

Obituaries

Charles Edward Harper, 60

SKELLYTOWN — Charles Edward Harper, 60, of Skellytown, died Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at Skellytown.

Services are scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel in Pampa with the Rev. Fines Marchman, pastor of Skellytown First Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Harper was born March 31, 1945, at Brownfield, to Charlie and Katherine Harper. He moved to Skellytown in 1974 and was a self-employed contract pumper

from 1961 until the present time.

Mr. Harper was a former member of Skellytown Lions Club and Barrett Baptist Church of Pampa.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard.

Survivors include a son, Chris Harper of Skellytown; a daughter, Marcy Gillispie of Skellytown; a sister, Alice Harris of Pleasanton; three brothers, Roy Harper of Dallas, Freddie Harper of Canadian and Gary Harper of Skellytown; and three grandchildren.

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

Jack E. Imel, 71

Jack E. Imel, 71, of Pampa, Texas, died Monday, May 2, 2005, at Pampa.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 7, 2005, at Carmichael-Whately Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Thacker Haynes, pastor of the United Methodist Church of McLean, officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Imel was born April 3, 1934, in Liberal, Kan. He had been a lifelong resident of Pampa. He attended Pampa schools before going to the New Mexico Military Academy, graduating in 1952. He received a B.A. degree in business from North Texas State University.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during the Korean Conflict, spending most of his military career in Paris. He was vice president of the Citizens Bank & Trust and owner of the Great Plains Gas Company,

retiring in 1980.

He was a member of the First Christian Church. He was a member of the Top O' Texas Masonic Lodge #1381 AF&AM.

Survivors include two daughters, Michelle Smith and husband Robert of Amarillo and Laura-Marie Finley and husband Todd of Owings Mills, Md.; one son, Jerrod Imel and wife Marcie of Pampa; seven grandchildren, Justin Anderson of Ada, Okla., Amanda Anderson of Okmulgee, Okla., Kelsey Anderson of Ardmore, Okla., Cassidy Smith and Jordan Smith, both of Amarillo, Emma Finley of Owings Mills, Md., and Tucker Imel of Pampa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Laura Imel; and a daughter, Stephanie Givens.

The family will be at 1819 N. Russell Street in Pampa.

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

Georgia L. McCain, 77

Georgia L. McCain, 77, of Pampa, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at Pampa. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. McCain was born Dec. 12, 1927, at Wade, Okla. She had been a Pampa resident since 1950 and belonged to Priest*Park

Church of God.

Survivors include two brothers, Roy Cook and John F. Cook, both of Pampa; one step-brother, J.M. Cook of Hanna, Okla.; and three stepsisters, Mary Ann, Evelyn and Betty Sue, all of Tulsa, Okla.

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

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high around 69. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. South wind around 15 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy,

with a high near 75.

Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 55.

Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 40 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 78. Southwest wind around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Stocks

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

Wheat 2.90
Milo 3.04
Corn 3.80
Soybeans 5.37

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

Oxy 69.73 +0.84
BP PLC ADR 62.21 +0.46

Cabot Corp 29.80 -0.05
Cabot Oil Gas 30.24 +0.22
Coca Cola 44.04 +0.11
VLO 67.62 +1.02
HAL 42.77 +0.57
TRI 49.86 -0.37
KMI 76.98 +0.68
XCEL 17.08 -0.05
Kerr McGee 78.17 +0.35
XOM 57.56 +0.33
Limited 22.09 +0.34
Williams 17.72 +0.25
MCD 30.01 -0.12
Atmos 26.89 +0.08

Pioneer Nat 38.57 -0.11
JCP 47.80 +0.05
COP 105.23 +1.18
SLB 69.21 +0.74
Tenneco 13.43 +0.10
CVX 53.39 +0.38
Wal-Mart 48.90 +0.45
OKE 29.55 +0.21
NS Grp 29.94 +0.26

New York Gold 429.70
Silver 7.00
West Texas Crude 50.13

Jesus Gerardo Soto, 42

Jesus Gerardo Soto, 42, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at Amarillo, Texas.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

Mr. Soto was born June 12, 1962, in Juan Aldama, Zacatecas, Mexico. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1978. He married Rose Mary Gonzales in April of 1985 in Pampa.

He worked for Furr's Cafeteria for three years, Pat Helton Well Service for 13 years, Copan Corporation for three years, and W.O. Operating for the past seven years.

He was a Catholic. He raised game chickens.

Survivors include his wife, Rose Mary Soto of Lefors; three sons, Eddie Soto of Amarillo, Erasmo Jesus Soto and Icidro Soto, both of Pampa; his father, Lazaro Soto of Juan Aldama, Zacatecas, Mexico; two brothers, Luciro Soto of Dalton, Ga., and Manuel Soto of Pampa; five sisters, Maria Eva Soto of Juan Aldama, Zacatecas, Mexico, Maria Angeles Soto of Dalton, Ga., Gloria Soto of Gomez Palacio, Durango, Mexico, Leticia Soto and Martha Soto, both of Mesquite; two grandchildren; 14 nephews; and 10 nieces.

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

Joe Dan Watson, 67

LEFORS — Joe Dan Watson, 67, of Lefors, died Tuesday, May 3, 2005, at Amarillo. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Friday at United Methodist Church with Pastor John Westman officiating.

Burial will be in Memorial Heights Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Born Oct. 10, 1937, at Pampa, Mr. Watson was a lifelong resident of Lefors, graduating from Lefors High School in 1956. He married Carole Nan Graves on Jan. 26, 1957, at Lefors.

Mr. Watson was a field man for Coltexo Cities Service in Lefors for 42 years, retiring in 1999.

He was a member of United Methodist Church of Lefors and Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. He formerly sat on the board of Lefors Independent School District for 12 years.

Mr. Watson was preceded in death by a son, Joe Dan Watson, Jr., in 1960; a grandson, Josiah Watson, in 2004; and two brothers, Bill Watson and Jerry Watson.

The family requests memorials be to United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 363, Lefors, TX 79054; or to Lefors High School Ex-Student Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 463, Lefors, TX 79054.

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

Services tomorrow

WATSON, Joe Dan — 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, Lefors.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Wednesday, May 4

Seven traffic stops were made. Traffic complaints were received from Highway 60 East and from the 1200 block of North Hobart.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Kingsmill and Somerville streets. A hit and run accident was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart.

Two business alarms and one residential alarm were reported.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 300 block of Barnes, the 1400 block of Gwendolyn, the intersection of Foster and Houston streets, and the 2200 block of North Hobart.

Warrant service was attempted at one location.

Theft of water services was reported in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive by the City of Pampa. Estimated value of loss is \$49.50.

Disorderly conduct/fighting was reported at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 700 block of Barnes and twice in the police department lobby.

Animal complaints were received from the 900 block of Campbell and the 300

block of North Nelson.

Criminal mischief was reported at Sears, 1623 N. Hobart. Windows were shot with a BB gun, causing an estimated \$1,800 in damage.

Criminal mischief was reported at One Stop Flooring, 1533 N. Hobart. Two windows were shot out with a BB gun, causing an estimated \$600 in damage.

Criminal mischief was reported at United Medicorp Inc., 200 N. Cuyler. A window was broken, causing an estimated \$1,000 in damage.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of East Harvester. Paintballs were shot at a home. Estimated damage is unknown.

Kenneth Yarbrough, 21, Tulia, was arrested in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive for one capias pro fine.

Lance Herr, 43, 2117 Lynn, was arrested in the 400 block of North Sumner for three capias pro fines.

Thursday, May 5
Criminal mischief was reported at Taylor Mart, 600 E. Frederic. A glass door was broken, with damage estimated at \$500.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, May 4
Samuel Ramirez, 24, 937 Barnard, was arrested by Texas Department of Public

Safety on a bond surrender for possession of marijuana.

Erin Michelle Smolin, 29, 1312 Garland, was arrested for 10 counts of issuing a bad check and one warrant out of Hemphill County for theft by check.

Fire

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

Wednesday, May 4
3:26 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide check in the 1100 block of East Kingsmill. Firefighters found a moderate amount of carbon monoxide and traced it as probably coming from an unvented space heater in the bathroom.

Ambulance

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

Wednesday, May 4
10:55 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of East Browning and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

CITY BRIEFS

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

A&T GREENHOUSE is now open! We have flowers, trees, shrubs and herbs! We also have beautiful hanging flower baskets for Mom on her special day! Come see us at 1305 S. Hobart st. today!

"**BKS BUZZ** for Mother's Day" Inspirational Garden Stakes, Journey of Grace Angels, Fragrance Lamps and much more at Best Kept Secrets, 1925 N. Hobart.

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MCLEAN FLOWERS & Gifts. Wrought iron, pottery, chimeneas, variety of fresh flowers & plants. Great Mother's Day gifts. We deliver to Pampa. Open Mon. thru Sat. 9-5 p.m. 109 Cedar, 779-2098. Happy Mother's Day Feliz Dia De Las Madres.

HUMMINGBIRD DESIGNS. One of a kind jewelry designs. Perfect for Mother's Day. Pampa Custom Framing, 107 N. Cuyler.

MIAMI DANCE for Cancer Patients Joe Bill Seuchs, Lee Graziano, Bob Herman. Featuring the old "Fence-walker" Band 9pm-1am, May 14th, Roberts County Barn, Dance \$5 per person, Hamburger 7pm-?

MOTHER'S DAY Balloon Bouquets \$10 & up delivered in town, 662-1801.

NOW OPEN Sundays, 1-5 p.m. Mother's Day Gifts & Gift Baskets. Free in-town floral delivery for Mother's Day at West Texas Landscape!!

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ROSES FROM Tyler & Hibiscus too! Pollies Greenhouse.

SPRING CLEANING Sale! Fri. May 6 & Sat. May 7 Reduced Prices! Free hot dogs & Snow cones. Come in, Let's Make a deal!! Frank's True Value, 401 N. Ballard

TAKING APPLI. for wait staff. Apply 2-4 p.m., no ph. calls. Consuelos, 1328 Hobart

Robbins

Continued from Page 1

"When you sit back and look, some times you don't realize what's been accomplished," Robbins said.

"We've done some real positive things," Robbins said.

He pointed out that sales tax and city revenues are up. The City of Pampa is selling water to Lubbock. There is a new skate park in Central Park, and the city is renovating M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium.

"The fund balances in the city," Robbins said of Pampa's financial health, "have increased by almost \$2 million in the last four years."

He praised the business incubator project the city is involved in with West Texas A&M University.

"It's going to be a real bright spot for up-and-coming entrepreneurs," Robbins said.

There have been a lot of positive changes over the past four years, he said.

"When you look back over it, it's so easy to forget

'Pampa's biggest challenge now is to continue to build on this positive momentum.'

—Lonny Robbins
Incumbent

where we've come from," Robbins said.

A lot of Pampa's gains have come through the efforts of the city's employees.

"Our city personnel and staff is the real key," Robbins said. "Right now, there seems to be a positive environment in the city among the employees."

Many of the city employees have stayed with the city through difficult times.

"I'd love to have a lot more resources and revenue and personnel," Robbins said.

He credits the city staff with controlling costs.

"City employees worked to keep the budget down," Robbins said.

Every city has their challenges, he said.

"Pampa's biggest challenge now is to continue to build on this positive momentum," Robbins said. "It's not just our city that's struggling with their revenue sources. Other cities are struggling with revenue

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Robbins

Continued from Page 2

sources.”
Cities have to have revenue in order to provide services, he said. It's like a business.

“We worked to keep expenses and budget down,” Robbins said. “We need to continue growth. As people continue to become aware of what Pampa has to offer, I think our city is going to continue to grow. As we grow, we will increase some of our revenue.”

He said that for the past couple of years, the city has been blessed with increasing sales tax revenues.

“It really has helped us,” he said.

Robbins said he is an optimistic type of individual.

“I believe in Pampa,” Robbins said. “I believe in

its citizens. I believe as we continue to work together, we going to continue to make Pampa greater than it already is.”

He wants to revisit an economic development council issue.

“We need an EDC,” Robbins said.

He said he has been talking with people about it, not only in Pampa, but also in other cities.

‘We need an EDC ... Dumas has done a superb job.’

— Lonny Robbins
Incumbent

he's been working and visiting with people locally and in other communities.

“Dumas has done a superb job,” Robbins said.

He said he's been particularly impressed with the cooperation between Dumas' economic development council and their business incubator project.

Robbins indicated that he would favor a 4B economic development council rather than the 4A EDC the city had before.

He said there needs to be a lot of communication with the public concerning a new economic development organization.

The difference, Robbins said, is that the 4B organization, the designation refers to the state rules under which the entity is organized, is much more flexible.

“It will benefit the com-

munity more,” Robbins said, “and allow it to pursue businesses.”

A Pampa native, Robbins graduated from Pampa High School in 1971. He went to Southwestern University in Waxahachie where he earned an associate's degree in sociology and a bachelor's in biblical studies.

From there he went to

Panama City, Fla., where he worked with street kids.

“With my background, coming from Pampa, that was an eye-opening experience,” he said.

Since then, Robbins has been involved in either the ministry or the business world.

“It's been fun,” Robbins said.

He's been a pastor in Pampa since 1992.

He and his wife Gloria will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary in June.

They have one daughter who just graduated from Oral Roberts University and a son who will be a senior at Pampa High School next fall.

Rabies

Continued from Page 1

vaccinated, according to DSHS.

The presence in the Pampa area of rabid animals, mainly skunks, in recent years prompted the city to require annual vaccines, but the last documented case of rabies in Pampa was June 2003, Burns said in an April 28 interview. This has led to the changing of the city ordinance to allow three-year vaccines, she said.

Other areas of the Panhandle have not been as lucky, since 39 cases of rabies have been reported in the top 26 counties so far this year, said Suzan Norwood, a public health technician with the DSHS in Canyon.

Counties which have had at least one confirmed case of rabies this year are Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Donley, Potter, Randall, Hansford, Castro, Childress, Swisher, Hemphill, Hartley, Deaf Smith, Dallam and Briscoe.

Counties which have had at least one confirmed case of rabies this year are Ochiltree, Lipscomb, Donley, Potter, Randall, Hansford, Castro, Childress, Swisher, Hemphill, Hartley, Deaf Smith, Dallam and Briscoe.

Cities and counties in Texas, like Pampa in recent years, may have vaccination requirements that specify annual vaccinations despite the DSHS' three-year requirement.

An animal is considered currently vaccinated if at least 30 days have elapsed since the initial vaccination, and not more than 12 or 36 months, depending on the vaccine used, have elapsed since the last vaccination.

The DSHS recommends that livestock, especially those that have frequent contact with humans, along with domestic ferrets and wolf-dog hybrids be vaccinated against rabies, although these vaccines are not required by law.

Any mammal can get rabies, according to the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention web site, www.cdc.gov.

The most common wild animals to have rabies are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes and coyotes. Wild animals currently make up 90 percent of reported rabies cases, according to the CDC.

The most frequently reported rabies cases in domestic animals are cats, cattle and dogs.

Humans who are exposed to rabies should thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water and seek immediate medical attention, according to the CDC.

The recommended medical treatment for humans exposed to rabies is one dose of immune globulin and five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period.

The immune globulin and first rabies shot are given on the first day, with the remaining rabies vaccines given on days three, seven, 14 and 28, according to the CDC.

Rabies virus infects the central nervous system, causing encephalopathy and ultimately death if not treated.

Early symptoms in humans may include fever, headache, and general malaise.

As the disease progresses, neurological symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation, difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia, or fear of water.

Death usually occurs within days of the onset of symptoms, if no treatment is received, according to the CDC.

Texas administrative codes on zoonosis control state that if a dog, cat or ferret bites a human, the animal should be quarantined for observation for 10 days.

If a currently vaccinated animal is exposed to a rabid animal, the vaccinated animal may be given a booster rabies vaccination and placed in strict isolation for 45 days.

If an unvaccinated animal is exposed to a rabid animal, the exposed animal may be immediately vaccinated against rabies, placed in strict isolation for 90 days, and given booster vaccinations during the third and eighth week of isolation.

The alternative to vaccination and isolation for exposed animals is euthanasia, according to the code.

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Wreck

Continued from Page 1

2:15 a.m. Wednesday, Neufeld said. Both men were transported by ambulance to Amarillo hospitals.

No further information was available on the cause of the accident.

Viewpoints

Those who fish get ready; hunters take heart

“Proceeds From Freshwater Fish Stamp in Danger of Being Misused” the headline of a press release found at the web site of Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn boldly proclaims.

According to Strayhorn, the proposed reallocation of funds would mean the fees collected from the stamp would be used for purposes other than what was originally mandated.

“Texas sportsmen and women,” the release attributes Strayhorn as writing,

“were promised that the income from the freshwater fish stamp would pay for fish hatcheries and habitats. And now those funds are in danger of being taken away.”

The stamp costs \$5, and is required for fresh water fishing through 2014.

“(T)he current House and Senate versions of Senate Bill 1,” the news release said, “would supersede the original dedication of this fee to fish hatcheries and the purchase of game fish. In effect, the dollars originally earmarked for hatcheries

would be used to support other programs.

“Because the dedication would be stripped away and replaced with either revenue bonds or General Obligation Bonds,” the release continued,

“Strayhorn said the change in policy will come at a significant cost to the state.”

The Texas Comptroller says the planned redirection

of funding would place an additional tax burden on taxpayers of between \$3 and \$9.1 million.

“If the interest rates rise, the cost of the bonds would increase,” the Comptroller states in the

release.

As of press time today, the Texas Legislature’s bill status hotline reported no action on SB 1. The hotline

operator said the bill is still in conference committee which means, the hotline reports, that both house: are wrangling over certain aspects of the proposed law. However, SB 734, a law concerning the rights of hunters and those who lease out hunting property, passed the legislature earlier this week.

The National Rifle Association reports that Senate Bill 734 was signed into law by Gov. Rick Perry on Tuesday.

“This law allows property

owners to continue hunting on their land, or leasing it out to sportsmen, even if they are annexed by a municipality with an ordinance banning the discharge of firearms,” a fax from the NRA states. “The bill also adds ‘wildlife management’ to the list of activities which would be grandfathered under Texas’ ‘Right To Farm’ Act when annexation occurs.”

Hunters take heart. Fishermen/women prepare for another hit in the pocket book.

Skyla Bryant
News Editor



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 5, the 125th day of 2005. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute sub-orbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

On this date:

- In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile on the island of St. Helena.
- In 1862, Mexican forces loyal to Benito Juarez defeated French troops sent by Napoleon III in the Battle of Puebla.
- In 1925, John T. Scopes was arrested in Tennessee for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution.
- In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island of Corregidor.
- In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children.
- In 1955, West Germany became a sovereign state.
- In 1955, the baseball musical “Damn Yankees” opened on Broadway.
- In 1980, a siege at the Iranian embassy in London by armed men demanding the release of political prisoners in Iran ended as British commandos and police stormed the building.

Nineteen hostages were rescued; two others had already been killed by their captors; four of the five hostage-takers also were killed.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1985, President Reagan kept a promise to West

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl by leading a wreath-laying ceremony at the military cemetery in Bitburg.

Ten years ago: As rescue workers ended their search for bodies in the Oklahoma City bombing, President Clinton denounced self-styled anti-government militias, saying, “How dare you call yourselves patriots and heroes.” Talks collapsed between the United States and Japan on averting a bitter trade fight over automobiles. Powerful thunderstorms began tearing through North Texas, claiming two dozen lives.

Five years ago: President Clinton met at the White House with Japan's new prime minister, Yoshiro Mori. The Labor Department reported the nation's unemployment rate had hit a 30-year low of 3.9 percent in April 2000, with blacks and Hispanics recording the lowest jobless rates in history. Reformers swept Iran's run-off elections, winning control of the legislature from conservatives for the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

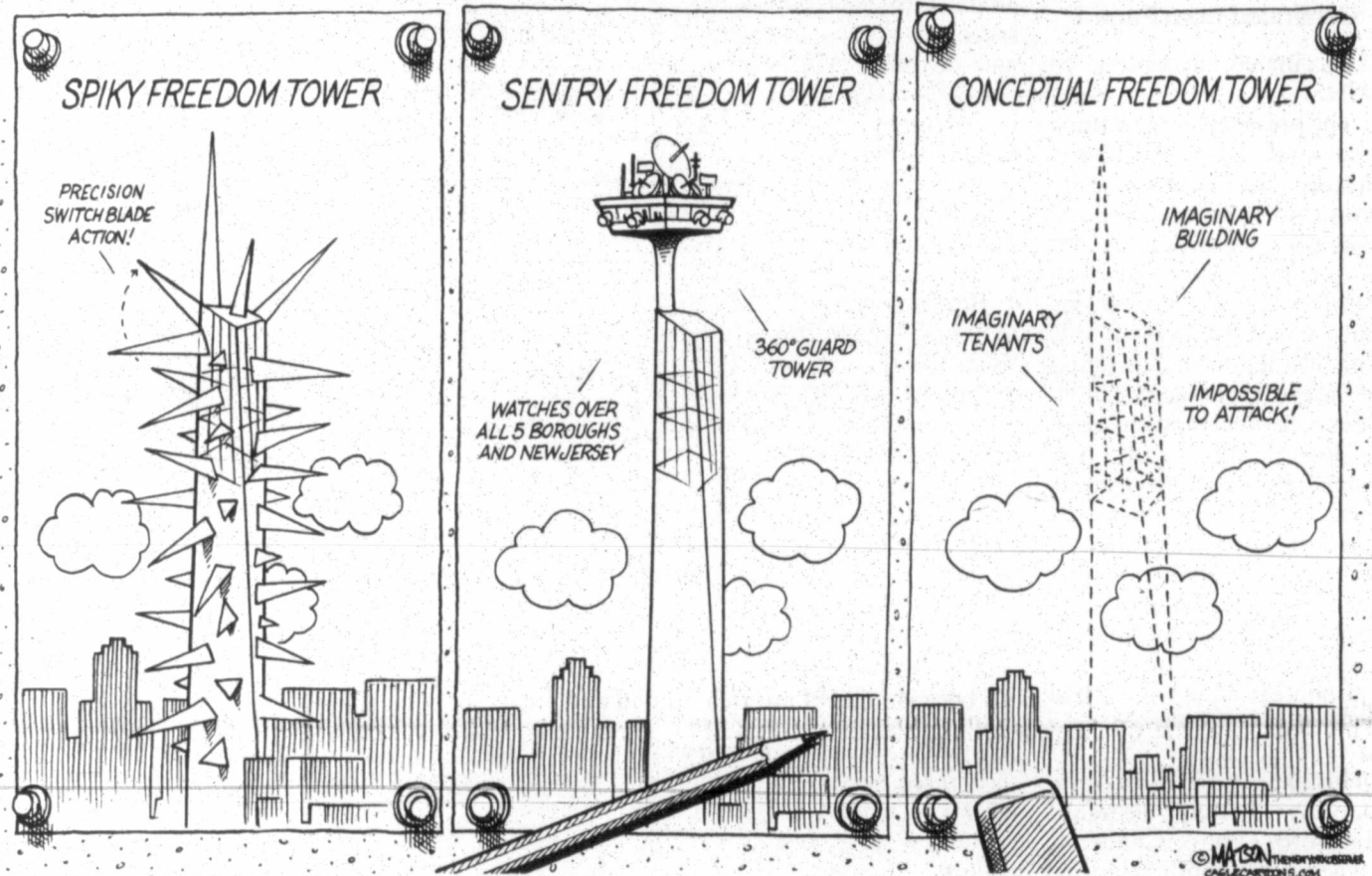
One year ago: Seeking to calm international outrage, President Bush acknowledged mistakes but stopped short of an apology as he condemned the abuse and deaths of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of U.S. soldiers during appearances on two Arabic-language TV networks.

‘When in doubt, duck.’

— Malcolm Forbes
American publisher
(1919-1990)

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD!

THREE MODEST PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS SECURITY SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FREEDOM TOWER DESIGN



On becoming rich in the USA

Let's talk about the rich — those people who, according to former Congressman Richard Gephardt, are “winners in life's lottery.” Or the people whom director Michael Moore preaches, in his book “Dude, Where's my Country?,” got rich off the backs of the poor.

Farrah Gray was raised in a predominantly black Chicago neighborhood. At age 8, he started a lemonade stand business, later a venture capital business, a food business and a magazine. By age 17, Farrah Gray was a millionaire, had been chief executive of four companies, and had offices on Wall Street, and in Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

While becoming a millionaire by age 17 is rare, eventually becoming a millionaire isn't. According to TNS Financial Services' 2004 Affluent Market Research survey, there are an estimated 8.2 million American households with assets, excluding primary residences, worth over \$1 million. That's a 33 percent increase over the 6.2 million millionaire households in 2003.

Who are these people portrayed either as winners in

life's lottery or who got rich by exploiting the poor? One thing for sure is that they're not the sons and daughters of the Rockefellers, the Kennedys or the Vanderbilts. According to Drs. Thomas Stanley and William Danko's research

published in their book “The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy,” 80 percent of today's American millionaires are first-generation rich.

Drs. Stanley and Danko listed other characteristics of

these 8.2 million millionaire households. Fewer than 20 percent inherited 10 percent or more of their wealth. More than half never received as much as a dollar in inheritance. Fewer than 25 percent received “an act of kindness” from a relative greater than \$10,000, and 91 percent never received, as a gift, as much as \$1 from the ownership of a family business.

Being first-generation rich is not new for Americans. Drs. Stanley and Danko say, “More than 100 years ago the same was true. In The American Economy, Stanley Lebergott reviews a study

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Walter Williams
Columnist



9-11 commission is coming back

The 9-11 commission is coming back.

Nine months after the bipartisan group delivered its monumental 567-page report on the devastating attacks on the United States, commissioners are pledging to issue a report card assessing the government's efforts to carry out its 41 recommendations.

“We know that many of these recommendations are going to be implemented,” commission Chairman Thomas Kean told reporters and editors at USA Today. “The question is whether

they're going to be implemented before the next attack or after it.”

Kean and Co-chairman Lee Hamilton praised Congress and the White House for creating the position of national intelligence director, filled recently by former U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte.

But in other key areas, the two commissioners warn, the performance of our elect-

ed leaders is woefully inadequate. Congressional oversight of intelligence and homeland security agencies is still a mess. Seventy-nine committees and subcommittees hold pieces of the intelligence-homeland security jigsaw puzzle.

None has real power, because they don't control agency budgets. No progress has been made toward streamlining oversight by creating fewer, stronger committees with

real authority and responsibility.

Kean and Hamilton also point out failures involving less complicated issues, such as making more radio frequencies available for police, firefighters and other emergency responders.

The commissioners intend to hold a series of hearings in June and July before issuing their report card.

By then, perhaps the Bush administration and congressional leaders can bring their performance up from a failing to a passing grade.

Texas Thoughts

San Antonio Express-News

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Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com

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Shriners Day to benefit Childrens Hospitals

Pampa Shrine members, from left, Steve Phelps, Don Denham, and Ben Watson witness Mayor Lonny Robbins signing a proclamation declaring May 7 as "Shriners Day" in Pampa. On Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pampa Shrine Club members plan to conduct a paper drive to benefit Shrine Children Hospitals. The Shriners will be handing out "paper" pamphlets and accepting donations with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the hospitals which provide free medical care for all children under age 18. Local Shriners, wearing their jackets and fez hats, plan to stand at the corners by the Post Office, NBC Bank and Wal-Mart. There are 18 orthopaedic Shriners Hospitals, three Shriners Hospitals dedicated to children with severe burns and one Shriners Hospital that provides orthopaedic, burn and spinal cord injury care. The hospitals are located throughout North America, 20 in the U.S. and one each in Mexico and Canada. Shriners hospitals never charge the patient, parent or any third party for any service or medical treatment received at their hospitals. To donate online, go to www.shrinershq.org and click on "Donate to Shriners Hospitals for Children online" or "Donation form for mailing."

Rich

Continued from Page 4

conducted in 1892 of the 4,047 American millionaires. He reports that 84 percent were nouveau riche, having reached the top without the benefit of inherited wealth. This points to one of the most unique features of our nation. Just because you know where a person ended up in life is no guarantee that you can tell where he started. In other words, there is so much economic mobility in our society that starting out with modest means or even being dirt-poor does not prevent one from ending up at the top.

According to IRS tax data, 85.8 percent of tax filers in the bottom fifth in 1979 had moved on to a higher quintile, and often to the top quintile, by 1988.

Here's my question for you: What are we to make of people who preach pessimism and doom to people — telling them that they're poor because others are rich or telling blacks that they'll never make it because of societal racism? What are we to make of politicians, media pundits and college professors who preach the politics of envy — telling people lies that the rich became rich off the backs of the poor? I grew up poor in a housing project in North Philadelphia, and those weren't the lessons prevalent a half-century ago.

My mother used to preach that "We have a beer pocket-book but champagne tastes." And my stepfather used to admonish, "If you want to make it in this world, you have to come early and stay late."

Those messages are far more beneficial to a poor person than those of victimhood and pity.

Personally, I like evangelical minister Reverend Ike's response when asked what should we do about the poor. He said, "The best thing you can do for the poor is not become one."

Walter Williams, Ph.D., is a John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Police foil burglary at station

GALVESTON (AP) — Police arrested a Corpus Christi man they said they found walking down the hall of a police station carrying a Taser, a baton and an officer's cell phone.

William Ehlers, 25, faces a burglary charge, police said.

Officers first became suspicious when they walked into a Galveston police substation Tuesday night and found the door open to the community service office.

Seconds later, they got second surprise. "They were discussing how to proceed when this man comes walking out of the

training office, just down the hall," police Lt. Walter Braun said.

The man surrendered to the officers without incident, according to police reports.

"This is a building that our officers are walking into and out of 24-7, so we're not talking about anyone who's taking the NASA test to be a rocket scientist anytime soon," Braun said. "I mean, you're talking about a building with police cars parked all around it."

Information from: The Galveston County Daily News, <http://www.galvnews.com>

Veterans

Continued from Page 1

John Chaney fought jungle rot, a skin disease, for two years after his return.

"When I got back, they wanted to pump us up with a lot of drugs," Gary Steward said. "I said, 'No, I'm not going back like that.'"

They felt they had to be careful what they said about being in Vietnam.

Larry Stephens said his friends hadn't even realized he had gone to off to war.

"A lot of my friends didn't know where I'd been," he said.

They didn't feel accepted. They certainly didn't feel appreciated by the people of the country they represented.

"It's a lot better now," Porter said.

"But it will never be

right," Chaney added.

"That's why I'm post commander (of the Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars),"

Martin said. "We want David (Bridges, a veteran of the Iraq War) and others like

him to be treated right.

It wasn't done for us."

"People don't realize that heroes are just guys who are scared and did something because they had to or die," Porter said.

Steward said he believes that Vietnam veterans are directly responsible for the positive public attitude toward

soldiers returning from

Desert Storm and Iraq.

"We said, 'Don't do to them what was done to us,'" he said.

"It's unrealistic for folks to be treated like the ones in World War II," Craddock pointed out.

"That's different than the wars we were in."

After nearly four decades, the veterans wonder if their sacrifices have made any difference.

"Where are we now?" Tripplehorn pondered.

"What kind of future are we leaving our kids?"

"We're giving up little freedoms, one by one," Jim Hampton said.

"People don't realize that heroes are just guys who are scared and did something because they had to or die."

— Rod Porter
Vietnam veteran

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Community happenings

• **Amarillo College's Lamplight Youth Theatre Company** will present "Guys and Dolls," its final production of the season, at 7:30 p.m. May 6-7 and at 2:30 p.m. May 8 in Ordway Hall, located at the corner of 22nd and Washington. To purchase tickets or for more information, call Cyndie or Megan at (806) 371-5353. To learn more about the Lamplight theater program, log onto www.amarillo.tv/lamplight on the World Wide Web.

• **The Texas Department of State Health Services** will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood diseases including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella, mumps, HIB (haemophilus influenzae Type B) and chickenpox (varicella).

Flu vaccines may also be offered at designated clinics. The TDH will charge money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open.

The amount charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., May 18, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; and 10 a.m.-1 p.m., May 19, Wheeler School, Wheeler. For more information, call (806) 655-7151.

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

• **The next Pampa Area Singles Dance** will be from 8-11 p.m. May 21 at Sportsmans Club on South Barnes with Mike Porter. Snacks are welcome. Admission is \$6 per person. No smoking or alcohol. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **The 5th Army Association** will conduct a 10-day final tour of Italy in June. The tour will depart from New York for Rome, Venice, Florence, Pisa and Sorrento on June 15. The trip will include a special stop at the American Military Cemetery near Anzio. For more information, call Sy Canton at (561) 865-8495 or write him at 5277B Lakefront Blvd., Delray Beach, FL 33484.

• **The USS Long Beach CGN-9 Association, Inc.**, is organizing its 2005 reunion Sept. 11-19 at San Francisco, Calif. For more information, contact Don Shade, 299 Kiantone Rd., Jamestown, NY 14701-9370, (866) 352-2469 or LBCGN9@aol.com.

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El Progreso student awards



El Progreso Study Club recently awarded a copy of the history book "Panhandle Pilgrimage" by Paulene Durrett Robinson and R.L. Roberson to Ashlyn McNeely and Matricia Davis, both students at Pampa Junior High School. This is the club's 31st year of awarding such books to outstanding students. Pictured with McNeely and Davis are El Progreso President Julia Dawkins and Vice President Ruby Riehart.

New rule to open national forests to road building

WASHINGTON (AP) — Governors are being given 18 months to change the Bush administration's plan to open up to 58.5 million acres of remote national forestland to road building, timbering and other commercial activity.

In one of its biggest environmental decisions, the administration will let governors petition for more or fewer restrictions against developing nearly a third of the 191 million acres of national forests, according to briefing documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The U.S. Forest Service planned to announce the new "roadless" rule later Thursday. It replaces one that former

President Clinton had put in place little more than a week before leaving office in January 2001. Clinton's regulation blocked road construction as a way to prevent logging, mining and other industry activities in the backcountry.

The Forest Service calls the new process voluntary. "If a governor does not want to propose changes ... then no petition need be submitted," the agency says in the documents.

As much as 34.3 million acres could be immediately opened to road construction if governors submit no petitions or they are rejected, the Forest Service estimates.

British election

Blair expected to win as polls open in England

LONDON (AP) — Voters cast ballots in village halls, schools and even pubs across Britain Thursday in a national election that is expected to give Prime Minister Tony Blair a third term in office despite widespread anger over the Iraq war.

Two small makeshift grenades exploded outside the British Consulate in New York early Thursday, causing slight damage to the building but injuring no one, American officials said. "We do not at this point have any idea who did it or a motive," New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

There were no provisions for Britons to vote at the consulate, the Foreign Office in London said.

"We're not speculating about whether it's connected to the election," a spokeswoman said, adding that an investigation was under way.

Although most observers believed Blair's Labour Party would win the election thanks to the strength of the economy, anti-war sentiment and doubts about Blair's trustworthiness could deny him the landslide victories he won in 1997 and 2001.

Few expected Blair's main rival, Conservative Party leader Michael Howard, to become prime minister, but the Tories could pare back the number of seats Labour holds in the House of Commons. Blair's party had a huge 161-seat majority in the outgoing legislature; the new house will have 646 members.

If Labour's majority shrinks significantly, it could badly damage Blair, who would wield less power than in his first two terms and lose standing within his party.

"As far as the economy is concerned, we're doing fine. It's just the one big issue (the war). I find it appalling that thousands of people are lying out there dead, it just sickens me," said Gary Davis, a taxi driver who voted Conservative in north London.

'As far as the economy is concerned, we're doing fine. It's just the one big issue (the war). I find it appalling that thousands of people are lying out there dead, it just sickens me.'

— Gary Davis
Taxi driver

Italian premier disagrees with U.S. findings in shooting probe

ROME (AP) — Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday that he disagreed with some of the U.S. military's conclusions into the March shooting death of an Italian agent in Baghdad, but he said those differences won't affect Italy's deployment of troops in Iraq or its friendship with Washington.

Berlusconi told lawmakers that it couldn't be ruled out that U.S. troops who fired on the agent's car from a checkpoint were to blame even if they fired mistakenly.

"Indeed, the lack of deliberate action doesn't rule out blame attributable to negligence, imprudence or even simple incompetence," Berlusconi told lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies three days after Italy issued its own report concluding that soldiers' inexperience, stress and fatigue played a role in the fatal shooting.

He also complained, as

Italian investigators have, that the scene of the shooting wasn't left untouched, although Berlusconi added that "the impartiality and good faith of the U.S. investigators cannot be questioned."

The U.S. report into the death cleared the soldiers of any blame. It said the car was speeding, didn't heed warning lights and shots, and said better coordination between the Italians and Americans could have prevented the tragedy.

Berlusconi contended the temporary checkpoint set up along the dangerous highway to Baghdad airport wasn't properly marked.

The slain agent, Nicola Calipari, was escorting a freed hostage, Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, to the airport. Sgrena and another intelligence agent in the vehicle were wounded in the shooting.

'Indeed, the lack of deliberate action doesn't rule out blame attributable to negligence, imprudence or even simple incompetence.'

We have no intention of establishing any connection between the assessment of the case in which our official lost his life and the role of our country in Iraq. We must insist in our commitment and assist the forces of a free and democratic new Iraq.'

— Silvio Berlusconi
Italian premier

Despite the death and the disagreement over the circumstances of the shooting, Berlusconi said Italian troop deployment would continue.

"We have no intention of establishing any connection between the assessment of the case in which our official lost his life and the role of

our country in Iraq," the premier said. "We must insist in our commitment and assist the forces of a free and democratic new Iraq."

Italy sent some 3,000 troops into Iraq to help with reconstruction despite widespread objections by citizens over military involvement there.

The slaying, as well as the American conclusions that the soldiers bore no responsibility for the death of the agent, angered Italians.

"Our friendship with the United States has overcome more difficult tests than this one," said the premier, a staunch ally of President Bush.

On Wednesday, Bush called him to again express regret over Calipari's slaying. Berlusconi's office described their conversation as "long and cordial."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said the two

leaders agreed that the episode wouldn't harm "the strong friendship" between the two countries.

Opposition leader Romano Prodi, expected to run for premier in elections next year, has contended that while there was no direct link between a pullout and the Calipari case, it was time to discuss the end of the mission.

After Berlusconi spoke, lawmakers had their say in the chamber. One of them, Piero Fassino, a center-left opposition leader, demanded that the United States apologize.

Two months ago, Berlusconi said that if security conditions allowed and the other allies agree, some Italian troops might start coming home as early as September.

But no timetable for the start of withdrawal has been set.

Pakistan says capture of al-Qaida No. 3 helps the hunt for bin Laden

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan has shared with the United States initial results of its interrogation of reputed al-Qaida No. 3 Abu Farraj al-Libbi, who stayed silent for hours after his capture this week before confessing his identity, an intelligence official said Thursday.

Al-Libbi was nabbed Monday after a fire-fight with security forces near a town in northwestern Pakistan.

President Bush hailed the arrest as a victory that removes a key enemy, and jubilant Pakistani officials said the capture will boost the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

The Libyan terror suspect, allegedly a close confidant of bin Laden, was Pakistan's most-wanted man, accused of masterminding two 2003 assassination attempts against President Gen. Pervez Musharraf that left 17 others dead.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid confirmed to The Associated Press on Thursday that al-Libbi was still in Pakistan's custody and that he was being questioned. He declined to give details.

However, an intelligence official who is familiar with the investigation said that al-Libbi was being questioned by Pakistani counterterrorism experts and security officials.

He said U.S. officials were not present at the interrogation, but Pakistan had shared with them its preliminary findings.

He said that al-Libbi initially refused to speak.

"He remained silent for hours, but he had to admit that he is al-Qaida. He had no other option because our people had very solid evidence to prove his identity," said the Pakistani official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Al-Libbi, who's thought to use at least five aliases, was behind only Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahri and bin Laden himself in the terror group's hierarchy, U.S. counterterrorism officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Al-Libbi is believed responsible for planning attacks in the United States, the officials said.



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Red Cross donation

Girl Scout Troop 10 recently received 30 boxes of cookies, courtesy of some anonymous customers. The troop voted to donate the cookies to the local American Red Cross. Presenting the cookies to Lill Thomason, left, of the Red Cross, was Keva of Troop 10.

AP reports federal researchers used foster kids to test potent AIDS drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — To gain access to hundreds of HIV-infected foster children, federally funded researchers promised in writing to provide an independent advocate to safeguard the kids' well-being as they tested potent AIDS drugs. But most of the time, that special protection never materialized, an Associated Press review has found.

The research funded by the National Institutes of Health spanned the country. It was most widespread in the 1990s as foster care agencies sought treatments for their HIV-infected children that weren't yet available in the marketplace.

The practice ensured that foster children — mostly poor or minority —

received care from world-class researchers at government expense, slowing their rate of death and extending their lives. But it also exposed a vulnerable population to the risks of medical research and drugs that were known to have serious side effects in adults and for which the safety for children was unknown.

The research was conducted in at least seven states — Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Colorado and Texas — and involved more than four dozen different studies. The foster children ranged from infants to late teens, according to interviews and government records.

Several studies that enlisted foster children reported that patients suffered side effects such as rashes, vomiting and sharp drops in infection-fighting blood cells, and one reported a "disturbing" higher death rate among children who took higher doses of a drug, records show.

The government provided special protections for children in 1983. They required researchers and their oversight boards to appoint independent advocates for any foster child enrolled in a narrow class of studies that involved greater than minimal risk and lacked the promise of direct benefit.

Some foster agencies, including those in Illinois and New York, required researchers to sign a document agreeing to provide the protection regardless of risks and benefits.

However, researchers and foster agencies told AP that foster children in AIDS drug trials often weren't given such advocates even though research institutions many times promised in writing to do so.

Illinois officials believe none of their nearly 200 foster children in AIDS studies got independent monitors. New York City could find records showing 142 — less than a third — of the 465 foster children in AIDS drug trials got such monitors even though city policy required them.

Several studies that enlisted foster children reported that patients suffered side effects such as rashes, vomiting and sharp drops in infection-fighting blood cells, and one reported a "disturbing" higher death rate among children who took higher doses of a drug, records show.

Beltway

House bill proposes \$100,000 insurance limit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The first increase in a quarter-century in the \$100,000 account limit on federal bank deposit insurance would occur under a bill approved by the House, but its future is less certain in the Senate, where memories linger of the massive savings and loan bailout of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The House overwhelmingly passed the measure Wednesday raising the ceiling on federal bank deposit insurance to \$130,000, and to double that amount, \$260,000, for individual retirement accounts and 401(k) plans held in banks.

The vote was 413-10 for legislation raising maximum insurance coverage for deposits for the first time since 1980, when it was \$40,000 per account. Proponents say the move is needed to keep pace with inflation and encourage more people to save. Taking inflation into account, \$40,000 in 1980 would be worth nearly \$94,000 today.

Republicans in recent years have pushed the bill

through the House, only to see it stall in the Senate.

Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, "has concerns that this may cause greater exposure to taxpayers," his spokesman Andrew Gray said Wednesday.

The banking industry has lobbied for an increase in the

wither on the vine, which is an unacceptable outcome for the millions of Americans who depend upon it to protect their savings."

Proponents say the increase is needed in the event of future problems in the banking industry and is not in response to any current problems.

—Combine the federal bank insurance fund with the fund for savings and loans, with a view to creating a single, more diverse fund that would be less vulnerable to regional economic problems.

—Change the way the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. collects premiums from banks and thrifts.

About 9,000 banks and savings and loans — or more than 90 percent of all insured institutions — currently pay no insurance premiums. Existing law prohibits the FDIC from collecting premiums from most institutions that have adequate capital and receive strong ratings from examiners.

The FDIC wants to replace that with a system in which every bank and thrift would chip in, with insurance premiums based on risk. If the insurance fund reserves fell below a certain level, premiums would be increased gradually.

Banks and thrifts would get rebates upon the fund exceeding 1.25 percent of the deposits it insures.

'The modest increases provided for in our bill are critical if deposit insurance is to maintain its relevance.'

— Rep. Spencer Bachus
R-Ala.

program established during the Depression. Smaller community banks, especially, believe it would help them compete for deposits with bigger institutions.

"The modest increases provided for in our bill are critical if deposit insurance is to maintain its relevance," Rep. Spencer Bachus, R-Ala., a chief sponsor of the measure, said before the vote. "The alternative is to simply let deposit insurance

Critics, including Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, complain that to protect the wealthy, a burden potentially bigger than that of the thrift bailout — which cost taxpayers \$132 billion — would be imposed.

The legislation also would:

—Require that the insurance coverage for deposit accounts, after being raised, be updated every five years to reflect inflation.

Retailers report mixed sales results for past month

Overcame some of their reluctance to shop in April, giving the nation's retailers sales that modestly beat expectations. Results again varied widely among merchants, reflecting shoppers' uncertainty about the economy and struggles with higher gasoline prices.

As stores report their monthly sales Thursday, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, and rival discount Target Corp. turned in disappointing performances. Teen retailers and wholesale clubs had substantial sales gains. Another standout was J.C. Penney Co. Inc., which reported gains

that beat estimates.

"The results were uneven, but there were clear pockets of strength," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The International Council of Shopping Centers-UBS preliminary sales tally of 60 stores posted a 2.5 percent gain for the month, better than the 2 percent gain that he had expected. The tally is based on same-store sales, which are sales at stores opened at least a year; they are considered the best indicator of a retailer's health.

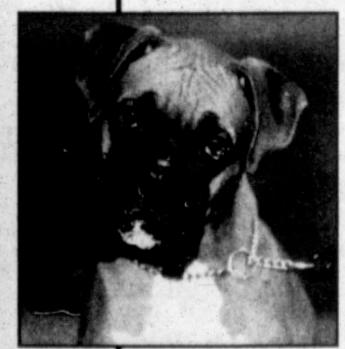
The April results did raise hopes that consumers might spend a little more freely in the months ahead. Consumers are very concerned about the economy, according to measures of consumer confidence that have fallen for three straight months, and they've had to factor higher gasoline prices and interest rates into their budgets. The job market is still uncertain.

"Overall, it was a pretty solid report," said Gint Rimas, a senior analyst at Thomson Financial. "Expectations were lower, but consumers are still out there shopping."



Nap time

Macey Dawn Hatfield takes a nap recently at the local Gray County American Red Cross chapter office. Macey is the daughter of Misty and Daniel Hatfield and is the granddaughter of ARC office volunteer Vanessa Vick. Vick is currently a member of the Disaster Action Team and volunteers in the office part-time. Macey worked so hard helping her grandmother she required a nap.



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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR READERS: An older reader with a broken wrist recently wrote me to complain that it has become impossible for seniors to open various products because manufacturers now seal them so securely. True to form, my readers stepped up to the plate to offer helpful suggestions. (Dear Abby readers are without a doubt the kindest, most generous people in the world!) Read on:

FROM WAUWATOSA, WIS.: There's a product that is indispensable for weakened or arthritic hands. It's a thin, flat disc made of pliable rubber, textured on one side. A friend gave me one years ago, and it helps me get a grip on hard-to-open jars. Some businesses give them away as promotional items, and I think they're available in hardware stores.

FROM ANDOVER, MINN.: If that reader eats fresh broccoli, he or she is in luck. The stems are held together by small, sturdy, wide rubber bands. Slip one around the top of a jar or bottle and it can be twisted off without straining your wrist -- I guarantee. I'm 84, and into everything!

FROM WALLINGFORD, CONN.: I just hold the top of the jar or bottle under hot running water for a few seconds. The heat causes it to expand and makes opening easier.

FROM WESTON, MO.: I'm a senior, too. Here's the answer ... put on a pair of rubber gloves, and you'll get a better grip on the item.

FROM SEATTLE: I'm a caregiver. I don't know if the general population knows this, but a lot of pharmacies will fill their prescriptions in bubble packs. Bubble packs are similar to bubble wrap.

Getting to the medication is as easy as popping an air-filled bubble. The agency I work for does business with a pharmacy that will even put over-the-counter medications into bubble packs.

FROM MISSOULA, MONT.: I use a wide-bladed flat screwdriver. I insert the blade under the edge of the lid and pry it up in a few places. It breaks the vacuum seal and the jar unscrews easily.

FROM OAK HARBOR, WASH.: I keep a magnetic bottle opener handily stuck on the door of my refrigerator. To open stubborn jars, I slip the point under the edge of the lid and break the seal.

FROM NEW JERSEY: I read with amusement and sympathy the letter from "Broken Wrist in Alabama." Rather than spend \$50 for an electric jar opener, I sprang for a buck-and-a-half ice pick. I puncture a hole in the center of the lid with the ice pick, the vacuum is released and the lid simply twists off. If the contents of the jar are not completely used, I seal the opening with cellophane tape or plastic wrap for storage. It's an easy, low-cost solution to a problem many of us have to deal with.

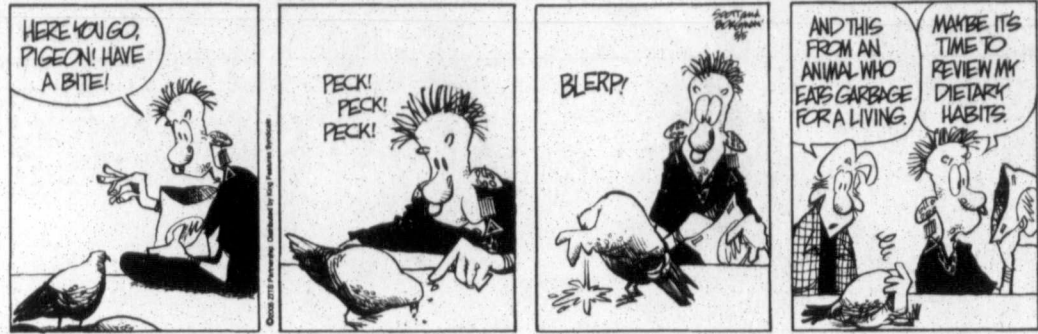
FROM KENTS STORE, VA.: It's not just medicines and food stuffs, Abby. Battery packs, small tools, all kinds of things are almost impossible to open because they are sealed in tough plastic. I am fit and active. I garden and am pretty strong, but some of those packages almost defeat me. There's no way to open this kind of packaging without scissors or worse. I hope somebody listens to this.

DEAR READERS: So do I!

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Winter runners
 - 5 Seasonal song
 - 10 Uplight
 - 12 Acid type
 - 13 1990s sitcom
 - 14 Turns at the board
 - 15 As done by
 - 16 1964 heist movie
 - 18 "Golly!"
 - 20 PC-linking system
 - 21 Show sorrow
 - 23 Faberge creation
 - 24 Carpet feature
 - 26 Mine find
 - 28 Prohibit
 - 29 Rigging support
 - 31 1040 org.
 - 32 Allergy sign
 - 36 Tennis champ's forte
 - 39 Jamaican address
 - 40 Cream of the crop
 - 41 Calendar item
 - 43 Showed again
 - 44 Comfort-food source
- DOWN**
- 1 Calliope need
 - 2 "Singin' in the Rain" star
 - 3 Holiday visitor
 - 4 Compass dir.
 - 5 Kid's getaway
 - 6 Wild
 - 7 Com-peted with
 - 8 Like most resumes
 - 9 Behind
 - 11 Menu section
 - 17 Horace creation
 - 19 Athena's symbol
 - 22 Mapped out
 - 24 One out?
 - 25 Motivate unit
 - 27 Metal source
 - 28 Bad dogs
 - 30 Omega precoder
 - 33 Fix copy
 - 34 Marked into districts
 - 35 Contest form
 - 37 Rating unit
 - 38 Stock holders
 - 42 Contend



Yesterday's answer

- 11 Menu section
- 17 Horace creation
- 19 Athena's symbol
- 22 Mapped out
- 24 One out?
- 25 Motivate unit
- 27 Metal source
- 28 Bad dogs
- 30 Omega precoder
- 33 Fix copy
- 34 Marked into districts
- 35 Contest form
- 37 Rating unit
- 38 Stock holders
- 42 Contend

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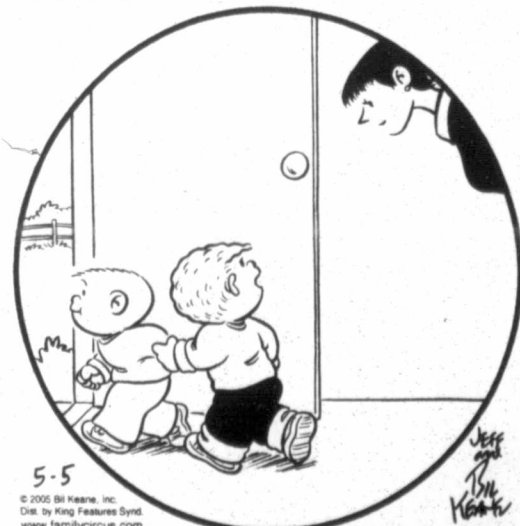


Marmaduke



"Oh, great. Now I'm a pillow."

The Family Circus



"When I go out to play with the guys I like to take PJ. Then I'm not the littlest."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

One year later: Pampa, Ysleta back in Odessa

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

It's another best-of-three series for the Pampa Lady Harvesters this weekend. Pampa advanced to the area round of the District 4A post-season by eliminating San Angelo Lakeview in Lubbock last Friday and Saturday in a bi-district match-up. The Lady Harvesters held on to take game one, 5-3 on Friday. They then mounted a mid-game charge to take game two, 5-4.

Asked what, if anything, a tough series like last weekend's does to a team, Pampa head coach Bobbi Gill said, "I think there is a great value in winning close games like last weekend's simply because you have to feel like you earn them."

Gill notes such games also help prepare the team for the tough challenges she knows come with the district playoffs. Her girls have had their share of such games throughout the season. The final game against

Caprock April 23, is a great example. Pampa, two runs down in the late stages of the game, never caved in to the pressure. But rather, applied its own, forcing Lady Horn errors which led to a Lady Harvester win. "We have played numerous pressure games this year that came down to the wire and for the most part this team responds well," said Gill.

Ysleta Lady Indians will bring a healthy 23-3-2 record to the dance. This is a tough team, rich in impressive stats. In particular, sophomore pitcher Raelleene Hutchins, who carries a 0.62 ERA, and a batting average of .548.

Junior center fielder, Nikki Stoltz, is another. She enters game one tomorrow with seven home runs, a .546 batting average and a slugging percentage of 1.206.

But stats are either a measure of your strength, or of your opponent's weakness. Ysleta's schedule didn't take the Lady Indians beyond El Paso much this season.

The Lady Harvesters on the other hand,

spent much of their pre-district schedule on the road. Something that may pay dividends this weekend.

Still, Gill knows the task that awaits her team in this de-JA-vu re-match. "Most of the girls from last year are back and they do have speed. We will definitely have to contain them once on the bases."

The same two teams met under the same circumstances at the same location this time last year. Gill recalls that game being

'Most of the girls from last year are back and they do have speed. We will definitely have to contain them once on the bases.'

—Bobbi Gill
Head Coach, Lady Harvester Softball

Friday, Nicole Clark (11-6) on Saturday. Gill says at a time when both girls' best is needed most, Tice and Clark have

So far as health, the Lady Harvesters are in great shape, with one exception. Catcher Wendi Miller suffered a serious eye injury during practice last week when she was struck in the face with a ball. The impact cracked her eye orbit, which caused the rupture of a blood vessel. "The doctors are concerned about it and pushing her to take it

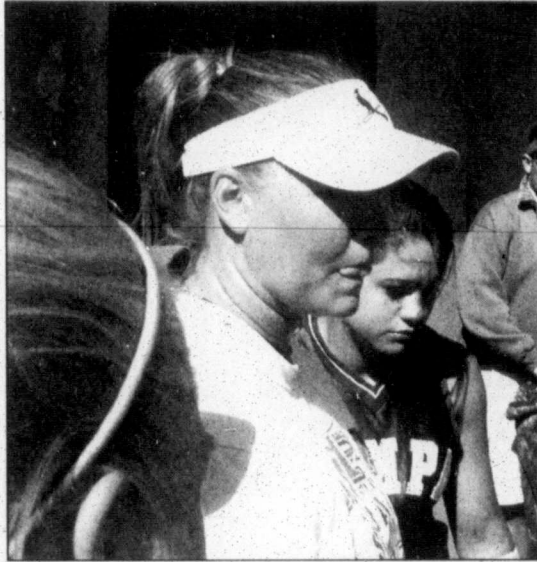
very easy," said Gill. Not an easy thing for a competitor like Miller.

When asked for her final thoughts about this weekend's meeting with the Lady Indians, Gill offered, "This is a big

weekend for the ladies and I know they are capable of

rising to the occasion." She continued, "If we show up to play — and play our game — we will not be disappointed with the outcome."

Friday's game one will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Ratliff Complex in Odessa. Game two will begin at 12 noon Saturday. If needed, game three will begin thirty minutes after the conclusion of game two.



Pampa Lady Harvester head coach Bobbi Gill addresses her team.

Okafor Rookie of the Year; Jason Williams fined \$10k

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Emeka Okafor won the NBA's Rookie of the Year award.

The Charlotte Bobcats' Okafor became the first former college player to win the award in four years. Cleveland's LeBron James and Phoenix center Amare Stoudemire, who both jumped from high school to the NBA, were the last two winners of the rookie award.

Memphis forward Pau Gasol, who won in 2002, played professionally in Spain before coming to the NBA.

Okafor led all rookies in scoring (15.1 points a game) and rebounding (10.9 rpg) and was second

in his class behind Atlanta's Josh Smith in blocks (1.71). He also ranked second in the NBA with 3.8 offensive rebounds a game.

Okafor received 77 of the 126 first-place votes from a media panel. He finished with 514 points while Chicago Bulls guard Ben Gordon, Okafor's teammate and roommate at the University of Connecticut, was second with 433 points.

NEW YORK (AP) — Memphis' Jason Williams was fined \$10,000 by the NBA for improper conduct toward members of the media following the Grizzlies' playoff loss to Phoenix.

CHEERLEADERS EXPOSED

Too much spirit: Texas House approves bill to ban 'sexually suggestive' routines

With all that is going wrong in the world today, I was blown away by yesterday's news that Texas law makers passed a bill that would prohibit provocative behavior...by high school cheerleaders. In fact, one Legislator suggested many routines are "sexually suggestive." This is not some piece of legislation that was buried among others in the hope it would sneak through the legal cracks of Austin. It is a bill that made it from the Texas House to the Senate where it is under consideration.

Originally titled HB 1476 and co-authored by Representative Al Edwards (D), the bill reads:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D,

Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.088 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.088. CERTAIN SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE PERFORMANCES PROHIBITED.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



(a) A school dance team, drill team, cheerleading team, or any other performance group may not perform in a manner that is overtly sexually suggestive at an athletic or other extracurricular event or competition sponsored

or approved by a school district or campus.

(b) If the commissioner determines that a performance group described by Subsection (a) has performed in an overtly sexually suggestive manner, the commissioner shall inform the appropriate school district and the district shall take appropriate action against the performance group and the group's sponsor, as determined by the district.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

See SPIRIT, Page 10

Toe-riffic



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Sophomore Lady Harvester Stephanie McVay tip-toes across the first base bag during Pampa's final regular season game at Caprock April 23. The second baseman and her teammates will be at the Ratliff Complex in Odessa Friday and Saturday for a best-of-three District 4A, Region 1, Area playoff series against the El Paso Ysleta Lady Indians.

Brashears, Lee, Mabry and Allison fire 63 to win Hidden Hills scramble

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Here are the results from this week's Senior Scramble at Hidden Hills golf course.

Hidden Hills Senior Regular Scramble
May 4, 2005

1st Place (63)
Jim Brashears
OK Lee
Joe Mabry
Marvin Allison

2nd Place (63)
Travis Taylor

Carroll Pettit
Waldon Haynes
Jack Davis

3rd Place (64)
Bill King
Oscar Sargent
Harvey Malone
Buddy Bailey

4th Place (65)
Howard Wells
Jim Ashford
Charlie Terrell
Bob Henderson

Closest to the Pin: Ralph Baker (#6), Jess Mathis (#12)

Spurs eliminate Nuggets, 99-89

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs have earned a few days off. After a rugged series with the Denver Nuggets, they'll need it.

Looking tired and more than a little ragged, the Spurs finally shook off the Nuggets in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs with a 99-89 victory Wednesday night.

After losing the first game on their home court, the Spurs won four in a row to advance to the conference semifinals against Seattle.

Tony Parker scored 21 points and Tim Duncan had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Spurs, who struggled to put away a Nuggets team fighting hard to get the series back to Denver for another game.

"I'm glad that is over," said Spurs coach

Gregg Popovich, who looked as tired as his team. "They are a monster. I'm thrilled to beat them."

At times the game resembled Game 1, when the Nuggets shocked the Spurs with just their fourth home loss of the season. Shots weren't falling, rebounds were getting away and the Spurs couldn't find the spurt to get some breathing room over the first three quarters.

After twice falling behind in the third period, the Spurs finally kick-started a run to take control. Glenn Robinson, cut by New Orleans in March and signed as a free agent just last month, hit a jumper and then followed with a long 3-pointer that made it 80-72 with 7:35 to play.

See SPURS, Page 10

Spirit

Continued from Page 9

The areas of concern seem to be suggestive moves, short skirts and exposed midriffs. Texas House member and Democrat Joe Deshotel said, "Some of them (routines) are just downright vulgar, something you would see at an adult club or something." After you're finished asking, "How would he know what goes on in an adult club," remember, he is talking about high school cheerleaders.

Edwards himself said, "Girls can get out and do all of these overtly sexual performances and we applaud them and that's not right." He added that such lascivious exhibitions serve as a distraction for high school students, resulting in pregnancies, drop-outs and spread of HIV and herpes.

In short, what he is saying is, by going to a game or school-sponsored event, where these spirit-filled harlots are shaking their groove things, young men get all wound up and then babies and diseases happen. Attention Mr. Edwards and pals...these girls are not ground zero for the problems you are trying to attach to them, their teachers, their schools or the school districts.

For too long, we have had 'tolerance' thrust, sorry, heaped upon us. We have been asked to be sensitive to the feelings, likes and dislikes of others. Case-in-point, the smoking ban currently being debated in Amarillo. You cannot seek tolerance, allow it to manifest, and then say, "Hey, this ain't right. We need to get back to morality."

The Bill, as it is written now, does not define what constitutes a bawdy performance, but Mr. Edwards said that any adult "that's been involved with sex in their lives" would know it when they see it.

Pause for a moment and allow that last one to sink in.

Again, cheerleaders are not the problem

here. The entertainment industry, in its myriad forms, has bombarded your kids with the notion that sex is cool, knowing it is safely cloaked behind the right of free speech. Music in particular. Crank up 50 Cent's 'Candy Shop' and you might catch a clue as to what I am trying to say.

Still, in defending HB 1476, Edwards suggests what today's high school cheerleaders are doing is "just too sexually oriented, you know, the way they're shaking their behinds and going on, breaking it down," said the 26-year veteran of the Texas House. "And then we say to them,

'And then we say to them, 'Don't get involved in sex unless it's marriage or love, it's dangerous out there,' and yet the teachers and directors are helping them go through those kind of gyrations.'

— Al Edwards
Texas State Representative

'Don't get involved in sex unless it's marriage or love, it's dangerous out there,' and yet the teachers and directors are helping them go through those kind of gyrations."

Under Edwards' bill, if a school district knowingly permits such a performance, funds from the state would be reduced in an amount to be determined by

the education commissioner.

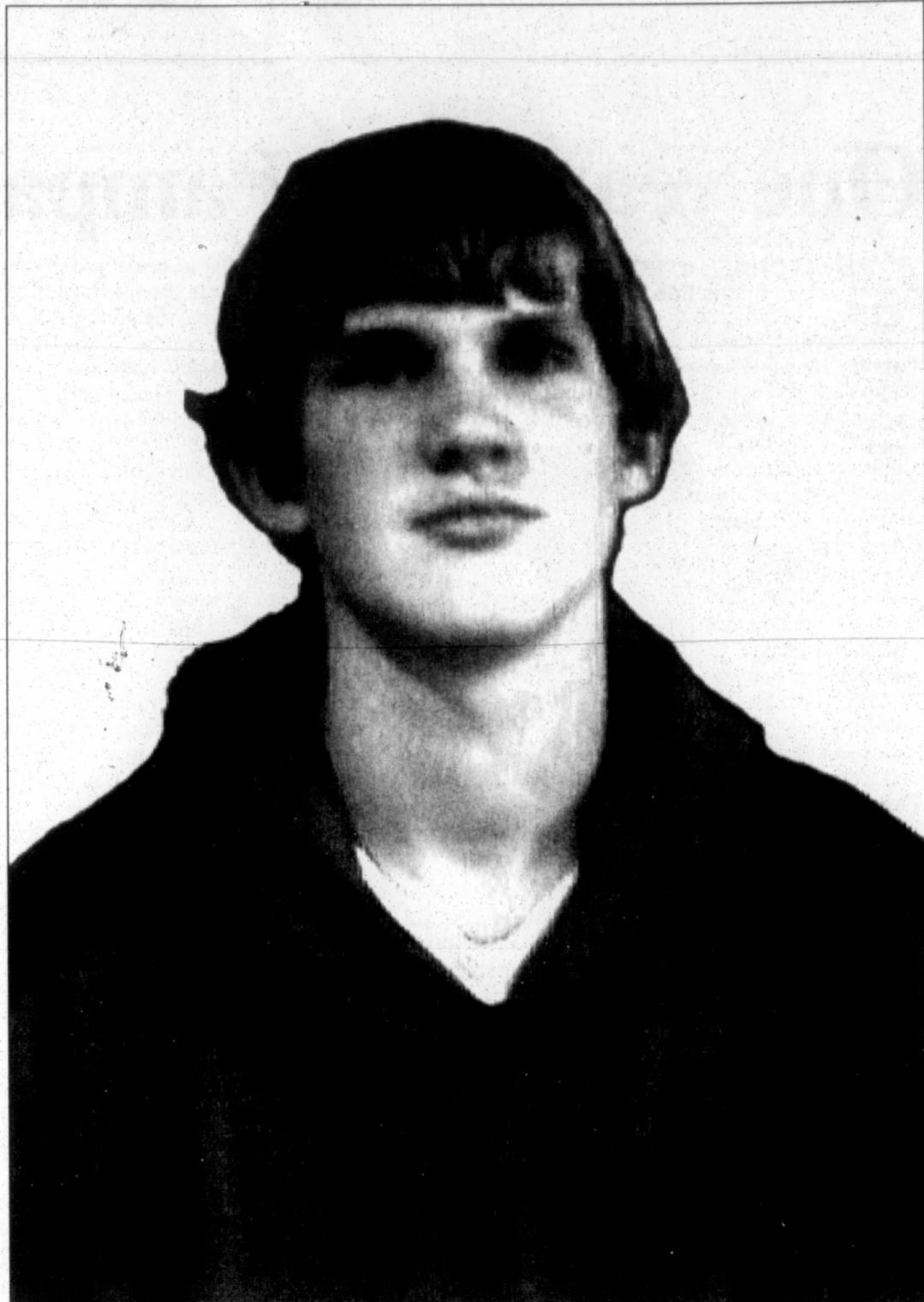
Such determination will apparently be based on opinion, but whose? If a parent, knowing now he or she has such support, thinks a routine that involves a high leg kick or bending over is overtly offensive, what does that leave? If another thinks seeing these girls' belly buttons is just too much, what shall they wear?

You know what would be great? If these same lawmakers would put as much effort in seeing to it our educators have the tools and facilities they need to better teach our children. That their pay is brought more in line with what they deserve. But above all, give these kids the credit they richly deserve.

Sure, some will still drop-out, have babies and suffer disease. They always have. However, the ratio of those students as compared to those who avoid such life-changing events is not as great as some would have us believe.

I would think our elected officials would have better things to do than sit around, discussing high school cheerleaders.

Record setter



Pampa Junior High School student Travis Hagerman recently set a new record in the 400 m Dash with a time of 57.79. The 7th-grader beat the old record of 58.06 set in 1986 by Edric Kelley.

FORMER NBA STAR RELIEVED

Rose's Championship rings found, no charges expected

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Former Spurs forward Malik Rose has his 1999 and 2003 NBA championship rings back.

According to San Antonio police, Rose returned from a trip early Wednesday to find the rings, a diamond bracelet, diamond chain and diamond-studded watch missing from his San Antonio home.

The rings were each valued at \$10,000. The total value of the items are worth \$220,000, according to a police report.

Acting on a tip, police searched a house on the city's South Side early Thursday and recovered the championship rings and the

watch, said police Sgt. Gabe Trevino.

The bracelet and chain remain missing, he said.

Rose has declined to press charges, however police will continue to be on the lookout for the remaining missing items, Trevino said Thursday.

Trevino had told reporters on Wednesday that detectives were looking at contractors who were remodeling Rose's home.

Rose joined the San Antonio Spurs in 1997 and was a member of both championship teams before he was traded to the New York Knicks in February.

Spurs

Continued from Page 9

Denver couldn't quite find the same game that won the opener and rallied it to overtime in a Game 4 loss on the Nuggets' home court. Even when they cut it to 85-78, the Spurs' Bruce Bowen hit a 3-pointer from the corner.

"It felt like Game 1 for a while," said the Spurs' Robert Horry. "We were trading basket for basket for a while, then we were able to get a few stops and get a lead."

Manu Ginobili added 18 points and Horry scored 17,

including a pair of key 3-pointers in the third quarter for the Spurs.

"They play together with the heart of a champion," said the Nuggets' Kenyon Martin, who had 14 points and 11 rebounds in his matchup with Duncan. "They didn't win (a title) a couple of years ago for nothing. They have pretty much the core they won with."

Carmelo Anthony, who complained after Monday night's loss he didn't get enough touches, finished with 25 points for Denver. Andre Miller added 16 points for the Nuggets.

"We left it all out there tonight," Anthony said. "We

have no reason to hang our heads. It's a beginning for us."

With the home crowd behind them again after two road wins, the Spurs seemed ready to take control several times in the first half. But each time, the Nuggets got the turnover or basket they needed to keep it within reach.

"We shook them in Game 1, but then they shook off the rust and got better after that," said Denver coach George Karl. "I think we all know we competed pretty close with them for four games. (We) didn't have the instincts to win and that usually comes with experience."

Pirates 6, Astros 4

HOUSTON (AP) — Looking at Daryle Ward's paltry career numbers against Roger Clemens, Pittsburgh manager Lloyd McClendon thought it would be a good idea to give his first baseman a game off.

McClendon called on Ward to pinch hit in the seventh inning and he grounded out to Clemens.

But Ward had better luck against closer Brad Lidge.

Ward hit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth, Jason Bay followed with a two-run shot and the Houston Astros' bullpen blew another win for Clemens in a 6-4 loss to the Pirates on Wednesday night.

"He didn't start because he's had bad numbers against Roger," McClendon said of Ward. "But Daryle's been swinging the bat extremely well."

Ward, who played with the Astros from 1998-2002, led off the ninth by sending Lidge's 1-0 pitch deep into the right-field seats for a 4-3 lead.

Lidge (1-1) walked Matt Lawton on the next at-bat and struck out Tike Redman but gave up another homer to Bay. It was the first time Lidge failed to convert a save since Sept. 12, ending a streak of 13 straight saves.

"Obviously I didn't have my best stuff," said Lidge, sidelined for several days last week with pneumonia.

"I need to buildup my arm strength and I need to figure out a

way to get guys out when I don't have my best stuff. I just don't have zip on the ball right now."

Salomon Torres (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, and Jose Mesa pitched the ninth for his 10th save in as many chances. Mesa has saved every win by the Pirates this season.

The Pirates closed their three-game series against the Astros with two straight wins — Pittsburgh has just four wins in the past 24 games in Houston.

"I don't think anyone in baseball gave us a chance ... to win this game with Roger Clemens pitching," McClendon said. "I don't know what the odds were in Las Vegas, but I bet they weren't very good."

The Astros now head on a seven-game trip to NL East leaders Atlanta and Florida.

Houston has a road mark of 1-10, ahead of only Colorado (1-13) for worst in the majors.

Houston could be bolstered, however, by the return of All-Star outfielder Lance Berkman.

Berkman, who has missed a month while recovering from off-season knee surgery, will end his minor league rehab assignment and join the team in Atlanta on Thursday.

Astros manager Phil Garner said Berkman could be activated from the disabled list before Friday's game against the Braves.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, May 6, 2005

Realize your limits, and don't push past them. Work toward positive experiences by being realistic and honoring others' boundaries. Often you will decide to revise your opinions because of events and conversations. Key associates often help you understand what otherwise might be a maze. You come into your own this year, empowered and feeling capable. If you are single, you will tumble into a key relationship toward your next birthday. You will decide on what you want from this person, who could impact your life's history. If you are attached, reveal more of your inner self to your sweetie. You will bond in a very special way because of expressing your vulnerabilities. TAURUS is as stubborn as 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)

★★★★ Sometimes you have to repeat conversations, actions or decisions. At the moment, consider that you will have to repeat what you do today. You also might not want to get caught up in the middle of a discussion. Tonight: Do only what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Slow down and say very little. Your ability to read between the lines could impact your decisions. A partner will help you out if you ask. Let this person take the lead. Know when to cut out and take some time off. Tonight: You get a second wind.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Follow through on meetings. Network to your heart's content. Nothing is carved in stone. You will

discover that jovial chatter and laughter surround you. Don't make major decisions just yet. Tonight: Do your Friday night thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take into consideration that others might not be in the same head space as you. As a result, you could wind up finishing off what someone else leaves. Your follow-through, though an excellent quality, might not be all that is needed. Tonight: Where your friends are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Take a broad view of what happens today. You still might not be able to read between the lines of a situation. Understand what needs to happen in order to loosen things up. Realize that often you don't have all the answers. Tonight: Expect to be out late.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work with a family member or close associate. You might want to check out different investment strategies. Understand your limits with money-related matters. Know when to jump ship, but don't do so today. Tonight: Listen to great music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others dominate, and you see another side of people. Though you might not want to act or react to what goes down, you'll gain a new perspective. Review others' mandates carefully. You don't have all the answers. Tonight: Go along with others' requests.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Clear out as much of your to-do list as possible. You could be overwhelmed by what is going on with a money matter. Clearly, what you thought was happening isn't. Don't get upset. You will handle the situation later. Tonight: Go along with another's

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You have a lot more energy than many around you. Your ability to detach and not get plugged in makes a big difference. Visualize much more of what you desire, making this process the first step to what you want. Tonight: Out in the middle of the action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Get down to basics. You will want to listen more often to a family member. He or she helps you get out of the doldrums and see situations more clearly. Finish up any projects or errands by late afternoon. Tonight: Let the kid in you out again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Talk and get feedback, especially if you have a key project in mind. Not everything will work out as you think right now. Prioritize where you want to put your attention. A lot happens quickly. Tonight: Enjoy a quiet evening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Handle your finances before they handle you. You might want to be more cautious about spending. You don't have a preview of the near future. Remember, there are always rainy days. Prepare and think ahead. Tonight: Out and about.

BORN TODAY

Actor George Clooney (1961), Prime Minister Tony Blair (1953), baseball player Willie Mays (1931)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.

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21 Help Wanted

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

SEM Crude has an opening for a full time driver in the Pampa area. Must have a Class A CDL with X endorsement. Meet DOT qualifications. Excellent benefits package. Please call Joe Critchlow at 806-681-2405, or 806-934-7505 for an application.

HIRING Wait Staff & Cooks, all shifts. Must be able to work any shift. Apply in person at Texas Rose Steakhouse, Pampa.

NEED CNA's 6am-6pm shift. \$8 hr. Call Palo Duro Nursing Home, Claude. (806)226-5121.

CAPROCK Home Health needs providers. Will train. Call 806-373-0483.

INVESTIGATOR Needed for 31st District Attorney's Office. Investigative and report-writing skills required. Salary dependent upon experience. Send resume to P.O. Box 1592, Pampa, Texas, 79066.

FULL-TIME Dietitian Aid needed. Call Palo Duro Nursing, Claude 806-226-5121.

HOSTESSES, Waitresses & Waiters needed. Waitresses & Waiters must be 18. Apply in person, Dyer's BBQ.

CATERER needed. Must be 18 or Older w/ good driving record. Preferably Male. Apply in person at Dyer's BBQ.

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Needed immediately. About 20 hrs. per week. Must work every Sat. Apply in person, The Pampa News, 403 W. Atchison, Pampa. No phone calls please.

NTS Communications Sales Account Executive in Pampa

Outside Sales Experience a must with a good driving record!

Base salary + commission Benefits: Health, Dental, & 401K.

E-mail: hr-jobs@ntsc.com 5307 W. loop 289 Lubbock, Texas 79414 EOE

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PART-TIME position available in multi-office practice for trained Orthodontic Assistant. Pay based on exp. Please fax cover letter & resume to 806-353-4018.

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Job requires feed truck driving, managing commodities, maintenance at mill. Some computer skills required. Call (806) 323-8919.

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Educational opportunity at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School for a part-time teacher. This is a great possibility for a degreed teacher who wants to continue to use your expertise in the classroom and still have time to be at home with small children or have some hours for hobbies & personal interests. Contact Sister Mary Michael (665-5665, 665-0339) for details on hours, assignments, and salary as soon as possible.

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SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder fabricators Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

50 Building Suppl.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

HOUSTON LUMBER 420 W. Foster 669-6881

60 Household

\$128 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty. QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd. warr. . sell \$199, Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd. warr. sell \$169, Full size mattress set new, never used \$89, \$170 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd. warranty, \$218 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd. warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed - new; still boxed. List \$750 sell \$350, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

HOT TUBS Brand NEW, 1/2 price Lifetime warr., Many Xtras. All Models below \$5,000 Limited Supply 806-677-0400

69a Garage Sales

INSIDE 914 N. Somerville. Fri 9:00-? Prices Reduced. New Items Added.

NEARLY New, (2216 N. Hobart, 1/2 Off Sale, excluding baby equipment, formal wear & jewelry, May 3-May 7, 10:30-5.

VIDEO games, videos, DVDs, clothes, lots of misc. Cheap! Fri. 8-4 p.m. 1124 Sandelewood, behind Wal-Mart.

CLEANED OUT ATTIC! Big variety, lots for crafters, quilters & needle. Come see. 1826 Grape. Fri. 8-? Sat. a.m.

DREAM Catcher Flea Market & Gift Shop 1/2 mile West of Price Rd. on Borger Hwy. Turn left on Western, 1st house on Right! Open Thurs.-Sun 10a-6p Shop Mother's Day. Huge Selection!

21 Help Wanted

Memory Gardens Cemetery and Mausoleum of Pampa is looking for one or two highly motivated persons to talk to families in the Pampa area about Cemetery Pre-Planning. If you're good with people and enjoy a challenge, call Daniel today at 665-8921.

CNA All shifts. Charge Nurses, 2-10 LVN, prior LTC exp. preferred, but will train. Competitive pay. Contact Wheeler Nursing & Rehab, Donna CNA DON, 1000 S. Kiowa, Wheeler

NEW Mattress Sets In Plastic, 1/10 yr warr. F-120, Q-\$150, K-\$210 While supply lasts! 806-677-0400

SOFA sleeper, matching loveseat-like new, \$600. Super single waterbed w/ headb., 6 under drs., 1 yr. old-\$550. 665-2805 aft. 5.

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69 Misc.

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

COMPLETE LAW N CARE VACANT LOTS AND SMALL ACREAGE CALL 665-5725 FOR ESTIMATES LEAVE MESSAGE

TWO Mausoleum Crypts Side by Side \$3995.00 Call 440-2449

SCRAP METAL TO GIVE AWAY. CALL AFTER 6 P.M., 806-323-6372, CANADIAN.

2002 Load Trail goose-neck dump trailer, tandem axle, 12,000 lb. capacity, 6 ft. ramps. Like new condition! 806-323-6372.

INCUBATOR, Model 1202, 2 temp. controlled pens, 4 raising pens, water dispensers & feeders, \$500. 665-0328 lv. msg.

WANT TO BUY Baby furniture and toys Bedding, monitors, Swings, strollers, carseats 665-0008 or 282-5205

ELEC. cookstove Refrigerator Handicap scooter Household furniture 665-5923

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69a Garage Sales

SPRING CLEANING SALE! Friday, May 6 Saturday, May 7 Reduced Prices! plus, hot dogs & snow cones Come in, Let's make a deal!

Frank's True Value 401 N. Ballard 665-4995

MOVING Sale. Some of everything. Too much to list. It all has to go! Fri. 7-3p.m., Sat. 7-noon. 2117 N. Russell.

FRI. & SAT. 8 a.m.-?? 1621 N. Dwight

SCHNEIDER House, 120 S. Russell-Lobby. 8:30-1 p.m. Fri. only. Propane bottle, crafts, clothes, kitchen items, tools, weight set, exer. bike, etc.

COME Support PHS Rodeo Club! Huge Gar. Sale, Fri. & Sat. 8-2:30 p.m., 1812 N. Wells. Clothes, furni., toys, bikes, books, & tons more. All money goes to the club!

CANINE Summer School Basic household manners, all breeds! Starting May 7, 10 a.m., call for info. 669-7387 (mornings).

3 Red Belly Pacu (fresh water fish), \$10 ea. Need lrg. tank will grow up to 25 lbs.-. Call 665-0145 after 5 or leave message.

3 adorable AKC black Lab puppies for sale, champion bloodlines. 669-1141.

KITTENS to give away! Litter box trained. 665-3384

FREE to good home 2 f. cats (prefer they go together), spayed, current shots. 665-6380 before 5

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NICE 2 bdr., covered parking. Call 665-8401 or 669-6292.

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Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

EXTRA clean 1 bd. with appliances. Quiet neighborhood. Mature Renters Only! 665-8525

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Chefs get ready for Big Z Barbecue

Members of Zion Lutheran Church are preparing for the 20th annual "Big Z" Barbecue and Silent Auction on Saturday, May 7, 2005. The meal, silent auction, and country store will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Zion Lutheran's Parish Hall, 1200 Duncan. Advance tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 4 to 10 years old. These can be purchased from the church office at 669-2774 or from any member. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Many local businesses donated items for the silent auction that is a part of this event to raise funds for projects and community programs. Funds for this year's "Big Z" will be donated to Good Samaritan Christian Services, Meals on Wheels and Tralee Crisis Center, all in Pampa. Zion Lutheran members would like to say "Thank you" to the community for supporting our "Big Z" for the past 20 years.

Jackson prosecution wraps up case

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) — The only dramatic flourish — a routine motion for acquittal — came from the defense. Otherwise, the end of the prosecution's nearly 10-week case against Michael Jackson was strictly no-frills.

The final day of testimony illustrated the low-key, methodical way that District Attorney Tom Sneddon and his team have presented witnesses and evidence to prove that the pop star molested a 13-year-old boy.

After his final witness left the stand Wednesday, for example, Sneddon advised Judge Rodney S. Melville that he would need to introduce several items into evidence before the prosecution could formally rest.

Melville responded that the prosecution could reopen its case depending on whether he decided to admit the items.

The judge informed Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. that he would hear the acquittal motion first thing Thursday. In most trials, the defense typically files a motion asking for an acquittal on grounds that prosecutors haven't proved their case. The motions are rarely granted.

Prosecutors' anticlimactic finish capped a case that has included more than 80 witnesses — often mesmerizing — but also long days of dry testimony about phone records, how search of Jackson's Neverland ranch was conducted, and how fingerprints are taken.

"It's not the smoothest, most polished finish for the jury, but it's not

atypical," said Laurie Levenson, a professor at Loyola Law School. "They're treating this like any other case and the rest of the world isn't. You'd like to end with a big finish, but maybe they didn't have a big finish."

Prosecutors set out to prove that in 2003 Jackson fondled a 13-year-old cancer survivor, plied him with alcohol, and arranged to detain him and his family so they would rebut a damaging documentary about the singer.

"They're treating this like any other case and the rest of the world isn't. You'd like to end with a big finish, but maybe they didn't have a big finish."

— Laurie Levenson
Loyola Law School professor

"Living With Michael Jackson" pictured the boy side-by-side with Jackson, who said he let children sleep in his bed but dismissed the notion that the practice had any sexual meaning.

Jackson is accused of molesting the boy at least 14 days after the program aired in the United-States, as he and associates allegedly panicked over its implications.

Some of the prosecution's own witnesses wound up benefiting the defense, including Jackson's ex-wife

Deborah Rowe, who cast him as a victim and praised his parenting skills.

The final witness, Rudy Provenico, told the jury about hearing a phone discussion in which the singer's associates talked with Jackson about response to a damaging documentary about him.

But the witness, who used to work for a Jackson associate, did not tie Jackson to the heart of the alleged conspiracy, quoting the singer only as saying such things as that he didn't want to hold a press conference.

Provenico then came under withering cross-examination by Mesereau. Provenico acknowledged that two weeks ago he was given a copy of an interview he gave to law enforcement long ago, and when asked to check it for accuracy, wrote in changes to implicate Jackson in the alleged conspiracy.

The defense request for acquittal focused mostly on the conspiracy charge, seizing on two recent elements of the prosecution's case: a display of calls from Jackson associates' phones that could not be linked to Jackson directly, and testimony from Rowe that he was the victim of "opportunistic vultures" in his inner circle.

"The prosecution's phone records evidence, if anything, proved the lack of substantial evidence tying Mr. Jackson to the alleged conspiracy," the motion said. "Debbie Rowe's testimony demonstrated that the people around Mr. Jackson were, if anything, conspiring against him."

Grenades explode outside NY British Consulate on day of British elections

NEW YORK (AP) — Two makeshift grenades exploded outside a building housing the British Consulate early Thursday, Election Day in Britain, causing slight damage but injuring no one, officials said.

Officials stressed that it was not clear whether the consulate itself had been targeted. The midtown Manhattan office building houses a variety of domestic and foreign companies.

"We do not at this point have any idea who did it or a motive," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, adding the explosion was caused by "a relatively unsophisticated explosive device." There were no threats or phone calls, he said.

The grenades had been placed inside a cement flower box outside the front door of the building.

After piecing together the shrapnel, police determined the devices were toy grenades that had been filled with gunpowder. Officers estimated that one was the size of a pineapple; the other the size of a lemon.

No timing device was used, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said.

The blasts, which Kelly said happened around 3:35 a.m., shattered a panel of glass in the building's front door and ripped a one-foot chunk from the planter.

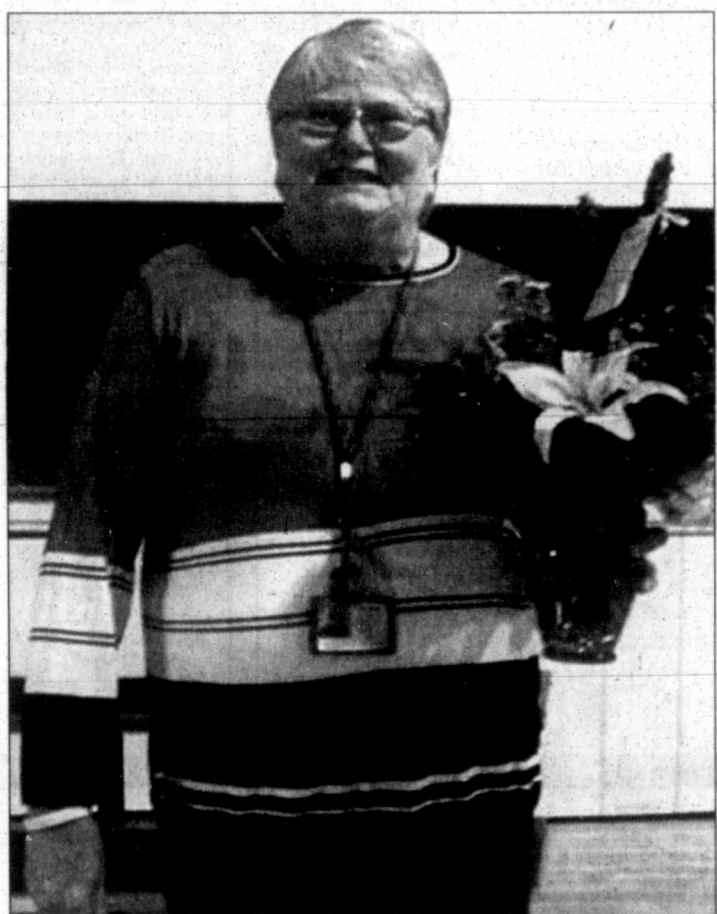
The British consulate is on the 9th and 10th floors of the building, the mayor said. He said he expected it would be open for business later in the day.

Offices of other foreign diplomatic representatives were checked as a precaution and nothing was found, Kelly said. Security videos in the area were being reviewed, he said.

In London, a Foreign Office spokeswoman, asked whether British authorities believed the blast was terror-related, said only: "Investigations are ongoing."

"We're not speculating about whether it's connected to the election," she added. Calls to the British Embassy in Washington were not immediately returned.

Teacher of the Year



Beverly Morse, third grade teacher at Lamar Elementary School, receives a bouquet of spring flowers from Bettye Stokes. Mrs. Morse was selected as the Teacher of the Year by the faculty and staff at Lamar. She will be honored at Pampa Classroom Teachers Association banquet May 5. Mrs. Morse has been teaching for Pampa ISD for 20 years.

Florida lawmakers vote on change in alimony law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — After debating the heartache of divorce, shacking up for convenience and romantics who "still believe in love," lawmakers voted Wednesday to let judges reduce or eliminate alimony when the person receiving it moves in with someone else.

"This bill is more like a country-western song than good legislation," complained Republican state Rep. Nancy Detert after the 68-44 House vote.

Judges generally end alimony when the recipient remarries, but courts in Florida have disagreed about what to do about people who — in the words of one lawmaker — "take themselves right up to the line of remarrying" by moving in with someone else.

Some lawmakers argued it doesn't make sense that the money might even go to support the person who replaced the old spouse.

"It's a bad enough heartache when someone you

love leaves, many times for another person," said Republican Rep. Dennis Baxley. "To be asked to support this ex-mate's new girlfriend or boyfriend, that is really adding insult to injury."

Several members — almost all women — said they thought the bill was unfair to women who have given a significant part of their lives to husbands who then walk out on them.

"This is an anti-woman bill," griped Democratic Rep. Eleanor Sobel. "Alimony should be based on what someone has contributed to the marriage."

Most other states have already dealt with this issue. Some have laws ending alimony when the ex-spouse lives with anyone new, and many states authorize judges to end or modify the payments, said Mary Frances Lyle, chair of the alimony committee of the Family Law Association of the American Bar Association.

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