



Tomorrow's Weather

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See expanded weather on Page 2

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17th Anniversary

Hidden Hills celebrates with scramble. SEE PAGE 7



# THE PAMPA NEWS

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Volume 103 • No. 60

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## City commission approves hike in golfing fees

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

Golf fees are going up, the people who will be able to use the library meeting room will be limited, the Pampa Police Department will have more unpaid officers and Pampa has a new city secretary.

During their Tuesday afternoon meeting, the Pampa City Commission approved increases in fees at Hidden Hills Municipal Golf Course.

Daily green fees during the week will now be \$12 per person and

weekend green fees will be \$15. Senior citizens, those more than 62 years old, will pay \$9 during the week.

Juniors, those 18 years old or younger, will pay \$8 during the week and \$10 on weekends and holidays.

Annual permits will be \$225 for juniors, \$425 for seniors, \$475 for senior husbands and wives, \$525 for single players, \$600 for husbands and wives and \$650 for families.

Golf carts will cost \$12.50 for 18 holes and \$12 for double riders for nine holes. Double riders playing 18

holes will pay \$22 for a golf cart.

Use of the meeting room at the north end of Lovett Memorial Library will be limited to non-profit and charitable organizations. Librarian Anne Stobbe said there has been a noise problem with private parties in the room.

The rental fee for the meeting room will be \$10 and reservations must be made in person along with a \$25 cleanup deposit. Renters must also provide liability insurance.

"We have kept our fees low so non-profits can use the room,"

Stobbe said.

The fees may be waived for library-associated meetings.

Meetings cannot go past 10 p.m. Stobbe said that although it's not listed in the policy, the meeting room is usually available at least one day a weekend.

The new policy approved by the city commission includes prohibitions on alcohol and tobacco.

The city commission also approved raising the number of offi-

See CITY, Page 3

## Appraisal values explained

By DAVID BOWSER Staff Writer

The good news is that property values in Pampa are going up in value. The bad news is so are appraisals for property taxes.

The Pampa City Commission got a lesson in real estate appraising during their meeting Tuesday.

Darville Orr, speaking on behalf of the Gray County Appraisal District, explained that some properties in Pampa were experiencing increased property taxes due to an increase in property values. That increased value, he explained, was the result of supply and demand.

Orr said that 18 months ago, there were 150 homes for sale in Pampa. Today, he said there are only 50. That increased demand for housing

has driven up values.

"By state statute," Orr said, "the appraisal district must appraise as close to 100 percent value as they can ascertain."

He said that residential and agricultural areas are appraised every three years. Industrial and commercial properties are appraised annually.

That means that if a homeowner's residence is increasing 10 percent a year, he may get hit with a 30 percent increase in appraisal after three years.

"It's a seller's market," Orr said. "The value has gone up."

He says the district bases their appraisals on past experience and

See VALUES, Page 3



Pampa News photo by DAVID BOWSER

Darville Orr speaks to the Pampa City Commission concerning appraisals.

## Summer learning



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Karenna McDonough, 3, enjoys learning while playing an educational computer game at Lovett Memorial Library.

## City continues to spray for pesky mosquitoes

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

The City of Pampa is continuing to spray for mosquitoes in areas which are having trouble with the pesky biters, according to Public Service Superintendent Kim Lincycomb.

"We're also putting a larvicide in standing water in the creek system throughout town," Lincycomb said. "City crews are mowing daylight to dark to keep up with the weeds."

Mosquito Mist 1 is being used this year to spray for the blood suckers. In previous years, Bio-Mist was used, but the change was made so that the mosquitoes do not build up

an immunity to a particular chemical.

"I think the citizens are doing a lot better keeping up with the weeds and mowing," Lincycomb said. "We're still trying to stay on top of it. If we all work together as a team, we can keep these mosquitoes down."

Tips for discouraging mosquitoes from taking up residence include keeping lawns mowed and containers emptied of water. Mosquitoes breed in high grass and stagnant water.

For more information, call 669-5760, extension 3.

## Panhandle car show set

PANHANDLE — Panhandle Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the second annual Panhandle Pair-A-Dice Car and Motorcycle Show Friday and Saturday on Main Street in Panhandle.

Events planned for Friday include an old-fashioned Cruise on Main Street, followed by a dance on the bricks in front of the Carson County Court House to the sounds of Insufficient Funds from 9 to 11:30 p.m. Admission to the dance is \$5 per person or \$8 per couple. Children and families are welcome to attend.

On Saturday, registration for the Car Show begins at 8 a.m. Vehicles of all kinds will be on display - antique, classic, custom, hot rod and lowrider cars, trucks, and motorcycles will compete for trophies and prizes.

Vehicle entrants will be accepted until 9:45 am on Saturday. Entry fees are \$30 per vehicle. Trophies will be presented at 1 p.m. The winner of the Best of Show Award will win a trip to Cripple Creek, Colo., courtesy of Daphne's Tour and Travel. Following

See SHOW, Page 3



Courtesy photo

Onlookers take in the Panhandle Pair-A-Dice car show during last year's event.

**NEXT DAY FORECAST**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Partly cloudy</b>	<b>Partly cloudy</b>	<b>Mostly cloudy</b>

Thursday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. North-northwest wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. North-northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south-east.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. East-south-east wind around 5 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. East-southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 86. East-northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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**Kathy Jean Gist, 53**

Kathy Jean Gist, 53, of Pampa, died Friday, May 18, 2007. Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, June



Gist

16, 2007, at First United Methodist Church in Pampa with John Curry and Robin Gantz officiating.

**Stocks**

The following grain quotations are provided by Ameybury Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	5.14
Milo	6.19
Corn	6.97
Soybeans	6.91

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa

BP PLC ADR	67.74	+0.79
Cabot Corp	48.09	+0.43
Celanese	37.08	-0.22
Cabot Oil Gas	40.29	+1.38
Coca Cola	51.17	+0.37
VLO	73.66	+0.74
HAL	34.82	+0.14
TRI	53.65	+0.02
KML	NA	NA
XCEL	21.40	+0.34
Anadarko	50.67	+0.50
XOM	82.48	+0.48
Nat'l Oilwell	98.65	+1.37
Limited	26.04	+0.22
Williams	30.13	+0.42
MCD	51.93	+0.45
Atmos	30.14	+0.04
Pioneer Nat	51.45	+0.52
JCP	76.76	+0.11
COP	77.54	+0.43
SLB	79.39	+0.65
Tenneco	31.50	+0.16
CVX	80.79	+0.23
Wal-Mart	49.16	+0.25
OKE	49.46	+0.16

New York Gold	653.10
Silver	13.09
West Texas Crude	65.35

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In honor of Garrett Kennedy, the Greedless band is having a Memorial Show. This show is the first of hopefully many shows that will replenish the Garrett Kennedy Scholarship fund that is given to a graduating senior from Pampa High School.

Garrett was a 2006 graduate of PHS, and was attending Frank Phillips College. Come see the Greedless Band, who performs Texas Country music. The show will be held at the STARLIGHT ROOM of the AMERICINN on JUNE 15. DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 - SHOW STARTS AT 8:00. TICKETS ARE \$12.00 AT THE DOOR.

**Obituaries**

**Iva Ables, 89**

LUBBOCK, Texas — Iva Ables, 89, died June 12, 2007, at Lubbock. Private graveside services will be held under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mrs. Ables was born Oct. 26, 1917, in Weleetka, Okla. She married Lonnie Ables

on July 18, 1941, in Altus, Okla. He preceded her in death on April 30, 1970. She was a former Pampa area resident, moving to Lubbock in 1999. She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Christ. Survivors include one son, Larry Ables and wife Karen

of Lubbock; three grandsons, Steven Ables of Tulsa, Okla., Michael Ables and Justin Ables, both of Lubbock; and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Jess Akin and Lee Akin; and two sisters, Bessie Nipper and Mary

Hatfield. The family will receive friends at Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors in Pampa from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, June 15, 2007. —Sign the on-line register book at [www.carmichael-whatley.com](http://www.carmichael-whatley.com).

**Nancy Ellen Brown, 63**

BORGER — Nancy Ellen Brown, 63, died Tuesday, June 12 in Lubbock. Services are pending with Minton/Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger. Mrs. Brown was born on Jan. 31, 1944, in Pampa and she had been a Borger resi-

dent since 1964. Nancy graduated high school from the American School in Havana, Cuba. She was secretary for Panhandle Community Services. She married Jim Brown on Dec. 8, 1963, in Pampa. She was a member of the

Order of Eastern Star #811, and served as a past worthy Matron and was Deputy District Grand Matron. She was also involved in "A Walk to Emmaus" at Church. Her survivors include her husband Jim of the home;

son, Shannon Brown and his wife Michelle of Fritch; brother, Ed Andrews and his wife, Karen of Lubbock; three grandsons, Jared, Ben and Jacob; a niece, Erin Andrews of Lubbock; and a nephew, Logan Andrews of Lubbock.

**March for Meals**



Donna Reynolds, from left, Gina Albus, Debbie Addy, Penny Pfitzner and Kathy White, all members of the local Red Hatitudes, participated in a recent "March for Meals" fund-raiser to benefit the local Meals on Wheels program.

**Emergency Services**

**Pampa PD**

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

Five traffic stops were made. Vehicle accidents were reported in the 1900 block of Beech, the intersection of Hobart Street and Highway 60, the 1700 block of North Russell and the intersection of Browning and Harvester streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 300 block of Rider, the 1000 block of Huff Road, the 500 block of North Wells, the 2400 block of Beech, the 500 block of Bradley Drive, the 300 block of Sunset, the 1200 block of South Finley, the 300 block of Miami, on two occasions at an unreported location, the 1000 block of South Dwight, the 1700 block of Chestnut, the 2600 block of North Hobart, the 600 block of Red Deer and the 1100 block of Terry Road.

A welfare check was made in the 400 block of North Gray.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 2100 block of North Sumner. Found property was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton. A bicycle was found.

A civil matter was reported in the 1200 block of Duncan.

A suspicious person call was received from the 400 block of North Zimmers.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 1600 block of East Highway 60, the intersection of Dogwood and 15th streets and the 100 block of West 30th.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 400 block of Short. A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 900 block of South Banks.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 700 block of North West.

Telephone harassment was

reported in the police department lobby. The incident involved a cell phone.

Assault was reported at One Medical Plaza.

One alarm was reported.

Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Prairie Drive, the 2100 block of North Banks and the 900 block of East Francis, where a bicycle valued at \$100 was taken.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 700 block of Bradley Drive. A black 2004 Chevrolet C/K 3500 of unknown value was taken. The vehicle included a tool box and cell phone, valued at \$1,650 for both, which were also taken during the incident.

**Accidents**

Pampa Police Department reported the following accident today.

**Tuesday, June 12**

6:10 p.m. — A 2001 Pontiac Sunfire, driven by Corey Eugene Paslay, 34, of 344 Miami; a 1997 Chevrolet C/K 1500, driven by Daniel E. Vinzant, 43, of Soldotna, Alaska; and a 1986 Chevrolet C/K 1500, driven by Dicky McCarn, 42, of 916 Terry Road collided in the 800 block of South Hobart. No injuries were reported. Paslay was cited for failure to control speed. Vinzant was cited for no proof of liability insurance.

**Sheriff**

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

**Tuesday, June 12**

Corey Eugene Paslay, 34, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of South Hobart by Pampa Police Department for three counts of issuing a bad check and four

counts of non-payment of court costs and fines for issuing a bad check.

William Donald Stanley, 38, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for open container and public intoxication.

**Wednesday, June 13**

Brandi Nicole Reeves, 27, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for assault causing bodily injury/family violence.

**Fire**

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

**Tuesday, June 12**

10:34 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 900 block of South Banks on a medical assist.

6:17 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Highway 60 on a motor vehicle accident.

**Ambulance**

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

**Tuesday, June 12**

10:34 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of South Banks and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

11:20 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of North Christy.

3 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 500 block of Red Deer.

3:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Beryl and transported a patient to PRMC.

10:13 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient to PRMC.

# Emergency farm loan applications for storm damage being accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for damages and losses caused by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding that occurred from May 4, 2007 through May 11, 2007 are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located at 321 Sully St. in Clarendon and 1410 S. Alan Bean in Wheeler, FSA Farm Loan Manager Larry Goetze said today. Wheeler County is one of 62 recently named by President Bush

eligible for loans to cover physical and production losses resulting from the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding.

Goetze said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agriculture business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent. "As a general rule, a farmer must

have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Goetze said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until Feb. 7, 2008, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could

create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season," Goetze said.

FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who meet U.S. citizenship requirements and to farming partnerships, corpora-

tions or cooperatives in which U.S. citizenship requirements are met by individuals holding a majority interest.

The FSA offices are open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Clarendon phone number is 806-874-3561 and the Wheeler phone number is 806-826-5578.

## Two to be subpoenaed about fired prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two congressional committees are issuing subpoenas for testimony from former White House counsel Harriet Miers and former political director Sara Taylor on their roles in the firings of eight federal prosecutors, according to two officials familiar with the investigation.

Democrats probing whether the White House improperly dictated which prosecutors the Justice Department should fire also are subpoenaing the White House for all relevant documents, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the move had not yet been formally made public.

The Senate Judiciary Committee's subpoena for Taylor compels her to testify on July 11, while the House Judiciary Committee's subpoena for Miers compels her testimony the next day.

"We'll review them and respond appropriately," said White House spokeswoman Dana Perino.

The White House has repeatedly refused to make current and former officials involved in the firings available except in private interviews, without transcripts. Congressional investigators have refused that offer.

The subpoenas come a day after newly-released Justice Department documents revealed that Taylor was

closely involved in the firings. In a Feb. 16 e-mail, Taylor described a U.S. attorney in Arkansas who was fired last year as "lazy" — "which is why we got rid of him in the first place," according to the documents.

Former prosecutor Bud Cummins, reached Tuesday night for comment, responded: "I'm sure I have some faults, but my work ethic hasn't been one them." Taylor also complained that Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty told senators that Cummins was replaced at the urging of Miers, who was White House counsel at the time.

It's the first time during

the five-month investigation that Congress is compelling testimony from White House insiders over the firings. Not yet on the subpoena list is President Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, but only because Democrats have not yet finished interviewing those below him, the officials said.

Democrats say the firings are evidence that Attorney General Alberto Gonzales allowed his traditionally independent federal law enforcement agency to be run by the White House.

## Appraisal board to meet Thursday

Gray County Appraisal District's board of directors will meet at 8:30 a.m. Thursday in the appraisal district's conference room at 815 N. Sumner.

Public comments will be heard, followed by action items, which include minutes of the April 18 meeting; expenditures for March, April and May; and presentation of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008.

An investment report and chief appraiser's report will also be presented during the meeting.

## Pampa school board approves proposals

Pampa Independent School Board met Tuesday morning at the Carver Center in a special session and approved proposals for asbestos abatement at Pampa High School, demolition of portions of the school and other renovations.

The action came as part of the 2006 school bond issue that was passed by voters.

Also approved were bids for custodial supplies.

## PEDC to hear report from Fiveash

By DAVID BOWSER  
Staff Writer

The Pampa Economic Development Corp. will hear its first report from its newly appointed executive director Thursday morning.

Dwight Fiveash resigned May 31 as president of the economic development corporation board and assumed the duties of executive director June 1. He will make his first report to the board at their 11 a.m. meeting Thursday in the Nona Payne Room of the Pampa Community Building.

Also on the agenda are reports on the EDC's Web site and logo and a fidelity bond.

Kathy Cota and Bob Berry will also give a report on their trip in May to a Veteran's job fair at Fort Bliss in El Paso. They, along with several Pampa employers, went to the job fair to recruit workers for Pampa industries and businesses.

The EDC board will also consider buying bags in conjunction with the Pampa Chamber of Commerce and listing merchandise needs for purchase.

## City

Continued from Page 1

cers in the police department's supplemental or Reserve Officer Program from five to 10. These officers are volunteers and are not paid, Pampa Police

Chief Trevlyn Pitner told commissioners. They are, however, certified peace officers and are required to work 18 hours a month.

"Most work more than that," Pitner said.

Many of the supplemental officers are former Pampa police officers who have retired or moved to the

private sector but want to stay involved in police work, Pitner said.

The Pampa City Commission also adopted a resolution appointing Karen L. Price, who has been acting city secretary since the retirement of Phyllis Jeffers, to the position of city secretary.

## Values

Continued from Page 1

sales of comparable property and how rapidly an area is growing.

"We're experiencing growth now that Amarillo has been experiencing for the last 15 years," Orr said. "That's what's going on with us right now. We're finally getting caught up in that."

Orr said that he looked back at some of his old tax records and the appraisal on his property has gone up in the last five years, but it is still not as high as it was in 1987.

"We're in an economic boom position right now where property is more valuable," Orr said.

If there is a downturn, he said, the values will be like they were before.

"None of us want to see that," Orr said.

If there is a dispute, he said the property owner should file for a review with the appraisal review board.

"That has to be done by June 25," Orr said, "because the tax roll must be approved by July 25."

That gives the appraisal review board 30 days to go through the review process

with property owners.

Orr said property owners with questions should sit down and talk with the appraisers.

"Most of the time, everything will be worked out," he said.

Orr said the appraisal review board will sit as a board and listen to a property owner's evidence and compare it to what the appraisal district has.

"Based on that information, they will determine which way to go," Orr said.

Orr said the appraisal review board is autonomous.

"The only connection between the appraisal review board and the appraisal board is that the appraisal board does approve the appointment of the appraisal review board," Orr said.

If the property owner doesn't agree with the review board, he can file for mediation.

"The responsibility of the appraisal district board," Orr said, "is twofold. Number one is to hire a chief appraiser. The second primary role is the setting of the budget for the appraisal district."

The board cannot review appraisals, he said.

"State statute says there has to be a separate review

board," Orr said.

That board consists of five individuals.

"Some districts have larger boards," he said, "but we've found that a five member board through the years works well. It has served our jurisdiction well for the last 20 years."

The board members are drawn from representative areas of the community.

"We have probably the best appraisal board I've seen in quite a few years," Orr said.

He said they are very objective in everything they do.

Each member sits for a two-year term and can be reappointed for two terms for a total of six years.

He said that it used to be that the members could not serve on the appraisal review board if they have previously been elected to a position with a taxing entity.

"If you were a member of past boards, they did not allow you to sit on the appraisal review board," Orr said. "That went on for about five years, then the state rescinded that statute."

Now, most of appointees to the appraisal review board and to the appraisal district have served in some elected capacity.

will begin at 2:30 pm. The smoke will fly as tires burn.

There will be a swap meet area, and vendors will be on hand with food and beverages, kids' games, crafts and other items.

Panhandle also features

great restaurants, quaint retail shops and one of the best history museums in the state of Texas, so cruise on over. For more information, call the Panhandle Chamber of Commerce at (806) 537-4325.

## Show

Continued from Page 1

the trophy presentation, registration for the always popular Burn Out Contest

**NEW ISSUE**

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### Chiminea

Centuries ago, Mexican craftsmen combined the natural elements of earth and fire to create the Mexican "chiminea." Originally used as functional bread ovens, these wood burning stoves enchanted all who gathered around them.

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## FORD FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC

### WELCOMES DR. LESTER



**Dr. Nathan L. Lester**

In a continuing effort to accommodate practice growth and demand, Ford Family Chiropractic is pleased to welcome Nathan L. Lester, D.C., who has recently joined our practice.

Dr. Lester, a native of Iowa, graduated from Simpson College in Indianola, IA and received his Doctor of Chiropractic Degree from Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City, MO.

Dr. Lester is a member of the American Chiropractic Association and licensed by the Texas Board of Chiropractic.

Call to set up an appointment to discuss a care program for you that may include specific spinal adjustments, exercise recommendations, nutritional advice or other conservative methods of care based on your health history, age, current condition and lifestyle.

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# Viewpoints

## Don't just pick a champion, stand with him

Conservative Republicans have suddenly discovered that while they weren't looking the Rockefeller wing of the GOP they thought they'd crushed in the Goldwater and Reagan revolutions is still very much alive and powerful.

That has been never more evident than it has been in the White House campaign for an immigration reform bill that seems to elevate illegal immigration to the exalted status of a civil rights movement.

Conservatives are stunned when they see the president they have staunchly supported through thick and through thin not only surrender to the liberal internationalist crowd, but get out in front and lead them in what amounts to an assault on America's national

sovereignty.

Peggy Noonan was right on when she wrote in The Wall Street Journal recently that "... conservatives and Republicans must recognize ... that the White House has broken with them."

Moreover, Noonan recognizes that, as she wrote, "the people in the administration don't even much like the [conservative] base ... This White House thinks its base is stupid and that its heart is in the wrong place."

Bush supporters, she wrote, "have felt like sufferers of battered wife syndrome. You don't like endless gushing spending, the kind that assumes a high and unstoppable affluence will always exist, and the tax receipts will always flow in? Too bad! You don't like

expanding governmental authority and power? Too bad. You think the war was wrong or is wrong? Too bad. But on immigration it has changed from 'Too bad' to 'You're bad.'"

Peggy, however, stops short of recognizing that the old Eastern internationalist wing of the GOP — run by the Rockefeller Republicans — is pretty much in charge of things. That's not surprising. After all, The Wall Street Journal she writes for is the house organ of that wing of the GOP.

For more years than I care to remember, that bunch looked down their noses at

the conservative base of the party and sneered that they had to obey their betters up their in the corporate suites and fall in line because they had no place else to go.

If you look carefully you'll see that same old big-money

Eastern fat-cat crowd that loves big government and bloated budgets and anything that makes

life easier for multinational corporations — such as having a steady supply of imported coolie labor — maneuvering behind the scenes at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue just as they did when the Rockefeller wing was pretty much in charge of the GOP's

power centers.

The reason why this has been allowed to happen is the failure of conservative Republicans to stay in the ballgame once they've chosen a new manager. Once he's in the dugout trying to run things, they head for the showers instead of staying in the stands and cheering him on.

We pick a conservative candidate, back him all the way to the White House, and then go about our business, leaving it up to him to do what we want done.

Having picked a champion like my father, Ronald Reagan, conservatives' only option when he left office was to go searching for another man like him to carry their banner. But while he has been in office they have wan-

dered off and left him to fight their battles.

Meanwhile the Rockefeller Republicans never go to sleep, never stop, they are always charging forward. As a result, conservatives always find they're left out of the ballgame because they are too busy to play.

If conservatives want to stay on top and in charge, they must be vigilant and never go to sleep as they have in recent years. By their inactivity, they've made it easy for the ever-active GOP left to move in and fill the void.

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

**Michael Reagan**  
Columnist



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 13, the 164th day of 2007. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1966, the Supreme Court issued its landmark *Miranda v. Arizona* decision, ruling that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent prior to questioning by police.

On this date:

In 1886, King Ludwig II of Bavaria drowned in Lake Starnberg.

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

*'Initiative is doing the right thing without being told.'*

— Victor Hugo  
French writer  
(1802-1885)

In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Long Island City, N.Y.

In 1944, Germany began launching flying-bomb attacks against Britain during World War II.

In 1957, the *Mayflower 2*, a replica of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620, arrived at Plymouth, Mass., after a nearly two-month journey from England.

In 1967, President Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1971, The New York Times began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam.

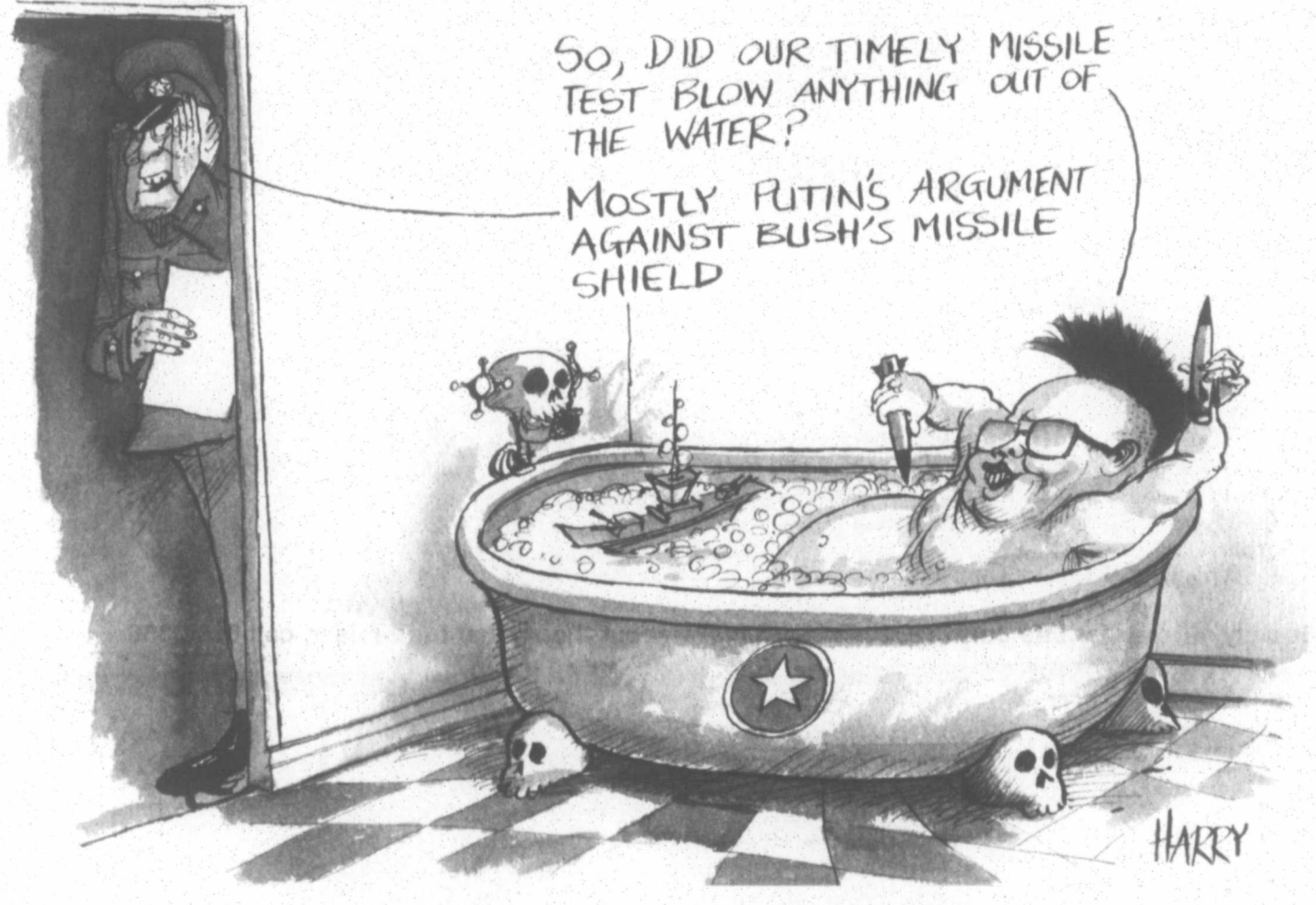
In 1981, a scare occurred during a parade in London when a teenager fired six blank shots at Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1986, Benny Goodman, the clarinet-playing "King of Swing," died in New York at the age of 77.

In 1996, the 81-day-old Freemen standoff ended as 16 remaining members of the anti-government group surrendered to the FBI and left their Montana ranch.

Ten years ago: A jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for his role in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth professional basketball championship in seven years with a 90-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in Game 6.

Five years ago: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops held an extraordinary closed-door meeting in Dallas on the sex scandal that had shaken the church as they crafted a plan for a zero-tolerance policy for pedophile priests. Backed by the United States, Hamid Karzai overwhelmingly won 18 more months as leader of Afghanistan's fledgling government.



## A spreadsheet can't predict Earth's weather

Here are the facts on global warming: In the past 100 years, the average temperature of Earth has risen six-tenths of one degree. In the past 100 years, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased about 80 parts per million, so that it stands at about 370 parts per million. Sea levels are estimated to have risen 10 to 20 centimeters in the same time frame.

That's it. Everything else is speculation based on computer models, which several scientists say are unreliable. Think. If they can't reliably forecast the weather 48 hours in advance, it's extremely unlikely that a forecast 100 years in the future is worth even noticing.

Computer models are essentially spreadsheets, and there are far too many variables to construct one of the entire Earth and its atmosphere.

Now, here's what you can do about climate change: nothing.

We live in a world of babble that goes on 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are drowning in information, probably 90 percent of which is false, only partially true or entirely irrelevant.

To put this subject in perspective, one should remember that Earth has gone through a number of drastic climate changes long before human beings were even here or numerous enough to have any effect. It might again. If it does, then people will have to improvise and adapt. That happens to be what humans do best, which

is why there are 6 billion of us crawling around on the planet.

At any rate, it is foolish to worry about anything that is (a) beyond our control and (b) beyond our expected life span.

We suffer from a great proliferation of busybodies and huge egos. It takes a monstrously large ego to presume to see into the future and to pretend that one can change the course of Earth's climate. We have no control over the amount of energy the sun radiates; we have no control over Earth's magnetic field; and we have no control over Earth's volcanoes. We have no control over Earth's atmosphere. What humans inject into it

amounts to little more than a cosmic passing of gas.

A human being has a relatively short life span. As the ancient Greeks recognized, any rational human being wishes, as much as possible, to avoid pain and experience pleasure. To do that requires a rational approach, and part of that is setting priorities.

If you are inclined to worry, which is really a waste of time, there's a long list of things to worry about before you get to global warming. Let the scientists, most of whom are grant hogs, babble. Let the media, the most unreliable source of information you can find, babble on. Remember, the media have to turn everything into a story, even if it's just a passing rain shower.

In the meantime, play with your children or grand-

See REESE, Page 5

**Charley Reese**  
Columnist



## THE PAMPA NEWS

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## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **May 31**  
Odessa American on ignoring pre-Iraq war intelligence:

There's a certain air of second-guessing from people who, quite frankly, are not in a strong position to be able to say "I told you so" in the 229-page report released Friday by the Senate Intelligence Committee on pre-Iraq war intelligence assessments made in January 2003.

Only a few critics outside the political class and even fewer elected officials predicted that a U.S. invasion of Iraq could easily destabilize Iraq and lead to al-Qaida being strengthened

rather than weakened.

Apparently, however, such views were expressed in assessments that were reportedly widely circulated inside the U.S. government. The National Intelligence Council issued two papers that purportedly represented a synthesis of views across the 16-agency U.S. intelligence community.

These papers predicted that establishing democracy in Iraq would be "a long, difficult and probably turbulent challenge," noting that Iraq's political culture did "not foster liberalism or democracy." They also predicted that an invasion would "probably boost proponents of political Islam" and that "funds for terrorist groups probably would increase as a result of Muslim outrage over U.S. actions."

That sounds pessimistic, but it could be that the Intelligence Council reports were not pessimistic enough. They predicted that oil production would increase within a few months of the invasion and that oil revenue would ease reconstruction costs.

At the time, you may remember, public statements were predicting that U.S. troops would be greeted as liberators, and a working democracy would emerge fairly quickly. Military planners were figuring the number of U.S. troops could be reduced substantially by summer of 2003.

Release of these assessments follows publication of former CIA chief George Tenets book, "At the Center of the

See WAR, Page 5

## Events calendar

• **The 61st annual Dumas Noon Lions Club Dogie Days** celebration will be today through Saturday at McDade Park in Dumas. The event will include a barbecue, a midway, a parade with prizes, games and more. For more information, contact Dumas/Moore County Chamber of Commerce at (806) 935-2123.

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. June 21 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. For more information, call 669-9916 or 669-9297.

• **The next Third Thursday** at Amarillo Museum of Art will be from 6-9 p.m. June 21. The event will include music by Roger Dean, a film, coffee tasting and art activities for adults and children. To find out more, call (806) 371-5050.

• **The entry deadline for "TPS 16: The National Competition"** of the Texas Photographic Society is July 5. The exhibition will open in Austin and tour

Odessa, Houston, New York City and San Francisco. Cash prizes will be awarded. For more information, call (210) 824-4123 or log onto [www.texasphoto.org](http://www.texasphoto.org) on the Internet.

• **Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation** will offer "Life Choices" from 1:30-3 p.m. July 9-13 for ninth and 10th graders; "The Hot Head Cool Down" from 2-4 p.m. July 16-20 for youth 11-14 years of age; and "Dating Smart" from 2-4 p.m. Aug. 1, 3, 8 and 10 for girls 15-16 years of age. Cost of each class is free. "The Hot Head Cool Down" and "Dating Smart" will be presented at the agency's Children's and STAR facility, 1500 S. Taylor, in Amarillo. "Life Choices" will be conducted at DSC Library in Hereford. For more information or to register for the classes, call (806) 359-2005 in Amarillo or (806) 363-7695 in Hereford.

## Relay for Life



Jackie Davis displays prizes recently donated by VJ's and Brandon's Flowers for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life June 29. To find out more about the annual fund-raiser, call 665-0356.

## War

Continued from Page 4

Storm," in which he writes of a January 2003 CIA assessment that predicts that "a post-Saddam authority would face a deeply divided society with a significant chance that domestic groups would engage in violent conflict with each other," and that "fear of U.S. domination and a widespread belief probably would

attract many angry young recruits to extremists ranks."

Some of these releases are self-serving, and not all of these negative suggestions were front-and-center in the reports. The United States made plenty of mistakes (the most fundamental of which was the decision to invade in the first place), but the most important were a failure to consider that there could be negative consequences following a swift military victory, and to plan beyond the invasion.

Psychologically, it is easy to

understand a tendency to dismiss negative thoughts once you have decided on a course of action, but especially in war it is prudent to hope for the best but prepare for the worst. Administration enthusiasts apparently believed their own rosy scenarios and planned (or failed to plan) accordingly.

The point of the Monday morning quarterbacking should be not to point fingers, but to encourage leaders in any future conflict to go beyond cheerleading and be ready if and when rosy scenarios turn darker.


## Reese

Continued from Page 4


children; tend your garden; read some good books; listen to beautiful music; go to a ballgame; have a picnic; and do whatever else will give you pleasure. Whether you engage in pleasurable activities or sit at home and fret, Earth's climate will be the same. Most everything will be the same. The babble will go on. The decayed culture of America will continue to rot. Today's celebrities will be gone or forgotten in 15 years.

The gods did not place the destiny of Earth, much less the universe, on our puny shoulders. If there is a Judgment Day, you won't be asked about your carbon footprint or how well you managed the solar system. So remember the Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shall not sweat it, ace."


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



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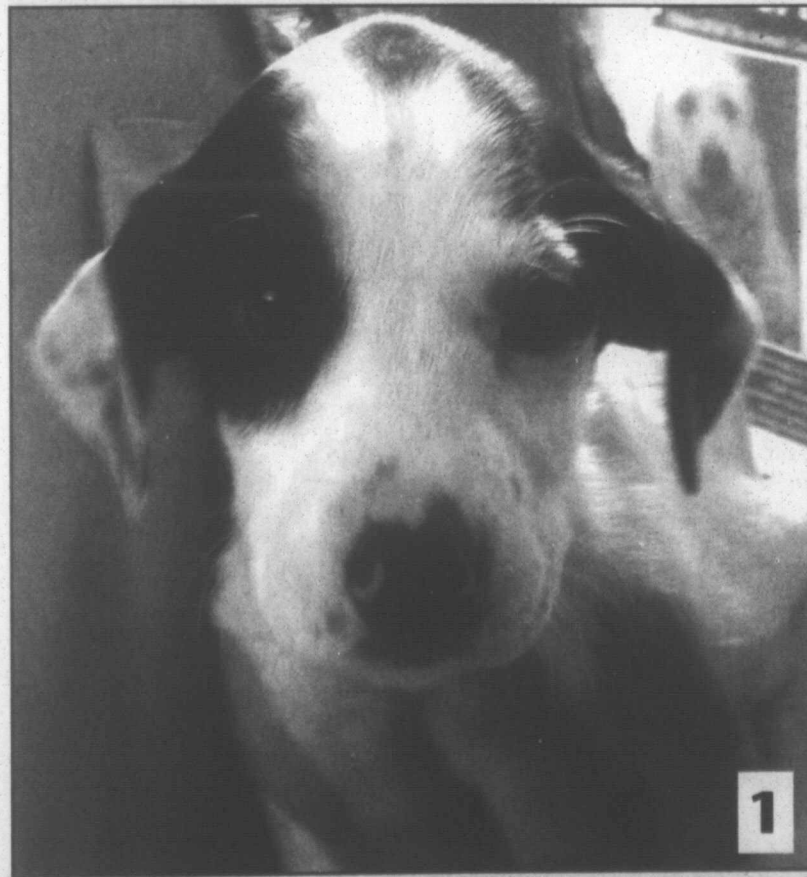
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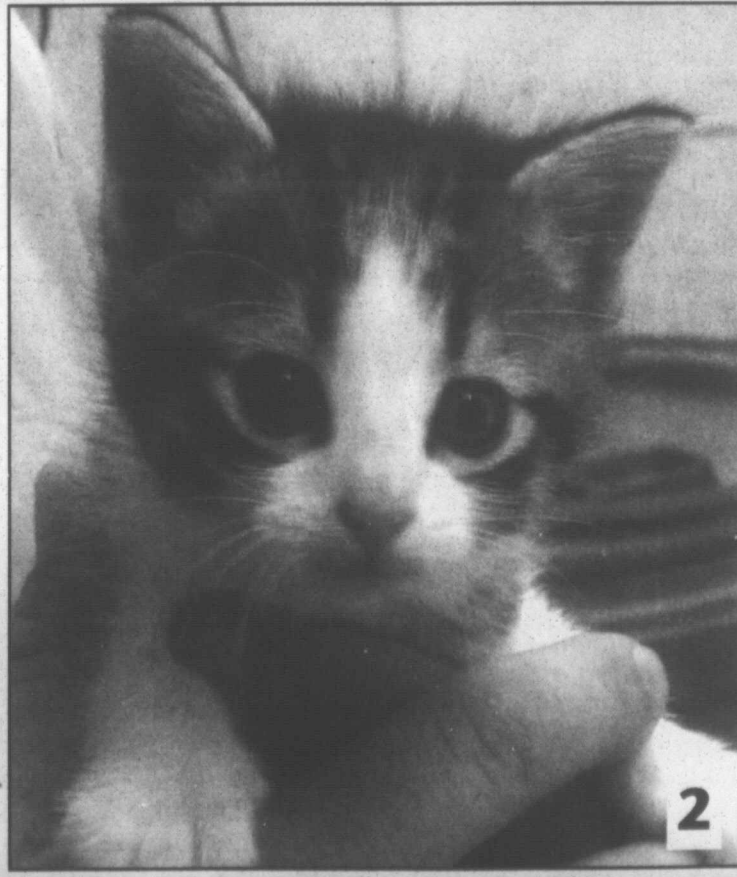
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# Pets of the Week... sponsored by The Pampa News

Pictures Of All The Animals Can Be Viewed In The Window Of The Shelter Office 24 Hours A Day



1



2

1. **CHLOE** is a black and white Terrier/Cow Dog mix. She is about 2 months old and a bundle of energy. Chloe is very friendly and loving.

2. **SAMMY** is a male kitten. He has beautiful blue eyes. Sammy is very playful.

**WE HAVE LOTS OF KITTENS  
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For information about these pets or any other contact the Animal Shelter at 669-5775 or come by their location at Hobart Street Park

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [thecityofpampa.org](http://thecityofpampa.org) • click on Animal Control for most up to date information

NEW HOURS: Monday-Friday 12 Noon-6 pm • Saturday-Sunday 3pm-5pm

FOUND A PET? Let us know ... we might be able to help them find their home. LOST YOUR PET? Come by the shelter every 2-3 days to check for your animal.

We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!

If You Would Like To Help The Animals, Donations Can Be Sent To... City Of Pampa Fund 12 • PO Box 2499 Pampa, Texas 79066

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in my mid-20s, male, an only child, and I came late in life. Both of my parents are disabled -- one with a host of ailments, and the other with a very bad back. Both are on disability and don't do well on their own. I made a decision early in young adulthood to drop out of high school and take care of my parents. I got a part-time job and stayed home the rest of the time to help with "around-the-house chores." I have stayed with my parents now for quite a while, and they are mostly dependent on me. At the risk of sounding selfish, I know they won't be around much longer, and I don't want to be stuck holding the bag when they pass on, with no high school diploma, no higher education and only part-time employment experience. Don't get me wrong. I love my parents with all my heart, and I don't want to leave them high and dry. What can I do? — **GOING NOWHERE IN IDAHO**

**DEAR GOING NOWHERE:** As loving a son as you are, you should never have dropped out of high school, and your parents were wrong to let you. The time has come to repair some of the damage that was done. You do not have to leave your parents high and dry in order to get your GED. You can do that while working part-time and living at home. Please contact your former high school and find out what programs it offers at night for adults. Once you have your GED, you should explore a community college or trade school so you can get the higher education you have missed. You are a loving and generous son to have shouldered so much responsibility so early in life. However, it is extremely important that you begin taking care of yourself now in addition to your parents.

**DEAR ABBY:** How do I deal with a husband who seems to hate everyone and everything in life? He hates his job. He hates the fact that he has to be responsible for his elderly father, even though his father still lives on his own but can no longer drive. (I help out on that one.) He hates being responsible for me and our two children. His latest rant is racism. If you are not a member of his race, then he hates you. And he hates women. Abby, I am tired! I am not a hateful person. I do not judge others by their color. The way I see it, there is good and bad in every race. Could he be going through a mid-life crisis? He is 47 years old. What can I do to either defuse him or somehow keep the peace? He is not listening to a word I say. — **FED UP IN GLEN ALLEN, VA.**

**DEAR FED UP:** Your husband may be feeling overwhelmed by the responsibilities he has assumed, or angry that he has not accomplished more at this stage in his life. The question you must ask yourself is, Is the change in his personality something new, or has it always been this way? If it is something new, then it is possible that he could benefit from a visit to his doctor and a complete physical and neurological examination to rule out a physical or mental problem. We all lead stressful lives to some degree, but there are better ways of coping with frustration than blaming people of other races or members of the opposite sex. Sometimes counseling can be helpful -- but only if the person is willing to admit he needs it and is willing to accept it.

## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



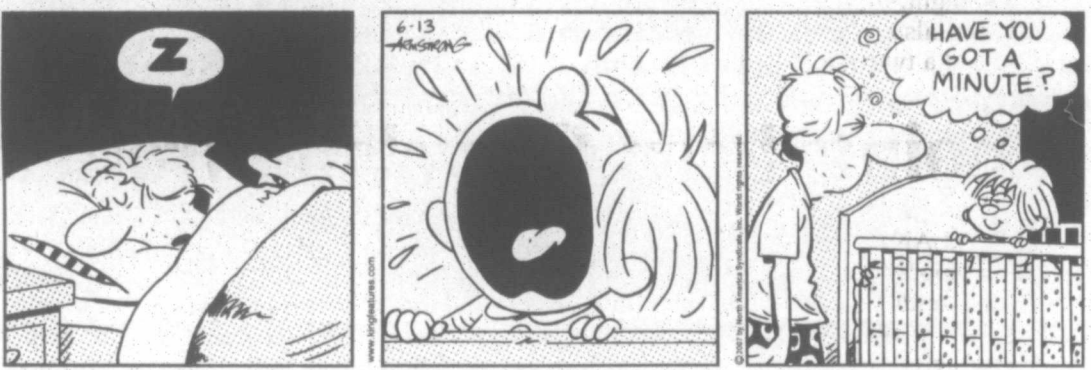
## Garfield



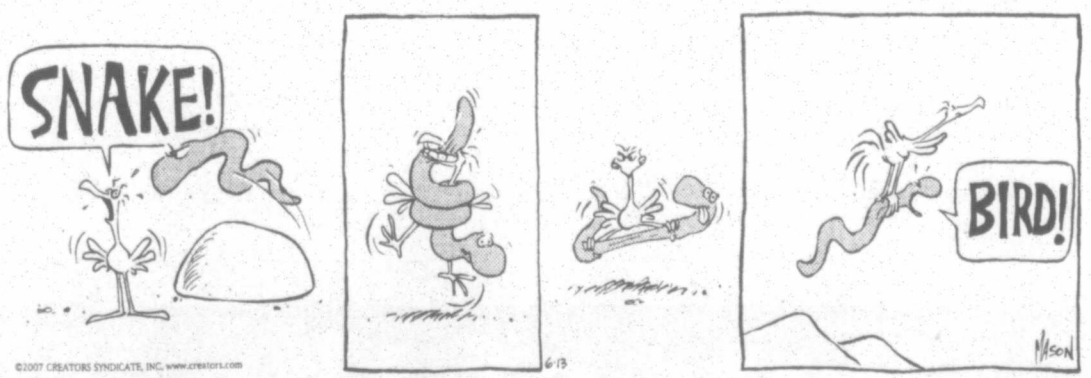
## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

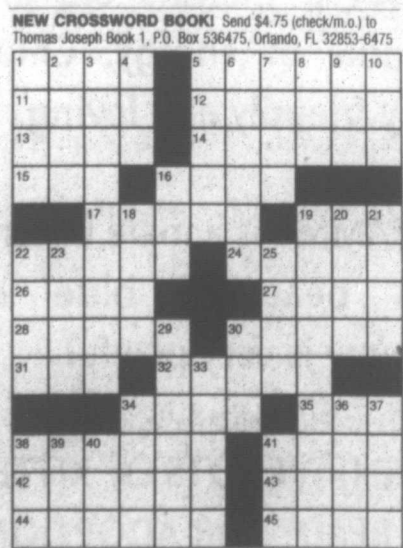
ACROSS 45 Kind

- 1 Riverbed makeup
- 5 Pinnacle
- 11 Chef's need
- 12 Rub the wrong way
- 13 Ludicrous
- 14 Scant
- 15 Kitchen pest
- 16 Fit for a pinup
- 17 Blazing
- 19 Checkers side
- 22 Available, as a room
- 24 Cook's additive
- 26 Soprano instrument
- 27 Storybook monster
- 28 Decimal fraction
- 30 Boring
- 31 Pupil's place
- 32 Removed
- 34 Unwavering
- 35 Mimic
- 38 Port of Italia
- 41 Illegally off base
- 42 Reqs
- 43 2000 Super Bowl champs
- 44 Base



Yesterday's answer

- 18 Height measure
- 19 Immediately
- 20 Beige choice
- 21 Judge
- 22 Carry help
- 23 Follow orders
- 25 Penniless today
- 29 Chief
- 30 Bad
- 31 Museum contents
- 33 Light bender
- 34 Typesetting choice
- 36 Splendor
- 37 Different
- 38 Collar
- 39 Before today
- 40 Mynah or Manx
- 41 Museum contents



## Marmaduke



## The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



## Flo & Friends



# Sports Day

## Hidden Hills to celebrate 17 years with 4-man scramble

By JORDAN REAGAN  
Sports Editor

Hidden Hills golf course will be hosting a 4-man scramble this weekend to celebrate its 17 years as Pampa's public golf course.

May 19 marked Hidden Hills' 17th anniversary, and golfers may enter Saturday's scramble for a small fee of \$17.

"It's our way of saying 'thank you' to the community that helped make this hap-

pen 17 years ago," Golf Pro David Teichmann said.

If it wasn't for Pampa's tight-knit and supportive community, Hidden Hills Public Golf Course may have been a much more costly, or perhaps impossible project.

In 1983, the Pampa Public Golf Association was formed as an organized effort to look into the possibilities of acquiring a public golf course for Pampa.

The Pampa Chamber of Commerce went to Buddy Epperson to head this organization which faced many opponents and obstacles in the years that followed.

Epperson's determination helped the PPGA attain their goal, and eventually got the ball rolling.

Following the approval of a proposed contract between the city and Gray County in 1988, the Pampa City Commission accepted the

donation of 194 acres of land just east of N. Highway 70 for the development of a public golf course.

The land was donated by Vic Raymond and E.M. (Bob) Keller.

Along with the donated land, the City Commission also received a \$300,000 donation from the county, \$2,000 in materials from Phillips Petroleum Company, over than

\$170,000 in contributions

from the PPGA and many more donations from throughout the community.

Hundreds of Pampa residents came together to volunteer time and money, 15 of which amassed over 200 hours of volunteer labor.

The volunteer work proved to be invaluable as the projected cost of over \$2 million greatly outweighed the actual cost of about \$800,000.

17 years later, business is

still going strong as Hidden Hills has seen golfers from Kentucky, West Virginia, California, Arizona and many other states as well as visitors from other cities around the Panhandle and the tri-state area.

This weekend's celebratory scramble will tee off at 9 a.m. Saturday.

For more information, contact David Teichmann at 669-5866.

## Celanese mishap puts Glo-Valve in Friday's championship game

The anticipated battle of the unbeaten first seeded Glo-Valve Service and second seeded Celanese Corporation in the Pampa Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken City Tournament failed to materialize Tuesday as a mixup in communication

caused Celanese not to be able to field a team.

The forfeit puts Glo-Valve in the championship game Friday against the winner of the Celanese-Cabot Corporation game Thursday at 5:45 p.m. Cabot, the defending City

Champions, eliminated Rotary Club in the early game Tuesday to come within a game of playing for back-to-back championships.

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

## Earnhardt to join Hendrick Motorsports next season

MOORESVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Dale Earnhardt Jr. is joining Hendrick Motorsports, hopefully moving one step closer to a championship that has eluded him while driving for his late father's company.

Rick Hendrick said Earnhardt will replace Kyle Busch on his star-studded roster of drivers. The announcement Wednesday ended five weeks of recruiting for NASCAR's most popular driver, who became a free agent May 10 when he said he would leave DEI at the end of this season.

His criteria for a new team included finding a place he could win championships, and Hendrick is the perfect fit. Hendrick has won six championships, and has 10 wins through 14 points races this season.

"It became apparent to me the man I wanted to drive for," Earnhardt said at a news conference. "He competes with integrity and most importantly, he wins races."

It was not immediately clear what number Earnhardt will drive, and who will sponsor the car. Since starting in NASCAR, Earnhardt has driven the No. 8 Budweiser Chevrolet.

"We haven't even begun to work around that and see what the options are and opportunities are and that's something we'll work out down the road," Earnhardt said.

Hendrick also has long-time ties to Earnhardt's family. He fielded a car in 1983 for Dale Earnhardt Sr., who drove it to a Busch Series win at Lowe's Motor Speedway. That entry was

co-owned by Robert Gee, who is Junior's maternal grandfather.

Joining Hendrick's stable could anger Earnhardt's followers because it will team him with Jeff Gordon, a driver generally despised by his rabid fans. Following several of his recent wins, Earnhardt's fans have thrown beer cans at Gordon, most notably after career win No. 76 — in April at Talladega Superspeedway. The win tied Gordon with the elder Earnhardt on NASCAR's victory list.

"We do have a personal competition. If you want to call it a rivalry, fine," Earnhardt said. "He's fun to race with, and especially if you beat him, it's a good feeling. ... We can both challenge each other to be better race car drivers."

## Ausmus' single pushes Houston past Oakland

HOUSTON (AP) — Brad Ausmus was there to rescue the Houston Astros after Brad Lidge failed again.

Ausmus drove in his fourth run of the night with the game-winning single in the 11th inning, and the Astros overcame another blown save by Lidge to beat the Oakland Athletics 5-4 Tuesday night.

Ausmus also had an RBI double and a two-run homer,

though none of that mattered when Mark Kotsay led off the ninth inning with a homer off Lidge, who was trying to close out a game for the first time since April, when manager Phil Garner demoted him from the role.

Lidge had pitched well lately as a setup man, allowing only one earned run in his last 19 2-3 innings. He's 0-for-3 on save opportunities this season.

"I've been feeling really good and I was still feeling good focus tonight," Lidge said. "I maybe got a little too overamped on an 0-2 pitch. I tried to throw too good of one and probably left it up for him a little bit too much."

Kotsay hit Lidge's third pitch, a hanging slider, into the right-field seats for his first home run of the season.

See ASTROS, Page 8

## 3 points keep Cleveland from taking Game 3 from San Antonio

CLEVELAND (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs plod along, poised and purposeful in everything they do.

They prefer fundamentals over flash, substance over style. The approach has made them champions before.

And most likely will again.

The Spurs, currently the closest thing to a dynasty in professional sports, moved within one win of their fourth NBA title in nine years on Tuesday night, wrecking a party Cleveland waited 37 years to throw with a 75-72 win over the Cavaliers in Game 3.

No team has ever come back from an 0-3 deficit to win the finals, and the overmatched Cavaliers, making their first appearance, are giving no indication they'll even threaten to make this series competitive.

"This," said LeBron James, "is all about them."

Tony Parker scored 17 points, Tim Duncan 14 and Bruce Bowen, the Spurs' defensive sheriff, added 13 for San Antonio, seeking its fourth title since 1999 and third in the past five seasons.

The Spurs won despite being outrebounded, making more

turnovers and getting only three points from Manu Ginobili, who missed all seven field-goal attempts and didn't score until there was 10.4 seconds left.

That's when he dropped the first of three straight free throws to help hold off the Cavaliers and crush the hopes of their rowdy, towel-waving crowd, which had never before seen their team play a finals game in person.

Cleveland's chances, and maybe their last hopes of extending the season, ended when James, who led the Cavaliers with 25 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, missed a 3-pointer in the final seconds.

He appeared to be fouled before the attempt by Bowen, but there was no whistle.

"Incidental contact," James said. "It didn't affect my shot. I had a good look at it and I missed."

Bowen, who had just nine points in the first two games, scored 13 and Brent Barry made three 3-pointers for the Spurs, who can all but plan their victory parade on the scenic Riverwalk back home.

"We need to get one more, and



that's it, however

it comes," Duncan said. "We know they're going to come out this next game, they don't want to get swept."

The Spurs can secure another title with a win in Game 4 on Thursday night. If they do complete the eighth sweep in finals history, they'll join the Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Lakers and Chicago Bulls as the only franchises to win four or more titles.

The Cavs, though, aren't ready to fold just yet.

"We can't live on history, but we have dug ourselves a big hole, and we know that," James said. "We have to come out and try to win four straight."

The grind-it-out Game 3 tied for the second-fewest points in NBA finals history, matching San Antonio's 80-67 win over the New York Knicks in 1999.

The 22-year-old James scored 12 points in the fourth quarter, threat-

ening to take over as he did in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals against Detroit, with drives through the teeth of San Antonio's smothering defense.

But James had several layups dance off the rim, and he got little help from his teammates as the Cavs went just 3-of-19 on 3-pointers and failed to take advantage on a night when the Spurs were not themselves.

All James can do now is try to prevent a sweep by the Spurs, who are 48 minutes from adding a 2007 title to the ones they captured in 1999, 2003 and 2005. Every other year, it seems to be San Antonio's turn, and this one is no different.

James scored seven straight points as the Cavs cut a 10-point lead to 69-67 with 1:22 remaining on another layup by Cleveland's star. But Parker countered with a 3-pointer before Sasha Pavlovic hit a deep one for the Cavs to make it 72-70 with 48.1 seconds remaining.

Parker, so dominant in Games 1 and 2, turned the ball over but the Cavs failed to capitalize as James,

criticized early in the playoffs for being too unselfish, got bottled up and passed to Anderson Varejao.

The mop-topped Brazilian, nicknamed "Wild Thing," tried to make a spin move on Duncan before flinging up a wild shot. James expected a return pass from Varejao, but it never came.

"Miscommunication," James said.

What made it more frustrating for Cleveland was that coach Mike Brown was screaming for a timeout that no one heard.

"I was yelling, 'Timeout, timeout,'" Brown said. "It was so loud in there none of my guys heard me, and I asked (referee) Bernie Fryer if he heard me, and he looked at me and said, 'No.' There was nothing I could do."

Ginobili was then fouled, missed his first throw but finally got something to fall through the net to give the Spurs a three-point lead. James again got to the rim for a basket before Ginobili hit two more.

On Cleveland's last trip, James began to rise for a potential tying 3-pointer when he was grabbed by Bowen. But nothing was called, the ball bounced off the rim and the Spurs inched closer to a title.

## Police: Nifong pressed Duke lacrosse case after admitting it was troubled

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — As Mike Nifong pushed forward with the Duke lacrosse rape case, a police investigator expressed concerns about the case. When he learned Nifong planned to seek indictments, his reaction was instinctively sarcastic.

"I think I made the response, 'With what?'" police investigator Benjamin Himan said.

Himan will be back on the witness stand Wednesday for the second day of Nifong's ethics trial. The North Carolina State Bar has charged the Durham County district attorney with several violations of the state's rules of professional conduct — all tied to his handling of allegations that a stripper

was raped and beaten by three players at a March 2006 party thrown by Duke's highly ranked lacrosse team.

If convicted by the disciplinary committee hearing the case, Nifong could be stripped of his license to practice law in the state.

Himan testified Tuesday that Nifong acknowledged privately in the case's early days that the accuser's story was filled with inconsistencies and the case would be a hard one to prove.

"We didn't have any DNA. We didn't have him at the party," Himan said of former lacrosse player Reade Seligmann. "So I mean it was a big concern to me to go for an indictment with not

even knowing where he was — if he was even there."

Nifong won indictments against Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and Dave Evans. The three were later cleared by North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, who concluded they were "innocent" victims of a rogue prosecutor's "tragic rush to accuse."

Nifong's attorney, David Freedman, said his client only told police that if they believed the accuser's allegations against Finnerty, "then you have to believe her on Seligmann."

"Mr. Nifong did not — did not — generate a warrant on his own," Freedman said. "He had the investigators go in to present their case to a

grand jury. There will be no evidence of any kind that they were instructed how to present the case to the grand jury."

Himan's testimony irritated attorneys for the lacrosse players. They said Himan's account was further proof that Nifong should have backed off the troubled case.

"When everyone who knew anything about the investigation kept saying, 'There's no evidence, slow down,' Mr. Nifong kept going forward," said Jim Cooney, who represented Seligmann. "To hear the details is just chilling."

Nifong's public pronouncements of confidence in the case — which included calling the players "hoopi-

gans" and saying he didn't need DNA evidence to win a conviction — formed the basis of the bar's initial ethics complaint, which accused Nifong of making misleading and inflammatory comments about the athletes.

Freedman said his client would testify that he regretted making such statements. In his opening statement, he recounted the very early days of the case, highlighting evidence he said led Nifong to believe a crime had occurred. "It is not unethical to pursue what someone may believe to be an unwinnable case," he said.

In January, after Nifong had turned the case over to

state prosecutors, the bar added allegations that Nifong withheld evidence from defense attorneys and that he lied both to the court and bar investigators.

Katherine Jean, the bar official prosecuting Nifong, detailed Nifong's meetings with the director of a DNA laboratory he hired, at which she said Nifong learned that none of the players' DNA matched that material found in and on the accuser. The bar has accused Nifong of keeping those test results from the defense.

"There is no evidence — none — of any sort of agreement with Mr. Nifong and anybody to exclude evidence," Freedman replied.

# Green healthy and ready for first season with Texans

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Ahman Green feels better than he has in years.

Mike Sherman, who coached him in Green Bay, took it a step further, telling coach Gary Kubiak Green looks better than ever.

"Mike's told me a couple of times, 'you know he looks as good as I've ever seen him look,'" Kubiak said. "And Mike's had him for a long time."

That's good news for a Texans running game that languished in 2006 until the last month of the season while relying on inexperienced and injured backs.

Houston opened last season with rookie sixth-round draft pick Wali Lundy as the starter and the running game didn't get going until Ron Dayne got healthy and emerged in December.

Green had 266 carries for 1,059 yards last season after returning from a torn right quadriceps in 2005. He missed two games in 2006 because of continued problems from the injury.

He spent the last seven years in Green Bay where Sherman, now a Texans' assistant, was head coach until last season.

"I'd say I feel better than I

have in probably about two years since I got the leg injury," Green said. "I've been coming back from it. I'm coming back strong."

The signing of Green, a free agent, to a four-year contract this offseason was one of two major acquisitions in the makeover of Houston's offense. The 30-year-old and new quarterback Matt Schaub will take over for franchise leading rusher Domanick Williams (formerly Davis) and leading



**HOUSTON TEXANS**

passer David Carr, both released in March.

"I'm excited about being in a new place, being around new teammates," Green said. "You can just feel the enthusiasm because everything is new."

He's also working to make sure Schaub, who is in his first starting role, understands that he's there to help him succeed.

"I'm having fun running behind the big guys and bringing Matt along and just letting him know that I'm the type of back who's got your back when you're passing the ball," Green said. "That's one less thing you've got to worry about when you're back there in the pocket."

He has 8,491 yards and 54 touchdowns in his nine-year career that began with Seattle. Green gained more than 1,100 yards in each of the previous five seasons before his injury in 2005.

Kubiak hopes to keep Green this healthy throughout the season and believes the rest of Houston's running backs, which includes Dayne, will help with that.

"I think the key is that we have enough guys out here to where we don't have to beat him up," Kubiak said. "I think that's going to be key, to be fresh for that 25 or so carries he gets on Sunday because he ought to be fresh because we have plenty of guys to help him out."

The Texans ended minicamp a day early on Tuesday and won't practice again until training camp begins in late July. Green said he's looking forward to the time off to explore the city and spend time with his family.

## 'Pacman' Jones drops appeal

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Adam "Pacman" Jones dropped his appeal of a yearlong suspension Tuesday, pledging to repair an image that made the Tennessee Titans cornerback the poster child for NFL misconduct.

His decision came after a third meeting with commissioner Roger Goodell.

"I understand my responsibilities to my teammates, the Titans and my fans and I am committed to turning my life around and being a positive member of the NFL," Jones said in a statement issued by newly hired agent Michael Huyghue.

Jones was suspended after 10 encounters with police and five arrests since he was drafted in 2005.

"Last week, I asked for an opportunity to meet privately with commissioner Goodell," Jones said. "I met with him earlier today to tell him about the steps I have taken to change my life since being suspended by the NFL. I accept the discipline that's been imposed on me and I am withdrawing my appeal."

Neither the NFL nor the Titans commented.

Still pending is a case in Las Vegas involving a fight and shooting at a strip club during the NBA All-Star weekend

that left one person paralyzed.

The outcome of that case could determine whether the suspension is reduced from 16 games to 10 games. That could happen if Jones adheres to the conditions set by Goodell and is not arrested again. If he misses the entire season, the suspension will cost him his salary of nearly \$1.3 million.

Lt. George Castro in Las Vegas said police still have not connected what happened inside the strip club and the shooting that took place outside. No new suspects have been identified and police are not seeking new charges based on new information developed during the three months since District Attorney David Roger first declined to prosecute, Castro said.

Until now, Jones had been represented primarily in his dealings with the league by his lawyer, Manny Arora. After he was suspended by Goodell on April 10, Arora filed an appeal on Jones' behalf.

But this time, Jones was accompanied by Huyghue, who was his agent when he was drafted sixth overall in 2005 and is a former league office employee and former senior vice president of the Jacksonville Jaguars.

## Jamaican police say Pakistani cricket coach died of natural causes, not murder

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)** — In an embarrassing reversal, Jamaican police said Tuesday that Pakistan's cricket coach died of natural causes and was not strangled following his team's surprise World Cup loss this spring.

Officials closed the homicide investigation into the death of Bob Woolmer after getting opinions from three independent pathologists from Britain, South Africa and Canada and reviewing a toxicology report, Police Commissioner Lucius Thomas told a news conference.

Thomas did not reveal what they believe caused the death of the 58-year-old coach, saying that would be up to Jamaica's coroner to issue at a later time.

"The Jamaican Constabulary Force accepts these findings and has now closed its investigation into

the death of Mr. Bob Woolmer," he said.

The announcement ended a globe-spanning investigation in which authorities interviewed nearly 400 people and collected dozens of DNA samples and fingerprints from potential witnesses, including members of the Pakistan cricket squad and other teams.

Woolmer was found unconscious on March 18 in his hotel room in Kingston a day after his heavily favored team was eliminated from the World Cup in a humiliating loss to Ireland.

Authorities first said a preliminary autopsy was inconclusive, but on March 22 announced Woolmer had been strangled, setting off a media frenzy.

"It happened in a hotel which was full of the world's media and at every step of the way, everything became

subject of media speculation," said Deputy Police Commissioner Mark Shields, a former Scotland Yard investigator who led the Woolmer inquiry.

Some reported Woolmer had been drugged, possibly with champagne laced with a weed killer or an ancient poison called aconite. That supposedly would have explained why there was no sign of forced entry or struggle in the hotel room.

Thomas said Tuesday that the toxicology reports found otherwise.

"No substance was found to indicate that Bob Woolmer was poisoned," he said.

Despite the reversal, Thomas said he was "proud to be commissioner" of the Jamaican Constabulary Force.

## Choke hold: Ogilvy didn't mind winning U.S. Open because Mickelson lost it

**OAKMONT, Pa. (AP)** — Geoff Ogilvy doesn't mind being the guy who won the U.S. Open because Phil Mickelson lost it.

Didn't the gleam off the championship trophy that's sat atop the Australian's mantle for 12 months. Didn't trim the number of zeros on his winner's check. Didn't stop the phone calls or the e-mails

he's gotten since winning a major, which have multiplied by six times since before his U.S. Open victory at Winged Foot.

"It's quite nice to be introduced as the U.S. Open champion on the first tee every week," Ogilvy said Tuesday while preparing for this week's Open at Oakmont. "That doesn't get old."

Even if all that talk that Ogilvy won because Mickelson choked may never stop.

"That's fair enough. It's part of last year's golf tournament, that story," Ogilvy said. "So it's going to be talked about."

Except between the two, Ogilvy never has engaged Mickelson in a discussion about how that par 4

Mickelson needed on the 72nd hole to win his first U.S. Open somehow became a double bogey 6 — a puzzling collapse considering how Mickelson apparently conquered his can't-win-a-big-one label by winning the Masters in 2004 and 2006 and the PGA in 2005.

## Another 'what-if' for Cleveland sports lore

**By JIM LITKE**

**AP Sports Columnist**

The right call at the end of Game 3 would have made a difference, all right.

Just enough to narrow the gap between the Spurs and Cavs without ever closing it. The way these teams are put together, they could be playing a best-of-70 instead of best-of-seven and San Antonio might still be on the verge of an NBA finals sweep.

The most bitter Cleveland fans will latch onto referee Bob Delaney's non-call in the closing seconds as LeBron James readied himself to launch a 3-point shot. James himself had a hard time letting Delaney head off the court and toward the locker room.

"He fouled me," James insisted, re-enacting the crime near midcourt. "Right there."

The tough part is that James and his fans are right: replays show Spurs defender Bruce Bowen clearly fouled James before he squeezed off the potential game-tying shot with 1.9 seconds left.

"He did make a stab at him," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich acknowledged.

And because Cleveland sports fans have been raised on a diet of what-if — as in, what if "The Drive" or "The Shot" or "The Shot II," for that matter, never happened?

— and because their team stormed back from a 2-0 deficit against Detroit in the Eastern Conference finals, those same fans will insist the Cavaliers could have turned this series around, too, if only Delaney hadn't swallowed his whistle at the most critical moment of the entire series.

But that ignores the evidence piled up from all those moments that preceded it.

NBA refs have been generous in deciding what constitutes "continuation," but had Delaney made the right call, James would have been awarded two free throws instead of having the chance to tie the game with a three. So even if the King made both, the only change is that San Antonio's margin of victory would have been one instead of 75-72.

Keep in mind that while James has been solid from the line through the first three games of the series (18-of-23), closing games out from there has proven to be one of the more bedeviling lessons in an otherwise smooth ascendance to the head of the class. Had Delaney got it half-right, deciding that Bowen's foul occurred as James was rising up to shoot instead of before, the pressure to make all three free throws would have been staggering.

And judging by the holes the Spurs have already

punched in James' cape, a crisis of confidence might be the last thing the youngster needs. But that didn't seem to be a problem by the time James reached the interview room.

"Incidental contact. It didn't affect my shot," James said. "I had a good look at it and I missed."

That left Cavs coach Mike Brown to explain how his team caught San Antonio on a night when the big three of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili were barely adequate — a combined 34 points on 32 percent shooting — how Cleveland won the rebounding battle, made fewer turnovers, just as many steals and more blocks — and still lost. Surprisingly, that was the easy part.

"We shot a lot of 3s versus their hard closeouts," Brown said. "Both teams shot 19, they made 10, we made three. Other than that, just about every other category, I thought statistically we played OK."

The Cavs' 16-percent marksmanship from 3-point range was glaring for several reasons, beyond the comparison to San Antonio's glittering 53 percent in the same department.

James' 0-for-5 was baffling, especially since Bowen allowed him breathing room at the top of the arc and the King never quite fig-

ured out how best to exploit it. Worse, sidekick Daniel Gibson went 0-for-5 stepping in for injured starter Larry Hughes, and that was after nearly taking Hughes job earlier because Gibson was so deadly from distance earlier in the postseason.

Asked whether it was his defense or poor shooting by Cleveland that produced that differential, Popovich said, "It's always both."

Pressed about whether he was happy with his defense, the coach smiled, "I'm happy with anything tonight. You could name anything and I'm happy."

Not so the would-be King, who grudgingly admired a Spurs team that played worse than his in just about every category that could be measured, yet still found a way to win.

"I'm not surprised on how tough it is. I kind of envisioned it being tough. I think the Eastern Conference finals was tough, and I knew it was going to pick up another level. I think our team senses that, also," he said. "You know, the experience factor, we don't like to make any excuse, but it definitely played a part."

*Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitkeap.org](mailto:jlitkeap.org)*

## Astros

**Continued from Page 7**

Kotsay went 4-for-5, his best game since coming off the disabled list on June 1. He'd never faced Lidge.

"I've been watching him on TV," Kotsay said. "I knew he was a fastball, slider guy."

Adam Everett doubled with one out in the 11th before Ausmus singled off Ron Flores (0-1). Jason Kendall's throw to the plate was off line as Everett slid across the plate.

Ausmus was batting .244 with only nine RBIs coming into the game. He went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a double against the Chicago White Sox on Sunday.

"I'm just swinging the bat better lately," Ausmus said. "That's it. I don't know why."

The Astros won for the third time in seven games, and Oakland lost for only the second time in its last 10.

"Obviously," Lidge said, "I'm happy with how the game ended."

Roy Oswalt struck out a season-high 10 for the Astros and hasn't won since May 12, a span of six starts. Houston had lost the previous five, though Oswalt had only dropped two decisions.

Dave Borkowski (1-0) shut out the A's in the 10th and 11th to earn the victory. That was OK with Oswalt.

"If the team wins, I win," he said.

Joe Kennedy gave up four runs and six hits and also had the biggest hit for Oakland before Kotsay's homer, a surprising two-run double during a three-run second inning. Kennedy later scored on Mark Ellis' single.

Oswalt used an effective curveball to shut down the A's after that, striking out four consecutive batters between the fourth and fifth.

Jack Cust and Kendall fanned in the sixth, giving Oswalt 10 strikeouts for the first time since Sept. 1, 2005, when he had 11 against Cincinnati. Oswalt needed 111 pitches to get them this time and Chad Qualls

relieved him to start the seventh.

"I wanted to get late in the game," Oswalt said. "When you get a lot of strikeouts, that means you're throwing four or five pitches per batter and it's hard to get deep."

Dan Wheeler, deposited from the closer role after blowing a save last Thursday in Colorado, shut out the A's in the eighth before Garner turned to Lidge.

Garner said he's sticking with Lidge as his closer.

"He's been throwing the ball so well," Garner said. "He just tried to make a superhuman, unbelievable nasty slider (to Kotsay) and he doesn't have to do that. He just has to throw a nice one."

Craig Biggio led off the game with a single and later scored on Carlos Lee's fly-out. The run snapped a 21-inning scoreless streak for A's pitchers.

Oswalt walked Dan Johnson leading off the second, but then struck out Bobby Crosby and Cust. Kendall, one of only three A's who'd ever faced Oswalt before, singled to left and Kennedy batted next.

Kennedy appeared to be an easy out for Oswalt — he hadn't even batted in a game since July 7, 2005, when he played for Colorado, and had struck out in 25 of his 88 career at-bats. But he hammered a 2-0 pitch over center fielder Hunter Pence to score Johnson and Kendall.

"I'm sure all the hitters were happy to see me do that," Kennedy said. "I was looking for a fastball and it hit my bat."

Kennedy went to third on Kotsay's infield single, then trotted home on Ellis' broken-bat single to left.

Chris Burke walked leading off the Astros' second and scored on Ausmus' one-out double to right. In the fourth, Burke singled and Ausmus followed with a homer just inside the foul pole in left.

Flustered by Oswalt, the A's mustered only two hits between their three-run burst and Kotsay's game-tying drive.

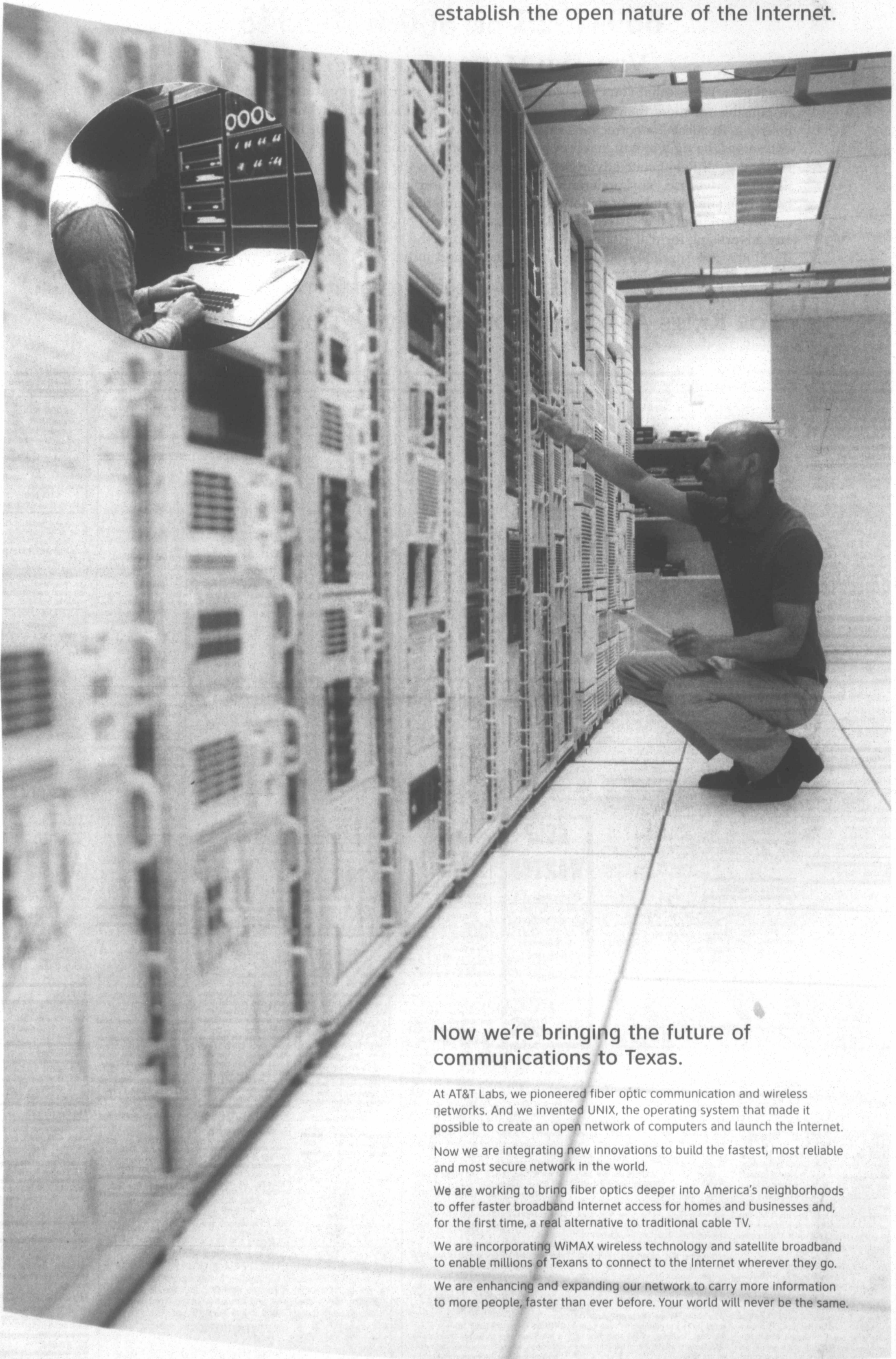
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