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SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Rainfall which began in recent months has partially filled Lake McClellan, left, which was dry earlier this year. The recreation area's future will be the topic of a public meeting scheduled for 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in the Gray County Annex, 12125 E. Frederic. Wild turkeys, right, roam among the trees at the lake, which is currently closed to the public due to damage from the March 11 wildfires which swept the area.

Public meeting on Lake McClellan set Wednesday

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A public meeting to discuss the future of Lake McClellan will be from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Wednesday at the Gray County Annex, 12125 E. Frederic.

The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands, which manage Lake McClellan as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest

Service, is holding the meeting.

Wednesday's meeting will include information on the initial phase of the planning process, called the Comprehensive Evaluation Report. The report details the area's existing conditions and any need for change in management of resources or land uses on the Kiowa, Rita Blanca, Black Kettle, and McClellan Creek National Grasslands.

The revised plan which will be developed for the grasslands will include a long-term vision of the desired conditions and a general strategy for managing natural resources and land use activities. It will describe objectives that will be used to set priorities and guidelines for future proposed action.

The plan will not establish any limitations or prohibitions, commit

to implementing specific actions or projects, or address localized, site-specific issues or concerns.

The plan would change the name of Lake McClellan to the McClellan Creek Recreation Area. Boating, swimming, fishing, and lake symbols on maps would be removed.

"Although the water level needed

See LAKE, Page 3

Appraisal board OKs '07 budget

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Appraisal District's Board of Directors approved a proposed \$576,404 budget for the district's 2007 fiscal year this morning at their meeting in the conference room of the district offices at 815 N. Sumner.

The budget total is a 3.3499 percent increase over the 2006 budget of \$557,721.

A public hearing preceded the vote on the budget. No residents of the district's area of coverage attended or offered comments.

The budget increase is due in part to rising costs of travel, insurance and postage equipment, said Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley. Another possible cost increase may occur concerning the contract for a minerals appraiser for the district.

See BUDGET, Page 3

Senior breakfast



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Ashley Martinez, left, talks with her mother Alice Martinez during the Pampa High School Senior Breakfast today in the Heritage Room of the M.K. Brown Civic Center. The annual breakfast is hosted by the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees for the high school senior class and their parents.

Hereford ethanol plant groundbreaking Thursday

HEREFORD — Groundbreaking ceremony for Panda Ethanol's 100 million gallon ethanol plant will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday at 4300 County Road 8.

In the event of rain, the ceremony will be held at Spicer Gripp

Memorial Arena at 1498 New York Ave. in Hereford.

Expected to attend are Hereford Mayor Bob Josseland, motivational speaker Suzie Humphries, Panda Ethanol Chief Executive Officer Todd Carter, Texas Commission of

Environmental Quality Chairman Kathleen White, Renewable Fuels Association Spokesman Matt Hartwig, Texas State Senator Kel Seliger, and Texas State Representatives David Swinford, Warren Chisum and John Smithee.

The facility will generate the steam used to manufacture ethanol by gasifying more than 1 billion pounds of cattle manure a year, and annually refine approximately 40

See ETHANOL, Page 3

Budget

Continued from Page 1

he said. Items showing an increase from 2006 to 2007 in budget comparisons are salaries/wages, \$317,087 to \$324,710; retirement, \$17,776 to \$18,624; Medicare, \$4,863 to \$5,095; employment insurance, \$45,000 to \$52,000; mileage reimbursement, \$950 to \$2,000; and postage, \$5,000 to \$5,300; Personal services account for the lion's share of the 2007 budget, accounting for \$446,759 of the total. Personal services include salaries and wages, retirement, training, travel, Medicare, employment insurance, health/dental/life insurance, worker's compensation, and license, fees and dues. The second most costly item in the budget is contractual services, which was allocated \$86,215 for 2007. These services include consulting fees, janitorial services, computer software, financial audit, legal expenses, postage equipment maintenance, abstracting services, finan-

cial audit, and building, grounds and equipment maintenance.

Supplies, materials and equipment are budgeted \$21,250 in the district's new fiscal year. Included are office supplies, printing costs, janitorial supplies, photographic supplies, office equipment and furniture, postage, and items for the mapping system.

The remainder of the budget is split between utilities, with \$13,730, and other expenses, at \$8,450.

Other expenses include legal notices, publications and subscriptions, liability and building insurance, and appraisal review board expense.

The appraisal district's income for 2007 will be \$26,200.10 from Grandview-Hopkins ISD; \$129,531.03, Gray County; \$299.24, City of Lefors; \$26,597.77, Lefors ISD; \$1,911.88, City of McLean; \$41,728.65, McLean ISD; \$65,256.76, City of Pampa; \$281,066.24, Pampa ISD; and \$3,812.33, water district.

No action was taken at the conclusion of a 30-minute executive session during this morning's meeting concerning evaluation of Bagley.

Faulty chart blamed in crash

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Comair was using an outdated chart of Lexington's Blue Grass Airport when one of its planes took off on the wrong runway and crashed in flames, and the airline is now urging pilots to use "extreme caution," according to an e-mail obtained by The Associated Press.

Airline spokeswoman Kate Marx said Monday that the alert was prompted because the airline had an old diagram of Blue Grass Airport.

The airline got a newer diagram on Friday, but even it didn't reflect all the recent changes to the taxiway.

Lake

Continued from Page 1

for lake activities is not reliable enough to market it as a lake, the lake basin will periodically fill with water to provide boating, swimming, fishing, and other lake-based recreation opportunities at this site," according to the proposed plan.

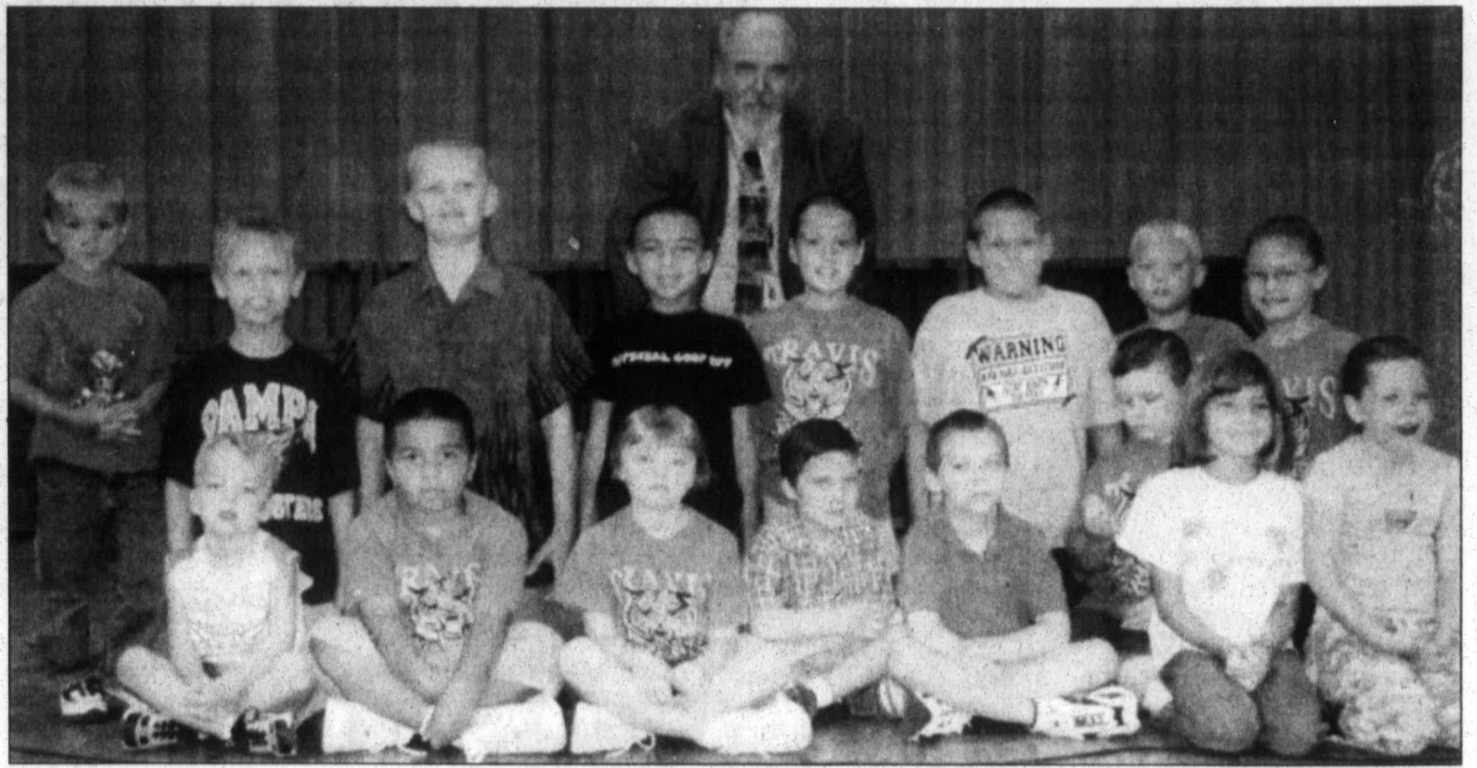
Topics addressed in the proposed plan for the four grassland areas include roads, recreation opportunities, developed recreation sites, off-highway vehicle use, scenic resources, fire prevention and other public health and safety issues, community relations, livestock grazing, oil and gas, mineral and wood resources, heritage resources such as archaeological remains, paleontological resources such as prehistoric fossils, vegetation and ecosystems, and habitat and species.

Items which may be changed or updated under the new plan include unrestricted motorized vehicle travel, spread of invasive trees and plants, livestock grazing, clear identification of grasslands property boundaries, and formalized agreements for road maintenance.

"We have thoroughly reviewed our current plan and public comments from past planning efforts on the Grasslands, and drafted an initial evaluation of what management trends should be modified or continued into the future," said Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose. "I encourage the public to communicate with the planning team as we revise the Grasslands Plan so it will reflect the resource conditions and land uses that you would like us to maintain into the future."

For more information, call the Cibola National Forest Service office in Albuquerque, N.M. at (505)-346-3900.

Paws for Celebration



Some students at Travis Elementary School were recently recognized at the "Paws for Celebration" held during morning assembly at the school. Students are recognized by their teachers for being outstanding Travis Tigers. These special assemblies are scheduled the first and third Friday of each month. Pictured: (Back row, left-right) Joshua DeMaroney, Ethan Eakin, Andrew Vogel, Cody Maddox, Sage Dorn, Wade Reagan, Nathan Bass, Jacie Studebaker; (front row, l-r) Reid Smith, Sidney Armendariz, Mariah Schiffman, Austin Doyle, Hunter White, Hunter Lane, Kathlyn Cummins and Samatha Clancy. Not pictured: Dayanna Frogge. Standing in the back is Travis Principal Doug Rapstine.

Spacewalker loses bolt, worries about damage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Spacewalking astronauts worried they have may have gummed up a successful job connecting an addition to the international space station today when a bolt, spring and washer floated free.

Astronaut Joe Tanner was working with the bolt when it sprang loose, floated over the head of Heidemarie Stefanyshyn-Piper and skittered across the 17 1/2-ton box-like truss that they were hooking up.

While the washer went out into space safely, Tanner worried the bolt and spring could get into the truss's wiring and tubing and causing problems.

"Not a good thing," Tanner said. "Let's hope it doesn't end up somewhere in the mechanism."

"I don't see it anywhere."

NASA managers were examining whether the lost bolt would be a problem. Space debris can be dangerous if it punctures space station walls or space-suits and can jam crucial mechanisms. However, spacewalkers have a long history of losing material in space. In July, Discovery spacewalkers lost a 14-inch-long spatula that floated away.

The free-flying bolt marred an otherwise successful and speedy six-hour, 26-minute spacewalk Tuesday morning. Two other spacewalks are planned for later this week.

"You did a phenomenal job and set the bar very high for the rest of the assembly," Pam Melroy radioed from Mission Control when the spacewalk

ended late Tuesday morning.

Tanner and Piper zipped through a jam-packed list of arduous but mundane construction tasks, putting NASA ahead of schedule in connecting the addition. With extra time, Mission Control assigned them half a dozen extra jobs of bolt removing and cover unlatching that would have been part of a Thursday spacewalk.

That's when the bolt got lost.

Atlantis astronauts Dan Burbank and Steve MacLean will head into space on Thursday.

The spacewalk was a first for rookie astronaut Piper, who joined an elite club of female spacewalkers.

Angry conservatives like what Kinky says

AUSTIN (AP) — Cigar-chomping cowboy Kinky Friedman seems to be offering a home for conservatives disgruntled by Gov. Rick Perry's administration.

Friedman, the independent gubernatorial candidate, has said he'll reduce state spending, eliminate the new business tax and use the state surplus to curtail illegal immigration and crime in Houston if he's elected in November.

It's a platform that resonates with Republicans who say they feel betrayed by Perry's policies, especially the new business tax they call a state income tax in disguise.

His platform so closely matches the agendas of groups like Texans for No

New Taxes and Citizens for Lowering Our Unfair Taxes that conservative radio host and state Senate candidate Dan Patrick wonders whether Friedman stole their ideas.

"What his campaign platform is now is what I've been talking about for years," said Patrick, who is heavily favored to win his northwest Houston district in November. "I think it's fascinating that he has figured out in his campaign where the majority of conservatives stand on the issues when others have not."

Friedman also stands with Republicans who want to see prayer and the Ten Commandments back in schools and he frequently quotes or

praises conservative icon Ronald Reagan and other GOP leaders.

And he's taking a harsh stance on illegal immigration, saying he'll add 8,500 National Guard troops to the border, fine companies tens of thousands of dollars for hiring illegal immigrants and force migrants who want jobs in Texas to pass a criminal background check and buy a foreign taxpayer ID card.

Experts say Friedman has almost no chance of pulling enough voters away from Perry to win the race. And Perry spokesman Robert Black said he believes conservative voters will stick with what they know.

Ethanol

Continued from Page 1

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Viewpoints

Nature: It beats eye-strain and writer's cramp

What is it about fishing that is so enjoyable, at least for some people?

Maybe it's the use of strategy, of pitting one's skills and knowledge against that wily old monster fish that is lurking at the bottom of the lake and knows how to eat all the bait off of hooks without ever getting caught.

Maybe it's the thrill of the catch, or the knowledge that you have the ability to obtain food from nature if necessary.

Maybe it's just being away from offices, desks, telephones, computers and all the other accoutrements of the workaday world, and instead being in the great

outdoors.

I have been fishing since childhood, and I still enjoy it. Whenever possible, unless I plan to eat my catch or give it to someone I know will eat it, I release the fish, but I'm not one of those people who scream that catching fish for sport is cruel or immoral.

I recently got a chance to go fishing at Lake Fryer and at Recreation Park Lake. I had a blast.

None of my fish would ever justify a photo in the paper, or be worth mounting to hang on the wall. I can't even force myself to lie big enough to make any of them sound like whales.

But I had fun anyway. I managed to catch some catfish, bluegill, perch and bass, all in one day.

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer

around the hook. It was hanging on for dear life to the worm I was using as bait, and lost its grip just as I got it over dry land.

Feeling as though I was now so desperate I was fishing for bait, I got the little fellow back into the water and he zoomed off, hopefully to get a little bigger before trying to bite another hook.

What made my perch even more hilarious to catch was the fact that a nursing home minibus had parked not too far from my spot and an eld-

erly gentleman in a wheelchair was drinking in every moment of the drama, grinning at my antics.

One of the fellows who was helping the small group had brought a couple of fishing rods and reels, and some bait was obtained for the elderly fisherman and his helping friend.

It was my turn to enjoy the show. I got a great kick out of watching the old fellow's delight as he caught and reeled in a small bass and a small catfish or two.

Of course, not everyone you meet at the lake is your idea of an ideal encounter. At Recreation Park Lake, there was the inevitable dog let

loose by its owners without being on a leash, contrary to park rules. And naturally, the pooch was very interested in me and what I was doing, and succeeded in getting underfoot and being very distracting.

But such incidents fail to dampen my enthusiasm for fishing. I enjoy being outdoors, away from it all, even if I don't catch a single fish.

I think we all need to spend some time outdoors once in awhile, to reconnect with nature and remind ourselves of the various ways in which Nature is beautiful and wonderful.

Besides, it sure beats eye-strain and writer's cramp.



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2006. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 1609, English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into the river that now bears his name.

On this date:

In 1880, author and journalist H.L. Mencken was born in Baltimore.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler demanded self-determination for the Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia.

In 1943, German paratroopers took Benito Mussolini from the hotel where he was being held by the Italian government.

In 1944, the second Quebec Conference opened with President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in attendance.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier in Newport, R.I.

'We must be willing to pay a price for freedom, for no price that is ever asked for it is half the cost of doing without it.'

— H.L. Mencken
American author and journalist (1880-1956)

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed the issue of his Roman Catholicism, telling a Protestant group in Houston, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1966, "The Monkees" debuted on NBC TV; the situation comedy "Family Affair" premiered on CBS.

In 1977, South African black student leader Steven Biko died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio, the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped; he was released in December 1991.

Ten years ago: Last-minute intervention by Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole led to Senate postponement of action on a treaty designed to eliminate chemical weapons. President Clinton said the agreement was threatened by "a bitter partisan debate."

Five years ago: Stunned rescue workers continued to search for bodies in the World Trade Center's smoking rubble a day after a terrorist attack that shut down the financial capital, badly damaged the Pentagon and left thousands dead. President Bush, branding the attacks in New York and Washington "acts of war," said "this will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil" and that "good will prevail."

One year ago: Officials in New Orleans reported the bodies of more than 40 mostly elderly patients were found in a flooded-out hospital.



It would be silly to outlaw discrimination

There's so much confusion and emotionalism about discrimination that I thought I'd take a stab at a dispassionate analysis. Discrimination is simply the act of choice. When we choose Bordeaux wine, we discriminate against Burgundy wine. When I married Mrs. Williams, I discriminated against other women. Even though I occasionally think about equal opportunity, Mrs. Williams demands continued discrimination.

You say, "Williams, such discrimination doesn't harm anyone." You're wrong. Discriminating in favor of Bordeaux wine reduces the value of resources held in Burgundy production. Discriminating in favor of Mrs. Williams harmed other women by reducing their opportunity set, assuming I'm a man other women would marry.

Our lives are spent discriminating for or against one thing or another. In other words, choice requires discrimination. When we modify the term with race, sex, height, weight or age, we merely specify the choice criteria.

Imagine how silly, not to mention impossible, life would be if discrimination were outlawed. Imagine engaging in just about any activity where we couldn't discriminate by race, sex, height, weight, age, mannerisms, college selection, looks or ability; it would turn into a carnival.

I've sometimes asked students if they believe in equal opportunity in employment. Invariably, they answer yes. Then I ask them, when they

graduate, whether they plan to give every employer an equal opportunity to hire them. Most often they answer no; they plan to discriminate against certain employers. Then I ask them, if they're not going to give every employer an equal opportunity to hire them, what's fair about requiring an employer to give them an equal opportunity to be hired?

Sometimes students will argue that certain forms of discrimination are OK, but it's racial discrimination that's truly offensive. That's when I confess my own history of racial discrimination. In the late 1950s, whilst selecting a lifelong mate, even though white, Mexican,

Indian, Chinese and Japanese women might have been just as qualified as a mate, I gave them no chance whatsoever. It appears that most Americans act identically by racially discriminating in setting up marriage contracts. According to the 1992 Census Bureau, only 2.2 percent of Americans are married to people other than their own race or ethnicity.

You say, "All right, Williams, discrimination in marriage doesn't have the impact on society that other forms of discrimination have." You're wrong again. When there is assortive (non-random) mate selection, it heightens whatever group differences exist in the population. For instance, higher IQ individuals tend toward mates with high IQs. High-income people tend to mate with other high-income people.

See WILLIAMS, Page 10

Walter Williams
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Sept. 5
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on the Wright Amendment:

Small wonder that some members of Congress, most notably certain senators, have raised serious questions about the locally crafted agreement to immediately change, and eventually repeal, the Wright Amendment's flight restrictions at Dallas Love Field.

The agreement has flaws that cause even some of its proponents to wince. Still, the crucial question is whether those flaws are so awful as to make the proposed agreement an unacceptable replacement for the significantly less-

than-ideal status quo.

Reasonable people in Congress could argue either side of that question, and perhaps this month they will. No one should fear that debate.

Congress returns to work today after a monthlong recess. Legislation to approve the Wright Amendment agreement — negotiated earlier this year by Dallas Mayor Laura Miller and Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief, and signed by representatives of American Airlines, Southwest Airlines and D/FW Airport — was pending when lawmakers began their August break.

The House and Senate Judiciary committees are set to review antitrust concerns about the agreement. Insiders say that the House committee is not expected to dedicate a full hearing to


the matter. Whether the Senate committee will hold a hearing is yet to be determined.

On at least one area of concern — reduction in the number of gates authorized at Love Field — those who oppose the agreement are wasting their breath. On other issues, serious antitrust worries about the agreement are both reasonable and justified — but are they so bad as to scuttle local leaders' months of hard work and difficult negotiations and plunge North Texas back to the decades-old, battle-scarred flight restrictions of the status quo?


Love Field's current master plan allows 32 gates under the Wright Amendment's destination restrictions

See WRIGHT, Page 10

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: You printed a letter on Aug. 2 from the grandmother of a 5-year-old boy, "Andrew Jr.," whose father has refused to see him. And when the father remarried and had another son, the child was also given the name Andrew Jr. She said she didn't understand why the man was punishing the boy. Abby, I suspect the father may have learned that he is not the child's biological father. Or, he believes that he is not. I found out that one of my children was fathered by someone else because of a blood test for medical reasons. My wife was quite promiscuous, and my mother-in-law didn't have a clue that her daughter could only guess at who might be the father of at least one of her children. We are now divorced for other reasons, but I never let any of my children know that I was not their father. They have turned out to be delightful, wonderful human beings, and I am happy to be their "father." My ex-wife is now looking for happiness with soon-to-be husband No. 5. She just cannot be satisfied with one man at a time. — **SEES BOTH SIDES IN SAN FRANCISCO**

DEAR SEES BOTH SIDES: The number of readers who wrote to say they have had the same experience you did, frankly, raised some eyebrows in my office -- including my own. I applaud you for doing the right and compassionate thing. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The same thing happened to me as a child when my parents divorced, but the person who refused to see me was my mother. She also did not call or send letters to me and my younger brother. She died 10 years later, after refusing to even tell us she was ill. (We found out after her funeral.) Not only did my mom stay away, but her whole family did, too, including half-brothers I was raised with. Like the

child in the letter from "Concerned Grandma," I, too, had a lot of questions growing up about why Mom didn't want us anymore. Sad to say, my dad and stepmom handled the situation badly. I would urge the mother and grandmother not to bad-mouth "Andy's" father or tell the boy his father didn't want him or abandoned him. Instead, remind him how much he is loved, and simply answer that of course his father still loves him -- it's just that some fathers can't show it as well as others. Maybe someday that father will come around and realize the mistake he made in missing out on his firstborn's life. — **FORGOTTEN DAUGHTER IN MISSOURI**

DEAR ABBY: I experienced the same thing. I handled it like this: I never said a bad word about his father, his new life or his family. I explained that we can never really understand what goes on in someone else's life, but the day would come when he might look for answers himself. When I received one of the few -- very small -- support checks, rather than cash it I'd put it someplace where I knew my son would see it. In my state there is a logo on the check that identifies it as a support check. This allowed my son to think, and sometimes even say, "At least he sends money for me." Those checks were so few and far between that many of them were never cashed, as the 180 days expired before I received a new one to lay around. But it worked. My son grew up without anger, and that was my goal. And now, at the age of 22, he is just beginning to know his dad. My ex has thanked me for what I did, but what I did was for my son -- for his spirit and sense of self-worth. — **LOVING MOTHER, BEAVER DAM, WIS.**

For Better Or For Worse



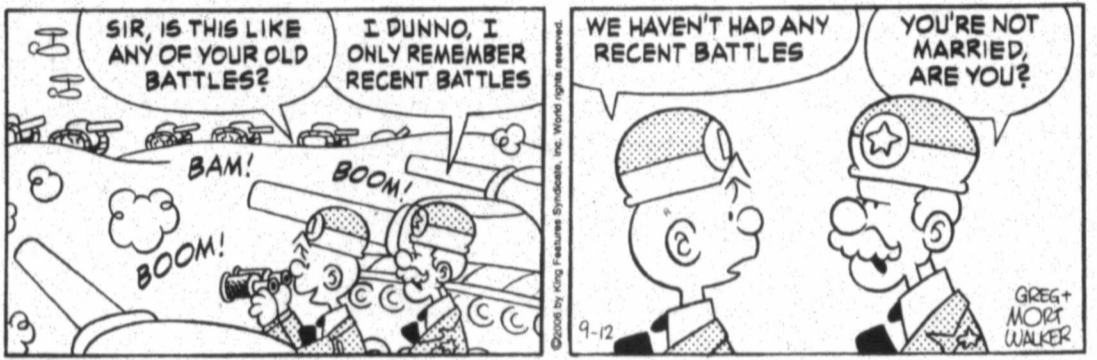
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



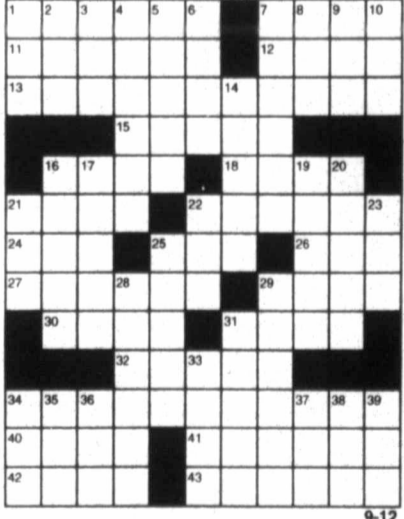
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kevin Costner film
 - 7 Rum-soaked cake
 - 11 Stir up
 - 12 Steel ingredient
 - 13 Lex Luthor portrayer, 1978
 - 15 Old capital of India
 - 16 Comfy home
 - 18 Adam's grandson
 - 21 Knitting need
 - 22 Acquired
 - 24 Gorilla or gibbon
 - 25 Mountain pass
 - 26 Attempt
 - 27 Pricey homes
 - 29 Be thrifty
 - 30 Writer Grey
 - 31 Superman accessory
 - 32 Dog line
 - 34 Lex Luthor portrayer, 2006
 - 40 Infamous czar
 - 41 Chopping spree?
 - 42 Dole (out)
 - 43 Be curt with
- DOWN**
- 1 Luggage
 - 2 Page
 - 3 Sine qua non
 - 4 Gave info to
 - 5 Theater worker
 - 6 Ring out
 - 7 Beach outfit
 - 8 Sleeve contents
 - 9 Large snake
 - 10 Writer
 - 11 Beattie
 - 14 Low-priced
 - 16 Highest capital in the world
 - 17 Concert venue
 - 19 Like bar
 - 20 Start a set
 - 21 Sweet potato
 - 22 Empty talk
 - 23 Color
 - 25 Putting site
 - 28 Using the Internet
 - 29 African expanse
 - 31 House airer
 - 33 Questions
 - 34 Basinger
 - 35 Night before
 - 36 Big tub
 - 37 Beanie or beret
 - 38 Sched.
 - 39 Besides

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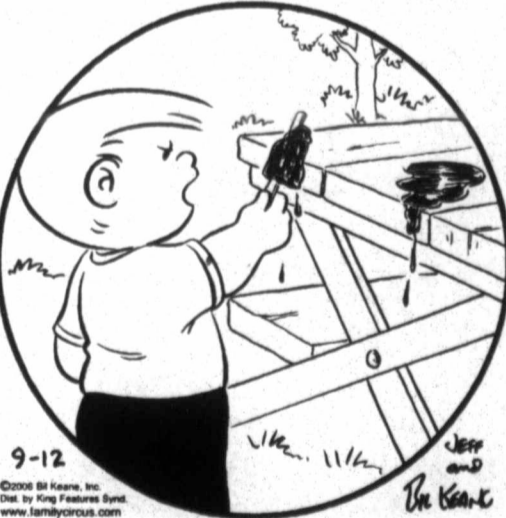


Marmaduke

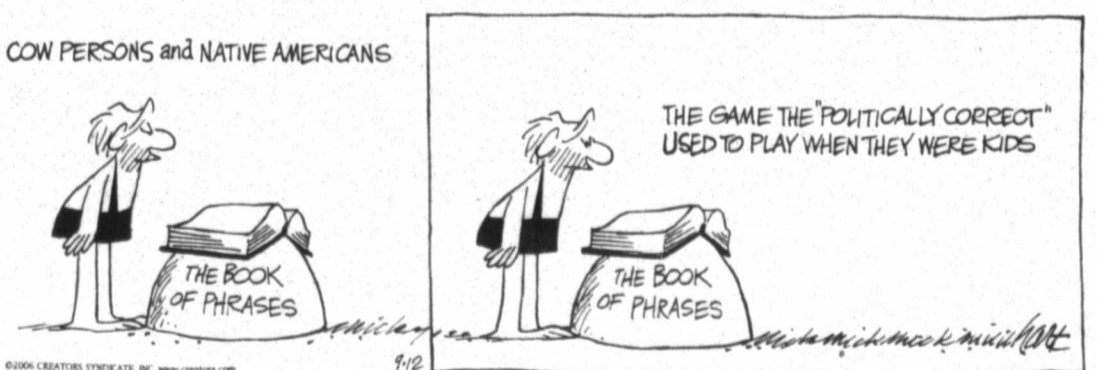


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



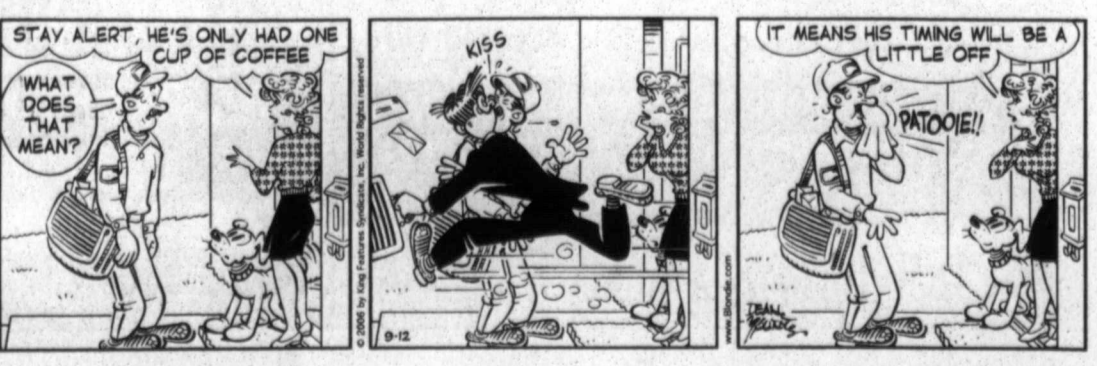
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Wright

Continued from Page 4

and/or limits on aircraft size. Airlines operate 19 of those gates today. The Miller-Moncrief agreement would drop the number of authorized gates to 20 but would allow nationwide flights on large aircraft.

An airport consultant's study paid for by the city of Dallas shows that a 20-gate Love Field without the Wright Amendment restrictions would produce roughly the same amount of noise, air pollution and traffic congestion on nearby roads as a 32-gate airport with the current restrictions in place. Under long-existing federal law, airport owners can restrict the size of their facilities to con-

trol those environmental factors, and Dallas has a strong interest in doing so to protect neighborhoods near Love Field.

Opponents are beating this number-of-gates issue to death. They've got no standing there, and they should get over it.

There are, after all, issues of real concern in the Miller-Moncrief plan. The most serious is this: American and Southwest have agreed, in exchange for the benefits in the agreement, to suffer serious penalties if they should decide in the future to step outside of it for competitive reasons.

Specifically, the agreement would force American or Southwest to give up some of the gates they control at Love Field if:

• Congress repeals the

Wright Amendment sooner than the eight years specified in the agreement and the airline takes advantage of that repeal by starting nonstop flights beyond the Wright boundaries; or

• The airline begins service at any other airport within 80 miles of Love Field (except in the case of American, at D/FW) before the year 2025.

In either case, the airline would be operating within the law for the purpose of expanding its service to consumers. Yet either step would bring a penalty.

Companies are supposed to compete, not form agreements to restrict their competition. Normally, agreements in restraint of free trade are considered violations of antitrust law. The Wright Amendment legislation before Congress asks for an

exemption from antitrust law. Congress can't blithely pass out antitrust exemptions. It has to give this request serious study first.

The argument for the agreement and the proposed federal approval legislation is this: Dallas and Fort Worth have fought over the Wright Amendment for decades. Members of Congress asked representatives of the two cities to try their best to come up with a locally written plan to remove flight restrictions from Love Field, and this is that plan.

The plan is a compromise, and its provisions are what they are because that's what was required to obtain agreement from all the parties involved. On the whole, it would provide outstanding benefits for North Texas consumers when compared to the status quo.

Indeed, one consultant study shows that immediate through-ticketing — a benefit called for under the Miller-Moncrief agreement allowing Love Field passengers to buy tickets to any U.S. destination so long as their flight makes a stop within the current Wright Amendment boundaries — would boost North Texas air traffic by 2 million passengers a year and save consumers \$259 million annually. Other benefits from full Wright Amendment repeal would come later.

The choice facing Congress is this: Swallow the agreement's provisions (despite the somewhat foul taste of some of them) for the sake of the overall benefit, or start over again from the status quo.

Time is short. Congress is set to adjourn again on Oct. 6,

and a final decision must come before then.

In fact, it shouldn't take long. The benefits of the agreement far outweigh its negatives. A perfect world might offer something better, but Congress knows that the perfect world doesn't exist.

This agreement offers immediate and substantial consumer benefits and sets up two major airlines for head-to-head competition the likes of which North Texas has never seen before. There is ample opportunity for other airlines to enter the fray at Love Field or D/FW if they wish.

Dallas and Fort Worth leaders have given the members of Congress what they asked for: a local solution to the problems of the Wright Amendment. Congress should approve that solution.

NBC scholarship



Gladys Vanderpool recently presented a National Bank of Commerce Scholarship to Raeanna Cowan, left. Cowan is attending Clarendon College-Pampa Center.

Williams

Continued from Page 4

It's the same with education. To the extent there is a racial correlation between these characteristics, racial discrimination in mate selection exaggerates the differences in the society's intelligence and income distribution. There would be greater equality if there weren't this kind of discrimination in mate selection.

In other words, if high-IQ people were forced to select low-IQ mates, high-income people forced to select low-income mates, and highly educated people forced to select lowly educated mates, there would be greater social equality. While there would be greater social equality, the divorce rate would soar since gross dissimilarities would make for conflict.

Common sense suggests that not all discrimination should be eliminated, so the question is, what kind of discrimination should be permitted? I'm guessing the answer depends on one's values for freedom of association, keeping in mind freedom of association implies freedom not to associate.

Texas youth prison under scrutiny

AUSTIN (AP) — Federal investigators planned to visit a South Texas youth prison today as part of an ongoing probe into possible civil rights violations.

The U.S. Department of Justice investigators were expected to observe and inspect the Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg, talk with youth who live there and question employees, said Tim Savoy, spokesman for the Texas

Youth Commission. The Justice Department notified Gov. Rick Perry in June that it planned to look into the conditions of confinement and treatment of inmates at Evins.

The federal investigation comes as the state Senate Criminal Justice Committee conducts its own investigation into confirmed reports of inmate abuse at Evins and a general rise in reports of abuse in other state juvenile centers.

Events calendar

- **Pampa Book Club** will meet and discuss "First Mothers" by Bonnie Angelo Wednesday; "Strong West Wind" by Gail Caldwell, Oct. 11; and "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, Nov. 8. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library.

- **Carson County Square House Museum** in Panhandle will hold a reception from 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday, to showcase two fabric exhibits. Carson County Square House Museum in Panhandle is hosting a couple of quilting exhibits throughout September and October. An exhibit by Betty Biggs includes vests, coats, table runners, wall hangings and more. Five generations of quilts is represented in the other exhibit courtesy of the Mayo and Gill families. To find out more, contact the museum at (806) 537-3524.

- The exhibit opening for prints and memorabilia for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure will be from 4-6 p.m.

Sept. 19 at A.G. Edwards office, 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 170, in Amarillo. The display will be on view from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sept. 18-Oct. 30.

- **Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. Sept. 21 in the private meeting room at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. The meeting is open to interested women 50 and older. For more information, call 669-9297 or 669-9916.

- The next **Third Thursday** at Amarillo Museum of Art will be from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 21 at the museum. This month the event will include the film "Art of Indonesia: Tales from the Shadow World," coffee tasting, entertainment by Mela Dailey, a soprano and Amarillo Opera Resident Artist, and an activity segment for both children and adults. The art activity this month will be "Painting a Poem." For more information, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

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