion recently in Pampa.

The family has held reunions since the 1930s and officially kept records annually since 1973, when the family matriarch, Cora Dee Edwards (Dallas) died. Cora Dee Edwards' family "went West" from Texas to New Mexico to homestead when Cora was a very young teenager. She was one of nine children of J.B. and Esta Ellen (Brazill) Edwards to survive to adulthood.

As many familiar stories of the day, Cora married "the man next door," H. Harry Dallas.

Harry and his two brothers, Clarence and Hayden, and their mother Mary Ellen Dallas, all homesteaded in Lea County, N.M., in the early 1900s.

Harry and Cora raised 11 children, first on the ranch at Caprock in Lea County, and then on a farm around Floyd. Cora was a fabulous cook, warm-hearted and loved by all. Everyone who knew the family say they loved to go to Cora's house to visit and always felt welcome and were served great food. Cora hosted an annual family gathering most years around July 4th; and when she passed on in June 1973, her 11 children pledged to continue the tradition in order to keep family ties strong.

The tradition has served not only Cora and Harry's children well, but also the offspring of their siblings, many of whom have participated in the annual three day reunions each summer.



Among those attending the Dallas family reunion were (above) Arin, Alisha, Tami and Alan Dallas; Charles, Keva, Adeena and Chris Dallas; Sherry, Alex, Lexi, Earl and Mary Jane Dallas; Mary Adams and Butch Dallas; Cory Dallas, Pam Phelps and Paul Phelps.

Their children were born from 1918 to 1940. First Raymon, then Ira and then Ray have passed on during the last decade. Eight children are still living. There were 40 first cousins born to the 11 children, of whom 37 are still alive.

Earl Dallas, this year's host, is the 10th of the 11 children. He and Mary Jane have four children and 13 grandchildren, living in Pampa. Earl and Mary Jane have hosted reunions in the past, but this is the first time they have invited the clan to Pampa. About 125 family members came to Pampa for the three-day event, June 25-27.

They enjoyed a traditional family reunion, with Friday being visiting with each other and seeing local attractions. Many went to "Lone Star Rising," the local musical. They stayed at local hotels, in RVs and with Earl's family. Some drove, some flew.

Saturday was a day of family photos, fabulous food cooked by Earl and his children, entertainment, and an auction which supplies not only the money for facility rentals and food, but also for cards and flowers when a family member passes on. Six such flower/funeral occasions occurred this year and more than sufficient funds have been on hand to handle the remembrances on behalf of every one.

Harry and Cora Dallas were Southern Baptists, and the Sunday gathering includes a church service, singing, and prayer.

The Dallahs all extend their appreciation to the Pampa community for great weather, a great meeting site — the Community Center, lake, children's park, and RV park a few minutes outside of town by the big "Welcome to Pampa" sign, and hospitality extended to them.

Ready

Leon Scherer

Woman

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A woman offered to use her old pig as bait for an actor who Tarzan will be

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Ready to race

Leon Scherek of Pampa preparing for action recently at the lawnmower races in Pampa.

Woman who offered pig as tiger bait faces animal cruelty charges

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A woman who offered to use her 5-month-old pig as bait to lure a tiger that escaped from the home of an actor who once played Tarzan will be cited for ani-

mal cruelty, officials said. Linda Meredith, of Loxahatchee, put the pig in the trunk of her car and drove to the neighborhood where officials were searching for the tiger shortly after

she heard of its escape. Meredith asked officers to grab the hind legs of the pig, named Baby, or twist its ears so it would squeal and attract the tiger. The officers declined her offer.

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control Director Dianne Sauve said Meredith will be cited for transporting the pig in her trunk.

Ditka spurns Senate race

CHICAGO (AP) — With four months to go before the election, Illinois Republicans are desperately searching for a U.S. Senate candidate after former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka said he wouldn't run.

Republicans confessed Wednesday night they had no surefire strategy for finding a candidate who could raise money and take on Obama.

The state GOP has tried to fill the top of its state ticket since investment banker Jack Ryan dropped out of the race nearly three weeks ago.

Ryan's divorce papers contained embarrassing allegations that he took his wife, "Boston Public" actress Jeri Ryan, to sex clubs before they split up.

The draft Ditka bandwagon started rolling Monday and the NFL Hall of Famer said the idea of running for the seat of retiring U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald excited him. By Wednesday night, however, Ditka said that he'd decided against it.

"There was a moment when I said, God, I'd like to take this and run with it, and then I said, you know, put your head on straight and think about what you're getting into," Ditka said outside his restaurant.

'There was a moment when I said, God, I'd like to take this and run with it, and then I said, you know, put your head on straight and think about what you're getting into.'

—Mike Ditka
Ex-Chicago Bears coach

The Republican State Central Committee must sift through a stack of would-be candidates to oppose Democrat Barack Obama, a state senator from Chicago who has drawn a national following among party progressives and raised a large war chest.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I live in a small community of fewer than 200 people. We installed a swimming pool in our back yard and made the mistake of allowing neighbors to come over to swim.

I recently started a home-based business, and one of my neighbors refuses to understand that I have to work. Even in the winter she comes over and sits on our yard furniture, waiting for me to come out and talk to her. In the summer, she comes unannounced and either sunbathes in our yard or swims in our pool. One day she caught my poor husband on the deck tanning in his birthday suit.

We have asked people to call before coming, but some of our neighbors have come to swim and left their kids there -- as though I am expected to baby-sit for them.

Have you anything I could laminate and post in my back yard that will remind my neighbors about observing common courtesy and not coming over unannounced?

— DESPERATE IN KANSAS

DEAR DESPERATE: There's an old saying, if folks take advantage of you once, shame on them; if they take advantage of you twice, shame on YOU.

You can put a stop to the drop-ins by becoming assertive. The next time you find your yard populated with uninvited guests, go outside and tell them, "I'm sorry, but today isn't a good day for me to have people use the pool. Next time, please call before coming over."

Some pool owners have solved the problem by installing a flagpole in their yards and raising a "welcome flag" when guests are invited to swim. Others post signs next to the pool area, stating that the pool is open to guests from () to () on specified days and that children must be supervised by parents at all times.

It is extremely important that you be properly insured because should someone be injured on your property, you would be liable -- so call your insurance agent and make certain your homeowner's insurance is current and adequate. Good luck.

P.S. Have you considered putting in a fence with a locked gate?

DEAR ABBY: My son and his wife have two children, a son, age 7, and a daughter, age 5. Every day when my son leaves for work, he drops his son off at school.

Before they leave the house, he takes his daughter to the bathroom and then she is locked in her bedroom until her mother gets out of bed.

I have tried telling them that this isn't right. To me, it is very dangerous -- and probably illegal -- to leave a young child locked in a room unattended. I also worry that it may cause psychological damage. Could you please give me some words that I can pass along to them? They refuse to take me seriously.

—SLEEPING BEAUTY'S MOTHER-IN-LAW

DEAR MOTHER-IN-LAW: It would be interesting to know how long and why your daughter-in-law stays in bed in the mornings. Could she be depressed? Substance-addicted? It is her responsibility to care for and supervise her daughter -- not (literally) lie down on the job until it's convenient.

Since your son and daughter-in-law are deaf to your concerns, please inform child protective services. I, too, am worried about the psychological implications for your grandchild.

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For Better Or Worse



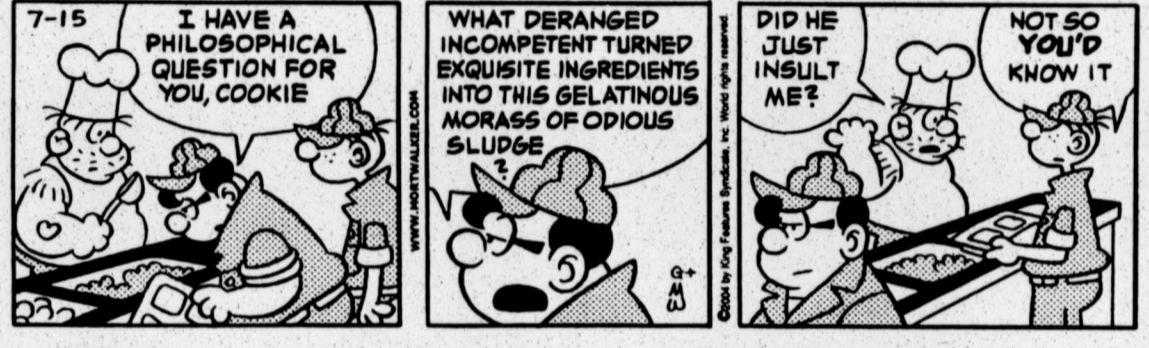
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Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 2 Neat as

1 One of the bears

5 Old deliverer

11 -- arms

12 Split base

13 Catching aid

14 Being

15 Forebear

17 Crude home

18 Neck parts

22 Joyous

24 Dick's veep

25 Boxing great

26 Light metal

27 Aspirations

30 Prepares for a trip

32 Role finder

33 Fire remnant

34 Lickable sweet

38 Gaming spot

41 Silent performer

42 Mistreats

43 Folding money

44 Deadly fly

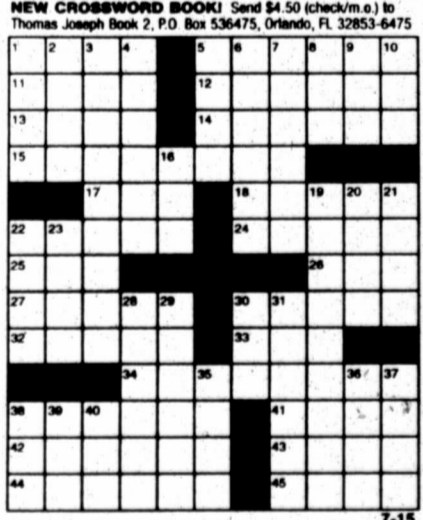
45 Duct part

DOWN

1 Cougar



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



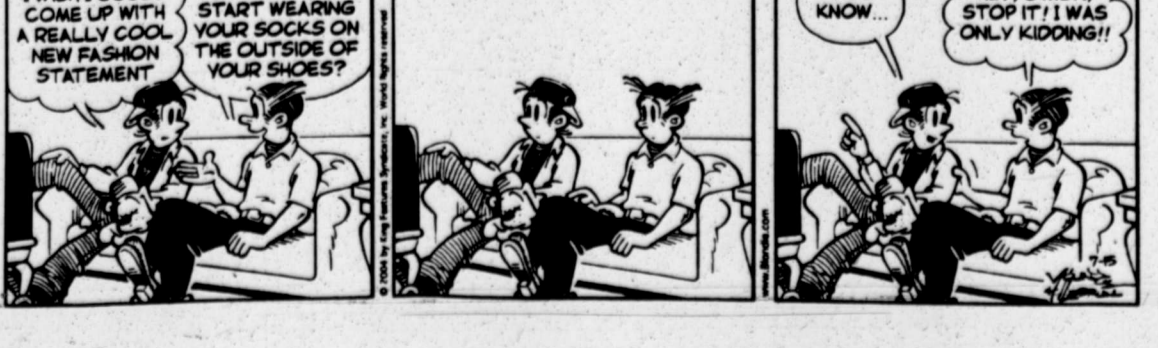
The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



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With a Plainview Optimist Randall Co bound.

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Sports Day

North Randall crushes Plainview

With a 6-0 victory over Plainview Wednesday at Optimist Park, North Randall County is Arkansas bound.

The West Texas Cal Ripken 11-12 State Champions will play in the regional tournament later this month. The winner of that tournament advances to the World Series.

North Randall made it look easy with three pitchers holding Plainview to one hit and three baserunners. Jeremi Moreno, who pitched a perfect first two innings was the winning pitcher. He struck out four. Jeremy Hamby relieved in the third. He walked a runner in the third, gave up a double in the fourth and set Plainview down in order in the fifth. He struck out three. Heath Herrington finished up for North Randall by pitching the sixth inning.

He ran into control problems and walked one, but he used a change up to strike out two of the last three batters.

Dustin Brown started for Plainview. He allowed four

hits and five runs in 1 2/3 innings pitched. He struck out two and walked none. Shaun Martinez relieved in the second. He gave up one run and one hit. He walked two and struck out one. Kane Hendershot pitched the fifth inning for Plainview and struck out the side.

Outcome

The final score for the game was North Randall County six runs, Plainview, zero.

North Randall wasted no time in getting on the scoreboard in the first inning. Moreno was safe on an error. Herrington hit his fourth home run in three games. In the second inning, singles by T.J.

Allen, Dakota Ratliff and Moreno combined with a wild pitch, a passed ball and an error brought in three more runs to make the score

5-0 after two innings of play.

The winner added an insurance run in the fourth on a walk to Ratliff, a wild pitch and a single by Moreno.

Martinez doubled for Plainview in the fourth for their only hit and their only ball hit out of the infield.

The defensive play of the game came when Plainview turned an inning ending double play in the fourth. Martinez grabbed a ground ball hit back to the pitcher's box, threw to second baseman Tyler Brownlee, who relayed to a stretching Hendershot at first for the twin killing.

David Ramos had backed up to the center field fence to catch a fly ball for Plainview in another good defensive play in the fourth inning.

Moreno, with two hits, two RBI and a run scored paced North Randall hitters.

North Randall finished the tournament with a 3-0 record. Plainview was 3-2.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club, which hosted the tournament, is a Pampa United Way agency.



Photo by DELLA MOYER

Get the ribbon

Brock Ferguson participates in the goat undercorating event at the JRCA Rodeo that took place on July 10..

Pampa Aquatic Club prepares qualified swimmers for multi-state meet



Abbi West and Mylinda Mason practice for the upcoming swimming meet this weekend where they will compete as part of West Kansas Swim Clubs.

The Pampa Aquatics Club (PAC) is having a great summer in the water. Workouts begin at 7:30 each morning and start the day out with hard work and lots of fun.

Success has been bountiful for our swimmers. Most of them swim as many as seven events in a day. Last week the team was in Haden City, Kansas, in 100 degree

heat and had great swims. As part of the West Kansas Swim Clubs, PAC has qualified several swimmers for this coming weekend's meet. The following swimmers

- have qualified:
- 11-12 Boys
 - Colten Sander: 50 free, 50 breast, 100 free, 200 im and 200 free.
 - Cody Cole: 50 free, 100 free and 200 free.
- 13-14 Girls
 - Amber Bradford: 50 free, 100 fly, 100 back, 100 free and 200 im.
 - Erica Schepp: 50 free, 100 free, 100 fly, 100 breast and 200 im.
 - Monica Schepp: 50 free, 100 free, 100 back and 200 free.
 - Telissa Sealy: 50 free, 100 breast and 200 im.
 - Abby West: 50 free and 100 free.
 - Tyler O'neal: 50 free, 100 free, 100 back and 200 free.
 - Nickie Cole: 50 free, 100

- free, 100 back, 200 im and 200 free.
- 15-18 Girls
 - Kirby Broodius: 50 free, 100 free, 100 back, 200 free and 400 free.
 - Lydia West: 50 free, 100 free, 100 breast, 100 fly and 400 free.
 - 15-18 Boys
 - Kevin Shepp: 50 free, 100 free, 100 breast, 100 back and 200 free.
 - Thomas Wilson: 50 free, 100 breast, 100 fly, 100 free, 200 im, 400 free.
 - Derek Wistion: 50 free, 100 back, 100 free, 200 im and 200 free.
 - Tyler Wistion: 50 free, 100 back, 100 free, 200 free and 400 free.
- Several of the swimmers have also qualified for

Division II, which takes place in Manhattan, Kansas on the 24 and 25 of July. These swimmers have worked very hard this summer.

A new comer to Pampa is Colten Sanders, 11. Sanders and his family have moved here from Colorado this summer. Sanders is an outstanding young athlete who has had a great summer and has qualified for Division I in Kansas City July 31, August 1 and 2. Colten will be representing Pampa and the PAC group that has been working so hard this summer.

"Colten fits right into our program," Coach Miller said. "He believes in hard work and dedication."

Prosecutors claim victory over evidence in Bryant case

DENVER (AP) — Prosecutors in the Kobe Bryant case will be able to present key pieces of evidence at the NBA star's trial on sexual assault charges next month.

On Wednesday, a judge refused a defense request to throw out a 75-minute interview of Bryant by detectives and evidence including a T-shirt stained with the alleged victim's blood.

Bryant's attorneys said the material was gathered while he was illegally in custody, but the judge disagreed.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle said Bryant cooperated with detectives until they said they wanted him to undergo a medical examination. He threw out the results of that exam because the detectives didn't have the proper court order to take him to a hospital in the middle of the night.

Despite the loss of that evidence, prosecutors praised the ruling.

"We're pleased with the ruling and we consider it an

important ruling," prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said.

After-hours calls left with the Denver-based defense team were not immediately returned.

Bryant has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault and faces an Aug. 27 trial. He has said he had consensual sex with an employee, now 20, at the Vail-area resort where she worked last summer.

If convicted, Bryant faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000.

Bryant's attorneys have long criticized the Eagle County sheriff's office, saying investigators improperly questioned Bryant and botched the execution of a court order to gather evidence last July.

Prosecutors had argued in favor of submitting the medical exam and the rest of the evidence, saying that it was collected with Bryant's consent the night after the alleged attack.

Senior Scramble Results

The Blue, Red and White Senior Scramble took place at Hidden Hills Public Golf Course earlier this week. The following results were reported.

- First place, Score of 61:**
 - Howard Wells
 - Bob Swope
 - Callens George
 - Calvin Lacy
- Fourth Place, Score of 65:**
 - Harley Knutson
 - Terry Cox
 - Jim Jenson

- Bob Lyle**
- Eight Place, Score of 66:**
 - Willie Nickelberry
 - Larry Jearl
 - Morris Driven
 - Duawe Cash
- Tenth Place, Score of 67:**
 - Pat Montoya
 - O. K. Lee
 - James Lee
 - David Crossman
 - Closest to Pin #8:** Carl Johnson
 - Closest to Pin # 12:** Jess Mathis

Beem takes top spot while Curtis still unknown as he unveils title defense at British Open

TROON, Scotland (AP) — The world's best players came to Royal Troon knowing the front nine was there for the taking in the British Open. It didn't take long Thursday to prove them right.

With former PGA champion Rich Beem leading the way, the early starters took dead aim at the pins on an opening nine playing even easier than usual because the wind off the Firth of Clyde was unusually calm.

Beem shot a 5-under 31 on a nine where birdies were plentiful, eagles were available and even a rare double eagle was made by Gary Evans.

Beem had the early lead but Evans and a cluster of players were only a few shots back as the 133rd Open began in mostly sunny conditions with only a trace of breeze.

Players had expected the front nine to play easier, mostly because it almost

always plays downwind. The second nine on the links course returns directly into the prevailing wind, forcing players to hang on to try and protect their scores.

Of the first 42 starters who had played at least two holes, 25 were under par, something almost unheard of in a major championship.

Evans of England, best known for losing a ball on the 17th at Muirfield to wreck his Open chances, made a double eagle on the par-5 fourth by holing a 5-iron from the fairway. It was the first double eagle in the British Open since Greg Owen on the 11th hole at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in 2001.

On the other end of the spectrum was Tom Weiskopf, the '73 Open champion at Royal Troon playing in his first major since the 1995 British Open. The 61-year-old Weiskopf took a quadruple-bogey 8 on the easy opening hole and

shot 45 on the front nine. David Duval didn't even make it to the first tee, withdrawing because of a sprained muscle in his back. Duval played his first tournament of the year last month in the U.S. Open, shooting 83-82 to miss the cut.

Defending champion Ben Curtis was among the late starters. He will be introduced as the defending champion, and get a nice round of applause. That's better than the title he had last year, which was rookie PGA Tour member and first-time major player. Curtis was then a 500-1 shot just trying to figure out how to play links golf, so

unknown that when he asked for a local caddie, the caddie replied: "Ben who?" His visibility hasn't improved much since last year, and neither have his odds. British bookies make him a 200-1 pick to successfully defend his title, something that hasn't happened since Tom Watson turned the trick in 1983.

Still, Curtis likes his chances even though he's done little to impress anyone since he held the silver claret jug aloft on the 18th green last year at Royal St. George's.

"I think you've got to look at it, anybody who defends their title is a threat," he said. "Especially in a major because I've won this before

and I feel like I can do it again." While all eyes won't be on the understated Ohioan, they will be on Tiger Woods as he tries to snap out of a slump that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago.

Woods has failed to win any of the last eight major championships, after winning seven of the previous 11. He comes to Troon with a big new graphite-shafted driver and lowered expectations, mired in a slump so bad he's winless in stroke play events since last October.

"You go out and try your best," Woods said. "That's all you can do. You can't do anything more than that."

The Open is back at Royal Troon for the first time since 1997, when Justin Leonard won his only major championship. The links course on the Irish Sea plays relatively easy on the outward front nine, but can be brutal with

'I think you've got to look at it, anybody who defends their title is a threat. Especially in a major because I've won this before and I feel like I can do it again.'

— Ben Curtis
Former Open Champion

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Olympic swimming trials end

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Six world records were set during the U.S. Olympic swimming trials, raising already-high expectations of another big American medal haul in Athens.

Four years ago, the U.S. team led all nations with 14 golds and 33 medals overall. Much of the pressure in Athens will be on Michael Phelps, who said Wednesday he will swim five individual events and up to three relays in his attempt to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in one Olympics.

Phelps gave up his spot in the 200-meter backstroke, putting Bryce Hunt on his first Olympic team. Hunt finished third in the trials behind Aaron Peirsol, who broke his own world record, and Phelps.

Hunt succeeded his own expectations. "I'm pretty excited," Hunt said. "People were telling me that he might drop out of the 200 backstroke, but I didn't

think it was going to happen. I just hope I can bring back a medal."

So does Jenny Thompson, who won the 50 freestyle on the final night of the eight-day trials. She had already

'I feel like I'll be complete whether I win a gold medal or not.'

— Jenny Thompson
50 freestyle contestant

qualified in the 100 butterfly.

Thompson, who made her fourth Olympic team at 31, won in 25.02 seconds, while Kara Lynn Joyce finished second (25.11) to earn the second Olympic berth.

Thompson has won 10 medals — more than any other U.S. woman — but her eight golds have all been in relays.

Individually, Thompson

has been limited to a silver and a bronze, both in the 100 free. She failed to qualify for that event in the trials, the two spots going to Joyce and Natalie Coughlin.

"I feel like I'll be complete whether I win an individual gold medal or not," said Thompson, who is likely to be part of the relay teams again. "I'm just going to try to soak up as much of the atmosphere as possible. The first time I went, it was kind of a whirlwind."

Coughlin, swimming in the 50 after qualifying in two other events, finished sixth at 25.31.

"I'm very happy," she said. "I had three best times in 1 1/2 days and I learned a lot of good things for my 100 free."

Larsen Jensen set an American record in the 1,500 freestyle, becoming the third U.S. man to go under 15 minutes at 14:56.71. He bettered the mark of 14:56.81 that earned Chris Thompson a bronze medal in the 2000.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Be prepared

Lori Barker of the Pampa Harvester Boys Basketball Booster Club hangs a sign in McNeely Fieldhouse in preparation for this weekend's Mid America Youth Basketball Tournament, hosted by the booster club. Thirty-six teams from as far away as New Mexico will compete during the tournament, including nine from Pampa. The games start at 6:00 p.m. Friday.

Armstrong and Virenque stay on track to make history for Tour

SAINT-FOUR, France (AP) — Under sunny skies the Tour de France embarked on a 102-mile hilly trek across the Massif Central, a last chance for riders to test their legs before the race reaches the mountain stages of the Pyrenees.

The 11th stage was taking riders to Figeac, and with the exception of one steep climb presented no massive obstacles that were expected to give the favorites trouble.

They include Lance Armstrong, who will be tested on Friday in the Pyrenees, the home turf of one of his big rivals — Iban Mayo.

Mayo, a Basque rider, has had a difficult Tour so far but is looking to come back on

the stage when hundreds of thousands of supporters clad in his team's orange colors are expected to line the route.

While the showcase event gets closer to the daunting mountains, Armstrong and another rider, Richard Virenque, have already stepped up their bids to make history.

Virenque, a superb mountain climber with a past checkered by a doping scandal, won the arduous 147-mile stage from Limoges to Saint-Flour on Wednesday after a superb solo breakaway, finishing in 6 hours and 24 seconds.

Armstrong, a five-time champion, gained some criti-

Armstrong's struggle

Armstrong, a five-time champion, gained some critical time on two key rivals, but was unable to pull further ahead of his main challenger German Jan Ullrich, the 1997 champion in the last leg of the race.

cal time on two key rivals, but was unable to pull further ahead of his main challenger — German Jan Ullrich, the 1997 champion.

Ullrich is the biggest threat to Armstrong's bid to enter legend as the only cyclist to win the Tour six straight times. All five victo-

ries have come following Armstrong's comeback from testicular cancer.

Armstrong was among five riders called for a doping test after the 10th stage and did not talk to reporters.

Sixth overall, Armstrong was 55 seconds in front of 17th-place Ullrich at the start

of Thursday's relatively comfortable 11th stage.

Previously little-known Frenchman Thomas Voeckler leads overall, having defended his yellow jersey for the fifth straight day.

But Armstrong gained seven precious seconds on Tyler Hamilton and Spain's Roberto Heras, both former U.S. Postal teammates.

Although trailing Voeckler by 9:35, Armstrong extended his lead over Hamilton to 43 seconds and over Heras to 1:52.

"Tyler was not in a good position in the last kilometer of the race, which is why a few seconds were lost," Hamilton's Phonak team manager Urs Frueler said.

Veteran Virenque could become the Tour's best-ever climber if he holds onto the coveted spotted jersey. He, Spaniard Federico Bahamontes and Belgian Lucien Van Impe have six mountain titles each.

Thursday's stage has only one climb of note. The ascent up Cote de Montsalvy stretches 4.9 miles at a gradient averaging 6 percent. It is unlikely to tempt either Ullrich or Armstrong out of cruise control.

Little or no time is to be gained from attacking in such a quiet stage, so both will save energy for Friday's first of two daunting Pyrenees stages.

Astros fire long time manager Williams, hire Garner

HOUSTON (AP) — The excitement that the Houston Astros created with the off-season additions of Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte quickly withered away as they slipped in the standings.

Phil Garner, so feisty as a player that he was dubbed "Scrap Iron," is the man charged with getting the enthusiasm going again.

Garner replaced Jimmy Williams as the Astros' manager on Wednesday, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that started with World Series expectations.

"The message we wanted to send is that we needed a dramatic change," general manager Gerry Hunsicker said.

"The more new faces, the more new energy that we can bring in here, the greater impact we might make." Garner, a former Astros player, is taking over on an

interim basis. The team will conduct another search at the end of the season.

"I'm excited. I'm a Houston boy and I'm looking forward to it," Garner, a former manager with Detroit and Milwaukee, told The Associated Press in a phone inter-

view. "We got some boys on the team that I think can do something really special. This is an opportunity that I've been waiting for." Pitching coach Burt Hooton and hitting coach Harry Spilman also fired.

They were replaced by Jim Hickey and Gary Gaetti from Triple-A New Orleans.

The moves are another sign that the Astros, who have never even won a play-off series, are going all out this year to try to win their first World Series.

"We were looking for a personality that could energize this club," Hunsicker said. "All of the ingredients seemed to be in place for Phil to take over the helm here and jumpstart this club."

The 55-year-old has kept a home in the Houston area since his playing days. He joins Bob Lillis, Art Howe and Larry Dierker as former players who have gone on to manage the team.

"I had never seen excitement in the Houston sports community like we saw this offseason," Garner said. "Our fans very excited. They thought we could do something."

Williams' job security had been the subject of speculation for about a month, right about the time Houston's surprising slide down the NL Central standings began. He was fired during a clubhouse meeting with Hunsicker, owner Drayton McLane and other team officials.

"He indicated that he was not surprised," McLane said. "He knew something wasn't clicking."

Houston was 44-44 at the All-Star break, a remarkable disappointment for a team that was tops in the NL Central for the first month and a half of the season.

The Astros finished the first half of the season in fifth place in the NL Central, 10 1/2 games behind division leader St. Louis. It's the first time they've faced a double-digit deficit in the standings at the break in 11 seasons.

During pregame preparations at the All-Star game Tuesday night, a sellout crowd booed Williams.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW
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.
7-15 CRYPTOQUOTE
WP XFKXMF LYFH ZI TAR B
ZSKAE XZWEWYN ZI W
QK EBFU HKAMQ YDFDO SAU
TU XWREAOFI FQHWY
MZYQIFFO
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SCIENCE FICTION IS NO MORE WRITTEN FOR SCIENTISTS THAN GHOST STORIES ARE WRITTEN FOR GHOSTS. — BRIAN ALDISS

Horoscope Friday, July 16, 2004

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, July 16, 2004: You have a lot going for you this year. Avoid being too serious, because others will react to an overly heavy or distant attitude. Deal with finances with maturity, or you could spend everything you make, and more. Sometimes you spend when you are upset. Learn to share your vulnerabilities more instead of acting out. If you are single, though highly attractive, you could tumble into love with someone who might not be emotionally available. Check out each person you are interested in with care, rather than get hurt. If you are attached, your relationship will benefit from frequent getaways together. You communicate well. Use those skills. Carefully eye a change in residence or in your personal life. **CANCER** could pull you down.
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) ★★★★★ Watch your step and let others run with the ball. You could be overly serious, but a call or lunch could perk you up. Extremes involve friendships and loved ones. Pull out and detach, please. Tonight: A friend delights you.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Return calls. A decision you make could be very serious. You might want to weigh the pros and cons during the next few days. It might be affecting your personal life. A boss makes a decision that is contrary to your values. Tonight: Out and about.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Finances prove demanding, and you just might need to say "no" to plans or an expenditure. Take an overview

and think carefully about what would be best to do. Quit running around like (excuse me) a chicken with its head cut off! Tonight: Keep costs down.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ You might be very stern in a conversation or with a friend. Do you really believe this behavior serves you or helps the situation? A partner or associate could be off about finances. Your facts and figures help and will be accepted if presented properly. Tonight: Your wish is another's command!
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Know when to say "no," and you will gain. Others want to pull you into a project, but that might not work for you. Be willing to support yourself and say "no," if need be. Take time for yourself. You need to rethink a personal matter. Tonight: Vanish home.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Where your friends and the crowds are is where you are most comfortable. Friendship plays a role in a decision. Still, be careful with a money matter, even if you feel it is a good bet. Make sure it is. Concentrate on a special project. Tonight: Where the gang is.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ You might be on top of the world as you command your ship. Information or research helps you hit a homerun. Someone you deal with could be hard on you or overly serious. Don't allow others to push you. Tonight: Work as late as possible.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Taking an overview works, as it prevents you from triggering. Though you might feel limited by a problem, ask questions. There are no problems, just solutions. Your family also does their share to gain your attention. Juggle your different needs. Tonight:

Take off as soon as possible.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Work with one person at a time. You will get better results than you ever dreamed of. You could find one associate to be a bit difficult. Reach out for others at a distance. Follow your instincts; you seem to know when someone is going to call before he or she does. Tonight: Dinner for two.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Others seek you out. You might have mixed feeling about all the interruptions. How you ask for space or time to get your work done could deeply affect an overly sensitive person. Be careful with your finances. Tonight: Accept an invitation.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Emphasize work, even if you feel like daydreaming or doing something totally different. The sooner you get done, the faster you'll escape. A flirtation could be developing into a lot more. Tonight: Relax in your favorite chair.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your imagination touches everything that you do, be it work, a project, purchasing a new item or dealing with others. Know that you might not be paying enough attention to your work. Also know that a boss notices. Tonight: Off for a fun night, if not weekend.
BORN TODAY
Dancer Michael Flatley (1958), former Miss America, civic leader Bess Myerson (1924), tennis player Margaret Court (1942)
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 LOST! Gray & White Siamese cross cat with (crossed) blue eyes. He was lost in the 1200 block of Darby. Answers to Simon. He has a Green Collar with a red ID tag. Please Call-665-4933
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19 Situations
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Gay marriage opponents pin hopes on House bill after loss

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unable to ban gay marriage, congressional Republicans are working to contain it, advancing legislation in the House to make sure federal courts don't order states to recognize same-sex unions sanctioned outside their borders.

'It is important for our country to continue the debate on this important issue, and I urge the House of Representatives to pass this amendment.'

— President George W. Bush

Even so, GOP officials said the measure likely would be on the House floor next week, and they expressed confidence it would pass.

If so, it would mark a clear victory for gay marriage opponents, who suffered a decisive setback Wednesday in the Senate when the constitutional amendment fell a dozen votes shy of the 60 needed to advance.

Within hours of the vote in which 48 senators voted to advance the measure and 50 to block it, President Bush issued a statement saying he was "deeply disappointed" by the outcome but calling it a temporary setback.

"Activist judges and local officials in some parts of the country are not letting up in their efforts to redefine marriage for the rest of America and neither should defenders of traditional marriage flag in their efforts," he added.

"It is important for our country to continue the debate on this important issue, and I urge the House of Representatives to pass this amendment," the president said.

Bush wasn't the only one who seemed eager to extend an election-year debate over the issue.

"We know now which senators are for traditional marriage and which ones are not, and by November so will voters in every state," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "This fight has just begun."

Cheryl Jacques, president of the Human Rights Campaign, which opposed the amendment, expressed little concern about political repercussions. "I think the discussion will continue to play out but I think they played their best hand today and couldn't even get a simple majority," she said of the Senate vote.

Bush's public prodding alone assures the issue will persist into the fall, and Republican strategists have said they hope the issue can be put to use against Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting.

Congress okays legislation to spur creation of vaccines

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress is hoping it can turn \$5.6 billion into sufficient incentives for pharmaceutical companies to create enough vaccines and antidotes to protect Americans from biological and chemical weapons.

Called Project BioShield, the program passed the House on a 414-2 vote Wednesday. The Senate passed it in May and President Bush's signature is guaranteed.

First, federal health officials want enough new-generation anthrax vaccine to dose 25 million people. They also want drug companies to develop antidotes for botulism and anthrax, a safer smallpox vaccine and a long-awaited children's version of an anti-radiation pill.

"The passage of Project BioShield is a watershed in our mission to defend America against bioterrorism, establishing a first line of defense against biological weapons," said Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.

Bush said in a statement that he looked forward to signing the bill, which would help protect the homeland and "break new ground in the search for treatments and cures while strengthening our overall biotechnology infrastructure."

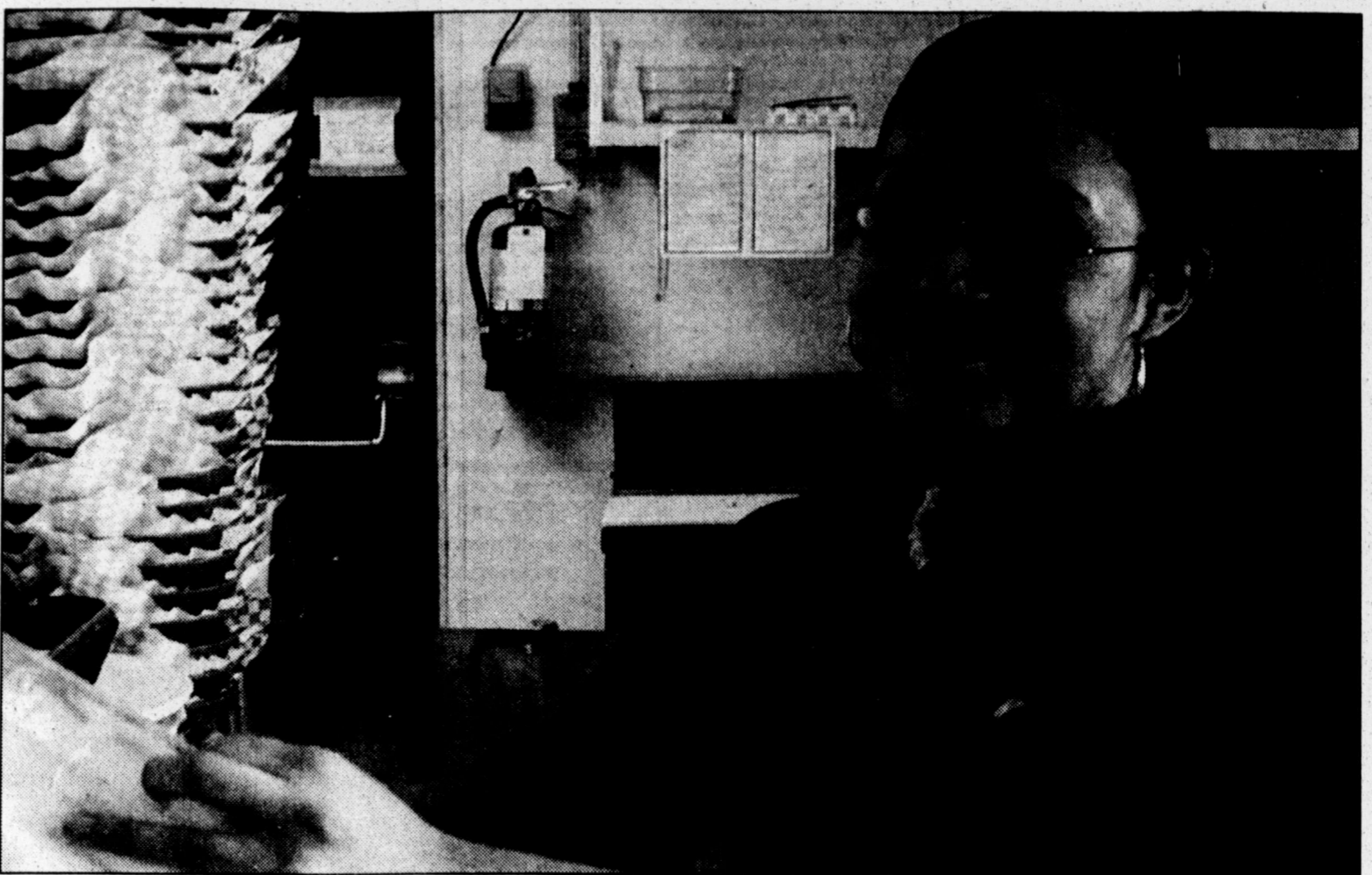
Project BioShield doesn't mean the government will make these products. Instead, it offers pharmaceutical companies a guaranteed buyer — an incentive the industry has long sought before spending millions in research to produce terrorism countermeasures. Unless the federal government buys these products, proponents argue, the market will be too small to justify the research costs.

The legislation also would accelerate the approval process for the new products and allow more widespread distribution of experimental medications during a terrorist attack. If the private sector leaves a gap, the government would be allowed to operate emergency programs to research and produce vaccines.

"When federal judges step out of line, Congress has the responsibility to drop the red flag," Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said Wednesday as the court-stripping measure cleared the House Judiciary Committee on a near party-line vote of 21-13.

Democrats objected, some strenuously. Rep. Maxine Waters of California called the legislation a political exercise, and Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, the first openly gay woman elected to Congress, criticized it as "unnecessary, unconstitutional and unwise."

Deli-delicious



Pampa News photo by ReDONN WOODS

Liz Soria of Hoagies Deli puts together one of the deli's baked potatoes.

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