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Finally! Good news on economy

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Editor

Today's weather



H 41 L 28

Deaths

Joel 'Herb' Coker, 85, avid sports fan.
Charles Hart, 89, home ec teacher.
Ellen Baxter Pollack, 79, services pending.

Odds & Ends

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) — Having a vanity plate that reads "TIPSY" may not be such a great idea after all.

Josiah Johnson, 23, said his license plate might have tipped off the Clay County sheriff's deputy who pulled him over Friday after he left Coach's Sports Pub in Moorhead.

Now he faces third-degree drunken driving charges after his blood-alcohol level allegedly registered twice the legal limit.

Johnson said he bought the personalized license plate for his Jeep to describe the way it rode — then kept it as a joke when he got a Chevy Silverado because he likes to party.

"It doesn't mean I drink and drive," he said. "It just means I have a good time."

Johnson, who was slated to appear in court March 22, said he'll never drink and drive again.

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A group of Girl Scouts had a very unhappy encounter with a Cookie Monster.

The girls stood in disbelief as a man came to their cookie booth at a supermarket and ran off with an envelope containing \$320.

One of the five girls from Troop 4180 had recommended a box of Thin Mints when the man reached into the cash drawer and grabbed the envelope. An adult with the girls chased the thief but couldn't catch him.

Troop leader Jeri Smith said the third- through fifth-graders were in disbelief.

The girls were working their stand inside a Kroger store about 2:30 p.m. Saturday when the man came by and said he'd never bought Girl Scout cookies. He handed one of the girls \$3, then said he wanted a second box but only gave her \$2 more.

When the girl pointed it out, the man snatched the envelope.

After years of bringing "bad news," economic analyst Dr. Jerry Miller says he's thrilled to be the bearer of good tidings for a change.

Statistics compiled and analyzed by Miller show that Gray County was among the top three counties in the Panhandle in highest per capita retail sales with \$17,163 — topped only by Dallam, \$19,800, and Potter, \$20,623.

In comparison, Hutchinson County which is almost identical in size and with a slightly larger population than Gray County had per capita retail sales of \$8,329 for that same time period.

Dr. Miller, a former Dean of Business for West Texas A&M University in Canyon, presented his findings at the March Chamber of Commerce luncheon here.

"All the economic assessments have been negative for so long, it's thrilling to finally be able to give a good one," he said.

Miller credits the good news to a community-wide change in attitude which began about 2000.

"It takes people with passion, commitment and leadership to make a community bust at the seams," he said.

"I think it started with the courthouse restoration, then the attraction of the United Store. And it just goes on and on," he added.

"You deserve a shinning star for your growth since 2000," he told the group.

"So many good things are going on in this community, and it reflects in the retail sales," Miller said.

According to the statistics, Pampa's retail sales are up 92 percent from 1990 to 2003.

"Only Bryan-College Station beats that increase," he said.

Miller pointed out that Pampa-Gray County's retail sales have increased even as population has decreased.

"How you can have a declining population base and still have increase in retail sales — you've got to be proud of that," he said.

He encouraged citizens to "keep the momentum." He said to "keep telling people this is a great place to retire."

Miller said that the per capital retail sales figures makes an important selling point to business.

See **ECONOMY**, Page 3



Miller



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Alex Arreola, 5, in front, and Dustin Arreola, 11, make the most of a heavy snowfall during spring break by sledding down the east side of Central Park this morning. Pampa received nine inches of snow during the storm.

Heavy snow generates fun, problems for area

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Tuesday's nine inches of snow, the largest and likely the last snowfall of the winter for Pampa, led to an assortment of calls to emergency personnel, including one complaint of an obscene snowman.

Pampa Police Department and Gray County Sheriff's Office both received calls concerning at least one snowman whose physique was considered too

explicit for the public.

Only two traffic accidents were reported Tuesday to police. One accident occurred at 8:51 a.m. in the 1300 block of West Semerville. The other, a hit and run, was reported in the police department lobby at 1:07 p.m.

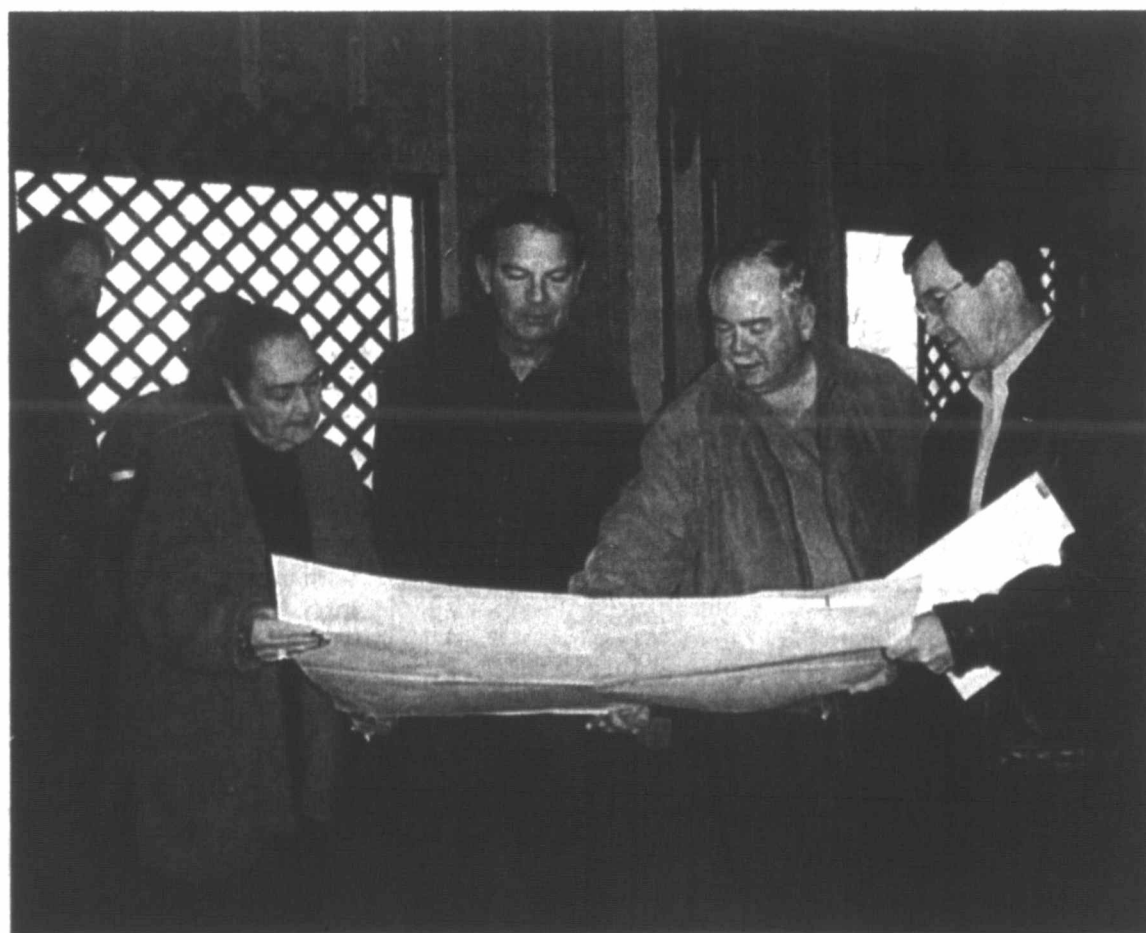
The sheriff's office also received two calls concerning accidents yesterday. One was a four-car pileup at Mile Marker 135 on Interstate 40. The other accident involved one vehicle which slid off the road at the

intersection of Highways 273 and 291. No injuries were reported in either accident, according to a sheriff's office dispatcher.

Texas Department of Public Safety's Pampa office received only one report of an accident, which was a minor one-vehicle incident, according to a DPS spokesperson.

Deep snow and slick spots conspired to strand some motorists. The sheriff's office received calls on at least 14 vehi-

See **SNOW**, Page 3



Museum planning annex

Members of the White Deer Land Museum Advisory Board look over blueprints for the museum annex building. Plans include exhibit areas and large item storage space. Part of the exhibit space will be dedicated to the Red River Wars. Gray county has more sites from the Red River Wars than any other county. Looking at the plans, from left, are board members Nancy Coffee, John Curry, John Forister, and Duane Harp. Board member Kelley Baker is standing at far left. Other board members who are not pictured include Wanda Carter, Sue Fatheree, Lee Fraser, Jean Duncan, Angela Spearman and Joe Wheeley.

Former D.A. rails against drugs, then is part of scourge he tried to eradicate

By BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press Writer

PAMPA (AP) — Rick Roach got elected district attorney in West Texas on a vow to rid the streets of drug dealers and users, and he went after them mercilessly.

"Drugs, drug usage, drug trafficking has become a scourge in our society," Roach thundered during closing arguments at a drug trial that sent a 30-year-old man to prison for 60 years in 2001.

Few guessed, until recently at least, the hypocrisy behind it all: Roach himself did drugs.

Roach, 55, was arrested inside a courtroom Jan. 11 and charged with possessing methamphetamine and

cocaine. In February, he took a plea bargain on one charge — possession of a gun by a drug addict. He could get up to 10 years in prison when he is sentenced in mid-April.

Roach told The New York Times that he had suffered from depression from age 13, and that he used illegal drugs to medicate himself.

"I just sort of, you might say, went nuts: I made irrational and wrong decisions," he told the newspaper. "There's no excuse. I've gotten what I deserve."

Now under house arrest at his mother's home until sentencing, he declined to comment to the Associated

See **ROACH**, Page 3



Roach

Snow

Continued from Page 1

cles stuck in snow, the dispatcher said. The police department received one call for motorist assistance from a semi truck reportedly having problems in the south bound lanes at 23rd Avenue and Perryton Parkway. Only one stranded motorist in a stuck vehicle

was reported to the Pampa DPS office. The trial of Jimmy Gawan Young, charged with manslaughter, enhanced, in the shooting death of Tracy Rena Williams of Pampa, was halted by 223rd District Judge Lee Waters on Tuesday because of the heavy snowfall. Jury selection had been completed about 2 p.m. Monday, and testimony had followed. The trial resumed this

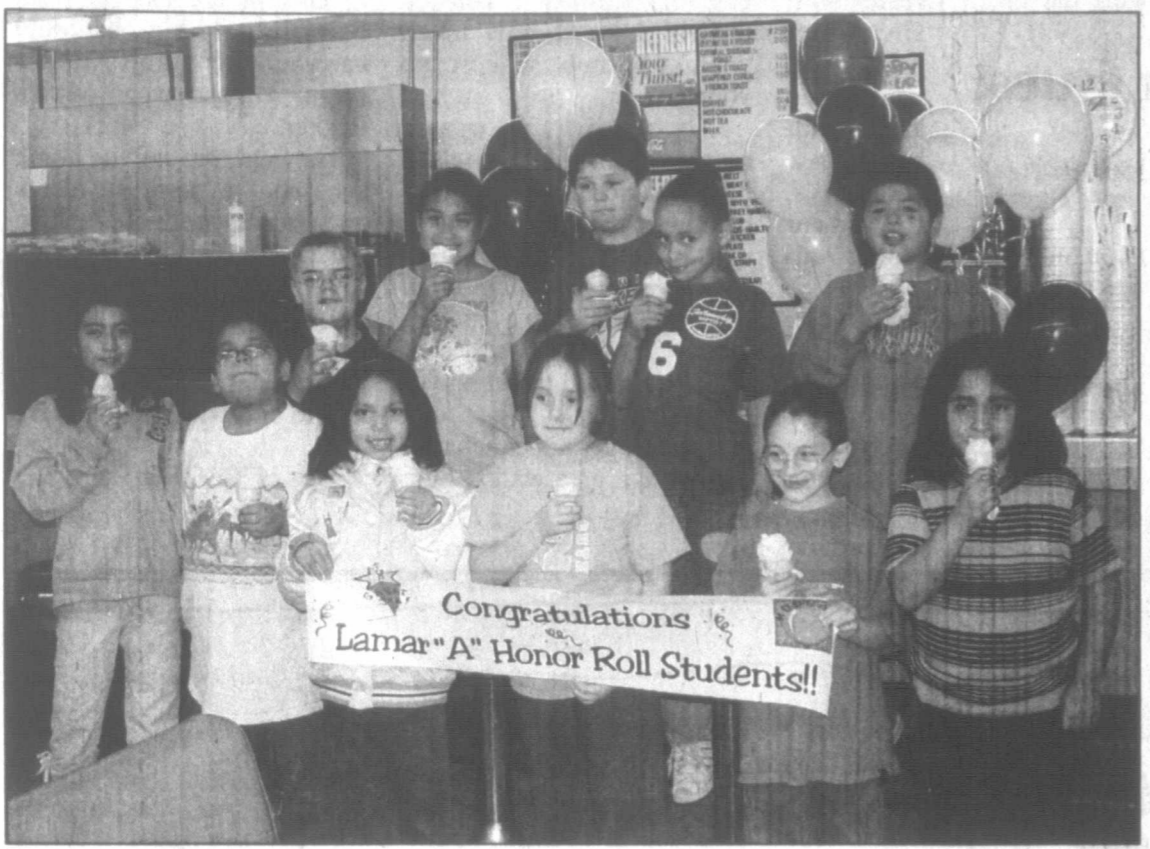
morning in Gray County Courthouse. Williams died of a gunshot wound to the chest on April 3, 2003. She was found lying in the driveway of a house at 1040 S. Huff Road and taken to Pampa Regional Medical Center's emergency room, where she was pronounced dead. The cold snap had more serious consequences than a stuck vehicle for a few Pampans. A motor home in the 1900 block of North

Banks caught fire Tuesday morning after the owner started the furnace. According to Pampa Fire Marshal Gary Stevens, the heater malfunctioned, causing the fire, which also damaged the houses on the north and south sides of the motor home. Another fire was started Monday evening by children who decided to have a campfire inside a garage. Stevens said a group of boys had built a club house

inside a garage at 1112 E. Francis. Monday evening, they started a fire inside the club house. The boys thought they had extinguished the fire before they left the garage, but it rekindled, Stevens said, resulting in approximately \$10,000 damage to the garage. Tuesday afternoon, insufficient ventilation in a closet for a heating unit in the 400 block of North Faulkner caused a small fire. Damage from the fire

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Honor Roll ice cream



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lamar Elementary School "A" honor roll students were treated to ice cream cones recently at Heard-Jones Health Mart. Pictured above are, back row from left, Dakota Davis, Bobbi Cortez, Brandon Cox, Madison Brown and Eddie Castillo. Front row from left are Abigail Salazar, Isaac Silva, Evelyn Resendiz, Karen Duarte, Terry Botello and Sarai Zarate.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Lamar Elementary School "A" Honor Roll students were treated to ice cream cones recently at Heard-Jones Health Mart. Back row from left are Petra Campos, Mireya Salazar and Montre Williams. Front row from left are Mariela Resendiz, Phyllis Chennault, Rebekah Foster, Daniela Viccaino, Yesenia Soria and Sarai Soria.

Roach

Continued from Page 1

Press. An electronic monitoring device prohibits him from venturing more than 200 feet from the house. The tough-on-drugs D.A. won re-election in November in his five-county Texas Panhandle district and was just days into his second term when he was arrested. John Mann, the district attorney who lost to Roach in 2000, said he noticed a difference in the man about 18 months before Roach stepped down in February. Roach had "kind of backed off" drug prosecutions, Mann said. "I think it was probably his inability to be coherent," Mann said. "I saw him acting like a fool for a year and half." Roach became prone to extreme mood swings and was sometimes incoherent and paranoid, according to court documents. He also had lost 30 pounds and his skin was sallow. Shortly before his arrest, a worker in his office in

Pampa found a syringe containing meth residue floating in a toilet. And according to court records, Roach shot up drugs in front of an employee in his office. "Who in their right mind would inject themselves in front of an employee?" Roach told the Times. He also had trouble sitting still and had unexplained absences from work. In December, he appeared "wired" during a court hearing, fumbling through papers and repeating what defense lawyers said until a judge told him to be quiet, Mann said. That same month, outside a different courtroom, Roach was jumpy and could not carry on a coherent conversation, prompting courtroom employees to speculate that he was "on something," said Leslie Breeding, the Roberts County attorney. "There have been rumors for years, but this time it was so pronounced and so

obvious it really couldn't be ignored," Breeding said. Roach was arrested after federal agents said they were tipped off by people in law enforcement. David Holmes, a prosecutor under Roach between 2001 and 2003, said Roach at times was friendly and talked about his Christianity; he even sang a few times in a gospel band. More often, Roach was demeaning, controlling and paranoid, he said. Roach started locking the main door at his courthouse office, requiring any visitor to knock before seeing the receptionist. Every Friday afternoon, he sent his staff home and stayed alone in the office, where he kept several loaded guns. Roach rarely tried drug cases himself, but made those prosecutions his priority. He kept tight reins on his assistants to ensure they

'Who in their right mind would inject themselves in front of an employee?'

—Rick Roach
 quoted in New York Times

Economy

Continued from Page 1

nesses thinking about coming to the area. "If you're looking to build a business and you see that people spend \$17,000 per person in one place and \$8,000 per person in another, which would make the most money for the company? It's not a tough decision," he said.

Everyone in the community can help bring new business to the area, Miller said. "No matter how old you are or how young you are, you need to get involved," he said. He said the "whole package" is what attracts businesses to a community — housing, work ethic, number of young people. Pampa and Gray County "may be suffering" in the area of young people, he said. "A lot of times, they have no choice (but to move)," he said, because not enough jobs are available to them.

If jobs are available, Miller believes young people will stay in smaller communities. "You can make so much more where the cost of living is lower," he said. City infrastructure is also critical to attracting business, he said. As sales tax receipts increase, tax money is available to improve the city's infrastructure, he explained.

Search goes on for missing boy

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard said Tuesday evening that the search continues for a 9-year-old from San Antonio who has been missing since the boat he and 11 others were on capsized Saturday morning in the Gulf of Mexico.

After the 18-foot boat capsized in Matagorda Bay near Port O'Connor, a rescue crew recovered the body of a 5-year-old. Nine others were rescued.

went for as much time as they could, Holmes said. One time, Roach accused Holmes of not being aggressive enough after Holmes offered a man probation in a drug case, Holmes said. Holmes said he told Roach the man probably would violate his probation soon, and that was what happened. The man's probation was revoked and he was sent to prison for 15 years, Holmes said.

Roach's drug problems did not begin in the Panhandle, according to former acquaintances. In the late 1980s, when he was a lawyer in Breckenridge, about 90 miles west of Fort Worth, he told people he had gotten addicted to speed and was going to a drug rehab center, Breckenridge attorney Jimmy Browning said. As he awaits sentencing, Roach told the Times he knows prison time anywhere will be tough on him. "Prosecutors don't do well in the pen," he said.

Associated Press writer Angela Brown in Fort Worth and Pampa News Editor Dee Dee Laramore contributed to this report.

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Viewpoints

Life lessons from a Pampa octogenarian

Editor's Note: The Pampa News welcomes guest columns from local readers. The columns must fit within the same guidelines as those for Letters to the Editor (see on this page) except the column can be up to 700 words in length. The following column is an excellent example of a guest column. The Pampa News would like to publish.

I was in junior high and high school in the 1950s in Pampa. Ed Myatt was an entrepreneur. He was a wealthy man. He was the owner of Friendly Men's Wear on Cuyler. He was successful and handsome. My mother, Verdalee Cooper,

worked for him at the store one Christmas wrapping packages. His store bustled with people. Though no one then had heard of Dillard's, his store had the activity of the men's department of that store. People everywhere — picking up merchandise and having it wrapped by my mother upstairs.

If my figures are right, my mom was 43 years old in 1955 when she was working for handsome Ed Myatt at age 37. As a 14-year-old boy walking the aisles of Friendly Men's Wear, I could only dream of wearing some of those beautiful clothes. Mom was working for us three boys. I know all her wages she traded out for

discounted prices on boys' clothes.

I know you are wondering where I am going with this. Well, my mom is 93 years old now and she is living in the Edward Abraham Memorial Home. I went up

Be Our Guest

Mert Cooper

to see her today and there was Ed Myatt at 86 years old. He had driven over by himself from Pampa to Canadian to deliver some snacks and fruits for all the residents. His dad died in the home at age 96, and Ed feels a close attachment to the home. Every two weeks, he drives from Pampa to Canadian to

deliver his snacks.

As you might imagine, I had a wonderful visit with Ed. I was wheeling my mother through the activities room when Ed brought his treats in. He had a dapper golf hat on, a sweater with silver buttons, beautiful blue slacks with black shoes — dressed right out of the 1950s from Friendly Men's Wear.

We had a wonderful time. My mom, age 93, in a wheelchair and Ed, age 86, driving over from Pampa to cheer the old folks up at the Abraham Home. We talked

of old times and long-ago people.

Ed made his rounds to all of the folks as he has done for the past 12 years.

To one gentleman on a walker, he said, "Here is a bag of peanuts I roasted myself. I knew how much you like peanuts, so these are yours."

"By the way," he said reaching into his sweater pocket and pulling out a peanut patty, "I bet you might like one of these."

The man, standing on a walker, broke out in big smile. "By the way," Ed said, "You need to get one of these bananas." The man reached to get his banana.

The man on a walker held

a huge bag of roasted peanuts, a peanut patty and a banana. Ed advised the gentleman on the walker to place the peanut patty into the peanut bag. Then he advised him to put the banana in the bag as well. Now, Ed told him, he could carry all his "stuff" to his room. Off he went on his walker.

Ed went through the home speaking to many residents and staff as well. He handed out peanut patties and chips to all.

I told Ed what an inspiration he was. He said, "Well, I appreciate the Abraham Home and what they did for

See LESSONS, Page 5

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 16, the 75th day of 2005. There are 290 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 16, 1945, during World War II, Iwo Jima was declared secured by the Allies.

On this date: In 1751, James Madison, fourth president of the United States, was born in Port Conway, Va.

In 1802, Congress authorized the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

In 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel "The Scarlet Letter" was first published.

In 1915, the Federal Trade Commission was organized.

In 1935, Adolf Hitler scrapped the Treaty of Versailles.

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre was carried out by U.S. troops under the command of Lt. William L. Calley Jr.

In 1969, "1776," a musical about the writing of the Declaration of Independence, opened on Broadway.

In 1978, Italian politician Aldo Moro was kidnapped by left-wing urban guerrillas, who later murdered him.

In 1985, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted in Beirut; he was released in December 1991.

Letters to Editor Policy

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters must be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication must be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. All letters will be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, and taste. We will not publish anonymous letters, letters that are potentially libelous, or personal attacks. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication nor can we guarantee a date of publication.

Letters submitted must include name, address, phone number and signature for verification. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Due to volume and repetition, we will limit submissions from the same person to two letters per month.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.



Major league baseball under siege

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The world champion Boston Red Sox dress in their spring training clubhouse surrounded by signs announcing, "No egos allowed," and "Together Everyone Achieves More." Closer Keith Foulke is one of many to emphasize not resting on laurels: "The day you get content, you take a step backward." New pitcher Matt Clement says he is learning that pitching is "not just mechanics. It's getting your thinking right."

But the Red Sox still seem true to the nickname they achieved last year — "the idiots." Centerfielder Johnny Damon's hair is so long that

when running he looks like a horse, his mane stretching out behind. Top hitter Manny Ramirez kids with everyone and has such a sweet swing in the batting cage that Jim Rice, a great hitter from the 1970s and 1980s brought in as a spring training instructor, just watches in admiration.

That's what spring training should be like. At the other Fort Myers spring training site, Minnesota Twins manager

Ron Gardenhire plays with a reporter who asked whether "baseball was eroding." The puckish pilot says, "Let's use that word in a sentence, like 'the hanging slider eroded the game.'" He then comments about the young players that his low-income franchise employs: "No erosion here, lots of entertainment. I enjoy seeing young players come in for opportunities. That's the fun part of the game. ... This organization gives people chances."

The Twins out of necessity spotlight players at the dawn of their careers, rather than at the sunset (as teams like the Baltimore Orioles and the San Francisco Giants do), and some are beloved. Bat salesman Paul Johnson named his 14-month-old twin boys Torii and Hunter, after superb centerfielder Torii Hunter, one of his two favorite Twins: "I also liked (Doug) Mientkiewicz, but I decided not to name them that."

That's also what spring training should be like. Two weeks ago, on the opening day of Baltimore Orioles spring training

See SIEGE, Page 5

Marvin Olasky

Columnist



Closed government prologue to tragedy

Every day, Houston Chronicle reporters use public access to government information to tell readers what their government is up to. Over the years, open records requests have enabled the Chronicle to expose malpractice and fraud in the state's Medicaid dental program for children; the propensity of police in Houston's enclave cities to pull over blacks and Hispanics to a greater degree than whites, often with little justification; and how a state agency was investing university endowment money in companies that demanded secrecy from public scrutiny.

The primary beneficiaries of these stories were not the Chronicle and its reporters, but taxpayers who want honest, fair and efficient government. Open government concerns everyone, not just the news media.

Today marks the start of Sunshine Week, an effort by the newspaper industry and other news media to promote the value of open government and to enlist public support for it. This year the observance coincides with increased

reluctance at all levels of government to reveal information to the public that owns it.

National security and the war on terror have eroded American's privacy from government scrutiny. Yet public officials are asserting new and unjustified claims for their own privacy in order to limit public knowledge of their policies and actions.

President Bush correctly observed that terrorists hate freedom. Whether in the

Middle East or at home, freedom and democracy are dependent on open government. How can officials in this country justify handing the terrorists a victory by limiting Americans' means to protect their freedom?

Some people ask how the press can insist on open government while asserting the right to keep secret the identity of confidential sources. News reporters don't want to keep secrets. What they learn and can back up they put in their stories. Confidential sources are necessary in order to keep

See SUNSHINE, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Domes

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Domestic picks

Bush to recommend World Bank chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Wednesday tapped Defense Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who has been a lightning rod for criticism of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and other defense policies, to take over as head of the World Bank.

Bush told a news conference that Wolfowitz, now Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's top deputy, was "a compassionate, decent man who will do a fine job at the World Bank. That's why I put him up."

The administration began notifying other countries that Wolfowitz was the U.S. candidate to replace World Bank President James Wolfensohn, who is stepping down as head of the 184-nation development bank on June 1 at the end of his second five-year term.

The United States is the World Bank's largest member nation. The bank traditionally has had an American president. Its sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, traditionally has been headed by a European.

Bush, during the news conference, noted that he had called Premier Silvio Berlusconi to talk about Iraq and other issues earlier in the day and also said that he had discussed Wolfowitz, "my nominee," with the Italian leader.

"He is a man of good experience,"

Bush said. "He helped manage a large organization ... a skilled diplomat, worked at the State Department."

'He is a man of good experience. He helped manage a large organization ... a skilled diplomat, worked at the State Department.'

— U.S. President George W. Bush

Wolfowitz, 61, was sworn into his post at the Defense Department in March 2001, marking his third tour of duty at the Pentagon.

He was regarded as more academic and ideological than his boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. Wolfowitz was among the most forceful of those in the Bush administration in arguing that Iraq's Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, and he had predicted that Americans would be welcomed as liberators rather than occupiers once they toppled Saddam's government.

Wolfowitz, a veteran of six admin-

istrations, has earned a reputation for being a foreign policy hawk. A conservative scholar, Wolfowitz, before taking over the Defense Department post, had served as dean and professor of international relations at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University.

Administration supporters of Wolfowitz said Wednesday he is suited for the World Bank post and pointed to his management experiences at the Pentagon and his diplomatic experience at the State Department. He had served as assistant secretary of State for east Asia during the Philippine transition to democracy. He also serves as U.S. ambassador to Indonesia.

Wolfensohn, bank president since June 1, 1995, emphasized reducing poverty in developing nations and making lending projects more effective. Previously, he headed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was a Wall Street investment banker for 20 years.

The Bush administration has been pushing for major reforms in how the World Bank operates, especially interested in having the development bank dole out aid in the forms of grants, which don't have to be repaid, rather than loans.

Lessons

Continued from Page 4

my dad. And, hey, I enjoy doing it! It makes me feel good, too."

Don't you get tired of folks who sit around complaining about getting a raw deal? Life not quite treating them right? Pick a cause ... an institution ... a person ... and give of yourself. Life might not seem so unfair and bitter. Thanks, Ed, for your gifts, not only

of snacks, but of spirit. And thanks for giving us something to think about.

Mert Cooper grew up in Pampa graduating in 1960. Formerly a Methodist minister, he is in the oil/gas and ranching business in Canadian.

Siege

Continued from Page 4

across the state in Fort Lauderdale, veterans like Rafael Palmeiro arrived for the first full-team workout and quickly were under siege. "We grew up playing ball together in the Miami area," he said of retired slugger Jose Canseco, who has accused him of using steroids. "I was shocked to hear that I was in his book. ... I don't know why he did it ... but it's tough to defend yourself against something like that."

Two Palmeiro sons, who look just like smaller versions of their dad, but without his mustache, sat on a bench nearby. The older one, asked how tall he is, didn't give feet and inches, but

said, "I'm almost as tall as my dad." Papa Palmeiro said his children don't ask much about the accusations: "We don't focus on me. We focus on them. We talk about making sure their grades are good."

But the reporters who surrounded Palmeiro that day would not change the subject. He wanted spring training to be about the spring. He spoke about his enjoyment, at age 40, in being back for another season: "Just to come out and smell the grass, with my sons here, and be out with all the guys ... it's a tremendous feeling." But then more questions about steroid use came, and the smile became forced: "I can't worry about those things. You just go on."

Joining Palmeiro in the Orioles lineup this year is another slugger/suspect, Sammy Sosa: This will be the first time in Major League

history that two players who have hit 500 homeruns — a milestone for Hall of Fame entry — are on the same team. Sosa, traded over the winter after gaining fame in Chicago, said in response to his round of steroid questions only: "I'm very happy here. I'm looking forward to the season." Ask anything else and, unsurprisingly, his eyes narrow.

Some players have brought this questioning upon themselves, but many others are affected by it. Baseball needs to put the steroids era behind it by having and enforcing tough rules against all kinds of artificial advantages, so that spring can return.

Marvin Olasky, Ph.D., is a professor of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin and editor of "World" magazine.

Sunshine

Continued from Page 4

conscientious whistle-blowers from

getting fired and to ensure that information about government misdeeds keeps coming to light. Those who rail against government waste, fraud and abuse should be the most forgiving of sources who, risking retaliation, confidentially reveal malfeasance.

James Madison, the drafter of the Bill of Rights, captured the urgency of open government in a single sentence: "A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both."

Cotton Marketing Seminar changed to different time

AMARILLO — The one-day Advanced Topic Series course on Developing This Year's Marketing Plan-Cotton, sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension, has been rescheduled to Monday, due to weather conditions.

The course will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday (March 21) at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center, 6500 Amarillo Blvd. West.

Growing cotton is only half the battle, said Dr. Steve Amosson, area Extension economist. In order to be successful in their operations, producers also need to learn how to market the crop.

Participants will learn about breakevens, fundamentals, technical signals and seasonal trends in cash, basis and forward contracts for cotton. In addition, different marketing strategies for both pre- and post-harvest marketing will be discussed.

The course will utilize a combination of lecture, small group work and simulation exercises to maximize the learning experience similar to the Master Marketer training.

Instructors will be Dr. Carl Anderson, a recently retired Regents Fellow, professor and Extension cotton mar-

keting economist in College Station; and Dr. Jackie Smith, professor and Extension economist-management in Lubbock.

"If we are going to grow cotton, we better learn how to market it," Amosson said.

"Carl and Jackie have a combined 50 years experience in marketing cotton. I can't think of two individuals better qualified to serve as instructors for this course."

Due to rescheduling, additional registrations will be accepted at the door. Registration is \$75 per participant, which includes the cost of materials, breaks and lunches. Spouses can attend for the same registration fee as long as they share materials.

Registration forms also are available through any Extension office, through Amosson or Margaret Freeman at (806) 677-5600.

Partial funding for this year's Advanced Topic Series is provided by the Southern Region Risk Management Education Center. It also is underwritten by the sponsors of the Master Marketer Educational System; Texas Wheat Producers Board, Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Farm Bureau and the State Cotton Support Committee.

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Community Happenings

• **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.

• **BSA Hospice** will sponsor a grief education and support group for adults every Tuesday for six consecutive weeks starting March 22. The group will meet from 7-8:30 p.m. at the hospice facility at 800 N. Sumner in Pampa. The program is free of charge to participants from Pampa and the surrounding area. Hospice officials recommend individuals wait approximately two to three months after the death of a loved one before attending the group. For more information, call 665-6677 or 1-800-658-6985.

• **The Ochiltree County Extension**

Office has announced a grain sorghum meeting Tuesday, March 22, at the Ochiltree Co. Expo Center in Perryton. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. Topics will include Dryland Sorghum Management, Sorghum Insect Management, Sorghum Irrigation and Ochiltree Hybrid Trials followed by a Texas Grain Sorghum Producers update. A noon meal will be provided attendees at no charge. The meeting will be worth two CEUs. For more information, call Scott Strawn at (806) 435-4501.

• **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. 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.

Pet of the Week

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.

NEW HOURS Monday-Saturday 9-6, Office Open To The Public 5-6pm,
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LOST YOUR PET? Call the Animal Shelter first! Leave a detailed message with your phone number. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am an operating room nurse. My soon-to-be mother-in-law recently had a procedure done that required anesthesia. When the anesthesiologist arrived to interview her before her procedure, she proceeded to ask him if he knew me. He replied that he did.

Her next question was whether he knew that I had recently had cosmetic surgery. Thankfully, he acted in a professional manner by simply saying, "Oh?" She continued the interrogation by asking him if he was aware that I had been previously engaged, and whether he thought I was a runaway bride or not.

I was flabbergasted that she had the gall to bring up such personal things with someone with whom I have a professional relationship. This is a small community where things spread like wildfire. I want to have a relationship with her, but I feel as though she kicked me in the stomach and stabbed me in the back. Is there anything I can say to make her aware of my feelings, or must I be respectful and keep my thoughts to myself? I am deeply hurt. -- APPALLED IN IOWA

DEAR APPALLED: Your fiance's mother may have been nervous at the prospect of her surgery, started babbling and couldn't stop. However, unless you want a strained relationship with your in-laws, do not "confront" her. She can't unring the bell. Now that you know she lacks judgment and leaks like a rusty bucket, in the future confide nothing to her unless you want the whole town to know.

DEAR ABBY: My son is 15 -- nearly 16. He has become a wonderful young man, a delight to be around -- but then again, I

probably am biased.

When we're home and watching TV in the evening, my son often enjoys cuddling up next to me. He'll put his head on my shoulder and wants my arm around his shoulders. I, too, enjoy this very much, and when he says, "Oh, Mommy, I love you so much," as he often does, my heart melts. I should mention that he is still shorter than me, though barely. He is not the typical 15-year-old who towers over his mother.

Let me clarify a couple of things. One, he is my only child. Two, there is nothing torrid going on, no inappropriate touching by him or by me, and three, he doesn't do it when his friends are over -- although he's not afraid to hug and kiss me goodbye in front of them. Also, he loves his father very much, will hug and kiss him occasionally, and still enjoys sitting between us on the sofa, however difficult that may be on our two-person loveseat.

Until recently, I thought our closeness would help him develop into a warm, loving man; but now, I'm wondering if this is healthy for him to be doing and for me to allow. It seems like a completely natural thing to do in a loving family, but lately I've been wondering how this might affect his future relationships with women. I would hate to see him develop into a needy, clingy type of man or a mama's boy. What are your thoughts on this? -- JUST A LOVING MOM IN AUSTRALIA

DEAR LOVING MOM: Every parent should be so blessed as to have a son like yours. You have raised a loving only child who is bonded to his parents. If he doesn't start dating by the time he's 18, THEN there may be cause to worry. Otherwise, he sounds just fine to me.

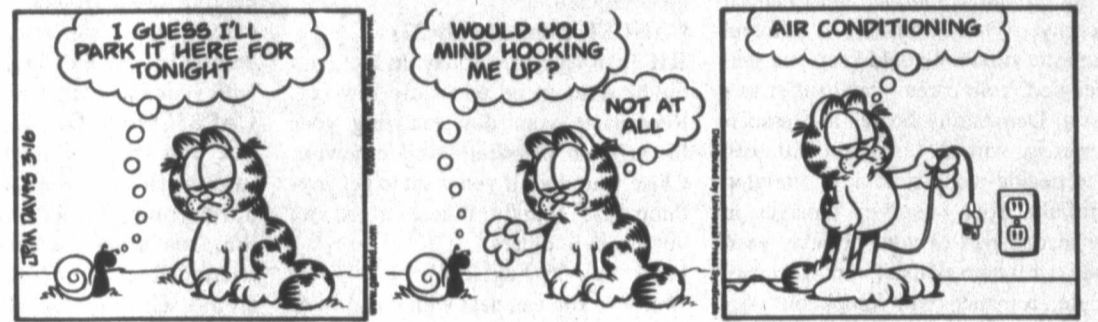
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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32 -- Vegas

33 Game

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37 "Ta-ta!"

38 Suggestions

39 Detail

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40 Big musical

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Yesterday's answer

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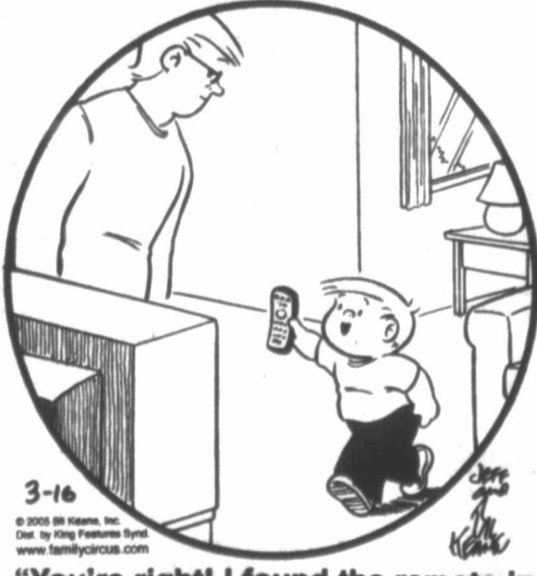
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Marmaduke



The Family Circus



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



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Flo & Friends

