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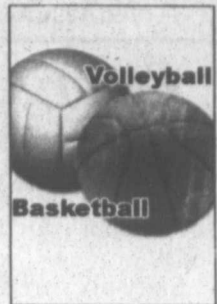
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Wednesday, May 24, 2006 Volume 102 • No. 43

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Suspect King has court date

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer PINEVILLE, Mo. -- A Missouri man suspected of killing a family in Gray County last fall will return to court here Thursday for a hearing on a motion to dismiss murder charges in connection with two deaths near Pineville. Levi A. King, 23, is accused of killing Orlie McCool, 70, and Dawn McCool, 47, McCool's daughter-in-law, on the afternoon of Sept. 29, 2005. King is also suspected in the shooting deaths of a Gray County family in the early morning hours of Sept.

See KING, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS Regina Ellis, left, and Alejandro Estrada begin cleanup operations this morning at the site of W & W Fiberglass Tank Company's burned building at 207 S. Price Road.

W & W fire cause still undetermined

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer The cause of Friday night's fire at W & W Fiberglass, 207 S. Price Road, is undetermined, according to an investigator with the state fire marshal's office in Lubbock. "We're calling it undetermined, just because we can't work the scene the way we usually do," Billy Lang said Tuesday afternoon. Lang and another investigator from the state fire marshal's office, along with a representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, were in Pampa Tuesday to investigate the fire and its aftermath. The condition and composition of the building, along with windy conditions, prevented the investigators from moving or dismantling any part of the sheet metal building due to the danger of damage or injury if the metal sheets got caught by the wind, he said. "We fully intend to be back in operation 100 percent as soon as we can," said Wayne Wilson, owner of W & W Fiberglass Tank Co. "We hope to be back up to 50 percent in 90 days. We've already been making calls about equipment." The building which burned was W & W's production area for manufacturing its fiberglass tanks, he said, and housed equipment and chemicals used in the manufacturing process.

See FIRE, Page 3

City: Out with the old, in with the new

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer Outgoing Pampa City Commissioners Faustina Curry and Ray Boring each said they enjoyed their experiences on the city commission. Curry, who served 12 years with four city managers, said she ran on quality of life issues. "We've done some good things," she said. "There's a lot more to do." Boring thanked the people who ran in the last race because they had an interest in the city. "It's been fun," Curry said. "It's a great experience," Boring said. Both praised the city staff. Neither ran for re-election in this spring's city election.



Left photo, Pampa Mayor Lonny Robbins, right, presents outgoing City Commissioners Faustina Curry and Ray Boring plaques recognizing their service to the city. At right, Pampa City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers, left, administers the oath of office to new City Commissioners Neil Fulton, center, and Bill Allison.

The commission canvassed the election results at their Tuesday afternoon meeting and declared Neil Fulton the commissioner for Ward 4 and Bill Allison the commissioner for Ward 2. Fulton received 453 votes against 125 for his opponent, Shirley Nicholson. Allison received 412 votes against 165 for his opponent, Dalton Lewis.

See CITY, Page 10

Curfew begins tonight

The City of Pampa will enforce a new juvenile curfew beginning tonight that sets a midnight curfew on minors 16 and younger. The Pampa City Commission has had the final reading on the nocturnal juvenile curfew. The ordinance will go into effect tonight. The ordinance implements a curfew for those 16 years and under from 12:01 a. m. to 6 a. m. Pampa Police Chief

See CURFEW, Page 10

Tutoring program shows great promise



Photo by DEE DEE LARAMORE Pampa Junior High teacher Jamie Winborne "cycles" a paragraph with students using Read Right tutoring techniques. Seated facing Winborne are, from left, Julia Silva, Juan Resendiz and Kattie Davis. Against the wall is Luis Silva.

By DEE DEE LARAMORE Special to The News As the 2005-2006 school year comes to a close, Pampa Independent School District educators are evaluating the effectiveness of READ RIGHT®, a tutoring program to help struggling readers. "At this point, I'm very pleased with the program," said Jamie Winborne, who teaches the program at Pampa Junior High School along with Cathy Jones. "The kids comment on how helpful it's been." Dolores "Dee" Tadlock, PhD, developed the basics of READ RIGHT to help her son who began having serious reading problems in the first grade. Despite the efforts of his teachers and his mother who had a doctorate degree in education philosophy with a major in reading, the little boy still struggled to read. Tadlock recognized that traditional methods weren't working, so using the latest technology of 1978, she began to find a way to help her son.

See READ, Page 10



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Emergency Services

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Sixty-six traffic stops were made, resulting in 56 citations being issued.

A vehicle accident was reported in the 100 block of East Harvester.

Traffic complaints were received from the intersection of Foster and Hobart streets, the 1300 block of North Starkweather and the intersection of Crawford and Huff streets.

Motorist assistance was rendered at an unreported location.

Animal complaints were received from the 200 block of South Tignor and the 300 block of Miami.

Agency assistance was reported in the 12200 block of County Road E.

A welfare check was made at the intersection of Hobart and Buckler streets.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 1000 block of Crane Road.

Suspicious person calls were received on two occasions from the 200 block of Tignor.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 200 block of North Purviance.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2200 block of North Hobart. Criminal trespass was reported in the 1100 block of Willow Road.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1800 block of Evergreen. An estimated \$200 damage was done to lawn and garden equipment and a gas lamp.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 300 block of Hazel. Approximately \$2,869 damage was done to a window, household goods and a household appliance.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Hazel.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 300 block of North Davis.

A disturbance was reported in the 700 block of North Russell.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 400 block of Rider.

A domestic disturbance and assault were reported in the 1100 block of Juniper.

Assault and domestic violence were reported in the 100 block of

South Sumner.

Assault was reported on two occasions in the police department lobby.

Identity theft was reported in the police department lobby.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Charles, the police department lobby and the 500 block of Montagu.

Theft was reported at Heard-Jones Health Mart, 114 N. Cuyler. Cash valued at \$120 was taken.

Theft and criminal mischief were reported at the Best Western Northgate Inn, 2831 Perryton Parkway. A carpet was damaged, and two pillows, a blanket and a coffee basket were taken. Total estimated loss and damage is \$1,480.

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

Saturday, May 20

6:25 p.m. — A 1999 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by Eric Michael Guyer, 24, 1928 N. Banks, left the roadway at the intersection of 16th and Evergreen streets and struck a tree. Guyer then left the scene, according to the police report of the accident. It is unknown if the accident resulted in any injuries. Guyer

was cited for failure to control speed and duty on striking fixture or highway.

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

Tuesday, May 23

Griselda Ponce Reynaldo, 24, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury.

Johnny Ogden Moody, 23, of McLean was arrested by GCSO and the Texas Rangers for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Jared Dewayne Rice, 23, of Lefors, was arrested by the Lefors Marshal for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and endangering a child.

Amanda Nicole Woodard, 22, of Lefors was arrested by the Lefors Marshal for evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.

Jennifer Jill Dixon, 28, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department on a Navarro County warrant for possession of marijuana.

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

Tuesday, May 23

8:27 a.m. — Three units and four personnel responded to the 200 block of Price Road to assist in the investigation of the W & W Fiberglass fire.

12:54 p.m. — Five units and 10 personnel responded to the 2600 block of Comanche on a blown transformer.

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

Tuesday, May 23

11:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to a local nursing facility and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:58 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to BSA Hospital in Amarillo.

9:53 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1800 block of Banks and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Wednesday, May 24

1:38 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 300 block of Naida and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Obituaries

Services tomorrow

BROWN, Joan English — Memorial services, 2 p.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
DUNCAN, Ida — 2 p.m., Highland Baptist Church, Pampa.
LANGFORD, Gladys — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.
RANDALL, Lester — 10:30 a.m., Temple Baptist Church, Dumas.

Gladys Langford, 89

Gladys Langford, 89, of Pampa, Texas, died May 23, 2006, at Pampa. Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2006, at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, officiating.

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

Mrs. Langford was born Aug. 22, 1916, in Van Zandt County, Texas. She met W.F.

"Bill" Langford while playing basketball, and they married on Dec. 23, 1934, in Grand Saline. He preceded her in death in 1984.

She had been a resident of Pampa since 1943, and she worked for the First Baptist Church in the nursery for 48 years, retiring in 1993. She



Langford

was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Senior Adult I Sunday School Class.

Survivors include two daughters, Rose Tuggle and Gloria Stephens and husband Roy Don, all of Pampa; one sister, Bonnie Kendrick of Bay, Calif.; five

grandchildren, Lisa Hornell and Scott Tuggle, both of Amarillo, and Lori Baker, Leslee Jewett and Craig Stephens, all of Pampa; and seven great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First Baptist Church Children's Ministries, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79066-0621.

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

Lester Randall, 72

DUMAS, Texas — Lester Randall, 72, of Dumas, died May 21, 2006, at Dumas. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, May 25, 2006, at Temple Baptist Church in Dumas with the Rev. Jay McGaughey, pastor of Temple Baptist Church of

Dumas, officiating and the Rev. Rick Timmons, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Canadian, Texas, officiating.

Burial will be in Northlawn Memorial Gardens in Dumas under the direction of Morrison Funeral Directors.

Mr. Randall was born March 9, 1934, in Pampa, Texas. He had been a resident of Canadian, Texas, for over 30 years before moving to Dumas, Texas, eight months ago.

He was a mechanic for Northern Natural Gas for

over 43 years. After retiring from Northern Natural Gas, he worked as a consultant for Panda Resources for 10 years.

He married Launa Emler on May 31, 1952, in Clovis, N.M. He was a member of the Central Baptist Church in Canadian, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Launa, of the home; a daughter, Debbie Smith and husband Jimmie of Dumas, Texas; a son, John Randall and wife Kellie of Tildon, Texas; his mother, Eula Dee Duncan of Pampa, Texas; a sister, Myrtle Dee Roe of Pampa, Texas; four grandchildren, Christi Eastep and husband, Michael, James Randall Smith, Stacy L. Smith and Zachary C. Randall; and four great-grandchildren, Tyrell, Cody and Nathan Eastep, and Natalie Smith.

The family will be at 401 Hickory in Dumas and requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

CITY BRIEFS

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EARLY ADVERTISING Deadlines. We will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th. For questions 669-2525. Have a safe & happy holiday!

GRANDVIEW HOPKINS Annual BBQ, Thurs., May 25th, 12 noon. Bring covered dish. Everyone welcome!

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PAMPA REGIONAL Medical Center is accepting applications for Summer Junior Volunteers. Volunteers must be 14 years old by June 1. Applications will be available Wednesday and Thursday, May 24 & 25 in the hospital cafeteria 4-6:00 pm. Betty Scarbrough 663-5577.

MEMORIAL DAY Service, May 29th, 8:15pm. at Freedom Museum Memorial, 600 N. Hobart, Pampa.

DON'T MISS the Incredible Race.....Highland Baptist Church June 5-9 6:15 to 8:30 pm

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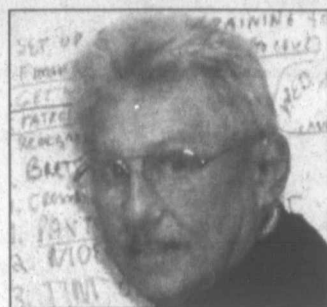
COP CORNER

I got gas Monday night. Those 30 dollars didn't go very far, but we got to have fuel to get around. With the price of gasoline expected to be around \$3 for the vacation season, the likelihood of some people to fill up and then leave without paying may start to grow.

Of course, this activity is a crime! In the Texas Penal Code, section 31.04, it is called "Theft of Service." One of the unique parts of theft by service is the amount of the theft that affects the class of offense.

If the theft is over \$20 (but less than \$500), then it becomes a Class "B" misdemeanor. This means it is more than just a ticket. A class "B" misdemeanor carries a maximum penalty of 6 months in the County Jail and a fine of not more than \$2,000.

If convicted, the judge can jail you, or fine you, or jail and fine you. One of the other unique features of theft of service, when it comes to fuel for your vehicle, is you might lose your driver's license for 180 days after you are convicted. This is in the Texas Transportation Code section 521.349. If you have



Courtney

a prior conviction for a "gas drive-off," then this section kicks in.

You will also be denied a license for an additional 180 days when you apply for reinstatement of your suspended license. There are several other provisions and harsher penalties included in the transportation code that are too long to quote, but I hope you would-be offenders realize there are consequences to your actions.

The businesses in town are going to report you, the police are going to find you, and the courts are going to pass sentence. Theft is a serious matter, which can affect the rest of your life. If you buy something, then pay for it!

Cop Corner is provided by Pampa Police Department and Lt. Fred Courtney.

Fire

Continued from Page 1

The materials used in making the tanks are very flammable, Lang said, and the finished product can also be flammable.

About 35 of W & W's 65 employees worked in the building. Almost half of the 35 were back at work today, Wilson said, but others had already found other jobs, thanks to Pampa's current job market.

"Some have already gone to work at the pig farm. I'm grateful for that. I don't want to see anybody go without a paycheck," Wilson said.

Company operations have been relocated to a building across the street from the burned building. That building, on the west side of Price Road, had been intended for company expansion but will serve as the main building until a new building can be constructed, Wilson said.

Demolition of the burned building was planned to begin today, he said Tuesday

afternoon. "We've been wanting to build a bigger building. We may have to stay with what we had," Wilson said, citing regulations which apply to the company.

The new building may not be any larger than the one which burned, but the business is expected to come back full-strength or better.

"Actually, we're going to be bigger, I think," Wilson said.

W & W supplies fiberglass tanks to about 35 dealers within a 600-mile radius. It opened in 1978 and has expanded twice since then.

Friday's blaze was reported at 9:29 p.m., according to Pampa emergency services records.

Pampa Fire Department responded, and Hoover and Skellytown Volunteer Fire Departments assisted under a mutual aid agreement.

"We were out there until a little after 3 a.m.," said PFD Chief Kim Powell. No one was injured in the fire.

"The owner told us that the part of his property that caught fire was valued at one

million dollars. He told us that the value of the entire property owned by him is four million dollars," Powell said.

Six units and 13 firefighters from PFD responded to the call, along with officers from Pampa Police Department and Gray

County Sheriff's Office who were on scene to control traffic.

Wilson also owns Crall Products, Pete Watts Pumping Service, and Poly-Pro, an on-site sandblasting and painting service for tanks and other structures.

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King

Continued from Page 1

30, 2005.

Brian Conrad, 31, his wife Michell, 35, and her son, Zack Doan, 14, were shot to death in their farm home about 13 miles south of Pampa on Texas Highway 70. Michell Conrad was six months pregnant. Michell's daughter, Robin Doan, 10, survived the shooting and called 911.

King was later arrested on the Mexican border at El Paso.

Earlier this month, King's legal team, Charles Moreland and Thomas Marshall of the Missouri State Public Defender System, filed a motion to dismiss the case against King.

At a March 21 hearing, King pled guilty to two counts of murder, McCool's and his daughter-in-law's. When the charges were read, he withdrew his plea after the judge allowed prosecutors to amend the

charges and add notification of aggravating circumstances during a 15 minute recess.

Special Prosecutor Tim Finnical said King's initial plea was an apparent attempt to avoid the death penalty.

The death penalty in Missouri is only imposed in cases with aggravating circumstances such as killing someone in the act of committing another felony or killing several people. Prosecutors believe King was robbing McCool's home when he shot the two.

Since the notification of aggravated circumstances hadn't been filed at the time of the March 21 hearing, King would not have gotten the death penalty.

Finnical argues that Missouri law allows for aggravated circumstances to be filed up to the day of the trial, but King's defense team is now arguing that prosecutors should not have been allowed to file notice of intent to seek the death penalty after King had entered a pleas of guilty.

In April, McDonald County Prosecutor Steve

Geeding dropped and refiled the murder charges against King, with notification that the state would seek the death penalty.

When King faced arraignment again, Moreland argued that the court did not have jurisdiction in the case because King had previously been arraigned in the Associate Circuit Court and should now be in Division II Circuit Court.

Finnical explained that the Associate Circuit would be similar to a Justice of the Peace court in Texas and the Division II Circuit Court would be similar to District Court in Texas.

In his motion to dismiss the case, Moreland said the dismissal and re-filing of the charges were an attempt to insulate the state from errors committed during the March 21 arraignment by depriving King of an opportunity to raise the issue on appeal.

Moreland argues that King now should not be subject to any proceedings in which the death penalty may be a possible punishment.

Response mixed to math, science requirement

AUSTIN (AP) — Parents, teachers and school administrators are torn over a recently approved rule that requires high school students to take four years of math and science.

Supporters say the measure will ensure students are better prepared for college and for a work force that's becoming more technologically complex. But critics argue it will further strain school districts' budgets and prevent teens from taking courses that interest them more.

The plan, which will first apply to this year's seventh-graders, was part of a sweeping education reform bill the Legislature approved this month during a special session on school finance. Republican Gov. Rick Perry is expected to sign the bill into law in the coming days.

Texas will be just the second state to include four years of math and science in its standard high school curriculum, according to the Education Commission of the States. Alabama has had that requirement since 1996.

Several states have moved toward mandating four years of high school math, but all but Alabama require three years or less of science. Texas students currently

must take three years of each course.

Kenn Heydrick, the Pflugerville Independent School District's science and health coordinator, said the new rule will strengthen Texas' economy, force students to make better use of their senior year and give

them a leg up in the global job market.

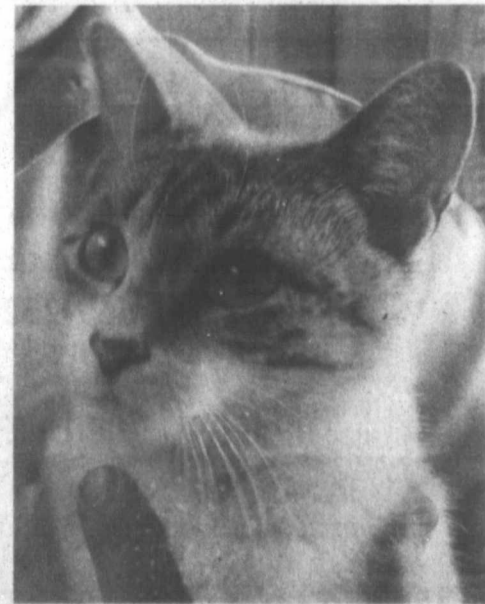
It might even encourage teenagers who'd written off math or science careers to think again, he said.

"There are many times when students are taking those electives or they're at the (advanced level) of a par-

ticular course that the light bulb really goes off and their interest and enthusiasm sky-rockets," said Heydrick.

Pet of the Week

Clette is an adult female. She has blue eyes and white & tan markings. She is very clean and extremely sweet & loving!



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Viewpoints

Resolution recognizes importance of our military

As a nation, it is important to observe and participate in holidays and events that celebrate our national heritage. National Military Appreciation Month provides all Americans an opportunity to recognize the incredible sacrifices of our nation's armed forces and to reflect on our rich military history.

On April 30, 1999, the United States Senate passed a resolution that designated May as National Military Appreciation Month. This resolution called on the people of the United States, in a symbolic act of unity, to observe a National Military Appreciation Month to honor the current and former members of the Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of

freedom and peace. A concurrent resolution, later agreed to by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, established May, in perpetuity, as National Military Appreciation Month.

May is an ideal time to honor our servicemen and women, as this year we celebrate Loyalty Day on May 1, VE Day on May 8, Military Spouse Day on May 12, Armed Forces Day on May 20, and Memorial Day on May 29.

Members of the armed forces and their families truly understand the meaning of commitment and sacrifice. While many Americans have served this great nation in varying capacities, it is the men and women who have served as

soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have put their lives on the line. They have endured frequent deployments and long family separations in sometimes hostile environments to protect freedom and uphold the rule of law.

The very essence of being a member of our armed forces is defined when a recruit takes the oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. This single act of commitment is significant because the military truly values the superiority of principle.

Military service builds

character, as the words "duty," "honor," and "country" have special meaning. Gen. Douglas MacArthur eloquently explained this during his legendary address to the Corps of Cadets at West Point on May 12, 1962: "Those three hallowed

words reverently dictate what you want to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

During Military Appreciation Month, we

must remember the scale of the War on Terror in which we are now engaged. It is a global war fought against determined enemies. Our tyrannical foes control their countrymen through oppression and fear while resorting to ruthless tactics against those who champion peace and freedom. Defeating these enemies will require the determination, skill and courage of those who wear the uniforms of America's military forces.

I steadfastly stand behind our troops. As chair of the Senate's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, I work to make sure that supporting those who risk their lives to protect our freedom is always a priority for

Congress.

As we remain committed to maintaining and supporting the finest armed forces in the world, we must be equally dedicated to caring for our veterans when they come home.

In my committee, I make a special point to see that veterans receive proper medical care and have access to excellent hospitals, and doctors who are researching the treatments our veterans need most.

I invite all Texans to join me in honoring our nation's heroes. Our recognition is important to our warriors, and it further strengthens America's collective consciousness about the virtues and values of military service.

Kay Bailey Hutchison

U.S. Senator



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 24, the 144th day of 2006. There are 221 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 24, 1844, Samuel F.B. Morse transmitted the message, "What hath God wrought!" from Washington to Baltimore as he formally opened America's first telegraph line.

On this date:

In 1819, Queen Victoria was born in London.

In 1881, some 200 people died when the Canadian ferry Princess Victoria sank near London, Ontario.

In 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge, linking Brooklyn and Manhattan, was opened to traffic.

"Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get."

— Anonymous

In 1941, the German battleship Bismarck sank the British dreadnought Hood in the North Atlantic.

In 1958, United Press International was formed through a merger of the United Press and the International News Service.

In 1962, astronaut Scott Carpenter became the second American to orbit the Earth as he flew aboard Aurora 7.

In 1976, Britain and France opened trans-Atlantic Concorde service to Washington.

In 1977, in a surprise move, the Kremlin ousted Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny from the Communist Party's ruling Politburo.

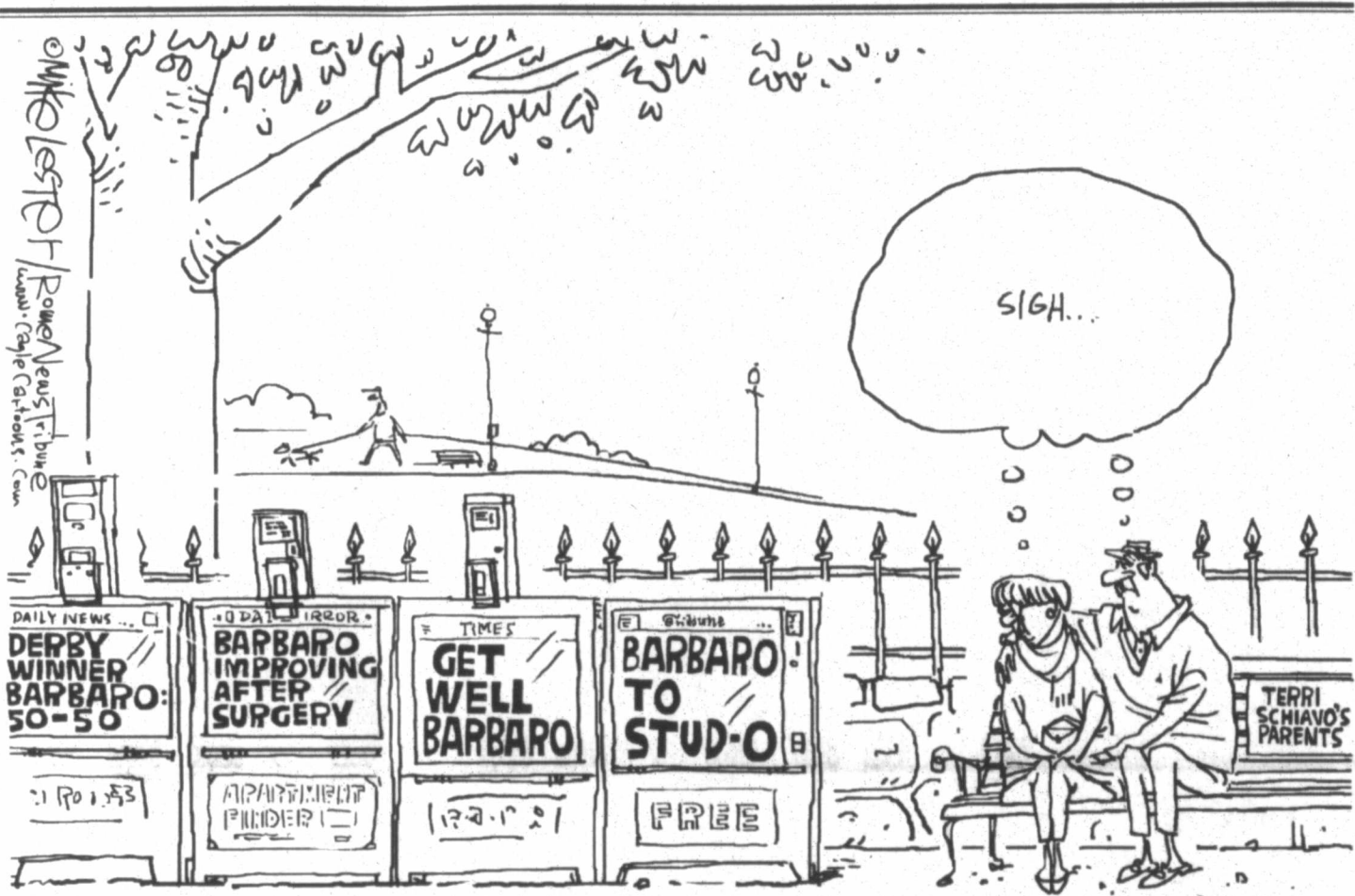
In 1980, Iran rejected a call by the World Court in The Hague to release the American hostages.

In 1986, the Union Jack was flown in Israel for the first time in 38 years as Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister to visit the Jewish state.

Ten years ago: President Clinton underwent his annual physical at Bethesda Naval Medical Center, where he had a precancerous lesion removed from his nose. On the plus side, his weight was the same as the year before — 216 pounds — and his cholesterol count had improved from 203 to 191.

Five years ago: Democrats gained control of the U.S. Senate for the first time since 1994 when Vermont Sen. James Jeffords abandoned the Republican Party and declared himself an independent. Twenty-three people died when the floor of a Jerusalem wedding hall collapsed beneath dancing guests in a horrifying scene captured on videotape.

One year ago: Breaking years of gridlock, the Senate cleared the way for confirmation of Priscilla Owen to the U.S. appeals court following a compromise on President Bush's current and future judicial nominees.



GOP chances appear to be narrowing

A week before he died I asked Lyn Nofziger if the White House was arrogant or just plain stupid.

"Both," he said.

Nofziger was one of the nation's most astute political analysts and a White House aide my father Ronald Reagan greatly admired. If you need proof that Lyn knew what he was talking about, you need only consider the White House policies on illegal immigration, which are both incredibly stupid and incredibly arrogant.

Aside from the Iraq war, no issue threatens Republican control of Capitol Hill more than the problem of illegal immigration. The overwhelming majority of Americans are outraged over the problem of our porous borders. People are demanding that the borders be sealed tight against

the thousands of illegals violating them.

If the president and the Republicans in the House and Senate don't act to

enforce our current immigration laws and vastly increase border security you'll have to hire a private detective to find any Republicans on Capitol Hill next year.

"Will they win? I think that's still up to the Republicans," Newt Gingrich told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review the other day.

He added that he agrees with those who believe a substantial number of conservative voters — upset over unbridled federal spending and unsecured national bor-

ders — could sit out the midterm elections, giving Democrats an edge in close House races that might otherwise go to Republicans.

The problem you have right now is the conservative movement — which is still very

healthy in the country at large — feels very abandoned in Washington," he told the Trib. "Conservatives actually believe in a balanced budget as a moral issue. Conservatives actually believe you ought to control the border as a matter of national security. Conservatives are the people who pay the taxes. They're not the people who get the pork."

He put his finger on the

solution. "If you have the White House, the House and the Senate, and if you have the natural majority in the country, you always have the potential to be able to pose the election on your terms," he said.

The president had better wake up to the fact that the only thing he's got going for him right now is that the Democrats are in absolute disarray. They have no leader, they have no direction, and even with the president down to his lowest point in the polls, as low as he is, the Democrats aren't much higher due to their lack of leadership.

As a result, the Republicans still have it within their power to hang onto control of both houses of Congress — providing they stop being stupid, and pose the election on their terms.

See REAGAN, Page 5

Michael Reagan

Columnist



Human affairs are never easy or simple

I'm about to speak on behalf of an officially designated terrorist organization. Since I've not given it a penny or, for that matter, ever seen a member of the organization, I'm assuming the U.S. government will not consider this "supporting terrorism." One never knows in these paranoid times.

At any rate, this particular so-called terrorist organization offers the only solution I can see to President Bush's Iranian problem, short of war. The president refuses to talk to the mullahs in Iran, who are our real enemy, so perhaps he should talk to the lady they fear most, which is

not, of course, Condi Rice. Otherwise, Mr. Bush's choice is drop bombs or watch the Iranians build a nuclear bomb, if that is their intention — and I suspect it is, despite their denials.

I would if I were them. After all, they've watched Bush cut deals with India and Pakistan and slobber all over Israel, all of them nuclear powers who refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. They've

watched him tap-dance around North Korea. I'm sure some of the mullahs believe that if they had nuclear weapons, the U.S.

would tap-dance around them, and they're probably right about that.

The organization I'm referring to is the National Council of Resistance of Iran, which includes the People's Mujahedin of Iran. The mujahedin founded the PMOI in 1965, and for 30

years nobody in Washington thought they were terrorists. They had an office in Washington. Then in 1995, more or less out of the blue, Slick Willie Clinton had them labeled a terrorist organization at the request of the mullahs.

I've read the U.S. explanation of why they are labeled "terrorist," and it is pretty thin gruel. Virtually all of their attacks have been directed at the Iranian government, either the Shah of Iran's or the mullahs'. They deny the claim that they killed seven American mili-

See REESE, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS

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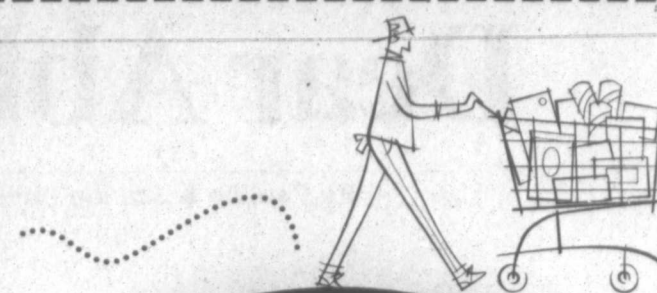
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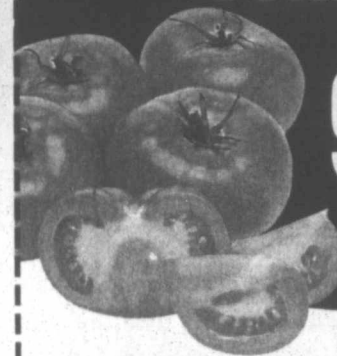
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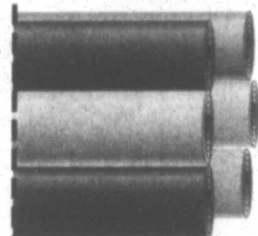
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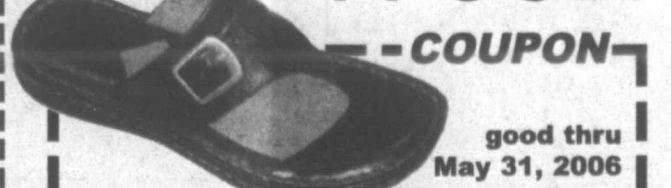


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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This year, for the first time that I can recall, we did not celebrate Mother's Day at my mom's. She was diagnosed with dementia in January. It has been a difficult time for our family, but we were told to continue to honor Mom's routine as much as possible. It was my idea to plan a family dinner at my house, including Mom's favorite foods. Remembering that one of her favorite desserts is cheesecake, I decided to make one. I searched through Mom's recipe box, but was unable to find her recipe. (Mom was such a great cook, she probably had it committed to memory.) A friend finally gave me a recipe from your cookbooklet set, and I decided to use it because it looked easy enough. It was! Not only did my family love the dessert, but Mom told us the cheesecake was probably the best she's ever made! I thought you'd like to know you were a big part of our celebration this year. Thank you, Abby. I'd also like to order three cookbooklet sets -- one for me and each of my sisters-in-law. Can you please tell me how to order them?
-- **KATIE'S DAUGHTER IN CLEVELAND**

DEAR KATIE'S DAUGHTER: How sweet of you to let me know about your Mother's Day. Although your celebration was a success, I'm sure it was tinged with bittersweet. That you are continuing your mother's traditions warmed my heart. I'm also pleased that the cheesecake recipe -- which my own mother used for many years when she entertained -- was a hit with your mom and the rest of your family. And I agree, it's a breeze to assemble. (I can do it in less than 15 minutes.) You can order my recipe book set by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or

money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Postage is included in the price. As a recipe lover, I know you'll find more recipes that will pique your interest, and July 4 -- another holiday that families celebrate together -- is coming up soon. (It's my mother's birthday!)

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old woman who has been dating a man I'll call "Paul" for almost a year. I love him and he says he loves me, but sometimes I have a hard time trusting him. Women call him here at my apartment at 4 a.m. They also leave messages on my answering machine inviting him over for dinner. Paul won't call them back if I am around. He says they're "just friends," but then he tells me he doesn't know how they got my phone number. (It's unlisted.) He swears he hasn't talked to any of them in more than a year. Am I just being insecure? If so, how does someone deal with these feelings of jealousy? Should I believe him and take the chance of drowning, or get out now and go on with my life without him? -- **SINK OR SWIM IN ARKANSAS**

DEAR SINK OR SWIM: It appears you have fallen in love with a womanizer who has been giving out your private number. If these women were "just friends," Paul would return the calls while you were present and inform them that he's already involved with someone. What you call your insecurity and jealousy are your survival instincts trying to warn you that he is not on the level. You won't have to worry about sinking or swimming if you climb out of the water now. I've thrown you a lifeline. Please take it.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Casino

1 Legal figure

wrong 41 Ice chunk

5 Bed-table item

9 Tip over

11 Bacall's love

12 "Keen!"

13 Laughable

14 Finish

15 Phones

17 Pool part

19 Ma's daughter

20 Albee creation

21 Comic's offering

22 Scenic outlook

24 Diner dessert

26 Contract makeup

29 Swamp stuff

30 Get rigid

32 Clique

34 Hang out

35 Cleaning problem

36 Scout master?

38 Bowler

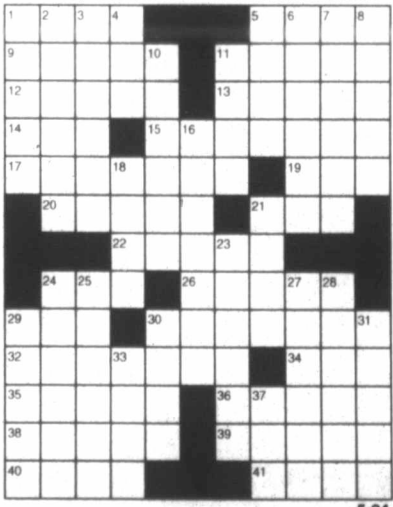
39 Hunter of myth



Yesterday's answer

1 Money, in slang need, 25 Entrance perhaps 2 Started the bidding 3 Bookstore patron 11 Tie up 16 Highly worried 18 Make lots 21 Cell feature 23 Look after 31 Plug part 4 It's a blast 16 Highly worried 28 Beau 29 Botch 30 Broadway award 7 Manhattan buyer 24 Did a fourth treat 8 Small sounds down job 37 Ball

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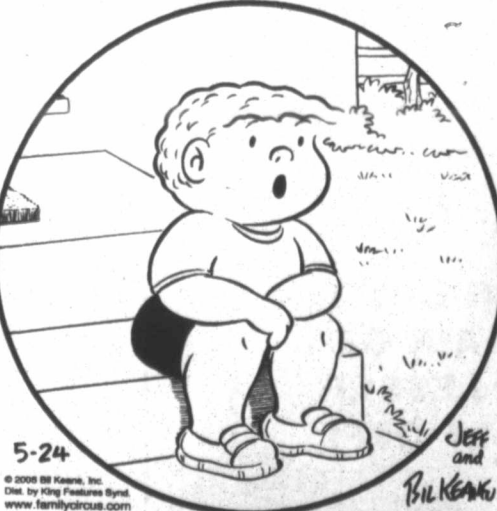


Marmaduke



The Family Circus

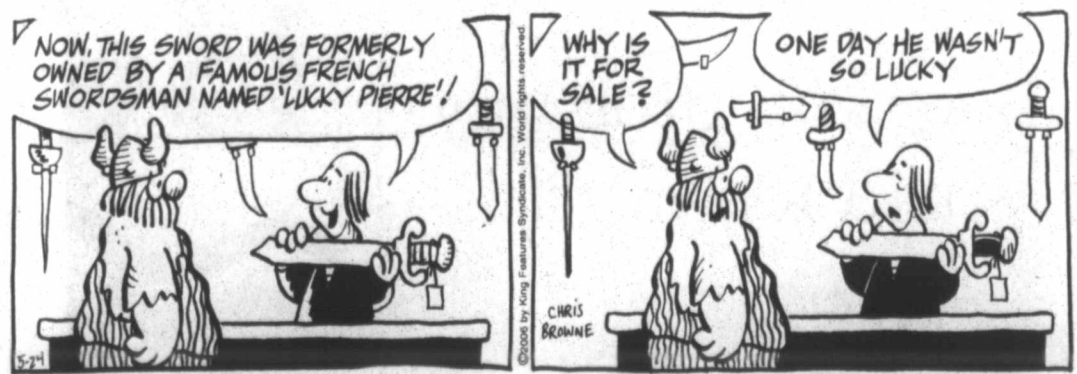
By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



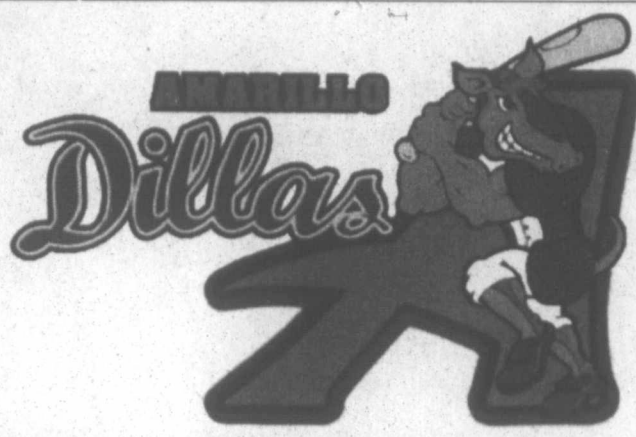
Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day



Dillas fall to RGV, 7-6

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

United League Baseball Standings

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Edinburg	7	0	1.000	—
San Angelo	5	2	.714	2
Alexandria	3	4	.429	4
Rio Grande Valley	3	4	.429	4
Amarillo	2	5	.286	5
Laredo	1	6	.143	6

Tuesday's Games
 Rio Grande Valley 7, Amarillo 6
 Edinburg 7, Laredo 2
 Alexandria 10, San Angelo 4

Wednesday's Games
 Amarillo at Rio Grande Valley
 Laredo at Edinburg
 San Angelo at Alexandria

Thursday's Games
 Amarillo at Rio Grande Valley
 Laredo at Edinburg
 San Angelo at Alexandria

NOTES*: Rio Grande Valley WhiteWings pitching coach Pablo Perez was suspended indefinitely by the United League Baseball Tuesday for his actions during an altercation in the Monday game between the Wings and Laredo Broncos.

ULB Commissioner Byron Pierce, in a short statement, said, "The United League does not tolerate this sort of activity by its coaching and management staff. Therefore, pitching coach Pablo Perez has been suspended indefinitely from league activity."

Perez and three players from each of the two ballclubs were ejected in the fracas that occurred in the fourth inning of the game, won Laredo, 3-0.

Any further disciplinary action has not yet been announced and is still to be determined.

*Information provided by United League Baseball.

Angels end losing streak at Rangers' expense

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) - Kendry Morales made his major league debut, and the Los Angeles Angels ended their six-game losing streak on the same night.

The Angels say it was no coincidence.

Morales and Vladimir Guerrero homered, and Tommy Murphy robbed Mark Teixeira of a potential tying homer in the ninth inning, helping the Angels edge the Texas Rangers 7-6 Tuesday night.

Morales had three hits, giving his new teammates a look at the talent the

Angels hope can help pull them out of a 5-15 tailspin prior to Tuesday.

"He was pretty impressive," said Adam Kennedy, who went 4-for-4 for the Angels. "It was a big lift by him considering we've been scuffling on the offensive side. We've got a pretty good player there."

Morales, called up from Triple-A Salt Lake on Monday night, singled in his first at-bat, then hit a two-run homer in the third just over the yellow line in right field to give the Angels a 4-1 advantage.

The 22-year-old switch-hitter, who

defected from Cuba in 2004, added a single in the fifth.

"Nowhere did it go through my mind that I would have three hits tonight," Morales said through an interpreter. "The home run, I've got no words to describe it."

Morales said he had no jitters because he's experienced so many tight situations in Cuba.

"I've been trained back home to control myself in these situations," Morales said. "I've played a lot of big games with pressure so I didn't feel nervous."

SPORTS CAMPS

Coach Fry's camp set to begin June 5; Coach VanGilder to offer volleyball camps and clinics

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Basketball Camp
 Registrations are currently under way for Coach Troy Fry's 2006 Lady Harvester Basketball Camp. Applications are available at the PHS athletic office. Coach Fry's camp focuses on fundamentals, helping campers to hone skills and harness their talent. For additional information, call 669-4830.

Volleyball Camp
 Coach Sonia VanGilder will offer something unique in Pampa volleyball, a camp open to 3rd and 4th grade students. Registrations for this camp are currently under way and forms are available in the PHS athletic office. Camp will be June 5-9, 1pm to 4pm at Pampa High School.

Volleyball camp for 5th, 6th and 7th grade students will be held July 31 through Aug. 4, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Eighth and 9th grade students will be able to attend Coach VanGilder's camp July 8 and 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

One day volleyball clinics will be available this year as well. Hitting and defense will be offered June 26, setting and serving June 19. Contact the PHS athletic office for additional information.

YMCA Juneteenth men's tournament set for June 16-18

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The 2006 Juneteenth Men's Basketball Tournament in Midland has been scheduled for June 16-18 at Carver Gym, 1300 W. Wall St. in Midland.

Entry fee for the 5-on-5 tournament is \$125 per team up to June 13. After that, the fee increases to \$175 per team.

The tournament is set to start at 6:30 p.m. June 16.

For more information or to enter your team, call (432) 682-2551, or (432) 570-4093.

Nationals 4, Astros 1

WASHINGTON (AP) - It took seven rough starts for Ramon Ortiz to remember an important lesson: Speed isn't everything.

Taking a little off his fastball and improving his location, Ortiz pitched his best game of the season Tuesday night, giving a beleaguered Washington Nationals staff a much needed successful and uneventful outing.

There were no new injuries to report, and no roster moves were needed after a 4-1 victory over the Houston Astros.

"It's good to see anybody give us a good game," said manager Frank Robinson, who has five starting pitchers on the disabled list. "That was an excellent game for him."

One night after a dreadful performance in a 10-3 loss a game in which starter Zach Day left early with a shoulder injury and was placed on the DL — the Nationals found the resiliency to win for the third time in four games.

Jose Guillen returned to the lineup and drove in what proved to be the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning, and Damian Jackson, Daryle Ward and Alfonso Soriano provided thrills with solo home runs in a ballpark that is becoming a little more homer-friendly by the day.

But Ortiz (2-4) was the real star, allowing six hits, two walks with five strikeouts in his longest outing of the season. He allowed one run — Morgan Ensberg's 15th homer in the sixth inning — and has won two straight after going 0-4 over his first seven starts.

"Right now it feels very different," Ortiz said, "my change of speed, my slider, my fastball, good location. Before I tried to throw it 95, 96 (mph), now I try and throw it 90, 92, 93, 88, 89, down and away, down inside. It's better. I'll take it 91 on the inside corner and down and away, instead of 95, 96 in the middle of home plate."

Heat bounce back, drop Pistons, 91-86

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) - Midway through the third quarter, all hope of stealing Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals seemed to be slipping away from the Miami Heat.

A 16-3 run gave Detroit its biggest lead. Dwyane Wade had foul trouble. The Palace roared with delight.

"All we had to do was just stick together," Heat guard Gary Payton said. "Everybody play as one, take the open shots when we got them and knock them down." He made it sound simple. At times, Miami made it look easy, too.

Wade had 25 points on 11 shots, Antoine Walker scored 17 points and Payton and Shaquille O'Neal added 14 apiece to help the Heat beat the Pistons 91-86 in the opener of their conference finals rematch Tuesday night. Miami shot 56 percent, limited Detroit to 38 percent, and won for the seventh time in its last eight games.

"We had a lot of guys step up tonight and do different things," Wade said. "For you to win at this time of year, that's what's going to have to happen."

An 11-0 run to open the game proved the well-rested Heat had no rust from their week between games, and a 14-1 burst over the third and fourth quarters allowed Miami to reclaim the lead for good.

"We still had a couple silly mistakes, but everybody played well, everybody played with the focus," O'Neal said. "We just wanted to come in here and get one, and now that we've got one, we know they're going to bounce back. ... But if we do the same things, we'll be fine."

Richard Hamilton had 22 points and Chauncey Billups added 19 for the Pistons, but the starting guards were a combined 15-for-41 from the floor. Tayshaun Prince had 16 for the Pistons, while Rasheed Wallace had a quiet night — seven points during the game, no comments to

reporters afterward.

Game 2 is Thursday night, back on the Pistons' home court.

"The game becomes huge, no question," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We have to grab the momentum of the series back."

O'Neal played only 29

minutes, Wade 27, both sitting for long stretches because of foul trouble.

A year ago, such a scenario would have probably doomed the Heat — especially against a team like the Pistons, who had won eight of their previous 12 meetings with Miami.

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Veterans chief angry over reporting delay

WASHINGTON (AP) — Under intense bipartisan fire from Capitol Hill, Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson said today he was outraged by his agency's decision to keep the theft of veterans' personal data quiet for two weeks.

Nicholson first learned of the theft late on May 16 and immediately notified the FBI, according to a government official familiar with the timing, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

The department made the theft public on May 22, nearly three weeks after the May 3 burglary at a VA data analyst's home.

"I will not tolerate inaction and poor judgment when it comes to protecting our veterans," Nicholson said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"I am outraged at the loss of this veterans' data and the fact an employee would put it at risk by taking it home in violation of our policies," he said. "Upon notification, my first priority was to take all actions necessary to protect veterans from harm."

Nicholson said he had asked the department's inspector general to expedite an investigation to determine who was responsible for the time delay in revealing the burglary.

Nicholson's remarks come amid growing outrage from lawmakers over the theft,

which involved the birth dates and Social Security numbers of 26.5 million veterans. The VA employee had taken the information home without authorization.

On Wednesday, Sen. Patrick Leahy said President Bush should call Nicholson "into the woodshed" because of the theft of personal data involving some 26.5 million veterans. Citing past budget problems at the VA, Leahy said Nicholson should consider resigning.

"It all adds up to a heckuva bad job for America's veterans," said Leahy, D-Vt. "The President should call Secretary Nicholson into the woodshed for a serious shake-up in how the VA is run."

Burglars on May 3 took the government-owned laptop and disks from the VA employee's suburban Maryland home. The equipment contained information mainly on veterans discharged since 1975.

But the FBI was not notified until late last week, two law enforcement officials said Tuesday, a move that delayed a warning to veterans now at risk in one of the nation's largest security breaches.

The Senate Homeland Security Committee and the Committee on Veterans Affairs said they would hold a joint emergency hearing Thursday and call Nicholson to testify. "Twenty-six million people deserve answers," said Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, chair of the VA panel.

Fire aid



Pampa News photo by REDONN WOODS
Bob Finney, right, of Pampa Lions Club presents two \$500 Wal-Mart gift cards to Pat McBee of Lefors. McBee and her husband, Billy, who live 9 1/2 miles southeast of Lefors and 14 miles from McLean on the Johnny Haynes Ranch, lost their home and possessions in the recent wildfires which swept the area.

City

Continued from Page 1

City Secretary Phyllis Jeffers administered the oath of office for the two new commissioners who will take their seats at the commission's next meeting.

The commission also approved on second and final reading an ordinance regulating the discharge of water from swimming pools and ponds into the city's sewer system.

Commissioners also discussed the possibility of establishing roofing permits.

Pampa City Manager John Horst said it could provide some protection for homeowners. He said that while the city could not enforce any performance provisions, it could get the name and telephone number or contact information of roofers if homeowners were not satisfied with the work that was done. He said no permit would be required if homeowners did the roofing

on their own homes.

Horst estimated that such a permit would cost from \$10 to \$15.

He said Pampa, like most cities that have such permits, does not have the manpower to enforce any performance code, but citizens would at least be able to ask to see a roofer's permit and get contact information.

Mayor Lonny Robbins said that such a permit might prevent fly-by-night roofing operations from preying on unsuspecting Pampa citizens.

"I think it would be a good thing to look at," said Richard Morris, Pampa's public works director.

The commission also heard a report from John Curry on the Pampa Tourism Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The city has a contract with the chamber to fund promotion using hotel and motel tax money.

Curry said the city now has two new motels. He said they should add some \$40,000 a year when they come on the property tax

rolls.

Horst said the city put up \$15,000 for tourism this year. He said that changes in state law may dictate the city's contribution next year.

Pat Vanderpool, executive director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, said the tourism committee had developed four target markets for tourism. They are tourists interested in specific subject areas such as Woody Guthrie, birders and historians; those traveling through Pampa; those coming to visit family and friends in Pampa, and associations that could hold meetings and conferences here.

Vanderpool said the tourism committee was studying ways of expanding services such as lodging and catering.

He said they were trying to attract the district Lions Club convention and were looking at the Junior Rodeo Finals, baseball and softball tournaments and bowling tournaments.

FBI under fire for raid on Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Dennis Hastert demanded today that the FBI surrender documents it seized and remove agents involved in the weekend raid of Rep. William Jefferson's office, under what lawmakers of both parties said were unconstitutional circumstances.

"We think those materials ought to be returned," Hastert said, adding that the FBI agents involved "ought to be frozen out of that

(case) just for the sake of the constitutional aspects of it."

The Saturday night search of Jefferson's office on Capitol Hill brought Democrats and Republicans together in rare election-year accord, with both parties protesting agency conduct they said violated the Constitution's separation of powers doctrine.

"Not anyone here is above the law," Pelosi told reporters Tuesday, as she prepared to meet with the

House speaker. But, she added, "I think you've seen abuse of power of the executive branch over this weekend."

A day earlier, Hastert, R-Ill., complained personally to President Bush about raid. Other House officials have predicted that the case would bring all three branches together at the Supreme Court for a constitutional showdown.

Read

Continued from Page 1

The result of her research and work became READ RIGHT, a technique that retrains the brain to recognize and utilize "excellent" reading. Tadlock hoped to improve her son's reading over time using this method. Instead, she discovered that her method eliminated his reading problem in three months.

Over time, READ RIGHT has proven to be effective at all levels of education from kindergarten through 12th grades, junior colleges, community literacy programs and in the corporate world, according to information from the website, www.readright.com.

Numerous studies have shown that readers of all ages average a full grade level of improvement per 20 hours or less of tutoring, according to the Web site.

Evan Smith, director of personnel services for Pampa ISD, first heard Tadlock speak about her program at a state convention about four years ago. At the time, Smith served as Pampa Middle School principal.

"I was impressed," Smith remembered. "What she said made sense."

At that time, Pampa ISD did not have the funds to implement the program. However, state grants for reading and math intervention have made it possible to bring READ RIGHT to Pampa students.

PJHS plus all the elementary campuses began utiliz-

ing READ RIGHT in January, Winborne said. Pama Miller is the tutor for Austin and Lamar elementaries, Stephanie Parks teaches the program at Wilson and Travis, she said.

"READ RIGHT retrains the brain through excellent reading," Winborne explained. It is student-centered and self-paced, she added.

She said a student will "cycle" a paragraph six or seven times until they reach "excellence" where they are comfortable in reading and understanding the paragraph. To cycle a paragraph means to listen as the tutor reads the paragraph aloud correctly. Then the student reads it silently. Each time they're finished reading silently, they tap on the table. After everyone has indicated they're finished, the tutor reads the paragraph again.

When a student feels able to read the paragraph aloud correctly, he or she will give the tutor a "thumbs up" sign. The teacher then listens as the student reads the paragraph aloud.

"Was it excellent?" the teacher will ask after the student is finished reading. The student will answer "Yes" or "No." The teacher will respond, "I agree" or "I disagree," helping to reinforce what is considered "excellent."

At the junior high earlier this month, 70 students have been tutored a total of 554 hours. Of those, 14 percent were English language learners, 16 percent were special education and the rest were native English-speaking students with reading difficulties,

Winborne said.

In addition to the 70 regular students in READ RIGHT at PJHS, 18 other students are on standby. The object of the program is to maintain a 1 to 4 ratio between students and teacher.

"When there's an absence, we bring in the reserves so we always have a full class," Winborne explained.

In one month, eight students gained one grade level of reading, she said. One student moved up two grade levels since January.

"Every month we see more and more success," Winborne said.

School officials are evaluating the effectiveness of READ RIGHT, and watching the progress of the students through pre-tests and post-tests.

Pampa educators are still in the training process themselves, Winborne said. A trainer from Seattle, Wash., is scheduled to work with the teachers when school begins next fall.

"Next year, they plan to train me to be a trainer," she said. "Then I can go and train more of our teachers in the program."

Smith said that for educators to learn to teach READ RIGHT takes more than a one-hour seminar. Teachers learn to help their students through many grueling week-long trainings for a year, she said.

"By this time next year, we'll be having a different conversation," Smith said. "I hope next year we'll be talking with the children telling you what (READ RIGHT) has done for them."

Curfew

Continued from Page 2

Trevlyn Pitner said the proposed ordinance is designed to help prevent young people from being victims. He also said it makes parents accountable for their children.

Under the ordinance, those under 17 years of age, as well as their parents, can be issued a citation for violating the curfew law. Fines could be as much as \$500.

Pitner said police officers

would issue warnings in the first weeks after the curfew ordinance takes effect. He emphasized that efforts will be made to educate the community to let them be aware of curfew.

Pitner is preparing a fact sheet for distribution to Pampa High School and Pampa Junior High students. In addition to educating the children and the public, Pampa police officers will also be trained in the enforcement of the curfew.

Pitner warned that businesses could be held accountable if they know-

ingly have underage youths in their business during curfew hours.

The ordinance will have exceptions including attending a school or church activity, performing an errand at the direction of parents, en route to or from work, emergencies, in a motor vehicle in interstate travel, or if accompanied by the minor's parents or guardian.

The ordinance is modeled after the City of Amarillo's juvenile curfew ordinance, which has been in effect several years.

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Beaux Arts recital



Beaux Arts Dance Studio will hold its 58th Annual Spring Recital at 7:30 p.m. May 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Above: Kelly Malone, Kayla Cox, Kaysha Spence and Danielle Wall. Not pictured: Jessica Baggerman.



Shelby Langley, top, will play the part of the good fairy from "Wizard of Oz" and Michaela Blalock, bottom, the lion during the upcoming recital.



Beaux Arts Dance Studio will hold its 58th Annual Spring Recital at 7:30 p.m. May 25 at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa. Above: Jessica Baggerman.

Reagan

Continued from Page 4

The Republicans need to pass two immigration bills immediately. First and foremost the border must be closed, and only after that should we negotiate the other issues, such as what to do about the 11 million-or-so illegal immigrants living here.

In addition, the GOP has to alert the American people to exactly what would happen should the Democrats take over the Congress, with all their wild talk about tying the president's hands with countless investigations

and impeaching him in the middle of a war.

The people have to be warned about the dangers of letting the Democrats legislate us into cutting and running in Iraq, creating hugely expensive new programs that will require massive tax increases, sabotaging the prescription drug plan now saving seniors billions of dollars, and making Rep. John Conyers chairman of the House Judiciary Committee where he says he wants to hold hearings on reparations for slavery.

It's time for the president to listen to his base — the people who put him in the White House twice. He's

lucky that the Democrats have the likes of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, Ted Kennedy and Howard Dean. If they had anybody else but this bunch, the Republicans would be flat on their backs.

But because the Democrats lack real leadership and their party is being run by their far-left whacko wing, the GOP has a golden opportunity to exploit the Democrats' weaknesses and win back their base and a majority of the voters.

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

tary men working for the shah in the 1970s.

What they stand for today is the same things they've always stood for — an Islamic democracy, separation of church and state, free elections and equal rights for everyone, including women. They are led by a woman, Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, and more than 50 percent of their leaders are women. Check her out at www.maryam-rajavi.com.

The mujahedin's military forces were inside Iraq, protected and supported by Saddam Hussein. So what. Who supported Saddam when he went to war with Iran? We did. At any rate, we bombed these Iranians and are now holding them as "protected persons." At least we haven't yet turned them over to the mullahs, though some have voluntarily returned to Iran.

I realize there are a number of Iranian factions. The late shah's son no doubt would like to return to the Peacock Throne and probably has his share of Iranian and American supporters. I think that is closer to impossible than to improbable. There are Iranian communists who have their own oar in the water. There are Iranian Jews no doubt carrying water for Israel. There are disaffected former mujahedin who will bad-mouth the organization. There are unaffiliated Iranians inside the country striving for freedom.

Human affairs are never simple, but here's what the mujahedin have going for them. Unlike the Iraqi exiles who were led by a convicted crook, Ahmad Chalabi, and who milked the American taxpayers for hundreds of thousands of dollars while feeding the Bush administration the lies it wanted to hear, the mujahedin want neither money nor weapons. All they want is to be freed

of the label "terrorist."

The most discomfoting thing Bush could do to the Iranian president would be to lift the label of terrorist and invite Mrs. Rajavi to the White House and arrange for her to speak to the American people.

If the potential consequences weren't so tragic, the irony would be laughable. The only organization in the Islamic world that agrees with President Bush, he's labeled as a terrorist organization. Mrs. Rajavi and Bush could be using the same speechwriter, except that she doesn't want a military attack and she's more eloquent than Bush.

I fear, however, the president is too lacking in the Double B's, one of which is brains, to do something so honorable and bold. If I had to bet Federal Reserve notes, I'd bet he will eventually blunder us into another war.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Austin gambling sting results in multiple arrests

AUSTIN (AP) — Authorities have arrested more than 30 people on gambling charges for their part in an operation that police say netted millions from the illegal use of gambling machines.

The joint investigation by the Austin Police Department, the FBI and the Internal Revenue Service, dubbed Operation Casino Flush, began more than a year ago when investigators seized 733 "eight-liner" machines in Austin.

Police say the ring took in more than \$15 million over two years. Most of the suspects had been arrested by Tuesday night.

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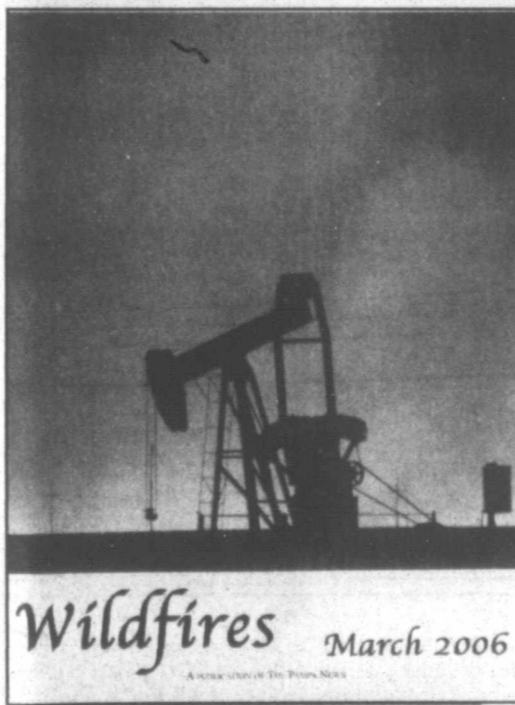
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