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THE PAMPA

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Thursday, June 30, 2005

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Plan: Nation's highest sales tax in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans would pay the highest state sales tax in the nation under a measure approved Wednesday by a House panel.

The tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, led by Republicans, approved the measure to fund school property tax relief in a 5-4 party line vote. The plan

approved Wednesday would increase the rate from the current 6.25 percent to 7.25 percent.

A proposed increase in the sales tax has been a cornerstone of most of the school revenue-generating proposals, but the rate has been contentious. The proposal could face a tougher time in the Senate, where

Democrats have balked at the steep increase.

The bill also would expand the tax to include bottled water and motor vehicle repair services and would increase the cigarette tax to \$1.42 per pack.

Changing the way Texas pays for public education has been a pressing

issue for the last two years, but lawmakers have been unsuccessful in adopting a new system. Republican Gov. Rick Perry called them back for a 30-day special session on the issue this summer, their fourth attempt to tackle the dilemma.

See PLAN, Page 3

FRED BROWN TREE AND TURF It's time to spray for ELM LEAF BEETLE LARVA & BAG WORMS CELL 806-662-3141 PAMPA, TX

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Open soon

Pampa Enterprise Center business incubator project

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

Dan Redd said he expects to open the Pampa Enterprise Center in the next few weeks.

Redd, with the West Texas A&M University Enterprise Network, met with Pampa business leaders Tuesday over lunch at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce offices to discuss the new business incubator at 822 E. Foster.

"This facility does not belong to West Texas A&M University. It belongs to the City of Pampa."

— Dan Redd WTAMU Enterprise Network

Pampa. Redd said the enterprise network consists of a hub in Amarillo and incubators in Dumas, Borger, Pampa, Childress.

"This coming Monday," Redd said, "we have a meeting in Muleshoe."

He said he'd like to see seven or eight incubators around

See PEC, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Rebecca Dunn with Manna Services visits with Dan Redd of the West Texas Enterprise Network during a luncheon Tuesday for Pampa business leaders concerning the network's business incubator scheduled to open here in a few weeks.

Predator



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Pampa Animal Control Officer Sandy Burns, right, examines a snare made by Leymon Ables, a Wildlife Services officer from Matador, during a predator workshop Wednesday in Pampa.

Controversial wildlife subject of workshop

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

While Texas Wildlife personnel showed pictures of coyotes roaming the streets and neighborhoods of Los Angeles, Animal Control Officer Sandy Burns said she's had no reports of coyotes within the city limits of Pampa.

"There are some foxes living in town," she said, but added that she's received no complaints about them. "I'm getting a lot of 'possum calls. They're carrying their babies around."

Burns said skunks in the area are also having babies this time of year, and she's gotten "some calls about skunks."

"But the skunk population is way down this year," she said.

Burns said she had gotten some calls on deer.

Her comments came

against a background of a program on predators, hosted by Gray County Extension Agent Brandon McGinty and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences of Texas A&M University at the county annex Wednesday.

Predators are probably the most controversial of all wildlife subjects.

— Ken Cearly Extension wildlife specialist

"We used to call these programs Predator Appreciation Day," quipped Ken Cearly, an Extension wildlife specialist.

He explained that the word "appreciation" was meant in that sense as transfer of knowledge rather than liking them.

"Now we call it a Predator Awareness Workshop," Cearly said.

Predators are probably the most controversial of all wildlife subjects, he said.

The major predators in this area are coyotes and feral hogs.

While coyotes have been around for thousands of years, feral hogs are relatively new.

Hogs are not native to North America, Cearly said. They were first brought to the New World by Spanish explorers 400 years ago. In the 1800s, pioneers brought hogs with them in the westward expansion of that century. In the 1930, wild boar were

See WILDLIFE, Page 3

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**Obituaries**

**Jerry L. Carpenter, 63**

Jerry L. Carpenter, 63, of Pampa, died Saturday, June 24, 2005, at Pampa. Services were at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Fred Palmer, pastor of the Carpenter's Church, officiating.



Carpenter

Burial was in Fairview Cemetery in Memphis, Texas, under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. Carpenter was born May 22, 1942, at Pampa where he married Alice Stacy on June 26, 2004. He was a member of United Methodist Church of Lefors and was a longtime

employee of Frank's Foods. Survivors include his wife, Alice, of the home; three sons, Michael Carpenter of Mexia, and Terry Carpenter and Alvin Carpenter, both of Amarillo; two daughters, Melody Carpenter of Waco and Rhonda Carpenter of Albuquerque, N.M.; two sisters, Patricia Kindle of Pampa and Betty McCarthy of Odessa; and eight grandchildren. The family requests memorials be to American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 1131, Fairfax, VA 22038-1131. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Berta Janice Bond Carter, 84**

Berta Janice Bond Carter, 84, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at Pampa.



Carter

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, July 1, 2005, at Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with Rodney Tedford, minister of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Carter was born Sept. 29, 1920, in Gordonville. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1927. She married W.A. Carter in November of 1940, in Sayre, Okla. He preceded her in death on April 14, 1988. She was secretary of Carter Sand & Gravel, retiring in 1988. She was a member of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ. She was a member of the Home Demonstration Club. She was voted "Woman of the Year" on two different occasions. She served on the

Board of Directors of the Community Day Care Center, and of the Salvation Army for many years. She was a volunteer with the American Red Cross for over 25 years, and a volunteer with the Pampa Senior Citizens Center. She was a member of the Pampa Chapter #65 Order of the Eastern Star, and an active supporter of the 4-H. Survivors include one son, Bill Carter and wife Deana of Pampa; four brothers, Kenneth Bond of Rockwall, Sam Bond of Mansfield, Jim Bond of Houston, and Jerry Bond of Amarillo; one sister, Jean Godfrey of Bryan; three grandchildren, Tammy Pickering, Billy Carter and wife Carolyn, David Carter and wife Brenda, all of Pampa; and eight great-grandchildren. The family requests memorials be to Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis, Pampa, TX 79065. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Leland O. Finney, 83**

Leland O. Finney, 83, of Pampa, Texas, died Wednesday, June 29, 2005, at Pampa. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 2, 2005, at the First Christian Church with the Rev. Barry A. Loving, pastor, officiating. Private graveside services will be at Fairview Cemetery with Masonic graveside rites courtesy of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.



Finney

Mr. Finney was born Nov. 3, 1921, in Casey, Ill. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1935, graduating from Pampa High School in 1940. He married Norma L. Sanders on Feb. 22, 1941, in Pampa. She preceded him in death on March 5, 1976. He owned and operated Leland's Grocery & Market from 1950 until his retirement in

1972. He was a member, deacon, and elder of the First Christian Church, and served as chairman of the Board of Elders. He was a member of the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF&AM. Survivors include one son, Bob Finney and wife Susan of Pampa; one daughter-in-law, Joan Finney of Trophy Club; one brother, James R. Rose of Sealy; and four grandchildren, Matt Finney of Dallas, Todd Finney of Frisco, and Vanessa Finney and Alicia Finney, both of Trophy Club. He was preceded in death by a son, Mark R. Finney, on Nov. 15, 1999. The family requests memorials First Christian Church, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa, TX 79065; or Cal Farley's Boys Ranch & Affiliates, 600 SW 11th, Amarillo, TX 79101. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Alfred Parker, 74**

Alfred Parker, 74, of Pampa, died Tuesday, June 28, 2005, at Amarillo. Services are pending under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.



Parker

Mr. Parker was born May 5, 1931, in Clarendon. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and the National Guard, serving during the Korean Conflict. He worked for the City of Pampa for a number of years, was a security guard at Pantex for 13 years, and was a welder at Celanese prior to retiring after 20 years of service. Mr. Parker was an ordained minister at Open Door Church of God in Christ. He married Maudine Hutching on Oct. 30, 1954, in Pampa.

He was preceded in death by a son, Alfred Richard Parker, Jr.; a sister, Gladys Riley; and a brother, Sammy Parker. Survivors include his wife, Maudine, of the home; a daughter, Schivon Donehue of Pampa; six sons, Charles Parker, Earvin Parker and Edward Parker, all of Amarillo, Stephen Parker of Pampa, Cedric Parker of Denver, Colo., and Michael Parker of Phoenix, Ariz.; two sisters, Mary Goulsby and Betty Ector, both of Wichita, Kan.; four brothers, Earl Parker of Phoenix, Ariz., Jim Parker of Dallas, Bill Parker of Pampa, and Russell Parker of Wichita; 20 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Stocks**

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of Pampa.		
Wheat	.....	2.98
Milo	.....	3.22
Corn	.....	3.99
Soybeans	.....	5.80
The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.		
Oxy	.....	77.75 +0.08
BP PLC ADR	.....	62.76 -0.79
Cabot Corp	.....	33.04 -0.08
Cabot Oil Gas	.....	35.25 +0.26
Coca Cola	.....	42.50 -0.20
VLO	.....	79.06 +0.14
HAL	.....	47.97 +0.04
TRI	.....	54.68 +1.06
KMI	.....	83.67 +0.50
XCEL	.....	19.54 +0.13
Kerr McGee	.....	76.38 -0.05
XOM	.....	58.21 -0.23
Limited	.....	21.61 +0.16
Williams	.....	18.96 +0.28
MCD	.....	28.12 +0.21
Atmos	.....	28.78 +0.23
Pioneer Nat	.....	42.55 +0.35
JCP	.....	52.78 +0.43
COP	.....	57.79 +0.02
SLB	.....	76.20 -0.53
Tenneco	.....	17.08 +0.02
CVX	.....	56.34 -0.42
Wal-Mart	.....	48.61 +0.07
OKE	.....	32.58 +0.50
NS Grp	.....	32.87 +0.09
New York Gold	.....	437.25
Silver	.....	7.07
West Texas Crude	.....	57.26

**Emergency Services**

**Pampa PD**

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents. **Tuesday, June 28** Aggravated assault with minor injuries was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road. **Wednesday, June 29** Officers made 11 traffic stops, investigated six traffic complaints, made three welfare checks and provided five law enforcement, EMS, and fire assists. Suspicious persons were reported at Highway 60 East, Gwendolyn and Hobart, 300 block of Miami, 200 block of East Foster, 600 block of North Wells, 1100 block of South Christy, 600 block of Davis, and 700 block of Frost. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1000 block of Ripley and 100 block of South Wells. A vehicle accident was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic. Burglary was reported in the 1300 block of Garland. Harassment was reported in the 400 block of Gray. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 300 block of Anne, 2200 block of North Hobart, 400 block of Short, Huff and Prairie streets, and 600 block of North West. Officers responded to a business alarm in the 700 block of West Foster. Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of North Cuyler involving a glass door valued at \$250. Fireworks ordinance violations were reported in the 300 block of Anne and 1100 block of South Wells. Theft of a utility trailer valued at \$1,200 was reported in the 1200 block of Duncan. A gas drive-off involving an estimated \$10 worth of gasoline was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart. A domestic dispute was reported in the 600 block of Wynne. No injuries were reported and no charges filed. Officers arrested a woman for burglary of a motor vehicle in the 400 block of East Browning. A purse, wallet, cash, driver's license, Social Security card and insurance card, valued at \$325, was taken in the break-in. Other charges were later added, according to police records. Evading arrest was reported in the 400 block of East Browning. Elizabeth Kay Posey (Davies) 41, 405

E. Browning, was arrested for evading arrest and burglary of a motor vehicle. **Thursday, June 30** An alcohol law violation was reported in the 400 block of Lowry. Juan Carlos Salazar, 25, 412 Lowry, was arrested for purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor.

**Fire**

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Wednesday, June 29** 9:16 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 800 block of South Reid. 11:27 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a report of a child stuck on a roof. The child had gotten down by the time firefighters arrived. 1:08 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to an odor investigation in the 1200 block of South Summer. The smell was determined to be coming from a tank battery on McCullough Street. 3:54 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a downed power line in the 400 block of Lefors. A branch from trees being trimmed fell and knocked down a power line to a residence. 11:25 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a small grass fire, possibly caused by fireworks, in the back yard of a vacant house in the 300 block of Doyle.

**Ambulance**

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Wednesday, June 29** 6:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Reid. No transport. 8:35 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Russell and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center. 9:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Reid and transported a patient(s) to PRMC. 2:01 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo. 2:55 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded south of Pampa to transfer a patient to LifeStar helicopter for transport to Nwth.

**Services tomorrow**

**CARTER**, Berta Janice Bond — 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

**Gray County Weather**

Today: Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could be severe. Partly cloudy, with a high around 94. West-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent. Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. Northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph. Friday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. East-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low near 67. South-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 69. South wind between 15 and 20 mph. Sunday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high around 97. South wind between 15 and 20 mph. Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph. Independence Day: Partly cloudy, with a high near 96.

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- KATCH-EM BAIT Shop**-waterdogs, gold fish, & perch! 665-4732.
- POSTAL JOB Testing opportunity**. Details posted in the lobby entry way at the Pampa Post Office. Deadline Friday, July 1st.
- PUTT-A-ROUND OR Two** July 4th Special, All You Can Play \$5, 2 pm-close. Try our patriotic shaved ice.
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- HOLMES SPORTS Center** will be closed Mon. July 4th and Tues. July 5th. Please shop Fri. & Sat. for your Sporting Good needs.
- KATCH-EM BAIT Shop**, 60 West. We buy Alum., Brass, Copper Cans. 665-4732.
- GIANT SALE**, 320 S. Gray, Fri. & Sat. 9-5 pm., Antiques.

**Teacher surrenders to face arson, insurance fraud charges**

HOUSTON (AP) — A chemistry teacher surrendered to authorities Thursday to face charges that she gave passing grades to two failing students for torching her car so she could collect insurance money. Tramesha Lashon Fox, 32, of Kingwood, was released on \$15,000 bond, said Deputy Kathryn Martin, spokeswoman for the Harris County Sheriff's Department. The Aldine Senior High School teacher faces felony arson and insurance fraud charges. Darwin Arias, one of the two students charged with arson, also was taken into custody Thursday, Martin said. Bail for the 17-year-old had not been set. Fox was at least three months behind on her car payments when she allegedly persuaded Arias and Roger Luna to steal and burn her 2003 Chevrolet Malibu, investigators said. Luna, 18, was arrested Tuesday and released on \$10,000 bail Wednesday, Martin said. On May 27, the last day of school, the students took the unlocked car from a shopping mall, drove it to a wooded area and set it on fire, senior fire investigator Dustin Deutsch of the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office said Wednesday. Fox reported the theft that day, after already having bought a 2005 Toyota Corolla, investigators said. She owed about \$20,000 on the Chevrolet and had been facing repossession, Deutsch said. Luna and Arias had been failing Fox's class up to their final exam. But Arias received a 90 and Luna an 80, grades high enough for them to pass the semester, Deutsch said.

**FAST FACTS**

• Most businesses fail within the first year, according to the Small Business Administration.

• Since the 1980s, 87 percent of companies started in an incubator are still in business, according to the National Business Incubation Association.

• Approximately 1,000 incubators are currently running in the United States - Dan Redd, WTAMU Enterprise Network.

**PEC**

Continued from Page 1

the panhandle. "We'd like to see one in Perryton," he said. "We'd like to see one in Dalhart. We'd like to see one down around Littlefield somewhere."

Redd said they plan on operating throughout the top 32 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

The key to a successful incubator, he said, is the community.

"The communities have got to come through also," Redd said. "There's not a community in the Texas Panhandle probably from Lubbock on up that is not struggling at some point or another. What we're doing is trying to bring new wealth, new money, more jobs into these communities."

Redd asked the half dozen community leaders gathered at the luncheon to be on the look out for someone they know who might need to be in the incubator program.

"We encourage the development of young entrepreneurs," Redd said. "What we really need to do is hit the junior high school and high school kids. Some of those kids are going to have some ideas that are just going to knock your socks down around your ankles. They would have ideas that we would never even dream of."

He said there is probably a millionaire entrepreneur sitting in Pampa Junior High or High School.

"All they need is some encouragement," Redd said.

Redd said that the theory of the business incubator is to help businesses starting up. The support provided by Redd and the enterprise network staff is experience and

direction. "There's always been enough mistakes made out there," Redd said. "You don't have to have a guy go out there and make new mistakes. If we can help them, guide them and hold their hand and walk them through some very critical stages, then their businesses are going to be more successful."

Most businesses fail within the first year, according to the Small Business Administration.

The National Business Incubation Association reports that since the early 1980s some 87 percent of those companies that started in an incubator are still in business, Redd said.

"There's about a 1,000 incubators up and running right now in the United States," Redd said.

Business failure rate, Redd said, is usually due to

under capitalization and poor planning.

Companies coming into the incubator, he said, are required to draw up a business plan.

"Our whole mission is to use the business incubation process to help these basic income, early stage product companies to be successful," Redd said, "and bring wealth and growth into Pampa. This is what we call inside-out economic development."

He said his job is to help local entrepreneurs to move to the next level and help them sell their products on a regional, national or international basis.

Redd cited the success of his first member of the Amarillo incubator, a farmer from Texline who developed a system for changing hot oil in engines. His sales this year are expected to top \$2 million. His client list includes two major oil com-

panies and the U.S. military.

Redd said that with Pampa's involvement in the oil and gas industry and agriculture, he expects to see a number of entrepreneurs that are interested in manufacturing or building something that can improve productivity for someone, somewhere, and that spells success.

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**Wildlife**

Continued from Page 1

introduced for hunting. Over the years, these animals have gotten loose and become wild.

Cearly said some ranches across West Texas derive part of their income from wildlife include hunting feral hogs.

"Hunting is one tool to control them," Cearly said.

Rick Gilliland, district supervisor for Wildlife Services, said coyotes were

once considered native only to the Southwest. Now, they roam from Alaska to Florida to Central America.

When there are problems with coyotes in Gray County, those problems usually fall to Brian Byron of Alanreed, who is also with Wildlife Services that has a contract with Gray County for wildlife management problems.

While Byron is a deadly shot, Joe Zotter with Wildlife Services' Canyon office pointed out that there are non-lethal means of control-

ling predators as well as lethal.

Zotter demonstrated a propane cannon and pyrotechnics fired from a small pistol Wednesday afternoon. As the explosions of Zotter's cannon and pyrotechnics echoed across the Top of Texas Rodeo grounds and Recreation Park, Leymon Ables with Wildlife Services in Matador demonstrated snares and traps that can also be used. Gilliland demonstrated the use of poisons.

Dr. James Alexander, a

veterinarian with the Texas Department of State Health Services, pointed out that wildlife could carry diseases, ranging from rabies to West Nile virus.

Right now, he said, Ochiltree County is a hot spot for rabies with 14 cases reported so far this year. Alexander urged caution in handling dead wildlife.

Burns urged caution around live wildlife in Pampa, citing a deer report in the city recently.

"If you see a deer," she said, "leave it alone."

**Bush takes seriously allegations that Iran's president-elect was a former hostage taker**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said Thursday that "many questions" have been raised by allegations of some former American hostages that Iran's president-elect was one of their captors in the late 1970s.

"I have no information," Bush said in an interview with foreign reporters ahead

of a trip to Scotland next week. "But obviously his involvement raises many questions."

Afterward, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said that Bush was referring to reports suggesting Iranian president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's involvement in the 1979 hostage crisis at

the U.S. embassy in Tehran. McClellan said the White House is taking the allegations seriously and "looking into them to better understand the facts."

Former hostages Chuck Scott, David Roeder, William J. Daugherty and Don A. Sharer told The Associated Press that after seeing Ahmadinejad on tele-

vision, they have no doubt he was one of the hostage-takers.

A fifth ex-hostage, Kevin Hermening, said he reached the same conclusion after looking at photos. A close aide to Ahmadinejad denied the president-elect took part in the seizure of the embassy or in holding Americans hostage.

**Plan**

Continued from Page 1

The tax bill is designed to offset reduced school property taxes and increase the state's share of the public education money. The plan funds a reduction in property taxes from \$1.50 per \$100 of property value to \$1.23 in 2006 and \$1.12 the next year. Voters could approve an additional five-cent levy.

How businesses will pay taxes also has stumped lawmakers and has long been the primary roadblock to adopting a new school funding structure. Most Texas businesses now use loopholes in the law to avoid paying taxes. This bill attempts to close those loopholes — capturing an estimated 10,000 that now avoid state taxes. That would bring the total number of businesses who pay the state franchise tax to 160,000.

An alternate compromise plan crafted by Democrats on the panel would have expanded the base of businesses required to pay state taxes and offered them a choice of the current franchise tax or a new tax on payroll. Rep. Mike Villarreal, a San Antonio Democrat who helped put together the Democratic proposal and who serves as vice-chairman of the committee, said their plan would have captured a total of 475,000 businesses.

Villarreal called the adopted plan a "a weak, limp, ineffectual business tax that continues to allow businesses to escape their obligation from investing in the education of our children."

Rep. Jim Keffer, R-Eastland, defended the measure as the best possible solution that the committee could approve in an effort to move the process along.

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# Viewpoints

## No way to run a business or a government

Citizens Against Government Waste recently honed in on a report fashioned by the Government Accountability Office and released in May. According to CAGW, the GAO report targets the Department of Defense as being a major culprit in wasting tax dollars. The DoD, CAGW said in an on-line press release, "wastes billions of dollars by disposing of excess property in good condition while continuing to buy many of the same items."

"Twenty years ago, taxpayers were shocked by revelations from the Grace

Commission that the DoD had spent \$436 on a hammer and \$640 on a toilet seat," CAGW President Tom Schatz said. "Unfortunately, waste and inefficiency still plague significant portions of defense spending."

The GAO report is titled "DoD Excess Property: Management Control Breakdowns Result in Substantial Waste and Inefficiency."

The on-line press release lifts the following quote from the report:

"Of \$18.6 billion in excess commodity disposals in fiscal years 2002 and 2003,

\$2.5 billion were reported to be in new, unused, and excellent condition. DOD units reutilized only \$295 million (12 percent) of these items. The remaining \$2.2 billion (88 percent) includes significant waste and inefficiency because new, unused, and excellent condition items were transferred and donated outside of DOD, sold for pennies on the dollar, or destroyed. GAO identified at

least \$400 million of commodity purchases when identical, new, unused, and excellent condition items were available for reutilization."



**Skyla Bryant**  
News Editor

Schatz said the problem can often be traced back to lack of proper communication within the department.

"In one case," the on-line press release notes, "an Army Battalion in Japan turned in 172 pairs of new, unused extreme cold weather

boots, which were subsequently sold for 40 cents per pair. Over the next three months, 8 military units purchased 214 pairs of identical boots."

CAGW estimates that, had the unused boots been redirected, the savings would have been \$27,678.

"GAO also identifies hundreds of millions of dollars in reported lost, damaged, or stolen excess property, including sensitive military technology," CAGW writes. "Furthermore, excess property stored outdoors for several months was damaged by the elements."

The GAO report points to inventory problems as the main culprit, including inadequate oversight and nonintegrated systems.

The report makes 13 recommendations — to the Pentagon to better reutilize excess property, many of which ring familiar to items in CAGW's annual publication 'Prime Cuts.' Inventory management reform was also a key feature of the Grace Commission's report."

Can you imagine a private business being run like this? No, because any private business so mismanaged would no doubt be belly-up.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, June 30, the 181st day of 2005. There are 184 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On June 30, 1963, Pope Paul VI was crowned the 262nd head of the Roman Catholic Church.

### On this date:

In 1859, French acrobat Blondin (born Jean Francois Gravelet) crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope as 5,000 spectators watched.

In 1906, the Pure Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act became law.

In 1921, President Harding appointed former President Taft chief justice of the United States.

In 1934, Adolf Hitler began his "blood purge" of political and military leaders in Germany.

In 1936, the novel "Gone with the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell was published in New York.

In 1952, "The Guiding Light," a popular radio program, made its TV debut on CBS.

In 1971, a Soviet space mission ended in tragedy when three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 11 were found dead inside their spacecraft after it had returned to Earth.

In 1971, the 26th Amendment to the Constitution, lowering the minimum voting age to 18, was ratified as Ohio became the 38th state to approve it.

In 1984, John Turner was sworn in as Canada's 17th prime minister, succeeding Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

In 1985, 39 American hostages from a hijacked TWA jetliner were freed in Beirut after being held 17 days.

## Our readers write

### Proud of our Representative

This letter is in response to the letter dated June 28, 2005 to Representative Chisum from David Chambless.

I, too, am a former resident of Pampa, also born and raised there with my parents in the 1960s and 1970s. I also follow the local news of my hometown.

As a resident of Austin, Texas, I am very proud to say that I know the Representative Warren Chisum. Yes, he has made the local news here for his stand. I applaud him for his courage to stand up for

what is right and his admirable stand to protect marriage as it is intended between a man and a woman. I feel quite sure that he did not set out to deal with such an issue but unfortunately it has been brought to the states to decide. The issue as I see it, is not whether homosexuality is good or bad; the issue is same sex marriage, should it be allowed or not? This is the most radical idea ever. I have to wonder what our world is coming to?

Pampans should be proud to have the Representative Warren Chisum representing them!

**Cindy Gindorf**  
Austin

## Eminent domain: Use with care

Last week's U.S. Supreme Court 5-4 ruling in *Kelo v. New London* helps explain the socialist attack on President Bush's nominees to the federal bench. First, let's look at the case.

The city government of New London, Conn., has run upon hard times, with residents leaving and its tax base eroding. Private developers offered to build a riverfront hotel, private offices and a health club in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood. But there was a bit of a problem. Owners of 15 homes in the stable middle-class Fort Trumbull neighborhood refused the city's offer to buy their homes, but no

sweat. The city turned over its power of eminent domain — its ability to take private property for public use — to the New London Development Corporation, a private body, to take the entire neighborhood for private development. The city condemned the homeowners' properties. The homeowners sued and lost in the state court, and last week they lost in the U.S. Supreme Court.

The framers of our Constitution gave us the Fifth Amendment in order to

protect us from government property confiscation. The Amendment reads in part: "[N]or shall private property

be taken for public use, without just compensation."

Which one of those 12 words is difficult to understand? The framers recognized there might be a need for government to acquire private property to build a road, bridge, dam or fort. That is a clear public use that requires just compensation, but is taking

one person's private property to make it available for another's private use a public purpose? Justice John Paul Stevens says yes, arguing, "Promoting economic development is a traditional and long-accepted function of government."

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor dissented, saying, "Under the banner of economic development, all private property is now vulnerable to being taken and transferred to another private owner, so long as it might be given to an owner who will use it in a way that the legislature deems more beneficial

See **DOMAIN**, Page 5

## Hold employers responsible for hiring

The federal government has never put sufficient effort into investigating and punishing employers who hire undocumented immigrants. Under the Bush administration, the situation has gotten much worse.

No one knows precisely how many undocumented immigrants are in the United States and how many are in the work force at any time. According to The Fresno (Calif.) Bee, there are "roughly 5 million unauthorized workers now estimated to be in the United States." That is only an estimate, but it serves well enough to compare with federal efforts

to enforce the laws against hiring undocumented immigrants.

In 1999, the feds fined 417 employers "for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants or improperly completing employment verification forms," the Fresno

newspaper reported from a study released this week by the Government Accountability Office, the nonpartisan investigative arm of Congress. That same year, the feds arrested 2,849

suspected undocumented workers at worksites around the country.

Not many of either employers or undocumented workers. But still a huge number compared with what is happening under the Bush administration.

In 2004, for example, the feds sent notices of fines to only three employers and arrested only 445 undocumented immigrants at U.S. worksites.

Given the heightened

post-9/11 view that the U.S. government needs to crack down on illegal immigration, it is difficult to understand why the Bush administration does virtually nothing to discourage U.S. employers from hiring undocumented labor.

Many reasons explain why Mexicans and other nationals enter the United States illegally. But opportunities for economic betterment rank toward the top of that list. And not just for those who cross the border, but also for the members of their families who stay

See **HIRING**, Page 5



## THE PAMPA NEWS

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# Rescuers reach downed U.S. helicopter in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Rescuers have reached the wreckage of a U.S. special forces helicopter that crashed in a rugged mountain ravine in eastern Afghanistan, but there was no immediate word on the fate of the 17 troops on board, a U.S. military spokesman said Thursday.

"We are at the wreckage as we speak," Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara told The Associated Press. "We are conducting search and recovery operations. But we are more into the

recovery stage." He declined to elaborate on efforts to find survivors or the bodies of the 17, who were believed to have died in Tuesday's crash.

The British Broadcasting Corp. reported on its Web site that U.S. officials at the main American base near the crash site said 13 bodies had been recovered. Seven other soldiers, including some that were fighting on the ground, were missing, the BBC reported.

U.S. spokeswoman Lt. Cindy Moore declined to comment on the report, saying the military would release a new statement on the crash later Thursday.

A military statement said U.S.-led coalition forces were "currently assessing the cause of the crash and the status of the 17 servicemembers who were on board the MH-47 helicopter."

The 17 on the helicopter comprise eight Navy SEALs and nine Army

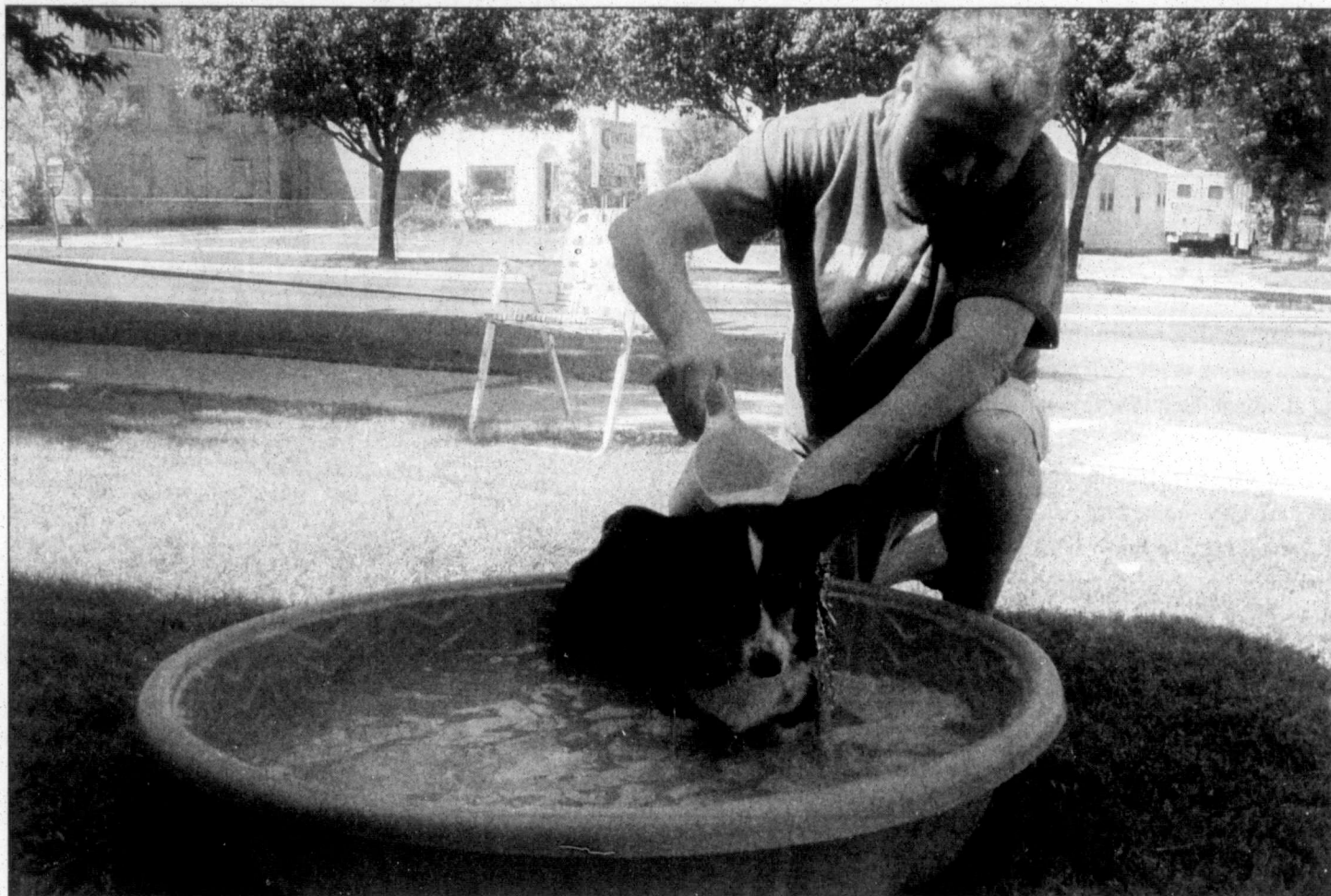
air crew from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, which is based at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., and Fort Campbell, Ky., military officials said Thursday.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because the military has not formally announced the makeup of the forces on board.

O'Hara said "there are still bad guys in the area" around the crash site and that troops were having to "do a recovery and a tactical opera-

tion at the same time." Militants are believed to have shot down the MH-47 helicopter as it was bringing in reinforcements for a battle with suspected al-Qaida fighters.

If those aboard are confirmed dead, the crash would be the deadliest blow yet to American forces in Afghanistan, already grappling with an insurgency that is widening rather than winding down.



*Taking a dip*

Bo's and Mona's Grooming and Boarding recently sponsored a free community-wide flea and tick dip. Participating in the free dip are Alex Ulibarri and a Corgi named Duke. A monthly dip is planned by the grooming and boarding business to help control the local pest population.

## Spanish Parliament legalizes gay marriage

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Parliament legalized gay marriage Thursday, defying conservatives and clergy who opposed making traditionally Roman Catholic Spain the third country to allow same-sex unions nationwide. Jubilant gay activists blew kisses to lawmakers after the vote.

The measure passed the 350-seat Congress of Deputies by a vote of 187 to 147. The bill, part of the ruling Socialists' aggressive agenda for social reform, also lets gay couples adopt children and inherit each others' property.

The bill is now law. The Senate, where conservatives hold the largest number of seats, rejected the bill last week. But it is an advisory body and final say on legislation rests with the Congress of Deputies.

After the final tally was announced, gay and lesbian activists watching from the spectator section of the ornate chamber cried,

cheered, hugged, waved to lawmakers and blew them kisses.

Several members of the conservative opposition Popular Party, which was vehemently opposed to the bill, shouted: "This is a disgrace." Those in favor stood and clapped.

The Netherlands and Belgium are the only other two countries that allow gay marriage nationwide. Canada's House of Commons passed legislation Tuesday that would legalize gay marriage; its Senate is expected to pass the bill into law by the end of July.

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero noted this in debate before the vote.

"We were not the first, but I am sure we will not be the last. After us will come many other countries, driven, ladies and gentlemen, by two unstoppable forces: freedom and equality," he told the chamber.

## U.S.-led forces detain suspected militants in Iraq offensive

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.S.-led forces detained more than a dozen suspected militants in a counterinsurgency sweep through western Anbar province as part of a sustained effort to disrupt the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq, the military said Thursday.

A Sunni Arab politician who brokered secret talks between American officials and insurgents said he has formed a group to give

political voice to Iraqi fighters, and he demanded a timetable for a U.S. troop withdrawal.

Former Cabinet member Ayham al-Samarie announced the creation of the National Council for Unity and Construction of Iraq on Wednesday to give representation to Iraqi fighters. Al-Samarie, a dual Iraq-U.S. citizen, is believed to have strong tribal links in the so-called Sunni Triangle in central

Iraq, where the Sunni branch of the insurgency is concentrated.

He was the target of a death threat issued Thursday on an Islamic Web site, claiming he was spreading lies.

The developments came amid growing violence that has killed more than 1,370 people since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his Shiite-led government April 28. With the Sunni

Arab-dominated insurgency targeting the Shiite majority, the wave of killings has slowly been pushing the country toward civil war.

There have been several U.S.-led military campaigns trying to quell the sectarian bloodshed by taking aim at foreign fighter networks.

More than 1,000 American and Iraqi troops taking part in the most recent effort — Operation Sword

— have detained 13 insurgents in the Anbar provincial city of Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad.

The troops have met little resistance since the operation began Tuesday, said Marine Capt. Jeffrey Pool. The raids also have netted several hundred mortar and artillery rounds along with explosives, rifles and two roadside bombs, the spokesman said.

*America's socialists want more control over our lives, property and our pocketbooks. They cannot always get their way in the legislature, and the courts represent their only chance.*

### Domain

Continued from Page 4

to the public." She added that "the words 'for public use' do not realistically exclude any takings, and thus do not exert any constraint on the eminent domain power." In other words, state and local officials can now take your home for another private person to use so long as they can manufacture an argu-

ment that the latter use is more beneficial to the public.

Let's look at a few examples of how this might play out. You and your neighbor have two-acre lots. Your combined property tax is \$10,000. A nursing home proprietor tells city officials that if they condemn your property and sell it to him to build a nursing home, the city would get \$30,000 in property taxes. According to last week's U.S. Supreme Court ruling, this plan would

be construed as beneficial to the public, and you'd have no recourse. Similarly, an environmental group might descend on public officials to condemn your land and transfer it to the group for a wildlife preserve. Again, a contrived public benefit for which you'd have no recourse.

The Court's decision helps explain the vicious attacks on any judicial nominees who might use framer-intent to interpret the U.S. Constitution. America's

socialists want more control over our lives, property and our pocketbooks. They cannot always get their way in the legislature, and the courts represent their only chance.

There is nothing complex about those 12 words the framers wrote to protect us from governmental property confiscation. You need a magician to reach the conclusion reached by the Court's majority.

I think the socialist attack on judicial nominees who'd

use framer-intent in their interpretation of the Constitution might also explain their attack on our Second Amendment "right of the people to keep and bear Arms."

Why? Because when they come to take our property, they don't want to risk buckshot in their butts.

\*\*\*

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

### Hiring

Continued from Page 4

home.

Consider this: "Mexico received more than \$16.6 billion in 2004 in remittances, or money transfers between one individual and another, according to the Bank of Mexico," The Dallas Morning News reported. Most of that money, Banco de Mexico concluded from reviewing 51 million transactions, went to family members and friends.

Many of the Mexican nationals working in the United States are here legally, but many are not, so much of the \$16.6 billion going from this country to that one comes from people living and working here illegally. The incentive for doing so would be much lower if the U.S. government stepped up enforcement of the 1986 immigration reform law that penalizes employers who knowingly hire unauthorized foreign workers. That, in turn, would help cut the flow of undocumented

immigrants into this country.

That has proven difficult to accomplish, the GAO study explained, for the following reasons, as reported by Hearst Newspapers: "Even when the government does go after companies that employ undocumented workers, it has limited success because it is difficult to prove companies 'knowingly' hired illegal immigrants. "Fines for violating the law often are negotiated so low that some employers view them as a cost of doing business. "Companies that are trying to comply with the federal ban on employing illegal immigrants face huge obstacles in verifying that prospective workers are who they say they are - and are eligible to work in the United States."

The section of the Simpson-Mazzoli Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 that

penalizes employers for knowingly hiring undocumented immigrants needs to be amended and updated to: Penalize employers for hiring undocumented immigrants, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Employers would no longer have enough wiggle room to get off the hook when their sweatshops or restaurants are found crammed full of illegal workers they are exploiting. Increase the penalties to be so financially painful that they cannot be passed off as "a cost of doing business." Add prison time for subsequent offenses.

Revamp how immigrants - legal and illegal - and American citizens identify themselves. Although the

U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform in 1994 backed down from proposing a national identification card, the intervening decade has shown ever-greater need for such a document that requires sufficient verification to obtain and is counterfeit- and tamper-resistant.

"The (federal) government already has developed a voluntary electronic system for companies to quickly verify work eligibility documents. At least 2,300 employers have participated in the program, which Congress recently expanded to companies operating anywhere in the country," according to Hearst.

U.S. Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., want to make that mandatory for employers.

Yes, this is big government that neither the founders would recognize nor U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, would vote for. However, if the American people want government to crack down on illegal immigration seriously and effectively, such steps will be necessary.

We cannot demand that

government solve what we regard as a major problem, then refuse to give it the tools and funding it needs to do so. That includes not only a national ID card, but also increasing the number of Department of Homeland Security personnel assigned to investigate the employment of undocumented immigrants.

*Many of the Mexican nationals working in the United States are here legally, but many are not, so much of the \$16.6 billion going from this country to that one comes from people living and working here illegally.*

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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I just read your response to "Nameless in a Red State," who asked if she could become addicted to drugs by having sex with an addict.

You were correct to point out that it's important she stay away from people who are addicted to drugs if she wants to stay clean. I work in a methadone clinic. My clients know they have to be careful who their friends are. It is very easy to start using drugs again while in treatment if you're spending time around people who are using.

I was, however, disappointed that you didn't mention that having sex with a drug addict is a recipe for getting AIDS and many other sexually transmitted diseases. (I call it the gift that keeps on giving.) People must remember that when they have unprotected sex with someone, they are also having sex with everyone that person has had sex with. Latex condoms are the best defense against sexually transmitted diseases. -- R.N. IN BLUE NEW JERSEY

**DEAR R.N.:** I'm sorry you were disappointed that my answer didn't go far enough; however, the woman's question was, "Can I become addicted to drugs by having sex with an addict?" I answered her question factually and specifically.

I also heard from a physician who felt I should have elaborated further. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** In your reply to the writer, you failed to mention the most dangerous complications of such behavior, infection with potentially fatal diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or AIDS. There is a high incidence of these diseases among drug addicts because of the sharing of contaminated needles, and they can also be transmitted through sexual relations. -- ALEXANDER N. ZINN, M.D., WINNETKA, CALIF.

**DEAR DR. ZINN:** Your letter makes me wonder how many lives could be saved if clean-needle exchange programs were available in every city. Thank you for clarifying my answer.

**DEAR ABBY:** We had a houseguest recently who asked to use my computer to check on his airline flights. After he left, I went into the history to check out a previous site I had used and found my computer full of adult porn sites. These sites were surrounded by his airline reservations, so it could not have been anyone else using my computer.

I erased the sites and then cleared out the cookies, but now I'm getting reports from friends that they are getting adult porn pop-ups when I send an attachment. I will contact my Internet service provider, but I will probably need to get a new e-mail address. My husband and I are not sure how to handle this. Should we tell him we know what he did on my computer, or do we just avoid him when he makes contact with us again? If I never see this person again it won't be a hardship. I feel violated. Any suggestions? -- PIQUED IN PALO ALTO

**DEAR PIQUED:** Your houseguest should be made aware of the problems his little surfing adventure have caused you. If it were me, I'd pick up the phone and give him holy heck for taking advantage of my hospitality in that way. If you want to avoid him in the future, it's certainly your privilege, but he owes you an apology, and you should collect it.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



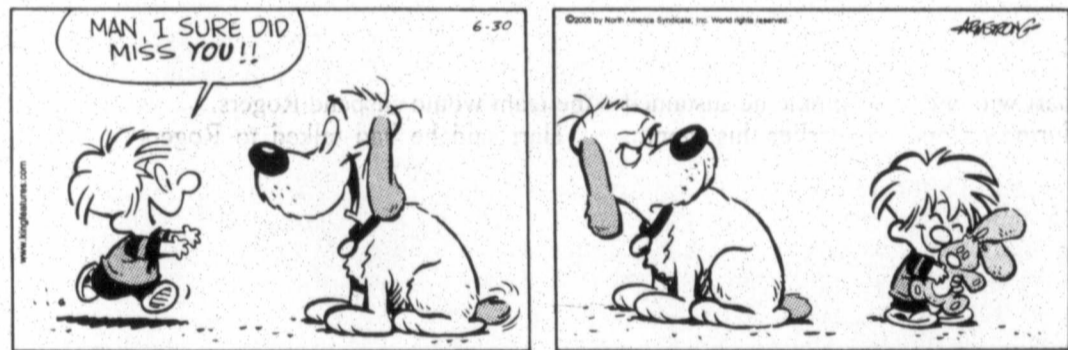
## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

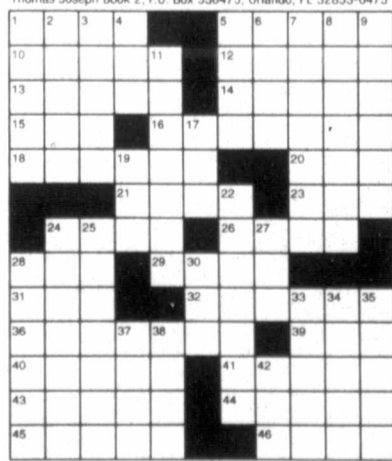
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slant
  - 5 Plant life
  - 10 Spouse's kin
  - 12 Script
  - 13 Baseball's Satchel
  - 14 Accumulate
  - 15 Flock
  - 16 Cerulean
  - 18 Mean
  - 20 CPR expert
  - 21 Pile
  - 23 Legal matter
  - 24 In need
  - 26 Does something
  - 28 Chaney of the silents
  - 29 "Huh-uh"
  - 31 For both teams
  - 32 Home of the Cowboys
  - 36 Blushing
  - 39 Roadhouse
  - 40 Cornhusker city
  - 41 Final letter
  - 43 Beam fastener
  - 44 Do party work
- DOWN**
- 1 Human, for one
  - 2 Greatly impressed
  - 3 Foreign
  - 4 Decline
  - 5 Criticize harshly
  - 6 Arm, e.g.
  - 7 Ready for battle
  - 8 Applicant's copies
  - 9 Useful abilities
  - 11 Oater
  - 17 Mauna — work
  - 19 Cry of surprise
  - 22 Dictator
  - 24 War of words
  - 25 At liberty
  - 27 Cartoon frame
  - 28 Dozen for Hercules
  - 30 Shelley
  - 33 Mislead
  - 34 Christmas tree topper
  - 35 Traffic tie-up
  - 37 Later
  - 38 Assess
  - 42 Fuming



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## Marmaduke

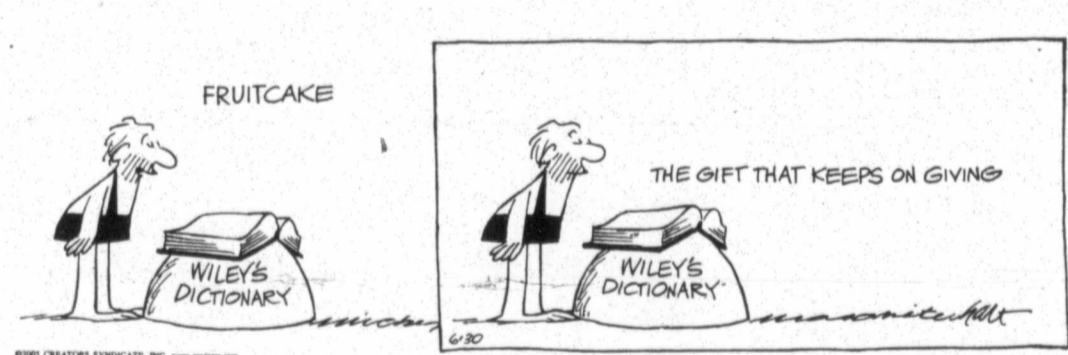


## The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Flo & Friends



## Blondie



# Sports Day



## Close rounds carded at Senior Scramble

Senior Scramble  
Hidden Hills Golf Course  
June 29, 2005

**1st Place (62)**  
Bill King  
Bob Lyle  
Nathan Lancaster  
Billie Mac Millican

**2nd Place (62)**  
Jim Brashears  
Larry Neighbors  
James Lee  
Bill Abernathy

**3rd Place (63)**  
Bill Parnell  
Bob Young  
Lucio Moreno  
Dwayne Ferguson

**4th Place (63)**  
Jerry Davis  
Larry Schneider  
Norman Willingham  
Jim Watson

**Closest to the Pin:**  
Ron Parnell (#15)  
Jerry Davis (#12)

**John McGuire carefully places his tee and golf ball during yesterday's Senior Scramble at Hidden Hills golf course.**

Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

## After roughing up NRC and Dalhart, 14-15 All Stars dropped by Dumas

DUMAS — The Pampa Optimist Club 14-15 All Star Team was blasted for 12 runs in the third inning by Dumas as the host team broke open a 3-3 tie and cruised to a 24-11 victory to win the District I 14-15 Babe Ruth Tournament here Tuesday.

Pampa, who defeated North Randall County twice by scores of 12-2 and Dalhart 19-1, had to settle for runner-up.

Pampa came up short against Dumas twice before losing earlier 11-7.

Blake Sieck and Heath Skinner were bright spots for Pampa. Sieck was on base five times on three singles, a triple and an error but scored only once. Skinner manages a pair of runs on a triple, a single and two walks. He had five RBI to three for Sieck.

Casey Trimble drove in a couple of runs with a double and tallied two times. John Luke Covalt reached

base on errors and made two runs.

Madison Wilson, Dakota Gowin Hayden Skinner and John Anguiano each scored for Pampa. Wilson reached base on an error and a walk.

Skinner had consecutive walks. Gowin was aboard on an error. Anguiano hit by a pitch.

Pampa scored all its runs in the first four innings managing only one hit and two walks in the last three innings.

Pampa's best defensive play came when Aaron Carr snagged a line drive and started a 1-5 double play to Colden Fortenberry to end the second inning.

Carr, Sieck, Gowin and Fortenberry pitched for Pampa.

Dr. Kevin Sieck served as manager of the team. Monte Covalt and Jeff Skinner were coaches.

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club is a Pampa United Way Agency.

## Rogers shoves cameraman in angry tirade

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Kenny Rogers' angry close-up with a couple of television cameramen put one of them in the hospital and could result in a suspension for the Texas Rangers' ace.

Rogers shoved two cameramen before the Rangers' game against Los Angeles on Wednesday in a videotaped tirade that included throwing a camera to the ground and threatening to break more.

"Kenny is having anger issues right now," Rangers general manager John Hart said. "I don't know what's going on inside. We're responding to something that's very unusual."

Rogers (9-3), who missed his last start with a broken pinkie he sustained during an outburst earlier this month,

lashed out at the cameramen as they filmed him walking to the field for pregame stretching. He wasn't scheduled to pitch and was sent home by the club following the incidents.

The Rangers held a clubhouse meeting before the game to address the situation. After the game, a 7-6 victory over the Angels in 11 innings, they lent their support to Rogers.

"It's something we're going to keep in-house," said Gary Matthews Jr., who hit a two-run homer for the Rangers. "It's going to be between Kenny and the front office."

Hart said late Wednesday that the team contacted Major League Baseball, and wouldn't say whether the team would suspend Rogers.

Hart said he had talked to Rogers

and "Kenny obviously realizes his actions were incorrect."

"His comment to me was, 'I didn't handle this right. I'm frustrated. My integrity and toughness is being called into question,'" Hart said.

The 40-year-old left-hander first shoved Fox Sports Net Southwest photographer David Mammeli, telling him: "I told you to get those cameras out of my face."

Rogers then approached a second cameraman. He wrestled the camera from Larry Rodriguez of Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW, threw it to the ground and kicked it.

The 6-foot-1, 210-pound pitcher saw two other cameramen who were

See **TIRADE**, Page 8

## Biggio breaks record

DENVER (AP) — Craig Biggio's name is going into the record books, his arm guard to Cooperstown.

As for baseball's most-hit bulls-eye, he's headed for another ice pack.

Biggio broke the modern record for getting hit by pitches on Wednesday when Colorado's Byung-Hyun Kim plunked him on the left elbow in Houston's 7-1 victory over the Rockies. It was the 268th time Biggio has been hit, moving him one past Don Baylor's post-1900 record.

"It's a lot of times," said Biggio, who also hit his

10th homer. "Anybody that's been hit that many times, you have no understanding about how many times that is and how painful it is over the years."

Biggio has been baseball's version of a carnival throwing game in his 18-year career, only the ball seems to miss the hole and hit the batter every time. He's been hit everywhere from the cheek to the shins, most times shaking it off and trotting to first.

The record-breaker was no different. Biggio simply

See **RECORD**, Page 8

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Jobs I would like to have if I didn't have this one

On my way into work this morning, I hit a bird that was sitting in the middle of the road. Poor thing must have been sight challenged somehow as he was just not able to see the red car barreling toward him at the prescribed speed limit of 70 miles per hour. Despite his best effort, the bird simply couldn't flap its wings fast enough to clear the top of my windshield. Following the gut-wrenching thud, I watched my rearview mirror in the hope I might have just clipped him. Alas, I soon watched the poor thing tumble out of the sky and into the grassy berm alongside the highway.

After regaining my composure I began to wonder, if I didn't have the cool job I have now, what else would I like to do? Here is a short list of possibilities:

#### Golf Cart Chauffeur

As I am not a very good golfer — but still enjoy getting away to the links — I think I would make a great golf cart chauffeur. Once I have completed my studies, tested for and secured my license, I would make myself available to all of Pampa's golf courses. This would assure everyone equal opportunity to benefit from my service.

Look, golfers have enough on their minds without having to contend with the added burden of operating a golf cart. Mine would be a welcome service that could lead to improved scores, rested bodies and the ego-boost of knowing you are the envy of the competition. Wow, what a great job that would be.

#### Anger Management Councilor (Water Division), Recreation Park

Though this would be a highly skilled position, it is one I think I would take to like a duck to water. Though it would require the utmost in people skills, the reward for a job well done would be immeasurable.

I would patrol the lake, keeping a careful eye out for the angler who may be on the verge of snapping. The one who is just a cast away from tossing his or her gear into the water and yelling, "Why can't I catch a fish." This is not something others patronizing the park should have to witness. For the younger visitors, such a sight could have damaging, long-term effects. And the lan-

guage. Again, not something the innocent need to hear.

As a Recreation Park AMC, it would be incumbent upon me to quell the storm before it hits. The skill required would be extraordinary. I would need to study and classify a full array of body language and what it might lead to. I would have to be well versed in fishing tackle and all manner of live and artificial bait. I would also have to strengthen my resolve so as to be prepared should the need arise where I might be required to take physical action. Could I really cuff an angry angler? If I cannot answer yes to that question, I have no business even considering such a challenge. Yet another great job, don't you think?



**Michael J. Stevens**  
Sports Editor

#### City Concierge, Western Sector

Since the sign welcoming folks to Pampa on inbound Highway 70 has yet to be re-erected after being demolished some time back by the rogue grocery truck, I think it only fair to place a temporary shelter where the sign once stood so as to welcome travelers and point them in the right direction.

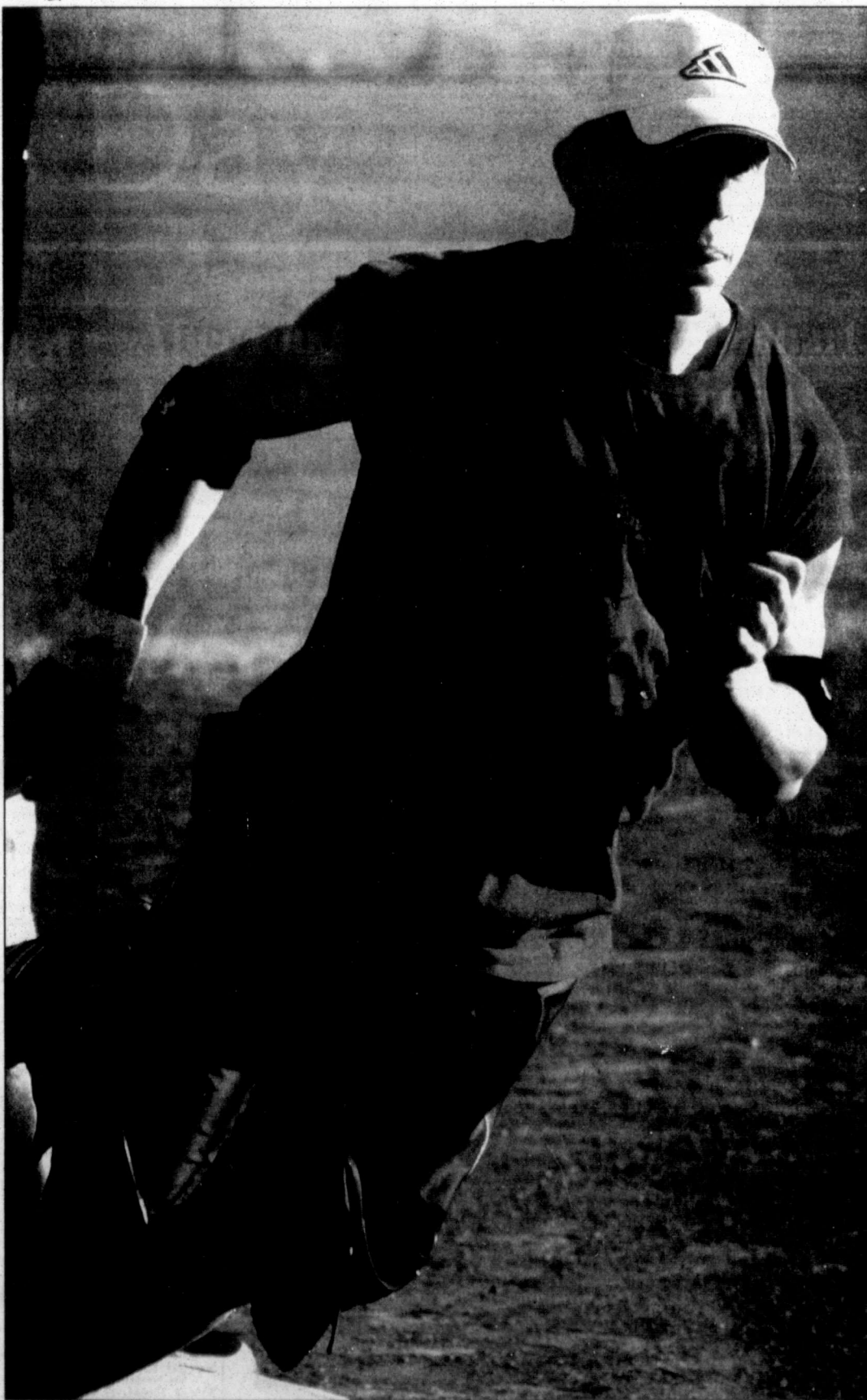
It troubles me to know we may have visitors entering our city but not sure of where they are.

Is there anything worse than the look on a vacationer's face that asks, "Where the heck am I?"

As City Concierge, Western Sector, I would ask that all inbound Highway 70 traffic be funneled into one lane that would then parade slowly by my climate-controlled, cable equipped 'Welcome Hut' so that I could personally shake hands with and welcome all who enter. This would also provide the ideal opportunity to answer questions like, "Where is there a good place to eat?" "Can you tell me how to get to the high school?" "Is this Oklahoma City?" Now this would be a great gig. Toss in a bottomless mug of chocolate milk and little chocolate donuts and I'm the man for the job.

These would all be great jobs. I can only imagine the prestige and respect I would receive from any one of them. But, for now anyway, I'll keep plugging away at this one.

## Going home



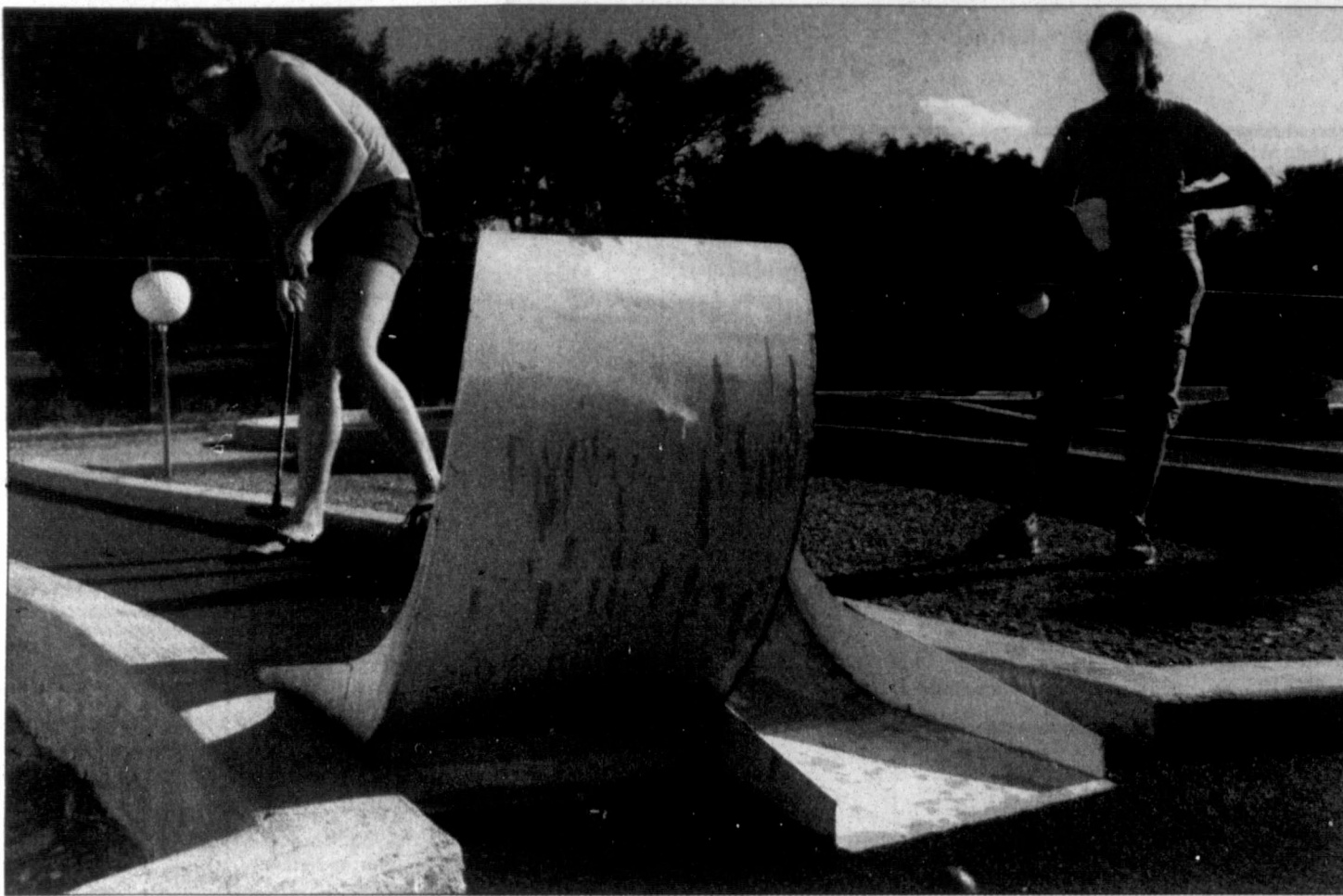
Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

**Tim Sanchez of CTW Brakes and Rims makes the turn for home around third base during a game against O.C.B. Tuesday night. More games are on tap at Recreation Park tonight.**









Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

## Playing around

Twins, Monica and Ericka Schepp play putt putt course at Putt-A-Round on Duncan street.

# Income growth and spending slow in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — Personal income growth slowed sharply in May and people's spending didn't increase at all, the government reported Thursday.

The Commerce Department said that personal incomes rose a slight 0.2 percent last month, far below the 0.6 percent increase in April. It was the weakest showing since an outright decline of 2.5 percent in January. The slowdown was attributed to the weak increase in jobs last month.

Consumer spending was unchanged in May after having risen by 0.6 percent in April. The slowdown in spending was attributed to unusually cold weather in May which caused retail sales to decline for the first time since last August.

The department said that America's net debtor position rose a sharp 15.2 percent in 2004, underscoring the deterioration in the country's international balance sheets.

The United States is the world's largest debtor country with foreigners owning \$2.48 trillion more in U.S. assets such as stocks, bonds and real estate than Americans own in foreign assets. In 2003, the investment gap totaled \$2.15 trillion.

The big rise in the country's net international investment position reflected last year's record trade deficit, which is being financed by foreigners owning larger amounts of U.S. assets.

# Second case of mad cow disease traced to Texas Ranch

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest confirmed case of mad cow disease in the United States has been traced to a beef cow born in Texas 12 years ago and slaughtered last November at pet-food plant, Agriculture Department officials said Wednesday.

It was the first time the disease has been confirmed in a U.S.-born cow. The other U.S. case, confirmed in December 2003 in Washington state, was in a dairy cow imported from Canada.

The department's chief veterinarian, Dr. John Clifford, said the new case was identified and linked to the herd in Texas through DNA testing. He said the herd had been quarantined and that none of the animal's carcass entered the food or animal feed chain.

"The animal did not enter the human food chain. The safety of our food supply is not in question," Clifford said in conference call with reporters. He said the government would not identify the cow's owner or the town it came from. It was born and raised on the same farm, he said.

**Timeline**  
 • The beef cow was born 12 years ago and slaughtered last November.

• Another US Mad cow case was found in December 2003.

He said that given the cow's age, officials believe it probably was infected before the 1997 ban forbidding the use of cattle parts in cattle feed. Eating the brain and other nervous tissue of an animal with the brain-wasting ailment is the only way the disease is known to spread. The Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration are trying to trace the history of the herd's feed. Officials also are trying to identify herd mates born within one year of the infected

cow's birth as well as any offspring born within the past two years, Clifford said.

The Agriculture Department confirmed the case last Friday but had to wait for DNA analysis to confirm the cow's origin. Tracing the cow proved difficult because the animal's breed was mislabeled and its tissues got mixed with parts from other cows.

The cow was transported to Champion Pet Food, Inc. in Waco, Texas, on Nov. 15, 2004, after it had died, owner Benjy Bauer said. The plant has been under contract with the federal government since last summer to take samples from animals with questionable health.

Pets are not considered at risk from eating cattle remains, which are frequently ground up and added to their food as protein. Cattle remains are also allowed in feed for pigs and chickens.

Officials said beef from Texas and the rest of the U.S. is the safest in the world.

"Though we must continue to be vigilant about our food supply, the fact is that U.S. beef is safe," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "It's clear to me that our safeguards worked as designed and the animal in question never entered the human or animal feed supply."

Officials suspected last November that the cow was infected because initial screening had indicated the presence of the disease. But more sophisticated tests came back negative, and officials announced then that the suspect cow was free of the ailment.

The conflicting test results bothered the department's internal inspector, who ordered a new round of tests earlier this month. Those results came back positive, and an internationally recognized laboratory in Weybridge, England, confirmed last Friday that the cow had mad cow disease.

Mad cow disease is medically known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE.

## Drug dealer no more

# Health minister says Canada intends to ban exports of bulk prescriptions

TORONTO (AP) — Canada's health minister threatened Wednesday to overhaul the country's regulations on exporting prescription drugs, saying Canada would no longer be a cheap "drug store for the United States."

Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh said Canada would ban the bulk export of prescription drugs when their supplies were low at home. But he left vague how the ban would be put into place — and whether it would affect the thousands of individual purchases that take place across the U.S.-Canada border and over the Internet.

The ban is an attempt to head-off an anticipated onslaught of drug demands from Americans if legislation pending in Congress legalizes Internet and bulk import of prescription drugs from Canada.

"Canada cannot be a drug store for the United States of America; 280 million people cannot expect us to supply drugs to them on a continuous, uncontrolled basis," Dosanjh said at a news conference.

Canadians must be assured access to an adequate supply of safe and affordable prescription drugs, Dosanjh said.

Individual sales would not necessarily be affected by the ban, but it could affect drug wholesalers or manufacturers in Canada. They are not permitted to export to the United States under U.S. law, but could do so under the legislation being considered in Congress.

He said he would introduce legislation when the House of Commons reconvenes this fall that would

allow for the temporary ban of bulk exports when supplies are running low at home.

Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world, and U.S. lawmakers are pushing to legalize the importation of wholesale prescription drugs as well as Internet purchases from Canada and other countries. Four bills are pending in Congress, but have met with opposition from the pharmaceutical lobby and from the Food and Drug Administration.

Some supporters of the Canadian exports said the proposed ban is a direct response to threats from the U.S. pharmaceutical industry.

"This is a big strong, wealthy industry and they're fighting as hard as they can fight so that they can charge the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs to U.S. consumers," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

While it's legal in Canada for pharmacies to mail Americans drugs — after having been faxed or mailed their physician's prescriptions — it's illegal in the United States, though the laws are generally not enforced.

The Canadian government also maintains it is unethical for doctors to sign prescriptions without examining patients. Dosanjh said the definition of patient-physician relationship had to be

clarified, but would not confirm whether that meant American patients would have to meet in person with Canadian doctors.

Any change in that definition, which Dosanjh said needed further study, could affect individual purchases.

"Our priority must be the health and safety of all Canadians and the strength of our health care system," Dosanjh said.

Carole Jaquez, a 79-year-old widow from Apple Valley, Calif., said she would support changes in U.S. law. She said the drugs she buys through a Vancouver doctor for her high blood pressure and asthma cost about \$250 a month — half what they cost in the United States.

"I imagine we have to put the blame on the pharmaceuticals," she said in a telephone interview. "Why are they charging so much and why hasn't the administration in Washington done something?"

Anthony Wright, executive director of the Oakland, Calif.-based Health Access, a coalition of labor and consumer organizations, had another proposal. He said state and federal governments in the United States should imitate Canada and use their purchasing power to extract discounts from drug companies.

The Bush administration opposes prescription drug imports.

## Border Crossing

**While it's legal in Canada for pharmacies to mail the US drugs — after having been faxed or mailed their physician's prescriptions — it's illegal in the United States, though the laws are generally not enforced.**

# JULY 4TH

# EARLY DEADLINES

We Will Be Closed  
Monday, July 4th

City Briefs & Classified Ad

Day of Insertion	Deadline
Sunday, July 3	Friday, 10 AM
Monday, July 4	Friday, 2 PM
Tuesday, July 5	Friday 4 PM

Classified Display & ROP  
Display Advertising

Day of Insertion	Deadline
Monday, July 4	Thursday, 4 PM
Tuesday, July 5	Friday, 10 AM
Wednesday, July 6	Friday, 12 Noon