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Brief
Survey: Texas gas prices reach \$2 mark
IRVING (AP) — The average price of regular unleaded gasoline in Texas has surpassed \$2 a gallon for the first time, according to a survey released Friday. The regular self-serve average is just over \$2.03 a gallon statewide, up 7 cents from last week, according to the AAA Texas Weekend Gas Watch. Corpus Christi had the state's lowest average at almost \$1.99 per gallon, up 4 cents from last week. Dallas continued to have the costliest gas at almost \$2.05 a gallon, up about 7 cents. Texas gasoline prices increased daily for the past week, AAA Texas spokeswoman Rose Rougeau said.

Tuberculosis in Texas on the increase

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Tuberculosis is alive and spreading in the state of Texas, according to representatives of the medical community.

"Our state has some of the highest rates of TB in the nation, and has seen increases in recent years," said Eloise Sutherland in a news release provided by RESULTS, a citizens' lobbying group that educates mem-

bers of congress and the media about solutions to hunger and poverty.

A conference call to discuss TB was held earlier this month by RESULTS for Texas journalists, in anticipation of World TB Day, which was observed March 24. Dr. Mark Kline, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital; Dr. Fernando Gonzalez, United States - Mexico Border Health Commission; and Winstone Zulu, AIDS and TB survivor from Zambia, spoke and

answered questions during the conference call.

A 2.8 percent increase in TB cases occurred in 2003, with 1,594. The number of cases in 2002 was 1,550. This is double the 1.4 percent of increase from 2002 to 2003.

More than half the Texas cases are males, with 1,064 affected. Females represented 530 cases.

The majority of Texas cases are Hispanic. Ethnic breakdown of cases is Hispanic, 777, or 49 percent;

Black/African American, 416, or 26 percent; white, 229, or 14 percent; Asian, 163, or 10 percent; native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, three, or 0.2 percent; American Indian/Native Alaskan, four, or 0.3 percent; and multi-race, two, or 0.1 percent.

The case number for Asian, Pacific Islander, native Hawaiian, American Indian and native Alaskan represents the highest rate, at 22.3 cases per 100,000 population, even

See TB, Page 2



Pampa News photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE

Janne Lawrence, a recruiter with the Coffee Memorial Blood Center of Amarillo, displays a t-shirt to be given to donors at Pampa's annual M*A*S*H blood drive set for Saturday at Clarendon College - Pampa Center campus, 1601 W. Kentucky.

Annual M*A*S*H blood drive set Saturday at CCPC

On Saturday, March 26, Coffee Memorial Blood Center of Amarillo will hold its annual Pampa M*A*S*H Blood Drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clarendon College Campus, 1601 W. Kentucky.

Susan Leary, director of marketing a communica-

tions, asks persons interested in donating to call 1-800-658-6178 to schedule an appointment. Anyone who has questions answered regarding blood donation can call that number, also, Leary said.

"All blood types are needed at this time," Leary

said. "The last of winter weather last week put our blood supply in a fragile state. Please consider donating if you are available on Saturday. Also, don't forget that a new feature offered by CMBC is cholesterol testing for all blood donations," she added.

State lawmakers hope to regulate vehicle black boxes

By JAMES WARDEN
Associated Press Writer

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Raymon Holmberg didn't know his new sedan came equipped with the long arm of the law. The dealer hadn't bothered to mention the "black box," a computer chip that stores information on speed and seat belt use. "When I bought my car," he said, "I didn't realize I was also buying a highway patrolman to sit in the back seat."

Holmberg, a state senator, believes his privacy was violated and is taking aim at black boxes. Lawmakers in 10 other states are also hoping to regulate black boxes, according to the National

Conference of State Legislatures.

The bill Holmberg is sponsoring would require buyers to be told if their new car or truck is equipped with a black box. It would also prohibit the data from being used in court unless there is a court order. Subscription services such as OnStar, which can be used to track a vehicle's movements, would be exempt.

Its most vocal critics are auto manufacturers. For General Motors, said lobbyist Thomas Kelsch, it makes no sense to bar information

See BOXES, Page 2

Army authorities suspect foul play in Iraqi scientist's death

NEW YORK (AP) — More than a year after the body of an Iraqi scientist was dropped off at a Baghdad hospital by his American captors, the Army says it has reopened an investigation into his death.

His family believes Mohammad Munim al-Izmerly was beaten to death, based on an Iraqi autopsy that found the chemist died of a blow to the head.

Al-Izmerly, 65, had been in U.S. custody for 10 months before his death on Jan. 31, 2004, and had been questioned about allegations he experimented with poisons on prisoners in the days of Saddam Hussein.

He is the only known weapons scientist among at least 96 U.S.-held detainees who have died in Iraq. When his death first came

'The case was initially closed, but after further investigative review a determination was made to reopen the investigation.'

— Christopher Grey
Army spokesman

to light in press reports last May, the U.S. military, newly under fire for prisoner abuse in Iraq, refused to answer queries about it.

The Army now says an inquiry has begun. "The case was initially closed, but after further investigative review a determination was made to reopen the investigation," Army spokesman Christopher Grey told The Associated Press.

The Pentagon would say nothing about the timetable or thrust of the inquiry. But Rod Barton, an Australian member of the CIA-led teams that questioned al-Izmerly and other weapons scientists, says such prisoners may have been

See PROBE, Page 2



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Hanging around

This Easter bunny delivered some holiday eggs early to a house in the 1700 block of Fir. Easter is this Sunday.

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Domestic security

Report on WMD not expected to praise intelligence agencies

WASHINGTON (AP) — None of the 15 U.S. agencies that collected or assessed intelligence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq is likely to be commended for doing an exemplary job, according to officials familiar with a report being prepared by a presidential commission.

The nine-member panel led by Republican Laurence Silberman, a retired federal appeals court judge, and Democrat Charles Robb, a former Senator from Virginia, is expected to issue its report on weapons of mass destruction next week.

It's unclear how much of the report, which may run into the hundreds of pages, will be available to the public.

"I think questions had to be answered as to why we were so wrong," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a member of the commission. "We needed to have recommendations as to how to prevent something like this from ever happening again."

The commission also is highly critical of the agencies' performance on Iran, North Korea and Libya, individuals familiar with its findings said on condition of anonymity.

'I think questions had to be answered as to why we were so wrong.'

— John McCain
R-Arizona

The report comes at a critical time for the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and others charged with collecting, protecting and analyzing secrets.

All face the prospect of sweeping changes from the intelligence reform bill

passed in December, including the appointment of a national intelligence director. President Bush's nominee, John Negroponte, has a Senate confirmation hearing next month.

The new director takes over a sprawling bureaucracy, beset by infighting and finger-pointing following

the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the botched prewar intelligence on the threat from Iraq. The commission's recommendations will largely fall to him to implement.

Individuals familiar with the report said the commission devoted significant time to dissecting what went wrong on the Iraq intelligence, including many issues that have been examined by internal government investigations and the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The commission, for instance, has reconsidered the issue of aluminum tubes. A National Intelligence

Estimate on Iraq in October 2002 said that most intelligence agencies believed that Iraq's "aggressive pursuit" of high-strength aluminum tubes provided "compelling evidence" that Saddam Hussein's regime was reconstituting its uranium enrichment effort and nuclear program.

In its report last summer, the Senate Intelligence Committee found that the Energy Department was more accurate in its assessment that Iraq sought the tubes for a conventional rocket program, not a nuclear program.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrest today.

Thursday, March 24

Five traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from the 900 block of Rham and the intersection of Jordan and Deane streets. A vehicle accident was reported in the intersection of Browning and Ballard streets.

Assault by threat was reported in the police department lobby.

Domestic disturbances were reported from the 1300 block of Coffee and the 1100 block of South Faulkner.

Disorderly conduct/noise was reported in the 1300 block of Coffee and the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported in the 2300 block of West Alcock and at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

Disorderly conduct/other was reported in the 1800 block of Beech Lane.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1900 block of North Duncan and the 1600 block of Fir.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of West Somerville.

Theft was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester. Car keys were taken out of a locker room.

Theft was reported in the 2300 block of Navajo. A company painted numbers on the curb and left a bill, but had not been asked to do so.

Welfare checks were made in the 2200 block of North Christy, the intersection of Sunset and Ballard streets, and the 400

block of North Frost.

Warrant service was attempted at one location.

A runaway was reported in the 600 block of West Buckler.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of South Starkweather.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Lefors. Juveniles were shooting BB guns.

A civil matter was reported in the 900 block of Duncan.

A dead animal was reported in the 700 block of North Dwight.

Friday, March 25

Jimmy Claude Davis, 59, 433 Graham, was arrested at the intersection of Osborne and McCullough streets for driving while license is invalid and failure to appear.

Sheriff

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

Friday, March 25

Sherry Lynn Martinez, 33, 1301 Garland, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Fire

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

Thursday, March 24

5:13 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a dumpster fire in the 1400 block of North Russell.

Gray County Weather

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50. East northeast wind around 15 mph.

Tonight: A chance of rain showers, mixing with snow after 2 a.m.

Cloudy, with a low around 33. Wind chill values between 24 and 29.

East wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent. New snow accumulation of less than 1 inch possible.

Saturday: Periods of snow, mixing with rain after 10 a.m. High around 36. Wind chill values between

24 and 29. East wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 100 percent. New snow accumulation of around 2 inches.

Saturday Night: Periods of snow. Low near 30. Wind chill values between 19 and 24. Northeast wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 52. North northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 36. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny,

with a high around 71. West southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45. West wind around 15 mph.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 74. Northwest wind around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 43.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high around 64.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 41.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 65.

TB

Continued from Page 1

though the total cases for the group is the smallest percentage of cases.

The incidence rate for Black/African American is 16.5 per 100,000; Hispanic, 10.6; and white, two.

The highest risk factor is foreign birth, which represents 45 percent of Texas cases. The majority of cases are in the 25-54 year age group.

Texas TB patients who are foreign born come mainly from Mexico, as well as Vietnam, India and the Philippines.

Health and lifestyle factors are also represented in TB cases. Low-income persons make up 43 percent of cases; alcohol abuse, 20 percent; diabetes, 14 percent; inmate, 12 percent; HIV/AIDS, 10 percent.

Over 50 percent of Texas TB cases occur in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio.

The number of TB cases along the Texas-

Mexico border increased from 268 in 2002 to 278 in 2003. This is a 3.7 percent increase in the number of cases, compared to a 2.7 percent increase in non-border counties. The incidence rate for the 14 border counties is twice that of non-border counties.

Two million people worldwide die from TB each year, although it is completely treatable and curable, said Zulu. Treatment becomes more difficult and less successful when a patient does not receive consistent or correct treatment, or when the patient stops taking or takes incorrectly the TB drugs.

"Migration is a big issue regarding the topic of TB," said Dr. Gonzalez. "Almost 40 percent of active cases treated in Mexico are crossing to the U.S. at some point during their disease."

"One person with TB will infect 15 others in a year's time," said Joanne Carter, moderator of the conference call and the global legislative director of RESULTS.

"This is a huge issue related to the border, and it's not going to go away," she said.

Boxes

Continued from Page 1

from the computer chip from being used in court.

"What's the societal good that would result from the suppression of valuable crash data?" Kelsch asked.

Holmberg, a Grand Forks Republican, again raises the privacy issue. He worries the data could be used to track driving habits or be used against a driver who has an accident.

"Most people don't realize these devices are in their vehicle, that the information recorded may be used against them and there's no sort of regulation about who owns that information," he said.

North Dakota is one of 11 states considering black-box regulation this year, said Pam Greenberg, who tracks privacy issues for the National Conference of State Legislatures.

California has a law on the books requiring dealers and vehicle rental companies to inform drivers when a car has a black box. In New York, it is illegal for rental companies to use global positioning system technology to track drivers and use the data to charge extra fees or penalties.

Accident investigators argue that the privacy concerns are overblown.

"These guys are trying to roll back North Dakota courts to the Dark Ages," said Jim Harris, owner of Harris Technical Services, a Florida-based accident investigation company. "What are you going to do? Leave out videotapes?"

According to the National Highway Transportation Administration, about 15 percent of vehicles have black boxes. About 65 percent to 90 percent of 2004 cars and trucks have them, according to the NHTA. Rusty Haight, director of the Collision

Safety Institute, which researches crashes and trains accident investigators, said black boxes were introduced in cars along with air bags in the 1970s.

Air bag sensors already collected the information and it was a small step to allow researchers to see how well other systems were performing, Haight said.

North Dakota Highway Patrol Capt. Mark Bethke said crash investigators must have a warrant to access information from a recorder. He said the patrol collects such information less than once a month and has never used it in court.

John Buchanan, a Miami accident reconstruction expert, said investigators must compare what the recorder says to the physical evidence at an accident scene.

"I'm a big believer in the box," he said. "But you cannot just take a box, read what it says and say that's what happened."

Insurance companies already have limited access to some data.

State Farm requires its customers to help with investigations, including allowing insurance employees to look at their vehicles, said Dick Luedke, a spokesman for the Illinois-based insurer.

Progressive Insurance began a voluntary program last year in which the company gives drivers a chip similar to a black box that can be used to transmit data, said spokeswoman Shannon Radigan.

Progressive offers drivers the possibility of a break on their insurance rates based on when, how much and how fast they drive, she said. The average discount is between 12 percent and 15 percent, she said.

North Dakota auto dealers say they have not heard many complaints about black boxes. Sales people say customers rarely ask about them. And police say the devices are not common.

"They're just not very prevalent," said Fargo Sgt. Joel Vettel.

'I'm a big believer in the box. But you cannot just take a box, read what it says and say that's what happened.'

— John Buchanan
Accident reconstruction expert

Probe

Continued from Page 2

beaten during the futile U.S. hunt for banned arms in Iraq.

The dead chemist's family welcomed news of the investigation.

"We think that God wants us to get to the truth and to the fact my father was innocent of anything bad," son Ashraf Mohammad Munim al-Izmerly, 22, told AP on Friday.

New details are emerging, meanwhile, about the role al-Izmerly played in Iraq's weapons underworld.

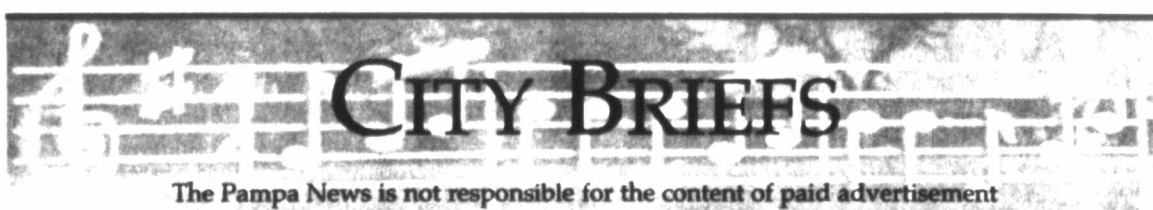
In contrast to a "distinguished chemistry professor," the portrayal in one press report last May, U.S. weapons investigators now say al-Izmerly was an early leader of Iraq's effort to

make chemical arms, and an assassination specialist who once devised a "poison pen."

Seized by U.S. troops in April 2003, the Egyptian-born scientist was finally allowed a visit by his family on Jan. 11, 2004, at the Baghdad airport, where he was believed held at Camp Cropper, a U.S. military detention center for "high-value detainees."

Five weeks later, they were notified by the Red Cross he was dead. Ashraf al-Izmerly, a chemistry student, told AP that when he went to the Al-Kharkh Hospital morgue to claim the remains, zipped up in a U.S. body bag, he saw injuries to the head and a pool of blood beneath it.

The Americans had enclosed a death certificate saying he died of "brainstem compression," without saying what caused it. The dated certificate indicated they had held the body for 17 days.



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VFW POST 1657 is looking for pictures taken at Service Men's Club, when it was located on Foster St. during World War II. Copies will be made, the original returned promptly. 669-1264, 663-2277.

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This View

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Uncommon valor

Thirty years after heroic acts, Vietnam pilot receives award

By ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's 33 years overdue, but Stephen E. Lawrence is finally receiving the official Army recognition he earned for exceptional heroism in the late stages of the Vietnam War.

At a ceremony in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes on Friday, the Army is presenting to Lawrence the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest military award for valor, for rescuing the crew of a downed helicopter while under heavy fire near the village of Tay Ninh on Oct. 5, 1971.

Lawrence was nominated for the award in May 1972, but by then he had returned to civilian life. He said in a telephone interview on Thursday that the Army never notified him, even though his official home of record — Virginia Beach, Va. — remained valid for many years afterward.

Now living in Clearwater, Fla., Lawrence, 56, sounds more annoyed than bitter about the long delay.

"It would have been nice 33 years ago," he said with a chuckle. "But it's real nice today," with the added benefit of having his family, including two children, present for the ceremony.

"The real story is that this is not really about the medal. It's about long-lost friends" who set out to correct what they saw as an injustice done to a fellow war veteran, he said.

Lawrence had almost finished his one-year tour in Vietnam when, as the pilot of a UH-1M "Huey" helicopter gunship, he chose to attempt a rescue of another American helicopter that had gone down in flames in an area near the Cambodian border known to be an enemy stronghold.

According to the official Army citation, Lawrence twice landed his gunship near the burning aircraft before he and his crew managed to get the downed

crew aboard and fly away under heavy fire.

"Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence's utter disregard for his personal safety, his devotion to duty and outstanding flying expertise enabled the crews of both aircraft to return to safety," the citation says.

Within days he had departed Vietnam, returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., and been discharged from the Army.

'Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence's utter disregard for his personal safety, his devotion to duty and outstanding flying expertise enabled the crews of both aircraft to return to safety.'

— Military citation

Before he left the war front his commanding officer told him that he intended to nominate Lawrence for the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for military valor. That was the last Lawrence heard of the matter until last summer, when he had dinner with fellow Vietnam vet Roger Almqvist, who was surprised to hear Lawrence had been awarded nothing beyond the

Distinguished Flying Cross, which was presented to him two days after the rescue mission.

"He wanted to hear the whole story again. I hadn't told the story in 30 years, I don't think. So I told him the story, and he said, 'And you got nothing?' And I said, 'Yep, got nothing.'"

Almqvist decided that should not be allowed to stand. He began researching the matter and soon discovered that the completed paperwork for the Distinguished Service Cross, dated May 1, 1972, was in Lawrence's files at the National Archives. For unexplained reasons the Army never notified Lawrence, who remained in the Army National Guard for another seven years. He also served for 15 years in the Coast Guard, retiring from the Coast Guard Reserve in 1994.

Lawrence is one of 846 soldiers who received the Distinguished Service Cross for Vietnam service, according to Army records. As far as he can tell, he never

Demobilized reservists could keep military health insurance for up to eight years

WASHINGTON (AP) — The more than 400,000 National Guard and Reserve members mobilized since September 2001 for the fight against terrorism will be offered the choice of military health care coverage for as long as eight years after they return to civilian life, officials said Thursday.

Only those who remain in the Guard or Reserve after they are demobilized will be eligible, said Thomas Hall, the assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Hall said that in discussing the plan with more than 2,000 Guard and Reserve members in the Persian Gulf recently he heard a great deal of enthusiasm for this kind of transitional health insurance.

"It targets the young men and women bearing the brunt today," Hall said.

Until now, Guard and Reserve members could retain health care coverage under the Defense Department's Tricare system for no more than six months after they left active duty. Under the new arrangement they could retain coverage for at least one year and as long as eight years, depending on the length of their mobilization and the length of their commitment to remain in the Guard or Reserve.

They would pay monthly premiums ranging from \$50 to \$150 a month for individual coverage, depending on their rank, and from \$100 to \$300 a month for family coverage, depending on rank.

William Winkenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said at a joint news confer-

ence with Hall that he has no firm estimate of how much the program will cost the government.

Later, the Pentagon issued a statement saying the cost would be \$70 million for the remainder of the current budget year, which ends Sept. 30, and \$394 million for the 2006 budget year.

Hall said he expects a majority of eligible Guard and Reserve members to resume coverage under the health care system offered by their civilian employer, rather than take the military coverage.

Winkenwerder said the Pentagon has no firm forecast of how many people will take the benefit. "It's going to be many thousand to tens of thousands, we would expect, at a minimum," he said.

Business leader opposes slot machines at racetracks after tracks turned down

AUSTIN (AP) — The leader of Texas' largest business association is endorsing a proposal that would make it more expensive for racetracks to operate slot machines, only weeks after the tracks turned down his offer to promote their interests.

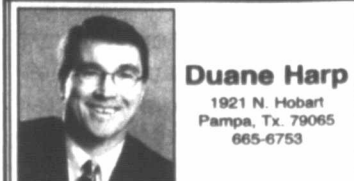
Bill Hammond, president of the Texas Association of Business, recommended to his group's executive committee last week that it endorse a requirement to auction licenses for slot machines. In a memo, Hammond wrote that bidding would raise between \$2 billion and \$4 billion for the state, which would issue the licenses.

But just weeks ago, Hammond offered to tout the racetracks' position — that bids are unnecessary because slot machines would raise plenty of revenue for the state and that tracks, which already feature betting, are a natural home for the machines.

Tommy Azopardi, executive director of the Texas Horsemen's Partnership, said his group turned down Hammond's overture because the group's budget could not accommodate more lobbyists.

"That is very disappointing that he'd be taking that approach," Azopardi said Thursday.

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Viewpoints

Should life be the province of federal legislators?

Closet Writer is accumulating some adjectives placed before his (my) name from some readers. Adjectives such as "blowhard"; "windbag"; "windjammer"; etc. I get the picture, folks, that some of you are prejudiced in my comment every week and that's cool.

I'm so happy Pampa has citizens who actually read and discern for themselves the content of my comment — whether pro or con.

Perhaps the above adjectives are rather harsh when my name comes up in reference to my column? How about "resident curmudgeon"?

Yes, I do prefer "resident curmudgeon" as an adjective to my moniker. For the matter, curmudgeons can be a

little apoplectic, n'cest ce pas, particularly when something stupid stands our hackles on end?

I know what you're thinking; gosh darn it — blowhard — I mean, resident curmudgeon — is at it again.

Wasn't 10 inches of snow covering our fair city beautiful? Weren't the branches and boughs of the trees surreal with their snowy coats? Those huge wet crystals falling slowly to earth, begging to be made into snowmen and the slopes above the banks of our tributaries aching to feel the bottom of a sled.

Move over, Robert Frost — I'm on a roll!

Oops, an A.D.D. moment! How many of you can remember viewing Robert Frost as he recited his poetry

at JFK's inauguration? What a rare reminder of literary history that's etched permanently in my memory. I never had Howard Graham as a teacher at Pampa High. I wish I had, for every friend of mine taught English Literature by Mr. Graham learned something — and love and respect him to this day.

Ask Mr. Graham about Robert Frost and his impact on American Literature — you'll learn something!

My A.D.D. moment is over, thank you, Mr. Frost and Mr. Graham!

Where was I? Snow. Ten inches of God's wonderful

creation blanketing Pampa in a wintery white wonderland! Ten inches of snow really hides Pampa's trash dilemma, doesn't it? Those white Styrofoam cups and white plastic grocery bags and white spent diapers just disappeared under the snow! It was magical!

The snow kept the mullets and rednecks indoors drinking their Bud Light — there was nary an empty Bud Light carton or bottle to be found on our streets.

God certainly works in mysterious ways. And, it's so sad an act by our Creator is the only positive sign of litter removal in our community.

Perhaps an act by our Creator would end the fiasco in Florida? The Terry Schiavo tragedy has turned into a political and media frenzy. Sadly, there will be no victory for Mrs. Schiavo or her family when it comes to their rights — when the federal government muddies the water. I possess such mixed opinion and emotion when it comes to Mrs. Schiavo's plight.

Firstly, Mrs. Schiavo is not brain dead; which in my opinion is the only reason to pull a life support plug. The cost of life support is phenomenal — life support consumes insurance at breakneck speed — and financially ruins those left responsible to keep up proper care after insurance is gone. Again, it is my opinion that the only

benefit of continued life support for a critically injured patient is the financial gain made by hospitals, doctors and lawyers.

Mrs. Schiavo's husband stands to reap a sizeable insurance windfall upon her death, and, the jerk forgot the words said before "I do" — something about "in sickness and in health" — and, has fathered two children through a seven year relationship with another woman.

Some will have the opinion that he deserves a life of his own. Well, he has that right — but I feel strongly about "till death do us part," and in my mindset, pulling any plug is not part of the equation. Now, we have Congress

See LIFE, Page 5

Dennis Palmitier
Columnist



Today in History

By the Associated Press

Today is Friday, March 25, the 84th day of 2005. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks.

On this date:

In 1634, Maryland was founded by English colonists sent by the second Lord Baltimore.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Confederate forces captured Fort Stedman in Virginia.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon, Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, 146 immigrant workers were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York.

In 1913, the home of vaudeville, the

'In every person, even in such as appear most reckless, there is an inherent desire to attain balance.'

— Jakob Wassermann
German author
(1873-1934)

Palace Theatre, opened in New York City.

In 1918, French composer Claude Debussy died in Paris.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centralia, Ill., claimed 111 lives.

In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community.

In 1975, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot to death by a nephew with a history of mental illness. (The nephew was beheaded the following June.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raged through an illegal social club in New York City.

Ten years ago: Two Americans who'd strayed across the Kuwaiti border into Iraq were sentenced to eight years in prison (however, David Daliberti and William Barloon were released by Iraq the following July). Mike Tyson was released from the Indiana Youth Center after serving three years for the 1992 rape of Desiree Washington, a beauty pageant contestant.

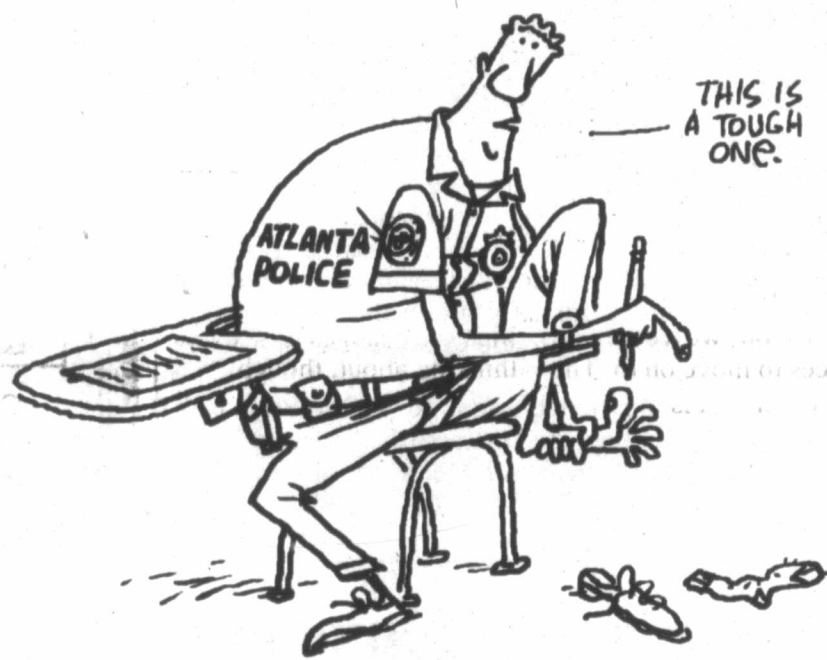
Five years ago: President Clinton briefly visited Pakistan, where he met with the new military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf.

A weary Pope John Paul II traveled the ancient streets of Nazareth, Jesus' boyhood town, and celebrated Mass in the soaring Basilica of the Annunciation.

QUESTION:

A TWO-HUNDRED POUND VIOLENT MALE PRISONER IS TO BE ESCORTED TO COURT. PICK THE SAFEST OPTION:

- A** A 150lb. GRANDMOTHER.
- B** A LARGE MALE DEPUTY.



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March of democracy may upset EU

LONDON, England — The undemocratic ways of the European Union are finally catching up with it as many of its member states — especially the United Kingdom and France — consult with their voters over whether to approve the new federal constitution prepared by the Brussels bureaucrats.

Voters in France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic and, most notably, Britain are leaning toward rejection of the document which confers vast new powers to shape foreign policy and regulate all aspects of European life on the EU.

Of course, Germany and a majority of the EU nations are simply skipping any consultation with their voters

and ratifying the constitution in their national parliaments. When I asked one German Christian Democratic Union leader why the party does not insist on a referendum, I got the reply: "We had referenda in the '30s, and they didn't work out so well."

The entire bias of the EU is toward socialism on an economic level and government by bureaucratic fiat on an administrative and political level. It really represents a European effort to mimic the kind of bureaucratic control that Japan is struggling, unsuccessfully, to shake off. Government by those who

think they know better is the common denominator here and the major threat to freedom in our post-fascist, post-Communist era. EU regulators have injected themselves into every bit of minutia in the economies of each of their countries, and popular frustration with their meddling is growing.

All this would be fine if the growth of bureaucracy and government intervention were matched by a concomitant expansion of democracy, but it is not. The bureaucracy in Brussels is unchecked by any elected body. The Council of

Ministers — the member-nation presidents or premiers — is too unwieldy to exercise any real influence, and the members of the European Parliament are so hamstrung by the bureaucracy that members are not even allowed to introduce legislation. They must content themselves with voting on bills proposed by the bureaucracy.

Until now, the EU has tried to propagate itself by spreading money all over Europe and hoping to buy the affections of their constituents with a return of their own funds that they have sent to Brussels. But now that the EU project is finally about to change from an economic union to a

See UNION, Page 5

Dick Morris
Columnist



Balance important for environment's sake

The Clean Air Act was passed in 1963 and amended seriously in 1970, 1977 and 1990. Only in the year 2005 is the Bush administration undertaking the reduction of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants — and the major reductions are not called for until 2017.

So, let's see now — 42 years have come and gone since the original act was passed, and now the Earth must circle the sun 12 more times before a very lethal toxin is seriously reduced. Whoever said that government cannot move fast to protect the people from harm caused by greed? Fifty-four

years is fast, is it not? It must be. The Bush administration is bragging about its new rules.

It's true that tunnel vision has harmed efforts to protect the environment.

Environmentalists tend to think only about the environment as if it were depopulated except for animals and bugs, and to heck with the economy, the loss of jobs and the costs. Industry tends to think only of industry

profits and frankly will do nothing to reduce those profits unless forced. Unions tend to think only of preserving jobs.

Politicians tend to think only of their big contributors. Chambers of commerce tend to think only of the local economy. Therefore, what should be a unified effort often turns into a free-for-all that ends up in the courts.

As much as I would personally prefer it, we cannot

go back to the 18th century. A pristine wilderness will not support 280 million people. Every human process, from industrial to personal breathing, produces what used to be called byproducts. We breathe in air, extract the oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Plants absorb carbon dioxide and (luckily for us) produce oxygen. No matter what we manufacture, mine, burn or otherwise produce, there will be stuff released into the environment.

Our world is a closed system. Matter and energy can

See FUTURE, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Fax: 806-669-2520
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Union

Continued from Page 4

political one, voters are balking at the transfer of their powers and sovereignty. Forced into permitting referenda in their own countries, France and Britain are watching their electorates rebel and

demand democracy in their own governments.

Recent polls reflect that, even in France, the epicenter of the EU, voters are turning against the proposed constitution, a document largely written by French former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The two most recent polls show a majority of decided voters are now planning to vote against the document, although the

undecided vote is still quite high.

French complaints are, typically, the opposite of those in the United Kingdom. The British worry that the socialists on the continent are trying to undo former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's free-market reforms and impose government economic controls. The French worry that the strict regulations Paris now imposes on all manner of profes-

sional services — from architects to hair dressers — will be overturned by an EU insistence on opening the markets to providers from other countries.

But, in both cases, the underlying complaint and worry is that the Brussels bureaucracy is not accountable to the European person in the street and marches only to the beat of its own drummer.

The EU will, of course, fight

back, using the money it extracts from the European people to propagandize its achievements and raise the specter of chaos should the constitution be rejected. But the global revolution in democracy sweeping other nations seems, at last, to be influencing Europe and leading voters, where they are allowed to vote, to stand up and fight for their own self-government.

Life

Continued from Page 4

trouncing Florida's states rights by a special session to pass a law making the Schiavo tragedy a fed-

eral case and invoke federal law to keep Mrs. Schiavo alive.

Name me an entity stronger than an act of Congress? Yes, God, but we're talking law — man's law, aren't we? A federal judge was never meant to be God! While Mrs. Schiavo is starving, he mandates to everyone a "Be back with

you on my opine."

His decision took about 36 hours of Mrs. Schiavo's life.

When this column is read, Terry Schiavo may still be unhooked from the feeding tube and getting weaker and weaker — the feeding tube may have been re-inserted, and she once again receiving nour-

ishment, or, she may be gone.

I am saddened that Terry Schiavo has become a pawn created by a cast of characters interested only in money and votes. Her husband will receive his just due when his time on Earth is over; but what really has my hackles on end is Congress.

When Congress tramples personal and states' rights — we all lose! What a crying shame that Congress cannot convene a special session for the good of Social Security; healthcare; education; or, lessening our tax burdens. Mayhaps life support for Congress should be unplugged as well ...

Parent companies of Kmart, Sears merge; new chairman touts goals

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP) — Changes are on the way for Kmart and Sears stores following the \$12.3 billion merger of their parent companies, but the chairman of the new retailer says widespread store closings won't be part

of them. "I think there's a presumption that you're going to see a lot of store closings. That's a wrong presumption," said Edward Lampert, architect of the Thursday deal that created Sears Holdings Corp.

Sears Holdings will be the third-biggest U.S. retailer based on sales, trailing only Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. with its combined \$55 billion in revenue last year.

Minutes after a rancorous share-

holders' meeting where Sears, Roebuck and Co. retirees denounced the 119-year-old retailer's sale to Kmart Holding Corp., Lampert stated his intent to reinvigorate the two faded retail icons.

"I think either company on its own could have been OK," said Lampert, who was Kmart's chairman and the largest individual shareholder in each retailer. "But I don't think either company could have been ... a great company."

Future

Continued from Page 4

be changed but not destroyed. When we burn coal, part of the mass is converted to heat, part remains as ash, and the rest goes up the chimney.

As usual, the Bush administration is being dishonest. I heard one of its spokeswomen blame most mercury intake by humans on deep-sea fish, which, she said with a straight face, America has no control over. Well, I've got news for her: Practically every freshwater fish in the state of Florida — and, I suspect, in many other states — is contaminated with mercury. Furthermore, does she actually think that air pollution stops at the shoreline? The

form of mercury released by burning coal is absorbed into the food chain. The fish accumulate mercury, and people who eat the fish accumulate mercury. Too much, and bad health problems result. Children are especially vulnerable.

At the risk of sounding like a hippie, all environmental problems need to be addressed in a holistic manner. We cannot destroy the economy; on the other hand, we cannot allow industry to harm the health of human beings.

Somewhere between those goal posts, reasonable compromises can be found and must be. I'm not at all sure the planet can remain alive with 6 billion people on it. We can no longer apply the pioneer ethic — slash, burn, use up and move on. We've run out of places to move on to. The accumulating poisons of an

industrialized planet will probably kill us all eventually unless some system besides all-out capitalism — state or private — can be devised.

To oversimplify, as journalists love to do, eventually we must reach the point where we say to ourselves, let us assure that everyone has food and shelter and health, and the rest of this junk we can learn to do without. Like many in my generation, I grew up in a one-used-car family. Only my father drove. The rest of us walked, biked or used public transit. It wasn't a bad life. A car trip was an event, not a routine. The air was a lot cleaner, and all the food was edible. Of course, going back to a one-car family will involve drastic lifestyle changes. It's worth thinking about, though.

Indoor Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday March 27

7:30 am



Calvary Baptist Church
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We will be closed Sunday, March 27 so our associates can enjoy the holiday.

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HEBREWS 13:8**

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Religion

Faith

A civilian soldier's prayer

By Victor Allen Isham
SPC, Texas Army National Guard

GOD, I come before you in prayer to ask you for the strength to face my trials today. You know that I may have to do my job as a soldier today and any day that I am here, I pray that you give me the strength and the courage to be a soldier first and not a civilian.

I am a soldier each time I put on my uniform. I made the choice to become a civilian soldier, but I am a soldier no matter how someone looks at it. I have a job to do, whether I be deployed overseas facing insurgents or at home facing problems dealing with my family.

I am a civilian soldier, the oldest type of soldier in the United States, from the farmer to the office worker, we all come together and fight as one.

GOD, I ask that you give us all the ability to face our fears and defeat our enemies on any front. I ask for your guidance in all I do and that you guide my hand as I do my job.

I pray that I will not have to take someone else's life, and in doing so, I also pray that none of my brothers and sisters in arms have to do the same. I also pray, Lord GOD, that you keep us all safe and sound in your hands and that no harm comes our way while we perform our duties in these times of need.

Lord, GOD, grant me the wisdom to know when to shoot and when not



▲ Victor Isham with SSG Brian Butters, also of Pampa.

to. I pray that you keep my mind sharp and focused on the task at hand, whether it be on a patrol or reacting out to the community wherever I may be.

"No weapon formed against me shall prosper and all those who rise up

against me shall fall; I will not fear what the devil will bring me, for I am a child of GOD."

I sing this song silently to myself when I make any trip outside my camp and I never forget your promises. In Jesus' name, I pray. AMEN

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Deliver will be TUESDAY, MARCH 29th, 2005 at the times listed for the following towns and locations.

Briscoe - County Line Coop, 375-2321, 8:00 - 9:00 AM
Canadian - Canadian Equity Coop, 323-6428, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
Pampa - Britten Feed & Seed, 665-5881, 12:00 - 1:00 PM
Borger - Borger Feed Barn, 274-2099, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
Spearman - Spearman Equity, 659-2420, 4:00 - 5:00 PM

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Amarillo lay school now in its 10th year

AMARILLO — For the last nine years, the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University has presented the Amarillo Lay School of Theology, a press release from the lay school said.

These programs, the release said, have been hosted by Polk Street United Methodist Church. For the past three years, St. Paul United Methodist Church has co-hosted the program.

April 8 and 9, the two churches will host the "10th Annual Amarillo

Lay School of Theology" program.

"In the past, we have enjoyed the teachings of numerous outstanding faculty members from Perkins, but none of them more popular than the two Bible scholars, Virgil Howard and John Holbert," the press release said. "They have generously accepted our invitation on alternate years in the past. This year both will be our guests, each teaching a course on the testament of his specialty."

"This year the format will change slightly," the release continued, "to

allow all registrants to hear from both teachers after a Friday evening dinner. The evening meeting will also allow us to express formally our appreciation of their support of the Amarillo program.

"On Saturday, registrants will have a choice of a course emphasizing either the Hebrew Bible or the New Testament."

Early registration is encouraged. For more information, contact the Rev. Renae Haiduk at (806) 374-2891 or (806) 573-3869.

Minister's musings: A glorious home awaits church in heaven

What a delightful, glad, glorious prospect — This to look upon the beautiful city of God! What a precious revelation is this vision! "And there came unto me one of the angels ... and talked with me, saying, 'Come hither, I will shew thee the Bride, the Lamb's wife.'"

And when John looked upon her he saw a city, great and holy, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. So our eternal home is a city, real and actual. It is called the Bride, the Lamb's wife. The Bride is to live in a golden city whose builder and maker is God. The Bride is the Church.

When we come to live in that beautiful city of God, we shall see not only those who have been saved in this age and in this dispensation, the Bride of the Lamb, but we shall see also those who have been converted and saved from the days of Abel to the last martyr slain by the Antichrist. All of God's redeemed saints will live in that beautiful and holy city.

John saw the city coming

from God out of heaven. It is not coming "from" heaven as though the city might be nearby, but it is coming "out of" heaven. When we go to heaven, we enter that beautiful

Jimmy Flynn

Church of the Brethren



ful city. That is where we go when we die. That is where the marriage supper of the Lamb is going to be — in heaven. That is where the wedding feast is going to be — in heaven. And in God's providence, at the end of these climactic days, out of heaven will descend our incomparable and beautiful home.

Through the years, and now through the centuries, the hands of our dear Savior have been fashioning what no architect in this life could ever dream of or think of. He is building a city and a home for us in glory and its size is tremendous.

"And the angel measured

it and it measured twelve thousand stadia."

One thousand five hundred miles — it is a city as though it began in Maine and extended all the way down to Florida. It is so vast in length, breadth and height that the city of God would cover all of Ireland, all of England and Great Britain, all of France, all of Spain, all of Germany, all of Austria, all of Italy, all of European Turkey and half of Russia.

One thousand five hundred miles one way, 1,500 miles the other way, and 1,500 miles upward. We now go inside of the beautiful city through one of its gates made out of solid pearl. There is a sermon in the fact that the gates are pearl. Heaven is entered through suffering and travail, through redemption and agony, through the blood and the cross.

A pearl is a jewel made by a little animal that is wounded. Without the wound the pearl is never formed.

See FLYNN, Page 12

Calvary Baptist plans Sunrise Easter Service

Calvary Baptist Church's annual Sunrise Easter Service will be at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, March 27. The regular 10:45 a.m. worship service is scheduled for later in the morning.

"The indoor service is designed to help the worshiper celebrate the Easter holiday," a church press release said. "The early morning setting is particularly special because it

was at sunrise that Jesus' followers discovered that He had risen and the tomb was empty.

"The 50 minute service will include candle lighting, music, and scripture reading instead of a sermon. The service will end with the Lord's supper (communion)."

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Culto Fraternal Unido

Usted y su familia estan cordialmente invitados a una gran celebracion de unidad entre las diferentes iglesias hispanas de esta ciudad promoviendo la fraternidad en el cuerpo de Cristo.

Eldia 26 de Marzo 2005 5 p.m. en el auditorio M.K. Brown de la ciudad de Pampa, Texas

Dandonos el privilegio de traer el mensaje de esa noche sera:
OSCAR "SPIKE" MALDONADO

Y encargado de la musica y alabanza para esa tarde estara el grupo "EBENEZER"

Entrada gratuita y no se recogerá ayuda financiera, (programa sera bilingual).

You and your family are invited to a celebration of unity in the different Hispanic churches, to promote their fellowship and unit in the body of Christ. The 26th of March at 5 p.m. at the M.K. Brown of Pampa, Texas; It will be bilingual. Our word will be given by Oscar Spike Maldonado, Pastor of Embassy church of Amarillo, Texas and our worship will be by the group Ebenezer. We will NOT collect an offering.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am an HIV counselor in Chicago, and I'm extremely concerned about the number of clients I counsel who have cheated on their partners. These are people being tested because they're afraid they have HIV, and yet they actively choose not to protect their partners. The usual response I hear when I ask them why is, "If I start using condoms, or ask my partner to use them, she/he will know something is up."

I don't get it, Abby. Can you help me understand?

There has also been an increase of married men having sex with other men. Again, no protection for the partner. Are these people so concerned about themselves and their egos that they risk their partners' lives?

Please advise your readers that I could be talking to THEIR partners about HIV testing. Have you any advice for how I can counsel people who test positive and refuse to tell their partners? -- STUMPED

DEAR STUMPED: Consider discussing with your clients exactly how NOT disclosing will affect their partners and their children. If you can break through their self-centeredness and elicit sympathy for the people whose lives they are endangering, you might be able to make them understand the importance of partner notification. It's worth a try.

One would think that a rational person would want to protect his or her partner from a sickness that could be fatal. However, the patients you describe appear to be either clueless or willfully selfish — people without a conscience who do not think about how

their actions will affect others.

I personally think that someone who knowingly infects another with HIV is committing a crime and should be punished for it.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "John" has a 13-year-old daughter, "Dana," from a prior relationship. He never married the mother, and I suspect he feels some guilt about it.

Dana has decided she would like to buy her mom a "mother's ring" for Mother's Day and has asked her father to pay for it. John agreed. He sees nothing wrong with such an expensive gift because he says he's doing it for his daughter, not her mother.

I know his intentions are only to please Dana, but I can't just bite my tongue and let it go. We are not rich people. We both work. The ring Dana has in mind will cost between \$200 and \$300. I feel that since the mother is married, that Dana's stepfather would be the one to buy this gift -- or at least pitch in.

This is the first time in the more than 10 years we have been married that something like this has come up. I don't think it should be our place to foot the entire bill for such an expensive gift. Am I wrong? -- WORKED UP IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WORKED UP: At 13, Dana is old enough to learn that money doesn't grow on trees. The gift she gives her mother should come from money she has either earned or saved from her allowance. If your husband is determined to buy the ring, at least a portion of the cost should be paid by Dana. I hope he will consider what I have said.

For Better Or Worse



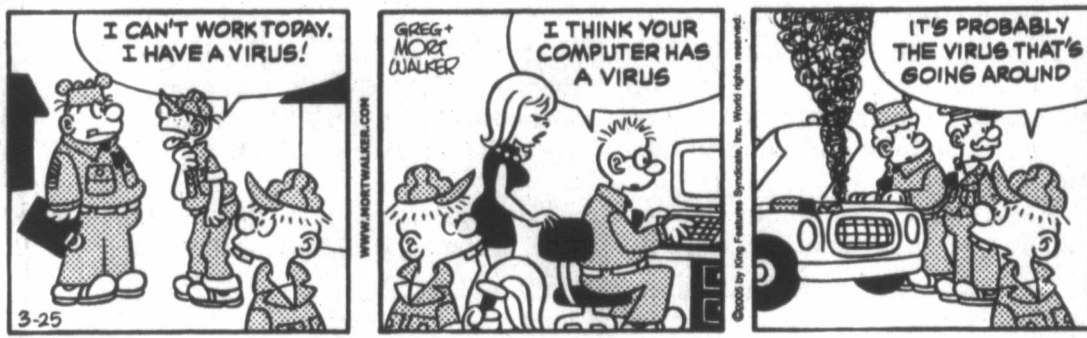
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



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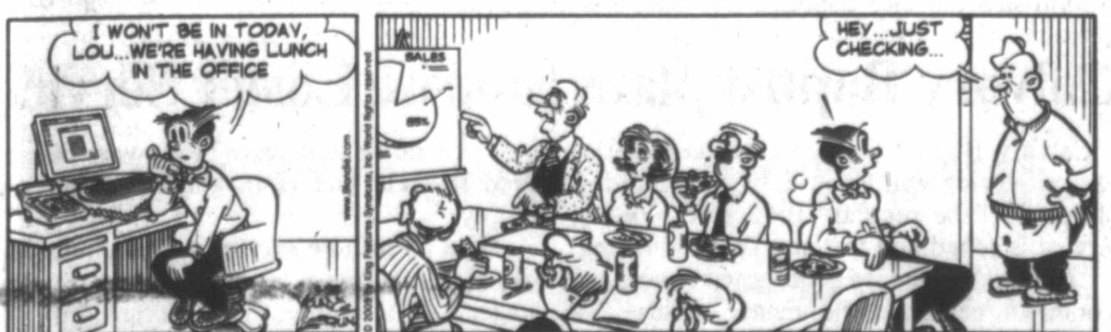
Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

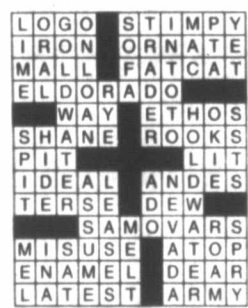


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Keepsake
 - 6 Member of the peerage
 - 11 Game place
 - 12 Studio sign
 - 13 Circus star
 - 14 Show uncertainty
 - 15 Store sign
 - 17 Young boys
 - 18 Color
 - 20 Saloon order
 - 22 Patriot, for one
 - 23 Art's art
 - 26 Davis of "Beetle-juice"
 - 28 Potential
 - 29 Odd
 - 31 Negating word
 - 32 Words of understanding
 - 33 Bible book
 - 34 Gum flavor
 - 36 Thunderbolt hurler
 - 38 Heart, for one
 - 40 Topics
 - 43 Something to fight for
 - 44 Blunt
- DOWN**
- 1 Nogooodnik
 - 2 Depression, e.g.
 - 3 Pie choice
 - 4 Clumsy
 - 5 Give a hoot
 - 6 Without delay
 - 7 Carousing
 - 8 Pie choice
 - 9 Told tales
 - 10 Screws up
 - 16 Jazz grp.?
 - 18 Luggage accessories
 - 19 "Yeah, right!"
 - 21 Border
 - 23 Hamlet, e.g.
 - 24 Set eyes on
 - 25 2000 Series losers
 - 27 Tennis star lie
 - 30 Understand stories
 - 33 Blood line?
 - 34 Imitation
 - 35 Neighbor of Turkey
 - 37 Diner dish
 - 39 Homer's neighbor
 - 41 Radius setting
 - 42 It's over your head



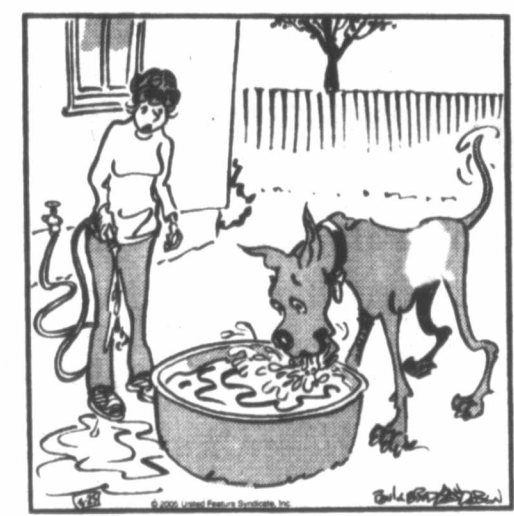
YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

- 18 Understand
- 19 "Yeah, right!"
- 21 Border
- 23 Hamlet, e.g.
- 24 Set eyes on
- 25 2000 Series losers
- 27 Tennis star lie
- 30 Understand
- 33 Blood line?
- 34 Imitation
- 35 Neighbor of Turkey
- 37 Diner dish
- 39 Homer's neighbor
- 41 Radius setting
- 42 It's over your head

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



Marmaduke



The Family Circus



Flo & Friends



Booster and P... may er winter

The Pampa varsity base club still into forward with Family Day Field when host to Bulldogs of game itself is start at noon. The variab the weather. Forecast: a grim pict Saturday's w cerned. News Cha Harris told S ller today, " ing a wintery

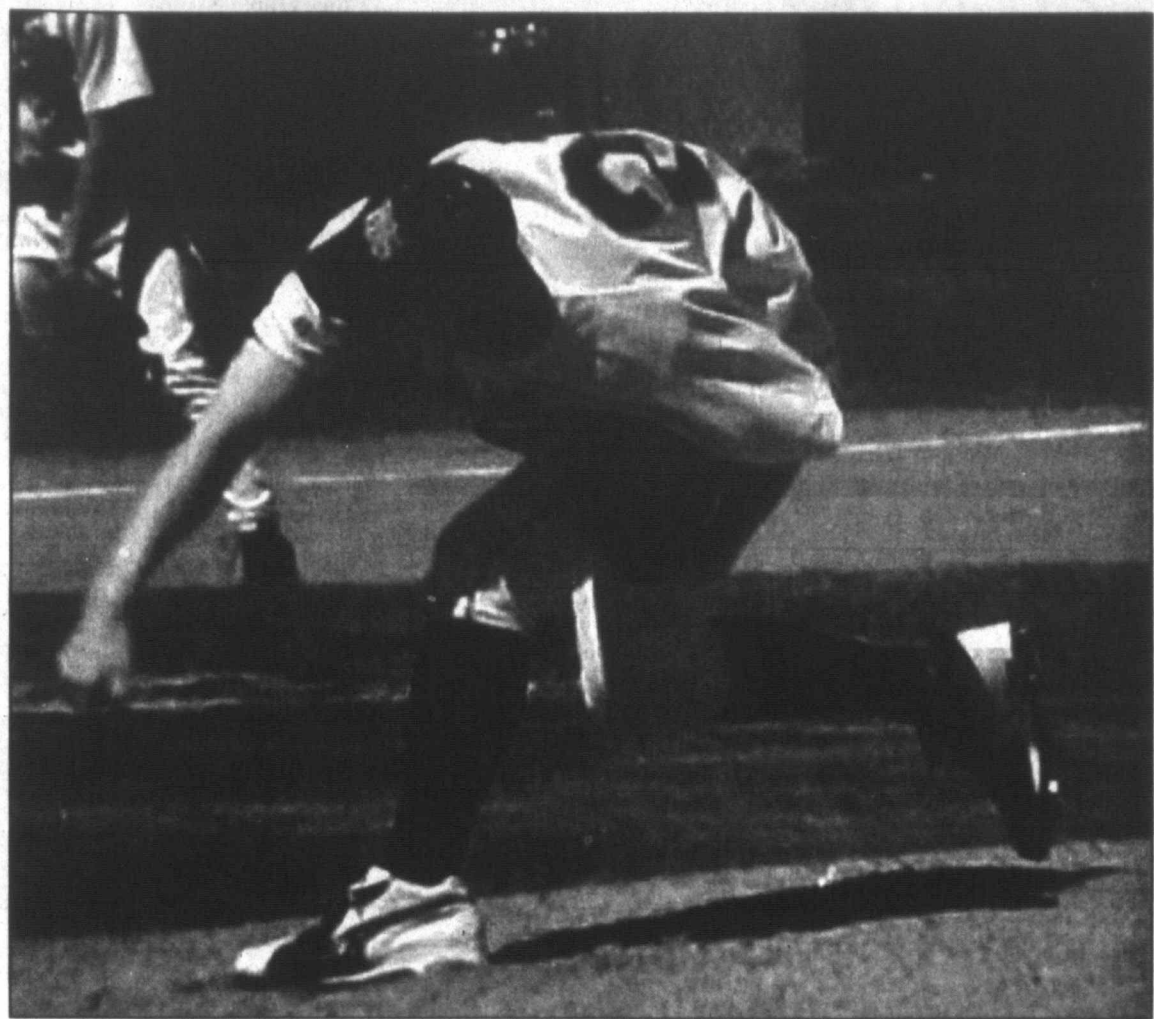
Sur Bar

NEW YC McGwire co the Hall of F ball's swirli heightened b to answer sp performance before Con Press survey Barry Bo enough supp far from a sh sentiments voters who r They are an members of Association be eligible t is on the ball Of the 15 said they w or were lear they would r way. The re cided. Players m percent of b Hall. Among th expressed at percent s McGwire's "I will McGwire,"

Sports Day



Pampa's Brady Eakin, left, focuses his attention toward to pitcher's mound yesterday as he prepares for the Palo Duro pitch. Eakin would later take first base on a walk. Harvester hurler Brad Johnson, right, unleashes a heater early in the game. Pampa defeated PD 17-7 in the opening round of the Amarillo JV Tournament.



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa JV swats Palo Duro, 17-7

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

In what may have been the calm before the storm - so far as the weather - the Pampa junior varsity baseball team took the field at Palo Duro beneath blue skies, a slight breeze and plenty of sunshine. The Harvesters and Dons kicked-off the three day Amarillo JV tournament at 1 p.m. yesterday. Pampa stepped to the plate first, and wasted little

time in flexing its hitting muscle, including a solid double from Michael Grajeda. From there, the hits kept coming as Pampa cruised to a 17-7 win. Brad Johnson started the game on the hill for Coach Clint Allen. Yesterday's win moved Pampa to the .500 mark (5-5). The Harvesters traveled to Amarillo again today for a couple more games, the first scheduled for 9 a.m. this morning. The Amarillo JV Tournament concludes tomorrow.

Booster Club's Family Day and Pampa baseball game may end up yielding to late winter storm on Saturday

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School varsity baseball booster club still intends to move forward with tomorrow's Family Day at Harvester Field when Pampa plays host to the visiting Bulldogs of Borger. The game itself is scheduled to start at noon. The variable of course is the weather. Forecasters are painting a grim picture so far as Saturday's weather is concerned. News Channel 10's John Harris told Sports Day earlier today, "We're expecting a wintery mix of snow

and rain, heavy on the snow." Harris said though the snow should be heavy at times, the recent warm temperatures will cause it to melt relatively fast. "Though we can still see some accumulation," he said. Nonetheless, the game and the festivities to follow are still set to begin at noon. Organizers say any changes may not be announced until near game time tomorrow. For additional information, please contact a club member.

LADY HARVESTER HIT PARADE

Pampa uses 22 hits to squash Hereford

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters have come out of the District 3-4A gate with bats-on-fire, and pitching that has all but stymied the competition early. Coming off a 13-0 performance against Randall in Tuesday's district opener at Lady Harvester Field, Pampa traveled to Hereford yesterday for a meeting against a very good hitting Lady Whiteface team. However, Pampa pitchers Cassy Tice and Nicole Clark combined to keep Hereford's bats quiet for six innings, while allowing the Lady Harvester offense to smack 22 hits. When all was said and done, The Lady Harvesters left Hereford with it's second straight district win, 16-3. Said Coach Bobbi Gill early this morning, "I am very pleased with how well we hit the ball yesterday. The

offense is off to a great start." She went on to say, "Hereford is a very good hitting team. We just made the right plays." In two games, the Lady Harvesters have out-scored their district opponents, 29-3. Pampa pitching, Tice in particular, has allowed just three hits total. It's the kind of start any team and its coach would love to get off to. But is there any concern that comes from such a start? "I hope we can keep it up," said Gill. "We are very strong on offense when we show up." Gill continued, "The run output is great. But the girls cannot let down. They will need to stay at this level of play all the time." In yesterday's game, Tice went five innings, while Clark came in to wrap up in the sixth. The two served up a total of two hits, three runs and three walks. Wendi Miller was perfect at the

plate, going 5-5 with a lead-off triple and four hits. She also scored three runs and had two RBIs. Stephanie McVay had three hits and three RBIs. Teryn Garner added three hits and two RBIs. Tice helped herself out on offense with two doubles and three RBIs. Callie Cobb had one hit and an RBI. Clark chipped in two doubles, a hit and three RBIs. Logan Winkelman finished with three hits and an RBI. Whitney Roden had one hit and scored twice. And Emilea Greer, in her first varsity appearance, added one hit. The win improves Pampa's record to 16-7, 2-0, with Palo Duro next on the agenda. The JV team will host the Lady Dons Monday at 4:30 p.m. The varsity squad will do the same Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Survey: McGwire falling short, Barry is getting by with voters

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark McGwire could be shut out from the Hall of Fame because of baseball's swirling steroids scandal, heightened by the slugger's refusal to answer specific questions about performance-enhancing drugs before Congress, an Associated Press survey showed. Barry Bonds appears to have enough support to get in, but he's far from a shoo-in, according to the sentiments of 155 Hall of Fame voters who responded to the survey. They are among the roughly 500 members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America who will be eligible to vote when McGwire is on the ballot in two years. Of the 155 who responded, 65 said they would vote for McGwire or were leaning that way; 52 said they would not or were leaning that way. The remaining 38 were undecided. Players must be approved on 75 percent of ballots cast to make the Hall. Among the voters surveyed who expressed an inclination, only 55.6 percent said they supported McGwire's induction. "I will not vote for Mark McGwire," Bill Plaschke of the Los

Angeles Times said. "It's obvious from his own statements he used some form of performance-enhancing drugs and it's obvious from his statistics he did not become a Hall of Fame-type player until he did so." Bonds won 80.8 percent approval among yes-or-no voters, with 105 votes for election and 25 against. The remaining 25 were undecided. Based on their career numbers alone, Bonds and McGwire would seem undeniable candidates for Hall of Fame induction. McGwire ranks sixth on the home runs list with 583, but will be best remembered for his heroic 1998 season, when he hit 70 home runs to shatter Roger Maris' decades-old record of 61. Bonds eclipsed McGwire's mark in 2001 by slugging 73 home runs. But he is now within reach of an even bigger prize: His 703 career home runs are just 52 shy of Hank Aaron's career record, and he needs just 11 to pass Babe Ruth. Among the 20 players to hit 500 homers, all who have appeared on the ballot are in the Hall. The steroid scandal, however, seems to be weighing on the minds of many

voters who could help break that streak. "Right now I'm sort of sitting on the fence, but leaning toward not voting for McGwire or Bonds because they cheated," said Hal McCoy of the Dayton Daily News, himself a member of the Hall's writers' wing. "McGwire had the opportunity to say something, but didn't. To me, that's sort of like pleading the Fifth Amendment and not denying he did it," he said. Dan Le Batard of The Miami Herald said he would vote for both. "Barry Bonds is the greatest player of our lifetime, with or without steroids. He won three MVPs as a stick figure," he said. "I don't think they were cheating. Something has to be against the rules for you to be cheating. Despite their size, these guys climbed through a loophole." Baseball did not ban steroids until 2002. Subpoenaed by a congressional committee to testify last week, McGwire repeatedly refused to discuss whether he used illegal performance-enhancing drugs, saying he would not talk about the past.

Sponsors needed for new teams

"We have 670 kids signed up to play baseball and softball on 58 teams," a weary Kevin Davis, the Optimist Baseball Commissioner, exclaimed late Thursday following the last day of tryouts. "We are going to add two teams in the 5-6 T-Ball League, three teams in the 7-8 Pitching Machine League and one team in the 10-12 Girls' Major Softball League," Davis continued. "We need two more coaches in the T-Ball League, the Pitching Machine League and for girls' softball." Dori Miller, reported 172 players in the T-Ball League and 107 in the 7-8 Pitching Machine League. She is the Commissioner for both leagues. Chris Engle, the 9-10 Cal Ripken Commissioner, said that 70 players have registered in that league. Ronnie N. Haynes, the Commissioner for the 11-12 Cal Ripken League, counted 72 players signed up in that league. The Babe Ruth League claims 52 Pampa players and teams from Clarendon and Claude making a total of six Babe Ruth teams. In girls' softball, 60 players have filled out registration forms in the 7-9 Girls' Softball League,

71 in the 10-12 Girls' Major Softball League and 40 in the 13-15 Girls' Senior Softball League. McLean and Wheeler have combined to form a team in the Senior Softball League. "Because of Easter and coaches being out of town, we have had to change our plans for drafting," Davis said. "The 9-10 Cal Ripken League drafted Wednesday. The other leagues will follow suit as quickly as possible. We hope to be finished with our drafts by Tuesday." "All of our existing teams have sponsors," said John Warner, who works to provide each team with a sponsor. "We need six new sponsors for our six new teams." Warner may be contacted at 669-3397 or 669-9817. "We can still accept some additional players," Davis said. "However, when we get up to 15 on a team, we have to cut off registration for that league because of Babe Ruth rules which limits each team to a maximum of 15 players." Parents wishing to register players may contact Davis at 665-7843 or Haynes at 665-6859. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

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5 Special Notices
ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the **Pampa News, MUST** be placed through the **Pampa News Office Only.**

10 Lost/Found
FOUND female, all white, lrg. puppy in Deane Dr. area. Come by 1101 S. Hobart.

10 Lost/Found
LOST on Hwy 2857 co. Rd. L. m. blue heeler, red collar, no tags. Reward, 779-2842, 334-5420

10 Lost/Found
GERMAN Short Hair Pointer, lost 1800 bl. Christine, Mar. 22. Ans. to Astro. 669-1349, 886-3473. Reward.

14a Painting
INT./EXT. painting, mud tape, 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

21 Help Wanted
NOTICE
 Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

21 Help Wanted
MEMORY GARDENS CEMETERY is accepting applications for full-time Cemetery Grounds Maintenance. Applicant must have exp. in heavy equip. operation, lawn-care and knowledge of equip. repair. Must be able to lift. Apply directly at Cemetery office, located at 23rd & Price Rd. OR call 665-8921.

21 Help Wanted
Foreman Technician Wanted
 Must be GM & ASE Certified
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 • Paid Drive Time
 • Demo Allowance
 • Flag Time Bonus
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60 Household
NEW in Plastic Mattress Sets 1 to 20 yr. warr. All sizes. 10 styles. Wholesale prices. Elite Furniture & Bedding 806-677-0400.

HOT TUB / SPA New w/ warranty, 6 person. Beautiful Redwood Cabinet, Lounger, Waterfall, Ozonator, 6 1/2 hp. \$3650. Limited Supply. 806-655-7881.

WASHER & Dryer For Sale. Call 669-9229.

69 Misc.
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BEAUTIFUL STRAPLESS LONG APPLE RED SZ. 4 Red dress Bought Aug. '04 at DAVID'S BRIDAL NEVER WORN \$165 tags still on the dress

also
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THE PAMPA NEWS

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AXYDLBAAXR
 is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

N NKOSKXSJ KYXDNKM KSF; N

TNEAUI ZTTSERUSJ NKXY Z

QZL XDS JNTQYOSLNST YG

YXDLSL ESK. — DSKLI GYLJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EVERYONE ADMITS THAT LOVE IS WONDERFUL AND NECESSARY, BUT NO ONE CAN AGREE ON WHAT IT IS. — DIANE ACKERMAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, March 26, 2005:

Relating to others enhances your potential success this year. In fact, many people will offer you opportunities. What you visualize might be very different from what comes down your path. Your laughter and positive attitude draw many different people. You could feel dragged down by a domestic situation. Realize what you need to do in order to make your life work better. If you are single, you will meet someone who could possibly be Mr. or Ms. Right. Let this person into your life. If you are attached, your relationship will bloom because of your partner's desires to give and add to the quality of your interactions. Understand your role, allowing this bond to build. LIBRA challenges you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ An opportunity that appears today might not be offered again. Know when to not hesitate and to leap into action. If you want what is put on your plate, grab it. You might be skeptical or a bit cynical. Tonight: News from a distance opens new doors.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your innate physical strength and buoyancy come out with whatever you take on. Your ability to zero in on what needs to get done saves the day. Bring friends together. A loved one or dear friend could change his or her tune. Tonight: Do what comes naturally.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Add lightness, humor and a sense of fun to a get-together. Others

naturally gravitate toward you. If you are single, you could meet someone quite spectacular out of the blue. Relationships could be transformed because of today's happening. Tonight: Enjoy your life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Laugh and relax in your favorite milieu -- your home. You might decide to make a major domestic change today. This decision could be quite fortunate in the long run. Study ways to streamline your day. Tonight: Entertain at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ What you say soothes another's soul. Make an effort to reach out to the many people in your life. You have a way of making others happy, especially today. Take care of yourself, as exhaustion could hit hard. Tonight: At a favorite spot. A loved one flips his or her stance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You could be spending way too much lately, but you love the indulgence. Life could easily provide a hard dose of reality if you're not careful. What you do right now could prevent something more important from happening. Tonight: Treating yourself doesn't need to cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Your personality melts others' resistances. Knowing what you want could help you accomplish a lot. On the other hand, you might want to let your hair down and simply have a good time. Know that you can have what you want. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Sometimes you might be overwhelmed by the responsibilities that descend on your shoulders. Your sixth sense directs you through extra work.

Family makes demands. You have what it takes to make others happy. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your wild imagination bounds out of control. What you zero in on becomes a source of delight and tremendous happiness. Allow more in your life to flow. A partner could be touchy or difficult. Tonight: Stay on cruise control.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Someone presents a very special opportunity, which you will want to pursue. What you visualize as a possibility could make a big difference if made a reality. Review a personal matter more carefully. A partner could be a little uptight. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Reach out for a loved one at a distance. Your ability to understand what others mean and where they are coming from makes a big difference. Assess a situation that has a bearing on your energy levels and is draining you. Tonight: Follow the music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ A partner lures you in a new direction. Work as a team rather than as an individual. Together you will greet success. Understand a loved one or dear friend a lot better. Allow more feelings to emerge. Tread water with an authority figure. Tonight: Indulge, my dear Fish.

BORN TODAY

Poet Robert Frost (1874), Gen. William Westmoreland (1914), actor Leonard Nimoy (1931)

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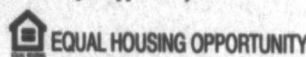
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MARCH 25, 2005

Flynn

Continued from Page 7

We enter heaven "through the gates of pearl and I saw no temple". Therein: For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

There is no need for a temple in heaven.

The city itself is a sanctuary, God's presence is there. There is no need of veils, curtains, ceremonies, rites, altars, covenants, arks and intermediaries. We shall live in the presence of God and shall worship immediately and directly.

Our song shall be Jehovah Shama, God is here. There is no need for a temple, for God is manifest as he was in the Garden of Eden. This is Paradise restored and regained.

We shall see our Lord face to face.

"And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon ... for the glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof."

The glory of God is his garments, it is the iridescence, it is the incomparable, effusion of color and light that stream from his person.

When Moses came down from the mountainside, his face shone. He had been with God on the Mount of Transfiguration. The face of our Lord became bright above the glory of the sun.

Paul on the road to Damascus saw the light of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. There is an inherent beauty and glory in the city because Jesus is there and the Lamb is the light thereof.

All light and glory and hope and

blessing stream from his blessed face. From the beginning in Genesis to the last benediction in the Revelation, it is Jesus as He was then, is now and ever shall be — world without end — Amen.

John now describes a remarkable parallel between what he sees in the paradise of God and what is described in the first and second chapters of the book of Genesis.

"And He showed me a pure river of the Water of Life. Clear as crystal — in the midst of it and on either side of the river was there the Tree of Life which bore twelve manner of fruits."

In Eden, there was a beautiful river with four branches which watered the garden. Here again is the life-giving river. As the psalmist said, there is a river, the streams whereof as cool, clear water and by the side of the stream flowing in the midst of the streets of the city is the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life taken from us in the Garden of Eden is restored to us here in heaven.

John continues: "The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it: and his servants shall serve."

How many times do you hear people say, "I cannot imagine heaven being interesting; we are just to sit and do nothing."

There is no estimation of heaven being such a thing as that.

In the Garden of Eden, God said He needed someone to till the ground. When he made the man, he placed him in the garden that he might dress it and keep it. He was to have dominion over things above and things around and things below.

There was a tremendous assignment and responsibility for the first man in the Garden of Eden. There is every indication that heaven follows the

same pattern.

For example, in the parable of the pounds when the Lord blessed the man who had gained 10 pounds, he said, "You shall have authority over ten cities."

To the man who had made five pounds, he said, "You shall have authority over five cities."

There is vast administration in the future kingdom of God. Nations are mentioned. Governments, responsibilities are described.

We shall work together in that incomparable civilization and each man will have his place according to his faithfulness in this world. "His servants shall serve Him."

Now John speaks of the most climactic and meaningful blessing of all, "and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."

This is what it is to be in heaven, namely to look upon the face of God, our Lord, and to be with Him and one another forever.

Incidentally, there are gates of pearl. Incidentally, there are streets of gold. Incidentally, there is a wall of jasper. But most important, we have our Lord and one another.

I can hear the Lord as He asks, "On what street would you like to live and what mansion would you like to call your home?"

And I can hear a true saint reply, "Dear Lord, any street, any mansion, just so the windows open on the palace of the Great King. That I may see Him come and go."

Does it strike a chord in your heart? Any street, Lord. Any house, Lord. Just so I may see thy blessed and precious face, and that we may be together in heaven.

Florida fight

Schiavo's parents losing legal battle

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. (AP) — As Terri Schiavo's health waned, a federal judge refused on Friday to order the reinsertion of her feeding tube, thwarting another move from the brain-damaged woman's parents in their battle to keep her alive.

For a second time, U.S. District Judge James Whittemore ruled against the parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, who had asked him to grant their emergency request to restore her feeding tube while he considers a lawsuit they filed.

The tube was removed a week ago on a state judge's order that agreed with Schiavo's husband, Michael, who has said she has no hope for recovery and wouldn't want to be kept alive artificially. The Schindlers believe their daughter could improve and wouldn't want to die.

"We're looking into our options," said Rex Sparklin, an attorney with the firm representing the Schindlers, after the ruling was issued. George Felos, attorney for Michael Schiavo, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

'We're looking into our options.'

— Rex Sparklin
Attorney

In his 11-page ruling, Whittemore wrote that the Schindlers couldn't establish "a substantial likelihood of success on the merits" of their case. He also noted "the difficulties and

heartbreak the parties have endured throughout this lengthy process" and praised the lawyers' civility, saying it was "a credit to their professionalism ... and Terri."

As of Friday morning, Terri Schiavo, 41, had been without food or water for almost seven days and was showing signs of dehydration, according to attorneys and friends of the Schindlers. Doctors have said she would probably die within a week or two of the tube being pulled.

She has now been off the tube longer than she was in 2003, when the tube was removed for six days and five hours. It was reinserted when the Legislature passed a law later thrown out by the courts.

On Thursday, Pinellas Circuit Judge George Greer denied Gov. Jeb Bush's request to let the state take Terri Schiavo into protective custody. Bush appealed to the 2nd District Court of Appeal.

"We're minute by minute right now. But it doesn't look like we have much left," Suzanne Vitadamo, Terri Schiavo's sister, told The Associated Press late Thursday.

The Schindlers' emergency request to have the feeding tube reattached included claims that Schiavo's religious and due-process rights were violated.

"It's very frustrating. Every minute that goes by is a minute that Terri is being starved and dehydrated to death," said her brother, Bobby Schindler, who said seeing her was like looking at "pictures of prisoners in concentration camps."

Feds arrive at refinery; FBI rules out terrorism as cause of blast

TEXAS CITY, Texas (AP) — FBI agents have ruled out terrorism, but federal regulators estimate it will take them months to determine what caused an oil refinery explosion that killed 15 and injured more than 100.

Investigators from two agencies, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the U.S. Chemical Safety Board,

arrived Thursday at the 1,200-acre BP plant to start sorting through the debris.

Also Thursday, an FBI spokesman in Houston dismissed a statement posted on an Islamic Web site claiming responsibility for the blast. He said there was no indication of foul play.

Wednesday's blast came during a maintenance period in an area that boosts the

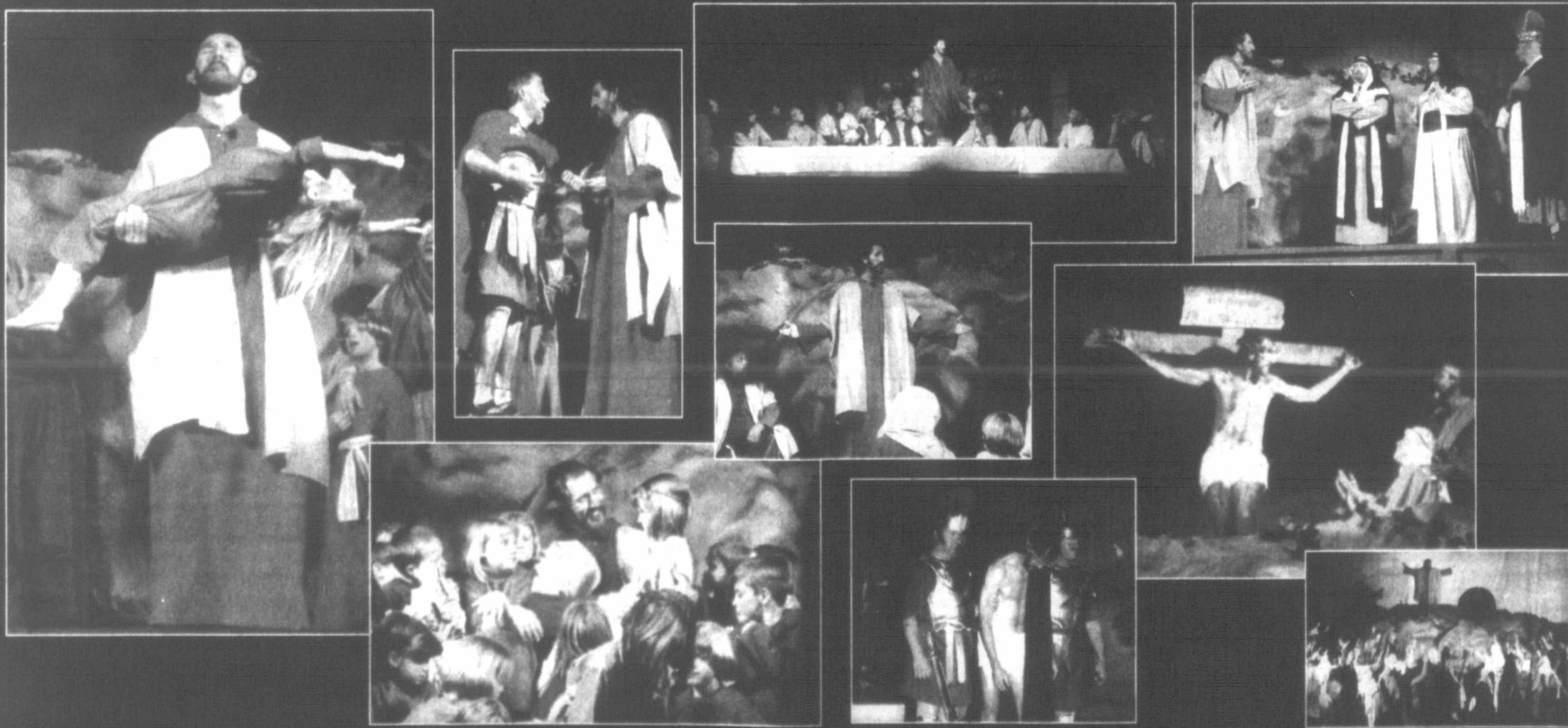
octane level of gasoline. An explosion happened during a maintenance period the same time last year, but no one was injured.

"History has shown that many of these kinds of accidents tend to happen before, during or after a maintenance turnaround," said Angela Blair, lead investigator for the Chemical Safety Board.

About 1,100 employees and 2,200 contract workers were on site when the explosion took place, shortly before 1:30 p.m. Those killed were all contract workers. It was not immediately known who employed four, but 11 worked for J.E. Merit Constructors Inc., a subsidiary of Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. in Pasadena, Calif.

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