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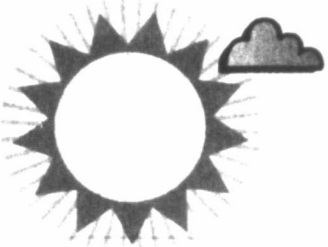
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Today's weather



H 65 L 36

Deaths

Barbara Harrison Gunter, 66, homemaker.
Viva Jane Kelley, 64, homemaker.
Mildred Waters Greenhouse Mantooth, 92, homemaker.

Odds & Ends

STAPLETON, Neb. (AP) — Rain, sleet and snow have not kept Kermit Paxton from making his six-day-a-week journey to deliver mail. His recent 90th birthday didn't stop him either.

Monday through Saturday, Paxton rises early, gets in his truck and transports mail on the 70-plus mile round trip between Stapleton, Arnold and North Platte. He's been doing this for the past 27 years.

The retired rancher said there are some drawbacks to the job he otherwise enjoys. Sometimes the mail is very heavy.

He also has had a few frightening experiences. Paxton said he turned his van upside down once on icy road conditions, and he did the same thing on ice two or three years ago in his pickup.

When he is not delivering mail, Paxton spends some time delivering Bibles as a member of Gideons International for more than 30 years.

Paxton lives a healthy and active life, and said his job has helped him live a lot longer than he expected. He apparently does not figure to retire any time soon. His mail delivery contract runs another two years.

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Jack Cramer was rummaging through piles of old stuff recently when he ran across a \$1 parking ticket he received while he was a college student.

Its date: July 26, 1954. "I got a good laugh when I saw it, but then I thought, 'What if they're still trying to collect this?'" Cramer said.

Cramer said he called the Flint Police Department's traffic division to inform it of his find. He pledged to cover his outstanding debt.

"The lady I talked to thought it was very funny and joked that she wanted to transfer my call to the court," he said. "I said, 'No, someone over there might not have a sense of humor.'"

Deputies arrest man in oilfield thefts

By **DAVID BOWSER**
 Staff Writer

A 26-year-old Pampa man was in Gray County jail today in lieu of \$5,000 bond in connection with some oilfield thefts.

David Allen Bolch, 26,

117 N. Sumner, was in jail today after being charged with theft of items greater in value than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

Bolch was arrested by Gray County deputies shortly after 11 p.m. Sunday when the deputies found gas meters

in the back of Bolch's pickup.

Deputies Scott LaRue and Jarrett Parsons were on patrol Sunday night when they saw a pickup driving off from a meter house near Gray County Road K and Texas Highway 70, Sheriff Don

Copeland said this morning.

Deputy LaRue said that as they followed the pickup, they passed the meter house, and he noticed the door was open.

The deputies pulled the pickup over on Texas 70 about a mile north of the

meter house, Copeland said.

LaRue said the deputies saw three meter boxes in the back of Bolch's pickup and arrested him for theft.

Deputy Dennis Elliott was dispatched back to the meter

See **THEFTS**, Page 3

Car hits boy, 7; injuries minor

By **DAVID BOWSER**
 Staff Writer

A 7-year-old Pampa boy suffered minor injuries Sunday when he was hit by a four door sedan.

Pampa police officers said Nathan Cain Martinez, 7, 1301 N. Garland, was struck by a 2004 white Oldsmobile Alero, driven by Melissa Ann Dabbs, 22, 1400 W. Somerville, shortly after 2 p.m. Sunday, in the 1300 block of North Garland.

Officers said Dabbs was northbound on Garland at slow speed when Martinez ran out into the street from in front of a parked truck.

Dabbs told officers she did not see Martinez until he was in front of her car and she

could not stop before hitting him.

The right front of the car struck Martinez, knocking him to the curb.

Martinez was rushed to the Pampa Regional Medical Center by Guardian EMS.

Officers said the boy suffered non-incapacitating injuries.

Pampa Fire Department also responded to the scene and assisted EMS with preparing the child for transport. Fire officials said the child reportedly ran into the street while chasing a ball.

Dabbs was cited for driving without liability insurance.

— Editor Dee Dee Laramore contributed to this report.

City commission to select financial advisor Tuesday

By **DAVID BOWSER**
 Staff Writer

Pampa city commissioners will select a financial advisor, declare a number of dumpster as surplus and appoint another member to the golf course advisory board.

In their regular meeting at 4 p.m., Tuesday, at city hall, the Pampa City Commission is expected to renew a financial advisory contract with Southwest Securities. The company has been the city's financial advisor for more than 20 years, said City

Manager John Horst. Commissioners are also expected to declare 275 dumpsters as surplus property and authorize their sale.

Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris said that the city would keep the best dumpsters for future repair. The dumpsters being designated surplus will not be rebuilt, Morris said.

The commission will also consider appointing Brenda Kelly to replace Rodnie Winbourne, whose term has expired.

See **CITY**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Holding a copy of this month's "Rough Notes" insurance industry trade journal, which features their agency on its cover, are, from left, Bill Bridges, Brian Duncan, Gail Woodington and Mike Fraser, partners.

Trade journal features local insurance agency

By **MARILYN POWERS**
 Staff Writer

An insurance agency with its roots in Pampa has been named marketing agency of the month in the February issue of "Rough Notes," an industry trade journal distributed to every insurance agency in the country, as well as Canada, Mexico and Europe.

Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency, Inc., of Pampa is featured on the magazine's cover, along with a five-page article detailing its growth and activities.

The agency was created in 1995 through the merger of three agencies which dated to the 1920s. A fourth agency, Fathree Insurance Agency, was

acquired by DF&B in 2000.

Revenue for DF&B has more than doubled since 1995, and today tops \$2.3 million annually, making the agency one of the largest independent agencies in the Texas Panhandle and the largest in its primary marketing area.

Bill Bridges, a partner in the agency, attributes the growth to new marketing plans and value-added services. He defines value-added services as "things you do after the sale to provide a little more worth."

Those value-added services include training in OSHA compliance, the Family and Medical Leave Act,

See **AGENCY**, Page 3

Fifth grader wins county spelling contest



Shannon Leigh, Austin Elementary 5th grader, will represent Gray County at the Regional Spelling Bee on March 5.

Shannon Leigh, a fifth-grader from Austin Elementary School, earned top honors Friday, Feb. 18 as champion speller in the 2005 Gray County spelling bee, held in Pampa Junior High School's auditorium.

Runner-up is Jacob Frost, fifth grade, of Travis Elementary School. Senior champion is Kara Lane, PJHS eighth-grader.

Leigh, Frost and Lane were among 14 spellers competing for the opportunity to represent Gray County at the regional spelling bee, March 5 in Canyon, with the chance to advance to the national spelling bee in Washington, D.C.

Gray County spellers were Molly Andorfer, Brandon Cox, Aribel Martinez, Jacob Boyd, Taylor Ranney, Brennan Dickinson, Stephanie Ronquillo, Scott Kelly, Kayla Cox, Jessica Kenney, Ryan Smith, Frost, Lane and Leigh.

"There were 15 rounds and many words used before the



Jacob Frost, Travis Elementary 5th grader, Gray County Runner Up.



Kara Lane, Pampa Junior High 8th grader, Gray County senior champion.

championship was decided," said Herman Vinson, Gray County spelling bee director.

Judges for this year's spelling

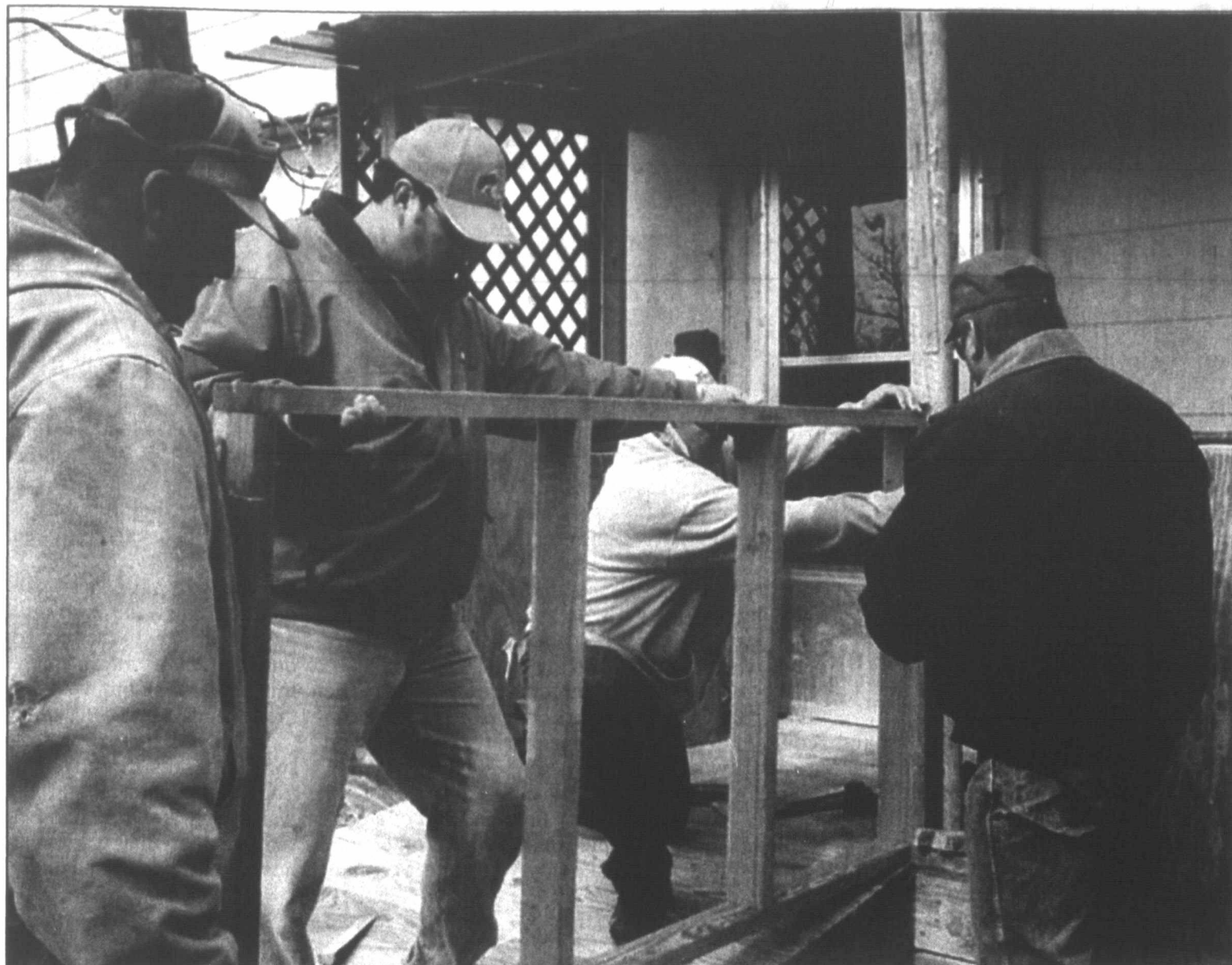
bee were Tommy Lindsey, Tori Kelley and Susan Burgin.

The official pronouncer was Wanetta Hill.

FEB

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2005



Lefors VFD lends a helping hand

On Saturday, Feb. 19, 10 members of the Lefors Volunteer Fire Department, plus three neighbors, built a badly-needed wheelchair ramp for a Lefors citizen. Lefors VFD firefighters, from left, Michael Ray, Ruben Rodriguez, Archie Summers, and Kenny Forsyth, place a hand rail on the porch.

Agency

Continued from Page 1

COBRA, and general safety, as well as help with employee manuals.

"We address a lot of compliance issues that try to help customers understand what the federal government is putting them through," Bridges said.

DF&B's customers may be divided into four categories.

"We do a lot of oil and gas interests, from top to bottom, from pumpers all the way up to drillers," Bridges said.

Artisan contractors, such as plumbers and electricians, are another customer category.

"Main Street businesses," or independent retail stores, and personal insurance for individuals round out the agency's clientele.

Two of the most significant developments impacting the insurance industry in recent years are the issue of

black mold and the continued advancement of computers, Bridges said.

"The mold situation brought about changes in all the homeowners' forms.

"Computer technology has greatly increased the amount of information accessible to the insurance industry. Insurance agencies can also store a wealth of information they couldn't before, due to computers," Bridges said.

DF&B has offices in Borger, Amarillo and Dallas, in addition to their home

office in Pampa. The Borger office "is growing along with the rebuilding of the Phillips plant," said Bridges, and DF&B helped start the Dallas affiliate six years ago.

They also have their own website, dfbinsurance.com.

Regardless of its growth, DF&B plans to stay in Pampa.

"We'll bring some young people into the organization. I think Pampa has stabilized in its population," Bridges said.

"We'll be here."

Thefts

Continued from Page 1

house and reported that a meter there was leaking natural gas.

Oneok Gas Company was notified and an Oneok employee, Jerry Franklin, identified one of the meters in Bolch's pickup as having come from the meter house at Texas 70 and

County Road K.

LaRue said that Bolch then took the deputies to a location about a mile and a half south of the Bowers City Bridge where he said he had gotten the other two meters.

Sheriff Copeland said each meter is worth about \$1,400.

Gray County Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman set bond for Bolch this morning at \$5,000.

City

Continued from Page 1

Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner will give his annual racial profiling report and Horst will go over budget comparisons during the commission meeting.

The commission will also hear reports on long term debt, a warehouse lease and a new accounting system.

'Dancing White Stallions' coming

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The world famous Lipizzaner Stallions will be in Amarillo on March 18th for a one-night performance as part of their 35th anniversary presentation of the "Dancing White Stallions."

The horses will perform at 7:30 in the Amarillo Civic Center. Tickets are \$19.50 for adults, and \$17.50 for children ages 2 to 12 and for seniors ages 60 and over. A limited number of Gold Circle seats are available for \$22.50 each.

Tickets went on sale Thursday, Feb. 17. Tickets are available at PANHANDLEtickets, the Civic Center box office, Randy's Music Mart in Amarillo, the WT Event Center in Canyon, and United Supermarkets in Amarillo, Dumas, Pampa and

Borger. For general information or to charge tickets by phone, call 806-378-3096.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the rescue of the Lipizzaners in World War II by General George S. Patton and the 4th Cavalry Squadron of the United States Army's 2nd Cavalry unit.

The horses were being held hostage by Axis powers during the war.

The Lipizzaner breed has been made famous by its stallions, which are trained in dressage and airs above the ground. Dressage is the guidance of a horse through a set of maneuvers without perceptible use of hands, feet,

reins or other means.

Airs above the ground are a series of maneuvers where the horse leaps above the ground, with or without a rider.

Lipizzaner stallions were trained for battle, while mares became carriage horses for the nobility.

Lipizzaners are usually born with dark or black coats, which slowly change to their final pure white color over a period of six to 10 years. They have a relatively long life span of 30 to 35 years.

They are descendants of horses bred in Carthage more than 2,000 years ago.

The Carthaginian horse later was bred to the Vilano, a sturdy Pyrenees horse, and to Arab and Barbary horses to create the Andalusian horse

of ancient Spain.

The Lipizzaner breed was created from Spanish horses in the 1500s by Austrian rulers. The breed name comes from Lipizza, a place in the hills of Karst, near Trieste, which was part of Austria at that time.

Stallions were trained for battle, while mares became carriage horses of the nobility. The airs above the ground were part of the stallions' battle maneuvers. They have been part of history for over 425 years, according to a news release from the show's company.

Over 25 million people throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen the Lipizzaners perform.

They have been described as "an equestrian work of art, performing an equine ballet not to be rivaled," according to the release.

Marines, Iraqi security forces carry out offensive

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S. Marines broke down doors and raided houses Monday on the second day of an offensive aimed at cracking down on insurgent activity in several troubled cities west of Baghdad.

The forays occurred as Shiites of the winning United Iraqi Alliance met in Baghdad to hash out a final prime ministerial candidate for the newly elected 275-member National Assembly. Debate has intensified

among the members of the alliance, who formed a 21-member committee to decide on two nominees for the job because they could not agree on a candidate.

The two main candidates so far had been the former Pentagon favorite Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the interim vice president.

The race may get more complicated following reports that the Shiite's initial pick for prime minister,

Finance Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, could return as a compromise candidate. Abdul-Mahdi, who has close ties to Iran, dropped out Feb. 16.

Gunmen in the northern city of Mosul abducted an Iraqi television presenter, an official from her network said Monday.

Raiedah Mohammed Wageh Wazan was abducted by several masked gunmen Sunday night while she was returning home, said the offi-

cial, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. military said insurgents targeted the local TV station "several times in the past week because they have been broadcasting programs that highlighted the negative effects of insurgent activity."

Those programs have had rapidly growing support from Iraqi citizens and therefore have caused the station to be targeted."

Lefors plans tornado anniversary events

LEFORS — March 27 marks the 30th anniversary of the Lefors tornado.

Several Lefors citizens are preparing a historical booklet to commemorate the event.

The booklet will contain news articles about the tornado, pictures of the damage and stories or memories of the event by Lefors citizens who were here, or in the area, at the time.

The town will also hold a special program on March 25 at the Lefors Post Office. (Times to be announced later.) A tornado cancellation stamp will be introduced and guest speakers will tell their tales of the tornado.

Anyone interested in contributing their experience or tale, is asked to call Susan Oldham at 835-2438 or Nancy Swaney at 835-2726 for more information.

Questionnaires are also

available upon request at: oldhammer13@centramedia.net.

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Viewpoints

Marriage no guarantee we know each other

Sometimes I wonder how two people can live together for more than two decades and still not know anything about each other.

Valentines Day is intended to be a time to celebrate loving relationships — at least that's what one would think.

This year, the High Plains Cruisers Car Club met at John and Kathleen Chaney's house in Skellytown for an informal February meeting/Valentine party.

Everything about the High Plains Cruisers is informal. I like that. Somehow, they manage to get more done with less folderol than any group I've seen.

After eating an Italian buffet that was to die for — I think I hurt something, I ate so much — the men were sent into one room and the women stayed in the living room.

We were told we would be playing "The Newlywed Game." Only about two of the couples were newlyweds. The rest of us had been married for a long time.

Oh, yes, this would be easy. There's nothing about our partners that we didn't know and nothing about us that they didn't know.

You're beginning to get the picture, right?

First question. What would be the first thing your husband would buy if you

won the lottery?

Vic and I had discussed this a lot. I knew his dream is to buy a big building to restore old cars in. This was in the bag! I knew we were going to win.

Okay, write the answer on the back of a big white piece of paper with a big #1 on the front.

Question #2 — What habit does your wife have that you really wish she didn't?

I thought and thought. I couldn't think of a thing. I knew there was probably something, but I just could-

n't think of it. Now if they had asked about a habit my husband had ... I left the page blank.

Question #3 — What "honey-dos" does your husband put off doing?

Oh, that's easy. I scribble furiously on the back of the paper.

Question #4 — If your husband could have any occupation, what would it be?

This one goes with the first one. He'd restore cars.

While we women are busily answering our set of questions, the men were in

the other room answering a second set of queries about their mates.

What was the color of your wife's first car? What does your wife cook that you wish she didn't? Who was the last one to empty the dishwasher? What was the last thing you bought your wife? And the *piece de resistance* — what time were you married?

After completing the questionnaires, the men and women were reunited and the game began.

I wish I had a nickel for every time one half of a couple looked at the other half like a cow staring at a new gate.

For Vic and I, it started

with the first question. Do you know what he said he'd buy if we won the lottery? A new house! He never told me that he'd do that. All we talked about was this car restoration thing. I looked at him like he'd just stepped out of a UFO.

Since I have no bad habits, I knew he wouldn't have an answer to the second question. We might have missed the first, but we'd get the second.

WRONG! For some reason, he thinks that my putting my ice cold feet on his warm legs is a bad habit. I thought that that was what husbands are supposed to do.

See MARRIAGE, Page 5



Dee Dee Laramore
Editor

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2005. There are 313 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

Forty years ago, on Feb. 21, 1965, former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death in New York by assassins identified as Black Muslims.

On this date:

In 1878, the first telephone directory was issued, by the District Telephone Company of New Haven, Conn.

In 1885, the Washington Monument was dedicated.

In 1916, the World War I Battle of Verdun began in France.

In 1925, The New Yorker magazine made its debut.

In 1947, Edwin H. Land publicly demonstrated his Polaroid Land camera, which could produce a black-and-white photograph in 60 seconds.

In 1972, President Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Shanghai.

In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down a Libyan Airlines jet over the Sinai Desert, killing more than 100 people.

'Just as a tree without roots is dead, a people without history or culture also becomes a dead people.'

— Malcolm X
1925-1965

In 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1986, Larry Wu-tai Chin, the first American found guilty of spying for China, killed himself in his Virginia jail cell.

In 1988, TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggart tearfully confessed to his congregation in Baton Rouge, La., that he was guilty of an unspecified sin, and said he was leaving the pulpit temporarily. (Reports linked Swaggart to an admitted prostitute, Debra Murpree.)

Ten years ago: The United States and Mexico signed an agreement to unlock \$20 billion in U.S. support to stabilize the peso, but under tough conditions. Chicago stockbroker Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean in a balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Five years ago: Consumer advocate Ralph Nader announced his entry into the presidential race, bidding for the nomination of the Green Party.

One year ago: The International Red Cross visited former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who was in U.S. custody.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy is 78. Movie director Bob Rafelson is 72.



'YOUR 15 MINUTES ARE ALMOST UP, SAMMY...'

Ottawa Citizen
Caglecartoons.com

Hope lives because of free will

It's easy to get discouraged when you look at the cultural decay, the political and corporate corruption, the usurers, the warmongers and the empire-lovers. The trick to optimism is to always remember that today's problems are not much different from those of the past.

The golden age is just the plain old past censored in memory by nostalgia and/or ignorance. Poverty, political and corporate corruption, prostitution, gambling, pornography, homosexuality, murder, robbery, usury, unjust wars and whatever other "sin" you can think of have always existed. The human race is incorrigible. But at the same time, there have always been good people trying to make things better.

I listened to a speech by

Ward Churchill, the professor at the University of Colorado whom a lot of people want to fire because of an essay he wrote about the terrorist attacks. I could see immediately what his problem is. He is angry about every bad thing that has ever happened in the world.

That's a form of irrational thinking, and he is not the only person afflicted with this fallacious way of thinking.

Yes, the massacre of Indians at Wounded Knee was a bad thing, but it was a bad thing done by a few soldiers, not the entire American people. And more importantly, everybody

involved is long dead. Yes, slavery was a bad thing, but even at the time it was not universal and not every American approved of it, and, again, all involved are long dead. Yes, the Holocaust was horrible, but it was the product of a few people, not the entire world, and it, too, is in the past.

People who spend their present time stewing about the past will be angry and generally useless citizens. The past is unchangeable. There can be a marginal utility in studying it, if you approach it as a record of mistakes to be avoided, but if you try to live in it or let it control your present thinking

and emotions, you will ruin the only life you have, which exists only in the present moment.

Churchill believes in karma, which is an Asian version of original sin — the idea that the sins of the fathers will eventually be visited on the heads of the sons. I don't believe that. I believe every child is born with a clean slate, and that the world is given yet another chance with every new generation. The only problems we need to be concerned with are those that exist at the present time. Victims of the past and the people who made them victims all share the same graveyards. We should not concern ourselves with them.

For senior citizens, the past is a graveyard. We should not concern ourselves with them.

See HOPE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



Use of child soldiers must be stopped

The international community has yet to take meaningful action to end the use of child soldiers — what U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan last week accurately called "atrocities against children."

The United Nations has been working on this issue for years, and it has gotten to the point where the secretary-general issues an annual report.

Although the world body

has adopted rules to prohibit the use of child soldiers, it has yet to impose effective sanctions against nations or warring forces that recruit or draft teenagers and even younger children to fight.

Annan called on the United Nations to penalize violators with travel bans on leaders, arms embargoes

and a "restriction on the flow of financial resources to the parties concerned."

Embargoes on weaponry and money are long overdue. Without those resources, warring parties have difficulty continuing their conflicts, reducing their need for any soldiers.

Olara Otunna, the U.N.

special representative for children in armed conflict, reported that 54 groups — some of them national armed forces, others rebels — employ about 300,000 child soldiers in conflicts around the world.

That is an improvement over the 350,000-380,000 child soldiers Otunna reported on two years ago.

But meaningful, effectively harsh sanctions are needed to bring this shameful tally down much lower.

Texas Thoughts

The Victoria Advocate

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Gray County spellers

Fourteen local spellers competed in the Gray County Spelling Bee Friday, Feb. 18, at Pampa Junior High School. Pictured, front row, from left, Molly Ndorfer, Brandon Cox, Aribel Martinez, Jacob Boyd, and Taylor Ranney; middle row, from left, Brennan Dickinson, Stephanie Ronquillo, Jacob Frost, Scott Kelly and Kayla Cox, and back row, from left, Shannon Leigh, Jessica Kenney, Kara Lane and Ryan Smith. (See Page 1 today for related story and photos.)

French, U.S. relations begin to thaw

WASHINGTON (AP) — People on both sides of the Atlantic called it the perfect storm in French-U.S. relations. Now there is hope of calm.

A relationship Colin Powell likened to 200 years of marriage counseling appears finally headed toward a degree of rapprochement after a fracture

over Iraq and snippiness over much else.

President Bush's dinner with French President Jacques Chirac in Belgium Monday approaches with the expectation that bygones will be set aside, despite enduring points of disagreement.

"I think there'll be a new politeness in the relationship," said Walter Russell

Mead, senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. "But I don't think the substance is going to change very much."

It is a far cry from Gen. John J. Pershing's troops coming to the aid of the French in World War I shouting "LaFayette Nous Voici" — "Lafayette, We are here" — in remembrance of the

French hero of the American Revolution.

It is a progression, at least in tone, from when Condoleezza Rice, now secretary of state and formerly the president's national security adviser, voiced the wish to punish France, ignore Germany and forgive Russia for their resistance to the Iraq war.

Hope

Continued from Page 4

Some people, of course, use the past as an excuse for their sorry present behavior. Oh, my great-great-granddaddy was abused, so you have to cut me some slack.

Bull. If you go back far enough, everybody's great-great-whatevers were either abused or abusers. What happened in the past has no effect on what we choose to do with our own

lives. People who try to lay their own failures on their ancestors are pathetic.

Others try to use the past as a form of blackmail. Because of what happened to "my people," they claim, you owe me. Again, bull. Those who have done you no harm do not owe you a bent penny. All scores are settled with the death of each generation, and no liabilities should be carried forward to be levied on the innocent.

Zen Buddhists have it right: The past exists only in memory; the future, only in the imagination.

Like the character in that wonderful

film "Groundhog Day," we wake up every morning in the present. Whatever we wish to do or to be, we must do and be it now.

Human beings have free will. Within the parameters of our present circumstances, we can choose to make our own lives and our own community better or worse.

Nobody and no thing can force us to be either good or bad. The choice is ours alone. That's why hope never dies.

Charley Reese is a retired journalist and syndicated columnist.

Marriage

Continued from Page 4

I'm positive it's in the marriage contract somewhere.

We did get a few answers right, but certainly not enough to win. We were better than some, worse than others.

One husband had to find a ride home with someone else after numerous "pull my finger" jokes. (Not really, but almost.)

The true newlywed, who had been married about two months, couldn't remember what time the wedding occurred.

That's one question we got right — 2 p.m., Oct. 2, 1982, Central Park. Vic wouldn't ever forget that. A confirmed bachelor before we met, people would ask him when he was going to get married.

His stock answer was, "The 2nd. The second I have to."

So naturally, we got married on the 2nd. But in case you're wondering, we didn't have to.

Calendar items

- **Texas CattleWomen** are currently sponsoring a statewide scholarship for high school students called the Pat Grote Memorial Scholarship. Applicants must be a 2005 graduating senior at a Texas high school or equivalent institution and must be accepted into an agricultural-related field at a Texas college or university for the 2005 fall semester. The deadline for applications to be returned to Amy Brainard, P.O. Box 570, Canadian, TX 79014, is Feb. 18. For more information, visit www.texascattlewomen.org on the Internet or call Brainard at (806) 323-6397.

- For senior students enrolled at state certified schools in Gray, Carson, Collingsworth, Hemphill, Hutchison, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler counties, additional scholarship opportunities are available. Applications will be made available through area counselors' offices. The deadline to return applications for judging is April 22. One \$500 scholarship and two \$250 scholarships will be awarded. These scholarship applications should be mailed to Glenda Adcock, 920 Turkey Track Rd., Miami, TX 79059. For more information, contact Adcock at (806) 868-6828.

- **Palo Duro Handweaver's Guild** will meet at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 in Amarillo. The meeting is open to individuals interested in weaving, spinning, dyeing or fiber arts. For more information, call (806) 358-2765.

- **Christian Fine Arts Society** is conducting a free religious poetry contest with a \$1,000 grand prize. To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to Free Poetry Contest, 9588 Thornbush Lane Fishers, IN 46038 or go to www.freecontest.com. The deadline to enter is Feb. 26. Be sure your name and address appears on the page with your poem.

- **Ten free Colorado blue spruce**

trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation throughout this month. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The 10 trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting in March and May with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Free Colorado Blue Spruce Trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Feb. 28. For more information, check out the foundation's web site at www.arborday.org on the Internet.

- **The Second Annual Playwrights Showcase** of the Western Region is Aug. 12-14, 2005, at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colo. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2005. Registration forms and more information are available at www.rccc.edu/playwrightshowcase on the Internet.

- **The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center** has announced the following upcoming breast cancer screening clinics: March 24, First United Methodist Church, 201 E. Foster, and March 29, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; and March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

After a decade, military bases in U.S. to be closed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Safe for a decade, military bases in the United States face an uncertain future.

The Pentagon plans to shut down or scale back some of the 425 facilities, the first such effort to save money in 10 years. The downsizing is part of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld's long-term transformation of the Cold War-era military.

The Pentagon chief argues that closing or consolidating statewide facilities could save \$7 billion annually and that the money would be better spent improving fighting capabilities amid threats from terrorists.

"The department continues to maintain more mili-

tary bases and facilities than are needed, consuming and diverting valuable personnel and resources," Rumsfeld recently told lawmakers.

Shrinking the domestic network of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases is a certain source of savings. It also is a high-stakes political fight because it affects local economies in congressional districts.

Lawmakers have resisted efforts to shutter their bases, challenging past base closing rounds and lobbying hard to keep their installation off the

final list.

"It's the perfect example of good policy and good politics not fitting in the same room together," said Christopher Hellman, an analyst with the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation in Washington.

"Conceptually, lawmakers buy the argument that base closures are important to make sure they are spending resources wisely. But they are reticent of closing bases in their cities because of job losses," Hellman said.

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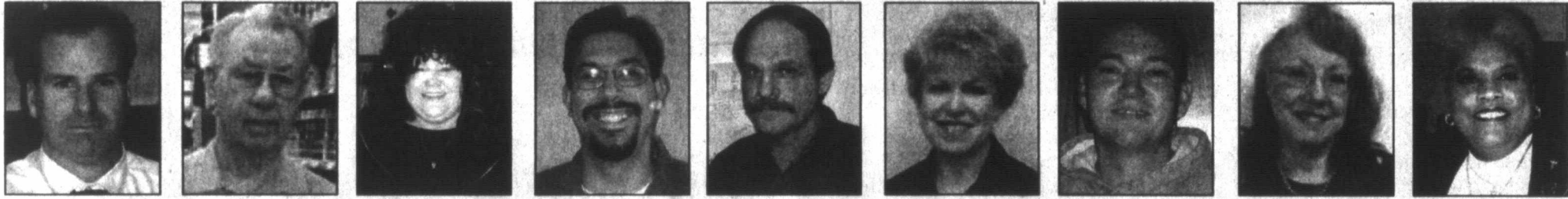
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PLAY WHO'S WHO AND WIN \$100 PAMPA BUCKS HERE'S HOW

1. Match each face with the corresponding name and rectangle in the advertisements found on the following pages in today's edition of THE PAMPA NEWS.
2. Cut out each face and tape it in the corresponding blank rectangle in each ad. All entries must be original newspaper - no photo copies accepted. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE IS TO GO TO THE BUSINESS AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! BUT... Some of these businesses might be inaccessible to the public, so rely on friends and family to solve this puzzle.
3. The Who's Who contest will appear in the January 31, February 7 and February 14 issues of The Pampa News. A drawing will be held from all the correct entries the morning of February 21 to determine the winner. Bring entries to The Pampa News office at 403 W. Atchison or mail to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066. Entries must be received by 5:00pm on February 17. Label your entry with your name, address and phone number so the winner may be notified.
4. Employees of The Pampa News and their immediate families are not eligible to win.
5. The Who's Who contest will be solved in the February 21 edition of The Pampa News.



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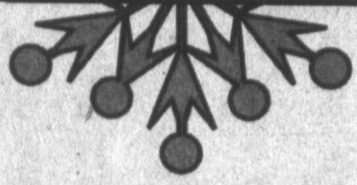
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2 Cor. 4:18



CRYO-TEMP



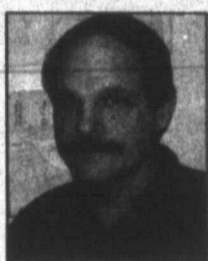
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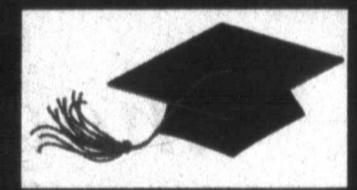
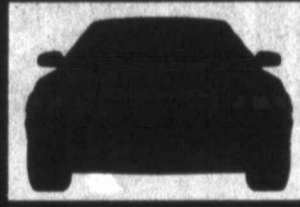
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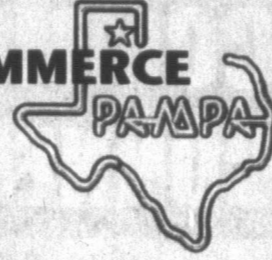
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- Christmas Parade - December


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- Tri-State Seniors Golf Tournament (Treasure Hunt) - July
- West Texas Stock Dog Assoc. Trials - TBA
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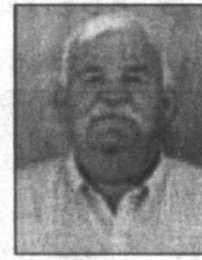
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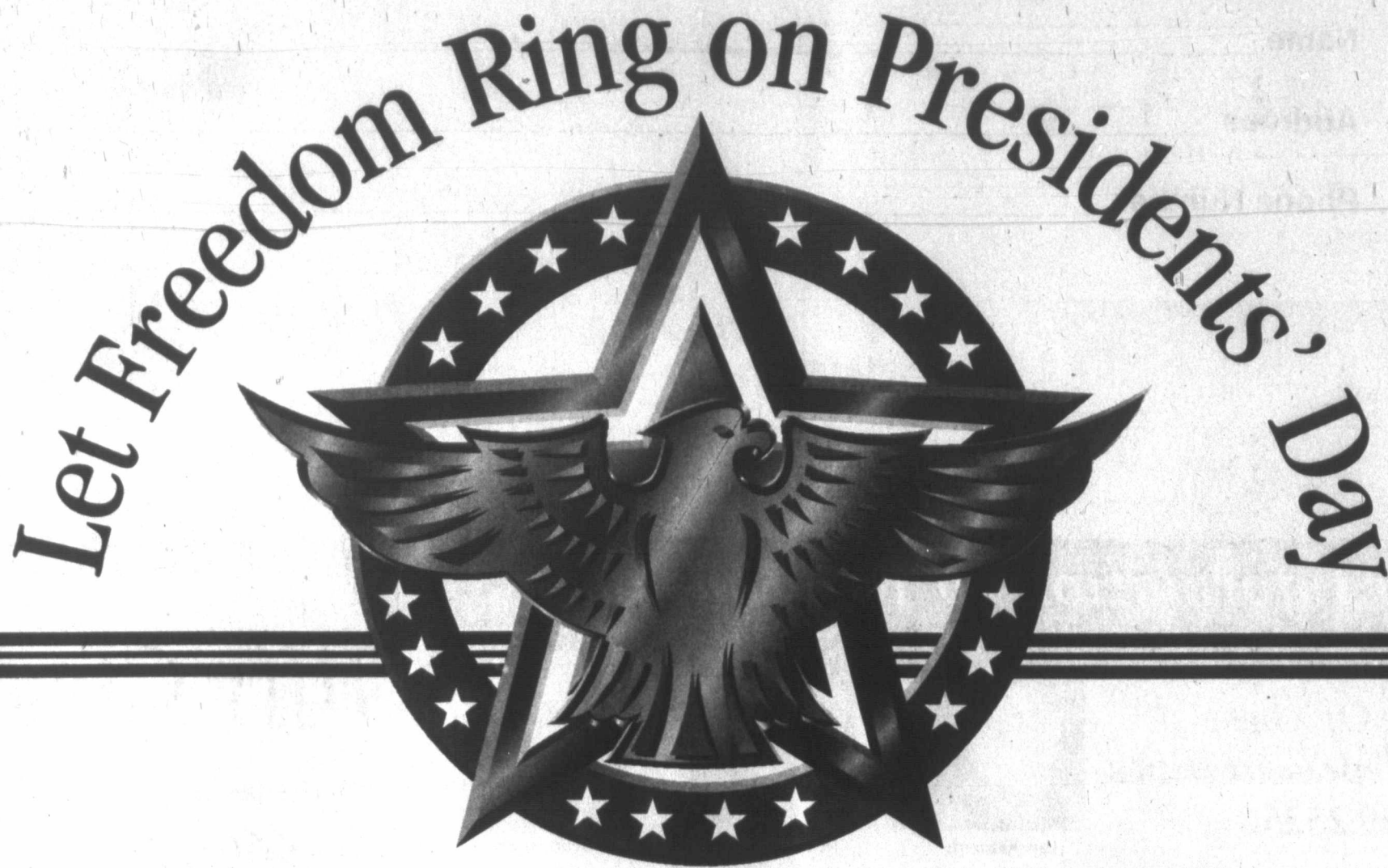

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As we enjoy the extended Presidents' Day weekend, let's not forget the true meaning of the holiday. Take a moment to pay tribute to George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and the other great men who followed in their footsteps to lead our country where it is today. Their courage, patriotism and hard work serve as an example to all of us. Our gratitude, prayers, and remembrances go out to them on President's Day.

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Crossword

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSE
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 34 Reason to
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 35 Prelude
 37 Singer
 Fitzgerald

Flo & Frier



Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Sam," and I have been together for 12 years, happily married for seven. We get along great, with only one area of major conflict.

I am a dog lover. Before we married, I owned three beautiful springer spaniels. Sam knew that dogs were one of my greatest joys in life. He also knew that living with indoor dogs was important to me, and that I'd like to have between three and eight of them.

We now have four indoor dogs. One of the dogs I had when I was single died two years ago, and my husband and I have adopted two. I'd love to get another one, but Sam says we have enough. He says the dogs cause wear and tear on our home, and are expensive to maintain, especially since one of them requires medication for a heart problem.

I have a home-based business and enjoy the companionship of our "babies" enormously. I am their sole caregiver, and although I may not be the greatest housekeeper, our home is presentable. All of our pets are obedience school graduates.

I have offered to compromise. I even suggested that we keep any new dogs outside, although that would break my heart. My offers have fallen on deaf ears.

Please don't think that Sam is jealous of the dogs. That's not the case. He simply doesn't love animals like I do. I'm starting to resent that I can't have another dog because animals mean so much to me. Please tell me what you think. — JUST ONE MORE IN MARYLAND

DEAR JUST ONE MORE: Unless you want your marriage to end up in the doghouse, please reor-

ganize your priorities. Since you feel the need to care for other dogs, consider donating some of your free time to an animal shelter. They would welcome you with open arms, and there would be peace in your household.

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and in the seventh grade. I am labeled as "shy" and "quiet" by my teachers and a lot of the kids at school. But when I'm at home or with close friends, they know differently.

What can I say when teachers say, "Oh, you're so quiet. Why don't you say anything?" Abby, please let teachers know that these remarks only make matters worse. My mom and some of my friends have had the same experience.

Is there a polite response when people ask me why I'm quiet? — ON THE SPOT IN ALABAMA

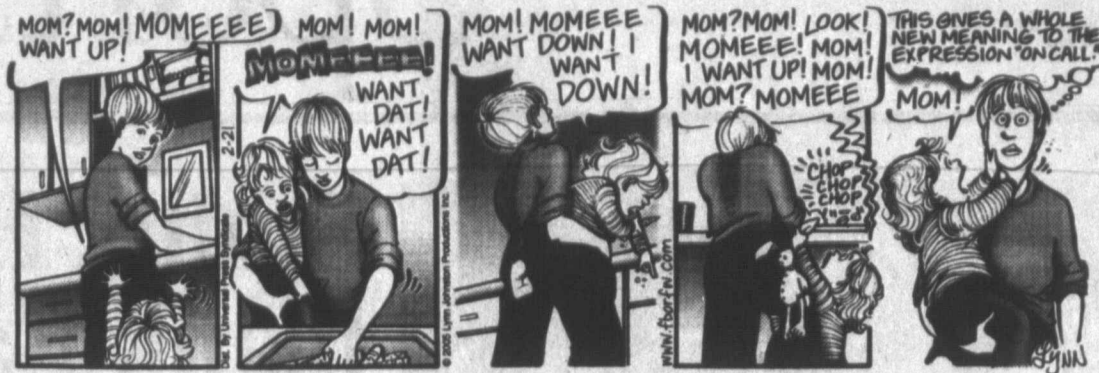
DEAR ON THE SPOT: Try this: "I never learned anything while talking, but I have learned a lot while listening."

DEAR ABBY: When a ceremonial toast is proposed, what is the rule of etiquette for someone who does not drink alcoholic beverages and nothing else is available? — SOBER ROSE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR SOBER ROSE: There is no rule of etiquette that says you must drink. If no other beverage has been provided for you, raise the glass you have been given, say, "Hear, hear!" and put the glass down again.

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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11 Lets up

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14 Meal

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21 Donate

22 Slop over

25 Burrowing

mammals

26 Works

leather

27 — Paulo

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Small

World

29 US-USSR

competition

33 Tantrum

34 Reason to

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35 Prelude

37 Singer

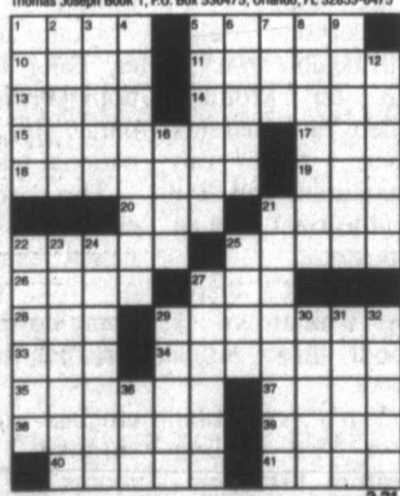
Fitzgerald

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Saturday's answer

16 Raggedy
27 Oklahoma
3 Verb after
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29 Groucho's
brother
4 Vine parts
21 Bargain
30 Elusive
5 Easter
22 Reprisal
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6 Heeds
23 Clinic
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7 Napkin
setting
24 Put in
31 Map
office
collection
8 Seething
office
9 Set aside
25 Soda-
paper
12 Rude
fountain
buys
looks
order
36 Clamor

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Marmaduke



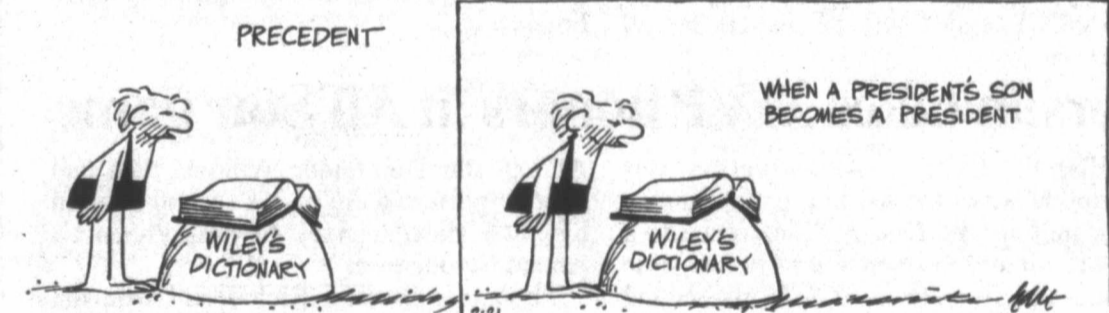
"That... HIC... isn't curing... HIC... my HICcup."

The Family Circus



"I'm tired of Old Maid, Daddy. Will you teach us how to play poker?"

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends





School days

Staff and students are Woodrow Wilson Elementary School recently celebrated "100 exhilarating school days." "Hooray For 100 Days!" at Wilson. Above: (back row, left-right) Sydney Taylor, Robert Norris, Miguel Salazar, Valeria Rodriguez, Jade Smiles; (front row, l-r) Marisa Fuentes and Mrs. Debbie Moore.

Veterans reunite for Iwo Jima anniversary

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Norman Baker arrived at Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, the first day of the invasion. It was clear and sunny. "It was a beautiful day," he said, recalling his time as an 18-year-old Seabee. "Then the mortars started in, and the artillery." That day turned into World War II's bloodiest battle in the Pacific. The dwindling group of American survivors gathered this weekend — 60 years later — in this Louisiana city and at

reunions around the country. Most are now in their 80s; some lean on canes or their wives for support. They reunite every year to remember friends they lost, to share recollections of battle and to connect with the few who can comprehend what Iwo Jima felt like. "It was only after the battle was over that we realized how horrible it was," said Baker, of Delaplane, Va., now 79. "The casualties were terrible casualties. Men died horribly."

He and thousands more Americans were unloaded on Iwo Jima's black-sand beach, then faced a blistering assault from the entrenched Japanese. It took the Americans 36 days to take the island. The dead: 6,821 Americans and 20,000 Japanese. The battle has become an iconic one in the Pacific. The heroism was captured by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, in a shot of Marines raising the U.S. flag — an image later turned

into the National Iwo Jima Memorial in Newington, Conn. But veterans don't have stary-eyed memories. "It was an unpleasant place, I can assure you. After that, I decided not to make my career in the Marine Corps," said Melvin DeFleur, 82, of Baton Rouge. The first Americans to arrive at Iwo Jima were unpleasantly surprised. The tiny island had been bombed for three days before the invasion.

Storms pummel south California; at least two dead

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mudslides forced some people to flee their homes Monday as Southern California was soaked by the latest in a series of storms that were blamed for three deaths, stalled commuter rail service and power outages. As much as 3 inches of rain was expected along the Southern California coast with 5 inches in the foothills, said Andrew Rorke, meteorologist for the National Weather Service. The mountains could see up to 2 feet of snow. Lesser amounts of precipitation were expected farther north, with up to 18 inches of snow possible in the Sierra Nevada. About 30 people were evacuated from 11 homes in Glendale, north of downtown Los Angeles, because of mudslides and flooding, officials said. Three homes on an unstable hill were evacuated in nearby Pasadena. In the coastal community of La Conchita, where a landslide killed 10 people last month, six families elected to leave during the night because of the heavy rain and a steady flow of mud on the bluffs behind the town, said Capt. Bill Flanagan of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. Warnings had been issued earlier and the community about 70 miles north of Los Angeles was described as a ghost town Saturday after other residents moved out. The latest batch of rain, snow and hail started battering the region Sunday, part of a series of storms that arrived Friday and was

expected to continue into Tuesday. Since Thursday, downtown Los Angeles had gotten 6.13 inches of rain. The city's total since July 1, the start of the region's "water year," has reached nearly 30 inches, making it already the seventh wettest on record, said weather service forecaster Curt Kaplan. The record, 38.18 inches, was set in 1883-1884. Metrolink canceled some commuter train service Monday along the Ventura County line north of Moorpark because of the heavy rain. Amtrak had canceled Los Angeles-to-Santa Barbara commuter rail service Friday night because of mudslides in Moorpark. By Monday, southbound Amtrak service had resumed but northbound service was still out. Early Monday, the rain triggered a mudslide that struck a home in the city's Woodland Hills area in the San Fernando Valley, killing one man, coroner officials said. In the city's Sun Valley area, a repair worker was killed late Sunday falling into a 30-foot-deep sinkhole created by the storm, said Fire Department spokesman Melissa Kelley. The body wasn't recovered until Monday morning because of downed power lines near the chasm, she said. And in Orange County, a 16-year-old girl was killed by boulders that crashed into her family's apartment in a rural area east of Irvine, said Joseph Luckey, supervising deputy coroner. Her mother and stepfather were unhurt.

Submarine surgery

Navy honors WWII sailor for emergency surgery on sub

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — More than 60 years ago, Wheeler Lipps performed a successful emergency appendectomy in a submarine 120 feet below the Pacific Ocean. Lipps, then 22, relied on makeshift instruments. He and an assistant wore pajamas rather than operating room gowns. Though a news report on Wheeler Lipps' feat aboard the USS Seadragon amid World War II won a Pulitzer Prize and prompted the Navy to make a movie about his actions, Lipps was never honored. Until Sunday. "Personally, I'm not overwhelmed with awards, but I think it was important they present the medal because it helps to bring about some closure of things that fall through the cracks," he said. Lipps, now 84, was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal. He said past efforts to award him the medal failed because officials believed a statute of limitations had passed. Lipps said his patient was the courageous one. "I always thought he was the guy who had the courage," Lipps said. "I've asked myself, 'Would I have gotten up on that table and let someone do the same thing to me?' He was one of the most courageous people I've ever met." The surgical environment was less than ideal: The patient, Darrel Dean Rector, was too tall to lay on the makeshift operating

table, so a nearby cabinet was opened and Lipps put the patient's feet in the drawer. The table was bolted to the floor, so Lipps had to stand with his knees bent throughout the operation. After nearly two hours, Lipps removed a swollen 5-inch appendix that had several inches of blackened tissue. Arthur Killam, 84, who served aboard the Seadragon with Lipps, said the young pharmacist's mate never wavered during the emergency surgery in 1942. "He told the skipper that he could do it. He went right after it," recalled Killam, who attended the medal ceremony. Killam and Lipps reconnected a few weeks ago for the first time since the war. Lipps said he'd seen several appendectomies during his time as a pharmacist's mate. Rector was back on duty in 13 days. He died two years later aboard a different submarine, the USS Tang, when the Tang fired a torpedo that circled back and struck the vessel. Reporter George Weller of the now-defunct Chicago Daily News wrote about Lipps' undersea surgery and won a Pulitzer Prize. Several motion pictures also portrayed the feat, including one titled "The Pharmacist's Mate," produced by the Navy. Lipps said about 100 people attended Sunday's medal ceremony.

Gonzo journalist Thompson commits suicide

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — Hunter S. Thompson, the hard-living writer who inserted himself into his accounts of America's underbelly and popularized a first-person form of journalism in books such as "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," has committed suicide. Thompson was found dead Sunday in his Aspen-area home of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, sheriff's officials said. He was 67.

Thompson's wife, Anita, had gone out before the shooting and was not home at the time. Besides the 1972 classic about Thompson's visit to Las Vegas, he also wrote "Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72." The central character in those wild, sprawling satires was "Dr. Thompson," a snarling, drug- and alcohol-crazed observer and participant. Thompson is credited alongside Tom Wolfe and

Gay Talese with helping pioneer New Journalism — or, as he dubbed it, "gonzo journalism" — in which the writer made himself an essential component of the story. Thompson, whose early writings mostly appeared in Rolling Stone magazine, often portrayed himself as wildly intoxicated as he reported on such historic figures as Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton.

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