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See expanded weather on Page 2

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Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH

Ron Ebel, in his bee suit, starts to take out a bee hive at 2314 Duncan around 10 a.m. Tuesday. As soon as he turned over the trash can that contained the hive, the bees started swarming.



Photo by RANDY DUNHAM

Pampa firefighters used smoke, water and foam to control a swarm of bees Tuesday in the 2300 block of North Duncan.

Aggressive bee swarm causes commotion

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

Was Pampa under attack by killer bees Tuesday afternoon?

No one knows for sure, but five people were attacked and stung and had to seek medical attention after a swarm of bees stung them.

Later, the 2300 block of Duncan was blocked off by police, fire and animal control personnel.

The story started to unfold around 10 a.m. Tuesday at Aljean Harmon's home at 2314 Duncan. Ron Ebel, who used to own Ebelbees in White Deer and is used to handling bees, had been called to the home to get rid of a bee hive.

Harmon had noticed some bees that were living in an upside down trash can behind a storage shed in her

back yard. She was going to have a friend's son clean up that area and decided to have the bees removed before anyone else had access to that area.

Ebel showed up Tuesday morning expecting it to be just a normal bee hive extraction. He even called a reporter from The Pampa News to take pictures of the event, thinking it

would be a great photo opportunity. When the reporter arrived, Ebel was already in his bee suit and ready to take care of the bees.

"I think this is a relatively new hive that has about 5,000 to 10,000 bees and the bees, hive and honey probably weight about 10 pounds,"

See BEES, Page 3

Reporter was really involved in covering bee story

By KERRI SMITH
Staff Writer

I've never been afraid of bees because I know I'm not allergic and I've never been bothered by them, so when Ron Ebel called the paper and asked if I wanted to take a photo of him taking down a hive I was very excited and quickly accepted. Little did we know what was about to unfold.

I stood across the yard from Ebel because he said I would be fine and I trust him because he's dealt with bees for many years. I know that if he had any idea that I or anyone else would be in danger, he would not have allowed anyone to be in the area.

As soon as he turned over the trash can, the bees started flying around. I still wasn't afraid because I knew

they would be somewhat upset over having their home disturbed. Ebel did tell me to back up more though because the hive was a lot bigger than he expected. So, I backed up as far as I could.

One bee started flying around my head so I started swatting at it. I was fine until another bee got stuck in my hair and I was afraid to be stung on the head. So, I started swatting at the

bee and picking at my hair trying to get it out. As soon as I started to panic and wave my hands around, more bees were attracted.

Then, I really started to panic. Bees were all over my head and face and in my hair. They were trying to get in my ears, nose and mouth. The more I panicked, the more the bees

See STORY, Page 3

Tucker trial postponed

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The trial of a Pampa man charged with aggravated sexual assault of a child was continued Monday morning in 31st District Court at the request of his attorney.

John Mann, defense attorney for David Gene "Hawk" Tucker, moved for the continuance which was granted by 31st District Judge Steven Emmert in Gray County Courthouse.

"He said he needed the continuance because he had a material witness who had health issues," said 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer.

Tucker, 20, was indicted Jan. 27, 2005, in 31st District Court by a Gray County grand jury on four counts of aggravated sexual

assault of a child under age 14. Total bond on the four first-degree felony charges was set at \$25,000.

The alleged incidents all occurred on Dec. 1, 2003, Switzer said. The penalty range for each count of the charge is five to 99 years or life in prison.

Tucker is a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and competed in the bull riding events at the Top O' Texas Rodeo in 2005 and 2006. He tied for third place overall in 2005 in bull riding at the rodeo.

He is a graduate of Pampa High School, where he was active in rodeo competition as a bull and bronc rider. He also appeared as a bullfighter at area rodeos, including the Kid Pony Show.

Water tanks bid OK'd

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Scuba divers will be coming to Pampa later this summer.

The Pampa City Commission, during a special session Tuesday, approved a bid to have six of the city's 10 water tanks inspected and cleaned by U.S. Underwater Services.

Donny Hooper with the city's public works department said the company had done work for the city before and had done good work.

"We've been very pleased," Hooper said.

He said the company brings in scuba divers to video the seams of the tanks and inspect the ladders and cathodic protection system. He said they clean the tanks while they are there.

See TANKS, Page 3

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		
Sunny	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 90. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. South-southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northeast.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. South-southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday Night: Clear, with a low around 71. South-southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anebury Grain of White Deer:

Wheat	5.21
Milo	4.81
Corn	5.51
Soybeans	7.02

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

OXY	60.70	+0.43
BP PLC ADR	73.95	+0.02
Cabot Corp	48.41	+0.18
Celanese	41.14	-0.15
Cabot Oil Gas	37.18	-0.01
Coca Cola	53.41	+0.24
VLO	75.15	+0.05
HAL	35.31	+0.01
TRI	53.80	+0.03
KMI	NA	NA

XCEL	20.62	+0.05
Anadarko	53.89	+0.43
XOM	89.94	+0.85
Nat'l Oilwell	113.36	+0.82
Limited	27.36	+0.13
Williams	33.46	+0.21
MCD	52.65	+0.49
Atmos	30.11	+0.06
Pioneer Nat	48.15	+0.16
JCP	75.96	+1.48
COP	86.72	+0.74
SLB	89.67	-0.20
Tenneco	35.75	-0.25
CVX	91.75	+0.65
Wal-Mart	48.53	+0.18
OKE	53.39	+0.21

New York Gold	665.90
Silver	13.02
West Texas Crude	74.02

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, resulting in at least one arrest.

Traffic complaints were received from the 1100 block of Huff Road and the 600 block of North Wells.

Vehicle accidents were reported at the intersection of Hobart and Somerville streets, the 1400 block of North Hobart, the 500 block of North Wynne, the intersection of Randy Matson and Sumner streets and the 2800 block of Charles.

An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 100 block of North Houston.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 1400 block of North Somerville, the 1100 block of East Foster, the 800 block of Beryl, the 2200 block of Perryton Parkway, the 600 block of East Browning, the 400 block of North Roberta, the 800 block of South Hobart, the 1100 block of East Foster, the 2300 block of Duncan, the 400 block of East Browning, the intersection of Browning and Sloan streets, the 1300 block of North Russell, the 600 block of North Gray, at an unreported location, on two occasions in the 500 block of Harlem, the 200 block of West Kingsmill, the 1200 block of East Foster, the 1000 block of East Kingsmill, the 400 block of Graham, the 900 block of Denver and the 2300 block of Primrose.

Welfare checks were made in the 400 block of East Frederic and the 700 block of Deane Drive.

Lost property was reported in the 900 block of Love. A wallet, Social Security card and Texas driver's license were lost. Estimated value of loss is \$10.

Found property was reported in the 300 block of East Craven. A bicycle was found.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of Brown and Russell streets, the intersection of Wynne and Browning streets and the 400 block of Carr.

A prowler was reported in the 600 block of Bradley Drive.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 600 block of

Plains. Criminal trespass was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson. Criminal mischief was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Harassment was reported in the 100 block of North Hobart.

Domestic disturbances were reported in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive, the intersection of Kentucky and Christine streets, the 500 block of Lowry, the 600 block of Campbell and the 500 block of North Sumner, where an arrest was made in connection with the incident. Five alarms were reported.

Theft was reported in the 900 block of Love. A bicycle valued at \$100 was taken.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of East Kentucky. A bicycle valued at \$250 was taken.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 700 block of East 14th. Three undergarments were taken.

Theft was reported at Allsup's, 1025 W. Wilks.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1800 block of Alcock. The incident involved a 1986 Ford F-150 pickup.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart. The report was determined to be unfounded.

Sheriff

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

Tuesday, July 17

Ronald Reynolds, 23, of Dallas was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Wednesday, July 18

Jackie Salinas, 47, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of North Sumner by Pampa Police Department for disorderly conduct/language.

Fire

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

Tuesday, July 17

8:03 a.m. — One unit and three per-

sonnel responded to the intersection of Hobart and Somerville on a vehicle accident.

8:31 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to Crall Products in the 2100 block of West Highway 152 on an industrial accident.

1:25 p.m. — Three units and six personnel responded to the 2300 block of North Duncan on a bee swarm.

6:32 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 100 block of South Wells on a call for medical assistance.

7:11 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 300 block of Foster on a call for medical assistance.

7:28 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 500 block of Doyle on a call for lifting assistance.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, July 17

8:02 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to Hobart and Somerville streets and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

8:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to an undisclosed location west on Highway 152 and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

9:15 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Hilton Road and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

10:36 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

1:27 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to PRMC and transported a patient(s) to a nursing facility in Amarillo.

4:49 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of North Sumner and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

5:20 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of South Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

11:40 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of Tignor and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

Bernanke: Economic growth will be slower

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress today that the economy has emerged from its anemic spell, but overall growth for the year will be lower than expected. Inflation remains the chief concern, he said.

Delivering a midyear Fed economic report to Capitol Hill, Bernanke struck a somewhat cautious tone. He suggested that the economy appears likely to expand "at a moderate pace" over the second half.

Still, the Fed chief told the House Financial Services Committee that growth this year will be a bit slower than the Fed projected in February. Growth should strengthen a bit next year, he said. The inflation forecast, however, wasn't changed. It calls for prices other than food and energy to edge lower.

Against this backdrop, the Fed is likely to leave interest rates where they are through the rest of this year.

For just over a year, the Federal Reserve has held a key interest rate at 5.25 per-

cent, providing a period of stability to borrowers. Before that, the Fed had boosted rates for two years to fend off inflation.

On Wall Street, stocks fell. Investors reacted uneasily to Bernanke's assessment of the economy and news that two Bear Stearns Cos. hedge funds were essentially worthless.

Bernanke took pains Wednesday to hedge the Fed's bets and outline risks to the economy.

One risk is that energy and commodity prices could continue to rise sharply, boosting the prices of lots of other goods and services and thus spreading inflation through the economy.

The Fed "has consistently stated that upside risks to inflation are its predominant" concern, Bernanke said.

The panel's chairman, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said that finding "troubles me." In Frank's view, the biggest problem is the growing gap between low-wage and high-wage workers. Democrats have accused the Bush administration of not doing enough to narrow this gap.

Overall consumer prices calmed down in June, the government reported Wednesday. They rose by just 0.2 percent — the smallest increase in five months. Gasoline prices, however are now hovering past \$3 a gallon.

Another risk is that the housing slump could turn out worse than expected, sapping consumer spending and possibly causing overall economic growth to be weaker, Bernanke said.

Summer foliage



Fringe encircles the purple blossoms of this plant which decorates the front of a Pampa home. The blooms are about the circumference of pencil erasers and have bright green foliage. Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

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Lipscomb grand jury hands up four indictments

By **MARILYN POWERS**
Staff Writer

A Lipscomb County grand jury handed up four indictments Thursday in 31st District Court. The indictments were for two second-degree felonies and two state jail felonies.

Alberto Franco Gonzales, 46, was indicted for assault causing bodily injury to date/family/house. Bond on

the second-degree felony, enhanced, was set at \$20,000.

On March 28, Gonzales allegedly intentionally, knowingly or recklessly caused bodily injury to a member of his household by grabbing the victim's face with his hands.

On Aug. 27, 1998, Gonzales was convicted of assault and battery -- domes-

tic abuse. On Dec. 10, 1998, he was convicted of the felony offense of first-degree arson. Both convictions were in district court in Harper County, Okla.

Shelia Jo Spreier, 34, was indicted for burglary of a habitation. Bond on the second-degree felony was set at \$15,000.

On Jan. 30, Spreier allegedly intentionally or

knowingly entered a habitation without the consent of the owner and attempted to commit or committed theft of property. The property involved in the incident was clothing.

Robert Bryan Calkins, 36, was indicted for possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance. Bond on the state jail felony was set at \$5,000.

On April 28, 2006, Calkins allegedly possessed less than one gram of methamphetamine.

Jay Dee Nelson, 29, was indicted for cruelty to animals. Bond on the state jail felony was set at \$5,000.

On Jan. 28, Nelson allegedly intentionally or knowingly killed a dog without the consent of the owner by shooting the dog.

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School board to discuss new dress code

By **KERRI SMITH**
Staff Writer

Discussion and possible action to revise the Pampa Independent School District dress code, approval of multiple local policies, campus fund-raisers and the student code of conduct are on the agenda for a regular school board meeting to be held at 6 p.m. Thursday

at Carver Center, 321 W. Albert.

The student dress code that was approved recently will be reviewed to see if any items need to be revised or if it should be left as written.

Local policies on curriculum development, purchasing and acquisitions and facilities construction will be discussed and possible action will be

taken to approve these policies.

Andrea Culley, an attorney with the Underwood Law Firm in Amarillo, will be present to discuss recent changes made by the Legislature regarding the Education Code (discipline).

Board members can discuss and give suggestions for items that need to be on the 2007-2008 student code of conduct.

Bees

Continued from Page 1

Ebel said, "I try to save the bees and the hive and move them if possible, but when I turn over the trash can it will damage the hive too bad so I'll have to dispose of this one."

Harmon and a friend retreated to the garage to watch through a window and the reporter stood on the other side of the yard to take some photos.

As soon as Ebel turned over the trash can, he said the hive was a lot bigger than he expected. He was also surprised at how aggressive the bees were. When Ebel saw that the bees were attacking the reporter, he told her to quickly retreat to her car.

Ebel quickly bagged the trash can and sealed it shut with duct tape. He placed the container in the bed of his pickup. That's when he realized that this hive, bees and honey probably weighed at least 100 pounds. He stood around for a few minutes waiting for the bees, flying around him to retreat so he could take his bee suit off, but that did not happen.

After asking the reporter if she was OK, through the window of her car, he decided to drive home with his suit still on because he said the bees were just too aggressive. So, they both left and headed back to work and home.

Just a short while after, they both started feeling bad from the stings so they both ended up at Family Medicine Center for treatment. They thought this was the end of the story, but it was just the beginning.

A 911 call came in at 12:39 p.m. after a mail carrier, trying to deliver mail in the 2300 block of Duncan was

attacked and stung. She quickly ran back to her vehicle, but the bees followed her and some got in her mail truck. She called animal control for help because she could not get away from the bees.

Animal control officer Sandy Burns was dispatched to the scene and expected this to be an average bee call so she took her spray with her. She went over to the mail carrier's vehicle and immediately saw these were not normal docile bees. She started spraying her bug spray to no avail so she started running. The bees followed her and she was stung on the ear. She called on the radio that she was being chased by bees and needed help. She and the mail carrier eventually retreated to a home on Duncan.

The police and fire departments were notified of the problem, and they dispatched emergency personnel and blocked off the 2300 block of Duncan. A bee keeper from Lefors was called to assess the situation. When he found out that Ebel had taken the hive and queen bee earlier, he asked if Ebel could bring the queen back. Ebel could not because he had already destroyed the hive.

Before Ebel arrived back on the scene, animal control officer Onry Wells was out trying to help emergency personnel with the problem. Wells was stung on the face multiple times and had to also seek medical attention.

Ebel did come back to the scene and his face was swollen from the stings that he received earlier. The fire department decided to spray foam on the bees to wet them down and keep them from flying around the area. Firefighters wore their protective gear and Ebel was wearing his bee suit.

Duncan Street was blocked off for a

few hours until most of the bees were gone. Ebel set traps around Harmon's back yard to trap any remaining bees and also to trap those bees that were out getting pollen that would return later that evening. He worked late into the night and early morning hours with the traps to make sure no one was in danger.

"I've never seen bees this aggressive," Ebel said. "And I knew I was allergic to bees, but I've never had this reaction to a bee sting. I cannot say that these were Africanized bees until they are sent off for testing and that will take about a week. Right now, I just have to say this was a hive of very aggressive honey bees."

Burns went out to the location around 8 a.m. this morning and walked around the property.

"I did not see a single bee flying around this morning," Burns said. "I feel safe in saying that this bee problem has been taken care of and the public should feel at ease. There are going to be bees around this summer, but they should be just the normal non-aggressive bees. I've never seen bees like this. Normally just spraying the bees is enough."

In all, five people were stung by the bees. Ebel received five stings, the Pampa News reporter was stung 14 times, the mail carrier received three stings, Burns believes she was only stung once and Wells was stung about seven times. Everyone either received shots or medicine of steroids and antihistamines.

If anyone sees a bee hive in the future, please contact animal control or the police department so a trained beekeeper can be contacted to take care of the situation.

Story

Continued from Page 1

attacked. I started walking to get away from them, but they followed.

Ebel noticed I was being attacked and told me to run to my car as fast as I could to get away from them. As I started running, even more attacked me. It was a very scary experience. About the time I reached my car in the alley, I started worrying about getting in the car and having the bees inside with me, but I knew I had to do that and get away from the main swarm around Ebel.

I jumped in the car and started it to turn on the air conditioner because it was hot. As soon as I sat still and calmed down, the bees got off of me and landed on the windows of the car trying to find a way out. I didn't know it then, but Ebel told me later that turning on the air was the best thing because bees don't like cold.

I could see bees flying around the outside of the car. It was like a movie and I couldn't believe it was happening to me. There were at least 10-20 bees in the car with me. I watched and when they were on the side windows I would roll the window down just enough to let them out.

Then, I looked in the mirror and noticed all of the stingers, which are

black with white tips, stuck in my face and arms. The ones on my face and head really starting burning. I wasn't sure what to do, but decided to leave them in and drive back to work and show the staff at the newspaper. I was laughing because I couldn't believe that had just happened (and I'm so accident prone anyway) and I thought the newspaper staff could laugh at and with me.

When I got back to the office though, I really started to get a headache and started to get light headed. I called Family Medicine Clinic and asked if I could come in and they said to come right down.

About the time I walked into the office, I started feeling very faint. I asked to sit down and they quickly took me back to a room and let me lay down. I really thought I was going to pass out.

My head and face was on fire and I started to get really nauseous. Derrell DeLoach and his nurse, Stormy, came in and picked out the stingers with tweezers and got 14 stingers out of my face, head and arms. They immediately gave me a shot of steroids and antihistamines and had me just lay on the table with a cold wash cloth on my face.

I was amazed how horrible I felt and how much it hurt to be stung by such a small creature. I can see how people that are allergic can die from this.

After about 45 minutes and the shot taking effect, I felt good enough to leave.

On the way out of the office, they told me that Ebel had been in there also and had just left. Unfortunately they said he didn't look as well as I did. His face and head was really swollen up.

I found out from Ebel later that he'd been stung 5 times after some bees got into his suit. He said he got four shots while at the doctor and he never had trouble breathing, but was just very swollen. I'm so glad that he is OK because he is allergic, but he said he's never had a reaction that bad. He also said he's never seen bees that aggressive and he was worried about how I was.

I think everything turned out right in this case. Aljean Harmon, the homeowner, called a professional to take care of the bees and didn't try to handle it on her own. Ebel knew what he was doing and took care of the hive and then when he was needed back on the scene, he returned even though he could barely see through his swollen eyes. The police and fire departments kept people out of the area and foamed the bees. Ebel worked into the night trapping the remaining bees.

So, what started out to be a simple bee hive retrieval and photo opportunity turned out to be a city-wide emergency.

Tanks

Continued from Page 1

Richard Morris, director of the public works department said that the city used to have to drain the tanks to clean them. That, he said, wasted 12 to 15

million gallons of water.

"This is a lot better," Morris said.

Hooper said U.S. Underwater Services was the only bidder. He said that for the past 15 months, they had inquiries from other companies about the project, but U.S. Underwater Services was the only one to submit a sealed bid.

The winning bid was \$24,290.

Hooper said the city had just finished inspecting and painting four of the city's water tanks. U.S. Underwater Services will inspect and clean one tank at Pump Station No. 1, two tanks at Pump Station No. 2, one tank at the prison and two of the city's elevated tanks.



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Viewpoints

America is involved in culture war of words

If anybody doubts America is engaged in a culture war and losing it they need only to take a look at the recent series of concerts promoting Al Gore's global warming hoax. They would have learned that the war is being waged in the sewers.

America is facing an army of foul-mouthed, tattooed guttersnipes who have the gall to proclaim they want to save the planet by putting on performances laced with some of the foulest language ever heard from a stage.

As those who made the mistake of watching any of these concerts here or abroad discovered, the enemies of culture are unable to complete a sentence without using the "F" word at least once, along with liberal sprinklings of the "S" word.

And their foul-mouthed rhetoric was not the least of it: The audiences ate it up, and the performers knew that when they spewed their obscene filth they were giving their decadent fans exactly what they wanted.

That fact has not escaped the people who run the nation's TV networks. Nowadays it's hard to find a TV drama that does not seed the dialogue with "F" words. If you have watched hit series such as "Deadwood" you quickly learned that the "F" word was among the milder epithets. That series introduced terms never before heard outside of men's locker rooms or prison cells.

I went to a lot of concerts years ago. I never heard Frank Sinatra or any other performer use a single obscenity

during their performances. Moreover, if any of them had uttered anything as foul as the "F" word, they would have been driven off the stage.

If you think I'm making too big a thing about the incredible degradation of language, keep in mind it represents the decline in the level of civility since the culture warriors declared war on decency. The widespread use of the "F" word is a symptom of the disease.

The America in which I grew up had standards, and people's public behavior was judged by how well they measured up to those stan-

dards. One was expected to toe the line when it came to the way they communicated with one another. We were expected to show our respect to our fellow Americans by avoiding offensive words. Once upon a time one was

expected to be a gentleman or lady, and those terms — now treated with scorn — described people who had the utmost of respect for those around them and showed it in their everyday behavior.

Those who deviated from the accepted standards were told to "keep a civil tongue in your mouth."

That's no longer true.

Comedians vie with each other to use the most extreme obscenities and sexual innuendos. What was once called "street language" is now considered normal discourse. Things once considered sacred are now seen as commonplace. Sex is no longer an expression of love between a man and a woman — today it's seen as recreation, like a game of golf, to be portrayed on stage and screen without restraint.

In any civilization that desires to survive, simple decency and courtesy are crucial elements. In a society headed for the sewer, anything goes. And when anything goes — when the most extreme forms of language and behavior come to be seen as normal — civilization is transformed into bar-

barism. That's what's at stake in the culture wars. A society bereft of standards that demand civilized behavior among its people is a society where the individual is deemed worthless as being anything but a consumer for the degraded wares of the smut peddlers and a source of income to pay for the schemes of those who sell Marxist snake oil such as global warming as a means of subjugating the populace.

And the more addicted to slime that populace becomes, the easier it is to subjugate them.

—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, July 18, the 199th day of 2007. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1947, President Harry Truman signed the Presidential Succession Act, which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

On this date:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began.

In 1792, American naval hero John Paul Jones died in Paris at age 45.

In 1927, Ty Cobb hit safely for the 4,000th time in his career.

'Much misconstruction and bitterness are spared to him who thinks naturally upon what he owes to others, rather than on what he ought to expect from them.'

— Elizabeth de Meulan Guizot
French author
(1773-1827)

In 1932, the United States and Canada signed the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War began.

In 1940, the Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominated President Franklin Roosevelt for an unprecedented third term in office.

In 1969, a car driven by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., plunged off a

bridge on Chappaquiddick Island near Martha's Vineyard, Mass.; passenger Mary Jo Kopechne died.

In 1984, a gunman opened fire at a McDonald's fast food restaurant in San Ysidro, Calif., killing 21 people before being shot dead by police.

In 1984, Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1986, the world got its first look at the remains of the Titanic as videotapes of the British luxury liner, which sank in 1912, were released by researchers from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Ten years ago: German businessman Thomas Kramer was slapped with a record \$323,000 penalty by the Federal Election Commission for making illegal U.S. political contributions. All key systems on the Russian space station Mir returned to near-normal, about 24 hours after the already disabled spacecraft had lost power.

Five years ago: Accused 9-11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui tried to plead guilty to charges that could have brought the death penalty, but a federal judge in Alexandria, Va., insisted he take time to think about it.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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HOW TO TELL IF YOUR DOCTOR IS A TERROPIST...



There's nothing we can do about history

The paradox of history is that it is both pointless and critically important at the same time.

It's pointless because there is nothing we can do to change it. Edward Fitzgerald said it best in his translation of the Persian poet Omar Khayyam when he wrote: "The moving finger writes; and, having writ, moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, nor all thy tears wash out a word of it."

As we all learn the hard way, no word spoken can be retracted, nor any action undone. If either were possible, many a marriage could be saved and perhaps a war or two avoided.

Another reason some people find history pointless and irrelevant is that many of the problems that consumed the

past and lives of people in the past have been resolved. The struggle with the British for American independence, the problem of chattel slavery and the threat of secession, the settling of the Western Frontier and so many difficulties of a technical or scientific nature no longer concern us.

In fact, probably one of the great psychological and spiritual problems facing us today is that so many people see nothing else to do but make money and spend it. One reason for the scarcity of real heroes is that most Americans simply pursue their own interests. Bill Gates did not drop out of Harvard to serve his country

or to resolve some great problem facing humanity. He left to pursue commercial success. Now that he has achieved that success, he's taken up philanthropy as a hobby.

Charley Reese

Columnist



Most Americans approach it that way — "I'm bored, so I think I'll volunteer" — and there is a whole smorgasbord of organizations continuously looking for volunteers and money. Most of them, though, are in the business of amelioration, not of finding solutions. So, in the luxury of leisure, you may volunteer for an indefinite period of time without raising a sweat or your blood pressure.

To look at the contrary,

history is important because we arrive in life with a blank screen. Despite whatever genetic inclinations we may have, we come out of the womb not knowing who we are, where we are or even what we are, and nothing at all about the world into which we were born. Barring brain damage, it's impossible to remain in a state of 100 percent ignorance, but many remain in the 90th percentile.

Too soon old, too late smart, says the old German joke. That accurately depicts the dilemma we face. There is much we need, or at least ought, to learn, and not much time to learn it. To stay ignorant is to stay an easy mark for manipulation. When somebody else controls our lives through manipulative techniques, we are slaves who don't know it.

See REESE, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 9
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on teachers pay and mobility in Texas:

Teachers make lower salaries on average in schools with large numbers of low-income students than in more affluent schools, data from the Texas Education Agency show.

Does that mean that poor children are getting cheated? It's not nearly that simple.

The Education Trust, an advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., crunched the TEA's numbers and found pay gaps between teachers in schools with high numbers of poor students and

teachers in more affluent neighborhoods. Differences also showed up in comparisons between schools with large minority populations and those with more Anglo students.

Among Texas' 10 largest districts, the salaries varied most in Arlington, the Education Trust reported. For instance, teachers in Arlington junior high schools with the highest concentration of poor and minority students make an average of \$4,750 less than those in schools with the fewest poor and minority students.

The Star-Telegram reported on a similar pattern in May: Tarrant County schools with the fewest low-income students tend to have the most experienced teachers.

Fort Worth ranked seventh in the

Education Trust study, with gaps ranging from \$1,137 to \$2,529. At some levels, however, teachers in Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio had higher average salaries in poor and minority schools.

What factors contribute to the disparities?

Teachers' base salaries reflect years of service and advanced degrees. As teachers gain seniority, it's easier for them to move to schools that they consider desirable.

Teachers decide where to apply based on numerous factors:

They might want a school closer to home or in a safer neighborhood.

Some schools could offer an added

See SAMPLE, Page 5

Sample

Continued from Page 4

stipend for a particular expertise.

Sometimes there's been a personality clash with a principal or colleague.

Some teachers feel overwhelmed by the pressure to raise test scores of students who barely keep up because they're often absent or unprepared.

Others hope for parents who are more involved and supportive of their children.

Some want to be able to just teach, not be primarily disciplinarians or social workers.

What do the gaps mean for kids?

Years in the classroom alone don't make a good teacher. But

with many teachers leaving the profession within just a few years, those who stay on usually have valuable skills developed through lots of classroom time. Schools with students who have the greatest educational challenges need a significant pool of experienced teachers who have learned how to clear those hurdles. Younger teachers can bring energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to the job, but they also benefit from mentoring by effective veterans.

The neediest schools can't serve their students properly without a good balance of experienced and newer teachers. Large pay gaps suggest that some schools are attracting more than their share of veterans, while others aren't getting enough.

What can and should school

districts do?

Officials have to consider whether the migration of teachers contributes to poor and minority students making less educational progress.

Schools with high turnover among quality teachers have to correct conditions that drive them away.

Districts can make sure that strong principals are in place who create an atmosphere conducive to teaching, learning and good discipline.

They can use stipends to make assignment to at-risk schools more attractive.

They can ensure that struggling schools hire skilled teachers rather than just filling vacancies.

They can pay bonuses for demonstrated progress, not just high test scores.

Communities can work with

schools to make neighborhoods safer, to help build parent support and to assist with volunteers and other classroom resources that more affluent neighborhoods often provide but poorer areas lack.

Equalizing pay and experience levels won't magically close achievement gaps. But reducing the disparities in thoughtful and creative ways can help improve students' performance.

"We will never be able to give our low-income and minority students their fair shot at success until we give them their fair share of strong teachers," Education Trust President Kati Haycock said in a news release at www.edtrust.org.

All children deserve a fair shot — and the lasting benefits of really good teachers.

Comedian hospitalized for exhaustion

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dave Chappelle was hospitalized over the weekend for exhaustion, his publicist said Tuesday.

The 33-year-old comedian checked into an emergency room on Saturday and was released a few hours later, publicist Carla Sims said.

"It was exhaustion; he had been traveling," she said. "He's fine."

Sims declined to say which hospital Chappelle visited or release other details.

Chappelle walked away from a \$50 million deal to continue his Comedy Central show in May 2005 and briefly took a respite in South Africa. He has said reports that he checked into a mental health center in that country are false.

He has since returned to the standup circuit. In April, he broke the endurance record at the Laugh Factory comedy club in Los Angeles by delivering a more than six-hour-long standup routine.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

We can look at history as the longest-running movie ever. The show's been on for ages by the time we get there, and we will have to leave before it's over. History can at least bring us up to date as to who the characters are and what's been going on before we got there. That way, we can begin to see ourselves in context.

Context is critical for human life. The tragedy of Alzheimer's disease is that it destroys victims' context.

They find themselves trapped in an ever-vanishing present. Like a baby, they don't know who they are or who the people around them are. They don't know what they've done. They don't know where they are. They choke on an acrid fog of uncertainty.

While there is not currently a cure for physical Alzheimer's, there is a cure for ignorant Alzheimer's. It's called history. Every American owes it to himself to take a big dose. There's not much point in celebrating the Fourth of July if you have only a vague notion of what it's about or even when the event we celebrate actually happened.

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

Events calendar

• **The Red Hat Dollies Society** of Pampa will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. New members are welcome. For more information, call 669-9916, 669-9297 or 669-3580.

• **The next Third Thursday** at Amarillo Museum of Art will occur between 6-9 p.m. Thursday. This month's event will include music with Marc Darby, coffee tasting, a film, and art activities for adults and children. For more information, call (806) 371-5050.

• **The "Milk Mustache Mobile"** will stop in Amarillo Friday. Wonderland Park will host the mobile from 1-4 p.m. and Fiesta Foods from 5-7 p.m.

• **Pampa Cancer Support Group** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday on the second floor of Pampa Regional Medical Center.

• **The Old Mobeetie Texas Association** will stage its annual "Old Mobeetie Music Festival" July 27-29 on the grounds of the Old Mobeetie Jail Museum in Mobeetie.

Admission will be \$10 Friday, \$12 Sunday or \$18 for a weekend pass. Admission Sunday is free, and children 12 and under are free all three days. Featured performers will include Star Canyon, the Batten Family, From the Heartland, Wichita Mountain Bluegrass, Blue Persuasion and more. For more details or more information, log onto www.mobeetie.com on the Internet; e-mail omjm@pan-tex.net; or call (806) 845-2028.

• **The postmark deadline for Hi-Plains Poetry's "Adult Poem in Your Pocket Poetry Contest"** is July 31. The deadline for the free student contest is Sept. 15. Adult members pay \$3 per entry. The fee for non-members is \$5. Rules and membership applications can be found at www.poetmariannogan.com on the Internet.

• **Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation** will offer "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. "Dating Smart" will be presented at the agency's Children's and STAR facility, 1500 S. Taylor, in Amarillo. For more information or to register for the classes, call (806) 359-2005 in Amarillo or (806) 363-7695 in Hereford.

• **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.

• **The 19th Annual Harmon County Blackeyed Pea Festival** will be Aug. 11 at Hollis, Okla. The event will kick-off at 9 a.m. with a parade. The festival will also include food, free watermelon, Harmon County Opry, arts & crafts booths, a quilt drawing, Hollis Ranch Rodeo, a tractor pull and show, bingo, train rides, buggy rides, silent auction, children's games and more.

• **The 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.**, upcoming schedule of activities include the

following events: 61st National Convention, Aug. 13-19, Harrisburg, Pa.; National Airborne Day, Aug. 16; and 45th All Ohio Day's, Oct. 19-20, Clearwater, Ohio. For more information and membership details, call (937) 898-5977.

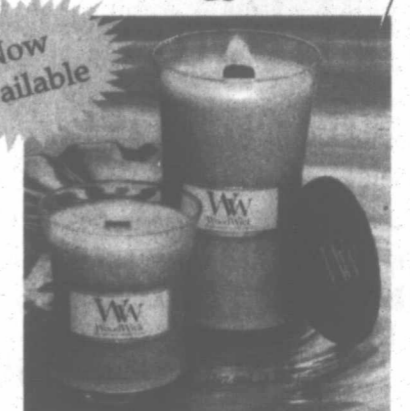
• **Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary Post 1475 in Amarillo** will stage a craft show from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Aug. 18 at the post home, 1401 W. 8th. An all-you-can-eat breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served from 12-4 p.m. Cost of either meal is \$5. To find out more or to rent a 8x10 booth space, call (806) 679-7520.

• **The 61st annual Top O' Texas Rodeo and Kid Pony Show** is scheduled at the Top O' Texas Rodeo grounds in Pampa Aug. 23-25 and Aug. 19-21, respectively. In case of inclement weather, Aug. 22 will serve as a make-up day for any performances of the Kid Pony Show that did not go as scheduled. A rodeo parade is planned at 10 a.m. Aug. 25.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: Here's one for the books on parental stupidity. When my daughter, "Marissa," began to reach her teen years, her father -- in an attempt to be funny -- advised her that she could keep from becoming pregnant by putting an aspirin between her knees and keeping it there. My stupidity was assuming that sex education and pregnancy prevention were taught in her school. I never broached the subject with her. Marissa became pregnant at 15. The young man she was seeing told her she couldn't get pregnant in a swimming pool because the chlorine would kill the sperm. Have you heard that before? Needless to say, the inevitable result was a baby. I love my grandson dearly. God did not make a mistake even though we adults were all dummies in the advice department. Please tell parents, children and adults to educate themselves and learn all the facts and fictions about teen pregnancy and prevention. — **STUPID MOM WITH NO EXCUSE IN NEW JERSEY**

DEAR MOM: Your letter underscores the importance of parents taking the initiative and discussing sex and values with their children before hormones kick in and peers fill their heads with misinformation about birth control. Some popular misconceptions include the idea that jumping up and down after sex prevents pregnancy, that douching with Coca-Cola is an effective contraceptive, that you can't get pregnant during your menstrual cycle, that "withdrawal" prevents pregnancy, and that you won't get pregnant if it's your first time or if your breasts aren't developed. It is vitally important that parents talk to their chil-

dren about sex because many schools offer only abstinence-based sex education -- which has not slowed the spread of STDs. According to the April 2005 issue of Journal of Adolescent Health, teens who pledge to remain virgins until marriage are more likely to take chances with other kinds of sex that increase the risk of STDs. For parents who have difficulty discussing sex and values, I offer my booklet, "What Every Teen Should Know," that explains not only sex and contraception, but also the important topics of sexually transmitted diseases and date rape. My booklet has been distributed in doctors' offices and used to promote discussion by educators and religious leaders. It can be ordered by sending a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY: I was married last June. I wrote my thank-you notes for our wedding gifts a week after returning from our honeymoon. I thought they had been mailed. It is now 11 months later, and I found the cards in the trunk of my husband's car. What do I do? — **CATHI IN STOCKTON, CALIF.**

DEAR CATHI: You should mail them now. A late thank-you is far better than none at all.

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



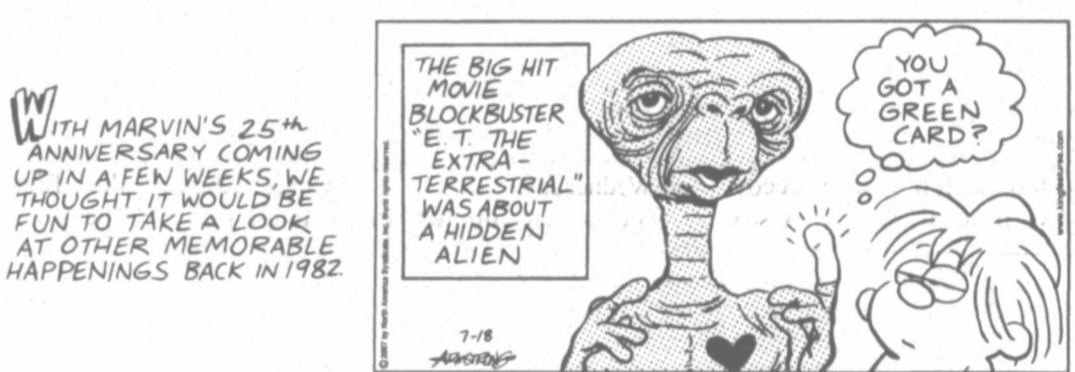
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 39 Subway

1 Diner side patron dish

5 Counter-out tune

part to "père"

9 Charles's prince-dom

11 Red-ink entry

12 Antilles isle

13 "Super-man" star

14 Crater

15 Cornered

17 Tailless pet

19 in need of a doc

20 Kitchen gadget

21 Calendar box

22 Clear, in a way

24 Confes-sional topic

26 Couch

29 Brief time

30 Retire

32 Ostensi-ble reason

34 Jamie Foxx film

35 Enticed

36 Tickle pink

38 Busy

DIGITS CAPE
AVENUE THOMAS
DYLAN ANTHONY
BASIN
AMIS REPS
STET SEDATE
USA KID RAN
BENGAL SKID
ATOZ SCAN
BOSCH
MARLO THOMAS
ERIE AMOEBA
WEPT ROLLED

Yesterday's answer

16 Self-con-

27 Rub

3 Reunion

the

18 Hit movie

wrong

4 Network

of 2000

way

5 Yard parts

21 "Whip It"

28 Tidy up

6 European

band

29 Bowler's

challenge

7 Vigorous

often

30 Heredity

unit

8 Pittsburgh

24 Venus

Williams's

31 Textile

workers

10 Cup's

partner

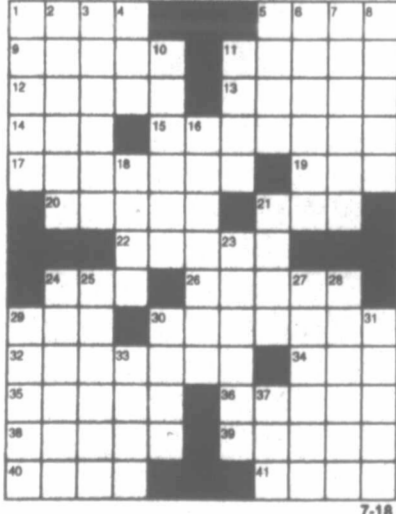
25 Became

33 Throw

frosted

37 Backtalk

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Marmaduke



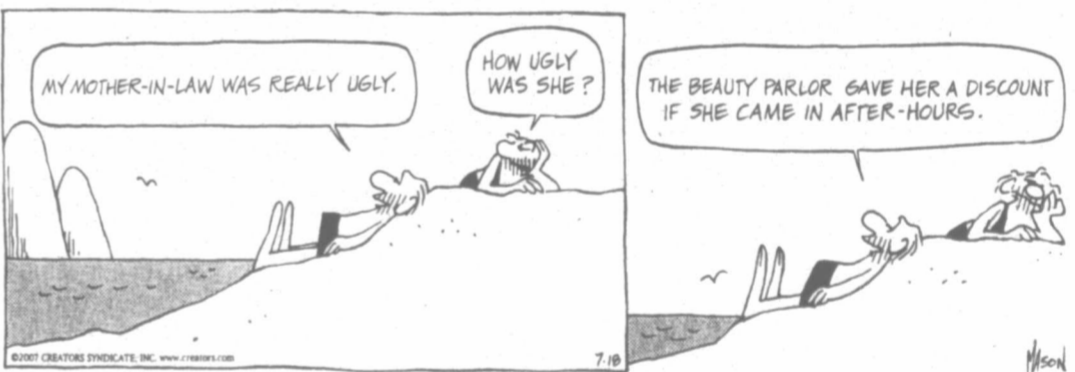
The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

All-Stars lose to Abernathy, still alive to face Plainview tonight

After averaging 14 runs per game through their first five games, the 15-year-old Pampa All-Stars were feeling confident going into their winner's bracket game against Abernathy on Tuesday; however, the bats turned cold and Pampa could only manage two runs and lost by a final score of 5-2.

Lane Douglas pitched four strong innings, giving up only one run on three hits, walking two and

striking out three.

Anthony Allen took the loss after he pitched one inning, giving up four runs on three hits. He hit one batter and recorded no strikeouts.

Braden Hunt pitched the final three innings, giving up no runs on one hit, walking one and striking out none.

Pampa's defense, which has been mostly steady through both tournaments, had a couple of costly

errors during the fifth inning.

Pampa scored both of their runs in the bottom of the second.

With one out, Sam Newman walked and Lane Douglas singled.

Both runners moved up a base on a wild pitch putting runners at 2nd and 3rd.

With two outs, Jonathan Robinson singled to right field to score Newman and Douglas.

Pampa would threaten again in

the bottom of the fourth, on singles by Reid Bradley, Corbin Clifton and Anthony Allen, but the rally would fall flat and Pampa was unable to score any runs.

In the bottom of the seventh, Allen would get a one-out infield single, but again Pampa was unable to put a rally together.

Also getting a hit for Pampa was Alex Clendening who had a single in the third inning.

With the loss, Pampa will be forced to play Plainview at 7 p.m. tonight.

The winner of that game will face Abernathy in the Championship on Thursday.

The loser of the Pampa/Plainview game will be eliminated from the tournament.

Football Booster Club Meeting

Monday, July 23 at 7 p.m.

Ready Room at the High School Athletic Building

The booster club will continue to meet every Monday night through the football season. The booster club is a vital part of the football family. There are many ways to be a part, and something for everyone to do. Please come and help support our boys.

Rasmussen leads race back onto flat roads at midpoint of Tour de France

TALLARD, France (AP) — Michael Rasmussen wore the race leader's yellow jersey as he led the pack out of the mountains and back on the flat roads for today's 10th stage of the Tour de France — the midpoint of the race.

Stage 10 is a 142.6 mile flat route from Tallard to Marseille that favors speedy riders such as Tom Boonen, who holds the green jersey as best sprinter.

Rasmussen leads a pair of Spaniards, with Alejandro Valverde 2 minutes, 35 sec-

onds behind, and Iban Mayo 2:39 back.

Another flat stage follows on Thursday, followed by a medium mountain stage Friday and the race's first time trial on Saturday, before the Tour starts climbing again with the Pyrenees even tougher than the Alps.

Meanwhile, Alexandre Vinokourov's chances of winning the Tour are as thin as the stitches in his battered knees.

After repeatedly refusing to talk down his hopes since crashing last week,

Vinokourov seemed to accept his fate after laboring up three massive climbs during Tuesday's ninth stage.

"It was another horrible day for me," the Kazakh rider mumbled to a French television channel. Then he wiped away tears.

Such a show of emotion is uncommon by Vinokourov, who is arguably the toughest on the Tour and treats pain with contempt. But he may be realizing a painful truth.

He fell further behind during the 99-mile course from the Val d'Isere ski station to

Briancon, won by the underhanded Juan Mauricio Soler of Colombia.

Soler, competing in his first Tour, clocked 4 hours, 14 minutes, 24 seconds. Alejandro Valverde of Spain was second and Cadel Evans of Australia third, each 38 seconds back.

Vinokourov lost another 2:42 to Rasmussen as the mountains ganged up to torture him for a third straight day, and now trails him by a daunting 8:05 overall.

Chinese sports association criticizes Yao Ming

SHANGHAI, China (AP) — China's official sports association has issued an unprecedented public criticism of Yao Ming for reporting late to national team training.

The Houston Rockets' star was faulted for taking too much time off to recover from his last NBA season. The government's All-China Sports Federation also said he spent too much time planning his wedding and making appearances for the Special Olympics and 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

"No matter how lofty public welfare activities are, they can't be allowed to take first place in a player's life," the China Sports Daily, a federation-owned newspaper, said in an arti-

cle appearing Tuesday.

"No matter how sweet personal life is, it can't be compared to the exultation of capturing glory for one's nation," the article said.

Chinese Web sites later said Yao reported for national teaming training on Wednesday.

The article quoted Li Yuanwei, the national basketball center director, as saying the team's Olympic preparations were built around their major star. Li said he hoped Yao would join the team later this month in the Stankovic Cup.

"Without Yao Ming, a warmup competition is far less valuable," the article said.

Throughout his three seasons in the NBA, Yao

has largely escaped criticism from China's official media and the government by honoring his national team commitments.

Yet Tuesday's article carried echoes of the bitter accusations hurled at former Dallas Mavericks player Wang Zhizhi, the first Chinese player in the NBA who refused to return to play with the national team. Wang was labeled an immature ingrate and suffered a five-year estrangement from Chinese basketball that ended only last year after he made a humiliating apology.

China will face an All-Star team from the NBA Development League in the Stankovic Cup at home, where the host team will include recent draft pick Yi

Jianlian.

The Milwaukee Bucks picked Yi with the No. 6 pick in the NBA draft, but he hasn't committed to playing for them because his agent hoped he would be drafted by a team in a market with a larger Chinese population.

Chinese fans and the former national coach have urged Yi to sign with the Bucks, but the owner of his former team in China, the Guangdong Tigers, recently suggested that the 7-foot power forward's NBA career could be over before it even begins.

"If the Bucks insist, Yi will go back" to the Chinese league, Chen Haitao was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Chinese-language Beijing News.

Rangers continue to dig for wins against A's

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Michael Young had five hits and drove in three runs, and the Rangers sent the A's to their ninth straight loss, 11-4 Tuesday night.

Young went 5-for-5 with two doubles and a walk in the fourth five-hit game of his career, but the All-Star shortstop was just part of a 15-hit attack in the Rangers' third straight road victory.

"The fact that it came in a win where everybody contributed is the most important thing," said Young, who wouldn't even crack a smile

after a big game in Texas' impressive victory.

Kenny Lofton had a lead-off triple and three hits for the last-place Rangers, who have won nine of their last 14 to move within 2 1/2 games of third-place Oakland. Possibly getting out of the AL West cellar doesn't excite the Rangers as much as a simple, sustained run of solid play by the long-time also-rans.

"We did a lot of everything," said Mark Teixeira, who drew four walks but left the game after getting hit

with a pitch in the eighth. "They helped us out, too. They walked too many guys and didn't make some plays, but we capitalized."

Ramon Vazquez tripled down the right-field line in the sixth to drive home the go-ahead run, and Texas added five more while batting around in the seventh. Many of the fans left in the Coliseum afterward booed the home team.

"The hits kept coming, and we ran the basepaths extremely well," Texas manager Ron Washington said.

"We were very aggressive, putting the ball in play and executing the fundamentals."

The Rangers are quite familiar with the helpless feeling in the A's locker room after their own rough start in Washington's first season in charge.

"Yeah, nothing seems to go right," Washington said. "You get back in the game, they go back ahead. You hit the ball hard, somebody is standing there. Plays you normally make, you don't

See RANGERS, Page 8

Investigators find steroids in body of wrestler who killed wife and son

DECATUR, Ga. (AP) — Pro wrestler Chris Benoit had more than 10 times the normal level of testosterone in his system when he killed his wife and young son and hanged himself, but investigators could not say if it played a role in the killings.

Besides the heightened level of testosterone, a synthetic version of the primary male sex hormone that is considered an anabolic steroid, Benoit's body tested positive for the anti-anxiety drug Xanax and the painkiller hydrocodone, authorities said Tuesday.

Dr. Kris Sperry, the state's top medical examiner, said it appeared the testosterone

was injected shortly before Benoit died.

He said there was no evidence of any other steroids in the wrestler's body, and nothing to show that steroids played a role in the death of Nancy and Daniel Benoit. He also said Daniel, 7, appeared to have been sedated when he was asphyxiated, and Benoit's wife had a "therapeutic" level of sedatives in her body.

There is no consensus that the use of testosterone can contribute to paranoia, depression and violent outbursts known as "roid rage," Sperry pointed out.

"There is conflicting scientific data as to whether or

not testosterone creates mental disorders or leads to outbursts of rage. There's data that suggests it and other data that refute it," he said. "Essentially, I think it's an unanswerable question."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said Chris Benoit tested negative for alcohol. Investigators had been eager to determine whether alcohol was a factor in the killings after 10 empty beer cans were found in the home, as well as an empty wine bottle a few feet from where Benoit hanged himself.

Benoit killed his wife and son, placed Bibles next to their bodies and then hanged

himself on the cable of a weight machine. After the slayings, prescription anabolic steroids were found in the family's home, raising questions about whether the drugs played a role in the killings.

Nancy Benoit tested positive for Xanax, hydrocodone and the painkiller hydromorphone. Daniel Benoit had Xanax in his system, authorities said. The GBI said it could not perform tests for steroids or human growth hormones on the boy because of a lack of urine.

Nancy Benoit's body had a blood-alcohol level of 0.184 percent, more than twice the level at which

Georgia law considers a driver intoxicated. But, Sperry said, that level may have been affected by decomposition.

Federal authorities have charged Chris Benoit's personal physician, Dr. Phil Astin, with improperly prescribing painkillers and other drugs to two patients other than Benoit. He has pleaded not guilty.

Investigators have also raided Astin's office several times since the deaths, seizing prescription records and other documents.

Before he was charged, Astin told the AP he had prescribed testosterone for Benoit, a longtime friend, in

the past. He would not say what, if any, medications he prescribed when Benoit visited his office June 22, the day authorities believe Benoit killed his wife.

World Wrestling Entertainment last screened Benoit for steroids in April. It said the results released Tuesday were proof Benoit did not test positive for illegal substances.

"All it means is that scientifically, it's now known that sometime between April 10 and when he died, he had treatment with testosterone," said Jerry McDevitt, a WWE attorney. "That's all it establishes."

See VICK, Page 8

Michael Vick indicted by federal grand jury in dogfighting case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — When a Bad Newz Kennels dog was wounded in a losing fight, NFL star Michael Vick was consulted before the animal was doused with water and electrocuted.

That's just one of the gruesome details that emerged Tuesday when the Atlanta Falcons quarterback and three others were indicted by a federal grand jury.

The four were charged with competitive dogfighting, procuring and training pit bulls for fighting and conducting the enterprise across state lines.

The 18-page indictment, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, alleged the 27-year-old Vick and his co-defendants began the dogfighting operation in early 2001, the former Virginia Tech star's rookie year as the No. 1 pick.

The operation was centered at a property Vick owned in Surry County, where a fence shielded prying eyes from the back, and the two-story brick home was surrounded by fencing in the front, with several black buildings further back.

Unlike previous documents, which did not name Vick, the indictment is littered with his name, including this tidbit — Vick was

known as "Ookie" in the dogfighting world.

If convicted of all the charges, Vick and the others — Purnell A. Peace, 35, of Virginia Beach; Quanis L. Phillips, 28, of Atlanta; and Tony Taylor, 34, of Hampton — could face up to six years in prison, \$350,000 in fines and restitution.

A woman who answered the phone at the home of Vick's mother, Brenda Boddie, said "no comment" and quickly hung up.

Telephone messages left at the offices and home of Vick's attorney, Larry Woodward, and an e-mail sent to his office were not returned.

While the Falcons and the NFL said little Tuesday, John Goodwin of the Humane Society of the United States said the details were especially troubling.

About eight young dogs were put to death at the Surry County home after they were found not ready to fight in April 2007, the indictment said. They were killed "by hanging, drowning and/or slamming at least one dog's body to the ground."

"Some of the grisly details in these filings shocked even me, and I'm a person who faces this stuff every day,"

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Rangers

Continued from Page 7

seem to make.”
Jack Cust homered and drove in three runs for the A's, who hit the lowest point yet in their worst losing skid since July 1998. They've lost their first six games after the All-Star break for the first time since 1964, when the franchise still was in Kansas City.

Oakland made two errors and several other defensive blunders while getting lousy pitching from starter Chad Gaudin (8-5) and the bullpen.

“Right now we're just struggling,” said Gaudin, who allowed eight hits and a career-high six walks in six innings. “Guys are making it a point to be real positive. Nobody's really hanging their heads. Every day we're going to go out and fight. Things just aren't going our way right now.”

Eric Chavez sat out of his second straight game with a sore lower back for the A's, who held a brief team meeting before batting practice to address issues around the losing streak. The offense responded by scoring at least four runs for the first time in 12 games, snapping the longest streak in Oakland history.

“We're definitely looking up, fighting an upward battle right now, there's no doubt,” manager Bob Geren said. “We had a nice

talk today with the team, and everybody's really trying to push forward and climb out of it collectively. Some good signs tonight.”

Robinson Tejeda struggled again for the Rangers, yielding four hits and a career high-tying six walks while failing to get out of the fifth inning despite pitching on 11 days' rest. Texas might be running out of patience with Tejeda, who has just one win in his last 10 starts with an ERA hovering around 9.00.

Willie Eyre (3-3) got two outs in the fifth inning before Texas' go-ahead rally. Ron Mahay pitched three scoreless innings for his first save of the year.

Texas scored two runs in the fifth when Jerry Hairston scored on Gaudin's bases-loaded wild pitch and Sammy Sosa added a sacrifice fly, but Cust tied it with his 16th homer of the season — his first since July 3, snapping a 2-for-23 slump.

Gerald Laird, the Rangers' husky catcher, scored from first base in both the sixth and seventh innings — first on Vazquez's triple, and again when reliever Joe Kennedy fielded Vazquez's sacrifice bunt and threw it into the A's bullpen.

When right-handed reliever Shane Komine took the mound in the eighth to pitch to catcher Kurt Suzuki, the A's formed the first Hawaiian-born battery in major league history.

Phillies blast Dodgers; Durbin gets his first major league win

By The Associated Press

The Philadelphia Phillies pounded the Los Angeles Dodgers' pitching staff so handily that even starter J.D. Durbin got a few hits.

Along with picking up his first major league victory, the right-hander had three of Philadelphia's 26 hits in a 15-3 rout of the Dodgers in Los Angeles on Tuesday night.

Ryan Howard hit a pair of two-run homers, and Shane Victorino and Aaron Rowand had five hits each for the Phillies, who fell one shy of their franchise record and snapped the Dodgers' season-high five-game winning streak.

“I haven't hit like that since high school,” said Durbin, filling in for Jon Lieber, who had season-ending foot surgery. “I just saw the ball real well

tonight and fortunately got a few hits. It was just an incredible night for me.”

The Phillies battered Mark Hendrickson (4-5) and rookie reliever Eric Stults, who combined to give up 11 runs and 19 hits through the first five innings, one night after All-Star Brad Penny held Philadelphia to a run and four hits over seven innings in a 10-3 loss.

Chase Utley was 3-for-6 with a pair of RBI doubles and a run-scoring single, increasing his NL-leading RBI total to 79. Pat Burrell hit his 200th career homer — 12th of the season — which came two pitches after Rowand's home run against Rudy Seanez.

Victorino was 5-for-6 with a two-run triple. Rowand also was 5-for-6 with a homer, an RBI single and three doubles.

Indians make final-at-bat comeback

By The Associated Press

Ryan Garko and the Cleveland Indians love their late inning rallies, and no team has a bullpen more susceptible than the Chicago White Sox.

Garko hit a game-tying pinch-hit home run in the ninth inning and singled home the winning run in the 11th to give the Indians a 6-5 victory Tuesday night over the White Sox.

The Indians' 28th come-from-behind win — and 15th in their final at-bat — kept them one game behind first-place Detroit in the AL Central.

“I was on a team like this in college,” said Garko, who played at Stanford. “We always feel like we've got a chance to win.”

A night earlier, the White Sox opened up an 11-2 lead and barely held on to win, 11-10.

Credit some of that to a resilient Cleveland squad, and some to a Chicago bullpen that is 3-14 with a 7.50 ERA and 10 blown saves since May 8.

Bobby Jenks, trying to nail down his 26th save and protect a 5-3 lead, instead suffered his fifth blown save and added a new chapter to Chicago's endless summer of bullpen blunders.

“We got where we wanted to,” Guillen said. “We got the game to Bobby but he couldn't hold the lead.”

In other AL games on Monday, it was: Kansas City 9, Boston 3; New York 3, Toronto 2, 10 innings;

Tampa Bay 8, Los Angeles 3; Detroit 1, Minnesota 0; Baltimore 8, Seattle 3; and Texas 4, Oakland 3.

Jason Michaels opened the 11th with a base hit off rookie Dewon Day (0-1) that he turned into a double by beating Jermaine Dye's throw from right field. Garko followed with a broken-bat bloop just over shortstop Juan Uribe's outstretched glove.

Michaels, who took a chance by breaking at the sound of the bat, was waved around and scored easily as the Indians poured out of the dugout and pummeled Garko on the infield dirt for the second time in five days for hitting a walk-off winner.

“That's what a winning team does,” White Sox man-

ager Ozzie Guillen said. “They don't let anything bother them. That's why this team is where it is. That's a very good team and they always think they can win.”

Rafael Betancourt (2-0) pitched a perfect 11th for the Indians, who had 27 comeback wins last season.

Chicago starter Jon Garland had kept Chicago's bullpen door closed as long as he could by pitching six solid innings, and the White Sox were on the verge of another tight win when the Indians rallied.

Garland, who was ill with a stomach ailment on Monday, threw a season-high 122 pitches and came within a few outs of improving to 4-0 in his last four road starts.

Right up his alley: Why doesn't Lefty perform better in the British Open?

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP) — This is the sort of tournament that Phil Mickelson used to practice for as a kid, hitting one strange shot after another in his backyard.

Lob shots. Low spinners. Anything to break up the monotony of striking the ball on a downsized layout.

“Just try to create shots in a small space” is how Mickelson describes it now. “It kind of carries over to the way I like to play when I get

in a tournament.”

So, why doesn't Lefty play better in the British Open?

This tournament would seem custom-made for a player with Mickelson's imagination. His is a huge repertoire of improbable shots, the necessary trait on a links course where the ball can be just as effective scooting close to the ground as it is soaring majestically through the air — especially when those stiff winds starting whipping in off the sea.

But Mickelson, with two Masters titles and one PGA Championship on his resume (not to mention all sorts of close calls in the majors), has never fared very well on this side of the Atlantic.

He did have a third-place showing at Royal Troon in 2004, missing by a mere stroke the playoff won by Todd Hamilton over Ernie Els. But that's the only time Mickelson has come close to contending, failing to crack the top 10 in his other 13 Open appearances.

That stands in stark contrast to his record in the remaining three majors, where he is a perennial contender.

“It's taken time for me to appreciate and learn how to hit shots that are manageable in those conditions,” Mickelson said. “As I start to be able to control my golf ball in those conditions, I start to enjoy it and hope for tough weather.”

Mickelson grew up (and still lives) in sunny Southern California. He attended college in the desert at Arizona State. Hardly the sort of conditions that prepare one for

the rain and wind and cold of Scotland, the birthplace of golf.

“The wind here might be the same speed as in Phoenix, but it's amazing how much more the ball gets affected by it,” Mickelson said.

For that very reason, two-time defending champion Tiger Woods played sideways during a practice round Monday, hoping to diminish the 30 mph gusts.

When he got to the 18th hole, a 499-yard straight shot that can be reached with a big iron and a short iron on calm days, Woods hit a 2-iron about waist-high toward the adjacent 17th fairway.

Finding the short grass, he slapped another 2-iron back toward the 18th fairway, which is crossed twice by the Barry Burn. And, sticking with the same club, Woods struck another one toward the green, only to catch a bunker along the right side.

Nevertheless, he was pleased to even be considering such an unorthodox option.

“I love playing over here, because it allows you to be creative,” Woods said. “Augusta used to be that way. The U.S. Open is obviously not. The PGA is kind of similar to a U.S. Open setup. Over here, you can create shots. You get to use the ground as an ally.”

The ground was Woods' best friend a year ago at Royal Liverpool.

After a few practice rounds on the dry fairways, Woods realized he was better off leaving his driver in the bag. He hit it only once over four rounds, opting for irons

short of the bunkers and long to mid-irons into the greens. The strategy worked to perfection, and Woods captured the claret jug for the second straight year.

He arrived at Carnoustie with a chance to win three in a row, a feat accomplished by only four other players at a championship that dates to 1860. The last was Peter Thomson in 1954-56.

Would Mickelson consider leaving his driver in the bag, especially after some errant tee shots cost him a win in the Scottish Open last weekend? Not likely, especially on the rain-soaked fairways that have created American-style conditions.

“I'm very pleased with it,” Mickelson said of his big club. “I didn't drive it the best on Sunday. But I hit 13 fairways on Saturday. I hit a good number of them on Thursday and Friday as well. I'm not overly concerned.”

The key, he said, is keeping the ball low when the wind starts blowing. And in the fairway, of course, though Carnoustie, with its soggy grass and shaved rough, is hardly the same beast that it was in 1999, when Paul Lawrie won in a playoff after Jean Van de Velde's improbable collapse on the 72nd hole.

Mickelson missed the cut in '99, but he's made it to the weekend of every Open since then. At Troon, he nearly broke through.

“I played along the ground a lot that week,” he said. “I hit a lot of low shots, a lot of running shots, and I was able to control distances, make a lot of pars and some birdies when I needed to.”

Giants pick up win over Cubs with Bonds sitting out

CHICAGO (AP) — Dave Roberts drew a bases-loaded walk to force in the go-ahead run two batters after Barry Bonds lined out in his lone at-bat. Zito won for the first time in seven starts and the Giants snapped a five-game losing streak with a 4-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday night.

Bonds the pinch-hitter came to the plate in a situation when many a manager typically would have chosen to walk him rather than get beat by one of the game's best players.

Tie game in the eighth. Two on. One out. Bonds the slumping slugger hit the ball hard with no results — and his funk extended to 0-for-21.

“They were bored 'til I came out there,” said Bonds, who planned to also take Wednesday off from starting to give his sore legs another day to heal. “This one I felt good. Any time you have a good at-bat against a good left-handed pitcher, that's when you know you're really close.”

With Bonds on the bench for most of the night, Zito (7-9) struck out a season-high eight to win for the first time since June 4 at Philadelphia. The \$126 million left-hander didn't walk a batter for the first time in 38 starts since June 16, 2006, while with Oakland — a positive sign considering command was his biggest problem before the break. He ended a six-start winless stretch in which he dropped four straight decisions.

“Just got to keep it going,” Zito said, noting the difference Tuesday was “just making pitches. Keep on battling, keep on grinding.”

Bonds lined out to left on a 3-2 pitch, clapping his hands together as the fans screamed in delight and gave him a thumbs-down sign as he headed back into the dugout.

Vick

Continued from Page 7

Goodwin said. “I was surprised to see that they were killing dogs by hanging them, and one dog was killed by slamming it to the ground. Those are extremely violent methods of execution — they're unnecessary and just sick.”

Purses for the fights ranged from hundreds of dollars to the thousands, and participants and spectators often placed side bets on the outcome, according to the indictment.

After two Bad Newz Kennels dogs lost fights in March 2003, the indictment alleged Vick gave a bag containing \$23,000 to the owner of the winning dogs.

Started in early 2002, according to the indictment, Bad Newz Kennels began purchasing pit bulls to train as fighters. Eventually, the defendants bought shirts and headbands “representing and promoting their

affiliation.”

After an April police raid on the property, Vick said he was rarely at the house, however, and had no idea that it might have been used in a criminal enterprise. He blamed family members for taking advantage of his generosity and pledged to be more careful.

He has since said very little, citing the advice of his attorneys.

But Tuesday the NFL was quick to decry the alleged animal abuse.

“The activities alleged are cruel, degrading and illegal. Michael Vick's guilt has not yet been proven, and we believe that all concerned should allow the legal process to determine the facts,” NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

Vick and the Falcons are due to report to training camp July 25.

“Obviously, we are disturbed by today's news,” the team said in a statement posted on its Web site, apologizing to fans for the negative publicity. “We will do the right thing for our club

as the legal process plays out. We have a season to prepare for.”

Vick and the others are accused of “knowingly sponsoring and exhibiting an animal fighting venture” and conducting a business enterprise involving gambling, as well as buying, transporting and receiving dogs for the purposes of an animal fighting venture.

The indictment said dog-fights were held at the Virginia property and dog owners brought animals from six states, including New York and Texas.

Local authorities have been investigating since an April 25 drug raid at the property. On June 7, officials with the Department of Agriculture with help from state police executed their own search warrant and found the remains of seven dogs.

Surry County prosecutor Gerald G. Poindexter said he didn't know of the indictment before it was filed, and said he's not sure how the county will continue its separate case.

At the start, authorities seized 66 dogs, including 55 pit bulls, and equipment commonly used in dog-fighting. About half the dogs were tethered to car axles with heavy chains that allowed the dogs to get close to each other, but not to have contact — an arrangement typical for fighting dogs, according to the search warrant affidavit.

Before fights, participating dogs of the same sex would be weighed and bathed, according to the filings. Opposing dogs would be washed to remove any poison or narcotic placed on the dog's coat that could affect the other dog's performance.

Sometimes, dogs weren't fed to “make it more hungry for the other dog.”

Fights would end when one dog died or with the surrender of the losing dog, which was sometimes put to death by drowning, strangulation, hanging, gun shot, electrocution or some other method, according to the documents.

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Anniversary celebration



In celebration of its 25th anniversary, Keyes Pharmacy is holding several weekly drawings leading up to a grand drawing July 31. Merlin Rose, far left, and Sharon Rose, far right, both of the pharmacy, recently presented Jen Doan with a \$25 gift certificate to The Plaza II restaurant.

Senate panel delays action on anti-smoking bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tobacco would be placed under federal regulation under legislation being readied for a Senate committee vote over objections from lawmakers who call the bill a misguided effort to reduce the dangers of smoking.

The bill, matched by identical House legislation, would give the Food and Drug Administration the same authority over cigarettes and other tobacco products that the regulatory agency now has over drugs, food, medical devices and other consumer products.

The bill has broad bipartisan support. It had been scheduled to be considered Wednesday in the Senate Health Committee, but the vote was postponed because of the Senate's all-night debate on the war in Iraq. It was unclear when the vote would occur.

The full Senate also was expected to pass the measure, even though some lawmakers, including Republican members of the committee, view any effort to create a safer cigarette an impossible task.

Smoking now kills more than

400,000 people a year. It accounts for nearly one in five deaths in the United States.

Scientists count some 4,000 chemicals in cigarette smoke. Of them, more than 40 are known to cause cancer.

The bill would let the FDA regulate the levels of tar, nicotine and any other of those harmful components. Tobacco foes hope the legislation would allow the agency to force changes to the cigarette that, eventually, would make the smoking habit both harder to start and easier to stop.

Appeals court rejects claim against EPA

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Farms can't be sued over the pollution or odors they emit as long as they have entered into an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, a federal appeals court ruled.

The ruling, issued

EPA did not follow proper rule-making procedures in crafting an agreement to allow farms to avoid legal punishment and lawsuits for violating air emissions requirements. The agreement requires the farms to pay a civil penalty and give the government permission to monitor the facility for an EPA study of emissions.

Nearly 2,600 animal feeding operations, the majority of them hog farms, have entered into agreement with the EPA.

"The EPA decided to give them blanket amnesty in the form of, 'You send us a check ... and we'll guarantee that no one will sue you,'" said

'The EPA decided to give them blanket amnesty in the form of, 'You send us a check ... and we'll guarantee that no one will sue you.'

— David Bookbinder
Sierra Club attorney

Tuesday, was a rebuke to environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, which sued to change an EPA policy they say allows animal feeding operations to skirt environmental laws and only pay nominal fines.

The petitioners maintained that animal feeding operations pollute the air, emit terrible odors and attract hordes of flies that leave droppings on everything from cars to furniture.

They argued that the

David Bookbinder, senior attorney for the Sierra Club.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, however, found in its 2-1 ruling that the EPA was exercising a valid use of the agency's enforcement discretion by entering into agreements with the farms.

A call to the groups' attorney, Brent J. Newell, was not immediately returned.

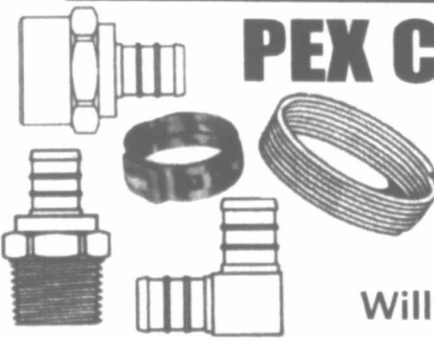
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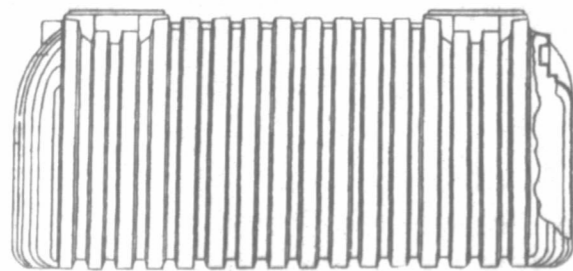
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