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Wednesday, June 1, 2005

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Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Former District Attorney Rick Roach being led away by federal marshals after being sentenced to five years in prison and three years probation shortly before noon today in Amarillo.

Five years

Former DA gets 60-month prison sentence, and three years supervised release

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

AMARILLO — U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson today sentenced former 31st District Attorney Rick Roach to five years in a federal prison followed by three years supervised release on a federal gun charge.

Judge Robinson handed down the sentence in U.S. District Court shortly before noon.

"Your drug use has led to unscrupulous behavior, sometimes going out of bounds," she told Roach in pronouncing the sentence. "The court hasn't imposed a fine because your family will need whatever assets

you have left."

Roach, wearing a charcoal gray suit, tie and dress shirt, apologized for his conduct in a voluntary statement to the court.

"I am extremely sorry for what I've done," he said. "That doesn't fully address all the harm I've caused to my family, my position and my employees.

"I recognize I was an elected official charged with upholding the law," he said. "I accept the judgment of the court.

"In my defense, I'll say I was a good employee. I also feel I did a lot of good things."

He asked to be allowed to

See HEARING, Page 3

Tax values up for Review Board's OK

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Property appraisal values for 2005 for taxable Gray County property will be presented to members of the county's appraisal district review board at a 2 p.m. meeting Thursday in the conference room at 815 N. Sumner.

The values, if approved, will become the county's tax appraisal roll for the 2005 tax year, said Pat Bagley, chief appraiser.

"I'm trying very hard not to have any errors on industrial property appraisals," Bagley said, referring to the change in 2004 taxable property valuation for Celanese Ltd. which sparked scrutiny by local taxing enti-

ties. Celanese paid taxes for 2004 on their original valuation, which was later deemed a clerical error, Bagley told Gray County commissioners on Feb. 1.

The corrected valuation was over \$6.6 million less than the original amount, with the result that Gray County, Pampa Independent School

District and Panhandle Ground Water Conservation District had to refund tax overpayments back to the chemical company.

Review board members will also consider whether to make any changes in hearing procedures. Hearings are held when a property

See VALUES, Page 3

Pickens' permits before PGWCD

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

WHITE DEER — Boone Pickens is back before the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District this week.

He is asking to move a high impact production permit from land that is part of the Mesa Water project to his home ranch. He's also requesting two single well permits to provide water for wildlife on his ranch in Roberts County.



Pickens

Mike Jackson is applying for an exemption to the replacement well spacing rule.

Normally, said C.E. Williams, the district allows landowners to drill new wells up to 150 feet from a well that has gone dry or dropped drastically.

"We have gone up to 300 feet," Williams said, "but if it's two miles, it's not going to fly.

The John Pennington Family Partnership and Andy Epps are each seeking initial production permits in Roberts County.

Bob White, Donley County; James Jurajda, Potter County; Sam Standish, Gray County; Glenn Henderson, Potter County; Joseph Andrajack, Potter County; Boone Pickens, Roberts County; Crystal Sutties, Carson County; Reuben Shawn, Wheeler County; Rick Bradley, Gray County; Chad

See PGWCD, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE

Best seats in the stands

Miss Rodeo Top O Texas Amanda Puckett, right, presents box seat tickets for all three nights of the Top O' Texas Rodeo to, from left, Rebecca Middlebrook and Kristina Brown who found the Golden Horseshoe after the first clue. The sisters deduced the horseshoe was at an insurance agency because of the word "premium" in the clue. They discovered the horseshoe at Kevin Huck's Insurance on Hobart Street.

Rodeo to offer new kid events

New events are taking place nightly prior to the start of each performance of the 59th annual Top O' Texas Rodeo, 7:30 p.m., June 2-4, at the rodeo arena, one mile east of Pampa on U.S. Highway 60.

In addition to the annual Calf Scramble, a Nickel Drop for children age 6 and under will also take place. Up for the grabs each night will be \$50 in nickels donated by First State Bank of Miami, First Bank Southwest and National Bank of Commerce.

The whole family will enjoy the mini-chopper barrel races. Different teams will compete each night in a barrel race with a twist. Instead of riding horses, they will be riding mini-choppers.

One team will run a right

See EVENTS, Page 3

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Obituaries

Guadalupe Lopez Marquez, 90

HEREFORD — Guadalupe Lopez Marquez, 90, died Monday, May 30, 2005, at her home in Hereford.

Funeral mass was scheduled at 2 p.m. today in La Iglesia de San Jose with the Rev. David Contreras officiating.

Burial will be in St. Anthony's Cemetery under the direction of Rix Funeral Directors of Hereford.

Prayer vigil was Tuesday evening in the funeral home chapel.

Mrs. Marquez was born Dec. 12, 1914, at Jalisco, Mexico. She was preceded in death by her husband, Felix Marquez, who she married in Chihuahua, Mexico.

Mrs. Marquez was a homemaker and a

member of La Iglesia de San Jose.

Survivors include four daughters, Dolores Marquez and Irene Marquez, both of Hereford, Maria Santos of Juarez, Mexico, and Juana Marquez Ramirez of Pampa; three sons, Carlos Marquez of Albuquerque, N.M., Felix Marquez of Los Angeles, Calif., and Guillermo Marquez of Pampa; 33 grandchildren; 72 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

The family requests memorials be to American Cancer Society, 3915 Bell St., Amarillo, TX 79109.

To extend condolences, visit www.rixfd.com.

Gray County Weather

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m.

Partly cloudy, with a high around 82. South southeast wind around 10 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 per-

cent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 63. South wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4 p.m.

Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. South wind around 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. South wind around 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South

west wind around 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63.

South southwest wind around 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind around 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 65.

Monday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 89. Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 90.

Some insurers reducing rates

HOUSTON (AP) — One in six Texas homeowners could see reduced insurance rates this year.

Several small insurance companies have filed their rate changes for 2005 indicating rate decreases of up to 14.5 percent, according to the Texas Department of Insurance. The state's largest insurers have yet to file their changes.

Industry leaders attribute the reductions to lower claims costs and stiffer competition among insurers.

"The more competition, the more products and the better it is for consumers," said Sandra Ray, a spokeswoman for the Dallas-based industry trade group Southwest Insurance Information Center.

Jim Hurley, a spokesman for the insurance department, cautioned that the rate changes have not been reviewed.

"We don't know if they're too much or too little," he said. "We're going to be looking at each one of these rates and determining if they're

actuarially justified."

The department can order more rate reductions.

Texas Watch, an Austin-based consumer group, said million of homeowners have yet to see if their rates will be reduced. The companies that filed their changes make up less than 20 percent of the state insurance market.

State Farm and Allstate were not among the companies that submitted rates because the department has proceedings pending against them.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents and arrests today.

Tuesday, May 31

Ten traffic stops were made. Two traffic complaints were received, both from the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Three vehicle accidents were reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 300 block of Somerville and the 100 block of North Cuyler.

A hit and run accident was reported in the 200 block of Kingsmill.

A report of aggravated assault was made in the 500 block of North Naida. No injuries were reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1300 block of North Banks. A window, estimated at \$400, was shot with a BB-gun.

A verbal domestic disturbance was reported in the 800 block of Bradley.

Disorderly conduct-language was reported in the 600 block of Sloan.

Burglary of a building was reported in the 1300 block of Price Road. Estimated loss was \$300.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

Two welfare checks were made in the 400 block of Starkweather and the 1100 block of Sierra.

An escort was made in the 600 block of North Ward.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 500 block of Magnolia.

Two suspicious persons were reported in the Wilks and Hobart area and in the 1200 block of North Duncan.

Tuesday, May 31

Scott F. Castor, 33, 1205 Russell, was arrested on a fugitive warrant for violation of probation.

Jesus Rodriguez, 25, 417 N. Faulkner, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, May 31

William Edward Baker, 49, 1235 S. Finley, was arrested to serve a sentence for driving while intoxicated.

Steven Lee Stamps, 24, 2600 N.

Hobart, was arrested on *capias pro fines* for no valid drivers license and displaying expired registration. He was also driving while his license was suspended.

Fire

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

Tuesday, May 31

10:22 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision in the 1200 block of North Hobart.

10:24 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to an odor investigation in the 300 block of North Hobart. The smell was coming from an overheated air conditioning unit.

10:43 a.m. — Three units and five fire personnel responded to a power line fuse blowing in the 1100 block of South Hobart.

3:11 p.m. — One unit and four firefighters responded to a hazardous material spill in the 2600 block of Cherokee. An indicator dye for pesticide was leaking from a pickup.

Wednesday, June 1

6:33 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 800 block of North Christy.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, May 31

10:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of Hobart and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:15 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1200 block of North Wells and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

Wednesday, June 1

6:33 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of North Christy and transported a patient to PRMC.

CITY BRIEFS

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SANDS FABRICS 46th Anniversary Sale in progress May 31-June 4th. 40% Off all fabric. Scissor Man will be in Sands, Sat. June 4th.

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Vietnam MIA now home

Pilot missing in Korea receives Texas burial

DALLAS (AP) — After his jet crashed during a dogfight in the Korean War, the family of Air Force Capt. Troy "Gordie" Cope was left wondering for decades what had happened to him that September day in 1952.

Resigned to not knowing, they held a memorial service for him in 1988. But by the late 1990s, the clues began adding up, leading to the excavation of his crash site in May 2004 in Chinese territory and the recovery of his remains.

So on Tuesday, his family finally got to provide Cope with what the earlier ceremony was missing: a homecoming.

"The service we'd had was without him," said his oldest son, 57-year-old Johnny E. Cope of Sevierville, Tenn.

"This time we'll have him. He's home where he belongs."

About 90 people attended a service at a church in suburban Dallas on Tuesday, where Cope's flag-draped coffin was flanked by two pictures of a young Cope in uniform. At the burial that followed at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, veterans joined family, friends and representatives of the city's Korean population as jets from Cope's old squadron flew overhead in a "missing man" formation.

It was not until February that the Pentagon announced it had identified the remains of Cope, whose case put a spotlight on a Russian role in the 1950-53 Korean War that was kept quiet for decades.

Cope, of Norfolk, Ark., was flying what was then the Air Force's best fighter, the F-86 Sabre, on Sept. 16, 1952, when he encountered MiG-15 fighters — purportedly North Korean but flown by Russians — over the Yalu River that separates North Korea from China.

After his plane went missing, his family was told only that he was missing in action, said nephew Chris G. Cope, 50.

"Everybody was left in the dark," Chris Cope said. "There was always hope. He was one of four brothers — all in the Air Force. They took it real hard."

"The worst part of an MIA case is the not knowing."

In 1995, a U.S. businessman spotted Cope's name on a dog tag on display in a military museum in the Yalu River city of Dandong, China.



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Road Trip



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Which Way Do I Go?

Stocks

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

Wheat	3.02
Milo	3.32
Corn	4.09
Soybeans	5.92

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

Oxy	74.20	+1.09
BP PLC ADR	60.90	+0.70
Cabot Corp	29.25	+0.25
Cabot Oil Gas	32.85	+1.50
Coca Cola	44.82	+0.19
VLO	70.38	+1.76
HAL	43.49	+0.75
TRL	50.99	+0.27
KMI	78.82	+1.11
XCEL	18.75	+0.32
Kerr McGee	73.78	-0.03
XOM	56.93	+0.73
Limited	20.73	+0.31
Williams	18.57	+0.16
MCD	30.95	+0.01
Atmos	28.66	+0.37
Pioneer Nat	40.54	+0.41
JCP	50.41	+0.65
COP	109.44	+1.60
SLB	69.05	+0.68
Tenneco	14.98	-0.02
CVX	54.43	+0.65
Wal-Mart	47.97	+0.74
OKE	30.98	+0.13
NS Grp	28.06	+0.24

New York Gold417.25
Silver7.38
West Texas Crude.....51.97

Hearing

Continued from Page 1

spend "what time I have left with my boys." Spectators were asked to leave the courtroom as Roach began emptying the pockets of his suit for an officer.

On Feb. 8, Roach resigned as 31st District Attorney and entered a guilty plea in the Amarillo U.S. District Court to a federal charge of addict or unlawful user in possession of firearms.

Maximum penalty on the charge is 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, supervised release for not less than two years or more than three years upon release from prison and a mandatory assessment of \$100, according to Christy Drake, assistant U.S. attorney of Amarillo, who prosecuted Roach.

Roach attended the hearing which began at 9:30 a.m. today with his attorney Bill Kelly of Canyon. Much of the morning was spent with Judge Robinson going over Kelly's responses to a pre-sentencing report.

Two witnesses also testified this morning — John Wentworth, a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Amarillo, and Jason Henderson, a

Texas Department of Public Safety trooper.

In the pre-sentencing report responses, Roach's attorney for the most part did not deny charges mentioned in the report, but contended that the former DA's actions were not improper.

The report stated that Roach asked DPS troopers to wear their uniforms and drive cards on their days off in the course of doing work for him. The nature of the work was not specified in court.

A statement in the report said that Roach allegedly agreed to give part of seized money back to the suspects' defense attorneys. Kelly responded that it was not improper for Roach to have done this.

Kelly also said that it is not improper for, in return of making an agreement with Roach, to drop charges against a suspect.

Roach's attorney did not deny that his client had guns in his brief case or in an evi-

dence locker at the courthouse at the time he was arrested in early January, but did deny that there was any illegality about possessing the guns.

The responses either denied or claimed there was nothing improper about other charges mentioned in the pre-sentencing report, as well.

The remaining three federal charges against Roach are expected to be dropped as a result of his guilty plea, Drake said in a previous interview.

Roach was arrested Jan. 11 at Gray County Courthouse by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents on a charge of possession of methamphetamine.

Roach's indictment in federal court later included three additional charges concerning firearms, methamphetamine and cocaine.

Two state indictments on charges of possession of a

controlled substance with intent to deliver, a first-degree felony, were handed up by a Gray County grand jury on May 17, according to court records.

One of the charges specifies methamphetamine, and the other specifies cocaine.

Both charges allege that Roach committed the offenses within 1,000 feet of a school and that a handgun was used or exhibited during the commission of the alleged crime.

Both charges also state that the amount of the controlled substance for each indictment was four or more grams but less than 200 grams.

Perryton attorney David Scott was appointed special prosecutor in March by 31st District Judge Steven Emmert and confirmed by 84th District Judge Kelly Moore to investigate the possibility of filing state charges against Roach.

In addition to possible drug offenses, Scott has retained the Pampa firm of Brown, Graham & Co., certified public accountants, to examine financial records from Roach's office concerning possible irregularities in the DA's bank accounts.

Present 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer said earlier this week that the investigation is continuing.

'I am extremely sorry for what I've done. I recognize I was an elected official charged with upholding the law. I accept the judgment of the court. In my defense, I'll say I was a good employee. I did a lot of good things.'

— Rick Roach
former District Attorney

Cop Corner

Lt. Courtney

The Top O' Texas Rodeo is set to kick off this week. Each night Pampa Police Officers will be at the main entrance to Recreation Park to direct traffic out of the park at the end of each performance. This sometimes creates confusion to the patrons that are coming in late or just going to the dances. The reason for controlling traffic in this manner is the safety of those rodeo patrons that choose to leave the park after the performance and the travelers coming into Pampa on Highway 152. About 9 p.m., the officers will set up traffic cones and barricades that will allow cars to leave the park but not enter through the main gate. There will be officers directing the flow of traffic. Most Pampa citizens know that there is another entrance to the park about a quarter mile to the east of the main entrance. This entrance is next to the County Barns and will have to be used until about 11 p.m. when the main entrance is reopened. We hope everyone has a great and safe rodeo experience and understands the concern we have for the motoring public.

Provided by Pampa Police Department

Kid Pony Show deadline nears

Deadline to enter this year's Top O' Texas Kid Pony Show is fast approaching.

Entries will be accepted in the rodeo office until 5 p.m., Friday, June 4.

The rodeo office will close promptly at 5 p.m. and no entries will be accepted after that time.

All Mutton Bustin' spaces are filled, but entries are still being taken to be put on a waiting list.

For more information, call (806) 669-0434 or pick up entry forms at the rodeo office, 200 N. Ballard.

'The RoundTownRiot' coming to Gem Theater

CLAUDE — Appearing at Armstrong County Museum's Gem Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4 will be Cami Stinson and "The RoundTownRiot" from Stillwater, Okla.

Along with Stinson, the group consists of John Cross and Ian Swart. The trio will present an evening of cowboy and western swing music.

Stinson, a news release said, began singing at the age of 5.

After graduating valedictorian from high school, she continued her studies as both a vocalist and a violinist at Oklahoma City University.

A fiddle player, Stinson took lessons from Benny

Kubiak. Kubiak performed extensively, the release said, with Bob Wills.

More recently, Stinson studied with Joe Carr and Cary Banks at South Plains College in Levelland, exploring a variety of music styles such as jazz, blues, gospel and western swing.

She played the fiddle player in "Texas, the Musical" in Canyon and performed with South Plains Playboys & Dixie Dewdrops at Bob Wills Days in Turkey, Texas.

For more information or to make reservations for the upcoming performance, call the museum during regular hours at (806) 226-2187 or (806) 226-3971.

Values

Continued from Page 1

tax payer requests one in order to discuss or dispute a property valuation.

One aspect of the hearings which may be discussed at Thursday's meeting is whether to extend or reduce the amount of time allowed to request a hearing, Bagley said.

Some hearing requests may originate in the north end of Pampa this year, due to a recent re-evaluation of property in that section of the city.

The north part of town has been re-evaluated approximately every two years for the past six years, Bagley said. Property owners were mailed notices of any re-evaluation earlier this month.

Rural areas of the county were also re-evaluated this

year, he said.

"In some areas, there was a substantial change," Bagley said.

Procedural changes specified by Sections 25 and 41 of the Texas Property Tax Code will be presented for approval. These changes concern correcting errors as far back as five years, and valuation changes Bagley is allowed to make without board approval but must report to the board, he said.

PGWCD

Continued from Page 1

Higgins, Potter County; Mark Chadra, Wheeler County; Terry Wheeler, Carson County; Robert Stiles, Wheeler County; Bill Stiles,

Wheeler County; D&R Transport, Wheeler County; the McDowell Ranch, Wheeler County; Mark Urbanczyk, Carson County; W.D. Penney, Donley County; David Smith, Gray County; Densel Reed, Wheeler County, and Angie Sandoval, Potter County, are

seeking single well permits.

The district's board of directors will also consider contributing additional funds to the Arkansas River Shiner Coalition.

The meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m., Thursday at the district's offices, 201 W. Third, in White Deer.

Events

Continued from Page 1

hand pattern while the

other team rides a left hand pattern and who knows what will take place as they inevitably meet in the middle.

One mini-chopper will be raffled off with the drawing

to be held during Saturday's rodeo performance.

Raffle tickets will be available at the rodeo performances at a cost of \$2 per ticket or three tickets for \$5.

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Viewpoints

Top O' Texas Rodeo a hallmark of Pampa

Every year at this time I begin to get excited because I know the smell of cattle will soon be filing the town. I have never been a huge rodeo fan. For that matter I have never liked the smell of cattle either; however, there is just something about the rodeo that intrigues me. It seems to set the community into a frenzy of excitement, which I also get

caught up in year after year. This is particularly odd because I still do not quite understand the events or even how the rodeo works, but from the time that the first horse trailer pulls into town, I am ready for the show. I think my anticipation for the event has to deal with the fact that it is an annual occurrence that I remember

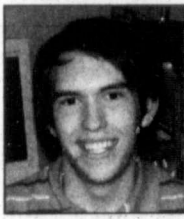
from an early age. Even though my family has never been involved in rodeo, we still take note of it coming to town. From seeing the Golden Horseshoe clues on the front page to the red,

white and blue banners that line the edges of buildings, the yearly rodeo is a fond memory for me. As I prepare to move away from the city of Pampa for college in August, I have spent time reflecting

on the wonderful town I am leaving behind. During that time, I realized that the Top O' Texas Rodeo is a foundation stone in the culture of the city. For the first week in June every year the rodeo is Pampa. It seems that every where you look, a reminder that it is in town can be seen. No matter who you are talking with, conversations

seems to be dominated by words and phrases like barbecue, horses, two-stepping and bull riding. That is why this week, I am once again looking forward to what the rodeo has to bring.

**Ben
Briscoe**
News Intern



Ben Briscoe is a 2005 graduate of Pampa High School and a journalism intern for The Pampa News.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 1, the 152nd day of 2005. There are 213 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 1, 1813, the commander of the U.S. frigate Chesapeake, Captain James Lawrence, said, "Don't give up the ship" during a losing battle with a British frigate.

On this date:

- In 1792, Kentucky became the 15th state of the union.
- In 1796, Tennessee became the 16th state.
- In 1801, Mormon leader Brigham Young was born in Whitingham, Vt.
- In 1868, James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, died near Lancaster, Pa.
- In 1926, actress Marilyn Monroe was born in Los Angeles.
- In 1943, a civilian flight from Lisbon to London was shot down by the Germans during World War II, killing all aboard, including actor Leslie Howard.
- In 1944, the British Broadcasting Corporation aired a coded message intended to warn the French resistance that the D-Day invasion was imminent.

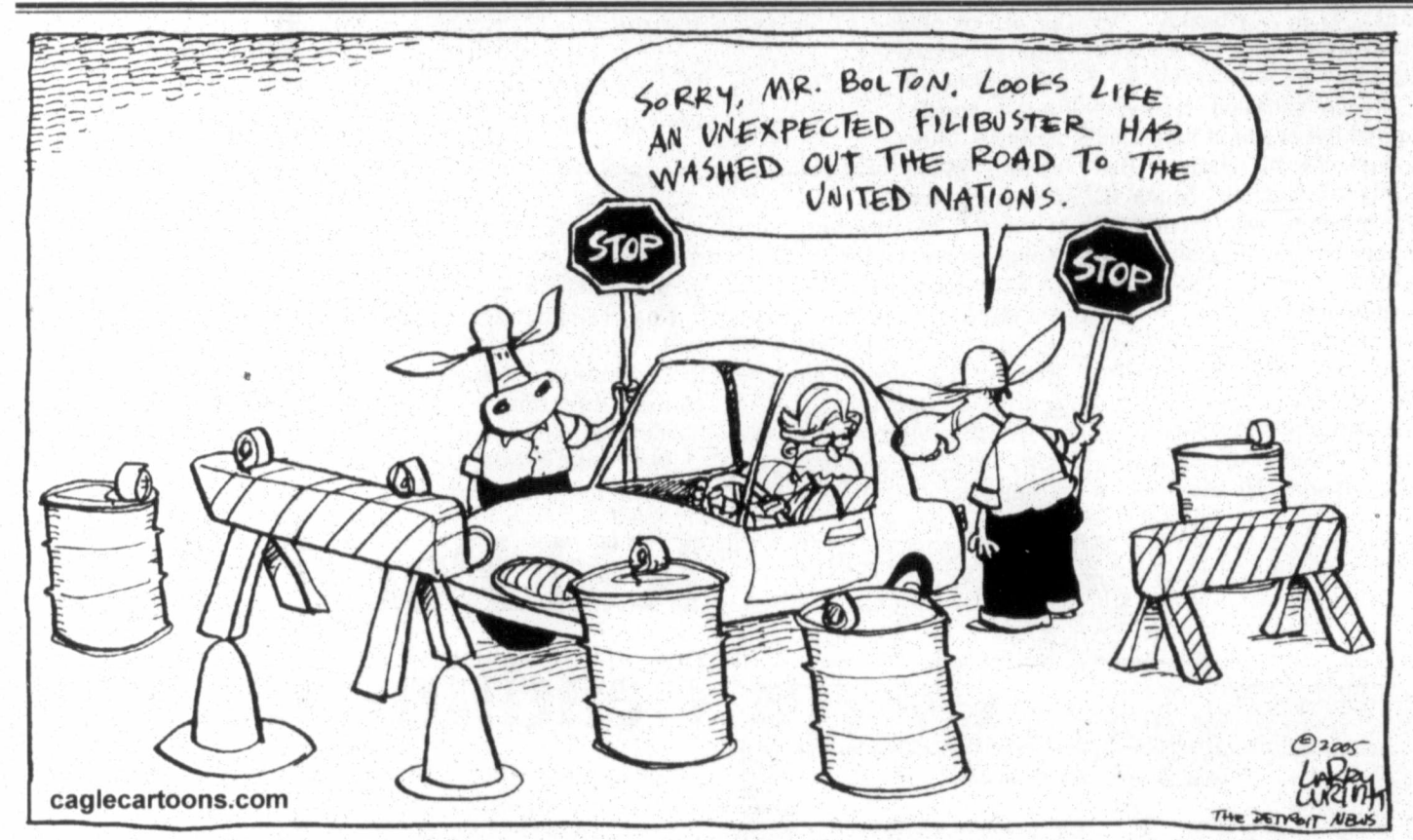
*'Patience!
Patience! Patience
is the invention
of dullards and
sluggards. In a
well-regulated
world there
should be no need
of such a thing
as patience.'*

— Grace King
American author

about half an hour to spare, Texas Governor George W. Bush blocked the scheduled execution of convicted killer Ricky McGinn so that possibly exculpatory DNA evidence could be reviewed. (The DNA tests failed to establish McGinn's innocence, and he was put to death by injection in September 2000.)

One year ago: A federal judge declared the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act unconstitutional, saying the measure infringed on women's right to choose. Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, a powerful Sunni Muslim tribal leader and critic of the U.S.-led occupation, was named president of Iraq's incoming government. Historian-biographer William Manchester died in Middletown, Conn., at age 82.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Erdman is 80. Actor Andy Griffith is 79. Actor Edward Woodward is 75. Actor Pat Corley is 75. Singer Pat Boone is 71. Actor-writer-director Peter Masterson is 71. Actor Morgan Freeman is 68. Actor Rene Auberjonois is 65. Opera singer Frederica von Stade is 60. Actor Brian Cox is 59. Rock musician Ron Wood is 58. Actor Jonathan Pryce is 58. Actor Powers Boothe is 56. Actress Gemma Praven is 55. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 55. Country singer Ronnie Dunn (Brooks and Dunn) is 52. Actress Lisa Hartman Black is 49.



All politicians are temporary

Years ago, when I was not in the newspaper business, I was appointed by a governor to a state historical commission. The appointment required confirmation by the state Senate. I waited as the weeks went by and heard not a word from the Senate. My wife was expecting our second child and was very close to her due date when, on a late Friday afternoon, I got a phone call from snotty little aide to the senator in charge, ordering me to be in the state Capitol (200 miles away) at 8 a.m. on Monday. No way was I going to miss my child's birth.

I told the aide that I would not be there, and that his senator had three choices: He could submit questions in writing; he could postpone the hearing; or he could take the appointment and stuff it up his ... well, in those days, my language was not always that of a gentleman. I told him I didn't care which choice he made and hung up on him.

I recall this little story (I was confirmed in absentia) to remind you what I fear more and more Americans have forgotten: This country belongs to the people, not to the government. Politicians, whether they are local, state or federal, are nothing more than the hired help. And

they're all temps, at that. We hire them, and we can fire them. Their job is to serve us, not command us.

Politicians have a bad habit of surrounding themselves with bootlickers and fawning little brats with more ambition than brains. This causes the politicians to inflate their egos and to begin to think they are a cut above the rest of us. Most of them are, in fact, just the south end of a northbound horse. Many of them are laughed at behind their backs by the very people who fund their campaigns.

I know a man who is now a U.S. senator. He moved to my town at the age of 15. He went to college, got a law degree, came back and established a successful practice. He was very active in the community and served on a number of boards. Then, one day, he ran for and was elected county chairman (the chief administrator of county government).

One of the first things he did was hire a bodyguard and a chauffeur. Now, why would anyone think that a man in charge of fixing potholes, running the dog pound and presiding over

interminably dull county commission meetings would be the subject of a terrorist attack, a kidnapping or an assassination attempt? To my knowledge, no county official in the state of Florida has ever been attacked, unless it was by his wife or his mother-in-law. After all, this man had lived in the same city practically all of his adult life and never needed a chauffeur or a bodyguard before.

You see, too often the office inflates the ego. Many people who win public office immediately begin to think that they are much more important than they really are. They forget that the day before the election, they were just plain Joe Citizens, and they don't know one whit more the day after the election than they did the day before. The only thing that changes is the source of their paycheck.

My fellow Americans, it doesn't have to be this way (remember that line from Sen. John Edwards' campaign?). There was a time when presidents and members of Congress and governors and legislators, much

less local officials, acted in a perfectly normal manner.

When President Harry Truman finished his term, he and his beloved Bess caught a cab, went to the train station and rode home just like ordinary folks. In the middle of a global war, President Franklin Roosevelt, when he was at Warm Springs, Ga., would often take two or three friends, drive up to the Pine Mountain area, pull over and have a picnic on the grass. He drove himself. There was no entourage of 20 armored limousines.

I've watched the transition from a republic to an imperial power. This imperial poison has spread even to the local level — mainly, I think, because we've allowed the politicians to pay themselves more than they would have ever dreamed of making in the private sector. They forget that they finagled their own pay raises and think anybody paid that much money must surely be important.

Well, the beauty of America is this: The country still belongs to us. It's ours for the taking anytime enough of us can pry ourselves off the couch and become activists.

Charley Reese is a retired journalist and syndicated columnist.

**Charley
Reese**

Columnist



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Polls: We're all going somewhere for vacation

Can't decide where to spend vacation time this summer? We know you want to go somewhere. A poll says so. Seventy-nine percent of Americans want to get out of Dodge and 71 percent say high gasoline prices aren't going to matter.

It's another poll, all right. The Associated Press and Ipsos asked 1,028 adults from the 48 contiguous states to share their vacation attitudes.

So, if you aren't sure if it'll be Disneyland, Disney World or the dizzying pace of big cities in the East, at

least you can now know where other people say they want to go.

About half, 46 percent, want to stay in the U.S., 26 percent want to travel west and only 8 percent are thinking east.

Almost one-third of Americans would like to go to Europe, no place in particular. Italy leads with 6 percent, Germany is next at 2 percent. All the rest are just 1 percent. This means you,

France. Summer in Paris apparently isn't anything like April in Paris.

But back to the Mainland now.

Even though it's summer, 14 percent say they'd like to go to Hawaii. Surprise, Alaska at 4 percent beats out Las Vegas at 2 percent. And the Disney places?

Two percent say Disney World and only 1 percent even want to go to the home

state of Disneyland, California.

So where are you going to stay?

If you make \$50,000 or more, 58 percent choose a hotel.

But wait a sec. When friends and family travel to your area, 73 percent want them to stay with you (the poll didn't say how many days).

But one thing was overall apparent in this yet-another-poll: Apparently wherever you go this vacation, hardly anybody else wants to be there.

Sports Day



Future Stars of the PRCA to hold autograph session

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

With the Top O' Texas Arena coming to life, and the strong hint of rodeo in the air, a group of local rodeo competitors calling themselves the Future Stars of the PRCA will hold a picture and autograph session at Fenton Motors tomorrow, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Included in the mix are local stand-outs Hawk Tucker, Q.B. Cobb, Jake Trevathan, Sarah Zyback, Eric Lewis, Courtney Ward Miller and Karysten Miller.

Tucker is no stranger to the bulls. If his

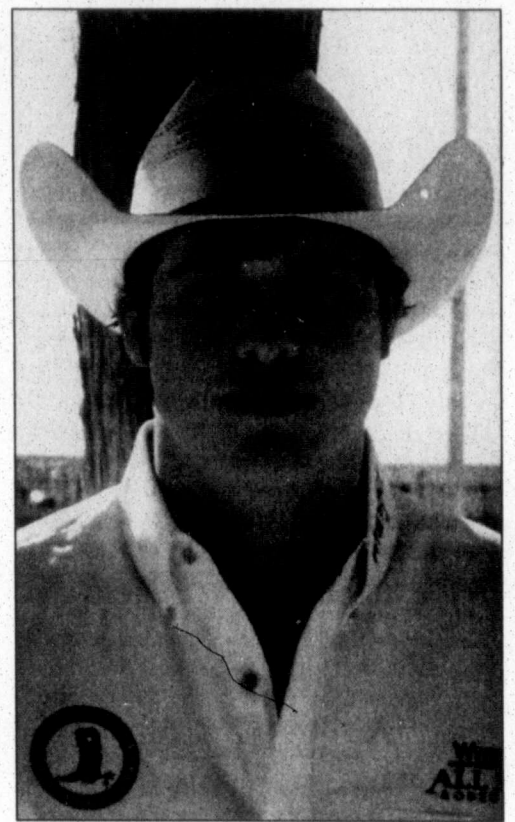
name hasn't topped the final standings, it has been near the top.

Zyback is a well established cowgirl, always among the leaders in Goat Tying, Pole Bending, Barrel Racing and other events.

Cobb, known for his Steer Wrestling and Team Roping, was made a member of the Wrangler High School All Star Rodeo Team in March of this year.

All are deserving of the title Future Stars of the PRCA.

For more information, please contact Vickie at Fenton Motors, 688-6888.



Hawk Tucker and Q.B. Cobb (right) will be among those on hand for photos and autographs from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Fenton Motors tomorrow. Both young men are recent graduates of Pampa High School.

Hughes, Wilfong tops at PCC ProAm

PCC ProAm
Pampa Country Club
May 31, 2005

Team Results

Place	Team	Total	
1st	Larry Joe Reed	123	
	Roy Don Stephens		
	Harrold Salmon		
	Norman Sublett		
	John Horne		
2nd	Bill Allison	124	
	James Stavenhagen		
	Dale Haynes		
	Ted White		
	Thomas Moldonado		
2nd	Nathan Sullivan	124	
	J.K. Harrison		
	Casey Renner		
	Craig Riseling		
	Larry Riseling		
4th	Tom Brandon	126	
	Heath Eagle		
	Clint Deeds		
	Leson Gouge		
	Bill Wilfong		
6th	Dell Wood	127	
	Tom Doughtie		
	Tim Brosier		
	Reid Sidwell		
	Mark Hughes		
6th	Scott White	127	
	Daniel Heuston		
	Rasco Joyce		
	George Priolo		
	David Kinney		
8th	Ronnie Palmer	133	
	Jack Smith		
	Micheal Shaffer		
	Jim Glenn		
	Nathan Cobb		
9th	Cleve Gustin	134	
	Brandon Duke		
	Gene Hall		
	Terry Hall		
	Harry Frye		
9th	Jeremy Dockery	134	
	Daniel Burns		
	John Clark		
	Dee Joiner		
	Charlie Nelson		
12th	Joe Harris	138	
	David Gamblin		
	Coy Barton		
	David Teichmann		
	Ralph Wilson		
13th	Joe Mabry	139	
	Howard Musgrave		
	Bill Wilfong		
	Harrold Salmon		
	Nathan Sullivan		
Amateur Low Net	Player	Total	
	1	Bill Wilfong	64.0
	2	Harrold Salmon	65.0
	2	Nathan Sullivan	65.0
	2	James Stavenhagen	65.0
	5	Howard Musgrave	66.0
	5	Dale Haynes	66.0
	7	Norman Sublett	68.0
	7	Thomas Moldonado	68.0
	7	Jack Smith	68.0
	10	Joe Harris	69.0
	10	Craig Riseling	69.0
	10	Roy Don Stephens	69.0
	10	Tom Brandon	69.0
	14	Bill Allison	70.0
	14	Cleve Gustin	70.0
	16	Gene Hall	71.0
	16	Tom Doughtie	71.0
18	Terry Hall	72.0	
18	Tim Brosier	72.0	
18	J.K. Harrison	72.0	
Low Pro	Place	Player	Total
	1	Mark Hughes	66
	2	Dell Wood	67
	3	Casey Renner	71
	4	Micheal Shaffer	72
	5	Jeremy Dockery	73
	6	Larry Joe Reed	74
	7	Charlie Nelson	75
	7	John Horne	75
	9	George Priolo	76
	9	Heath Eagle	76
	11	Ted White	80
12	David Teichmann	81	

OPTIMIST GAMES RAINED OUT

League to try again tonight

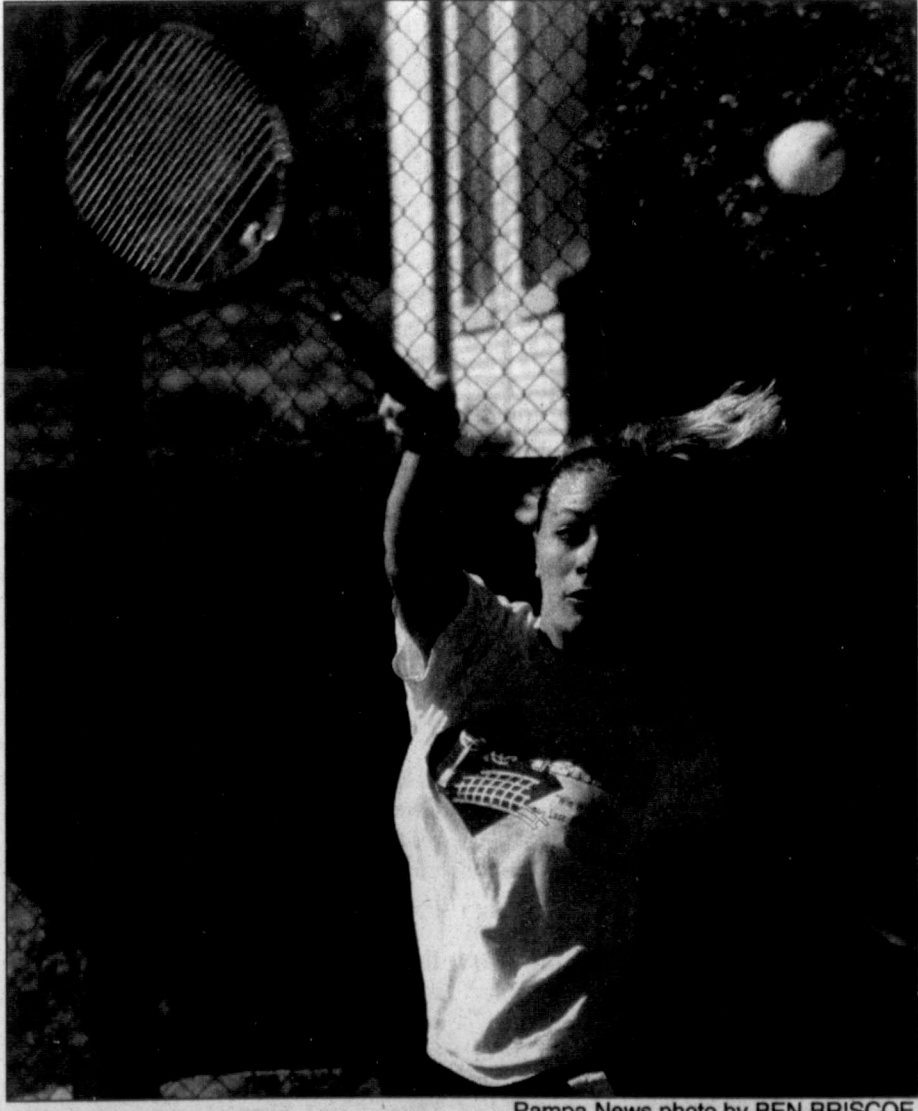
Rain washed out games Tuesday in the Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken League, but the games will be made up today. At 5:45 p.m. Rotary Club plays D. E. Chase, Inc. Duncan, Fraser & Bridges Insurance Agency challenges Glo-Valve Service at 7:45 p.m. Thursday's games feature Celanese Corporation and Chase at 5:45 p.m. with

Rotary and DFB playing in the night-cap. On Friday DFB and Cabot play at 5:45 p.m. with Chase and Glo-Valve contesting in the 7:45 p.m. game. The regular season will end Monday with a City Tournament to follow. The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way agency.

Bell era off to good start in KC

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals got the Buddy Bell era off to a good start with a rare victory. Hours after hiring Bell as their new manager, the Royals snapped a six-game losing streak and beat the New York Yankees for just the second time in 10 tries with a 5-3 win Tuesday night. Zack Greinke also went five innings for his first win in 15 starts. "I feel great right now," the 53-year-old Bell said. "I forgot how much you have to pay attention. I loved it, man. Right now, I feel whatever it feels like to run a marathon ... I probably feel close to it." Bell's arrival was greeted with enthusiasm by the Royals, who had become undisciplined and sloppy under Tony Pena, who resigned on May 10. The Royals lost a franchise-record 104 games a year ago. "Just talking to some guys around the team, he was the person they had some really good things to say about," Greinke said. "People who have played for him or just knew him somehow said he's going to be perfect for us. I don't

know if that's what the fans' main guy was. But just about everybody I've talked to, that was the guy they wanted." Bell, who had been working as Cleveland's bench coach, discovered he missed managing more than he'd realized. "I think so. It was the first time in a while I didn't have to do something to get my heart started," he said. "It did it on its own. I'm sure I'll get a good night's sleep tonight." Still, Bell faces a daunting rebuilding project with a team that could be headed for record losses — the Royals are just 14-37. Yet, he was given a contract only through 2007. "I really don't think the length of the contract has anything to do with the situation here," said Dan Glass, president of the Royals and son of owner David Glass. "If he performs well and we all perform well and give him the ammunition he needs from the front office standpoint, we'll all be in good shape. Two and a half years in today's baseball world is a long time." See BELL, Page 6



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Return to sender

Katie O'Neal fires a return volley Wednesday morning during a Pampa High School tennis team practice session.

No distractions when it's every man for himself

By JIM LITKE
Associated Press

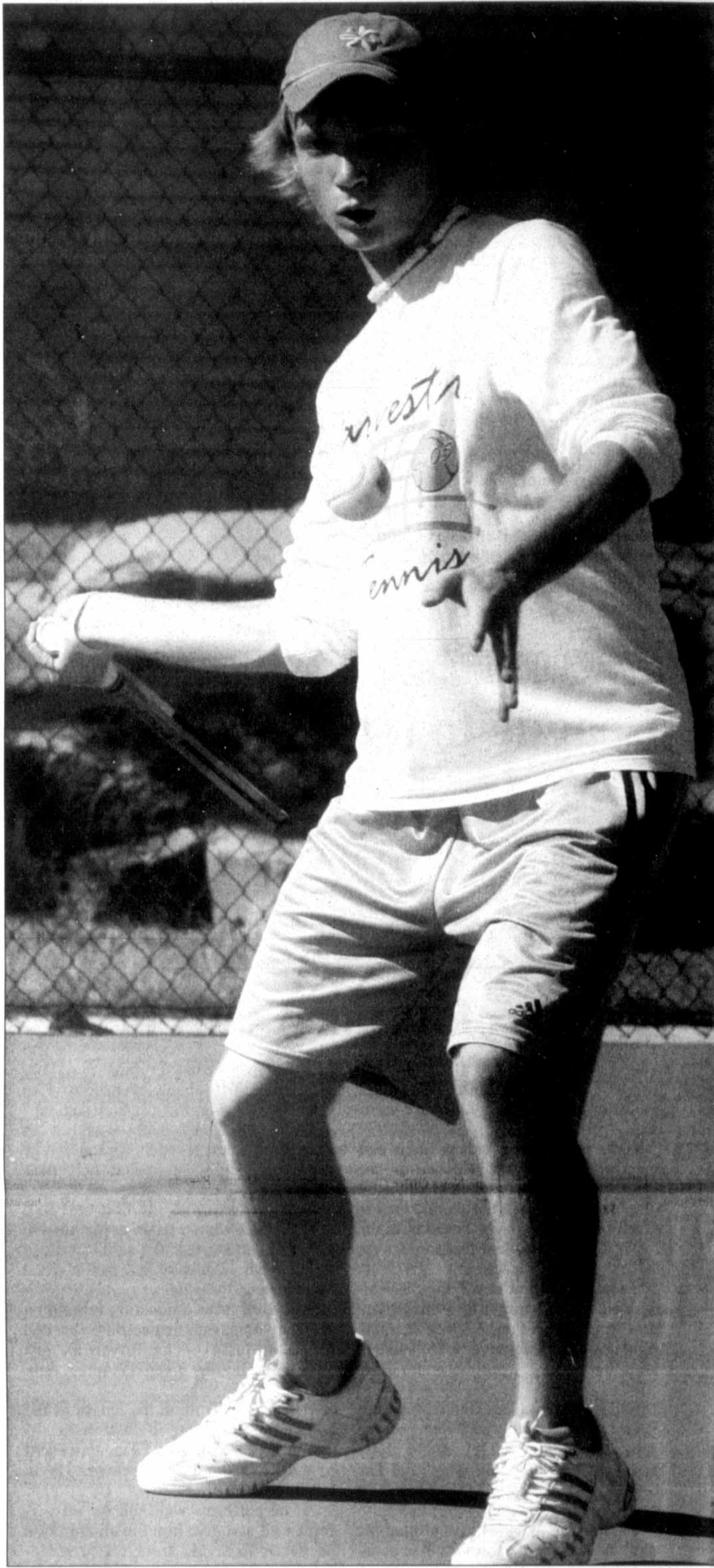
Postseason distractions have included earthquakes, arrests, gambling jaunts and, as George Brett learned to his unending embarrassment, even hemorrhoids. Compared to those, Larry Brown's latest case of wanderlust seems tame, not to mention familiar. His critics point out that in the course of changing jobs 10 times, and trying a dozen others on for size, Brown makes up in quantity what he lacks in quality. But the Pistons coach — for the time being, anyway — has a ready answer for those people, too. It's called winning. "We've been in this situation before," Tayshaun Prince said after Detroit beat Miami 106-96 to level their playoff series at 2-2. "The stakes are higher now, but we dealt with this during the season with New York and those rumors. The only difference now is that we're in the Eastern Conference finals." "We're a mature team," he added, "and we know how to handle it." Judged strictly by performance, there's little doubt of that. The Pistons came out Tuesday night protecting the ball and sharing it purposefully and got the Heat's big men in foul trouble fast, first Shaquille O'Neal and then Alonzo Mourning. Next, they neutralized Dwyane Wade by swapping the long-limbed, but less-mobile Prince for smaller, quicker defenders Rip Hamilton and

Lindsey Hunter. In the bargain, Detroit collected 17 assists without a single turnover and rang up 60 points by intermission, the Pistons' best offensive half of the postseason. It was textbook Larry Brown basketball, practically an advertisement for why the guy is on every decision-maker's short list of candidates for every NBA or big-time college job that opens up. It hardly matters that the Pistons might have played that way more in spite of Brown than because of him, because all his teams learn to play that way eventually. The cycle is as dependable as the label imprinted on your washing machine. Hire Brown and your team improves right away; somewhere around the middle of his tenure — on average, around three NBA seasons — stories linking him to another job bubble up; near the end, tired of all the spinning, the players are ready and willing to let him move on and clean up somebody else's mess. Brown may be the coach's coach, but he is also the gypsy's gypsy and the front office in Cleveland is the odds-on favorite to be his next destination. You wouldn't know that from his brief skirmish with reporters after the Pistons' pre-game practice Tuesday afternoon, because Brown has so much practice deflecting stories about his comings and goings that he might as well be David Copperfield. Instead, look at what he's done: Ten teams in 33 seasons and who knows how many more interviews, highlighted by a stretch at the end of his

— Tayshaun Prince
Forward, Detroit Pistons

See LITKE, Page 6

Concentration



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Pampa High School's Michael Foreman practices with the Harvester tennis team Wednesday morning.

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, June 2, 2005:

You often have a collision when you least expect it. What is certain is that there are many different paths; just stay open to possibilities. Sometimes you need to let go of what used to work for you and permit more adventure into your life. Curb your temper with those in charge. More often than not, you need to detach and handle your finances seriously. Investments could be slow to come to fruition. Don't have great expectations, and you will not experience as many ups and downs. Network and expand your horizons. If you are single, a friendship could develop into a lot more or could be the key to a developing bond. If you are attached, focus on what you want as a team. Blend friendship and romance. ARIES is your friend through good times and bad.

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)

★★★★ You might feel as if you are heading in the right direction, but you could find that obstacles befall you left and right. Dig into your creative thinking. Fatigue could be overwhelming if you act like a Bull and keep hitting your head against the wall. Tonight: You need a break.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ Others could easily disappoint you, especially as you have learned to count on them. Say little; think a lot. Answers naturally flourish for those who want solutions and are ready to accept others as they are. Tonight: Mull over the day's events.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Recent gains might appear to go down the drain. You don't need to let this happen, but you do need to let go and be less vested. Realize when you are heading in the wrong direction, or when you hit complications. Tonight: Let go of today's stresses.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Sometimes a child or loved one pushes you beyond your limits. Right now, bosses, authority figures and routine happenings trigger strong reactions. Know when to say enough; others will follow your lead. Tonight: Understand that the tried-and-true doesn't always work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Reach out for others and don't hesitate to express your ideas, though you might have difficulty understanding what others are thinking and their logic. Sometimes you push yourself way too hard. Just let it all happen. Tonight: Try to imagine what it feels like to be someone else.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work together as a team rather than get caught up in another's logic. You understand what others want, but not where they are coming from. Listen to others rather than judge them. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You could be frustrated by what happens with others. Plans change radically. You want to think in terms of positive interpretations rather than get caught up in a superficial judgment. Tonight: Allow others to display their colors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ A financial matter presents a situation differently. You might have to give up some rigidity and look at situations differently. Your imagination takes you down a different path. Don't assume it is the right direction. Tonight: Do some-

thing just for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You need to adjust. Let others see that you can get past an immediate problem. Your energetic and dynamic ways draw results, as long as you don't get stuck. Your lively side helps you blow through problems. Tonight: Where your friends are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Build on what you know. Don't get caught up in rigid thinking. Your ability to flex and see answers adds to your popularity. Think before you make any dramatic changes. Review present situations with growth and change. Tonight: Hang at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Know when to push through a problem and see past the immediate situation. Creative and dynamic thinking proves to be the only way to find an answer. It could be best to let go of what appears to be unstable. Tonight: Hang out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Knowing when to back off could be important. You could push someone very hard and get a strong reaction, even if you don't want to. Stand back and watch what will happen if you let go. Give someone the space to back off of his or her position. Tonight: A must appearance.

BORN TODAY

Actress Sally Kellerman (1937), actor Joel Tobeck (1971), actor Jerry Mathers (1948)

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

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Litke

Continued from Page 5

stay at Kansas, when Brown denied he was interested in his old job at UCLA, won the national championship, then made a verbal commitment to take the UCLA job, backed out and two months later, became coach of the San Antonio Spurs.

To be fair, Brown's latest flirtation is complicated by problems with his health. He is 64, uncertain of whether he can stand the rigors of the coaching profession next season and when he protested to reporters, "I want to be here. I want to coach. This is what I've done my whole life," there's plenty reason to believe him.

But even in good times, Brown always hedges his bets. He keeps a black garment bag with a "76ers" logo nearby on the couch in his office in Detroit, less as a sentimental reminder than a practical one. Somebody somewhere is always in desperate need of a turnaround artist, Brown's thinking goes, and so why not him?

The latest somebody is Cavs owner Dan Gilbert, who is looking for a president of basketball operations, willing to let Brown

do the job by remote control while he recuperates, and is so enamored of Brown's track record as a coach that he's willing to ignore the equally troubling list of bad personnel moves and burned-out players Brown has left in his various wakes.

If those two do get together, they could take distraction to a new level. LeBron James, the centerpiece of the Cavs' franchise, didn't exactly hit it off when he played for Brown at the Olympics last summer. And the coach Cleveland just hired, Mike Brown, is never going to be comfortable in Larry Brown's shadow, no matter what area code he's calling from.

The funny thing is that Larry Brown's work force in Detroit has absorbed not just his basketball lessons, but his uncanny ability to transform restlessness into energy by focusing on the task at hand. In that sense, it really isn't much of a distraction whether he moves on or not.

They've spent enough time under Brown's tutelage to understand that it's every man for himself, which explains why so many of them have moved on already.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

Suns seem loose going into Game 5

PHOENIX (AP) — While Jim Jackson worked on his bank shot — off the ceiling, that is — the best jumpers on the Phoenix Suns were working on another challenge.

An apparatus used to measure vertical leap was on the court because several potential draft picks were visiting for a workout. So Amare Stoudemire, Shawn Marion, Joe Johnson and Quentin Richardson took turns running up and slapping the bars between 11 and 12 feet high.

When it was time for the college kids to take the court, the team's collection of big guys who hardly play were finishing their fun. Several surrounded assistant coach Alvin Gentry and Jake Voskuhl ended up bear-hugging Gentry and lifting him off the ground, drawing laughs all around.

See what happens when a team avoids being eliminated from the playoffs? They get more time to hang out and goof off.

Perhaps that will be inspiration enough for the Suns when they try to extend their season again Wednesday night in Game 5 of the Western Conference finals against the San Antonio Spurs.

"This is a great group and they don't want to quit playing," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said. "They have faith right now."

They need it. San Antonio leads the series 3-1; even if the Spurs lose the next game, they'll have two more chances to advance to the Finals. No team in NBA history has ever lost a 3-0 lead.

"I just look at the game (Wednesday)," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said before flying to Phoenix. "I'm really a simple person."

The Suns have a good reason to feel so loose after the way they won Game 4 in San Antonio — by looking like the Phoenix club that won the most games and scored the most points this season, not the one San

Antonio took advantage of in three straight games.

The stats prove it: After scoring 28 fast-break points during the first three games, the Suns had 26 last game.

D'Antoni credits the change to having Johnson back in the lineup just a few weeks after shattering a bone near his left eye, a gruesome injury that could've led him to sit out the entire postseason.

Johnson returned for Game 3. But it was Game 4 that everything came together — his scoring and defense, and the trickle-down effect his presence had on his teammates.

"Without him, we didn't have enough," D'Antoni said. "With him, we have enough."

Johnson scored 26 points, making 10 of 15 shots, including a 16-foot jumper against tight coverage by Bruce Bowen, the Spurs' best perimeter defender, that stretched Phoenix's lead to three points with 2:03 left.

On defense, he took away Tony Parker's driving lanes and was a big — 6-foot-8, 240 pounds — pest to Tim Duncan as the second man on double teams, taking that duty from Steve Nash, who's 6-2 and 195.

D'Antoni also credits Johnson for Quentin Richardson having one of his better games of the series, Shawn Marion for having his best and for Nash returning to his role as a playmaker first and scorer only when necessary. (OK, that leaves out Amare Stoudemire, who took over the game's closing minutes, even blocking a dunk by Tim Duncan, but the way Stoudemire has played the entire series shows he needs little help.)

"You know, it's remarkable," D'Antoni said. "Joe is back in there and it puts everybody back into the spot they're comfortable with."

'This is a great group and they don't want to quit playing. They have faith right now.'

— Mike D'Antoni
Coach, Phoenix Suns

Bell

Continued from Page 5

Yankees manager Joe Torre agreed, however, that a relatively short contract could be a problem if you have a team with selfish and undisciplined players.

"I don't think managers are as concerned about the length of the contract as much as how players perceive it," Torre said. "A lot of times if you have some things you're trying to get across and the players sense they're going to outlast you, then it could become a problem," Torre said. "But of course, if you have those type of players on your club, you may not be successful anyway."

Bell met David Glass' demand that the new manager have previous major league managerial experience. The last time the Royals hired a manager with major league experience was in 1987 when Billy Gardner replaced the ailing Dick Howser.

Bell, a five-time All-Star third baseman, last managed at Colorado in April 2002.

"We're very excited about this," general manager Allard Baird said. "If you look at his career — 18 years in the big leagues — he's a teacher, a communicator. He's been there and has experienced it as a player and as a teacher. He has patience but is extremely demanding."

Matt Stairs and Emil Brown each

collected two hits against the Yankees, who have lost three in a row. They were under the direction of bench coach Joe Girardi while Torre served a one-game suspension.

The Yankees have totaled just six runs during their losing streak.

"We hit some balls hard early and they made some pretty good defensive plays," Girardi said. "We gave them a couple of runs and we kind of took one away from ourselves and that was the difference in the game."

The Yankees, who had won six straight series openers, got the first two batters on base in the seventh. But Tony Womack's grounder forced Derek Jeter at second and Mike Wood picked Womack off first. Reliever Andrew Sisco then retired pinch-hitter Gary Sheffield on a deep fly to center.

"You want to say it's never going to happen, but it happens at times," Girardi said off Womack getting picked off by a right-hander. "The guy has a good move. That was difficult."

Kevin Brown (4-5) lost for the first time in five decisions as the major league-worst Royals won a series opener for just the fourth time in 18 tries.

Greinke, winless since beating Detroit last Sept. 9, was removed after the fifth inning with a 5-3 lead. The right-hander, who had averaged only one run of support in his 10 starts, gave up three hits, including Hideki Matsui's two-run homer. He walked three and struck out two.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend of several years, "Tami," became my fiancée last fall. We plan to be married this summer. I am white; Tami is black. For the majority of our relatives, this is not a problem. A few close relatives, however, have made their disapproval of interracial marriage quite clear. I chalk it up to their generation and the world they grew up in. The civil rights movement never happened for them. Tami and I have decided not to invite those who disapprove. I don't even want them to have the option. Sourpusses do not make good wedding guests, so why waste the invitation? With help from Tami's father, we're paying for the wedding, and we are in agreement. My mother, however, is worried about insulting people. I think it would be a good lesson for them to experience that there are consequences for racist attitudes.

I told Mom I'd run this one by you. Your thoughts, please? -- WEDDING PLANNER IN N.Y.

DEAR WEDDING PLANNER: I'm not sure whose relatives you're planning to exclude, yours or Tami's, since racism is a sad fact of life across the board in our society. However, I see no reason to issue an invitation to anyone you feel would cast a pall over the wedding. Someone who has already voiced disapproval would make a poor guest. May your marriage be a long and happy one.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl living through a nightmare. When I was 4, I got a disease that caused my hair to fall out. I wear a wig and live in constant fear that it will slip or fall off. It's making me miserable.

Some girls say I am "lucky" because I will never have to shave. I would give anything to shave. My mom doesn't understand what it's like. Although she tries, she just makes

things worse. How can I cope with this when no one I know understands, or even cares about its effects on my life? -- "NAKED" IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR "NAKED": An excellent way to cope with your problem is to talk with other young people who share it. You have a fairly common autoimmune condition called "alopecia areata." It occurs in men and women, but most often young people are the ones affected.

The National Alopecia Areata Foundation offers support groups, detailed information about current research, treatments, medical information, and much more that could educate your mother and benefit you. You both should visit its Web site, www.naaf.org, or e-mail it at info@naaf.org. I hope you'll do it soon, because the group is holding its 20th annual conference in Tampa, Fla., June 30 through July 3. If you and your mother can attend, they'll have programs and camps for kids from 5 to 17. Good luck!

DEAR ABBY: Ever since my boss learned we live close to each other (about 15 minutes between us), he has asked me for a ride home every day. The ride is about 45 minutes. How do I tell him "no" without getting fired? Help! -- HAD IT IN HACK-ENSACK

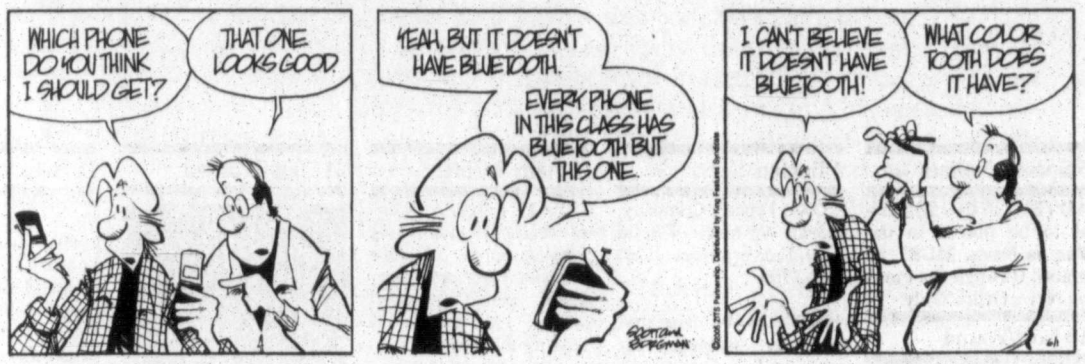
DEAR HAD IT: Make yourself less available for taxi service. Start filling your calendar with errands, appointments and social engagements after work. You can't be fired for having a schedule other than straight to work and straight home.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

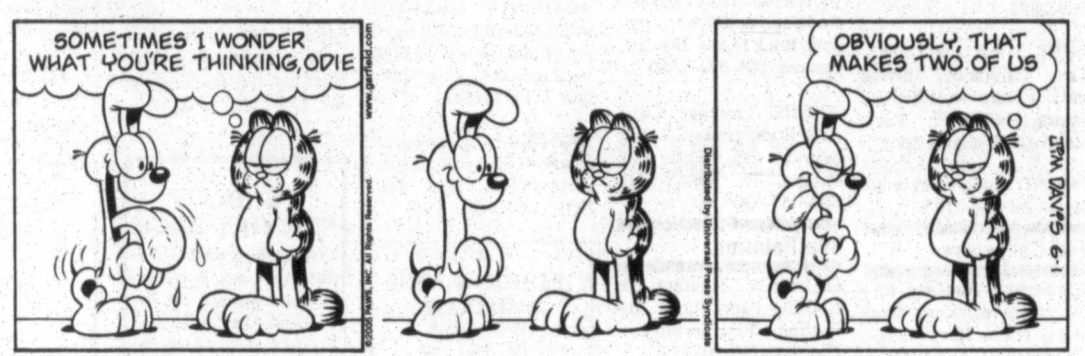
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 46 Leather worker

1 Register-opening button

7 Hit at

11 Beast

12 Congress aide

13 Some ranchers

14 Drifting

15 Quick drawing

17 June honorees

20 Staggered

23 Juan's wife

24 Prize of "Scooby Doo"

26 Highway sign word

27 Feel sorry about

28 Bulling cheer

29 Depth charges (Sl)

31 Craze

32 Iron output

33 Corp.'s underlings

34 Deepen waterway

37 Ninny

39 MP3 player accessory

43 Data, for short

44 Shirt's cousin

45 Wilson's predecessor

M	A	S	K	S	M	A	N	E	T	
A	W	A	I	T	A	D	O	R	E	
D	A	N	N	I	T	H	O	M	A	S
E	Y	E	L	I	L	E	S	S		
GENES										
P	I	E	R	S	R	A	C	E	R	
E	D	G	E		I	O	T	A		
P	A	G	E	S	O	N	T	A	P	
KAPUT										
E	L	I	T		T	U	T		E	B
D	A	N	N	I	G	L	O	V	E	R
I	N	N	E	R		A	R	E	N	A
T	E	S	T	S		W	E	N	D	I

Yesterday's answer

19 Wrote quickly

5 Slender

6 Different

7 Not tightly packed

8 Rinsed

9 Epoch

10 Pot fill

16 Forest sights

17 "The Rehearsal" painter

27 Feel sorry about

18 Pirate's cry

35 Red-ink amount

21 Purple hue

22 Garden starters

24 Film unit

25 Enter the marathon

30 Spot for some lemons

33 Last name of 23-Across

38 "Put — happy face"

40 Hot-dog holder

41 Apply of 23-Across

42 German article

Marmaduke

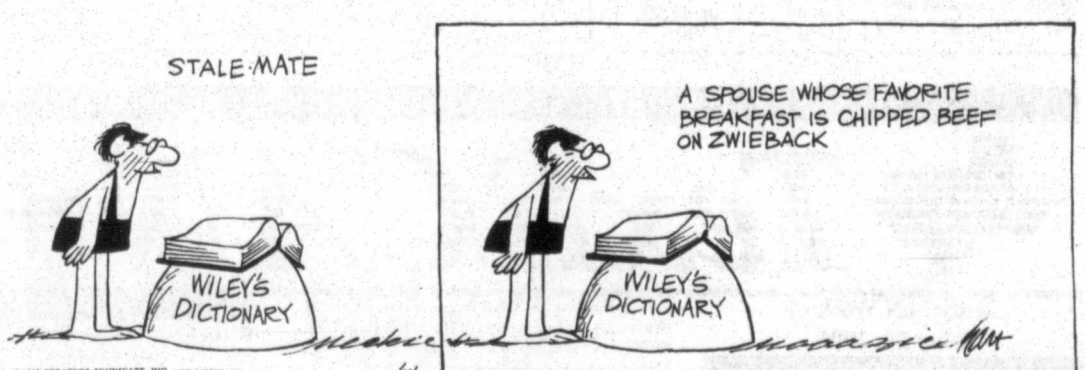


The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends

