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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Horst sees consultants helping Pampa's efficiency

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The City of Pampa has been pushing to improve efficiency of city services over the past few years, but now City Manager John Horst wants to bring in a consulting company to try and generate new ideas.

Doug Brown with the landfill told Pampa City Commissioners last week during a work session that they've been able to adapt less expensive equipment to new tasks as part of Horst's efficiency program.

"We purchased a new one-ton

pickup," Brown said, "and put a flatbed on the back of it. We use that truck to haul the Dumpsters with."

They pick up the Dumpsters and put them on the bed of the truck to move them.

"We had four old dump trucks," Brown said, "which were hard to keep running."

He said he found a company that built small roll-off bins that held 10 cubic yards.

"They're basically the same size as our dump trucks," Brown said.

But they were able to fit on the

one-ton truck.

The city was able to get a trailer and bins 80 percent funded through grants, he said.

"We ended up with a trailer and five bins," Brown said.

"We got a grant for \$22,200," said Pampa Public Works Director Richard Morris.

"Instead of taking four people an hour-and-a-half each day," Brown said, "it's taking one person about an hour and 45 minutes to do the same job."

The new bins will help on the

grass routes this summer, Horst said.

Horst said the city has budgeted \$50,000 for the last several years to keep a 1985 rear loading trash truck running, but the city can now do away with that piece of equipment and that \$50,000 expense now.

"Plus," said Morris, "we won't have to have somebody with a commercial driver's license."

That has long been a problem with the grass route, Morris said.

"You had to have somebody with

See CITY, Page 3

Cleaning up



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Fighting to keep The Shoe Department, a new store on Perryton Parkway, open by the first of April, Paul Dobbs, supervisor of G. Greenstreet Construction, wipes windows as paving contractors worked on the parking lot today.

Lefors ISD to consider principal

Lefors Independent School Board, will hold a regular meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The board will consider the superintendent's contract for the 2007-2008 school year and adding an additional position of a K-12 principal.

The superintendent of the school district has taken care of the principal duties since the school district has not had a principal for the past six years.

The board will consider taking action on a resolution to conduct a joint election with Gray County and discuss a joint election agreement as permitted by the state.

The summer school program will be considered and the superintendent will give reports on enrollment and attendance, bond progress and the results of February TAKS testing.

The meeting will be held in the high school library at 209 E. Fifth St. in Lefors.

PRMC has numerous security measures in place

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Since the recent newborn baby abduction from a Lubbock hospital, some expectant women may be a little unnerved about the safety of their babies once they are born and in the nursery or their hospital room.

Pampa Regional Medical Center has numerous security measures in place to avoid this type of breach of security and if an event like the one in Lubbock were to happen in Pampa, hospital administrators feel confident that the kidnapper and baby would not be able to leave the premises.

Chief Nursing Officer Denise Daves, RN BSN, said that Pampa has a very sophisticated security system and she feels it rivals hospitals from larger cities.

"We have an electronic security system and also a backup plan we

call "Code Pink" in case something does happen at this hospital," Daves said. "We run drills to practice and make sure everyone knows what their role is in case of an emergency. We tell parents what to look for to make sure those claiming to be nurses are actually who they claim to be and we also have a police presence here in and around the hospital."

Even though nothing open to the public is ever 100 percent secure, Daves said they want patients to know the staff is always on alert and looking for anything out of the ordinary. If any foul play is suspected, the entire unit can be locked down.

"During a recent drill to breach security, PRMC CEO Alan King was very pleased with the results he saw," Daves said. "No one was able to leave the building during this



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

New parents Enriquez Ruiz and Clara Rodriguez hold their 2-day-old son Alan Ruiz-Rodriguez at Pampa Regional Medical Center while Jennifer Hatfield, LVN, checks to make sure all of the wristbands match.

See PRMC, Page 3

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Record

Continued from Page 2

A threat was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

Assault was reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive and the 1800 block of Williston, where no injuries were reported in connection with the incident.

Theft was reported in the 100 block of South Dwight.

Burglary was reported in the 1100 block of South Wells and the 600 block of Lowry.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of North Sumner.

Monday, March 19
A missing person was reported in the 900 block of Fisher.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 1600 block of North Christine and the 100 block of West 30th.

A welfare check was made in the 900 block of Rhoads.

Two open doors were checked.

A suspicious person call was received from the 900 block of Alcock.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the 600 block of North Wells.

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

Saturday, March 17
Antonio Shorter, 20, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department in the 700 block of North Hobart for no driver's license, no insurance and possession of marijuana less than 2 ounces.

Lindsay Terrell, 22, of Whitney turned herself in on charges of delivery of a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance.

Daniel Jay Whittley, 36, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for insufficient bond.

Jose Armando Mata, 43, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for DWI.

Sunday, March 18
Marisa Ramirez, 27, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 1200 block of East Frederic for no driver's license, no insurance, failure to appear and failure to ID/fugitive.

Beau Dustin Brown, 18, of Stinnett was arrested by GCSO for DUI minor.

Dusty Cook, 19, of Pampa was arrested by PPD in the 600 block of Lowry for aggravated sexual

PRMC

Continued from Page 1

time and we feel confident this will be repeated if a real problem occurs."

Toni Broom, RN EMTP, is a supervisor for labor and delivery at PRMC. She said that one good thing about the Pampa hospital is the small staff.

"We all know each other and if we see someone that we don't recognize, we immediately stop them and ask if we can help them find something," Broom said. "If we suspect anything from that person, we will stop them and call police who will be here within two to three minutes. We will not take any chances with the security of our patients."

As soon as a baby is born in one of the birthing rooms, a bracelet is put on the baby that matches what the mother and father are wearing. An additional security device is placed on the baby as soon as they are taken to the nursery. The hospital has security cameras in all areas so

assault causing bodily injury serious.

Josephine Braddock, 36, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO possession of a controlled substance in a drug free zone and capias pro fine for no insurance.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, March 17
12:33 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 800 block of Rider on a grass fire.

2:30 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 600 block of Lowry on an assist.

Sunday, March 18
3:11 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of Wells on a lift assist.

3:57 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 900 block of South Faulkner on a trash fire.

9:48 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2700 block of North Hobart on a lift assist.

Monday, March 19
4:50 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1600 block of Christine on an unconscious and unresponsive call.

5:42 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1900 block of Holly on a medical assist.

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

Sunday, March 18
9:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of Garland and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

5:35 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Lowry and transported a patient to PRMC.

11:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Highway 273 and transported a patient to PRMC.

Monday, March 19
1:51 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of East Fredric and transported a patient to PRMC.

4:47 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1600 block of Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:40 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Holly and transported a patient to PRMC.

people are watched and taped as they move around the hospital and the parking lots.

"We welcome all expectant mothers into the hospital for a tour of the facility before they need our services," Daves said. "We want women to know what to expect once they check in and not have any questions so they will feel comfortable during their stay here."

In 2002, PRMC closed the labor and delivery section of the hospital for nine months due to lack of qualified coverage. According to Terry Barnes, director of marketing and public relations for PRMC, this was done in the best interest of the mothers and babies.

"During the time of the closure, the labor and delivery section of the hospital was upgraded with new machinery and better technology," Barnes said. "We now feel better equipped to handle mothers and their newborn babies. We've been averaging approximately 300 births a year here in Pampa."

Bush determined to persevere in Iraq

By BEN FELLER Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — With Democrats pushing for an end to the Iraq war now entering its fifth year, President Bush pleaded for more patience Monday, saying success is possible but "will take months, not days or weeks."

The war has stretched longer, with higher costs, than the White House ever predicted. On the fourth anniversary of the day Bush directed the invasion to begin, the president made a televised statement from the White House Roosevelt Room to defend continued U.S. involvement.

He said his plan to send 21,500 additional U.S. troops to secure Baghdad and Iraq's troubled Anbar Province "will need more time to take effect," especially since fewer than half of the troop reinforcements have yet arrived in the capital. Bush added: "There will be good days and bad days ahead as the security plan unfolds."

Democrats are bringing up this week in the House a war spending bill that would effectively require the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq by the fall of 2008, on top of providing funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan for the year. The White House has been pushing aggressively against

this legislation, and Bush did so again on Monday.

"It can be tempting to look at the challenges in Iraq and conclude our best option is to pack up and go home," he said. "That may be satisfying in the short run. But I believe the consequences for America's security would be devastating."

He said he had received news of positive signs during a morning briefing on the war with his National Security Council, and during a closed-circuit television conference call with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki from Baghdad.

Bush ridiculed House Democrats' legislation to remove troops, a measure he has promised to veto because it contains a timeline. He called it an abdication of U.S. commitments to Iraqis.

"There's a lot more work to be done and Iraq's leaders must continue to work to meet the benchmarks they have set forward," he said. "As Iraqis work to meet their commitments, we have important commitments of our own."

The House's war spending bill includes a troop withdrawal deadline of Sept. 1, 2008. The timeline would speed up if the Iraqi government cannot meet its own benchmarks for providing security, allocating oil revenues and other essential

steps.

Democrats "have a responsibility to ensure that this bill provides the funds and the flexibility that our troops need to accomplish their mission," the president said. "They have a responsibility to pass a clean bill that does not use funding for our troops as leverage to get special interest spending for their district. And they have a responsibility to get this bill to my desk without strings and without delay."

But Democratic lawmakers argue that the public

voted in November to place them in charge of Congress to demand more progress in Iraq — and to start getting the U.S. troops out.

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City

Continued from Page 1

a CDL for part time work," Morris said.

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner said his department has been working on improving efficiency over the past four years.

He said they've reorganized the department three times to get people where he wants them.

"It's taken that long to evaluate and get those changes made," Pitner said.

Part of the police department's changes includes the technology and setting up of their computer networks and upgrading their computers. With computers in the patrol cars now, Pitner said the officers won't have to come back to the station to file their reports.

It's a good return on the money they've spent, he said. It keeps more officers on the street per shift.

"That essentially adds three people to the street," Pitner said concerning manpower.

It gets officers to their calls more quickly.

The officers on patrol are more visible, he said.

"What we're doing now is going back to the old original patrol theory," Pitner said.

He said that consequently, Pampa can run about 20 per-

cent less staffing than other towns in the area.

The software is all installed, Pitner said.

"Our software provider will be here the last of April, the first week of May to do our training," Pitner said.

That project will mean about a \$125,000 a year in savings in manpower, he said. There's an 18-month payoff.

Pitner said they've made changes in scheduling at Animal Control.

"The pound used to be open an hour a day, seven days a week," Pitner said. "Now, we're open 35 hours a week and that's increased our adoption rates."

Horst said that he would like to bring in a consulting group to help generate new ideas for City Hall and the library for making the city more efficient and responsive to the citizens, but it will cost an estimated \$25,000.

"Is there a way we can produce more with less?" Horst asked.

Horst said he doesn't foresee any layoffs, but through attrition or transfer, the city might be able to make better use of its existing workforce.

The series of work sessions that the city commission is holding is to propose ideas leading to the budgetary discussion this summer.

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Viewpoints

Global warming through the lens of hard science

"I knew it! I knew that humans are the cause of global warming!"

"Ah, yes, you refer to a summary report recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It concludes that human actions are 'very likely' the cause of global warming."

"Very likely? The summary says there's a 90 percent probability that greenhouse gases, a byproduct of the fossil fuels we burn, are causing the Earth to warm."

"Look, it is a fact that the Earth is warming. But the exact cause of the warming has not yet been proven. That is the unfortunate truth."

"You're a Republican, aren't you?"

"Politics should have

nothing to do with science. Scientists are supposed to follow the scientific method. They come up with a hypothesis, then apply a rigorous, objective, measurable process to either prove or disprove it."

"Your point?"
"How is it that there's a 90 percent chance humans are causing global warming? Doesn't that mean there's a 10 percent chance we've got nothing to do with it? Shouldn't scientists be more precise — that humans are causing all global warming or none of it or 28.3756 percent of it?"

"But the atmosphere is incredibly complex. I think you're asking a lot."

"Maybe I am, but let me ask you a question. A plane is designed and built based

on scientific facts and principles. Would you board a plane if it only had a 90 percent probability of arriving at its destination?"

"Not sober. But isn't there a consensus among the world's scientists? Many believe that human activity is the cause of global warming."

Tom Purcell
Columnist



"The key word is 'believe.' Scientists aren't supposed to believe. They're supposed to prove or disprove. As for consensus, Michael Crichton had some interesting thoughts. He says consensus is the first refuge of scoundrels. He talked about it in a speech he gave in

2003."
"Michael Crichton the novelist?"

"Yes. He's also a medical doctor and scientist. He said consensus is the business of politics, not science. He said that the great scientific discoveries have never come about by consensus, but by bold scientists who have struck off on their own. When a thing is

proven to be a scientific truth, there's no need for consensus. You never hear somebody say 'a consensus of scientists agrees that E=mc2.'"

"So what are you getting at?"

"It is possible that humans are causing the Earth to warm. It's also possible that it's a natural cycle — the Earth is always warming and cooling. It's possible that the increase in greenhouse gases has nothing to do with global warming. A lot of things are possible, but we need our scientists to uncover the facts — not beliefs or speculation or opinion."

"That sounds like a heck of a difficult task."

"It surely is. Meteorologists have trouble predicting what the weather will be like in 24 hours. I can't imagine how hard it will be to prove what the climate will be like in 100 years, but that is their burden."

"You're tough."

"The truth is, we all need

to get back to the basics. Journalists should hold scientists to account. There is a lot of fiction out there masquerading as fact and we need our journalists to get and report the truth and nothing but the truth."

"I suppose you'll criticize our politicians, too?"

"To be sure. Some are purposely clouding the issue to raise campaign dough and curry favor with some voters. The press must hold them to account, too."

"What about the rest of us?"

"Even if it is proven that we're not causing the Earth to warm, we should act anyhow. Why don't we demand technology that allows cars to get 60 miles to the gallon?"

See PURCELL, Page 8

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 19, the 78th day of 2007. There are 287 days left in the year. This is the date the swallows traditionally return to the San Juan Capistrano Mission in California.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 19, 1945, during World War II, 724 people were killed when a Japanese dive bomber attacked the U.S. carrier Franklin off Japan; the ship, however, was saved.

On this date:

In 1859, the opera "Faust" by Charles Gounod premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the Supreme Court, in *Wilson v. New*, upheld the eight-hour work day for railroad workers.

In 1918, Congress approved Daylight-Saving Time.

In 1931, Nevada Gov. Fred B. Balzar signed a measure legalizing casino gambling.

In 1945, Adolf Hitler issued his so-called "Nero Decree," ordering the destruction of German facilities that could fall into Allied hands.

In 1951, Herman Wouk's World War II novel "The Caine Mutiny" was first published.

In 1953, the Academy Awards ceremony was televised for the first time; "The Greatest Show on Earth" was named best picture of 1952.

In 1979, the U.S. House of Representatives began televising its day-to-day business.

In 1987, televangelist Jim Bakker resigned as chairman of his PTL ministry organization amid a sex and money scandal involving Jessica Hahn, a former church secretary from Oklahoma.

In 2003, President Bush ordered the start of war against Iraq. (Because of the time difference, it was early March 20 in Iraq.)

Ten years ago: Following the withdrawal of Anthony Lake, President Clinton nominated acting CIA Director George Tenet to head the nation's spy agency. President Clinton departed Washington for his summit in Helsinki, Finland, with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Artist Willem de Kooning, considered one of the 20th century's greatest painters, died in East Hampton, N.Y., at age 92.

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806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348

Fax: 806-669-2520

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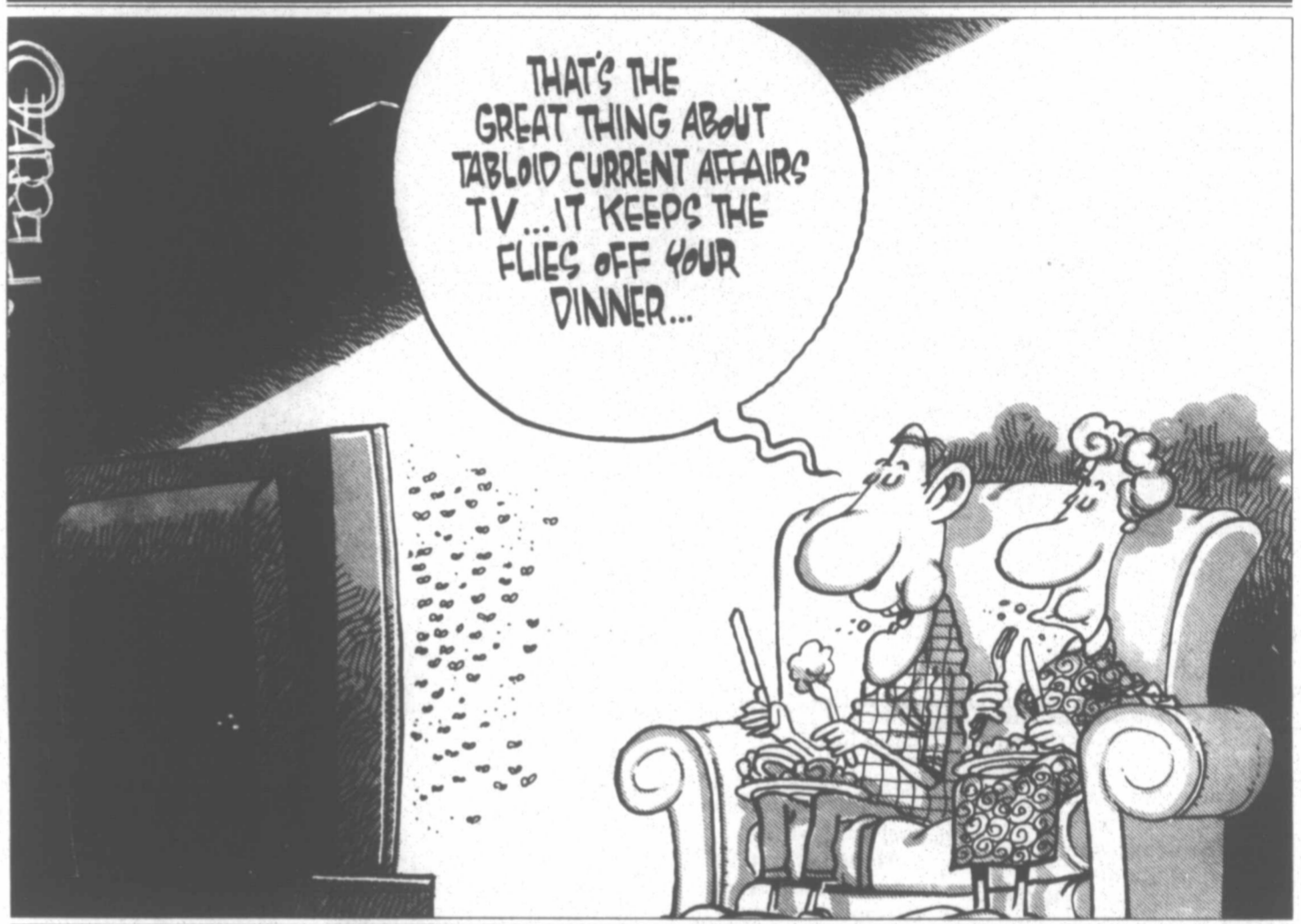
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Lies undermine American justice system

Either Lewis "Scooter" Libby's jury was slow on the uptake or the jurors were being fed mighty well, because it shouldn't have taken an hour to arrive at a guilty verdict.

The jury was not asked to decide what Libby's motives were or anything at all about revealing the identity of Joe Wilson's wife, Valerie, who worked for the CIA. All the jurors had to decide was if Libby lied under oath to the grand jury and to FBI agents when he said he learned of the woman's job from Tim Russert, an NBC News correspondent.

The answer was both obvious and undeniable. Yes, he lied. Russert said he lied, and several witnesses from the Bush administration contradicted Libby by testifying that he knew the woman's identity well before he had a conversation

with Russert. Libby, who was the chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney and a special counsel to the president, should go to prison. He's a lawyer and an old

Washington hand. He knows that lying under oath is perjury and lying to the FBI is obstructing justice. Besides, he was one of the chief architects of the matrix of lies that allowed President Bush to take this country to war in Iraq for completely false reasons.

As to why he lied, I think the answer is obvious. He thought he could get away with it. He never believed the special prosecutor, Patrick Fitzgerald, would push the major media to the

limit to get testimony from their employees. His mistake was to underestimate Fitzgerald, as straight an arrow and as fearless a prosecutor as there ever was. That guy is a hero.

The irony is that had Libby told the truth, the matter would have been settled with no indictments in a matter of weeks. The statute that punishes people for revealing the identity of a covert officer was unenforceable in this instance. It requires placing the agent in danger. Wilson's wife had by that time worked in Washington for a number of years.

It was the court battle with the media that dragged the matter out.

Fitzgerald is 100 percent correct when he says perjury cannot be tolerated. Lies undermine the judicial system, which is, first and foremost, a fact-finding system. Lies poison self-government. The American public should consider lying by politicians and government officials to be the unforgivable sin. People who are lied to cannot make a rational decision in their own self-interest, and that, of course, is the primary duty of the citizen-voter in a free republic.

The Iraq War is prima facie evidence of the evil that results when the American people are lied to. Cheney, Bush and the necons kept up a constant drumbeat implying Iraq was involved in the attack on the World Trade Center (it wasn't) and claiming that it had

See REESE, Page 8

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **March 11**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram on children's insurance:

The Childrens Defense Fund tells disturbing stories of families thwarted in their efforts to provide health care for their children.

There's a Texas family dropped from the Childrens Health Insurance Program after getting a check to repair Hurricane Rita damage to their home. Apparently, the extra money inflated their assets.

A kidney cancer patient had his insurance coverage lapse while processors lost his paperwork.

One family was overcharged for a co-payment, then sent a dunning letter for money that wasn't owed.

Those examples help bolster the case that CHIP needs significant revisions to serve eligible children properly and to serve more of them.

Now 10 years old, the federal-state cost-sharing program could use an infusion of funds from both levels. While Congress weighs reauthorizing the program, and at what levels, Texas lawmakers rightly are considering rewriting rules and restrictions that have put up unnecessary barriers for families that want to protect their children's health.

But there's no guarantee that the Legislature will do right by CHIP because of divisions over key issues.

CHIP provides insurance for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private health coverage. Under 2007 federal poverty guidelines, that's generally an annual income between \$20,650 and \$41,300 for a family of four.

Texas got started late with CHIP, not allocating money for it until two years after Congress authorized the program with a 10-year funding scheme. That left Texas almost perpetually behind on collecting all the federal money available.

States have three years to draw down their share before the money is parceled to other states that have

See CHIP, Page 8

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: In January, the American Cancer Society reported that cancer deaths had dropped for the second year in a row. The study noted that there was a big decline in colorectal cancer mortality. This is great news, Abby, but we can't rest on these laurels. The decline in colon cancer deaths is largely attributed to early detection, which is why it's so important for those 50 and over to get tested. I need your help in continuing to get the word out about the importance of getting tested for colorectal (commonly known as "colon") cancer. Just as every woman knows that breast cancer screening saves lives, every man and woman should know that colon cancer screening also saves lives. Starting at age 50, men and women -- regardless of their family history -- should talk with their doctors about their testing options for this deadly disease. Getting tested can stop colon cancer before it starts because the tests enable doctors to detect and remove hidden growths (called "polyps") before they can become cancerous. The tests can also detect cancer in an early stage. When found at its earliest, most treatable stage, colon cancer has a 90 percent survival rate! March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. I hope your readers will become more aware of the need to be tested and discuss it with their doctors as well as friends and loved ones who should be tested. Thanks for your help, Abby. -- **RICHARD C. WENDER, M.D., PRESIDENT, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**

DEAR DR. WENDER: You're welcome. And thank you for your important and timely reminder, which proves the truth of the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Because colon cancer is one of those "silent" diseases that can take hold before a person realizes he or

she is in trouble, it's vital that men and women be checked for it on a regular basis. Some good news: Medicare now covers all the tests for colon cancer. New Medicare beneficiaries within the first six months of enrollment can learn more about these tests by taking advantage of the "Welcome to Medicare" visit. It's an initial wellness physical exam that gives beneficiaries and physicians a chance to discuss health risk factors and schedule cancer screenings already covered by Medicare, including those for colon cancer. As always, the American Cancer Society is there to help with a free information kit to assist readers in talking to their doctors about colon cancer testing. Let the society help you stop colon cancer before it starts by calling the toll-free number: (800) 227-2345.

DEAR ABBY: In one of my college classes, the professor was adamant about not clapping in the middle of a live theater performance. He said clapping interrupts the performers and should be done only at the end of each piece. Yet every time I attend a concert or ballet, the audience claps after each dance, song or sometimes even a fancy move. What is proper etiquette at a live performance? -- **LAUREN IN CAVE CREEK, ARIZ.**

DEAR LAUREN: Ideally it would be preferable if the audience waited until "the fat lady sang" before starting the applause because not only can it distract the performer, it can also be annoying to other members of the audience. However, because applause is an expression of appreciation -- and often spontaneous -- it is impossible to control. (That's why some people avoid rock concerts.)

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



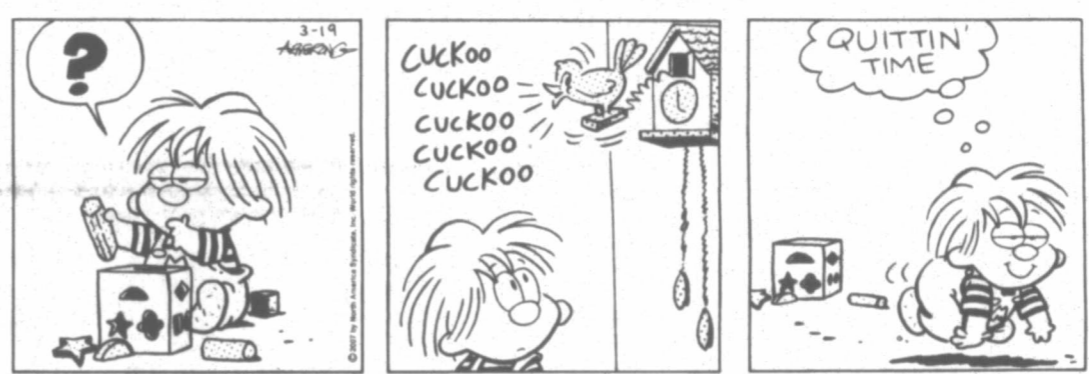
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



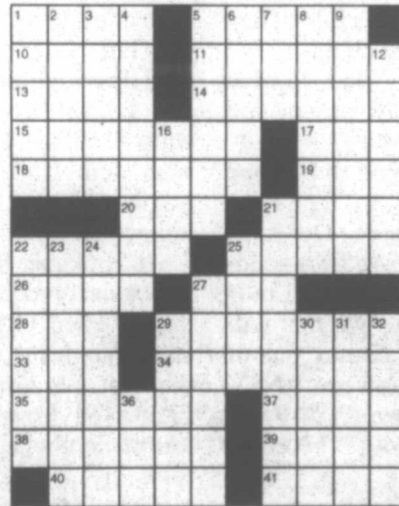
Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Burn
 - 5 Top
 - 10 Romantic flower
 - 11 Pitching great Tom
 - 13 Circle parts
 - 14 Canada's capital
 - 15 Uranium 235, for example
 - 17 Atlantic catch
 - 18 Recover from
 - 19 Swiss canton
 - 20 Sprinted
 - 21 Mob pursuers
 - 22 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
 - 25 Bone cover
 - 26 "Exodus" author
 - 27 Brewed beverage
 - 28 Rap's — Kim
 - 29 Japanese warrior
 - 33 Movie role for George Burns
 - 34 Incarnations
 - 35 Niche
 - 37 Object of adoration
- DOWN**
- 1 Daniel of "Casino Royale"
 - 2 Stable resident
 - 3 Fancy tie
 - 4 Does a museum job
 - 5 Annual tennis tourney
 - 6 Wendy's flying friend
 - 7 Touch lightly
 - 8 Displaced person
 - 9 Puts another way
 - 12 Salad-bar item
 - 16 Track shape
 - 21 Woodwind player
 - 22 Crude
 - 23 Baltimore team
 - 24 Puma
 - 25 Disaster aid org.
 - 27 Inn
 - 29 Thrifty person
 - 30 Speed trap need
 - 31 Scent
 - 32 Music's — Brothers
 - 36 Shelley work

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 538475, Orlando, FL 32853-8475



Marmaduke



"Marmaduke swallowed Sarah's wristwatch and he's tick to his stomach."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



"If we lived in England, I think I'd run for Queen."

B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



Sports Day

Boys track focuses on running in Canadian

The Pampa Harvester boys track team traveled to Canadian over the weekend to compete in the Canadian High School Boys Wildcat Relays.

Pampa placed fourth overall with 90 points, after having not competed in any field events, behind Sunray with 100, Perryton with 107 and Canadian with 124.

Other competitors included Clarendon, White Deer, River Road and Samnorwood.

Results are as follows:
 100 M Dash: Ryne Malone - 1st - 11.54, Adam Estrada - 5th - 11.85
 200 M Dash: Chase Harris - 1st - 23.28
 400 M Dash: Payton Reagan - 3rd - 53.40
 800 M Run: Matt Jimenez - 5th - 2:07.37
 1600 M Run: Matt Jimenez - 2nd - 4:56.84
 400 M Relay: Pampa - 2nd - 45.03
 800 M Relay: Pampa - 1st - 1:34.91
 1600 M Relay: Pampa - 3rd - 3:37.44
 300 M Hurdles: Jerrod Bivins - 43.97



Ryne Malone hands the baton to teammate Jerrod Bivins in the 400 Meter Relay finals on Saturday. Malone and Bivins helped the 400 Relay team get 2nd place with 45.03.

Pampa News photo by JORDAN REAGAN

Purtzer beats Roberts in playoff

SANTA CLARITA, Calif. (AP) — Tom Purtzer won the Champions Tour's AT&T Champions Classic for the second time in five seasons, beating Loren Roberts with a 17-foot birdie on the fourth hole of a playoff Sunday.

Purtzer closed with a 4-under 68 to match Roberts (69) at 10-under 206 on the Valencia Country Club course. The 55-year-old Purtzer earned \$240,000 for his fourth career victory on the 50-and-over tour.

"I feel really fortunate, and lucky," said Purtzer, in tears after the victory.

After the two players matched pars on their first three trips down the par-5 18th in the playoff, Purtzer finally broke through with his 17-foot birdie putt. Roberts had a chance to match, but his 12-foot birdie try just missed on the right side.

Purtzer credited fellow tour player Dave Stockton for some recent putting help. "I have to thank Dave. He gave me a lesson and I putted better," said Purtzer.

Three candidates left in race for Rangers fifth starter

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington still has a tough decision to make for the fifth starter in the rotation.

He doesn't mind too much, though, because all three remaining candidates have been pitching well in spring training.

"Hopefully, it goes down to the last meeting that we have to have to do it," Washington said. "If they keep pitching the way I feel

they are capable of pitching, whatever guy we leave out of here with, I feel we'll be all right."

Before the Rangers' only off day of the spring Monday, left-hander Bruce Chen and right-handers Kameron Loe and Jamey Wright continued their impressive springs in consecutive starts.

"Ron has a very tough decision to make," Chen said after throwing three score-

less innings Sunday to lower his spring ERA to 0.77 in four games.

"There's been separation," Washington said. "Loe, Chen and Wright have separated themselves from the pack."

Loe, who came out of last spring in the rotation before being sidelined by a sore elbow, hasn't allowed an earned run in 13 2-3 innings over four games this year. He threw five shutout innings

Saturday.

"I'm feeding off the competition," Loe said. "I've got a little more fire knowing I have to earn my spot."

Wright gave up his first earned runs Friday night, but still has a 2.16 ERA over 8 1-3 innings in three games.

John Koronka (12.00 ERA) and Josh Rupe (15.43 ERA), solely a reliever last season but considered a starting candidate this spring, were sent to the

minor leagues Sunday. Edinson Volquez, who ended last season in the rotation, was in the first group of cuts last week.

John Rheinecker hasn't even pitched this spring because of back spasms and Washington said it would be impossible now for Rheinecker to start the season in the rotation.

Washington made it clear from the beginning that performance would determine

who joined the rotation with Kevin Millwood, Vicente Padilla, Brandon McCarthy and Robinson Tejada.

Wright and Chen are experienced pitchers in camp as non-roster invitees. Wright, a first-round pick by Colorado in 1993, has started 237 games over 11 major league seasons with five teams, and Chen has 237 appearances (112 starts) over nine seasons with eight teams.

USC stops Texas, Durant

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — If Kevin Durant decides to leave college after one year, it will be without a championship — or even a trip into the second week of the tournament.

Southern California made sure of that Sunday, getting 22 points from its more seasoned star, junior Nick Young, in an 87-68 runaway over Texas and Durant, the freshman front-runner for national player of the year.

As he often has this season, Durant led everyone with 30 points and added nine rebounds for fourth-seeded Texas.

But he never came close to dominating this East Regional game. Many times when he got the ball, the offense ground to a halt for the Longhorns (25-10), who fell behind by 17 early in the second half and never made a serious run.

No. 5 seed USC (25-11) also got 20 points from Daniel Hackett and 17 points and 14 rebounds from Taj Gibson — a 6-foot-9 freshman like Durant. The Trojans won by playing smarter, more disciplined basketball and looking much more like a team in doing it.

A team with a very good leader in

Young — the scrappy swingman who had every reason to believe he'd be a USC alum by the time second-year coach Tim Floyd's rebuilding efforts took shape.

Turns out, the talent's there now, and next week, the Trojans will make their first trip to the regional semis since 2001 — and second since 1979 — where they'll play North Carolina.

With their 25th win, they set a program record. Not bad for this so-called football school, which got a small — very small — measure of revenge for its heartbreaking loss to the Longhorns in the 2006 Rose Bowl with the national title on the line.

This is a long, athletic, relentless team, one that relegated Durant — brilliant as he was at times — to the perimeter and dominated the middle against the rest of the Longhorns.

Though Gibson and Durant weren't head-to-head for much of this, the USC freshman was more effective. After taking a nasty blow to the face that benched him at the end of the first half, Gibson iced this game in the second. He dominated the boards and made 9 of 14 free throws, almost all down the stretch.

Singh finally has reason to smile at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Vijay Singh began a remarkable charge with four birdies in a five-hole stretch. He seized control with an aggressive play, hitting driver off the deck, followed by a dazzling recovery when he hit wedge through a tree and onto the green.

It was just what he needed to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Singh made up a three-shot deficit in seven holes, then built such a big lead that he could afford a few bogeys at the end of his round Sunday to capture a trophy that has eluded him for 15 years. He closed with a 3-under 67, the second straight

day that he matched the best score of the round, to win by two shots over Rocco Mediate.

"It's great to have my name on this thing," Singh said, staring at the bell-shaped trophy with an image of Palmer on top.

It also was a relief. Singh didn't make his PGA Tour debut at Bay Hill, but he always believed this is where he got his start in the country he now calls home. He was an unknown Fijian when Palmer gave him an exemption in 1993, but not for long. Singh finished second that year, won at Westchester a few months later and was voted PGA

Tour rookie of the year.

"I owe it to this tournament," he said. "That was my starting point on the U.S. tour, so I always thought this tournament meant a lot."

The tournament didn't give him much in return.

Singh was poised to win in 1994 until a bogey-bogey finish to lose to Loren Roberts. Two years ago, he was in the middle of the 18th fairway when he hit 7-iron into the water and lost to Kenny Perry.

Singh built a commanding lead on the par-5 12th, when he tried to reach the green with a driver off the deck from 295 yards away, which he pulled beneath a tree.

Florida advances to sweet 16; Wisconsin sent packing

By The Associated Press

Al Horford and the defending champion Florida Gators are headed back to the round of 16, three wins from a shot at a second straight NCAA title.

They'll have one less high-seeded opponent standing in their way after Wisconsin was sent home Sunday by a UNLV squad led by the father-son duo of Lon and Kevin Kruger.

"From Day 1, we've talked about putting UNLV back on the map," guard Kevin Kruger said.

Super freshman Kevin Durant and the Texas Longhorns were also relegated to spectators after being routed by Southern California. Durant, the front-runner for national player of the year, sidestepped questions after the loss about whether he'd leave college for the NBA.

"I don't think that's an appropriate question right now," Durant said. "I'm just worried about this team and what we can be next year as a team."

Coming off a national title, the veteran Gators knew they'd be in position to make another run. Their tournament experience paid off against plucky Purdue as Horford and Corey Brewer each scored 17 points and Florida (31-5) withstood a game effort by the Boilermakers 74-67 in the Midwest Regional.

"We knew we had to make plays down the stretch to win," said Brewer, who finished with 17 points and

eight rebounds.

Purdue played just about how it wanted against the Gators — slowing down the tempo, rebounding with a smaller lineup and keeping the game close much of the way. But the top-seeded Gators never panicked and made several clutch shots down the stretch.

Horford, who added nine rebounds, had three big buckets in the final minutes, and Brewer hit a spinning jumper and then made six consecutive free throws to seal Florida's 14th consecutive postseason win.

"I guess they felt like they were going to make Al score 1-on-1," Brewer said. "They made a bad decision."

Carl Landry led Purdue (22-12) with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Florida, hoping to become the first team to repeat as champions since Duke in 1992, will take on fifth-seeded Butler (29-6) in St. Louis on Friday. The winner will face whoever comes out of the matchup between UNLV (30-6) and Oregon (28-7).

The Runnin' Rebels stunned No. 2 seed Wisconsin 74-68 as the Badgers (30-6) became the highest-seeded team to lose in the tournament, so far.

"There will be some doubters. Some people will say we were lucky, but we don't really care," Kevin Kruger said. "We're going to the Sweet 16 and nobody can argue with that."

Wisconsin's Kamron Taylor sank a 3-pointer and converted a three-point play with 59 seconds to go to get

the Badgers within three at 70-67. Curtis Terry had a free throw and a little jumper in the lane to give the Runnin' Rebels a five-point cushion with 29 seconds to go.

"It took a team to go 10-for-20 from '3' to get us out," Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan said. "And to their credit, they were able to do that."

Kruger, who transferred from Arizona State to play his final season for his father, delivered. After his three 3-pointers, he was fouled on another long-range attempt and made all three free throws to make it 64-56 with a little more than 3 minutes left.

"I kept telling him, 'You are going to make some shots,'" said Wendell White, who led UNLV with 22 points. "He did. That's what happened."

At Spokane, Wash., Aaron Brooks scored 22 points and third-seeded Oregon smothered Winthrop to eliminate the last remaining double-digit seed from the NCAA tournament with a 75-61 victory.

The 11th-seeded Eagles (29-5), who upset Notre Dame in the first round, lost for the first time in 20 games to end their most successful tournament in seven tries.

The Ducks were 11-for-23 shooting from 3-point range, and Tajuan Porter, the shortest man on the floor at 5-foot-6, scored 14 points. He hit his first four shots of the second half, all from long range, in the game's decisive spurt.

Public Notices

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Community service



Adam Zuniga and Stephanie Polasek spent some of their Spring Break time repainting letters on the Devotion Garden feature at Memory Gardens Cemetery of Pampa. Courtesy photo

Purcell

Continued from Page 4

We're pumping billions of dollars into oil-producing nations that only mean us harm.
 "That's no good."
 "And why in a country as ingenious as ours haven't

we already switched to cheap, clean alternatives to gasoline, coal and natural gas? Why not nuclear power? Why not cars that run on fuel cells or some other technology that hasn't even been invented yet?"
 "Beats me."
 "And why haven't we invented a technology fueled by our most abun-

dant resource — one that could cleanly power our plants and cars?"
 "What resource would that be?"
 "Hot air. I doubt we'll ever have a shortage of that."
 —Tom Purcell is a humor columnist nationally syndicated exclusively by Cagle Cartoons.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

dangerous weapons of mass destruction (it didn't). Remember the often-used line, "We don't want the smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud?"
 Now more than 3,000

Americans are dead, and a half-trillion dollars of public debt has been added to the backs of posterity. The U.S., according to a poll conducted for the British Broadcasting Corp., is with Israel, Iran and North Korea as the most disliked countries in the world. We are mired in a war, and neither party has the guts to pull out of it.

I thought I was glad when Bill Clinton left office, but, by God, I'm buying champagne to celebrate the departure of Bush and Cheney and their awful administration. Let's just hope they don't blunder into blowing up the world before that happy day arrives.
 —Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

CHIP

Continued from Page 4

exhausted their allocations. Congress twice passed adjustments giving lagging states more time, but over the years, Texas still left millions unused.

Its not that CHIP hasn't been popular. Texas enrollment rose to more than 500,000 in 2003. But that's when lawmakers cut back services and made other changes, ostensibly to whittle a budget deficit and trim families that the state believed could find insurance elsewhere. Enrollment dropped to 291,530 in September 2006, according to the Health and Human Services Commission, and was up to 321,815 in January.

Dental, vision and mental health services were dropped in 2003 but eventually restored. And in this session, there's sentiment to expand the program to more eligible children.

Among 30 bills (some identical) related to CHIP is one by Rep. John Davis, R-Houston, that would restore a one-year enrollment period (its now six months), deduct child-care expenses from assets calculations and reduce the number of applicants who must wait 90 days for coverage to start.

House Speaker Tom Craddick supports Davis measure. But Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who in 2003 tried to prevent the Legislature from shifting to re-enrollment every six months, now opposes a 1-year term.

State officials also are fretting about the potential costs of an unrelated court case involving Medicaid,

which finances medical care for the poorest children. The state has spent years trying to avoid obligations from a class-action settlement that U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice approved in 1996. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in 2004 that the state was bound by the settlement, which called for better medical and dental services and outreach for the more than 2.7 million children eligible for the states Medicaid program.

But, instead of complying, the state has continued to pour money and time into legal maneuvering and resistance. Justice has set aside the week of April 9 for another hearing to determine what the state still must do.

Texas should meet its obligations to provide the kind of preventive health care that, in the long run, will help keep poor children healthier, in school and out of costlier emergency rooms. But additional Medicaid expenditures should not come at the expense of the low- and moderate-income families eligible for CHIP.

The Legislature should increase the CHIP appropriation to take advantage of more federal dollars. (Texas, spent almost \$372 million on CHIP in fiscal 2006: \$102.4 million in state dollars and \$269.4 million in federal money.)

It should return the enrollment period to one year, to ensure continuous coverage and cut down on needless processing. If the assets test remains, child-care costs should be exempted. (The Health and Human Services Commission has estimated that returning to 1-year enrollment, eliminating the

assets test and making other changes could cost \$81 million over two years.)

Congress, meanwhile, should make clear its continuing support for the program.

A bipartisan coalition of governors recently asked Congress for a quick addition of cash for 14 states that expect to run about \$735 million short this year. The states also want an overall funding increase that the Bush administration seems reluctant to make.

The federal government spends about \$5 billion annually on CHIP. President Bush has proposed remaining at that level, with an extra \$4.8 billion for the next five years. But the Congressional Budget Office estimates that it would cost almost three times that to maintain current enrollments and benefits.

The big question is whether CHIP is operating as intended.

Sixteen states cover families making more than twice the poverty limit. And both the Clinton and Bush administrations let some states experiment with covering pregnant women, other parents and some childless adults. (Congress restricted any new programs like that.) The Government Accountability Office reported that the nationwide CHIP enrollment of 6 million includes 639,000 adults.

Maybe states shouldn't be able to overextend the CHIP umbrella. But if federal lawmakers intend to curb governors' ingenuity, they should get busy with a better way to bring coverage to more uninsured.

Cat bite worth \$122,400

FLUSHING, Mich. (AP) — Jean Toney had warned people Randy the cat had a biting problem. Her brother learned that the hard way — for both of them.

He sued her after the Siamese cat bit his hand, causing his fingers to swell up like "plump hot dogs," as his lawyer put it, and putting him in a hospital for three weeks.

The jury took his side on Friday, awarding \$122,400 to the injured sibling, Michael Sabo, 57.

Sabo's lawyer, Tom Pabst, said the cat leapt into Sabo's lap in March 2004 and bit his right hand. An infection from the bite put him in the hospital.

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