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See expanded weather on Page 2

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SEE PAGE 6



THE PAMPA NEWS

Monday, April 23, 2007

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City's sales tax receipts continue healthy climb

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Pampa's sale tax receipts continue to climb, according to city officials. According to official figures scheduled to be released at the Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday, sales tax revenues to the city this month from sales in February total \$322,076.34. "That's in seven months," City Manager John Horst said today.

Of that \$322,076.34, \$80,519.09 will go to the Pampa Economic Development Corp., leaving the city with \$241,557.26.

To date this fiscal year, the city of Pampa has collected a total of \$2,680,190.68. Of that, \$670,190.92 went to the economic development corporation and \$2,010,572.76 to city coffers.

That puts the income for the city from sales tax receipts 28.48 percent,

or almost a half million dollars, over what the city was expecting.

This is the seventh month in a row for the year that sales tax revenues exceeded the budgeted amount, said Horst.

"It's miraculous," Horst said.

It this trend continues, city Finance Director Robin Bailey said, the city could end up with an excess \$840,166.99 by the end of the fiscal year next September.

Neither Bailey nor Horst said the increase in sales tax revenues could be attributed to any one thing.

Bailey said that retail sales in Pampa were healthy.

Horst said he thinks an increase in local construction materials helped boost the sales tax figures.

"We've got a healthy economy," Horst said.

Hotel-motel tax revenues have doubled

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

This year's hotel-motel tax revenues for the City of Pampa are already double last year's, according to city officials.

Robin Bailey, Pampa's financial director, said today that for the first two quarters of the city's fiscal year, hotel-motel taxes are \$107,480.

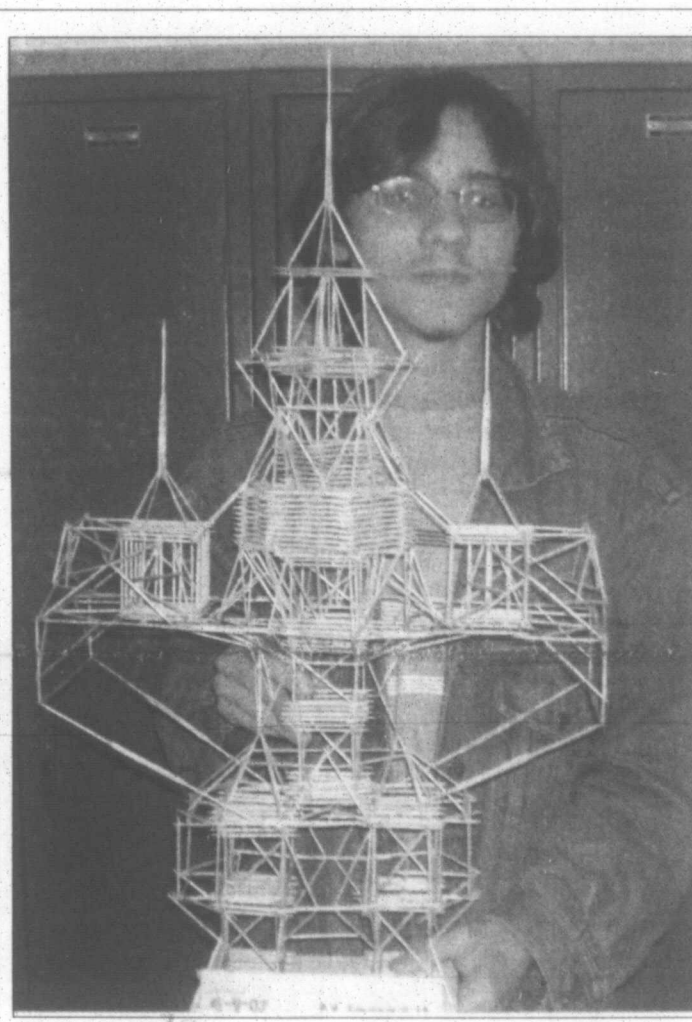
Last year, she said hotel-motel taxes for the entire fiscal year were about \$100,000.

The city had budgeted based on an expected collection of \$150,000 this year, said Pampa City Manager John Horst.

Last year, Bailey said, the city had budgeted for \$105,000 income from the hotel-motel tax, but ended up collecting \$170,681.87.

The \$107,480.93 already collected this year, she said, includes Best Western Northgate Inn, AmericInn, El Capri and Western Motel.

See TAXES, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
James Holt, an eighth grader at Pampa Junior High School, shows off his toothpick sculpture assignment which earned him a blue ribbon from his art teacher, Donnie Jordan, who said it is the best toothpick sculpture he has seen in his 37 years of teaching.

Student's toothpick art project earns praise from teacher

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

When Pampa Junior High School art teacher Donnie Jordan gave his usual toothpick sculpture assignment this year, he did not expect it to be any different than the previous years.

But, the sculpture that was turned in by eighth grader James Holt thrilled the veteran teacher.

"I've been teaching for 37 years and this is the best toothpick sculpture that I've ever seen," Jordan said. "The assignment leaves a lot of room for creativity since my only requirements are that it must be 3-D, balanced, symmetrical and use architectural aspects."

Holt said he started working on the project the first day of the semester, which started in January.

He worked on the sculpture about one hour each

day until he finished it this month, so he worked on it approximately three months.

"I did this sculpture all by myself without any drawings," Holt said. "I just used toothpicks and Elmer's glue. Art is one of my favorite subjects and I might want to be an architect when I get out of school."

Jordan said some of his students who have done this toothpick artwork have gone on to be building or landscape architects and illustrators for medical journals.

Since this is the best sculpture he's ever seen, he expects great things for Holt's future.

The sculpture will be on display at Lovett Memorial Library at 111 N. Houston in the display case by the front door for the next week.

City commission to consider loans

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Loans will top the list of items the Pampa City Commission will consider Tuesday afternoon during their regular session.

The commission will hear on second and final reading resolutions on a \$525,000 loan by the Pampa Economic Development Corp. to Hampton Village Limited Partners for low to moderate cost housing.

The commission will also hear on second and final reading an economic development corporation loan for \$75,000 to MXT LLC in order for the pet food and packing material manufacturing company to move their operation from Amarillo to Pampa before May 1.

The city commission will also consider the \$250,000 purchase of a Caterpillar bulldozer for the Pampa landfill and the \$80,000 purchase of electrical equipment for the city water wells.

The commission will hear reports from Pampa Fire Chief Kim Powell on the fire department's latest fire prevention education program and a sale tax report from Robin Bailey, the city's financial director.

The Pampa City Commission is expected to discuss seal coating, water mains and waste water mains during a work session following Tuesday's meeting.

The commission will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the commission chambers of City Hall.

Museum piece



Courtesy photo

An H446 crane, produced for the U.S. Army from the late 1960s through the mid-1970s, joined the equipment lineup at Freedom Museum USA last week upon its delivery to Pampa from an anonymous donor in Tyrone, Okla. The crane weighs 36,500 pounds and can lift five tons. The museum is located at 600 N. Hobart.

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Fun with art



Raylene McGeein, left, and Roxanna Hendricks have fun with decorative painting during a recent Heritage Art Club meeting. The club and the featured artist of the year, Theresa Maness, will exhibit their works of art and have a silent auction to benefit the senior citizens center from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Va. Tech students make somber return

BLACKSBURG, Va. (AP) — Thousands of Virginia Tech students and faculty filled the center of campus today to pay solemn tribute to the victims of last week's massacre — listening quietly as a bell tolled for the dead on the day classes resumed at the grief-stricken school.

An antique 850-pound brass bell was installed on a limestone rostrum for the occasion, and 33 white balloons were released in memory of the 32 victims and the gunman, Seung-Hui Cho. About 1,000 balloons in Virginia Tech colors — maroon and orange — were also set free.

"I've been back with my friends, but I don't know how it's going to feel, seeing the empty seats in the classroom, noticing the people who aren't here anymore," said David Patton, a 19-year-

old freshman who was friends with two victims. "I'm wondering where they are now, if they are in heaven, and when I'll see them again."

The chimes of the bell echoed through the campus, covered with a week's worth of memorials and tributes to the students, including flowers, writings and candles.

The bell rang at 9:45 a.m., around the time when Cho killed 30 students and faculty members in a classroom building before committing suicide. The tribute lasted 11 minutes, as the bell rang for each of the victims and Cho.

"It's only been a week, but it seems so long ago," said Marc Hamel, 43, a political science student. "Getting back into class is really going to help."

As the crowd broke up, people started to chant, "Let's Go Hokies" several

times. A moment of silence was also observed at about 7:15 a.m., near the dormitory where Cho's first victims, Ryan Clark and Emily Hilscher, were killed.

In front of the dorm, a small marching band from Alabama played "America the Beautiful" and carried a banner that read, "Alabama loves VT Hokies. Be strong, press on."

Afterward, a group of students and campus ministers brought 33 white prayer flags from the dorm to the school's War Memorial

Chapel. They placed the flags in front of the campus landmark and adorned them with pastel-colored ribbons.

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Corzine may govern from hospital bed

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Aides to critically injured Gov. Jon S. Corzine said today they hope he will be able to run the government from his hospital bed when his condition improves.

Corzine was in critical but stable condition today, and aides did not know when he might be able to resume his duties. State Senate President Richard J. Codey is the acting governor.

Spokesman Anthony Coley said Corzine may rely on technology to help him run the state from the hospital.

"We're looking into video-conferencing capability," Coley said.

Since a breathing tube was removed Friday, Corzine has been able to enjoy a few of life's simpler pleasures: watching hockey on television and eating mashed potatoes.

Corzine has been at Cooper University Hospital since the April 12

car crash on the Garden State Parkway. He was in the front passenger seat, his seat belt unbuckled, when the state SUV driven by a state trooper at about 90 mph was clipped by a pickup that was swerving to avoid a third vehicle.

Corzine broke his left thigh bone, 11 ribs, a collarbone and his breastbone and had some other, more minor injuries.

He was sedated for more than a week, breathing with the help of a ventilator that prevented him from speaking, and being fed through a tube.

Investigators are trying to find out if the governor's driver, State Trooper Robert Rasinski, had seen angry e-mail messages from the husband of a woman he was allegedly having an affair with, The Star-Ledger of Newark reported Sunday.

Police were looking into whether the

e-mail could have affected Rasinski's driving, the paper said.

State police officials did not return a call seeking additional comment Monday.

A police officer from Berkeley Heights, Detective Sgt. Michael Mathis, posted messages online at a Star-Ledger Web news forum saying he sent Rasinski an e-mail with a photo of himself and his family just minutes before the crash to confront him about the affair, the newspaper reported.

"I hope it didn't cause the crash, but no man in his right mind could have been thinking clearly with the affair exposed," Mathis wrote in the forum.

Mathis, 40, confirmed to the newspaper that he posted the comments, using a screen name, in an online forum for reader comments on Statehouse news.

Man found not guilty in sex assault

DARLINGTON, S.C. (AP) — A jury has found a convicted sex offender accused of raping two teen girls in an underground bunker not guilty of kidnapping, sex crimes and assault with intent to kill.

Kenneth Glenn Hinson, 48, wiped his eyes and mouth and appeared to cry after the jury read its verdict, which followed about four hours of deliberations over two days.

"I think the verdict says it all," he said as he was escorted from the courtroom.

Authorities had charged that Hinson snatched the 17-year-old girls from their bedroom last year and dragged them one at a time to the underground room hidden beneath a tool shed, where he raped and bound them with duct tape. Prosecutors said Hinson expected the girls to die because the room had no air supply.

However, Hinson testified during the six-day trial that the girls had consensual sex with him. He said they made up the story so they would be able to take drugs from the underground room, which he used to store marijuana.

Record

Continued from Page 2

of Crawford and Varnon. Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 800 block of East Frederic, the 400 block of North Hobart, the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 1100 block of Garland, the 1000 block of South Barnes and the 500 block of Warren.

An animal bite was reported in the 1100 block of Garland.

Agency assistance was provided in the 1300 block of Plum, in the 600 block of Plains, in the 900 block of Rham and at the intersection of Maple and Barrett.

A welfare check was made in the 400 block of Naida.

A runaway was reported in the 1400 block of Hobart.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

Suspicious persons were reported in the 400 block of North Faulkner, the 1000 block of South Wells, the 2800 block of Charles, near the intersection of Locust and Finley and the 300 block of North Hobart.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of Highway 60 East.

Warrant service was made at one location resulting in one arrest.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 2500 block of Perryton Parkway.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 400 block of North Faulkner, the 1600 block of Somerville, the 2200 block of North Christy, the 1000 block of North Wells, the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and the 100 block of North Hobart.

Assault with a deadly weapon was reported in the 1000 block of North Wells.

Theft was reported at One Medical Plaza where a bank deposit slip was stolen and at Sonic at 1404 N. Hobart where \$835 in cash

was stolen. An open door was reported in the 1600 block of North Hobart.

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

Saturday, April 21
Anthony Ryan Ferrell, 24, of Pampa was arrested by Pampa Police Department for interference with a 911 call and criminal mischief.

Sunday, April 22
David Trezell, 39, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for DWI, evading arrest, no seat belt, duty on striking an unattended vehicle, no driver's license, no registration, no inspection and no insurance.

Austin C. McCarthy, 20, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for theft under \$50.

Kenton M. Cargal, 20, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to change address.

Joe Dale Hays, 20, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for failure to identify.

Rickie Ellington, 41, of Pampa was arrested by Department of Public Safety for two counts of animal at large and two counts of no rabies vaccine.

Marisa Ramirez, 27, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, tampering / fabricating physical evidence with intent, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Monday, April 23
Christopher Brian Bell, 19, of Pampa was arrested by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to maintain financial responsibility and expired motor vehicle registration.

Luis Gerardo Jimenez, 27, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for possession of marijuana, less than two ounces.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 48-hour weekend period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Saturday, April 21
10:45 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 400 block of Atchison on a suspected gas leak.

11:49 a.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 2200 block of Aspen for a fire in a backyard.

Sunday, April 22
8:51 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 2200 block of Christine on a medical assist.

4:40 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 100 block of Western on a strange odor / hazardous material spill.

Monday, April 23
12:57 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 600 block of Plains on a medical assist.

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

Saturday, April 21
12:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Loop 171 and Highway 60 and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 12000 block of East Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

Sunday, April 22
8:48 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 2200 block of Christine and transported a patient to PRMC.

6:38 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1300 block of North Banks and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:51 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Tignor. No transport.

Monday, April 23
12:54 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 600 block of Plains and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:01 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Frederic and transported a patient to PRMC.

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Taxes
Continued from Page 1

Horst said the new Holiday Inn Express is expected to open later this year, giving hotel-motel tax revenues another boost.

Hotel-motel tax revenues have been rising steadily since the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

In 2004-2006, they took a significant jump, from \$114,651 in 2003-2004 to \$170,681 with the opening of the AmeriInn.

Viewpoints

1920 hail storm nearly wiped out farm in Jones County

Just a boy at the time, Howard Campbell never lost his vivid memory of the only time he ever saw both of his parents cry.

They lived in Jones County on what Campbell called a ranch, but they did more farming than ranching. And on that day in May 1920 their leased land had never looked finer. Almost-ready-to-harvest grain and row after row of corn extended for 400 acres around their two-story house.

"The barley, wheat and oats were all waist high and ready to bundle and shock," Campbell later wrote in "Spotted Stripes," a self-published family history. "The corn was also about waist high and had been plowed out two or three times. All the crops were extra good for that time of the year and the pasture grass was equally superior."

Campbell had watched his father and uncle move the broadcast binder from a shed to the shade of a large live oak. Soon it would be time to harvest their crop, the best they had ever raised.

But grain and corn weren't the only things growing that spring. Campbell's mother was pregnant, and the country doctor she saw reckoned she would be having twins.

"It looked as if nature had smiled on everyone and everything in that part of the state," Campbell continued.

Around 3 p.m. tall, dark clouds appeared on the horizon to the northwest. Back then, long before commercial radio, television or radar, the only warning most Texans got of an impending storm came in seeing its approach.

When it seemed clear that they would be getting rain, Campbell's father and uncle rolled up the binder canvas and put it under a shed so it wouldn't get wet.

By now, distant thunder gave way to close-in lightning strikes. The thunderstorm towered so high, a bright afternoon had turned nearly into night. Then the hailstones larger than hen eggs began coming down, preceding the rain and wind. (An amateur storm chaser's Web

site, www.chaseday.com, says hail falling from 30,000 feet, a typical figure, reaches 120 mph by the time it reaches the ground. Hail has been known to fall in baseball to grapefruit size, the largest recorded stone weighing more than 1.5 pounds.)

Mike Cox

Texas Tales



"Mom and dad, my uncle and another hired hand began putting quilts on all west windows," Campbell wrote. "The front porch protected the windows to the south."

The blankets did little good. Hail beat out all the upstairs windows and even came crashing through the roof of their house. When big chunks of ice came rolling down the stairs, Campbell's mother grabbed a bucket and began trying

to pick them all up.

The bombardment continued for 30 minutes, with wind and torrential rain going on for another hour.

When the storm abated, the Campbell family rushed outside to see what damage had been done to their property. They could hardly believe what they saw.

Dead chickens, their coop destroyed, lay buried in drifts of hailstones. The sheds and barns looked like they had been bombed. Most of their roof was gone and all the exposed windows of their house broken out.

Even worse, their fields "lay as flat and barren as desert." What two hours earlier had been their best-ever crop had floated off and now lay in large drifts against their fences and in gullies.

At least no one had been hurt. In fact, only two fatalities have ever been attributed to hail in the United States. One of those cases occurred in Texas, where a farmer caught out in the open near Lubbock died in a severe hailstorm on May 13, 1939.

The Campbell ranch had been visited by what meteorologists call a hailshaft, a column of hail falling from a single thunderstorm cell. The area swept by a hailshaft, again in scientific speak, is called a hailstreak.

"I saw my parents embrace and cry profusely," Campbell wrote. "This made a lasting impression on me and [served as] a constant reminder that when it pertains to farming and ranching, one never has it made until the money is in the bank."

Campbell's mother and father both cried, but they did not give up. Within three weeks of the hailstorm, the family had re-plowed and re-seeded their fields in cotton, maize and grass.

Those crops came in bountifully. And in July, as Campbell put it, the family had "two more cubs in the den."

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

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 23, the 113th day of 2007. There are 252 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

April 23, 1564, is believed to be the birthdate of English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare; he died 52 years later, also on April 23.

On this date:

In 1791, the 15th president of the United States, James Buchanan, was born in Franklin County, Pa.

In 1896, the Vitascope system for projecting movies onto a screen was publicly demonstrated in New York City.

In 1899, Russian-American author Vladimir Nabokov was born in St. Petersburg.

In 1940, about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Miss.

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his record 755 major-league home runs, in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The

'Be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.'

— From "Twelfth-Night"
William Shakespeare
(1564-1616)

Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1968, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

In 1985, Coca-Cola Co. announced it was changing the secret flavor formula for Coke (negative public reaction forced the company to resume selling the original version).

In 1987, 28 construction workers were killed when an apartment complex being built in Bridgeport, Conn., suddenly collapsed.

In 1998, James Earl Ray, who'd confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tenn., hospital at age 70.

Ten years ago: Doctors at University of Southern California announced that a child was born in late 1996 to a 63-year-old woman on hormone therapy.



All shock jocks out there should be fired

If Don Imus goes off the air completely, it will be good riddance. He was one of the country's original shock jocks, and I hope that the practice of being offensive and insulting for the sake of ratings has run its course.

I don't know the man, but his public persona is a cranky, self-centered, self-righteous jerk. He's been bleating like a sheep that he's a good person after gratuitously insulting the Rutgers University women's basketball team by calling them "nappy-headed hos."

Imus is lucky he's living in the politically correct era. In earlier times, some fathers would have worked him over with whips or ax handles for impugning the honor of their daughters.

In case you are confused by all the blather that exploded on television, Imus, in his calloused and careless attempt at humor, insulted some private individuals. Politicians, celebrities and even professional athletes are considered public figures and fair game in our society. They are well-paid, powerful and presumably able to defend them-

selves. The young ladies at Rutgers are none of those things. They were not seeking to become celebrities. They played their hearts out and became a "Cinderella" team in women's basketball that made it to the national championship game. They also were individuals who kept up their grades at an academically tough university.

For a millionaire shock jock to call them whores was like a sniper shooting an innocent shopper. It was entirely gratuitous, unnecessary and over the line, as Imus has discovered. Nearly all of his politically connected pals in journalism, as well as the politicians who liked to appear on his show, were making themselves scarce, not to mention advertisers who decided they don't want their products associated with him. NBC News in effect fired him by canceling his televised simulcast on MSNBC. CBS Radio fol-

lowed suit by canceling his radio show.

It is important to note that this is not a free-speech issue. The First Amendment was never a license to libel and slander innocent people. What Imus did was not make a politically controversial statement, which would be protected, but instead commit an act of indecency and injustice.

That's always been his shtick, to bully and insult people, and in the past he's gotten away with it. His show was profitable, he is famous, and he is rich. In the vulgar culture where success and money are the only moral criteria, he was safe.

So the uproar may well be a sign that our culture is finally beginning to turn the corner. Hopefully, people are saying enough is enough and that it's time to return to civility. Every human being on Earth is entitled to be treated with respect and dignity until his or her own actions forfeit that right. Public discourse in recent

years has degenerated into name-calling, and shock jocks, talk-show hosts and TV blatherers have contributed to it. Name-calling is a logical fallacy. It is an attempt to avoid honest debate and discussion, and the practice has largely poisoned Washington.

The fact that gangster rappers and the hip-hop culture used derogatory and often obscene language doesn't excuse Imus. To say that it does is to say something like "Why pick on this guy who only mugged one person when those people over there mugged several?" Accountability must always be individual and is not to be escaped by claiming that "others do worse things."

It would make me happy if every shock jock in the country were fired. They are shallow-minded exploiters of public ignorance, and most of them have constipation of the brain and diarrhea of the mouth, not to mention the morals of the gutter.

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

Charley Reese
Columnist



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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: You asked readers to share their pet peeves with you. Mine is careless drivers. I am a single mother who supports her children. I can't afford to be killed or maimed on the road. This afternoon I was behind a woman who was driving erratically. She rolled through stop signs, sped up and slowed down for no apparent reason, and switched from lane to lane. When I was finally able to safely pass her, I saw that she wasn't drunk as I had suspected -- but was driving her van down the crowded freeway with her elbows on the wheel because she was using both hands to hold the hamburger she was eating. Abby, the woman was doing 70 miles an hour. All she needed to do was sneeze once to lose control of her vehicle. I am angry with people who drive while talking on a cell phone, eating, applying makeup, reading, searching through purses or briefcases, or playing with pets on their laps. People who are behind the wheel have the power to end not only their own lives and the lives of their passengers, but also the lives of every driver, passenger and pedestrian they encounter in the blink of an eye. Please, America! Clean up your act. If you don't have both hands on the wheel and your full attention on the road, then you are not driving responsibly. Maybe your family doesn't need you alive and healthy, but my kids need me! — **CINDY IN MINNEAPOLIS**

DEAR CINDY: Something as simple as paying attention and observing the traffic laws would prevent many injuries and death. To do anything less is to invite a tragedy. Every evening there are news reports about perfectly healthy people in the prime of life who lost their lives because of the carelessness of another driver. When commuters are behind the wheel,

it is vital that they keep both hands on the wheel, their eyes on the road and their minds 100 percent on the task at hand.

DEAR ABBY: I recently bought a couple of items in the dollar store here in town. I had \$2 in change to pay for them. The owner of the store refused to accept the dimes and told me to go back to the bank and get paper money. I was under the impression that dimes are legal tender and should have been acceptable. It was a humiliating experience. Am I wrong? — **MISS J. IN WHITING, N.J.**

DEAR MISS J.: You're not wrong. Coins are legal tender, and the store owner should have accepted them. By not doing so, the store owner was telling you that your business was not welcome. I wouldn't blame you if you never set foot in that establishment again.

DEAR ABBY: We have a ring controversy at the office. Some say the engagement ring should be worn on the ring finger of the left hand before marriage. Others insist it should be worn on the ring finger of the right hand until after the ceremony. Which is correct? — **FRANK IN MILFORD, N.H.**

DEAR FRANK: According to Emily Post, in the United States the engagement ring is worn on the third finger of the left hand -- next to the little finger -- although in some foreign countries it's worn on the right hand. It is removed for the wedding ceremony, when the wedding band is placed on the bride's finger, and replaced immediately after the ceremony outside the wedding ring. (The wedding band is always worn "closest to the heart.")

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



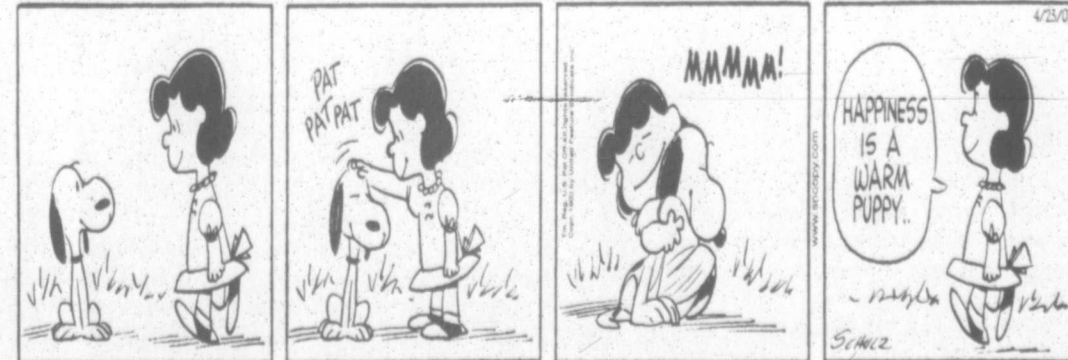
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

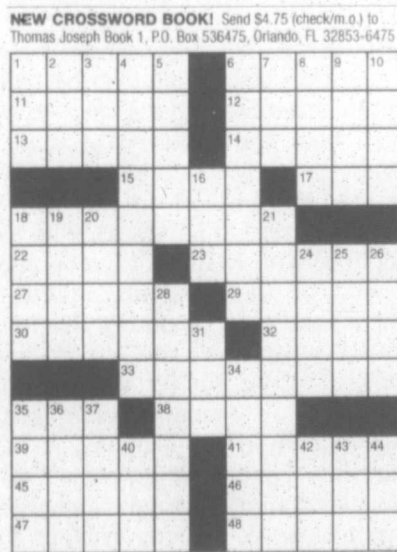


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Lends a hand
 - 6 San Antonio basketballers
 - 11 Once more
 - 12 Comic Kovacs
 - 13 Puccini opera
 - 14 Librarian's bane
 - 15 Flying toy
 - 17 "How I Met Your Mother" role
 - 18 Kind of brakes
 - 22 Monsoon weather
 - 23 Asian island
 - 27 Throne occupants
 - 29 Frighten
 - 30 Gumshoe
 - 32 Metric amount, for short
 - 33 Go all out
 - 35 Mania
 - 38 Hammer part
 - 39 Deceitful bunch
 - 41 Operative
 - 45 Make up lines
 - 46 Blender setting
- DOWN**
- 1 Boater or bowler
 - 2 Freud topic
 - 3 — Vegas
 - 4 Improving
 - 5 Slow mover
 - 6 New York natives
 - 7 Golf course
 - 8 Mile or meter
 - 9 Ascend
 - 10 Canary snack
 - 16 Youngster
 - 18 Sacred chests
 - 19 Finger feature
 - 20 Fork part
 - 21 Provoking worker
 - 24 Be patient
 - 25 Singer Guthrie
 - 26 Light gas
 - 28 Visits count
 - 31 Color
 - 34 Harvests
 - 35 Imperfection
 - 36 Staff member
 - 37 Valley
 - 40 Shred
 - 42 Historic time
 - 43 Original
 - 44 Finger count



Marmaduke



The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

Nicole Clark pitches Lady Harvesters to 9-0

While the weather never seems to cooperate well with outdoor sports during the spring season, there's at least one thing that the Lady Harvesters have begun to get used to lately - winning games.

The girls clinched the district title last week with Friday's win over Hereford.

Now just one game away from accomplishing their

goal of an undefeated run in district play, Pampa improved to 9-0 in district (23-6-2 overall) with a 14-4 win over Randall Saturday.

Nicole Clark took the win to improve her record to 9-3-2.

The Lady Harvesters will travel to Palo Duro (0-9) today to play the Lady Dons at 4:30 p.m.



Nicole Clark throws to Demonettes in Dumas earlier this month. At Randall, Clark pitched to record the win with nine hits, four runs, five strikeouts and three walks, improving her record to 9-3-2.

Baseball boys welcome Demons at Harvester Field this afternoon

The Pampa Harvesters traveled to Palo Duro Saturday and defeated the Dons 18-7.

Senior Bradley Johnson picked up the win to improve to 4-0.

Pampa is now 6-1 in district and 19-8-1 overall.

Making up for last week's district match, the Pampa Harvesters will host the

Dumas Demons at 4:30 p.m. at Harvester Field.

Originally scheduled for Saturday, April 14, the game was postponed due to bad weather, and last week's TAKS testing pushed the game further back.

On Tuesday, Pampa will host the Hereford Whitefaces (1-6) at 4:30 p.m.

Watney wins Zurich Classic for first PGA Tour title

AVONDALE, La. (AP) — Nick Watney offered a slight wave to the applauding crowd as he walked away from his par putt on the 17th hole, then took a deep breath, his cheeks puffing as he exhaled.

There was only one hole to go for his first career PGA triumph, not to mention a check for nearly \$1.1 million.

He was nervous, he admitted later, but not that nervous.

"I loved being in this position," Watney said. "That's one of the funnest things about it is to be in position and pull it off and conquer your nerves."

Five strokes later, the lanky, clean-cut Californian tapped in for another par on No. 18, smiled broadly as he raised his arms, then hugged his caddie. The 25-year-old, now in his third year on the

tour, had prolonged a recent pattern of first-time winners at the Zurich Classic.

Watney closed with a 3-under 69 on Sunday for a three-stroke victory over Ken Duke. The winner had a 15-under 273 total on the TPC Louisiana.

"I'm living a dream right now," Watney said, wearing Mardi Gras beads as winners in New Orleans traditionally do. "I've played in close to the last group sometimes, and I've seen guys go through it. But it's definitely more fun to actually do it. I'm trying to soak it all in."

Duke, a 38-year-old who also was seeking his first victory, shot a 70.

Watney's highest previous finish was fifth in two tournaments last year, and lost the lead to Duke

when he missed a 3-foot par putt on the par-4 10th. He bounced back with a birdie on the par-5 11th and went in front for good with a birdie on the par-3 14th.

On the 14th, Duke's tee shot landed short and left of the green, his chip went 7 feet past the pin and he missed the par putt coming back to fall two shots behind. That was after Watney's tee shot with a 4-iron had landed 8 feet from the pin. Watney was unflappable during the final four holes, missing the fairway only once off the tee and hitting every green in regulation. Duke struggled just to keep pace.

"I knew if I could get it to one coming to 18 I thought I had a chance, but he had two on me, and he played smart, and that's what you've got to do," Duke said.

Watney's celebration was rela-

tively subdued, and he didn't expect a wild night in the French Quarter, either. This, after all, was a guy who eschewed New Orleans' renowned restaurants Saturday night in favor of a Subway sandwich.

"I'm pretty low key. I probably won't live it up too much," he said. "I'll definitely call my parents."

Watney had never before teed off with the lead in the final round of a PGA Tour event, and he hadn't slept as well as he usually does, waking around 5:30 a.m.

He bogeyed Nos. 3 and 4, but then holed the shot of the tournament — a 132-yard approach shot for an eagle on the par-4 fifth — to pull back into a tie for the lead.

"I was definitely nervous to start out, but it's a good thing," Watney said. "I mean, any time you hole a

shot there's a little luck involved, so it was definitely my week. I'm proud that I was able to handle it."

Watney became the fifth first-time winner in the last six years at New Orleans' annual PGA Tour event, joining Chris Couch (2006), Tim Petrovic (2005), Steve Flesch (2003) and K.J. Choi (2002). All of them won at English Turn except Watney and Petrovic, the only other winner at the TPC Louisiana, which hosted its first PGA Tour event in 2005, only months before it was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The course, its fairways flooded because of drain clogging debris that included 2,000 fallen trees, was closed for 10 months for \$2 million in repairs to 30 acres of damaged turf.

Hatfield-McCoy feud has long way to run

By JIM LITKE

AP Sports Columnist

After decades of study, scientists revealed nearly three weeks ago that a disease may help explain the long-running feud between the Hatfields and McCoy's. Had those same researchers asked, Red Sox fans could have suggested something much simpler.

Envy.

Sunday night's extravaganza between the Red Sox and the Yankees marked the 1,999th time the two teams met in the regular season since 1903, and rarely has it produced a more satisfying weekend in Boston. The Red Sox came from behind to win all three games, sweeping a series in Fenway for the first time since 1990. They hit four straight home runs in the span of 10 pitches in the third inning of the last one, a feat that's only been accomplished five times in major league history.

By the end of that-back-to-back-to-back-to-back sequence, it was harder to tell whether the better party was taking place in the Red Sox dugout or the stands, jammed with a crowd of 36,905, the second-largest at Fenway since World War II.

For all that, though, New York left town still holding a 179-game lead in the regular-season tally, not to mention 26 World Series

titles to Boston's half-dozen. With five more series scheduled between the division rivals even before a possible playoff matchup, Red Sox third baseman Mike Lowell cautioned the locals not to get too excited.

"You've got to keep it in perspective," the hero of Sunday night's tug-of-war said. "It's April."

Besides, the Red Sox had just about everything in their favor. Manager Terry Francona's rotation happened to align just perfectly for the series, with Big Three starters Curt Schilling, Josh Beckett and Daisuke Matsuzaka prepared to give the Yankees a preview of what to expect should the two teams meet in October.

"We didn't maneuver to have it work out this way," Francona said as the weekend began, "but we're not going to apologize for having those three going."

On the other hand, Yankee manager Joe Torre should have apologized for throwing Jeff Karstens, fresh off the disabled list and with only one rehab start, on Saturday, then coming back with Chase Wright, making just his second major league start ever, on Sunday. But it wasn't like he had a choice. Thanks to a variety of aches and pains, the top of his rotation

— Chien-Ming Wang, Mike Mussina and Carl Pavano — wasn't available for anything more strenuous than playing catch.

During a mid-inning interview on TV, Torre bravely mumbled something about playing with "the team you have" rather than the "one you wish you had." The Yankees still have the largest payroll in baseball — \$195.2 million, with Boston next at \$143.5 million — and four of the top seven names on the salary list. And if the guy at the very top, Alex Rodriguez, wasn't having one of the most productive months in history, general manager Brian Cashman might have his checkbook out already.

The last time the teams met in Boston, the Yankees swept a five-game series in August that effectively locked up the American League East title. Karstens still hadn't thrown a pitch in the major leagues and Wright had yet to make a start above Class AA.

Matsuzaka, meanwhile, was still in Japan, not yet in a bidding war that would eventually cost the Red Sox \$103.1 million to lure him to Boston. He gave up six runs in seven-plus innings, but he got a lot more support than in his two previous starts and had the good

sense to say about his good fortune, "There's no way I can be satisfied."

Once the buzz from the weekend quiets down, Red Sox fans would be wise to take those words to heart. Their World Series title in 2004 raised expectations considerably, and the cost of doing business by even more.

They caught the Yankees as short-handed as they're likely to be the rest of the way. They beat closer Mariano Rivera to get one win, and collected two more by beating kids who asked their new teammates for advice on how to handle the hyper-charged atmosphere at Fenway and still pitched like they didn't have a clue.

New Yorkers still like to joke that the rivalry between the two towns resembles the rivalry "between a hammer and a nail," and thorough as the beating was over the weekend, there was nothing to indicate the Yankees plan on being on the receiving end for long.

"We didn't play well and we lost three games," Yankee captain Derek Jeter said. "But we've got 147 left."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitkeap.org

Warriors hold back Nowitzki for early win

DALLAS (AP) — Mavericks coach Avery Johnson spent days insisting he was going to counter the Golden State Warriors' small-ball attack by relying on his centers.

Warriors coach Don Nelson knew better than to believe him.

Prepared for Dallas' small lineup, Golden State handled it in the playoff opener just as well as it did in the regular season. The Warriors won 97-85 Sunday night, stretching their mastery over the Mavs to six straight games.

"It was really a super win for our team," Nelson said. "We don't expect to be world champs at the end of the playoffs, but every time we play in a high-intensity game like these are going to be, we gain experience."

Golden State's small defenders swarmed Dirk Nowitzki and pestered him into a 4-for-16 performance, and Baron Davis led the offense with 33 points, 14 rebounds and eight assists. He scored 19 points in the third quarter, holding off Dallas' best surge of the night.

"We knew if we could keep it close we could have a chance," he said. "This win gives us a lot of confidence, but (Dallas) has been to the championship and one loss is not going to affect them."

In other playoff games it was: Phoenix 95, Los Angeles 87; Cleveland 97, Washington 82; and Denver 95, San Antonio 89.

The Mavericks bowed out of the playoffs last year with four straight losses to Miami in the NBA finals. This puts them on five-game postseason losing streak — and it means they've squandered the home-court advantage they earned by winning 67 games in the regular season, among the most in league history.

"Obviously the pressure is on us all the way," said Nowitzki, who had 14 points with 12 rebounds. "Nobody expects them to win. Shooting 35 percent on our home court won't get it done. We've got to get better shots and go from there."

Game 2 is in Dallas on Wednesday night. The intrigue already is building about whether Johnson will go back to his usual lineup featuring big man Erick Dampier or if he'll keep trying to win with the smaller guys.

"We let it get away from us," said Dvevean George, who started in place of Dampier. "They do things a little different, but we'll figure it out. It looked like we had four days off. We took it too lightly. We didn't have much energy."

'Dance, Dance Revolution'



CREATE-a-Beat's Jordi Gonzalez shows the intensity required to keep up with the "Dance, Dance Revolution" computer game when the speed is turned up.

COURTESY PHOTO

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CLUB NEWS

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m., (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication that week. Thank you.

Magic Plains ABWA

Magic Plains Chapter of American Business Women's Association of Pampa met April 9 at Lovett Memorial Library.

The following business was conducted and announcements made:

—Minutes from the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved by members.

—The "Dragonflies" beat out the "Butterflies" to win the chapter's Attendance Contest. A social is planned to honor the winning team.

—Scholarships will be awarded to one Pampa High School student and to one college student.

—New officers for the chapter are Wynona Seely, president; Glenda Malone, vice president; Jan Allen, treasurer; and Eltha Hensley, secretary.

The next meeting will be May 14 at the library.

Red Hat Royalty

Red Hattitude Royalty Red Hat Club met April 5 at Dyer's Bar-B-Que in Pampa with Kathy White and Mona Bishop serving as hostesses. Cindy Loughmiller attended as a guest.

Twelve members celebrated the club's second anniversary with cake, party hats and gifts.

Nine members registered to participate in the May 4 March for Meals to benefit Meals on Wheels. For more information, contact Jane Jacobs 665-3878.

The next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. May 3 with a potluck dinner in the home of Susie Bockmon with Debbie Addy.

Genealogical Society

Gray County Genealogical Society will meet at 7 p.m. April 23 in the meeting room at Lovett

Memorial Library in Pampa. The guest speaker will be Nancy Alexander Coffee.

Coffee has studied her family and Panhandle history extensively. Her great-grandparents were early pioneers in the Panhandle. Clifton Wrenshaw Alexander was the first Protestant minister in the region, pastoring at Mobeetie in 1884.

Coffee was born in Lipscomb County, graduated from Canadian High School and holds a degree from Texas Tech University.

She married Doug Coffee and moved to White Deer in 1958. The couple relocated to Pampa in 1969 where she taught English at Pampa High School from 1970-1984.

She purchased a partnership in Pampa Travel Center in 1984, but went back to teaching in 1994.

She and her husband raised a boy and two girls and have been active in First United Methodist Church.

Timeless Treasures

Timeless Treasures Quilt Guild will meet April 28 at Christian Church Disciple Center in Guymon, Okla.

Elsie Campbell will present a trunk show in the morning. The meeting will get underway at 10 a.m., but refreshments will be served earlier.

Campbell won first at International Quilt Festival in Houston (1997), won best of show at Quilt America in Indianapolis (2000), won the Mary Krickbaum Award for Best Hand Quilting (2001), and won American Quilter's Society's Excellence in Hand Workmanship Award (2003).


Campbell grew up in Deer Creek, Okla., site of a small Mennonite community. She has taught in the public school system and is a writer and editor.

Campbell will teach a quilt class Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28. The first half of the class will be from 6-9 p.m. Friday, and the second half will be from 12-3 p.m. Saturday. Cost of the class is \$35. To find out more, call (580) 338-5165 or (580) 468-1000.

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