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SEE PAGE 7



THE PAMPA NEWS

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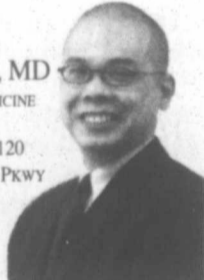
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Papers late

The Pampa News is experiencing technical problems with its press. Consequently, newspapers will be delivered later than usual. The New staff asks your cooperation and understanding of this temporary problem.

City joins in election administrator

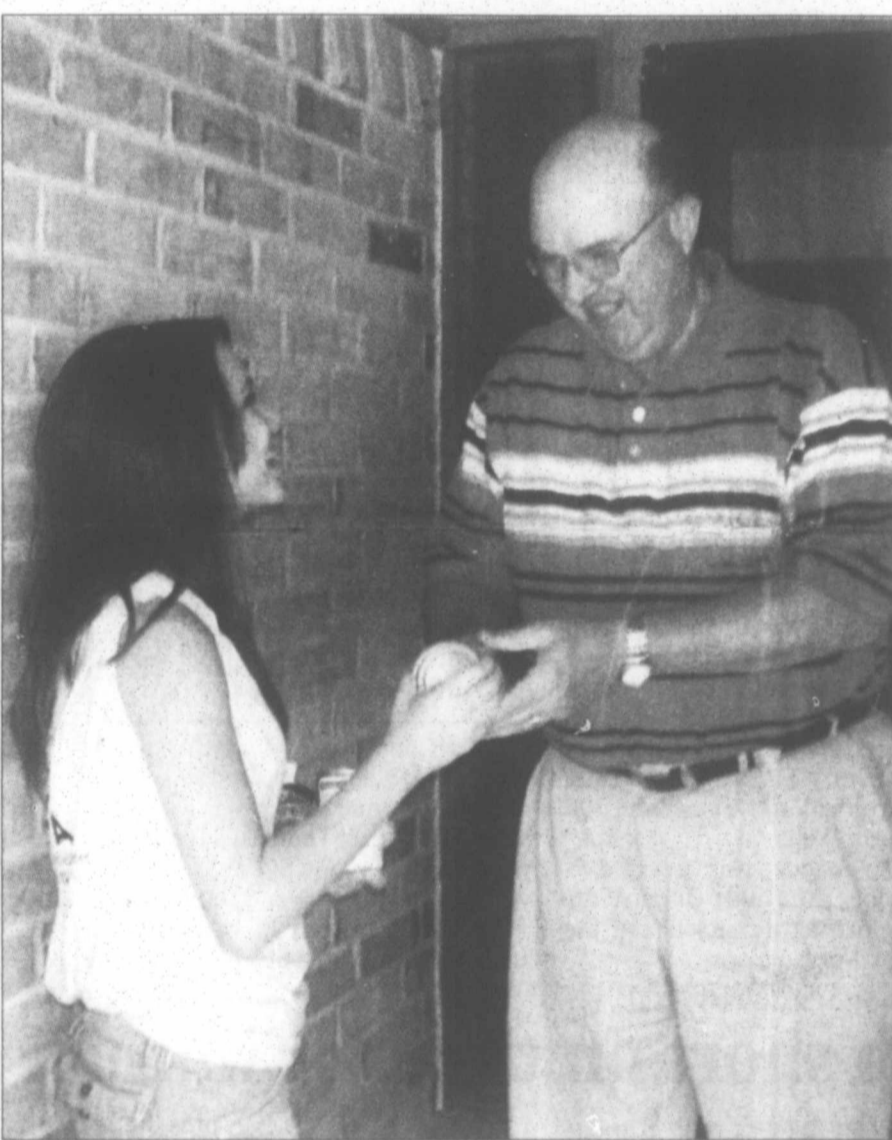
By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Pampa will join other taxing entities in Gray County to establish a joint elections administrator. At the meeting Tuesday, the Pampa City Commission voted to appoint one person to oversee all elections. Gray County Clerk Susan Winborne told the commission that there could be five elections over the next year, a Constitutional election in November, the state primaries in March that could be followed by a

runoff and city and school district elections in May. With the increasing complexities of the election code, she said it might be better to have one person to oversee the elections. The costs of the office would be shared by a coalition of the taxing entities. Under the proposed plan, the budget for a joint elections administrator's office would be an estimated \$51,770.46. The administrator would be paid about \$30,000. Pampa's share of the cost for the

office would be an estimated \$10,354. Other potential members of the coalition would be Gray County, Pampa Independent School District, McLean, McLean Independent School District, Lefors and Lefors Independent School District. Gray County would pay \$25,885.23. Pampa ISD would pay \$10,354. McLean, McLean ISD, Lefors and Lefors ISD would each

See CITY, Page 3



Courtesy photo
Kaitlyn O'Brien collects canned food from Herman Vinson for a food drive being conducted by Junior CASA Volunteers. Donations of non-perishable foods will be accepted at the CASA office, 315 N. Ballard, through July 12.

Junior CASA volunteers help make a difference

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Seven teenagers are working to help make life a little better for abused and neglected children in the Pampa area who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care. The Junior CASA Volunteers were organized in May and are already conducting a food drive. The group is affiliated with CASA, or Court Appointed Special Advocates, a non-profit organization whose volunteers act as advocates for children who were removed from abusive and/or neglectful homes. The Pampa chapter is known as CASA of the High Plains. The junior volunteers include Kirsten Kuhn, who became interested in CASA while searching for a service project. "We had a National Junior Honor Society project to do, and I had Beanie Babies I wasn't going to use any more. I knew CASA gave things out to children, and I wanted to donate them," Kuhn said. She met Ofelia Marszal, volunteer coordinator for CASA, who told her about the services CASA provides to abused and neglected children.

"I liked what they do, and it's what I wanted to do," Kuhn said. "I got interested in it. She called me one day and asked me if I'd be interested in being a junior volunteer. I said yes." "Being a CASA volunteer fills me with a sense of pride and accomplishment," said Kaitlyn O'Brien, another junior volunteer. "I am proud to be part of an organization that is doing such an extraordinary job of helping our community today, as well as striving to achieve a better tomorrow." Marszal is proud of the junior volunteers and encourages their efforts in collecting food and monetary donations. "I am so highly impressed with their dedication about this project," she said. "I asked them what their initial goal was, and they first said \$1,000 to \$1,500. Then it went to \$2,000. They're really motivated about raising a lot of money." The money will be used to benefit abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes. The food collected during the food drive will be donated to High Plains Food

See CASA, Page 3

4 arrested in two drug stops

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Four men were arrested after drugs were found in two vehicles during two separate traffic stops Friday. The first traffic stop occurred around 2:15 p.m. on Interstate 40 near Groom. Texas Department of Public Safety troopers stopped a 2005 Toyota Camry for a traffic violation. After suspecting criminal activity and developing probable cause to conduct a search, troopers found 165 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of the vehicle. Eugene Amos, 34, and Brandy McCarley, 28, both of Memphis, Tenn., were arrested and booked into Carson County Jail. The marijuana was believed to have originated in Phoenix and was headed for Memphis, Tenn. The drugs have an esti-

mated value of \$69,700. During the second stop near Paducah, two men from Floydada and Plainview were arrested after marijuana was found in their vehicle following a traffic stop. At 5:20 p.m., DPS troopers stopped a 1998 Oldsmobile near Paducah on U.S. 62 for a traffic violation. The troopers became suspicious of criminal activity and asked for consent to search the vehicle. After consent to search was given, the troopers found 57 pounds of marijuana in the trunk. Pablo Ramon Reyes, 24, of Floydada, and Michael Zapata, 23, of Plainview were arrested and booked into Cottle County Jail. Investigators believe the marijuana originated in Vernon and was headed to Plainview. The drugs have an estimated value of \$27,075.

Pampa ISD to look at new dress code

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Pampa Independent School Board members will consider and possibly approve a new dress code, the budget and proposed tax rate for 2007-2008, salary schedules and administrative pay increases and many other items at a regular meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert. Board members will also discuss district goals, fund raisers, Region 16 contracts, a contract with Texas Association of School Boards for worker's com-

pensation insurance and the superintendent's compensation, all for the 2007-2008 school year. First readings of TASB policy update 80, local policy DBF (employment requirements and restrictions) and local policy EG (curriculum development) will be heard. Pampa ISD representatives to the Gray County Appraisal District Board will meet with board members. The board will consider participating with other entities in funding the position of joint elections administrator.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday



Mostly sunny

Friday



Partly cloudy

Saturday



Mostly sunny

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 85. North-northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. North-northeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 87. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. East-southeast wind around 5 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 88. Calm wind becoming east-southeast between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 66. East-southeast wind between 10 and 15 mph.

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Big-ticket orders had large decrease in May

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods plunged in May by the largest amount in four months as demand for aircraft, heavy machinery and metals all declined.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that new durable goods orders dropped by 2.8 percent last month, a far bigger drop than the 1 percent decline economists had been forecasting.

The weakness was led by a huge 22.7 percent plunge in orders for commercial aircraft, which can be extremely volatile from month to month. But orders were also down for a wide array of other goods, from primary metals such as steel to machinery and electronic appliances.

And in a potentially troubling sign for the future, orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft, considered a good proxy for business investment, fell by 3 percent, the biggest drop since a 4.4 percent plunge in January.

Still, the sharp decline in overall orders and in business investment was likely to be viewed as a one-month aberration after a string of strong reports. Analysts believe that manufacturing is showing signs of reviving

following a period of weakness that reflected the slowdown in the overall economy.

The economy slowed to a barely discernible annual growth rate of just 0.6 percent in the first three months of this year. But economists believe growth has rebounded in the April-to-June quarter to a more robust 3.5 percent rate despite the fact that a severe slump in housing is lasting longer than expected.

The Federal Reserve was expected to leave interest rates unchanged when it concludes a two-day meeting on Thursday, repeating its past views that inflation remains the dominant threat to the economy.

The 22.7 percent drop in orders for commercial aircraft reflected the fact that Boeing Co. took orders for 92 planes in May, down from a bumper crop of 136 orders in April.

Orders for motor vehicles actually rose by 2.3 percent last month, following a 2.8 percent drop in April.

Orders in the transportation category fell by 6.8 percent, the biggest drop in January.

Even without the weakness in transportation, orders would have been down last month, dropping by 1 percent when that category is excluded.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

KEAHEY, Novella Hillman — 10 a.m., First Baptist Church, White Deer. Graveside services, 3 p.m., Silent Home Cemetery, Crawford, Okla.

Novella Hillman Keahey, 82

WHITE DEER, Texas — Novella Hillman Keahey, 82, of White Deer, died June 24, 2007, at Pampa, Texas.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 28, 2007, at the First Baptist Church in White Deer with the Rev. Alan Wilson, pastor, officiating.

Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, June 28, 2007, at the Silent Home Cemetery in Crawford, Okla., under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa,

Texas.

Mrs. Keahey was born July 8, 1924, in Roll, Okla. She attended Crawford, Oklahoma schools. She married Altus Keahey on Dec. 20, 1939, in Crawford. He preceded her in death in 2007.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed sewing and embroidery work. She was a

babysitter for numerous children in White Deer for many years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of White Deer.

Survivors include one daughter, LaQueta Jamieson and husband Jim of Killingsworth, Conn.; two sons, Larry Altus Keahey and wife Ruby of Medicine Lodge, Kan., and

James Earl Keahey of Guymon, Okla.; one brother, Glen Hillman of White Deer; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dewayne Keahey in 1942.

MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church Building Fund, 411 S. Omohundro, White Deer, TX 79097.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.



Vennie R. Petty-Bridwell, 84

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Vennie R. Petty-Bridwell, 84, died June 21, 2007.

Services were conducted this past Saturday in Brown's Funeral Service

Chapel with James Crawford officiating. Interment followed at Mead Cemetery.

Arrangements were under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral Service.

Mrs. Bridwell, a former

longtime Pampa resident, was born Jan. 2, 1923, in Arkansas.

Survivors include a daughter, Norma Mason of Oklahoma City; three sons, Earl Bridwell, Wendell

Bridwell and Lynn Bridwell, all of Pampa; numerous grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Emergency Services

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

Nine traffic stops were made, resulting in at least one arrest.

Vehicle accidents were reported in the 500 block of West Brown and at One Medical Plaza.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 2200 block of Williston, the intersection of 15th and Dogwood streets, the 400 block of Doucette, the 2100 block of Coffee, the 1800 block of North Wells, the 900 block of East Fisher, the 1300 block of West Kentucky, the 600 block of North Zimmers, the 100 block of South Faulkner and the 700 block of Doucette.

Lost property was reported in the 500 block of North Sumner.

Found property was reported at the intersection of Wilks and Faulkner streets.

Welfare checks were made in the 100 block of South Russell and the 800 block of South Talley.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 1200 block of North Hobart, the 1300 block of Hamilton, the 300 block of West Brown, the 2800 block of Perryton Parkway and the 700 block of North Wells.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1500 block of North Christy, the 1900 block of North Russell and the 500 block of North Frost.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of South Faulkner. Five windows were broken at a house, and walls were painted on. Estimated cost of damage is \$1,000.

Criminal mischief was reported at Recreation Park, 1600 E. Highway 60.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 200 block of Tignor and the 700 block of Sloan.

Assault was reported in the 400 block of East Kentucky. Minor injuries were reported.

Three alarms were reported.

Burglary was reported at Jay's Drive Inn, 924 W. Alcock. A glass door was broken and a safe, two small boxes and a bank bag, all of which contained money, were taken. Estimated cost of damage and loss is \$4,465.

Burglary was reported in the 400 block of Magnolia. A machete found on the scene is believed to have been used to gain entry, because of markings on the door. Nothing was reported taken in connection with the incident.

Burglary was reported in the 100 block of South Sumner.

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

Tuesday, June 26
 Joseph Daniel Thomas, 34, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for theft over \$500.

Tara Dawn Slater, 25, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of Montagu

by Pampa Police Department for failure to maintain financial responsibility, no driver's license, failure to appear and two counts of issuing a bad check.

Wednesday, June 27

Steven Ray Crawford, 28, of Dallas was arrested by GCSO on a bond surrender for driving while intoxicated.

Debra Lynn Rawls, 35, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a motion to enforce child support.

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

Tuesday, June 26

12:30 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 700 block of Hazel on a rubbish fire.

1:02 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to the 600 block of Hazel on a grass fire.

3:15 p.m. — Five units and nine personnel responded to the 2200 block of Charles on a structure fire.

5:29 p.m. — Two units and six personnel responded to the 400 block of Ward on a fire alarm.

11:13 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 600 block of North Nelson on a good intent.

Wednesday, June 27

1:11 a.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 1100 block of Cinderella on arcing power lines.

Bush short on time for immigration reform

By BEN FELLER
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, short on political capital and time, is devoting much of what's left of his term in office to getting an immigration deal.

Starting with an April 9 speech in Arizona, in which he talked tough about border security and prodded Congress to get moving, Bush has staged a dozen immigration events. That's not counting his four radio addresses on the topic in that time, or his phone calls to lawmakers, or his bold prediction that he'd see reporters at the bill-signing for a bill that seemed dead.

His agenda reflects that immigration is a White House priority for multiple reasons.

It is deeply important to the president, a former Texas governor who sees the status quo on immigration as a failure for the nation and a looming disaster for his party. It is seen as a major legislative victory within reach. And it is seen as urgent — now or never for him, most likely.

So each day, a White House strategy team weighs how to maintain momentum on a bill offering legal status to millions of unlawful immigrants.

A small, core group of officials — representing policy, communications, strategy and legislative offices — organizes the approach.

There is no war room, per se, but rather meetings held in locations at the White House and on Capitol Hill. The participants vary and overlap. The president gets involved when his participation is deemed to have the most impact. His voice is the loudest, but not one to be overused, the strategy goes.

The signals often come from

Candida Wolff, Bush's legislative affairs chief.

"She hollers when she wants the president's assistance in speaking to a particular member of Congress," said Joel Kaplan, the deputy chief of staff for policy. "And I expect that she'll holler a few more times before all is said and done."

Meanwhile, two of Bush's Cabinet members have made almost a full-time job of lobbying for the bill. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez may as well be considered tenants on Capitol Hill, Kaplan quipped.

When the immigration bill stalled in the Senate, Bush got personally involved in resurrecting it.

He called Republican Sens. Jon Kyl of Arizona, Trent Lott of Mississippi and Mitch McConnell of Kentucky while in Europe. On his flight back to the U.S., he called Kyl and Democratic Sens. Ken Salazar of Colorado and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Then, the next day, he made a rare visit to Capitol Hill to lobby Republican senators at a closed-door meeting.

The rescue effort had at least some effect; later that week, Senate leaders reached a deal to get the bill back up for debate.

"Even a weakened president is a potent political force," said Republican strategist Rich Galen. "He may well get something out of this. I was with everyone else when the thing got pulled from the (Senate) floor, saying, 'Well, that's that.' But here it is again."

The Senate voted Tuesday to revive the bill. It must still overcome another make-or-break vote as early as Thursday that will also require the

backing of 60 senators. And there is no guarantee that it will ultimately attract even the simple majority it needs to pass.

Bush is still making calls to senators, although the White House picks and chooses when it will disclose details.

"He's been on the phone," spokesman Tony Snow said Tuesday. "I'm not going to tell you how many or who he has talked to."

The president, not surprisingly, projects confidence. He talks of when, not if, the Senate will pass a bill to his liking in the coming days.

"When successful in the Senate, we'll be reconvening to figure out how to get the bill out of the House," he told advocates of his plan.

Trouble hovers there, too. Underscoring the intraparty fighting over immigration, House Republicans meeting in a private conference took the rare step Tuesday evening of voting overwhelmingly to oppose the Senate measure.

In his June 12 visit to the Capitol, Bush was gracious and grateful to fellow Republicans. At other times, his strategy has been more blunt.

Along the way, Bush has accused critics of the legislation of not reading the details of the bill; of potentially lacking courage; of engaging in scare tactics; of searching for a reason to oppose it; and of not doing what's right for America.

With all this, Bush's aides scoff at criticism that Bush should be more personally engaged in lobbying for the bill. So does he.

"My administration is deeply involved in the issue," Bush said. "I feel passionate about the issue."

Scholarship winner



Courtesy photo
Erwin Kuehne, left, receives a scholarship check for \$1,000 from Kevin Hunt, a loan officer at NBC bank. Kuehne plans to attend West Texas A&M University and major in Music Education.

Court won't reinstate DeLay charges

By **KELLEY SHANNON**
Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals refused Wednesday to reinstate a dropped conspiracy charge against former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

Travis County prosecutor Ronnie Earle charged DeLay and two associates with conspiracy to violate the state's election code in connection with corporate funds used in 2002 state legislative elections.

A state district judge threw out that conspiracy charge after defense lawyers argued that the law DeLay is accused of violating in 2002 wasn't written into law until 2003.

A regional appeals court upheld the judge's decision. Prosecutors appealed to the state's highest criminal appeals court, which ruled 5-4 in favor of DeLay and co-defendants John Colyandro

and Jim Ellis.

DeLay, a Sugar Land Republican who resigned from office last year, and the other two men still face charges of money laundering and conspiracy to launder money. Lawyers are arguing about those charges before an appeals court, and no trial date has been set.

DeLay's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said he was

pleased with the ruling but sorry that it took so long to wage the court fight. He said the criminal charges resulted in DeLay's resignation from Congress, where he represented Houston's southwest suburbs for more than 20 years.

"Ronnie Earle indicted Tom DeLay for a crime that didn't exist, wasn't on the books," DeGuerin said.

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Violent storms cause Central Texas floods

By **JIM VERTUNO**
Associated Press Writer
GEORGETOWN, Texas (AP) — Floods swamped Central Texas early Wednesday, and the down-pour and high winds were so treacherous that helicopters were forced to abruptly halt efforts to rescue people stranded on rooftops, officials said.

Austin-area officials said there were reports early Wednesday of as many as 20 people trapped in fast-moving water in trees, or atop vehicles or rooftops after hours of pounding rains.

"We got hard facts of 18-

plus inches of rain in a couple of those places since midnight," said Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services spokesman Warren Hassinger.

The Marble Falls area, about 40 miles northwest of Austin, got the most rain, said National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Lenz. He said up to 18 inches fell overnight, and more was expected throughout the day.

Marble Falls Mayor Raymond Whitman said there were 32 high-water rescues but no known fatalities,

although empty vehicles were scattered around town.

"We don't know if they got out," he said.

Hassinger said four rescue attempts before dawn were abandoned because of weather, and he didn't know what happened to the people needing help. Officials were following up on early calls seeking rescue and assessing the situation, Hassinger said.

"I'll be pleasantly surprised if we don't end up with some fatalities over this," he said.

One aborted rescue attempted to get four people from the roof of a house in Granite Shoals, where water was about 4 feet from the top of the building. They had pulled a possible drowning victim from the water, Hassinger said. One successful helicopter-assisted rescue plucked a Williamson County sheriff's deputy and another person from atop the

lawman's car along the San Gabriel River near Georgetown, Hassinger said.

Four or five National Guard soldiers and two large trucks were sent to Marble Falls early Wednesday to help local officials with rescue operations, said Chief Master Sgt. Gonda Moncada of the Texas Military Forces.

Ray Thomas and his wife fled their house on a peninsula between the North and South San Gabriel rivers at about 4:45 a.m., after hearing an emergency weather radio bulletin. He stood on the banks of the South San Gabriel River later in the morning, using binoculars to see if his house was under water.

"We're lucky we got out," he said, still unsure whether his house was OK. "In September we were praying for rain. What worries me now is the rain that's still to come."

City

Continued from Page 1

pay \$1,294. If all did not join, the budget would have to be recast, but Pampa would also have the option to withdraw.

The commission also approved an amendment to the police department's compensation pay, which would increase their budget by \$20,000 to \$25,000. Much of that, City Manager John Horst told the commission, could be made up from money not spent because of a shortage of police officers in the department.

The commission also voted to apply the new compensation plan in order to recruit and retain officers.

Pampa police officers will now make between \$30,015 and \$35,649. Sergeants will make between \$37,431 and \$42,129. Lieutenants will be paid between \$44,235 and \$58,828.

The averages for similar sized communities in the Texas Panhandle and South Plains are \$29,609 to \$36,197 for officers, \$34,592 to \$42,159 for Sergeants and \$39,387 to \$47,059 for Lieutenants.

They also approved an additional \$8,000 for Hidden Hills Golf Course, raising the current contract from \$168,983 to \$176,983 as a housing supplement. In the past, the city provided a mobile home at the golf course for one employee. As part of the plan, the city also struck \$4,000 a year from the course's budget. That money had been used for maintenance of the mobile home.

Presently, Horst said, the mobile home is being used for prison guards brought up from Childress for the Jordan Unit on a part time basis. Horst said the prison's guard force was undermanned and there were no motel rooms available in Pampa.

The commission award-

ed a bid to EnviroSolve in the amount of \$14,135 for the 2007 Household Hazardous Waste event. EnviroSolve was the low bidder and has run the event for the past nine years.

The city commission approved bids for tax delinquent properties. William Shelton bid \$1,500 for 928 S. Sumner, \$5,200 for 608 N. Sumner and \$4,600 for 709 N. Dwight. Jeremy Nicholas bid \$4,500 for 1044 and 1036 S. Hobart. Dennis and Jackie Stell bid \$2,800 for 1001 Farley and \$5,400 for 305 Roberts. Stanley Gray bid \$251 for 525 N. Christy and \$161 for 525 N. Warren. Juan and Rosemary Cadena bid \$400 for 318 Doyle. John and Sherry Worthington bid \$500 for 514 S. Barnes.

The commission also heard a presentation from J. Kent Brown with Motorola, Inc., concerning setting up a wireless network for the city. One bandwidth would be for the police and fire departments. A second bandwidth would be for other departments.

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pittner said that the police department and fire department communications systems would fit seamlessly into such a network. He said the public works department would be the real beneficiary of the system. They would be able to do more, such as monitor functions like water, with less manpower and travel.

Public Works Director Richard Morris said a wireless system would be easier to update than upgrading hard-wired systems.

"It's a very cost effective way to deploy technology," Brown said.

The presentation was an outgrowth of a discussion earlier this year concerning installing security cameras in city parks.

Brown said the system could also be expanded and made available to residents as part of their utilities, or at the very least could make city parks wireless hot spots.

CASA

Continued from Page 1

Bank, Marszal said.

Junior volunteers perform various services in exchange for donations to their cause. These services may include painting, yard work, dog walking and helping the elderly with tasks such as grocery shopping. Fund-raisers such as fun days in local parks are also held by the group to raise money for CASA.

Teens age 13 and up are eligible to be Junior CASA Volunteers, Marszal said. Current volunteers, in addition to Kuhn and O'Brien, are Megan Pirtle, Laci Hernandez, Rikki Earnest, Stephen Marszal and Callie

Hampton.


The group is breaking new ground by being the first such junior volunteer CASA group in the state, Marszal said.

"These kids have done all the work to get it started," she said. "We invite anyone who wants to learn more about us to come visit or come to a meeting."

The next junior volunteer meeting will be at 5 p.m. July 12 at the CASA office. For more information, call 669-7638.

"We put our heart, soul and sweat into our work," O'Brien said. "We are dedicated, loyal, trustworthy and compassionate. Our members are many things, but we are mostly just a group of kids trying to make the world a better place to live."

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Viewpoints

Making sense: Be careful crossing Kennedy's bridge

Even though poor Sen. Harry Reid insists on calling the Senate's latest attempt to inundate the nation with hordes of suddenly legalized illegal immigrants the president's bill, it is really Sen. Kennedy's monstrosity.

The president, desperate to get any kind of amnesty measure through Congress while he's still in the White House, has embraced the Kennedy bill, but that doesn't change the fact that it's Kennedy's illegitimate offspring. Mr. Bush has simply become the kid's Godfather.

He's not alone. Some Republicans, oblivious of the fact that their backing of the bill is nothing less than a suicide pact for GOP chances of ever staging a comeback, are going all-out to convince the nation of the

absurdity that granting amnesty to millions of immigrants now here illegally is the best way to stem the tide of illegal immigrants flooding across our borders.

Saner minds, more concerned with the almost-total collapse of border security than with the longstanding issue of the 12, 15 or 20 million illegals now here, caution that we had best solve the problem of our all-but-open southern borders before even thinking about dealing with those illegals now here. Stopping more of them adding to their numbers is the first priority.

Instead of signing onto Teddy Kennedy's bill and attacking the majority of Americans who demand that our borders be secured, George Bush should be

attacking the problem where its roots lie — in Mexico.

Mr. Bush needs to hold Mexico responsible for all of these people sneaking across the border, and I'd be one of them if I were a citizen of a country run by corrupt government officials who are more dictatorial drug lords than public servants.

The only way to clean up the border problem is to use every power in our means to force the Mexicans to clean their own house, get rid of corrupt officials, shut down the narcotics traffic, and create an economy based on the country's vast and largely

untapped resources to provide jobs and opportunities for Mexico's struggling people whose only way out now is a furtive trip across the border.

The average Mexican has no rights, there is no middle class because the government won't allow one to exist, the drug cartels have taken over the whole country and jobs are almost non-existent. The drug cartels have a bigger army and a bigger military than the government. There are constant incursions across the border by these people, and the administration doesn't even complain.

Today's Mexico is a drug-sodden, crime-ridden nation and our own government refuses to condemn what is happening down there — and what is happening down there is what is responsible for all of the illegal immigration. Who can live or raise a family in such a hellhole? No wonder they are heading north.

Now, I'm all for hanging in there in Iraq — our national security demands it. If, however, we can send 130,000 Americans to fight in a land all the way across the globe and spend billions doing it, why can't we do what must be done to protect our national security where it is threatened by the very country next door?

Illegal immigrants have broken our healthcare sys-

tem, they have broken our education system, they have broken our jail system, they have broken our criminal justice system, and Washington just doesn't get it.

Why? Because those idiots in their little bubble in Washington have a perfect healthcare system, a perfect educational system, a perfect jail system, and a perfect criminal justice system. Unlike the majority of the American people, they are never inconvenienced by hordes of illegals penetrating our borders every day.

As a result, when the problem demands immediate action, our government refuses to hold the Mexican government accountable for

See REAGAN, Page 5

Michael Reagan

Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, June 27, the 178th day of 2007. There are 187 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: Fifty years ago, on June 27, 1957, more than 500 people were killed when Hurricane Audrey slammed through coastal Louisiana and Texas.

On this date: In 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Ill.

In 1846, New York and Boston were linked by telegraph wires.

In 1893, the New York stock market crashed.

In 1944, during World War II, American forces completed their capture of the French port of Cherbourg from the Germans.

In 1950, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution calling on member nations to help South Korea repel an invasion from the North.

In 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York's Greenwich Village; patrons fought back in clashes considered the birth of the gay rights movement.

'Real education should educate us out of self into something far finer — into selflessness which links us with all humanity.'

— Viscountess Nancy Astor
American-born British politician (1879-1964)

In 1977, the Supreme Court, in *Bates v. State Bar of Arizona*, struck down state laws and bar association rules that prohibited lawyers from advertising their fees for routine services.

In 1977, the Republic of Djibouti became independent of France.

In 1986, the International Court of Justice at The Hague ruled that the United States had broken international law and violated the sovereignty of Nicaragua by aiding the contras.

In 1991, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first black to sit on the nation's highest court, announced his retirement.

Ten years ago: The Supreme Court threw out a key part of the Brady gun-control law, saying the federal government could not make local police decide whether people were fit to buy handguns. However, the court left intact the five-day waiting period for gun purchases.

Five years ago: In a landmark church-state decision, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that tuition vouchers were constitutional.



Print journalism last bastion of free society

The problem with television is that when the people on it are telling you one thing, they are not telling you a lot of other things.

Television is what I call a linear medium. It streams information at you one batch at a time. In contrast, a newspaper is a horizontal medium. It presents you with a variety of information in its daily package, spread out so you can pick and choose what you wish to read.

While television cable news was obsessing over the Paris Hilton non-story, it was, of course, depriving viewers of news about much more important topics, such as the goings-on in Congress, the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the economy, the environment and the energy crisis. It's hard to think of anything that is not more important than a silly heiress doing her time for

violating the terms of her probation.

Then, to compound their sin of shallow-minded celebrity worship, some of the cable news people tried to blame it on Miss Hilton. That is obscenely stupid.

The young woman goes places, but she has no power over the media, no way to manipulate them, no way to set their agenda. No celebrity commands the thundering herd of paparazzi and certainly does not make assignments for cable news shows.

I once got so disgusted with the pseudo-news on the cable channels that I canceled the service. Alas, I missed the old movies and the baseball games, so I've had it reconnected. Cable

news is now worse than it ever was. The amount of factual information you can glean from watching cable news 24 hours a day wouldn't fill a 3-by-5 card.

Most of what passes for cable news is really television talk shows. Some of them interview print journalists, a dead giveaway to the fact that

they do virtually no original reporting on their own. They don't seem to have many reporters. They have on-camera talent, people who stand in front of the camera and tell you in 30 seconds something the government has said. They are mouthpieces for the government.

Watch, for example, something that happens in the morning and note how

little the announcers know about it. Then watch that evening and note how little they still know about it. In other words, they do virtually no reporting.

The other sin they commit is mixing trivia with the thin gruel they serve as news. If they get video of a police chase, a random murder, a flash flood, a warehouse fire or a monkey that sleeps with a dog, it goes on the air. Clearly they believe their only duty is to amuse you.

The trouble is, self-government doesn't work if the people are idiots. It doesn't work if you don't know what you need to know while your brain is cluttered up with trivia, tripe and non-sense. Unless you are a parent or a friend of a celebrity, there is zero need to know anything about the person.

Americans desperately

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:

■ June 18

Austin American-Statesman on the Senate and immigration issues:

The announcement that the U.S. Senate is going to kickstart talks on the failed immigration bill is welcome news. A divided senate failed to reach anything approaching compromise on the bill earlier this month even though illegal immigration is a hot-button topic all over the country.

Estimates are that 12 million illegal immigrants live and work in the United States. Even those most sympathetic to the reasons behind that immigration would have to concede that the huge

number adds up to a compromised border.

Though that 12 million figure alone shouldn't drive policy, such a sizeable presence of illegal immigrants should spur Congress into action. So far, however, the number gets tossed about, outrage is expressed and speeches are made but nothing gets done.

The second wind on immigration legislation comes after the Bush Administration committed \$4.4 billion to increase border security. If that's what it takes to move the agenda, then so be it. However, the forces behind illegal immigration are so powerful that enforcement alone is not going to fix the problem.

Economies in Central and South American countries that don't produce

enough domestic jobs spur immigration. An evolving world economy is a factor in immigration, as is the demand in the United States for cheap labor.

Any immigration fix is going to have to take all those factors into account. We have been consistent in our call for border security. A nation that cannot secure its own borders can't consider itself truly sovereign. However, we also recognize that building walls and adding border patrol agents won't stop people desperate for the work this country promises.

Employers are part of the solution, but again, sound-good solutions have implications. Turning small business owners into border patrol agents isn't

See BORDER, Page 5

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Reagan

Continued from Page 4

the huge part it is playing in encouraging their citizens to flee to the U.S., to escape misery and starvation in the hell their country has become.

And, slowly but surely, the U.S. begins to look more and more like Mexico every day.

Beware of crossing Teddy Kennedy's immigration bridge with him, Mr. President. Remember what happened to the last passenger Teddy drove across a bridge.

—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.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

need to read more, and to watch and listen less. The Founding Fathers played a dirty trick on people when they gave them a free society. You can coast in a dictatorship, but in a free society you have to work hard to stay informed so that you can make the right decisions at election time.

Newspapers have their faults, but if they vanish in the sea of functional illiteracy, it won't be long before the last semblance of a free society disappears along with them.

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

Border

Continued from Page 4

the answer either. A guest-worker program in the broadest of strokes may not be a complete cure, but is an improvement. If workers are issued tamper-proof identification and matched with jobs in the United States, employers and workers would be better off.

As it stands now, immigrants and employers are subject to abuse by an inconsistent, patched-together immigration policy in need of mending. We should recognize, however, that bold new approaches or even stepped up old ones are going to spawn a bigger bureaucracy to identify those targeted by the legislation, now and in the future. Someone is going to have to keep track of all the comings and goings.

We can and should have this discussion, and the news that the immigration bill is going to get another look is at least a start.

President Bush is absolutely right when he says the status quo on immigration is unacceptable. Congress has an opportunity, as well as a duty, to redefine that status quo.

Murder suspect cannot see 9-year-old daughter

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Months before an Ohio police officer was accused of killing his girlfriend and her fetus, a California court suspended contact between him and his 9-year-old daughter based on evidence that he was emotionally and physically abusive, court documents show.

Bobby Cutts Jr., 30, is accused of killing 26-year-old Jessie Davis and her unborn daughter at her northeast Ohio home on June 14. Davis was missing for about a week before her body was found in a Summit County park Saturday, still carrying the baby she was due to deliver July 3.

Cutts was arraigned on Monday in Canton Municipal Court on two murder charges and ordered held on \$5 million bond.

Hours before Cutts' arraignment, Stark County Family Court Judge David Stucki dismissed an Ohio custody case between Cutts and his former girlfriend, Nikki Giavasis, over the 9-year-old girl. Stucki cited the charges against Cutts as one factor in his decision, said Jeffrey Jakmides, an Ohio lawyer representing Giavasis.

Another custody dispute involving the 9-year-old girl is ongoing in a court in Los Angeles County, where Giavasis resides.

A Superior Court judge there on Jan. 17 granted a request by Giavasis to temporarily suspend visitation

rights and telephone and e-mail contact between Cutts and the 9-year-old, citing "evidence of physical and emotional abuse perpetrated on the child."

The decision followed a report by Dr. J.H. Carter-Lourensz, who was filed in court on Jan. 11.

"The things she reported, when put together, made a credible story of concern," Carter-Lourensz told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "She had the demeanor of a child who was very frightened."

The 9-year-old stayed with Cutts in his home outside North Canton in April 2006 and from June to December 2006, court records show.

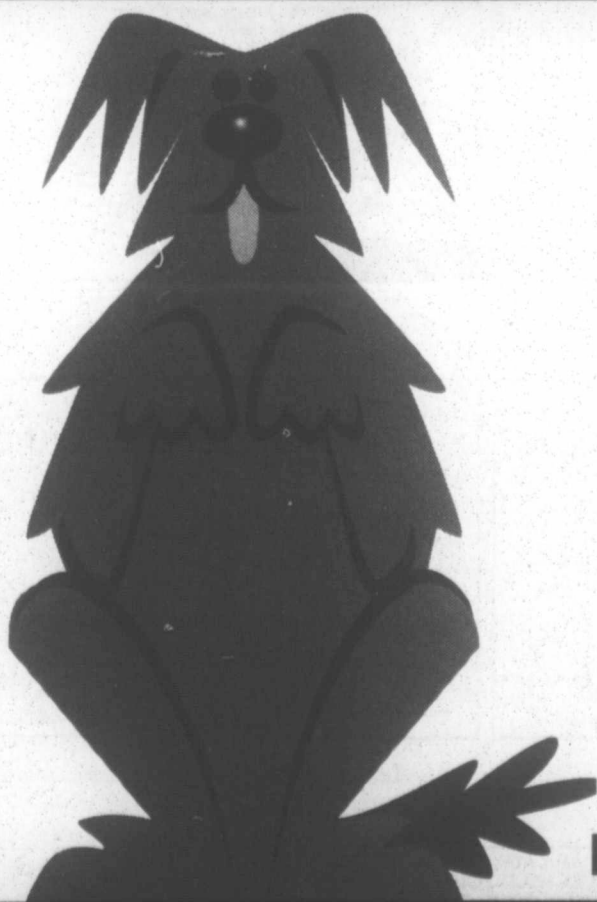
Events calendar

- An investigator with the Texas Workforce Commission Civil Rights Division will be at the American Red Cross, Panhandle chapter, for scheduled appointments until Saturday. If you suspect housing or employment discrimination, call (512) 632-7021 to make an appointment.
- The postmark deadline to enter the International Library of Poetry's free poetry contest is Saturday. To enter, send one poem of 20 lines or less to the International Library of Poetry, Suite 19925, 1 Poetry Plaza, Owings Mills, MD 21117. For more information, log onto www.poetry.com on the Internet.
- 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 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.
- The summer exit level TAKS for 2006-07 upperclassmen will be administered at 9 a.m. at Clarendon College-Pampa Center on the following dates: July 10 (English language arts); July 11 (math); July 12 (science); July 13 (social studies). Passing all four parts of the test is a requirement for high school graduation.
- The Red Hat Dollies Society of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. July 19 at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. New members are welcome. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.
- Borger will be the site of the second round of Texas Historical Commission Preserve America workshops scheduled from 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Aug. 10 at Hutchinson County Museum.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 33-year-old virgin, and I have never been to a gynecologist. My regular doctor said I should make an appointment to see one. That was a year or so ago. She said it was to "make sure everything was OK." I have made the appointments, but each time, I chicken out at the last minute and cancel because I have heard that a Pap test is done and it is painful. My best friend said she cried when she had hers done. She said it hurt really bad. I had anxiety that was really bad two years ago because of big changes in my life. Three of my uncles and two of my cousins died within months of each other. I don't want my anxiety to flare up again. Little things make me anxious, and I am thinking this might trigger an episode. Should a woman see a gynecologist even if she is not sexually active? Also, do you bleed after a Pap test is done? Thanks, Abby! — **SCARED IN BROOKLYN**

DEAR SCARED: A woman should be seen by a gynecologist if she is sexually active, or if she has reached the age of 18. She should DEFINITELY see one if her regular doctor tells her to -- so please start acting like the 33-year-old adult you are and stop listening to "horror stories" from friends. Pap smears are not painful, and women do not normally bleed after having one. When you arrive at the gynecologist's office, a medical history will be taken -- at which time you should inform the doctor (or nurse) that you are not sexually active. Accommodations will be made for that. You will not be hurt, and everything will be fine. Now get moving, and no more excuses!

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old girl in sixth grade. My problem is there's this girl, "Stacey," who is in Special Ed who gets picked on every day. My friends pick on her a lot, and it makes me disgusted because Stacey doesn't have any control over how she was born. Today, my friends and I were playing a game to see who

could get the most hugs, and I went up to Stacey who was sitting outside alone like always and gave her a hug. Then my friends started giving her hugs, and it made me so happy to see the look on her face! She was smiling with pure joy. Abby, if you put this in your column, could you tell people that just giving a hug to someone who doesn't normally get one might make their day? Also, can you tell me how to get my friends to stop bullying her? Thanks a lot! — **HUGS ANONYMOUS IN ILLINOIS**

DEAR HUGS ANONYMOUS: You are a wise young lady and sensitive beyond your years. The comment you made about Stacey not having control over how she was born is right on target. It also applies to people's race, religion and gender -- other reasons why people face discrimination. One way to get your friends to stop bullying Stacey would be to speak out and say that it isn't funny when she is being picked on, and to point out that what they're doing is cowardly and wrong and makes you uncomfortable. You are a born leader, and if enough people follow your lead, the bullying will stop.

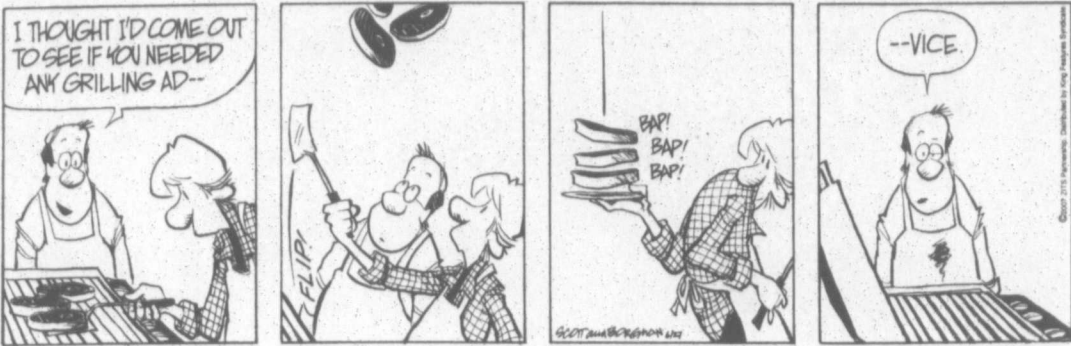
DEAR ABBY: My daughter says that if someone seasons a dish she has prepared, it is an insult to her. I say that as the hostess, she should graciously ignore it. Who is right? — **FAITHFUL READER, TATUM, TEXAS**

DEAR FAITHFUL READER: If a guest seasons a dish that his/her hostess has prepared before tasting it, then I would consider the gesture to be insulting. However, if the guest has tasted it, I see nothing wrong with adding salt or pepper to accommodate that person's personal preference. Not everyone has the same taste -- and that's why salt and pepper shakers are placed on the table.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



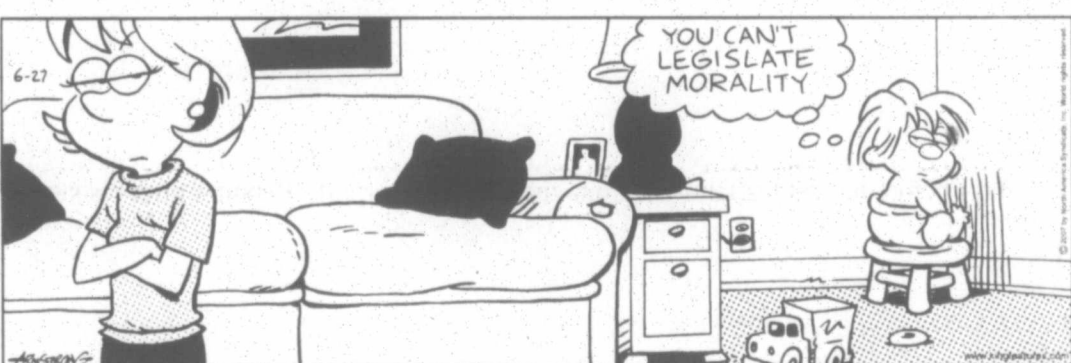
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

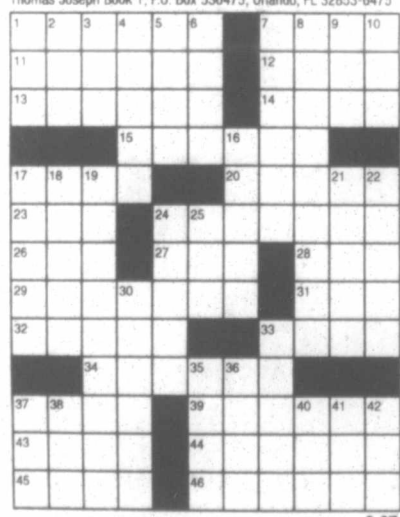
- 1 Subjects
- 7 Plummet
- 11 Desperate for change
- 12 Give a new look to
- 13 Capitol group
- 14 Like cupcakes
- 15 Place of worship
- 17 Hand over
- 20 First letter
- 23 Reduce drastically
- 24 Fanzine subject
- 26 Singer
- 27 Exist
- 28 Foreboding
- 29 Franklin's wife
- 31 Geese formation
- 32 Lukewarm
- 33 Janitor's janglers
- 34 Like pulp novels
- 37 Do some laps
- 39 Folks
- 43 Dance party
- 44 More pretentious
- 45 The yoke's on them
- 46 Fan

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C O O T S
S O T O R B A X E
C H R I S C O O P E R
A N I M E A R E N A
R O M P S T E X A S

Yesterday's answer

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- 37 Hit show letters
- 38 Candle makeup
- 40 Abyss
- 41 Golf's Trevino
- 42 Go wrong

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With a 17-1 overall record, Glo-Valve was declared City Tournament Champions and League Champions in the 11-12 Cal Ripken league. Pictured here are: (back row, L-R) Coach Frank Graves and manager John Warner. (middle row, L-R) Zach Graves, Jordan Lemons, Schrade Thompson, Reid Miller, Sam Cain, Trey Miller and Corey McCann. (front row, L-R) Nickie Wells, Kristen Miller, Logan Boehmisch, Keegan Jernigan and Nick Rodriguez.

Courtesy photo

Serena Williams, Roddick advance to third round

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — After another slow start, Serena Williams got her grass-court game back on track.

The two-time champion rallied from 4-2 down in the first set and beat Australia's Alicia Molik 7-6 (4), 6-3 on Wednesday to reach the third round of Wimbledon.

Also getting past the second round was third-seeded Andy Roddick, who defeated 114th-ranked Danai Udomchoke of Thailand 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Roddick, serving at speeds up to 140 mph, had 15 aces and 40 winners and broke three times. Udomchoke converted only one of nine break points.

Williams, who also struggled in the first set of her opening-round win Monday over Lourdes Dominguez Lino, fell behind again against Molik in windy conditions on Court 1. But she finally got her power game going and finished with 10

aces and 35 winners.

The match ended in bizarre circumstances on Williams' third match point in the final game. A line judge called Molik's shot wide, but the two continued playing until Williams hit a winning forehand volley.

The players approached the net to congratulate each other, but Molik was allowed to challenge the line judge's call. The new "Hawk-Eye" replay system showed the ball was out. The two smiled, and Williams saluted the crowd.

Williams showed lots of emotion during the match as her sister, Venus, and parents watched from the stands.

The turning point came in the tiebreaker with Molik leading 4-2. The Australian made groundstroke errors on the next four points and Williams pounded a 121 mph ace down the middle to close out the set — punctuated by a fist pump and scream of "Come on!"

Wrestler who strangled wife, smothered son said he'd be late to event because family was ill

FAYETTEVILLE, Ga. (AP) — Two days before he and his family were found dead in an apparent murder-suicide, pro wrestler Chris Benoit told co-workers his wife and son had food poisoning and were throwing up, according to World Wrestling Entertainment.

Benoit strangled his wife, suffocated his 7-year-old son and placed a Bible next to their bodies before hanging himself with a weight-machine pulley, authorities said Tuesday.

Authorities offered no motive for the killings, which were spread out over the weekend and discovered Monday. No suicide note was found.

On Saturday, Benoit called a co-worker to say he had missed a flight and would be late for a wrestling event in Texas, WWE said in a timeline posted Tuesday on its Web site. The co-worker said Benoit sounded tired and groggy and said "I love you," which the co-worker found "out of context," WWE said.

When a co-worker who usually

travels with Benoit called him later from the Houston airport, Benoit told the co-worker his wife, Nancy, was throwing up blood and that his son, Daniel, also was throwing up. Benoit said he thought it was food poisoning, according to WWE.

After Benoit talked to a WWE Talent Relations representative, the representative suggested Benoit try to make it to a pay-per-view event in Houston since he would not be able to make it to the live event in Beaumont, Texas.

But early Sunday, two co-workers received a series of text messages from the cell phones of Benoit and his wife. Most stated his home address in Fayetteville, about 20 miles south of Atlanta. One message from Benoit's phone said: "The dogs are in the enclosed pool area. Garage side door is open," according to WWE.

The text messages led WWE to ask authorities to check on Benoit and his family.

District Attorney Scott Ballard said the messages appeared to be an attempt by Benoit to get some-

one to the home to find the bodies after his suicide.

Investigators found anabolic steroids in the house and want to know whether the muscle man nicknamed "The Canadian Crippler" was unhinged by the bodybuilding drugs, which can cause paranoia, depression and explosive outbursts known as "roid rage."

"In a community like this it's bizarre to have a murder-suicide, especially involving the death of a 7-year-old," Ballard said. "I don't think we'll ever be able to wrap our minds around this."

He said Benoit's 43-year-old wife was killed Friday in an upstairs family room, and her feet and wrists were bound and there was blood under her head, indicating a possible struggle. Daniel was probably killed late Saturday or early Sunday, and his body was found in his bed, the district attorney said.

Benoit, 40, apparently hanged himself hours later, Ballard said. His body was found in a downstairs

weight room hanging from the pulley of a piece of exercise equipment.

The prosecutor said it appeared the wrestler remained in the house for up to a day with the bodies.

The boy had old needle marks in his arms, Ballard said. He said he had been told the parents considered him undersized and had given him growth hormones.

"The boy was very small, even dwarfed," Ballard said.

Toxicology test results may not be available for weeks or even months, Ballard said. As for whether steroids played a role in the crime, he said: "We don't know yet. That's one of the things we'll be looking at."

Benoit received drug deliveries from a Florida business that sold steroids, human growth hormone and testosterone on the Internet, according to the Albany County, N.Y., District Attorney's Office, which is investigating the business, MedXLife.com.

Six people, including two of the pharmacy's owners, have pleaded

guilty in the investigation, and 20 more have been arrested, including doctors and pharmacists.

The WWE, based in Stamford, Conn., issued a statement Tuesday saying steroids "were not and could not be related to the cause of death."

"The physical findings announced by authorities indicate deliberation, not rage," the company said, adding that Benoit tested negative April 10, the last time he was tested for drugs.

Steroids have been linked to the deaths of several professional wrestlers in recent years. Eddie Guerrero, one of Benoit's best friends, died in 2005 from heart failure linked to long-term steroid use.

The father of Curt "Mr. Perfect" Hennig blamed steroids and painkillers for Hennig's drug overdose death in 2003. Davey Boy Smith, the "British Bulldog," died in 2002 from heart failure that a coroner said was probably caused by steroids.

Rookie homers key extra-inning victories

By The Associated Press

Three unexpected youngsters hit extra-inning home runs to lift their teams to victory.

Brendan Ryan, Tony Abreu, and Kevin Kouzmanoff all connected to carry the Los Angeles Dodgers, St. Louis Cardinals, and San Diego Padres to wins Tuesday night.

It was Ryan and Abreu's first career homers.

Ryan connected in the 11th inning off Scott Schoeneweis (0-2), and the Cardinals snapped the New York Mets' four-game winning streak with a 5-3 win.

He wasn't much of a power threat in the minors, connecting for only six homers in 1,000 minor league at-bats.

"It was probably the biggest swing of my life to this point," the rookie said.

"I'm not expecting to hit too many of those."

Ryan said he originally had a drag bunt in mind, but third baseman David Wright seemed to be expecting it. Ryan swung away instead.

"I put the bat on the ball and it just went," he said.

Brad Thompson (6-3) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Randy Flores got two outs for his first save, the third of his career.

Abreu broke a 5-5 tie with a homer off Doug Slaton (3-1) in the Dodgers' win over Arizona.

He had a nice surprise waiting for him as two Arizona fans wanted to make sure he had the ball.

In exchange, Abreu traded an autographed ball and one of teammate Ramon Martinez' bats. Abreu, a rookie, doesn't have enough bats to give away one of his own.

Venus Williams works out 'cobwebs' in first-round match at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — As a three-time Wimbledon champion, Venus Williams knows that getting through the early matches can sometimes be the tricky part.

Just making it past the first round this time almost proved too much.

Williams was down a set and a break, then down 3-1 in the final set, before pulling out a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 win Tuesday over Alla Kudryavtseva, a 19-year-old Russian playing her first Wimbledon match.

"I think I've made my mistakes in the first round, and I think that it helps definitely to work out some of those cobwebs," Williams said. "I think being able to hit a lot of balls in some pressure situations will definitely help me in the coming rounds."

Williams, who has slipped to No. 31 in the rankings due to inactivity, injuries and a drop in form, came to Wimbledon without any grass-court match preparation. It showed in the first set as she struggled to keep the ball in the court.

"The first set went so fast and my balls were just flying out and I didn't have any answers," she said. "That really bothered me because when things are going wrong, I can figure it out and change my game or adjust."

Down 2-0 and 0-30 on her serve in the second set, Williams looked in danger of going out in the opening round for the first time since her Wimbledon debut in 1997. But she righted herself to win six of seven games for the set.

Williams then had to fight

back again from a break down in the third. And when she served at 5-4 down, 30-30, she was two points from defeat. The Russian missed a backhand, and Williams smacked a 119 mph service winner to hold. Williams then broke in the next game and served out the match at love.

"I enjoy the battle," she said. "I enjoy winning matches like this. This is what I do. If you want to be successful at anything, it doesn't come easy."

Williams won Wimbledon in 2000, '01 and '05, and finished runner-up twice to her sister, Serena, in '02 and '03. Serena, seated courtside with their mother, Oracene Price, called out encouragement and advice throughout Tuesday's match.

"It's so important to have

that support," Venus Williams said. "It was definitely key today for my win."

Maybe Venus will repay the favor when her sister, who struggled in the early going of her first-round win Monday over Lourdes Dominguez Lino, returns to action Wednesday against Alicia Molik of Australia.

Top-seeded Justine Henin was lined up for a second-round match against Vera Dushevina of Russia, with No. 3 Jelena Jankovic against Jarmila Gajdosova of Slovakia, and 1997 champion Martina Hingis against Aiko Nakamura of Japan.

In men's play, four-time defending champion Roger Federer was to play 18-year-old Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina as he seeks his 50th straight win on grass.

Slumping A's blow ninth-inning lead, drop fifth straight

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers capitalized on a big break while the Houston Astros can't seem to catch one.

Johnny Estrada's grand slam highlighted a nine-run sixth inning and the Brewers rallied to beat the Houston Astros 11-5 on Tuesday night.

Tony Graffanino added a pinch-hit, two-run homer and Rickie Weeks, batting .196 with runners in scoring position, delivered a bases-loaded single in the same inning as the Brewers blew the game open.

"We're not getting it done," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "What makes matters worse is we're giving up a lot of runs. We can't keep the ball in the ballpark. We're not making good pitches. We're not keeping the game close and it's hard on us."

The lone bright spot was Craig Biggio, who inched closer to the 3,000 hit mark with a single, leaving him three shy of becoming the 27th player to reach that milestone.

"It's nice," Biggio said of his hit. "But once again, it's a disappointing loss and that's the most important thing. They swung the bats real well."

The NL Central-leading Brewers have won 11 of 13 since Detroit's Justin Verlander threw a no-hitter on June 12.

"We keep coming across the wrong team at the wrong time right now because everybody's hot," Biggio said. "We can't sit here and cry about it, we've got to be able to turn around and get it done."

The Astros, with one game left of a nine-game road trip, have lost six of their last

eight.

The 41-year-old second baseman played Tuesday night after being held out of the lineup Monday. He won't play Wednesday, setting the stage for reaching the historic plateau at home when the Astros begin a four-game series against Colorado on Thursday.

"It's standard policy for day games (following night games)," Biggio said. "But you're always available for a double-switch or pinch-hitting or whatever way the game takes us. That hasn't changed."

Biggio, who was 1-for-13 against Milwaukee starter Claudio Vargas, lined the first pitch down the third-base line for a hit in the third inning. Biggio took a called third strike in the first, flied out in the fifth and grounded out in the seventh.

Trailing 4-2, the Brewers

chased Astros' starter Wandy Rodriguez (4-7) with three runs and then tacked on six more off reliever Rick White in the sixth. It was the most runs in an inning this season by the Brewers, surpassing the seven Milwaukee scored in the sixth inning against St. Louis on May 1.

Bill Hall and Estrada reached on walks and Kevin Mench blooped a hit into left. Weeks followed with a sinking line drive that skipped under the glove of right-fielder Luke Scott for an error. Hall, Estrada and Mench scored on the play that ended Rodriguez's night. Rick White relieved and Graffanino hit the first pitch for his fourth career pinch-hit home run.

"Obviously, we caught a break when the ball got by the outfielder, but when you get in those situations, you want to keep the line mov-

ing," Graffanino said.

The Brewers loaded the bases on a walk, a double by Ryan Braun and an intentional walk to Prince Fielder. Estrada followed with his first career grand slam to close out the scoring.

"We walked three guys four, actually, one was intentional," Garner said. "Then we just couldn't make a pitch."

Rodriguez went five innings, allowing six runs and seven hits with four walks and five strikeouts. Before the disastrous sixth, Rodriguez's only mistake was an 0-2 pitch that Braun hit for a two-run homer in the Brewers' first inning.

Carlos Lee's two-run shot in the sixth broke a 2-2 tie. He tied Fielder for the NL lead with 62 RBIs.

Lance Berkman walked and Lee followed with his 14th home run. After Mark

Loretta singled and Mike Lamb reached on first baseman Fielder's throwing error on a play at second, Vargas was pulled from the game.

Reliever Matt Wise (2-1) picked up the victory after he stopped the Astros from doing any further damage in the sixth when Scott hit into a double play and Rodriguez hit into a fielder's choice.

Vargas went five plus innings, allowing four runs and five hits. He struck out six and walked three as he tried to win his fourth straight decision.

Scott and Brad Ausmus hit back-to-back home runs with two out in the Astros' second to tie the game 2-2.

It was the first time Houston has hit consecutive home runs since Aug. 9, 2006 when Aubrey Huff and Scott connected at home off Pittsburgh's Victor Santos.

As New Jersey mulls racetrack slots, other states decide to take the lead

BENSALEM, Pa. (AP) — At Philadelphia Park Casino and Racetrack, the burgundy-carpeted gambling room looks as though it could have been airlifted from Atlantic City and plunked down in this nondescript suburb off Interstate 95.

A continuous cacophony of electronic sound effects fills the room. Patrons sit transfixed, eyes glued to spinning wheels and pulsing lights. Most are oblivious to the fact that horses are running a mere hundred yards away.

As declining attendance and revenues threaten the existence of the horse racing industry in New Jersey and elsewhere, patrons are flocking to tracks around the country — but drawn less by the prospect of poring over a Racing Form than by the lure of striking it rich by pulling a lever or

pushing a button. Ironically, they may be horse racing's last best hope.

More than three dozen racetrack casinos, nicknamed "racinos," have opened in 11 states since 1992 — and in five states since 2004. Last year, they brought in \$3.6 billion in gross gaming revenues, a 16 percent increase from 2005, according to the American Gaming Association. They also contributed \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes, an increase of 12.5 percent from 2005.

More important, the increased revenues from racinos has enabled tracks to increase purses and remain competitive in a shrinking industry.

New Jersey has yet to allow racetrack slots, largely due to pressure from Atlantic City's casinos,

which already have seen revenues decline since slots were introduced recently at race tracks in New York and Pennsylvania.

Currently, racinos coexist with commercial, non-Indian casinos in only two states, Iowa and Louisiana, though Pennsylvania will become the third when it opens its first freestanding slots parlor later this year.

New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine has not tipped his hand publicly, but the state's treasury department is studying the potential impact of racetrack slots and is scheduled to release a report later this summer.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley was far more emphatic last month when he said if the state didn't introduce racetrack slots, it ran the risk of losing the Preakness Stakes, the second leg of thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown.

Record 7 40-year-olds to start 'Old timers day' Wednesday

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — It really will be old-timers' day in the major leagues on Wednesday, when a record seven pitchers in their 40s are scheduled to start.

The New York Yankees' Roger Clemens (44), Philadelphia's Jamie Moyer (44), Detroit's Kenny Rogers (42), San Diego's Greg Maddux (41), the New York Mets' Tom Glavine (41), Houston's Woody Williams (40) and Atlanta's John Smoltz (40) are set to pitch on the same day.

"I guess it means it's not a kid's game anymore," Maddux said.

The previous record of six was set Friday, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, when all but Clemens started.

"It is remarkable," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "You talk about the Glavines of the world — the guys who have milestones they're shooting for, and yet they're not on their ballclubs just to go for their milestones. They're on their ballclubs to help them win pennants. That, to me, is very, very remarkable. I was weaned off a guy like Warren Spahn, who won 23 games at (42) years old."

Of the seven pitchers, Clemens has the most victories at 349. He's also got the biggest paycheck, earning \$17,442,637 this season after signing a one-year contract

worth \$28,000,022 on May 6.

Maddux is next with 339 victories. Glavine is four away from No. 300. Moyer has 223 followed by Rogers (208), Smoltz (201) and Williams (127). Smoltz, who beat Glavine and the Mets for his 200th victory last month, is the only pitcher in major league history with 200 wins and 150 saves.

"There are days when I don't feel as energetic as maybe I did 10 years ago," Glavine said. "I probably don't enjoy running the bases when I get a hit like I did 10 years ago, but the rest of it, I don't really feel there's been a drop-off in the things that I want to do. I still feel like I can do everything I want to do as a pitcher."

Clemens and Smoltz are the hardest throwers among the group, still able to hit 90 mph with their fastball. Rogers had better heat in his younger days. Maddux, Glavine, Moyer and Williams have always relied on offspeed pitches, pinpoint control and out-thinking batters.

"It's actually nice just to be mentioned with those guys," Williams said. "They've had great careers and longer ones than I've had. But, at the same time, there's a lot to be said to pitch this long. I've been blessed fortunately that there are teams that still want me."

Last-place Rangers continue to improve over AL-Central leading Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — Jim Leyland joked Tuesday that he might take eight of his Detroit Tigers to the All-Star game.

A few hours later, it sounded as though he didn't even think he should be going.

"We got outpitched, out-managed, outplayed and out-hit, and we lost the game," Leyland said in a 20-second postgame news conference after a 9-6 loss to the Texas Rangers. "Good night, everybody."

The Tigers led 3-1 after six innings, but the bullpen and defense collapsed. Texas

scored five times in the seventh, helped by two errors, and broke a 6-all tie with three runs in the ninth.

"That was a very exciting baseball game," Texas manager Ron Washington said. "They were up and we were up. I'm just glad we finished the game with the most runs."

Tigers closer Todd Jones (1-4) retired the first two batters in the ninth, but Michael Young walked and Sammy Sosa singled when Jones missed a sign from rookie catcher Mike Rabelo.

"I made a ridiculous mental mistake and blew the

game," Jones said. "I let the team down, and I let the skipper down. There's absolutely no excuse for what I did — I lose my mind when I see other guys do that, and then I do it myself."

Jones did not elaborate on the mistake, but Rabelo indicated that Jones was supposed to step off the rubber and look Young back to first.

After a discussion at the mound, Marlon Byrd hit a sharp liner to right that got by Magglio Ordonez and scored both runners. Ramon Vazquez followed with an RBI single, knocking Jones out of the game.

"They had us behind the 8-ball, but we were able to come back," Young said. "That's the story."

Brad Wilkerson hit a three-run homer and Sammy Sosa had two RBIs for the last-place Rangers, who won for the sixth time in seven games and beat AL Central-leading Detroit for the second consecutive night. Byrd knocked in three runs during an 8-3 victory Monday.

"We're a good team," Byrd said. "We have ups and downs, but we play as a team and that showed tonight."

Akinori Otsuka (2-1), who allowed three runs in the

eighth, got the win. Eric Gagne pitched the ninth for his eighth save in eight chances. He struck out Ordonez, the major leagues' batting leader, with two on to end it.

Otsuka went into the eighth with a 6-3 cushion and a 10-game scoreless streak, but couldn't hold the lead.

The Tigers loaded the bases with one out, and Sean Casey's two-run single pulled Detroit within a run. Craig Monroe followed with a sacrifice fly to tie the score.

The Rangers' ninth-inning rally was their second in

three innings. They took the lead with five runs in the seventh.

Jason Grilli started the inning by hitting Victor Diaz with a pitch, and Gerald Laird followed with a double. That brought Tim Lincecum into the game, but Wilkerson hit his second pitch into the tunnel beyond the right-field fence for his ninth homer.

Errors by third baseman Brandon Inge and left fielder Craig Monroe let the Rangers add a fifth run. Sosa's ground-rule double to left — his second of the game — made it 6-3.

Lawmakers say Congress may get involved in disability dispute between NFL, players' union

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aging NFL retirees told Congress Tuesday that playing professional football left them with broken bodies, brain damage and empty bank accounts. Lawmakers said they may get involved if a better pension and disability system isn't created.

Former NFL players told a sympathetic House Judiciary subcommittee tales of multiple surgeries, dementia and homelessness, all while trying to fight through the red tape of the National Football League and the NFL Players Association's disability system.

The league and the players association said pensions are improving and there's no need for Congress to step in.

Curt Marsh, an Oakland Raider from 1981-87, described a leg amputation, more than 30 surgeries and

multiple doctor visits before he was approved for disability payments. Brent Boyd, a Minnesota Viking from 1980-86, talked about his bouts with homelessness as a single dad and brain damage he blames on multiple concussions from his football days.

The late Mike Webster, the Hall of Fame Pittsburgh Steelers' center who suffered from mental illness that was widely attributed to head injuries, died homeless in 2002, his lawyer told the committee.

The players from the '50s, '60s and '70s laid the groundwork for the popularity of the NFL, a billion-dollar industry, and should be treated better, lawmakers said.

"Perhaps there ought to be a legal solution," said Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah.

But the NFL and the NFL Players Association told lawmakers that pensions for older players are on the rise. Last week, they agreed to allow any former player who qualified as disabled under the Social Security system to be considered as disabled under the NFL-NFLPA system.

"I don't think a law change is necessary," NFL Senior Vice President Dennis Curran said. "I don't accept that the process is broken."

Retired football players have been openly critical of the NFL and the players' union over the amount of money older retirees get from a \$1.1 billion fund set aside for disability and pensions.

The league says \$126 million a year goes into pension and post-career disability

benefits for retired players and their families. The accounts pay out \$60 million a year to those players, \$20 million of it for disability payments.

But only 317 out of more than 10,000 eligible players are getting disability payments out of that fund, officials said.

"It's right versus wrong," said Mike Ditka, a Hall of Fame Coach and player for the Chicago Bears. "It's do the ethical thing or do the wrong thing. So far, they've chosen to do the wrong thing."

Lawmakers zeroed in on the fact that the players' union only represents active players, not retired players. But the union and the NFL owners decide who sits on the panels that decide whether retired players get disability payments.

Researchers heading to Upper Peninsula in search of Bigfoot

MANISTIQUE, Mich. (AP) — Researchers will visit the Upper Peninsula next month to search for evidence of the legendary creature known as "Bigfoot" or "Sasquatch."

The expedition will focus on eastern Marquette County, said Matthew Moneymaker of the Bigfoot Field

Researchers Organization. "We'll be looking for evidence supporting a presence. ... We hope to meet local people who might have seen a Sasquatch or heard of someone else who had an encounter," Moneymaker told the Daily Press of Escanaba.

The legend of Bigfoot dates back cen-

turies. But skeptics have challenged accounts of sightings, and practical jokers have staged hoaxes that have included grainy film footage of people dressed in costumes.

But Moneymaker said members of his organization have either glimpsed Bigfoot or gotten close enough to hear the creature in all but three of 30 expeditions in the United

States and Canada.

The late Grover Krantz, a Washington State University professor who specialized in cryptozoology, the study of creatures that have not been proven to exist, believed Bigfoot was a "gigantopithecus," a branch of primitive man believed to have existed 3 million years ago.



COURTESY PHOTO

Michael Parnell, 12, recently won an iPod that was awarded to him by Jo Sikes, left, from Lovett Memorial Library. Names from kids who used "tutor.com" for homework help from all over this region were put in for a drawing and Parnell was the lucky winner and just happened to be from Pampa.



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FEATURE STORY BOX

Blair resigns as PM, Brown to take power

LONDON (AP) — An emotional Tony Blair resigned as prime minister today after a decade in power, clearing the way for Treasury chief Gordon Brown to take command of the government.

Blair submitted his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II during a 25-minute closed-door meeting at Buckingham Palace. With his wife, Cherie, he waved to reporters and then traveled to his constituency in northern England, where he is expected to quit as a lawmaker to take up his post with the Quartet of Mideast peace mediators.

I wish everyone — friend or foe — well. And that is that. The end.

— Tony Blair

Blair received a warm sendoff in the House of Commons, from his opponents as well as members of his own Labour party, after one final appearance at the weekly question time session.

"I wish everyone — friend or foe — well. And that is that. The end," he said.

Legislators rose to their feet and applauded as he left for his meeting with the queen. Some, including Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett, wiped away tears.

Blair also used the session to say he was sorry for the perils faced by British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, but he gave no apology for his decisions to back the United States in taking military action.

Blair expressed condolences to the families of the fallen, this week including two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.

"I am truly sorry about the dangers that they face today in Iraq and Afghanistan," Blair said.

"I know some may think that they face these dangers in vain; I don't and I never will. I believe they are fighting for the security of this country and the wider world against people who would destroy our way of life," he said.

"Whatever view people take of my decisions, I think there is only way view to take of them: they are the bravest and the best," Blair added.

Brown, a 56-year-old Scot known for his often stern demeanor, beamed as he was applauded by Treasury staff before heading with his wife, Sarah, to the palace to be confirmed as prime minister.

Actor's prison sentence cut

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Sizemore's 16-month prison sentence for violating probation in a drug case was dramatically reduced Tuesday.

Superior Court Judge Cynthia Rayvis gave the actor 213 days of credit for time he has already spent in jail and two live-in drug programs, leaving him with about nine months in state prison.

Sizemore will likely serve about 4 1/2 months of that, said Deputy District Attorney Sean Carney.

The 45-year-old actor, who has been in jail without bail since June 5, wasn't in court Tuesday. An after-hours call to his lawyer, Fay Arfa, wasn't immediately returned.

The judge ordered the sentence Monday after authorities said they discovered methamphetamine in the actor's car and arrested him in Bakersfield last month. Sizemore was charged with seven drug-related counts, including transportation and possession of methamphetamines and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Sizemore, who has appeared in films such as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Black Hawk Down," acknowledged during a court appearance on June 19 that he had violated his probation.

He faces up to six years in prison if convicted of all the charges.

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