

### Today's Weather

HIGH 90  
LOW 68

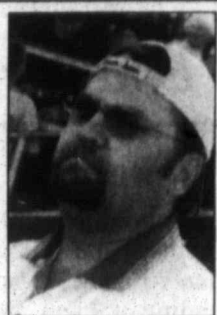
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a bit of that.  
SEE PAGE 7



# THE PAMPA NEWS

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Monday, July 10, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 81

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## Tourism promoter expected to be OK'd

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The Pampa City Commission is expected to approve a new position for a city employee to promote tourism at their special meeting today.

The commission will meet at 4 p.m. today in the commission chambers on the second floor of City Hall.

The new position will report to Shane Stokes, who oversees M.K. Brown Auditorium for the city, and Pat Vanderpool, executive director of the Pampa Chamber of Commerce. The position is being funded from hotel/motel tax collections.

City Manager John Horst said today that several peo-

ple have applied for the job, but no deadline has been set for hiring a person.

The commission will also consider on first reading an ordinance regulating the drilling of water wells within the city limits.

The proposed ordinance allows the drilling of water wells, but requires them to comply with Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District rules. The ordinance also prohibits drilling closer than 75 feet from water and sewer lines, prohibits connections to city water lines and the sale of water for off premises use.

There is a non-refundable \$50 fee with the application to drill and city personnel must have access to the

See CITY, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

A strong thunderstorm rumbled through Carson and Gray counties this morning bringing a soaking rain and some lightning. Officially Pampa recorded .11 inches of rain Saturday, .53 inches Sunday and .27 this morning, according to the automated weather station near Recreation Park.

## Arrests could clear up car burglaries

By MARILYN POWERS  
Staff Writer

Reports of a fight and a prowler led to the arrest early Wednesday of two Pampa men suspected of involvement in some of the recent numerous motor vehicle burglaries in the city, according to Lt. Fred Courtney.

Precinct 2 Constable Chris Lockridge responded to the fight call which was received at about 1:45 a.m.,

and saw two men fighting at 1005 E. Kingsmill. The two fled upon Lockridge's arrival, prompting a foot pursuit joined by three PPD officers.

The two combatants were not found, but officers instead discovered an underage drinking party, Courtney said, and wrote several alcohol- and traffic-related citations.

See ARRESTS, Page 3

## PISD board to meet on school facilities

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The Pampa Independent School District board of trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday at the Pampa High School Auditorium with architects and a citizens advisory committee concerning replacement and renovation of school facilities.

Following a presentation by Parkhill, Smith and Cooper, an architectural firm, on the preliminary

See PISD, Page 3

## Groundwater district to look at permits, sale

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The sale of two properties and 12 drilling permits top the Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District's meeting Wednesday.

The board of directors will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the district's offices, 201 W. Third, in White Deer.

The board will consider bids on two tax delinquent properties in Carson County, nine drilling permits for domestic wells and three

drilling permits for wells larger than four inches.

Five of the domestic wells are replacement wells.

Those requesting permits for replacement wells are Pat Britten in Carson County; Lyndal Coats, Potter County; Ricky Jones, Potter County; Lindell Moore, Potter County, and Bradley and Deborah Johnson, Potter County.

Eddie Davis, Carson

See WATER, Page 3

## Bugbee area reopens after washed out road repaired

FRITCH — Superintendent Karren Brown said today that the Bugbee area of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area will reopen Tuesday following the reconstruction of the Bugbee Road. In June 2004, heavy rains caused a section of the only road leading into the Bugbee campground area to wash out.

Since the event occurred, the park

has been working with the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, Colo., and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to perform engineering assessments of the damage, prepare cost estimates for the repairs necessary to stabilize the roadway, and to procure funds to cover the costs of the repairs to the damaged

roadway.

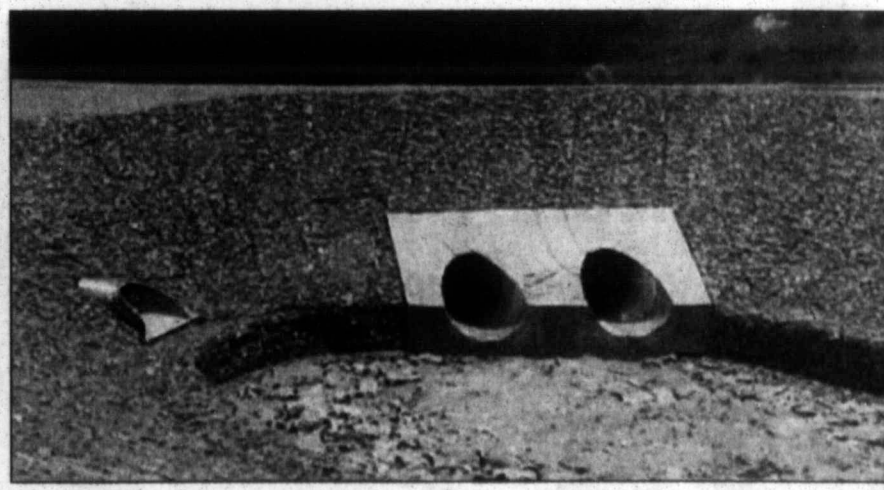
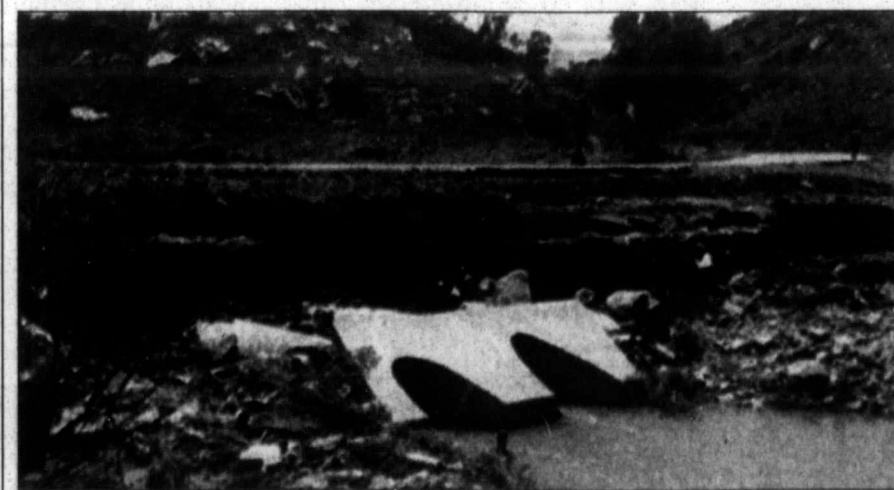
The washout caused damage to about 420 feet of the road, completely eroded the downstream embankment, exposed the concrete culverts underneath the road and caused extensive shoulder damage.

"We received emergency funding for the road construction project which began in February 2006," said Chief of Maintenance Jimmy

Muncy. "The contractor, MRT Heavy Hauling Inc. of Albuquerque, N.M., did a great job and the results are incredible. This new culvert, rock gabions and roadway repairs should last a very long time."

Final inspection of the road took place on July 5 and the park was given the "go ahead" to open up this

See MEREDITH, Page 3



The road to Bugbee camping area at Lake Meredith is now open. Left photo shows damage in June 2004 and right is the new construction as it appears today. Courtesy photos



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## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 72-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thirty-eight traffic stops were made, resulting in at least two arrests. One arrest was in the 1100 block of Willow Road, for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Traffic complaints were received from the 800 block of south Hobart, the intersection of Boyd and Christy streets, the 1900 block of North Hobart, twice from unreported locations, the 2200 block of North Wells, the intersection of Gwendolyn and Faulkner streets, the intersection of 19th and Hobart streets, and the 1800 block of North Zimmers.

Animal complaints were received from the 1000 block of North Christine, the 1300 block of North Russell, the 400 block of South Cuyler, the 100 block of North Hobart, the 900 block of South Finley, the 600 block of North Wells, and the 800 block of South Banks.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 2800 block of Charles, the 1400 block of North Hobart, and at the intersection of Somerville and Hobart streets, where an arrest was made for no driver's license, no insurance and failure to control speed.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 600 block of East Kentucky.

Warrant service was attempted on one occasion, resulting in at least one arrest.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1400 block of North Russell and the 900 block of South Faulkner.

Welfare checks were made in the 1100 block of South Banks, the 11700

block of East Kentucky, the 800 block of North Nelson, and the 500 block of Davis.

One suicide attempt was reported.

A missing person was reported in the police department lobby.

A runaway was reported in the police department lobby.

A runaway, curfew violations and minor in possession/consumption of alcohol was reported in the 900 block of South Nelson. Several juveniles were found to be in violation of the city curfew.

Civil matters were reported in the 500 block of Carr, the police department lobby, the 2200 block of Hamilton, and the 1500 block of North Wells.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 500 block of North Russell, the 100 block of South Sumner, and the 300 block of East Browning.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 300 block of Jean, the 11700 block of East Kentucky, the 100 block of North Cuyler, the 1200 block of Darby, one mile southeast of the city, the 800 block of West Francis, and the 200 block of North Russell.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1000 block of South Dwight, the 200 block of Gillespie, and the 200 block of Tignor.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 700 block of North Dwight.

Failure to identify as a fugitive from justice was reported in the 300 block of North Davis.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1200 block of East Kingsmill, the 1500 block of North Sumner, the 2100 block of North Williston, the 1000 block of North Sumner, the 500 block

of North Sumner, the 500 block of North Zimmers, the 500 block of West Foster, the 2600 block of North Hobart, the 2300 block of Alcock, the 1800 block of North Zimmers, the 700 block of North Christy, and the 2100-block of North Nelson.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of North Dwight, the 100 block of Varnon Drive, the 800 block of North Nelson, and the 100 block of North Houston.

Criminal mischief was reported at NBC Plaza, 1224 N. Hobart. A double-pane window was shot, resulting in an estimated \$200 damage.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace. A house window valued at \$60 was broken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson. A truck bed and window were damaged. Estimated cost of damage is unknown.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of Duncan, the intersection of 27th and Beech streets, and the 1100 block of Wilcox.

Harassment was reported in the 1000 block of South Dwight, twice in the police department lobby, the 700 block of Hazel, and the 1300 block of Garland.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 800 block of South Sumner, the 800 block of North Dwight, the 1200 block of Duncan, the 1000 block of North Wells, the 2200 block of Hamilton, the 100 block of North Houston, and the 800 block of South Banks and the 1800 block of North Nelson, where the incidents were verbal only.

Assault/domestic violence was reported in the 400 block of North Christy. Minor injuries which did not

require medical attention were reported.

Assault/domestic violence was reported in the 900 block of South Reid. No injuries were reported.

Assault/family violence was reported in the 100 block of West 30th. Minor injuries were reported. The incident occurred in Amarillo.

Assault causing bodily injury/family violence was reported in the 100 block of North Houston. Minor injuries which did not require medical attention were reported.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace. Minor injuries which did not require medical attention were reported. The victim was arrested on several warrants, and the suspect was also arrested.

Aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 1000 block of West Wilks. Medical attention was required for unknown injuries. The victim's wallet and contents were taken, for a loss of \$460. The victim's condition is unknown.

Six burglar alarms were reported.

One open door was checked. Theft of services was reported in the 800 block of South Talley. City water valued at \$50 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of North Starkweather. A bicycle valued at \$130 was taken.

Theft was reported in the police department lobby. A bicycle valued at \$100 was taken from the 1200 block of North Russell.

Theft was reported at the intersection of Alcock and Naida streets. A trailer was reported stolen, but later was recovered in the 600 block of North Naida.

Theft was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky. A camera valued

at \$100 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 300 block of North Christy. A 4-month-old boxer puppy valued at \$200 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 600 block of North Sumner. Forgery was reported at United Supermarket, 1420 N. Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the 700 block of Doucette.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks. Fuel valued at \$40 was taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Terrace. A cell phone and radar detector were taken, resulting in an estimated loss of \$110.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 400 block of East Kingsmill. A knife valued at \$10 was taken.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred at an unknown location. Jewelry and numerous compact discs were taken, and a window of the vehicle was damaged. Estimated damage and loss is \$400.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1300 block of East Kingsmill and the 100 block of West Foster.

### Sheriff

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

#### Saturday, July 8

Tabitha Herring, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of North Hobart by Pampa Police Department for no insurance, no driver's license and speeding.

Nicholas Christopher Warren, 26, of Pampa was arrested in the 1100 block of Willow Road by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia.

#### Sunday, July 9

Jose Refugio Resendiz, 28, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for unlawful restraint and resisting arrest.

Harlan Wayne Sealman, 45, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for public intoxication.

Darrell Joseph Rivera, 24, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to appear and no seat belt.

### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Friday, July 7

10:17 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of South Banks. Call canceled by Pampa Police Department.

2:07 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of North Roberta and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

4:43 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the Jordan Unit and transported a patient to PRMC.

8 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of North Zimmers and transported a patient to PRMC.

8:10 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Nursing Center and transported a patient to PRMC.

#### Saturday, July 8

1:13 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2100 block of Beech and transported a patient to PRMC.

#### Sunday, July 9

5:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of South Faulkner. No transport.

#### Monday, July 10

2:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of Barnard and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Browning and transported a patient to PRMC.

## Gray County Weather

Today: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 90. Southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50 percent.

Tonight: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 94. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 71. South southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 96. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy and hot, with a high near 97. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly

cloudy, with a low around 72. South southwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 96. South southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 70.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 94.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 96.

## IRS warns of Internet scams

WASHINGTON — Following a recent increase in scam e-mails, the Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers to be on the lookout for bogus e-mails claiming to be from the tax agency.

The IRS saw an increase in complaints in recent weeks about these e-mails, which are designed to trick the recipients into disclosing personal and financial information that could be used to steal the recipients' identity and financial assets.

"The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails asking for personal information," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Don't be taken in by these criminals."

The IRS has seen a recent increase in these scams. Since November, 99 different scams have been identified, with 20 of those com-

ing in June — the most since 40 were identified in March during the height of the filing season.

Many of these schemes originate outside the United States. To date, investigations by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration have identified sites hosting more than two dozen IRS-related phishing scams. These scam Web sites have been located in many different countries, including Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, England, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Singapore and Slovakia, as well as the United States.

The current scams claim to come from the IRS, tell recipients that they are due a federal tax refund, and direct them to a Web site that appears to be a genuine

IRS site. The bogus sites contain forms or interactive Web pages similar to IRS forms or Web pages but which have been modified to request detailed personal and financial information from the e-mail recipients. In addition, e-mail addresses ending with ".edu" — involving users in the education community — currently seem to be heavily targeted.

The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal information via e-mail. Additionally, the IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

Tricking consumers into disclosing their personal and financial information, such as secret access data or credit card or bank account numbers, is fraudulent activity which can result in identity theft. Such schemes perpetrated through the Internet are called "phishing" for information.

The IRS also has established an electronic mailbox for taxpayers to send information about suspicious e-mails they receive which claim to come from the IRS. Taxpayers should send the information to: phishing@irs.gov.

More than 7,000 bogus emails have been forwarded to the IRS, with nearly 1,300 forwarded in June alone.

The IRS's mail box allows taxpayers to send copies of possibly fraudulent e-mails involving misuse of the IRS name and logo to the IRS for investigation. Instructions on how to properly submit one of these communications to the IRS may be found on this Web site.

### Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of White Deer.  
Wheat ..... 4.53  
Milo ..... 3.45  
Corn ..... 4.34  
Soybeans ..... 4.91

Cabot Oil Gas .. 47.68 +0.56  
Coca Cola ..... 43.58 +0.40  
VLO ..... 66.04 +0.60  
HAL ..... 73.58 +0.97  
TRI ..... 39.92 +0.16  
KML ..... 99.90 NC  
XCEL ..... 19.44 +0.07  
Kerr McGee ..... 69.56 +0.01  
XOM ..... 63.35 +0.51  
Nat'l Oilwell ..... 61.10 +0.90  
Limited ..... 25.56 +0.28  
Williams ..... 22.96 +0.10  
MCD ..... 33.52 +0.34  
Atmos ..... 28.48 +0.13

Pioneer Nat ..... 45.32 +0.29  
JCP ..... 68.85 +0.34  
COP ..... 67.61 +0.42  
SLB ..... 64.16 +1.41  
Tenneco ..... 24.60 +0.11  
CVX ..... 64.23 +0.55  
Wal-Mart ..... 46.57 +0.57  
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# Do-little Congress even having trouble with the sure things

WASHINGTON (AP) — Could a Republican-controlled Congress pass a bill to protect the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance from court challenges?

No problem, especially if proposed during the patriotic season leading up to the Fourth of July, Republican leaders thought.

The bill, the first item on the GOP's trumpeted election-year "American Values Agenda," could not make it past a House committee.

Even worse for the Republicans was that they could not blame Democrats. One of the GOP's very own, Rep. Bob Inglis of South

Carolina, voted no. Seven other Republicans skipped the committee meeting entirely.

So it goes this year for House Republicans, their majority in jeopardy for the first time in more than a decade. Take an unpopular president, factor in deep divisions in the GOP ranks and add to that Democrats determined to regain control. It all means a Congress having trouble doing its most basic job: passing legislation.

Republican leaders tried to shrug off the setbacks.

"We're not having trouble," Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, insists. "This is your typical legisla-

tive meat grinder."

Privately, many are frustrated. Democrats have pounced on the lack of progress with a "we can do better" election theme.

"I wish the election were today," House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California said last week, summing up a list of "Republican failures."

An election-year session of Congress with little major legislation turned into laws is nothing new. Lawmakers traditionally are loath to vote on contentious legislation so close to the start of campaigning, when they might be called to account for such votes.

One president, Harry

Truman, ran against the "do-nothing Congress" during his 1948 re-election campaign.

For some, debating proposals that have little chance of passage is a legitimate use of the full House and Senate.

"Passing bills isn't the end-all and be-all of Congress," said Brian Darling of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. "There's also some value in debating these issues and using Congress to air out issues that are important to the American people."

Democrats ridicule as political ploys Republican decisions to bring up legisla-

tion in tax cuts, roughly divided evenly between investors and middle-income families.

Lawmakers still have high hopes of sending Bush bills to bolster pension protections for 44 million workers and extending the historic Voting Rights Act.

Republicans point out that Democrats are not above bringing up proposals just for political gain. They note that Democrats have insisted on bringing up a proposal to raise the minimum wage, which has failed for nine years.

With two-thirds of the 2006 legislative calendar over, Congress has passed and sent President Bush only two major pieces of legislation. One renewed the terrorist-fighting USA Patriot Act; the other extended \$70 bil-

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## Astronauts begin spacewalk to make repairs

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With a gentle tug and a bit of a grunt, two spacemen from the shuttle Discovery removed a faulty part from the international space station's crucial rail car today.

Astronauts were swapping out a severed cable reel, which provides power, video

and data. "We're getting a workout," astronaut Mike Fossum said.

Their more mundane tasks also involved installing a spare external pump compartment on the station's cooling system. The astronauts attached the pump compartment to the space

station's robotic arm, and it was moved to where it will be installed on the station.

The spacewalk came a day after the astronauts received the good news that everything appeared safe for them to return to Earth aboard Discovery.

Astronauts Piers Sellers came out of the hatch first,

followed by Fossum, as the space station and Discovery passed about 220 miles above Spain.

"Everyone can hear you scream," said Fossum, in a twist on the tag line from the movie "Alien."

Sellers retorted: "About the time I get outside, I'll put on my alien costume."

The spacewalk lacked the drama of the astronauts' trip on Saturday, when they stood on the end of a 50-foot extension connected to the 50-foot shuttle robotic arm. They were testing the sometimes-oscillating assembly as a platform for making repairs to the space shuttle.

The spacewalk, at the middle of space shuttle Discovery's 13-day mission, was expected to last under seven hours. The last spacewalk of the mission is scheduled for Wednesday.

Replacing the cable on the rail car, or mobile transporter, is crucial for the continuation of construction of the space station.

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## Arrests

Continued from Page 1

The officers were still in the area and responded when a prowler call was received from the 1000 block of Francis, a block away from Kingsmill.

Officer Casey Ingersoll located the prowler, whom Lockridge identified as one of the men involved in the earlier fight, Courtney said.

The officers returned to the Kingsmill address and observed two other males walking toward their location. They were asked to stop, and one ran. As he did so, he threw some items to the ground, Courtney said.

The runner, Christopher Whitten, 18, subsequently stopped and surrendered to the officers. Officer Nathan Lewis found an open beer bottle and a car CD player by the house on Kingsmill. He also found the Social Security cards of two different persons, plus a driver's license that was not Whitten's, on Whitten, Courtney said.

The other pedestrian, Ryan Mychal Davis, 20, had an XM radio, radar detector and CD cases on his person, according to the police report.

Officers located the owner of the driver's license, whose car had been burglarized. Three other car burglaries were also cleared as a result of the arrest of

Whitten and Davis, Courtney said.

Whitten and Davis were each charged with four counts of burglary of a motor vehicle and one count of minor in possession of alcohol. Whitten was also charged with possession or fraudulent use of identifying information. Davis was also charged with disorderly conduct/language.

Whitten remains in Gray County Jail as of press time in lieu of \$14,000 bond. Davis was released on \$8,000 bond, according to jail records.

"Investigators are continuing to look at the two as persons of interest in other recent car burglaries," Courtney said.

## City

Continued from Page 1

property where the well is drilled.

The city's code enforcement will handle the permits.

In other business, Richard Morris, director of

public works, will talk to the commission about rezoning the area around Kentucky and Hobart with regard to the new CVS pharmacy that's expected to be built on the northeast corner of the intersection.

The commission will also discuss the 2006-2007 budget.

A public hearing on the

city's annual drinking water quality report, which had originally been scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday and rescheduled to today's meeting, will not be held, according to Public Works Director Richard Morris. The consumer confidence report hearing will be held during commissioners' July 25 meeting.

## Meredith

Continued from Page 1

popular area. In a related development, Brown said today that lake Meredith National Recreation Area had erroneously reported that the Marina at Lake Meredith is closed.

That report was false. The marina boat ramp at Sanford-Yake was closed for three days in June for maintenance.

Brown said the Marina reopened on June 17 and has remained open since that time.

For more information, contact George Sures, manager of the marina, at 806 865-3391, or the park service at 806 857-3151.

## Water

Continued from Page 1

County; Chris Durham, Donley County; Dale Keeler, Gray County, and H&H Pallets, Potter County, are seeking permits for new wells.

Ray Norton, Carson County, is requesting a

drilling permit for a six-inch larger than four inches.

G&C Lindel Dairy, Gray County, is seeking permits for two eight-inch wells.

The PGWCD board will also review the 2005-2006 budget, the ag loan account and consider agricultural water conservation equipment loan requests.

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## PISD

Continued from Page 1

nary PISD facilities master plan, the subcommittees of the advisory committee will break up to review plans for Pampa High School and Pampa Junior High School.

Additional meetings are planned for Thursday and Friday evenings.

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# Viewpoints

## Schoolteachers of yore had a strict code to follow

School teaching has never been the best paying avocation, but the terms of employment have definitely improved over the last century.

When the Haskell County community of Marcy made the decision in 1906 to relocate three miles to be on the right of way of the new Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad, A.B. Carothers donated the land for the new tracks and 160 acres for the town site.

In appreciation, the railroad gave him first choice on what the new town should be called. He thought Carothers, Texas had a nice ring to it, but a check with postal authorities determined that name had already been taken in Texas. Not being able to honor the Haskell County land owner, the railroad opted to call the new town Rochester, after Rochester, N.Y.

His altruistic spirit not dampened, Carothers paid for construc-

tion of a one-room school house. Classes began in the fall with nine grades and one teacher.

According to Marguerite Gaunt and Modelle Ballard's 1976 history of Rochester, "When the Rails Were Laid," these were the teacher's conditions of employment:

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 a.m., unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits, unless you have permission of the chairman of the [school] board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man, unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.

8. You may not dress in bright colors.

9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.

10. You must wear at least two petticoats.

11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.

**Mike Cox**

Texas Tales



12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor once a day; scrub the floor once a week with hot soapy water; clean the blackboards once a day; start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

Rochester's first teacher managed to abide by the school board's

strict rules, but something else would seriously impact her enthusiasm for teaching on the South Plains.

In the predawn hours of July 2, 1907, Kate Slotton Finley, the town's young schoolteacher, lay sound asleep, readily abiding by her school board-imposed curfew, when her landlady woke her up. A bad storm was coming, she said. They needed to head for the storm cellar.

Either too sleepy or too confident, the teacher opted to stay in bed. Just about the time she got comfortably back to sleep, oblivious to the lightning flashes and the wildly turning public windmill in the middle of the town's main street, a tornado struck, tearing the roof off the boarding house. The rotating wind pulled Finley out of her bed, along with the heavy trunk containing most of her wardrobe.

If she thought for a second that

she was having a dream about flying, she soon realized she was moving through the night sky for real, her screams drowned in the roar of the wind.

Accounts of the storm do not reveal whether Finley consulted with her higher power while swirling in the air, but the winds set her down on Rochester's muddy street. Regaining consciousness, she began to crawl for help, blood rushing from a cut on her forehead.

A local woman saw her and helped her to safety, finding her only injuries to be the cut and a dislocated thumb.

"I could see the church [across the street from her boarding house] swaying to and fro," the teacher later recalled in describing her brief ride on the wind. "I saw my trunk up in the air. I hit the ground flat, my bed sheet wrapped around

See COX, Page 5

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 10, the 191st day of 2006. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as German forces began attacking southern England by air.

On this date:

In 1850, Vice President Millard Fillmore assumed the presidency, following the death of President Taylor.

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

In 1919, President Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles to the Senate, and urged its ratification.

In 1925, the official news agency of the Soviet Union, TASS, was established.

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. and British forces invaded Sicily.

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean conflict began at Kaesong.

In 1962, the Telstar communications satellite was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

*'One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind.'*

— Malayan proverb

In 1973, the Bahamas became independent after three centuries of British colonial rule.

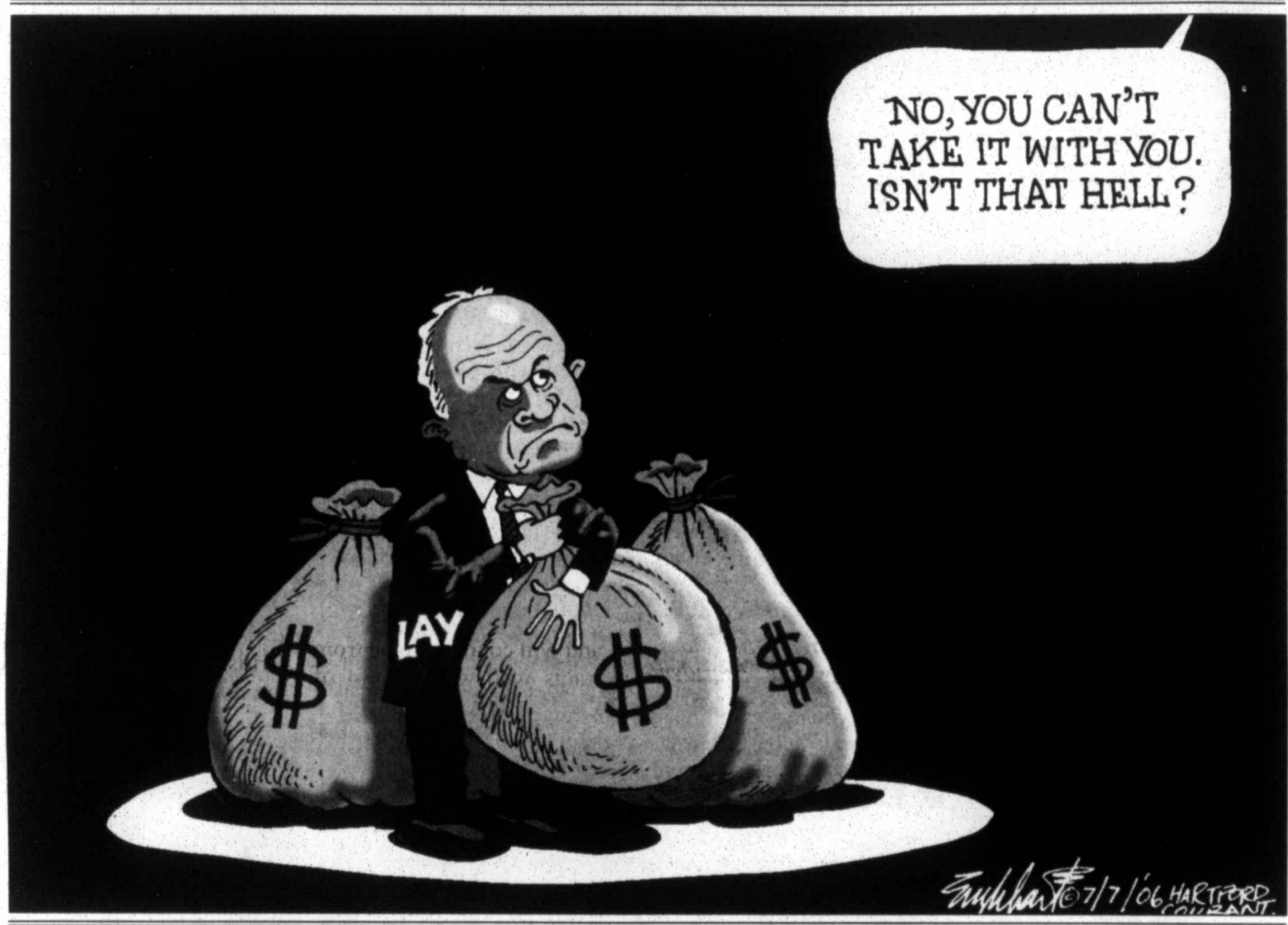
In 1985, bowing to pressure from irate customers, Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic.

Ten years ago: In a tough speech to the U.S. Congress laying out conditions for Mideast negotiations, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that Syria and the Palestinians stop terrorists from attacking Israel.

Five years ago: The White House backed off a plan to let religious groups that receive federal money, such as the Salvation Army, ignore local laws that ban discrimination against gays and lesbians. For the second time in a month, a jury in New York rejected the death penalty for one of the men convicted in the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa, opting instead for life in prison without parole. The American League defeated the National League, 4-1, in the All-Star Game.

One year ago: A search-and-rescue team found the body of a missing U.S. commando in eastern Afghanistan, bringing an end to the desperate search for the last member of an ill-fated, four-man special forces unit that had disappeared the previous month. Nineteen-month-old Suzie Marie Pena was killed by Los Angeles police officers during a shootout with the child's father, Jose Raul Pena, who was using his daughter as a shield.



## New York Times stinks of high treason ...

You could call it "Treason Central," or "al Qaeda West," but no matter what you call it, the building housing the once-august New York Times at 229 West 43rd St. in New York City is a beehive of anti-American hostility, where selling out the nation's secrets has become the newspaper's stock in trade.

This latest episode of the Times revealing information vital to the government's ability to protect the American people from new 9/11s is just another example of the Times' contempt for the security of the people of the United States of America in a time of war.

To say that they have no shame fails to indicate the depths of infamy to which the Times has sunk. What they have done is sheer and

outright treason, and it's the third time the Times has adopted Benedict Arnold as its role model, having blabbed about the monitoring of international phone call records and, prior to that, having told our enemies that their communications with their agents in the U.S. were being listened to by intelligence agencies.

What makes my blood boil is the arrogance of the Times' editor Bill Keller, and his fellow editors, in flatly refusing the requests of the administration, the two former heads of the 9/11 Commission and even Rep. John Murtha — hardly a

friend of the Bush Administration — that the newspaper refrain from publishing the details of the program tracking the international flow of terrorist money, a vital weapon in the war on terrorism, and a

we a p o n they have now very probably disarmed.

Just who do these p e o p l e think they have the right to endanger the security of the people of the United States of America? By their actions, they have repeatedly shown they have no shame and have not a shred of concern for the safety of their readers.

**Michael Reagan**  
Columnist



Rep. Peter King, R-NY, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, has said that "the real question here is the conduct of The New York Times by disclosing this in time of war, they have compromised America's anti-terrorist policies. This is a very effective policy. They have compromised it. This is the second time The New York Times has done this. And to me, no one elected The New York Times to do anything. And The New York Times is putting its own arrogant elitist left-wing agenda before the interests of the American people."

Rep. King told Fox News anchor Chris Wallace that the NYT reporters, editors, and publishers responsible for that story should be

See REAGAN, Page 5

## Iraqi War is a veritable palace of distortion

The Iraq War is an elaborate palace of lies, and to keep it shored up, the Bush administration continues to lie about it.

One of its lies is that sovereignty has been granted to the Iraqis. That's not true. An Iraqi police officer cannot investigate any crime committed by an American, much less arrest an American. When the U.S. disliked Iraq's prime minister, he was forced to withdraw. The Iraqi government, in fact, has no control over and will play no part in determining when and if American forces withdraw from the country. In short,

Iraq remains under American occupation.

The foundational lie was that invading Iraq was a logical and necessary part of the phony war on terrorism. Iraq, under the secular dictatorship of Saddam Hussein, had nothing to do with terrorism. It had nothing to do with the attack on the U.S. It had nothing to do with Osama bin Laden, who publicly excoriated Saddam and was, in turn, excoriated by Saddam.

Saddam Hussein sent money to every Palestinian family who lost somebody in the intifada. It didn't matter how they were killed — shot

by an Israeli sniper or killed carrying a bomb — the family got a check. The Bush administration chooses to call that supporting terrorism, but in fact, Saddam was supporting Palestinian independence, Palestinians, as with everyone else in the world, have the right to resist occupation of their country

and are doing nothing that the Jews didn't do when they were resisting British occupation during the Palestine Mandate period.

Some religious cultists believe that God gave Palestine to the Israelis, but the last time I checked, God wasn't in the real estate business. British colonialism was.

The big lie used to sell the war to the gullible American public was the claim that Iraq possessed huge stockpiles of biological and chemical weapons and was pursuing a nuclear weapon. That

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



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# NYC building collapses after explosion, fire; 1 dug from rubble

**By ADAM GOLDMAN**  
Associated Press Writer  
NEW YORK (AP) — A four-story building housing doctors' offices collapsed and burned today after what witnesses described as a thunderous explosion that rocked the neighborhood just off Madison Avenue.

Firefighters dug one person from the rubble about an hour after the blast, and two other people and a firefighter were taken to hospitals, Fire Department spokesman Jim Long said.

The cause of the explosion

was not immediately known, though White House press secretary Tony Snow said there was no indication of terrorism.

"They think it was the gas line," Snow said.

Power company Con Edisons said its crews had been responding to complaints from a gas customer at an adjacent building at the time of the blast occurred.

Yaakov Kermaier, 36, a resident in a building next door, said he was outside when he heard "a deafening boom. I saw the whole build-

ing explode in front of me." "Everybody started running, nobody knew what was coming next," he said. His nanny and newborn escaped from their next-door apartment unharmed.

The building included two doctors' offices, and records show at least one apartment was in the building, Fire Department Lt. Eugene Whyte said. Authorities said a nurse who was supposed to open one of the offices arrived late, narrowly missing the explosion.

Heavy black smoke rose

high above the building, wedged between taller structures on 62nd Street between Park and Madison Avenues just a few blocks from Central Park. Bricks, glass and splintered wood was littered across the block, and windows in a neighboring building were blown out.

Thad Milonas, 57, was operating a coffee cart across from the building when he said the ground shook and the building came down, said he helped two bleeding women from the scene.

TV host Larry King, who

had been in a hotel room nearby, described the explosion to CNN as sounding like a bomb and feeling like an earthquake.

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## Cox

Continued from Page 4

me, and wringing wet." The violent summer storm marked the end of Finley's teaching career in Rochester. The tornado had demolished her school and

destroyed or damaged 13 other structures in town, including the Methodist Church. Besides, as the authors of the community history reported, Finley's close call left her "too nervous to teach."

Mike Cox, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of a dozen Texas-related books.

## Reese

Continued from Page 4

proved false. There were no stockpiles, no programs to produce any, and no nuclear-weapons program. A Republican senator recently made a fool out of himself by claiming that a few old chemical shells scattered around the desert proved the WMD claim.

To his embarrassment, even the Pentagon pooh-poohed his claim. Those old shells, now unusable, were scattered about by American bombing. Their existence had been known and noted a long time ago. As the Iraqis had told us repeatedly, they had not produced a chemical or biological weapon since prior to 1991.

Still another lie the Bush administration perpetrated was to inflate the importance of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the terrorist recently sent to hell by two 500-pound bombs. This was necessary to perpetuate the lie that most of the resistance was from foreign terrorists. No, most of the resistance was, has been and will continue to be from Iraqis who want us out of their country. Except for a couple of televised executions, we can't be sure what Zarqawi actually did. He was a Jordanian with no ties

to Iraq. Two or three months ago, I predicted that it was only a matter of time before someone dropped a dime on him.

You will notice that after his death, the violence in Iraq has continued without as much as a hiccup. This indicates that he may have been taking credit for, or been given credit by the U.S. for, attacks others were committing.

The simple truth is that the invasion of Iraq had nothing to do with the war on terrorism. It was done to make the Middle East safe for Israel. The same group who led us into this war had been advocating invading Iraq long before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Americans should be outraged that they were lied into a war, but they seem to accept that passively. They are somewhat disgruntled that the war isn't going well and appears to be endless. That's at least something. Both the war in Iraq and the one in Afghanistan will last as long as American troops remain in those two countries.

The truth is that, in the end, we will have won nothing except lucrative contracts for American and British corporations. Those are not worth the life of one American, much less more than 2,500.

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

## Reagan

Continued from Page 4

charged under the Espionage Act, which is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

A lot of my listeners have called with the suggestion that Americans boycott the Times' advertisers while others agree with Rep. King that the Times' editors should be hauled before a judge to account for their treasonous activities. Aside from the fact that boycotts of this nature seldom work, and the idea of indicting the Times for treason won't fly because they have a right to publish whatever they want, what this case demands is that they be shamed — to be made pariahs and held up before the nation and exposed for all to see as the traitors they are. And Americans should never be allowed to forget this.

The Times claims that

under the First Amendment they have a right to publish anything they want. That's true, but they don't have the right to engage in what amounts to treason, to giving aid and comfort to an enemy that wants to kill us all.

Keller defends his publishing of material damaging to the national security on the grounds that the public has the right to know. What he's really saying is that al Qaeda has the right to know, and he's going to do his damndest to see that they do know all America's secrets.

From now on, we should treat the Times as we would treat any skunk — hold our nose whenever we see it. After all, that odor we sense is the odor of treason.

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.

## Shrine donation

Scott Davis, left, vice president of the McLean Dance Club, and Jerry McMennamy, Dance Club and Shrine Club member, recently donated tabs to the Pampa Shrine Club. Accepting the donation was Steve Phelps, president of the local Shriners, right.

## Events calendar

- Pampa Community Concert Association** Presents "Live On Stage" has released its current concert schedule. The schedule is as follows: "The Centurymen" 7 p.m., Sept. 20, First Baptist Church in Pampa; pianist Alpin Hong, 2:30 p.m., Oct. 1, M.K. Brown Auditorium; "Puttin' on the Hitz, A Salute to Irving Berlin," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15, Borger High School Auditorium; Bronn and Katherine Journey, harpist and vocalist, 7:30 p.m., March 19, M.K. Brown Auditorium. Membership fees are \$30 for adults, \$70 for families; and \$15 for students. For more information, call 665-0343 or 665-2631.
- Habitat For Horses, Inc.**, is in the area distributing horse feed, hay, medical and barn supplies. The volunteer organization will continue to organize feed and hay drives to the fire damaged area and coordinate distribution centers as needed. For more information, call (866) 434-5737 or (806) 681-5858.
- Coffee Memorial Blood Center** of Amarillo will conduct a blood drive from 12 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Clarendon College-Pampa Center. To schedule an appointment, call 1-877-574-8800. A T-shirt will be given to each participating donor.
- Hereford High School Alumni Association** will hold its first annual multi-class reunion Friday and Saturday at Grapevine. For more information, log onto www.herefordalumni.com; e-mail info@herefordalumni.com; write

HHS Alumni Association, 1108 Oakridge Dr., Euless, TX 76040; or phone (817) 267-2068.

**Amarillo Museum of Art** will open to a "Free Family Festival" from 1-4 p.m. Sunday to celebrate the summer 2006 exhibition "Material Terrain: A Sculptural Exploration of Landscape and Place." Follow the gallery hunt clues and discover the artwork. Receive prizes for completing the hunt. Enjoy live music. Create your own unique art. Learn about sculpture from children-friendly films. Treat your taste buds with complimentary refreshments. The museum is located at 2200 S. Van Buren.



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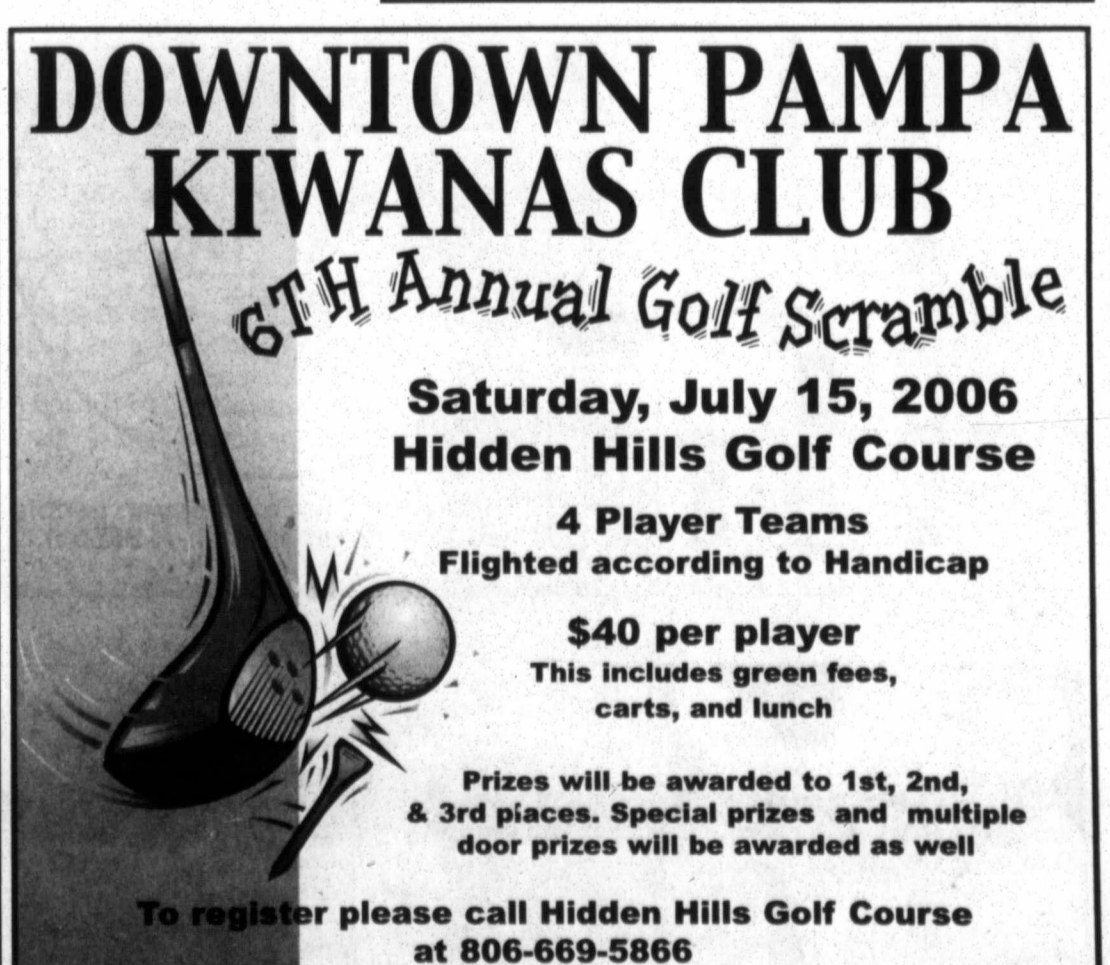
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# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** When I was 16 I fell in love with the handsomest man I had ever seen. I'll call him "Todd." Apparently everyone else thought so, too. Todd loved the women and they loved him, and our relationship ended. After many years we were reunited. We have been together for three years now. Todd has changed a lot since high school. His personality is every woman's dream now. He is thoughtful, considerate, and tells me he loves me every day. He has apologized repeatedly for his past. The problem is, he's no longer as attractive as he used to be. Over the years he has neglected his body, teeth, skin and hair. He is a diesel mechanic, and his hands and fingernails are embedded with grease. We no longer look like we belong together, and I'm embarrassed to introduce him to friends. (They chuckle under their breath when they see him.) My friends and I like to go to fancy places, and even when Todd is dressed up, he doesn't look right. Forgive me if this seems shallow. I have kept my youthful looks. I still wear a size 8, and no one can believe I have three grandchildren. How do I deal with this? I love Todd. I love being with him and talking to him. But I can't seem to overcome these feelings. — **CONFUSED IN NEW JERSEY**

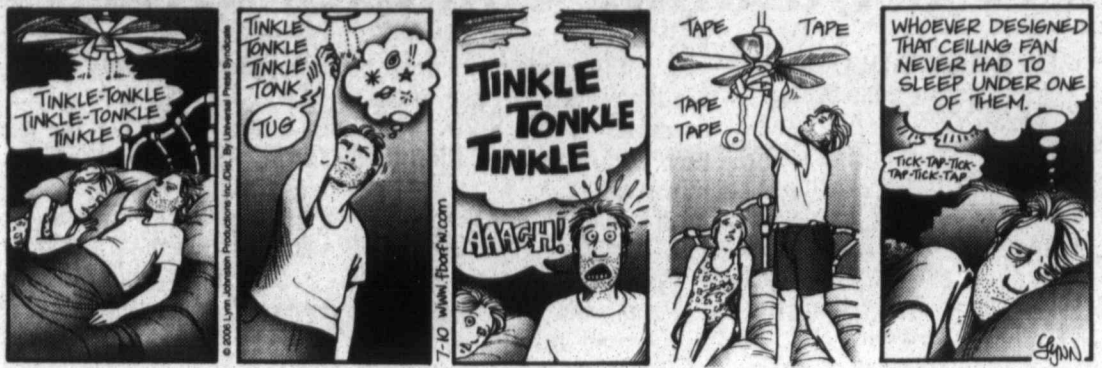
**DEAR CONFUSED:** Alcoholics Anonymous has something called the "Serenity Prayer." Commit it to memory, and use it as the need arises, because it can be a helpful tool for living: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, AND THE WISDOM TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE." (Italics are mine.) If you really love Todd, it is within your power to "encourage" him to exercise and eat healthfully, to see a dentist and a barber regularly, and groom himself more carefully. If

you love Todd, you will tell your friends that you do -- and if you still feel they look down on this thoughtful, considerate and affectionate man, you will cultivate friends who are more accepting.

**DEAR ABBY:** "Rita" and I first became close in junior high. We are both in our mid-20s and currently live about two hours apart. We spent many hours together as teens. However, her demanding nature did always grate on me. One year, when we were living on opposite coasts, I sent Rita an expensive birthday gift and card, but forgot to call her until the next day. Instead of thanking me, she pouted and accused me of "not valuing our friendship." A few months ago, Rita sent me an angry e-mail because I had made plans with my boyfriend for two nights during her week-long stay in my town. (She was here for the wedding of a couple I do not know.) I wrote her back, explaining that I love her, but I am now a busy woman and don't have time for her childish behavior. I told her she expects a degree of attention that I cannot give her. We haven't spoken since. Recently Rita e-mailed me and invited me to lunch. I have not responded. I simply have no desire to see her, as I have not enjoyed our relationship for years. Do I owe Rita anything besides wishing her the best? Should I see her? — **FEELING GUILTY IN PALO ALTO**

**DEAR FEELING GUILTY:** Because you have no desire to see her, politely refuse the invitation. Friendship is supposed to be mutual, and you are in no way obligated to continue this one. Sometimes people simply grow apart, and this appears to be the case with you and Rita.

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Gift
- 5 Like
- 10 Epps of "House"
- 11 Early calculator
- 13 Auto with a meter
- 14 Ford classic
- 15 London district
- 17 Gardener of "Mogambo"
- 18 Bickered
- 19 Fathom
- 20 Photography
- 21 Andean nation
- 22 Fright with peril
- 25 Flings
- 26 Visitor to Siam
- 27 Letter after sigma
- 28 "How was — know?"
- 29 "Frankenstein" star
- 33 Scatter seeds
- 34 Neighbor of Greece
- 35 Concert bonus

H	O	M	A	G	E		O	P	T	S
E	X	E	T	E	R		L	O	O	P
M	I	D	L	E	R		D	I	S	H
I	D	E	A	S		H	E	N	C	E
N	E	A	R		T	A	R	T	A	R
			G	A	R		A	L	E	
			U	S	E	B		D	A	T
			S	K			H	O	N	E
			H				R	A	J	A
			A	L	T	A	R		G	O
			V	E	E		C	A	S	I
			E	L	M	O		A	Z	O
			R	E	S	T		D	E	L

### Saturday's answer

- 1 Foul up
- 2 Nebraska city
- 3 Grew in volume
- 4 Indian Ocean nation
- 5 Entered
- 6 German sub
- 7 Naughty
- 8 Cold periods
- 9 Drainage ditch
- 12 Condition
- 16 Com-mand to Fido
- 21 "Lonely Boy" singer
- 22 Brought up
- 23 Chants
- 24 Rockies top
- 25 No-no in some diets
- 27 Knack
- 29 "Will & Grace" role
- 30 Without letup
- 31 Dismissed
- 32 Grows dim
- 36 Exalted verse

## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



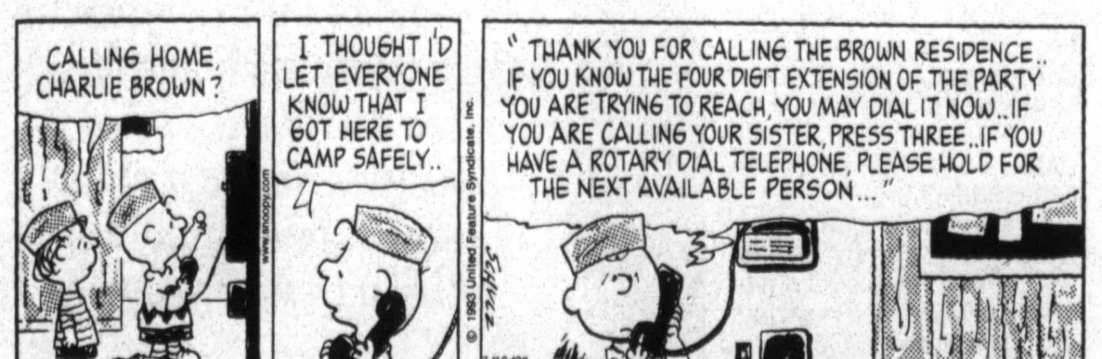
## B.C.



## Haggar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Flo & Friends



# Sports Day

## SPORTS BUFFET

### A little bit of everything

**In his own backyard**  
Congratulations to Amarillo super middleweight boxer Valentino "Tino" Jalomo who fought his opponent, Joe "Sugar" Rea to a draw Saturday night in Hyannis, Mass. Jalomo was 2-0 entering the bout. Rea, who trains with Mickey Ward in the Boston area, was 5-0 with four of his wins coming by knockout.

**Michael J. Stevens**  
Sports Editor

According to CES Boxing's Web site, the match between these two boxers was "The Fight of the Night."

#### Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

In the wake of the Amarillo Dusters' latest loss, the team's sixth straight, changes are most likely on the horizon. The Dusters (4-9) managed only 24 points in Saturday's 67-24 road loss to the af2's top ranked Spokane Shock (11-2) in front of almost 10,000 fans.

With just three games left in the regular season, only one of them at home, the time to start preparing for next season may be at hand.

Win out and the changes could be minimal and focused on the field. A 7-9 record in this league might still garner some respect and offer hope.

Anything short of that, and the wind of change could blow into the front office.

#### Nextel Cup Nonsense

In the pits following a race earlier in the season at Bristol, Tenn., Jeff Gordon pushed Matt Kenseth who was on his way to apologize for an on-track faux pas that caused Gordon to spin. Post race shenanigans are always fun to watch.

The on-track ones can be just as amusing.

Sunday, in the waning laps of the Chicago race, Gordon pushed Kenseth again. Only this time, they were still in their cars and on the track. Kenseth was

leading at the time, Gordon was in second.

Kenseth said later he thought it was obvious Gordon had not put Bristol behind him. Gordon said the incident had nothing to do with Bristol, but did admit he wanted to do



whatever he needed to get his team, which had been struggling, its second win in three

weeks (Gordon won at Sonoma, Calif.).

I sort of like the feuding. What I don't like are the yahoos that find it necessary to heave beer bottles on the track as a way to express their displeasure with what took place. I'm not a Gordon fan, but chucking a perfectly good bottle of suds, well ... there is just no excuse for it.

#### Lucky with the bat, but it was his feet that failed him

In the bottom of the 11th inning and the score tied 5-5, Houston pitching ace Roy Oswalt strolls to the batter's box, takes a few hacks before connecting for a perfect shot down the left field line. Oswalt, in the game as a pinch hitter because skipper Phil Garner had used up his bench by that time, legged out a double. Or did he?

The St. Louis Cardinals opted to appeal first base. They believed Oswalt never touched the bag as he rounded it en route to second.

Appeals in baseball are like parachutes with holes. You have them at your disposal, but they seldom work. This time it did.

First base umpire Bob Davidson ruled Oswalt missed the bag and the Cardinals got the easy third out and would go on to win the overtime affair, 7-5. Interestingly, it may have been Oswalt's own first base coach that triggered the St. Louis response as he appeared to be pointing out to Oswalt he had missed the bag.

## Gordon spins Kenseth to win at Chicagoland

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Fans and competitors shouldn't be surprised when Jeff Gordon acts like a tough guy on the track.

In fact, Gordon says, they should expect it.

Gordon spun Matt Kenseth out of the lead with four laps to go in regulation Sunday, then held on in a two-lap overtime period to win the NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Chicagoland Speedway.

Kenseth accused Gordon of wrecking him intentionally in revenge for an incident earlier this year.

Gordon didn't exactly deny it.

"He should have expected if I could get to his bumper, there was going to be some action," said Gordon, who won his second race of the season and 75th of his career. "One, because of what happened in Bristol - and I'm not saying I just was going to wreck him, but you better believe I was going to make life difficult on him. And then No. 2, just 'cause we're hungry right now."

The incident didn't sit well with Kenseth, who dominated the second half of the race and appeared to be on his way to his third victory of the season when Gordon hit him.

"That wasn't an accident," Kenseth said.

Kenseth tangled with Gordon during the March 26 race at Bristol Motor Speedway, and Gordon shoved him in a physical confrontation after the race.

NASCAR officials fined Gordon \$10,000 and put him on probation until Aug. 30.

Kenseth figures Gordon just waited for that controversy to die down to serve up his revenge.

"He is not going to do it next week or the week after," Kenseth said. "He will wait. So I know it was intentional, but that is OK. Part of it is my fault - we got slow."

Gordon said he didn't blatantly wreck Kenseth on purpose. But given the recent history between the two drivers and Gordon's hunger to race his way into NASCAR's version of the playoffs, Gordon said Kenseth should have expected rough treatment.

"He can say whatever about payback," Gordon said. "I'm not going to question it. Because whether it is or whether it isn't, it's not even an issue any more. ... I got the bad end of it at Bristol. He got the bad end of it today."

## Pampa All-Stars fall to Canyon 5-0; rebound against Deaf Smith County

HEREFORD — Reid Miller threw a no-hitter and supplied an insurance run with a homer to lead the Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken All Stars past the host team 2-0 Saturday in an elimination game in the West Texas District Tournament.

Deaf Smith County was able to muster only four baserunners, all on walks, with no baserunner venturing past second base.

Miller threw only 73 pitches in his complete game masterpiece. He struck out five and allowed only two balls hit out of the infield, one caught by James Thompson in center field and the other by Jacob Green in left field.

The defensive play of the game came with one out in the sixth inning when Cole Engle caught a runner trying to steal second on a throw to shortstop Latigo Collins.

Pampa had wasted a scratch hit by Collins in the first inning and a walk to Green in the third when Engle came to bat in the fourth inning. He walked, stole second and scored the first run of the game on two passed balls. Walks to Zach Murray and Zach Graves and a wild pitch put two runners

in scoring position, but Pampa was unable to get them home.

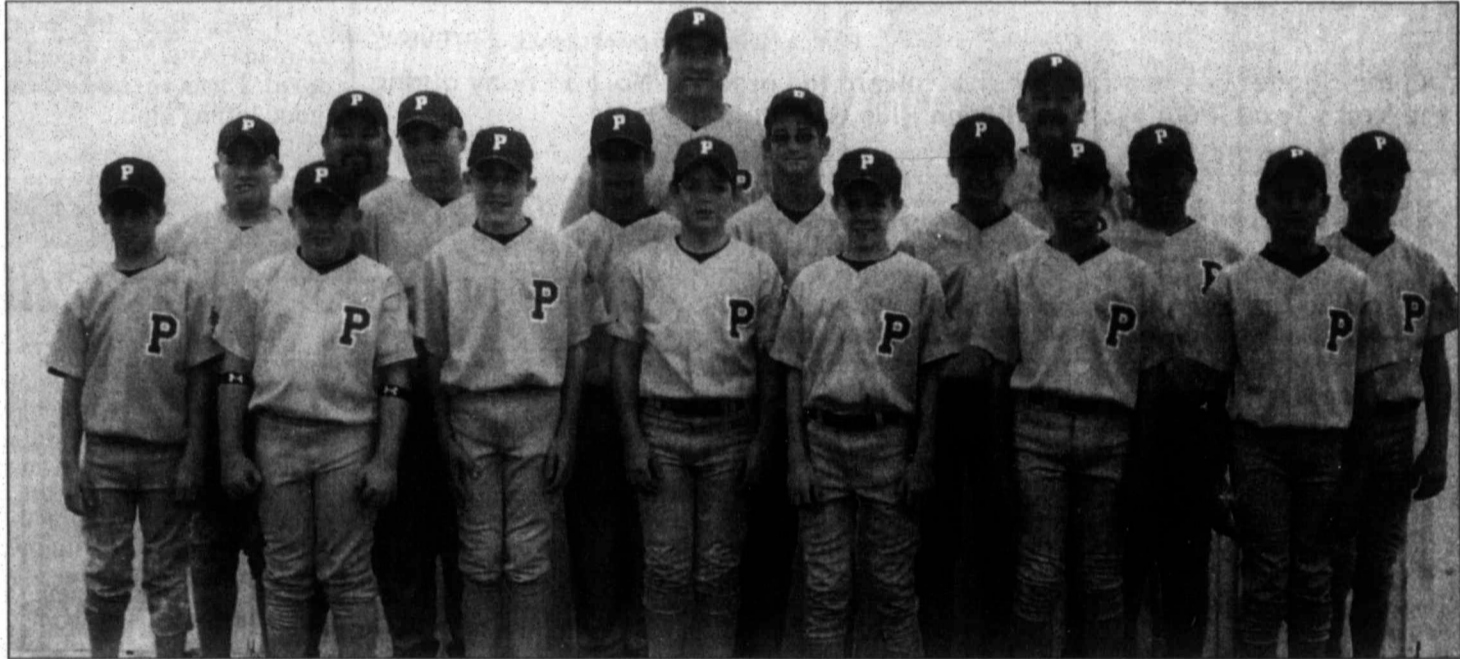
In the fifth inning Pampa made three of its four hits. Miller hammered his home run. Engle beat out an infield single followed by a double by Collin Killgo. Both were left on base as Pampa would strand six runners in the game, five in scoring position.

Earlier Pampa handed the Canyon All Stars five runs courtesy of six errors and slammed seven hits but could not put them together to score any runs, suffering a 5-0 white-wash.

Engle and Killgo pitched for Pampa. Miller, Collins, Killgo, Thompson, Graves, Shane Smith and Cody McIntyre had hits in the game.

Pampa was to play Canyon again at 4 p.m. Sunday, weather permitting, with the winner advancing to a potential championship game against North Randall County.

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



Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken All-Stars front row from left, James Thompson, Zach Graves, Ryan Smith, Trevor Morgan, Jacob Green, Zach Murray, and Cole Engle. Middle row from left, Zach Rule, Cody Davis, Reid Miller, Cody McIntyre, Shane Smith, Collin Killgo and Latigo Collins. Back row, from left, Manager Frank Graves and coaches Dustin Miller and Guy Green.

## Federer closes in on all-time records

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — With four straight Wimbledon championships, eight Grand Slams and 39 tournament titles in all, the milestones are piling up for Roger Federer.

How far can he go? Is the 24-year-old Swiss player on the way to becoming the best ever?

"I am maybe heading down that road," Federer said.

He sure is, especially after beating nemesis Rafael Nadal 6-0, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-3 in the Wimbledon men's final Sunday.

"By winning today and making it four in a row, it's a very elite club," Federer said. "There's more to come maybe. I have the opportunity."

His next goal: equaling Bjorn Borg's record of five straight Wimbledon titles. The Swedish great was the champion at the All England Club from 1976-80.

Beyond that, Federer is on course to surpass the career record of seven Wimbledon men's singles titles, shared by Pete Sampras and William Renshaw.

"I don't really feel like I'm playing for the records," Federer said. "I play this game because I love it."

But the numbers can't be ignored. Federer is tied with Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl, Fred Perry and Ken Rosewall with eight Grand Slams. Clearly within reach is Sampras' record of 14 major titles.

"I'm very well aware of the records," Federer said. "This is maybe a little extra motivation. Maybe if in four years' time I'm so close to so many records again, that's what's going to keep me going. But at the moment, it's not. When you start passing guys who are legends, this is when it hits you."

Federer is the first man to reach five straight Slam finals since Fred Stolle in 1965. He's played in 16 consecutive tour finals overall dating to June 2005, and won 48 grass-court matches in a row.

Federer's coach, Tony Roche, thinks he can only get better.

"The way he played for the two weeks, he had a tough draw coming in here," Roche said. "But to not only win, but the manner that he won, it shows what a great player he is. I know he wants to improve. As long as he has that attitude, there's no reason he can't."

There was a lot at stake Sunday for Federer. The No. 1 player was coming off five consecutive losses to No. 2 Nadal, including four finals this year. The 20-year-old Spaniard beat Federer in the French Open final last month, thwarting his bid for a career Grand Slam.

But this match was on Federer's home turf and his favorite surface. And Roche let him know it.

Federer said his overall, two-week performance was his best yet at a Grand Slam. He sailed through a tough draw that included grass-courtiers Richard Gasquet, Tim Henman and Mario Ancic.

The next Slam is the U.S. Open, a tournament Federer has won the past two years. Nadal lost in the third round last year.

With Lleyton Hewitt and Andy Roddick no longer the forces they were; men's tennis figures to continue to be dominated by the Federer-Nadal rivalry.

Nadal, who has won a record 60 consecutive matches on clay, has shown he can compete on any surface.

"He's making Federer a better player," former three-time Wimbledon champion John McEnroe said. "That's all you can ask for in a rival. This is the best thing that could happen to this rivalry, Federer winning here."

Nadal took heart in his own performance on grass. Nobody expected to him to get this far, yet he managed to adapt his game.

"When I was playing my best tennis, the match was close, very close," he said. "Not much difference. So that's good. That's nice for me."

As for Federer's invincibility on grass, Nadal said: "He's unbelievable. Now he's the best. We're going to see in the future."

The situation in women's tennis is much more wide open.

Serena Williams was out injured, and her sister Venus - the defending champion - went out in the third round. Former champion Maria Sharapova lost in the semifinals.

When it was over, Amelie Mauresmo had her first Wimbledon title. She conquered her fragile psyche to beat Justine Henin-Hardenne, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, in Saturday's final, stopping the Belgian's bid to win the only major championship missing from her collection.

"It seems that I finally found how maybe to handle the nerves a bit better," said Mauresmo, the first Frenchwoman to win here since Suzanne Lenglen earned her sixth title in 1925. "I really know much more now how to play tennis than a few years ago."









# Fed investigators find problems with drug benefit call centers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Insurers offering prescription drug coverage through Medicare routinely failed to provide accurate and complete responses to questions posed over the telephone by federal investigators.

Many of the 43 million people eligible for Medicare drug coverage rely on insurers' call centers for information about what plan would best meet their needs.

Investigators made 900 calls to 10 of the largest drug plan sponsors. They got a complete and accurate answer only a third of the time.

The overall accuracy and completeness rate for the centers ranged from 20 percent to 60 percent. Only one insurer gave the proper, full answer more than half the time.

The investigators said that insurers answered the large majority of calls with minimal delay were courteous, and many offered helpful suggestions. Yet, they were unable to answer 15 percent

of the questions posed. Further, operators within the same call center sometimes provided inconsistent answers.

"Our calls to 10 of the largest (drug plan) sponsors' call centers show that Medicare beneficiaries face challenges in obtaining the information needed to make informed choices," concluded the Government Accountability Office in a report released Monday.

Officials with the agency that oversees the drug program disputed the analysis. They said the report was based on "inaccurate, incomplete and subjective methods" that limit the report's relevance and validity. But the GAO maintained that its methods are sound.

"The lack of accurate and understandable information for our seniors has been a chronic problem since the beginning of Medicare Part D," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich, and ranking member of the House Committee

on Energy and Commerce. "Senior citizens are being hurt by the indifference and incompetence of the Bush administration and its friends in the insurance industry."

Most of the largest insurers offer more than one drug plan to Medicare beneficiaries. Most offer three, which gives consumers more opportunity to choose coverage that's best for them. Investigators asked operators to identify the plan that would be cheapest for them, based on the medicines they took.

However, operators at three call centers told the investigators that it was against the insurer's policy to identify the plans that have the lowest costs. Yet, other operators at the same call center did identify a plan as having the lowest annual cost.

Often, when operators did find the lowest-cost plan, they misstated what the true costs would be. For beneficiaries with low drug use,

the operators tended to quote costs that were higher than they actually should have been. And, for beneficiaries with high drug costs, the reverse occurred.

The GAO's report was the second in recent months that analyzed the information provided to the elderly and disabled. In the first, investigators found problems with the information provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Democratic lawmakers, who requested both reports, said they confirm the need to let people choose a new drug plan if they so desire.

"People who received inaccurate or incomplete information shouldn't have to remain in the wrong plan or go without coverage for the rest of the year," said Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif.

Under the program, the poorest of beneficiaries can switch drug plans at any time. However, most people are locked in through the end of the year. Overall,

about 43 million seniors and disabled Americans can obtain prescription drug coverage through Medicare.

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SHELLY COOK Escrow Officer

# U.S. urges China, Russia to pressure North Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is urging China to ratchet up pressure on North Korea to end its missile tests and return to international nuclear disarmament talks.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, the Bush administration's point man on North Korea, says Beijing is crucial to solving a standoff in the wake of North Korea's test-firing of seven missiles, including some that possibly could reach the American continent. China is North Korea's main ally and trading partner.

Burns said Sunday the diplomatic aim is to "convince the North Koreans that they're isolated, that they have no support in the world, and they've got to come back to" stalled six-nation negotiations aimed at ridding the reclusive, communist-led nation of its nuclear weapons program. Those talks involve the Koreans, the United States,

China, Russia and Japan.

In Tokyo on Monday, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill reiterated that the international community needs to speak in one voice against North Korea's missile launches.

Burns, appearing on four talk shows Sunday, also indicated the United States would not grant Pyongyang formal direct talks outside of the six-party forum.

"We really don't see the logic of turning this into a test of wills between two countries — the United States and North Korea," Burns said.

"The problem here is not the lack of discussion between the United States and North Korea," Burns said. "We're perfectly willing to sit down with them in that six-party environment."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., also rejected formal direct talks. "I don't know why we should reward bad behavior by making concessions," he said.

# Bush meeting with Merkel highlights growing friendship

WASHINGTON (AP) — There are still disagreements over such issues as global warming, the death penalty and the U.S.-run prison at Guantanamo Bay, but it is still hard to remember a time when U.S.-German relations were on a sounder footing.

And the good feelings will be on display Thursday when, while en route to the G-8 summit in Russia, President Bush will be the guest of Chancellor Angela Merkel, head of Germany's Christian Democrats, on a visit to her home state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in the former East Germany.

With Prime Minister Tony Blair reduced to lame duck status in Britain and Silvio Berlusconi knocked from power in Italy, Merkel increasingly has emerged as the leader on the continent that Washington most counts on.

"She has been the single most pleasant surprise on the European scene in a long time," says John Hulsman, European affairs expert at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

When it comes to pro-U.S. leaders in Europe, he said, "Angela Merkel finds herself the only game in town."

That may be something of an exaggeration, given the close ties Bush enjoys with some other European lead-

ers, including cycling buddy Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the prime minister of Denmark, whom Bush hosted at Camp David a month ago.

But among leaders of the larger European countries, Merkel seems to have a clear edge. Brookings Institution associate Helmut Sonnenfeldt, a one-time aide to former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, credits Merkel with defusing Iraq as a sore point in U.S.-German relations.

"She's not fanning those flames the way Gerhard Schroeder used to," says Sonnenfeldt, referring to the previous chancellor.

Merkel was born in Hamburg during the Cold War year of 1954 and later moved to East Germany with her family. As a teen, she showed her disenchantment with her country's communist system by hiding out in school lavatories to listen to radio broadcasts of West German political speeches.

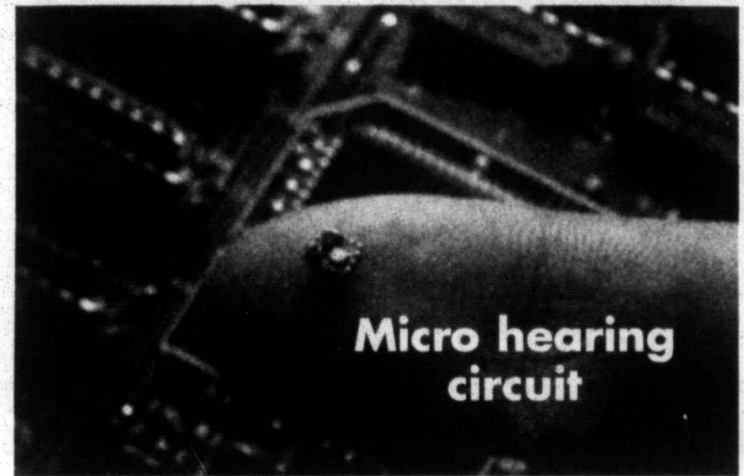
Anti-war activists in Germany are gearing up to protest Bush's visit, much as they did during his two previous trips to the country. One of Bush's stops will be the northern coastal city of Stralsund, where the local chapter of Germany's Social Democratic party has proclaimed that the president is not welcome.

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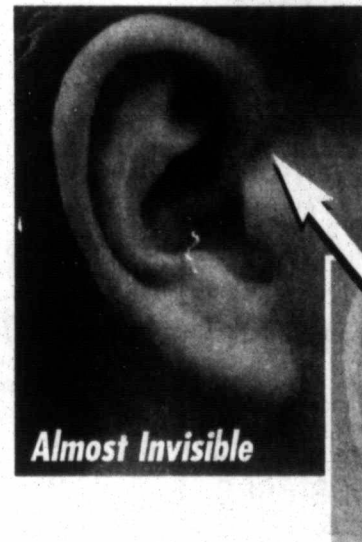
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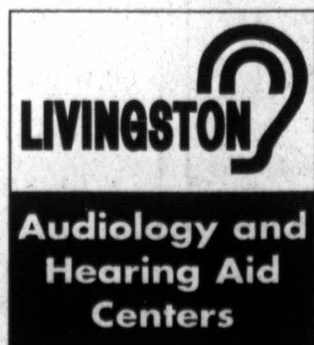
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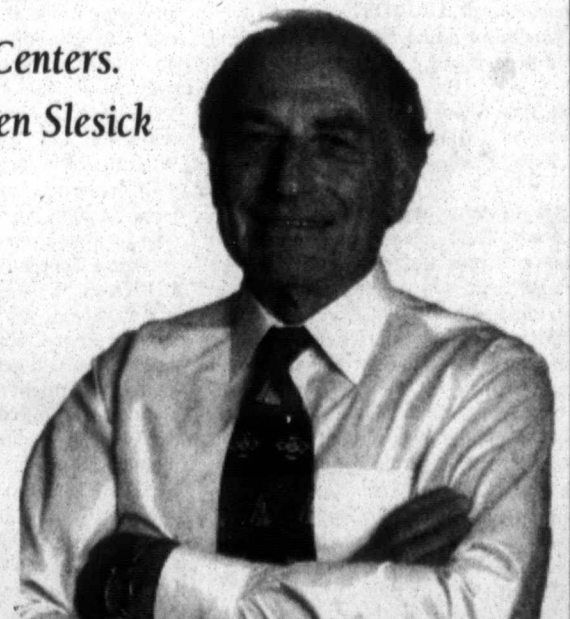
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