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Debate heats up on education bill

AUSTIN (AP) — After defeating a series of challenges from Democrats and renegade Republicans, House leaders advanced toward their top goal of the legislative session — a sweeping public education overhaul.

On Wednesday, lawmakers resumed debate and approved a provision to limit a school district superintendent's pay to four times the amount of the salary of the highest paid teacher.

The entire bill, opposed by every major education group in the state, would add about \$1.5 billion a year to

public schools over the next two years. That amounts to an average of a 5 percent increase to every school district.

Late Tuesday, as the House worked its way through more than 100 amendments to the bill, lawmakers approved an across-

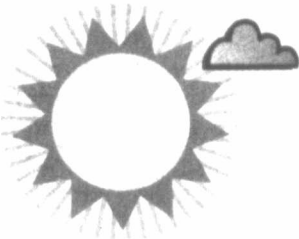
the-board teacher pay raise in an amendment that addressed one of the most heated criticisms of the legislation. Teachers would receive about \$3,000 more per year.

The teacher pay raise was added amid complaints from Democrats that the move

was a political maneuver and schools were not getting enough money to fund the raise. Critics say the new money in the bill would quickly be eaten up by inflation and other mandates in the legislation.

See BILL, Page 3

Today's weather



H 62 L 36

Odds & Ends

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — The suspect was a little long in the face after being arrested, but is braying for an early release.

Police said Tuesday they detained the suspect, a donkey named Pacho, after a motorcycle crashed into it on a road in a northeastern city, with the motorcyclist suffering serious injuries.

"When there are road accidents and serious injuries, the vehicles involved are always impounded," said Diana Rojas, spokeswoman for the Arauca city police department. "We had to impound both the donkey and the motorcycle and put them at the disposal of investigators so they can decide what to do with them and whether to release them."

Pacho's owner, Nelson Gonzalez, said no one should pin the blame on the donkey for Sunday's crash.

"Neither the donkey nor I were responsible because I was in front and the motorcyclist saw me" before crashing, Gonzalez said.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Barbara Lennen took her time being a multimillionaire.

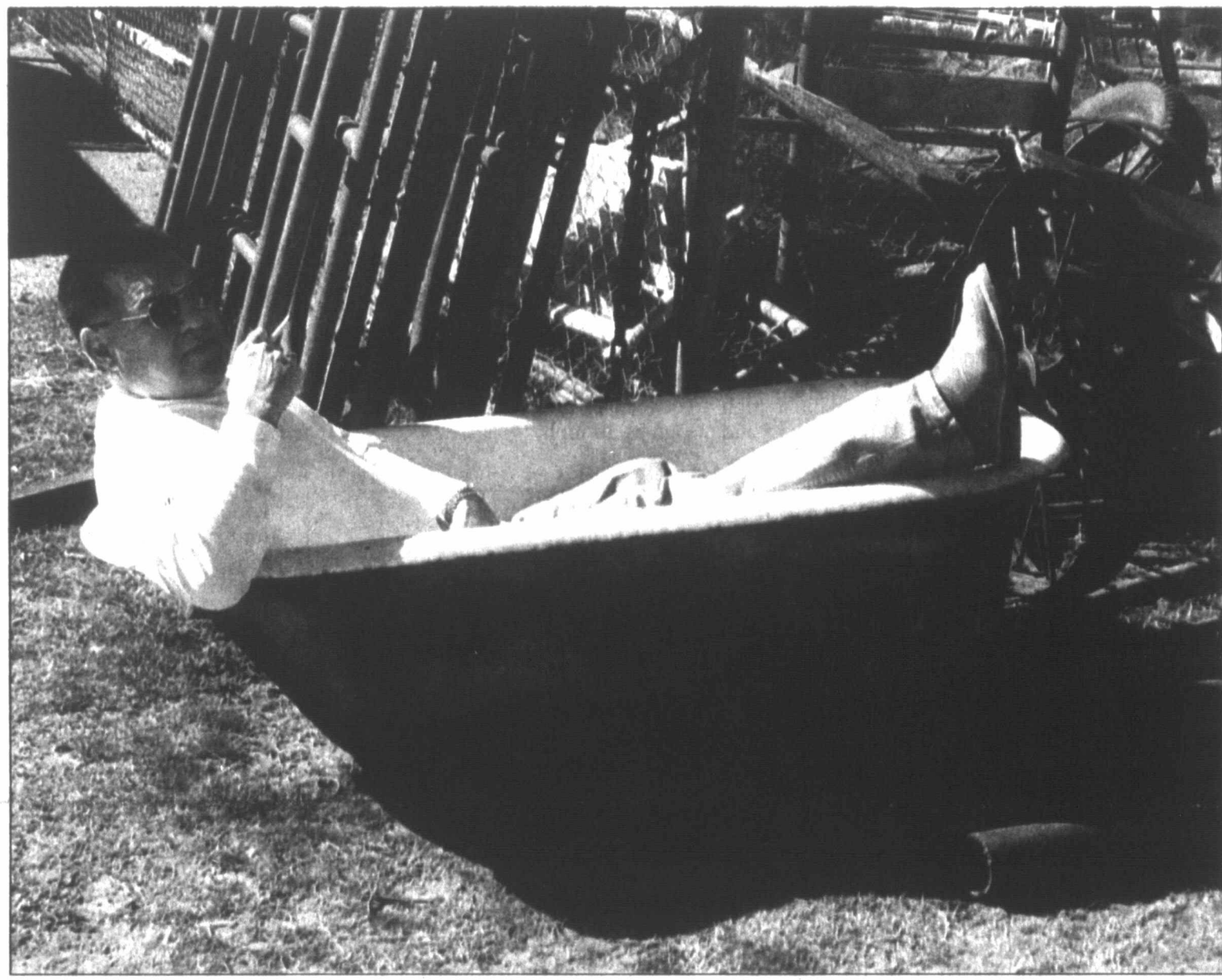
The mother of four carried the winning ticket for a \$19.9 million Powerball jackpot in her wallet for two days after the drawing before checking the numbers.

Lennen, 28, bought the ticket at a convenience store near her Elwood home, but didn't look to see whether she had won until her father-in-law told her Monday night that the store had sold the jackpot winner for Saturday's drawing.

"I checked the Powerball numbers one at a time. I looked at it three times," she said Tuesday after claiming the jackpot.

Lennen said after seeing that the numbers matched, she told her husband, "Don't get up. Our lives are changing. We just hit the Powerball."

Lottery officials on Tuesday gave Lennen a \$663,000 check as the first payment on a 29-year annuity for the jackpot.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Rub a dub, dub; one man in a tub

Jerry Lovato of Amarillo settles back for a smoke as he tries on a bathtub for size outside Jim's Tradin' City Flea Market, 918 E. Frederic.

City OKs purchase of trash compactor

By DAVID BOWSER
 Staff Writer

The City of Pampa is getting a new trash compactor, is selling a broom and is extending a 10-inch water line to Price Road.

The Pampa City Commission Tuesday afternoon authorized a new compactor for the city's landfill, although the price is more than had been budgeted for.

City Manager John Horst said with the rising price of steel, the prices of the commercial compactor and the purchase of a new scraper for the landfill has increased.

Horst estimates that it will now cost about a million dollars for both items.

The compactor was initially budgeted for \$800,000, but in the year since it has been budgeted, the price

now is estimated to be closer to \$860,000.

The good news, according to Richard Morris, Pampa's director of public works, is that the compactor should extend the life of Cell Three at the landfill by another year.

Both the compactor and the scraper are to be bought on a five-year lease-purchase plan, Horst said.

"We've needed it for a couple of years," Morris said of the compactor.

Horst said the scraper might cost less than initially budgeted. Morris told the commission that the city has spent the last couple of months getting prices on scrapers and negotiating trade-in values on the scraper that is to be replaced.

The commission designated an eight-foot pull broom, used to clean

See CITY, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Pampa City Commissioners Robert Dixon, left, and Ray Boring, center, visit with Pampa Code Enforcement Officer Danny Winbourne prior to Tuesday afternoon's city commission meeting.

Troopers arrest four on illegal drug charges

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers arrested four persons yesterday after two separate traffic stops along Interstate 40 near Groom resulted in the seizure of cocaine and marijuana.

The first stop occurred at 10:45 a.m., five miles west of Groom in the eastbound lanes. Troopers stopped a 2005 Buick Lacrosse for an alleged traffic violation.

After a K-9 unit alerted on the vehicle, troopers discovered 61.5

pounds of marijuana in a duffel bag in the trunk of the Buick, according to a DPS news release.

The Buick's occupants, James Duane Jenkins and Jimmie Samuel Hatcher II, both 22, both of Flint, Mich., were arrested and booked into Carson County Jail in Panhandle.

The marijuana has an estimated value of \$36,241. The marijuana is believed to have originated in Phoenix, Ariz., and was headed for

Detroit, Mich., according to the release.

The second traffic stop occurred at 5:15 p.m., when troopers stopped a 1999 Volkswagen Jetta for an alleged traffic violation two miles west of Groom in the eastbound lanes of I-40.

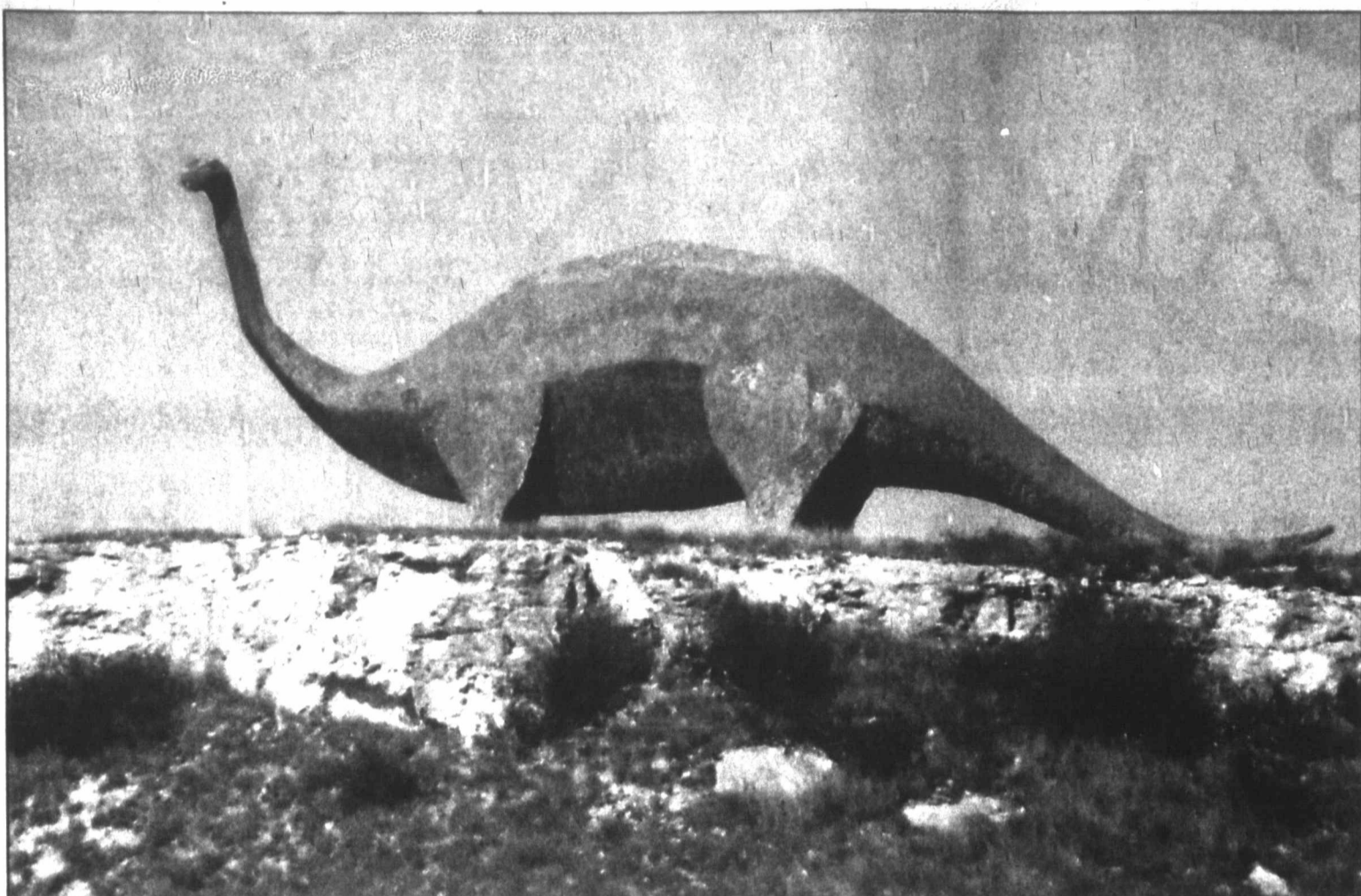
Troopers found a metal box welded to the rear bumper frame of the Jetta. The bumper was removed, and eight bundles were found inside the box. The bundles contained 6,000

grams of cocaine, worth an estimated \$300,000, according to the news release.

Eduardo Garcia, 24, and Jorge Castro, 30, both of Mexico, were both arrested in connection with the incident and booked into Carson County Jail.

Troopers believe the cocaine originated in Phoenix and was headed for Oklahoma City, Okla., according to the release.

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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

A large dinosaur statue seems to be sunbathing recently on a hilltop near U.S. Highway 83 south of Canadian.

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Wind chill values between 20 and 25 early. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.
 Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. Wind chill values between 29 and 34. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming southwest.
 Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 66. Wind chill values between 27

and 32 early. Windy, with a north northwest wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to between 20 and 25 mph. Winds could gust as high as 35 mph.
 Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 32. Wind chill values between 22 and 27. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
 Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 68. North wind between 15 and

20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.
 Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39. North northwest wind around 15 mph becoming southwest.
 Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 77. West wind between 15 and 20 mph.
 Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 37. North northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

LYTTON, Enzena "Ann" Saville — 1:30 p.m., Mountain Park United Methodist Church, Mountain Park, Okla.

Congress

House budget limits Bush tax cuts, follows his spending plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans proposed a \$2.57 trillion budget Wednesday that would cut a wide range of domestic programs while gradually reducing record federal deficits.

The spending plan would trim \$69 billion from benefit programs over the next five years. While decisions about which specific programs will be targeted will be made in separate bills later this year, the Republican-led House is expected to cull savings from Medicaid, student loans, farm programs, veterans and perhaps welfare and unemployment insurance.

'This budget chooses, as tough as it may be, to begin dealing with this problem now.'

— Jim Nussle
R-Iowa

By law, benefit programs grow automatically each year to accommodate for inflation and population growth. While overall spending for these programs would continue growing under the House plan, that growth would be slowed by \$69 billion over the next five years.

Domestic programs would be cut by 0.8 percent. Such programs range from national parks to food safety protection, but final decisions on exactly where the cuts will fall will be made in later bills.

Defense spending would grow by 4.8 percent while spending on domestic security programs would grow by 2.3 percent. Overall, spending on security and domestic programs that Congress must approve annually would grow by 2.1 percent to \$843 billion next year.

"This budget chooses, as tough as it may be, to begin dealing with this problem now," House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa, said of the huge deficits. Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina, top Democrat on the budget panel, said "the budget put forth by House Republicans shares all the flaws of the president's budget. While claiming progress on the deficit, it actually worsens the problem," he said, by omitting future costs such as Bush's plan to overhaul Social Security.

The Senate Budget Committee was set to begin working later in the day on a similar package.

The House budget calls for \$106 billion in tax cuts over the next five years, about the same as President Bush proposed. Only \$45 billion of those cuts would be granted procedural advantages that would let them avoid Senate filibusters, procedural delays that could kill them.

While the details of tax cuts, too, will be decided in later bills, the budget leaves room for reductions that Bush proposed for capital gains and dividends taxes.

The GOP fiscal outline claims to leave a deficit next year of \$376 billion. Last year's shortfall was a record \$412 billion. The budget claims to reduce the deficit to \$203 billion by 2010.

The House budget also assumes that Congress will approve the \$81 billion that Bush requested for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq this year, plus another \$50 billion for 2006. The budget Bush presented lawmakers last month excluded any new war spending for next year.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrest.

Tuesday, March 8

Fifteen traffic stops were made. A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Harvester and Duncan streets.

Warrant service was attempted at seven locations.

Welfare checks were made in the 2100 block of Dogwood and the 2200 block of North Russell.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Montague and Frost streets, the 2300 block of Primrose Lane, the 300 block of North Banks, the 600 block of Jordan, and the intersection of 20th and Charles streets.

Two harassment reports were taken in the lobby of the police department.

Telephone harassment was reported in the 900 block of Scott.

One open door was checked.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1600 block of West Somerville. Damage to a vehicle window and mirror was estimated at \$300.

An animal complaint call was received from Highway 60 East.

Burglary was reported in the 500

block of East Foster. It is unclear what items were taken, according to the report.

Theft of services was reported in the 1100 block of Ripley.

Found property was reported in the 2400 block of Comanche Trail. A set of keys was found.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the 1100 block of South Sumner, and the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of South Wells. A bicycle valued at \$200 was taken.

Theft was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. A wallet and contents were taken, for an estimated loss of \$20.

Law enforcement assistance was rendered at the intersection of Browning and Harvester streets.

An assault call was received from the 600 block of East Browning.

A domestic disturbance call was received from the 400 block of Carr.

A runaway was reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive.

Jana Elizabeth Turlington, 30, 1041 Prairie Drive, was arrested on two capias pro fines for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear.

Fire

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

Tuesday, March 8

12 noon — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision at Duncan and Harvester streets. Firefighters cleaned up a small spill from the collision.

7:32 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 2200 block of Russell. Call was canceled on arrival.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Tuesday, March 8

7 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:08 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Hobart and Randy Matson and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

7:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2200 block of Hobart. No transport.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atchafalaya Grain of Pampa.
 Wheat 3.25
 Milo 3.27
 Corn 3.83
 Soybeans 5.50

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

OXY 74.32 +1.01	XCEL 17.71 -0.14	SLB 76.15 +0.15
BP PLC ADR 65.81 +0.44	Kerr McGee 82.35 +0.80	Tenneco 13.97 -0.38
Cabot Corp 35.70 +0.40	XOM 63.63 +0.53	CVX 61.74 +0.24
Cabot Oil Gas 57.43 +0.73	Limited 24.55 -0.06	Wal-Mart 52.40 -0.02
Coca Cola 43.25 -0.17	Williams 18.90 +0.07	OKE 30.67 -0.27
VLO 75.38 +1.98	MCD 32.66 -0.82	NS Grp 33.40 -0.54
HAL 43.25 -0.17	Atmos 27.90 -0.21	New York Gold 440.40
TRU 42.66 -0.89	Pioneer Nat NA	Silver 7.94
NOI 48.63 +0.18	ICP 47.67 +0.29	West Texas Crude 54.59
KMI 80.74 -0.29	COP 110.11 +0.50	

CITY BRIEFS

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BASEBALL /SOFTBALL
 Signups for Pampa Optimist Registration March 7-10 5:30pm to 7:30pm Everyone Must Register, Ronnie Haynes 665-6859, Kevin Davis 665-7843

COODER GRAW and Denim & Lance, live, Sat., Mar. 12th, Fri. 11th-Blaine Younger at the Lonestar. Tickets at Onies & Jiffy Cleaners. \$2 longnecks til 10.

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Houston cops probe infant deaths

HOUSTON (AP) — Police were investigating the deaths of two infants who appeared to be the victims of shaken baby syndrome.

An 8-month-old girl died Sunday, and a 5-month-old boy died Tuesday.

The 8-month-old baby's mother found her unresponsive in her bed when she returned from work on Sunday, Child Protective Services spokeswoman Estella Olguin said. The baby's 23-year-old father had been watching her.

Doctors found the baby had blunt force trauma to the head, bruising to her eyelid, bleeding in her brain and broken blood vessels in her eyes, Olguin said. All those symptoms are consistent with shaken baby syndrome. Shaken baby syndrome is

the leading cause of death for abused and neglected children in Texas, Olguin said. It happens when children are violently shaken by the arms, legs, chests or shoulders. Because infants' neck muscles are weak, such motions are especially harmful or even deadly.

An autopsy was done on the 8-month-old girl, but the official cause of death had not yet been determined.

The 5-month-old boy's mother had left him with her 20-year-old boyfriend while she went to work on Sunday, Olguin said.

The man said the baby fell as he was giving him a bath, Olguin said. He said the baby initially appeared to be fine, but he later noticed mucus coming from his nose and mouth.

Agency approves proposal to save endangered species

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Edwards Aquifer Authority has accepted a proposal to preserve the habitat of seven endangered and one threatened species after spending seven years and \$3 million drafting the plan.

The habitat conservation plan will now go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It could take several more years to review the plan and work out the details, said Carrie Thompson, a biologist with the agency's Austin Ecological Services office.

The plan outlines steps the authority would take to try to preserve the species that live in the Edwards or its major spring openings at San Marcos and New Braunfels.

In exchange, the wildlife agency would issue a permit that would protect the authority and those who draw from the aquifer from criminal and civil penalties if their actions during severe drought or other circumstances beyond their control killed off some individual members of the species.

The plan was approved by a 10-4 vote despite pleas for a delay from people representing downstream interests and by the president of the San Antonio Water System, which funds about 70 percent of the authority's budget through pumping fees.

David Chardavoine, president and chief executive of the water system, said his office hadn't had time to review the changes.

The Guadalupe Basin Coalition — a group of businesses, chambers of commerce and governments from communities along the Guadalupe and San Marcos rivers — opposed the plan. They said pumping limits were left out and the reductions promised in drought don't assure spring flows.

If the wildlife service approves the plan "the future for Comal and San Marcos Springs, as well as the Guadalupe River, is bleak," said Todd Votteler, director of natural resources for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

Bill

Continued

Among other some laws added was mileage costs added to school funds to educate students and dropping out.

In a rare Republican House members strike a cap on property tax taken from wealthy districts. While there would be the amount of wealthy districts to share.

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Bill

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Among other provisions some lawmakers wanted added was more money for mileage costs of busing students to school and increased funds to educate bilingual students and those at risk of dropping out.

In a rare loss for the Republican leadership, House members voted to strike a cap on the amount of property tax revenue that is taken from wealthy districts, like Highland Park, and redistributed to property poor districts. Without the cap, there would be no limit on the amount of money that wealthy districts are forced to share.

After several moments of visible arm-twisting on the House floor the provision,

authored by maverick Republican Rep. Charlie Geren of Fort Worth, was reconsidered and defeated despite support from several Republicans.

The share-the-wealth aspect of the so-called Robin Hood system has been among the most contentious issues facing lawmakers and school officials.

The plan would increase funds for bilingual students and would introduce a teacher incentive program to financially reward teachers based on student performance. Schools would get extra money to be used on textbooks or technology to replace textbooks online.

The legislation also would reduce the state's dependence on local property taxes and redistributed money taken from property wealthy districts.

One of the first amend-

ments to come up was a total rewrite of the main Republican-drawn legislation. The alternative plan, crafted by Democrats, offered property tax relief in the form of a tripled homestead exemption and an additional \$2 billion for schools. But it was soundly rejected by the Republican-controlled chamber.

Earlier Tuesday, Gov. Rick Perry cautioned that the legislation would not be the final law.

"When that bill gets to the conference committee, it's going to look substantially different," Perry said, sug-

gesting that those who don't like the specifics of the tax bill have plenty of time to register a complaint before it reaches his desk.

House members voted to strike a cap on the amount of property tax revenue that is taken from wealthy districts and redistributed to property poor districts.

bill from those who represent sparsely populated regions of Texas.

Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Lufkin, proposed giving all schools \$1.50 per mile of approved bus routes in the

district. The money is now based on students and not miles. The formulas have not been updated since the 1980s, when gas prices were less than a dollar per gallon. Even though rural districts often do not have many students, McReynolds said the schools must still pay for buses, gas, insurance and drivers to haul them to and from classes.

Some from urban areas said the change would take money away from schools in their cities.

"It seems to me we've been strangling somebody, and we're going to give that up and strangle somebody else," said Rep. Helen Giddings, D-DeSoto.

A separate \$10 billion tax bill designed to supply the money for a school property tax reduction is expected to reach the House later this

week. A tax-writing committee has added to the bill a 3 percent tax on snacks like soft drinks, doughnuts, chips and nuts.

Revising the state's system for paying for public schools has been a top priority for many lawmakers this session. Lawmakers are under pressure after a judge last year ruled Texas' school finance system unconstitutional, calling the \$30 billion system "financially inefficient, inadequate and unsuitable."

Rep. Kent Grusendorf, R-Arlington, who wrote much of the legislation that would restructure public education in Texas, said the judge's opinion is flawed and "very creative writing."

The state appealed the ruling to the Texas Supreme Court, but a final decision is not expected until after the current legislative session.

Amateur photographers, here's your chance to win!

Enter The Pampa News' "Pampa Portraits" contest for a chance to win \$50 in Pampa Bucks and have your photo published as a special section cover on March 31.

One section of the annual "Pride" Progress special edition will be dedicated to photographs of Pampa people in Pampa. The best photos submitted for the "Pampa Portraits" contest will be included in one section of this special edition and the winning photograph will be published in color on the cover.

Eligible entries will be photographs of Pampa people in Pampa taken by amateur photographers. Photo subjects can be at work, at play, relaxing at home or celebrating special occasions. Photos of scenery or animals only will not be considered.

Newspaper staff members will determine the winner by judging on content, quality and originality. The decision of the judges will be final.

Photographs can be prints or digitals copied to a CD and submitted by mail or by bringing them to the newspaper office. Digital photos can be emailed in

the jpeg (.jpg) format. Photos submitted on a CD must be of the contest entry only.

A brief explanation of what is happening in the photograph, names of the persons, date and place must be included with each entry. If a person other than the entrant is in the photograph, a signed release to have his/her likeness published is also required.

The Pampa News will not be responsible for any lost or damaged photos. Entrants are asked not to submit photos that are irreplaceable.

Each entry must be accompanied by the entrant's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number. Entries that do not have all the required information will not be considered.

Entry deadline is 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 16. The winner will be notified by Friday, March 25.

To submit an entry, mail to "Pampa Portraits" Contest, The Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198; or bring to 403 W. Atchison. To submit by e-mail, send the entry to editor@thepampanews.com.



City

Continued from Page 1

city streets, as surplus and authorized its sale.

"The City of Lockney is interested in buying it," Kim Lincyncomb with the city's public works department told the commission.

Pampa uses a self-propeled mechanical broom, she said.

"It's a lot more effective," Lincyncomb said.

The commission also approved upgrading a water line from Lea Street to 23rd and Price Road from six inches to 10 inches.

Morris said that Cornerstone Church bought the property at 23rd and Price Road a couple of years ago and is planning to build a church at the corner.

Under the city's subdivision code, developers must pay for a six-inch water line and eight-inch sewage line, but Morris suggested increasing the size of the water to 10-inches for future development in that area.

While the church will be responsible for the initial cost of the line, the city will pay for the increase in size. That will cost an additional \$17,288.50.

"That's quite a bit of money for future development," Morris said, "but it's something we need to do."

"I think it's wise for us to open up that area," Mayor

Lonny Robbins said.

The bid went to Hickerson Plumbing.

The commission also repealed one city ordinance and enacted another to adjust the city statutes concerning reserve and supplemental police officers.

Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner told the commissioners the change was simply a swapping of wording that would bring existing rules into line with state law and Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education guidelines.

Under the rule adopted by the city in 1998, the chief of police could essentially designate anyone a reserve police officer. That resolution was repealed.

The new resolution adopted by the commission during their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday afternoon would require that a supplemental police officer would have to be a commissioned peace officer and would have to go through the same hiring procedures and any other police officer, although a supplemental officer would normally be unpaid.

"It's a voluntary deal," Pitner said.

The new rule does allow for payment for part-time officers, however.

Pitner said that would be done in a case where the department is short handed and needs an officer at a specific time to fill in. The

money would come out of the department's budgeted salaries for open positions.

"It's less expensive than overtime," Pitner told the commission.

The old resolution allows up to 10 voluntary officers. The new rule would cut that number to five.

He said the department presently has one reserve officer and two people that have inquired about the program.

The commission also approved the sale of a vacant lot at 737 Roberta, which is delinquent in taxes, to Doug Brown of Borger for \$100.

Danny Winbourne, Pampa's code enforcement officer, said the lot would have to be mowed and cleaned up.

"It's my understanding," Winbourne said, "that a mobile home will be moved in there."

The next regular meeting of the Pampa City Commission is scheduled for March 22, in the commission chambers on the third floor of city hall.

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'Jailbirds' raise \$25,000-plus for MDA

Some 57 people were "locked up" in the Muscular Dystrophy Association's jailhouse at Fenton Motors of Pampa as part of the association's annual lock-up fund-raising campaign.

In cash, checks and pledges, the jailbirds netted more than \$25,414,

said a press release from the association.

"The Lock-up hosted by Fenton Motors of Pampa," the press release said, "is one of the many events which raises funds for MDA. Money raised goes towards programs and services to the people served in this

area fighting any one of 43 neuromuscular diseases that MDA covers. Clinic services, wheelchair purchase and repair, summer camp for the kids, and monthly support groups can continue because of the generosity of these jailbirds and their sponsors."

Look at them!
You'd never know!
Mom & Dad are
the Big 6-0!!

Iraqi security forces find 41 corpses

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi officials said Wednesday that 41 bodies have been found at two sites, and they believe some of the corpses are Iraqi soldiers kidnapped and killed by insurgents. At least 30 American contractors, meanwhile, were wounded by a suicide bombing near a hotel.

Interim Planning Minister Mahdi al-Hafidh escaped assassination after gunmen opened fire on his convoy in

Baghdad. One of his guards was killed and two others were wounded, police said.

A U.S. soldier was killed and another was injured Wednesday when a roadside bomb detonated as they were patrolling in the capital, the military said.

Authorities found 26 of the corpses late Tuesday in a field near Rumana, a village about 12 miles east of the western city of Qaim, near the Syrian border, police

Capt. Muzahim al-Karbouli and other officials said.

Each of the bodies had been riddled with bullets. They were found wearing civilian clothes and one of the dead was a woman, al-Karbouli said.

South of Baghdad in Latifiya, Iraqi troops on Tuesday found 15 headless bodies in a building inside an abandoned former army base, Defense Ministry Capt. Sabah Yassin said.

Cable ONE adds Food Network to lineup

Cable ONE will launch the unique lifestyle network, Food Network, starting this month.

Food Network is committed to exploring new, different and interesting ways to approach food — through pop culture, adventure, travel — while also providing technique-based information.

Available on channel 37, Cable ONE customers will be able to view popular programs such as "Emeril Live," "Iron Chef," and "30

Minute Meals."

"From beginners to gourmets, everyone who enjoys food will find something of interest on Food Network," said Terry Harris, general manager. "Whether you want to improve your cooking skills, get great recipe ideas or just admire the world's best restaurants, Food Network's likeable hosts and engaging programming are sure to entertain."

Food Network joins more than 54 channels of program-

ming in Cable ONE's Limited Package.

Cable ONE recently announced that there will be no rate increases for its Cable TV services in 2005.

"We are pleased to be able to launch this highly requested channel and still maintain current price levels throughout the year," Harris said.

Cable ONE, the cable division of The Washington Post Company, operates 52 cable systems serving 720,000 subscribers in 19 states.

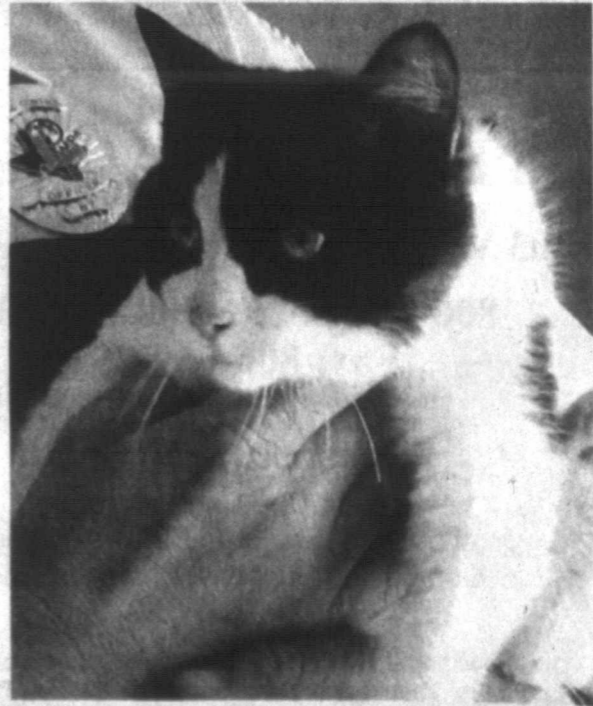
Pet of the Week

Riatta...

This black and white male cat is 5 to 6 months old. Riatta will be a wonderful addition to any family. Come by today!

If You Would Like To Help The Animals Donations Can Be Sent To...
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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park.
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Viewpoints

News more important than entertainment

"What a hard couple of months it has been for President Bush, huh? Last month he found out there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Next month, he will learn there is no Easter Bunny."

It is this joke by Jay Leno that opened my speech in the Impromptu speaking finals round of the Texas Forensic League State Tournament in El Paso last weekend. While the joke may seem downright harsh and frankly blunt, it served a direct purpose in my speech. My topic, assigned to me just 30 seconds before the speech

began was, "No news is good news." I used the joke, and many others just like it, to prove how negative news stories have stifled the credibility and respect of Martha Stewart, Michael Jackson and George W. Bush in the recent months. Through examining the voice of the late night television comedians, it was able to be proven that for these three, no news was good news; however, I also stated something I feel is very important at the end of my speech. Good news stories are out there; they just do not get as much coverage as the stories

with negative associations do. The reason behind this is simple. What kind of funny jokes do good news stories make?

Whether we would like to admit it or not, America is a humor-driven society. Perhaps this can be best proven by a fact I learned first hand at the state tournament. The easiest way to assure you advance to the next round of competition in

public speaking at the tournament was to add into your speech several jokes about Bush. As a matter of fact, speakers who lacked these jokes, seldom went on to

outounds. It is clear that speech judges and Americans in general would rather be entertained than just learning the facts, both positive and negative. Without humor a story has no interest. One of the first rules that I learned as a feature writer was to evoke

emotions, especially humor.

The reason that society focuses so much on the negative news stories is because the positive ones often are harder to evoke emotions with. Think about it for a moment. Which is easier to joke about, Bill Clinton cheating on his wife or Bill Clinton signing a bill to protect the environment?

It is because of this desire for entertainment that the negative news stories take precedence over the positive stories. That is why, the next time you gather around the water cooler to talk about the events of the day, I implore

you to repeat more than just the jokes you heard the night before. Because even though Condoleezza Rice saying, "We will not invade Iran; although, having said that all options are on the table," is funny, it is not the only angle to the story. Even though entertainment value is important, it should not be the single most important factor in deciding which news stories you choose to read or hear.

Ben Briscoe is a senior at Pampa High School and a journalism intern at The News.

Ben Briscoe
News Intern



Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 9, the 68th day of 2005. There are 297 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On March 9, 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Japan.

On this date:
In 1661, Cardinal Jules Mazarin, the chief minister of France, died, leaving King Louis XIV in full control.

In 1796, the future emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais. The couple divorced in 1809.

In 1860, the first Japanese ambassador to the United States, Niimi Buzenokami, and his staff arrived in San Francisco.

In 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads "Monitor" and "Virginia" (formerly "Merrimac") clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing more than a dozen people.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Roosevelt, began its "100 days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1954, CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on an episode of "See It Now."

In 1975, work began on the Alaskan oil pipeline.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington, D.C., killing one person and taking more

than 130 hostages. The siege ended two days later.

In 1981, Dan Rather made his debut as principal anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

Ten years ago: House Republicans unveiled their long-promised tax cut for families, businesses and investors. President Clinton sharply eased travel restrictions on Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and invited him to the White House for St. Patrick's Day. Los Angeles police detective Mark Fuhrman took the stand at the O.J. Simpson murder trial, denying ever meeting a woman who'd accused him of making racist remarks.

Five years ago: John McCain suspended his presidential campaign, conceding the Republican nomination to George W. Bush. Bill Bradley ended his presidential bid, conceding the Democratic nomination to Vice President Al Gore.

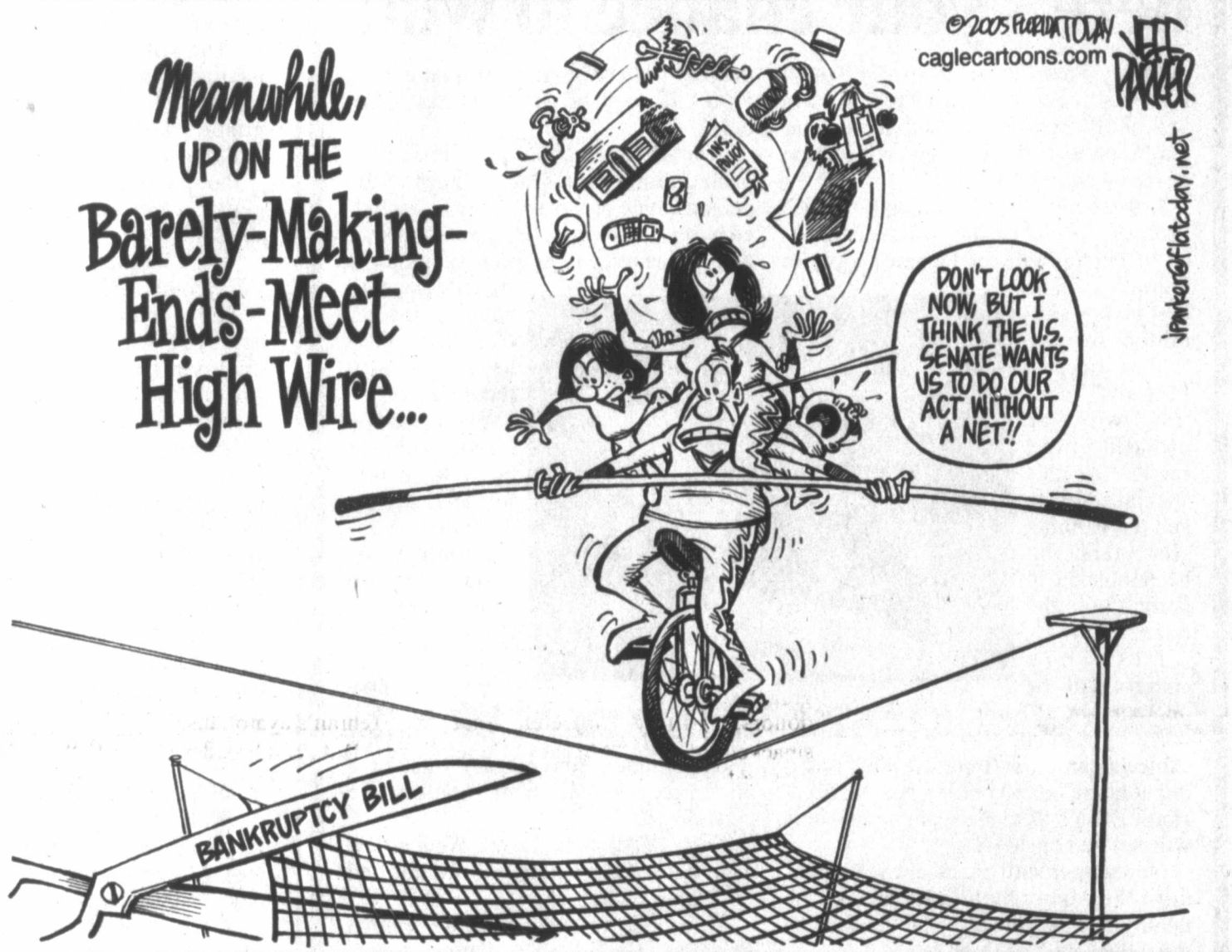
One year ago: Convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death in Virginia. Former United Nations official Gerard Latortue was named Haiti's new prime minister.

Today's Birthdays: Author Mickey Spillane is 87. Singer-actress Keely Smith is 73. Singer Lloyd Price is 72. Actress Joyce Van Patten is 71. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 69. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 69.

'Conscience is the perfect interpreter of life.'

— Karl Barth
Swiss theologian

Meanwhile,
UP ON THE
Barely-Making-
Ends-Meet
High Wire...



Hillary plans to use stereotype

As reliably as the calendar turns, Hillary's attention moves to foreign affairs in a bid to shore up her credentials for a presidential run. Suddenly, she is the Democratic shadow Secretary of State.

There she is, visiting Iraq and India, blasting Syria and calling for its withdrawal from Lebanon, and speaking out forcefully in support of the War on Terror. In India, she even said that outsourcing of American business — and therefore U.S. jobs — would continue into the future. And when the Israeli foreign minister came to the

United States, Hillary was his first stop — and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was second.

Hillary's outspokenness on international issues is more than just the routine of a largely domestically-oriented senator preparing to run for president, burnishing her resume on overseas issues. It is the studied implementation of a playbook that dates back to the '90s — when she and I

wrote it together. American attitudes toward female candidates, my wife's and my polling found,

tended to differ sharply from how they evaluated blacks who ran for office. When it comes to race, voters are either racist or not. If the former, they will never back an African-American. If the latter, then race hardly matters. But when a woman runs, few Americans object vis-

cerally to her candidacy. But most do stereotype her.

Interestingly, our polling — which we conducted for Hillary in the early '90s — showed that men and women, sexist or not, all had the same gender-based stereotypes. Women were perceived as better on issues involving children, education, integrity, health care and the environment; men were seen as better on defense, foreign policy, holding down taxes and cutting spending.

So the Hillary playbook
See HILLARY, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



Bring state legislators' votes to light

Most Texans don't know how their legislators vote on bills, even bills that matter to them. What they might not know is that in too many cases they couldn't find out if they wanted to.

Texas is one of only 10 states that doesn't require a record vote of legislators to pass new laws or kill bills. About half the bills up for a vote in the last session were decided on an unrecorded voice vote. Legislators love the anonymity of voice votes because they can hide in the shadows and vote for or against an issue without anyone knowing what they really did.

It's time to end that undemocratic dodge and hold

legislators accountable for their actions and hold them accountable to the voters who sent them to Austin. Today is an excellent opportunity to do just that.

Hearings on two bills requiring recorded votes are scheduled today in the House State Affairs Committee. House Bill 54 mandates such a vote in the House, and House Joint Resolution 13 calls for a constitutional amendment requiring recorded votes before final passage. Both are sponsored by state Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas.

Both bills are worthy of passage, and more than 170 organizations, companies and individuals have signed on in support of them. Every major news outlet in Texas has weighed in on the need for the Legislature to record final votes, and the vast majority support Branch's bills.

Anyone able to attend the hearing at 2 p.m. today in the Capitol should lend their voice to the effort to push the Legislature to do the democratic, logical and right thing and pass these bills.

Committee Chairman

David Swinford, R-Amarillo, deserves thanks for setting a hearing on the bills. There is local power on the committee, too, for Central Texans to contact State Rep. Dan Gattis, R-Georgetown, holds a leadership position on State Affairs.

Legislators have tried in the past, and might try again, to dilute the power of the legislation by making it easier to call for a recorded vote. But that isn't the same as requiring a recorded vote on every item up for final passage, which the Legislature should do.

Texas needs to have a con-
See VOTES, Page 5

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Academic
CCS
Community School of Association Schools International school, reported in an assessment for students in the region.
Students Community School have will compete in schools in spelling, Math, Science Fair.
CCS students are required to the local level offered in order to regional competition.
Participating regional spelling third grader gold medalist Kim, fourth grader Ladd, fifth grader and sixth grader Taylor.

Vote
Constitutional... Anything less... These bills. Ar... Texas desc... from its Legi... On the Web... Affairs Comm... state Rep. D... Committee is... room E.2.010

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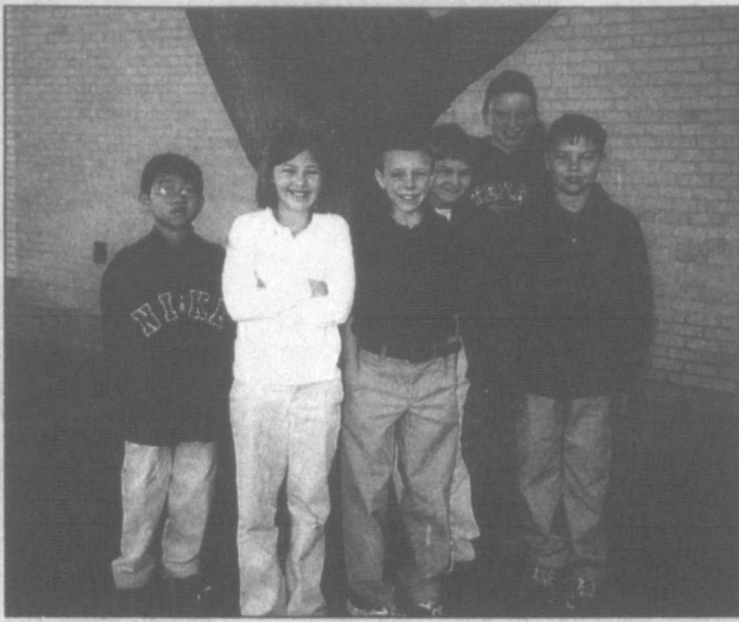
CCS students compete at regionals

Community Christian School of Pampa, an Association of Christian Schools International member school, recently participated in an association competition for elementary students in the northwest region.

Students from Community Christian School have competed or will compete against students in other member schools in such categories as spelling bee, Speech Meet, Math Olympics and Science Fair.

CCS students, a press release from the school said, are required to participate at the local level in all events offered in individual grades in order to advance to regional competition.

Participating in the regional spelling bee were third grader and third-place gold medal winner Joseph Kim, fourth grader Kristen Ladd, fifth grader Ian Smith and sixth grader Jonathan Taylor.



Community Christian School students Joseph Kim, Cecily Pereira, Jacob Green, Cyler Clifton, Samantha Kelly and Scott Kelly will represent CCS at the Northwest Regional Math Olympics at Plainview Christian Academy in Plainview on Friday, March 11.

"In other events," the press release said, "each student competes against himself/herself. Each student earns a score based on the

number of points received in various categories on the score sheet. According to the number of points earned, a student may receive a rat-

ing of Superior, Excellent, Good or Honorable Mention. A student must score Superior or Excellent at the local level to advance to the regional meet."

Representing CCS in the regional Speech Meet at Dalhart Christian Academy recently were first graders, Jenna Leigh Bonner and Cherub Whittington; third graders Cyler Clifton, Thomas Haley and Kim; fourth grader Ladd; fifth grader Smith and sixth grader Samantha Kelly.

Kim earned a gold medal for the highest superior score in Bible Memory. Ladd received a bronze medal for third highest superior score in poetry.

Regional Math Olympics will be held at Plainview Christian Academy in Plainview Friday, March 11.

Students from CCS entered in the competition include Kim, Cecily Pereira, Clifton, Jacob Green, Scott Kelly and Samantha Kelly.

Pupils get an ethics lesson

BOSTON (AP) — His decision came late at night, with his laptop propped in front of him in bed. Instructions on a Web site promised business school applicants like him an early online peek at whether they'd been accepted. Intrigued, he began typing.

A minute later he'd accessed the Harvard Business School's admission site, though all he saw was a blank page. That split-second decision cost the 28-year-old New Yorker a chance to attend the school this year.

And he wasn't the only one to get turned down for doing what he did — using a method detailed in a BusinessWeek online forum to try to get an early glimpse at admissions decisions in top business schools.

In a blanket rejection issued Monday, Harvard dashed the hopes of 119 applicants. MIT followed suit Tuesday, rejecting 32 appli-

cants. Carnegie Mellon was the first to act, delivering the bad news to its "hackers" applicants last week.

Some of the Harvard applicants took issue with the university Tuesday, saying the blanket rejection was an overreaction. They disputed that accessing a public Web page with their own identification numbers was either a "hack" or "unethical," as Harvard Business School Dean Kim Clark put it.

The New York applicant — who, like all applicants interviewed, asked that his name not be used — said he spent months completing Harvard's rigorous application process.

"For all that to be trumped by a poor decision made in the middle of the night is incredibly unfair," he said.

Another admitted to being guilty of bad judgment for looking at something Harvard didn't want him to see.

Votes

Continued from Page 4

stitutional amendment mandating a recorded final vote. Anything less is not full democracy. Contact your representative and senator today to express your support for these bills. And attend the State Affairs hearing if you can.

Texas deserves nothing less than full accountability from its Legislature.

On the Web: Text and actions on HB 54 and HJR 13 can be found at www.capitol.state.tx.us. Contact House State Affairs Committee Chair David Swinford at 463-0470 and state Rep. Dan Gattis at 463-0309. The State Affairs Committee is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. today in Capitol room E.2.010.

Inventor wins \$1.5 million religion prize

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Townes, co-inventor of the laser and a Nobel Prize-winner in physics, was named Wednesday as the recipient of a religion award billed as the world's richest annual prize.

Townes, 89, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, won the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities. The award is worth 795,000 British pounds — more than

\$1.5 million — and Townes was honored for talks and writings about the importance of relating science and religion.

He first addressed that topic in 1964, the same year he shared the Nobel with two Russians for research on principles underlying the laser (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation) and maser (microwave amplification by stimulated emission of radiation).

Hillary

Continued from Page 4

became: Use the stereotype.

Sometimes, she tried to exploit the positive aspects of the stereotype — as when she focused first on health care and then on education and children's issues. Now she seeks to overcome the negative part of the stereotype — by posing as a hawk on foreign policy. But she clearly understands that a female candidate has to use the acceleration the stereotype provides on certain issues and overcome the negative forces that impede her on other aspects of it.

One problem is that Hillary is not likely sincere in her hawkish views.

Back in the early years of her husband's term, she was outspoken and aggressive in urging Bill to pull troops out of Somalia, calling the troop presence there, "Bush's parting gift to us." She was constantly warning against a heavy military involvement in Bosnia and was deeply concerned when it came time to send U.S. troops there as peacekeepers.

When I proposed that the attorney general issue a list of charitable organ-

izations that give money to terror groups to warn off potential innocent donors, Hillary objected that it smacked of the "Attorney General's List" of communist fronts published and made notorious in the '50s.

She backed an independent Palestinian state while she was First Lady and only discovered an affinity for Israel when she decided to run in the state with the largest Jewish population.

The other problem is that Hillary really doesn't know much about foreign policy, as witness her statement condemning Dr. Ibrahim Jafari, the likely new prime minister of Iraq, for his party's "connections with Iran" and for his personal, "family and religious ties" to the terrorist state.

The senator warned that these were "grounds both for concern and for vigilance." But, as Jafari pointedly noted, Hillary "knows nothing about the Iraqi situation." Jafari has been lauded in these pages as an opponent of the

Iranian brand of theocracy and, possibly, as a useful counterweight to Tehran's ayatollahs.

But, in a broader sense, Hillary was wrong to attempt to influence the outcome of the Iraqi parliamentary process that must follow the nation's first free election. For a prominent American to try to determine who will be the prime

minister, when we have 150,000 troops in the country, flies in the face of the spirit of the Bush Second Inaugural in which he warned: "And when the soul of a nation finally speaks, the institutions that arise may reflect customs and traditions very different from our own." Hillary's statements are hardly in that spirit.

But the fact is that Hillary is running for president and must use her pulpit to solidify her international credits. And she must show us all that she's a hawk — because that's what woman candidates for president have to do.

Dick Morris is a political analyst and was an adviser to Bill Clinton for 20 years.

Now she seeks to overcome the negative part of the stereotype — by posing as a hawk on foreign policy.

Calendar items

• **Pampa Community Concert Association Presents "Live on Stage" 2004-05 concert series** includes the following programs: Rhythm in Shoes on Oct. 26; pianist Richard Glazier on March 19; and Southern Fried Jazz Band on April 7. Each concert will get under way at 7:30 p.m. at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Additional concerts, some with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 675-2631.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., March 16, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa. For more information, call (806) 874-3211.

• **The next Pampa Area Singles Dance** with Mike Porter will be from

8-11 p.m. Saturday, March 19 at the Sportsman's Club on South Barnes. Admission will be \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol allowed. For more information, call 665-7059. Please bring snacks.

• **Chapter C.S. P.E.O. Sisterhood** will present a book review with Carol Smith Headrick at 2 p.m. March 20 in M.K. Brown Auditorium's Heritage Room. The book under review will be "Anatomy of Me," an autobiography of best-selling author of the mid-20th Century Fanny Hurst. Tickets will be available at the door before the event or may be purchased in advance by calling 665-7064.

• **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 and April 27, Shephard's Crook Nursing Agency, 916 N. Crest, both in Pampa; and March 1, Lefors Civic Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors. For more information, call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673.

• **For senior students enrolled at state certified schools** in Gray,

Carson, Collingsworth, Hemphill, Hutchison, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler counties, scholarship opportunities are available through Top O' Texas CattleWomen. 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.

• **Circle in the Square Theatre School** in New York, N.Y., will hold auditions for its professional actor training program May 7 in Dallas. The school is offering professional two-year workshops (acting and musical) and seven-week summer workshops (acting and musical). For more information, write to: Admissions, Circle in the Square Theatre School, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019-6795, call (212) 307-0388 or e-mail circleinthesquare@att.net. Go to www.circleinthesquare.org for a downloadable application.

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13 Bus. Opp.

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Kelly Services EOE

Maintenance Position Looking to hire 1 person. You must have heavy equipment exp. and some lawn care exp. Please apply in person at Memory Gardens Cemetery, 23rd & Price Rd., Pampa.

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CASHIER/Sales needed. Must have good driving record, good customer skills, be honest & dependable. Apply in person HEARD-JONES, Pampa

Route Driver...Pampa needs to be at least 21 yrs. old with valid drivers license. Able to work 7 days a week with flexible schedule Part time approx. 20 hrs, lift up to 50lbs. Background and drug screen required. Temp to hire. Call (806) 355-9696

Kelly Services EOE

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Volunteer Opportunity EXCHANGE PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE wanted - rewarding volunteer opportunity to work with high school exchange students. Responsibilities include recruiting host families, supervising students and working with schools. Call Romona Hunt at 1-409-745-2433 or Courtney at 1-800-473-0696. ASSE.

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69 Misc. **ADVERTISING** Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

FRED Brown Tree and Turf. Tree/yard spraying. Insect/weed control. Deep root feed. 662-3141

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Wanted yards to take care of this summer. 10 years experience. Call 665-5725 after 6pm.

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69a Garage Sales MARCH Madness; Books 1/2 Price, Booth 37. Raggedy Andy, 2218 Perryton Pkwy. Join Us!

95 Furn. Apts. Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 663-1442 669-0007

3 bedroom, 2 car gar., basement, new carpet & paint. Call 665-4842.

3/1/1 New Carpet, Fenced. 321 Jean. Owner Will Carry. Call 665-5276.

4 bdr., 1 3/4 ba., 1 car gar., sunroom, new carpet, paint, etc. Good location! 665-4842.

BY Owner 2547 Duncan. Below apr. \$76K. 3/2/2. Great deal on nice home! 665-0008, 282-5205.

BY Owner. Very nice Duplex. 1014 & 1016 N. Dwight. Both sides, 3br., 2 ba., 2 car gar. \$120,000 OBO 664-3317, 662-9487

FOR Sale By Owner-4 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, Austin school district. Call 665-5110.

NICE Brick 3/2/2. Sunroom, cellar, huge master br. Newly remodeled. 665-1928 or 886-7443.

PRICE Reduced! Nice 4 bdr., 2 ba., fpl-den, dbl. gar., new flooring, 1531 N. Nelson. 669-6546.

106 Coml. Property 2222 Perryton Parkway, Vacant Commercial Lot. Price Reduced by 1/2. C-21 Realtor, 665-4180.

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

120 Autos Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062

99 Ford Explorer Sport, 4x4, new tires, 55,000 miles. Exc. cond. \$9000 obo. 664-0702, 665-8836.

1988 Pontiac SSE Bonneville, 4D, new tires, battery. Runs great, cool car! First \$2495. 665-4816.

121 Trucks 1990 GMC 3/4 ton. 4 Speed, am/fm, a/c, 4 speed, 350 engine. White House Lumber, 669-3291.

6500 gallon Fruehauf tanker. New brakes, good tires, road ready, 6 comp., 806-874-3434, 673-1348.

122 Motorcycles 1983 Suzuki 650 Gs, 27K mi. Gar. kept. Good cond. Runs great. \$1500. 848-2255, 848-2077 weekends

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TexSCAN Week of March 6, 2005

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WHAT DOES OUR pay raise mean to YOU?

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The recent news of a possible new strain of HIV that is drug-resistant to three of the four classes of anti-HIV drugs and may progress to AIDS in months rather than years, should provide a wake-up call to those who are not practicing safer sex and/or are still sharing needles and syringes.

Time after time, I hear young people say they're not worried about being exposed to HIV/AIDS because, should they get infected, they can take the appropriate medicine and they'll be fine. Unfortunately, they could be dead wrong. If they become infected, the medicines they will have to take can cause serious side effects and must be taken for the rest of their lives. Also, not all people benefit from the medications, especially those who are unfortunate enough to be infected with a strain of virus that's already resistant to one or more classes of drugs.

Abby, people need to understand that HIV is not spread through the air, or from shaking hands or hugging someone who has the virus. If you have unprotected sex or share needles and syringes you could become infected. If you don't, you won't.

It's up to all of us to protect ourselves and our partners. — MERVYN R. SILVERMAN, M.D., FORMER PRESIDENT, AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR AIDS RESEARCH

DEAR DR. SILVERMAN: I agree that it's critically important for folks to protect themselves and their loved ones from sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). In order to do that, they must act responsibly. By that, I mean they must refrain from unprotected sex unless both parties have been screened for HIV and are negative, and, of course, remain strictly monogamous.

I am appalled that there has actually been "debate" about whether the public should have been warned so quickly about

what appears to be a new, more virulent strain of HIV that is drug-resistant. I hope the announcement will remind everyone about a subject that seems to have been forgotten in the last decade. For their own safety, sexually active people must keep their wits about them and always use condoms. And for those who say condoms aren't 100 percent effective, when properly used they are EXTREMELY effective in preventing STDs, especially HIV. Not using them is playing Russian roulette.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 16 and a sophomore in high school. I have been struggling with my weight for two years. I have tried Weight Watchers and other weight-loss programs, and I try not to eat between meals or consume a lot of junk food -- but I just can't stop.

My parents keep pressuring me to lose 40 pounds. Even my friends say I should lose weight. They say if I do, my crush would notice me more. Can you give me any tips for losing weight? — CHUBBY IN CLEVELAND

DEAR CHUBBY: Everything has a price. If you want to lose weight, the price you'll have to pay is abstaining from high-carb, high-fat, empty-calorie food for a while. If you get hungry between meals, have something to eat, but make it fresh fruit or veggies and an ounce of low-fat protein.

Losing weight is like banking: If you eat more calories than you "spend," you'll have fat in your "savings account." If you spend more calories than you save, you'll gradually become lean and mean. So exercise every day, and go back to Weight Watchers. I have seen miracles occur on that program, and there is no reason why it can't work for you, too.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



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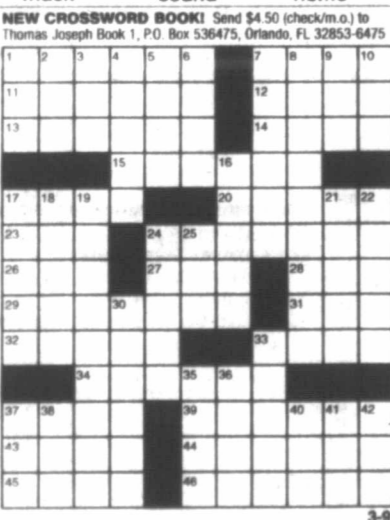
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Theater passes, in slang
- 7 Sneaker problem
- 11 Boxing combo
- 12 Nevada city
- 13 Enters
- 14 School near Windsor
- 15 Hire
- 17 Zilch
- 20 Asian peninsula
- 23 Exist
- 24 Like some curtains
- 26 Wager
- 27 Dull existence
- 28 Period
- 29 Former
- 31 Wee taste
- 32 Uncovers
- 33 Proofing mark
- 34 Gather, as wealth
- 37 Good pair
- 39 Made amends
- 43 Solitary
- 44 Predicament
- 45 A ton
- 46 Police, in slang



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