

Tomorrow's Weather

HIGH
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LOW
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See expanded weather on Page 2

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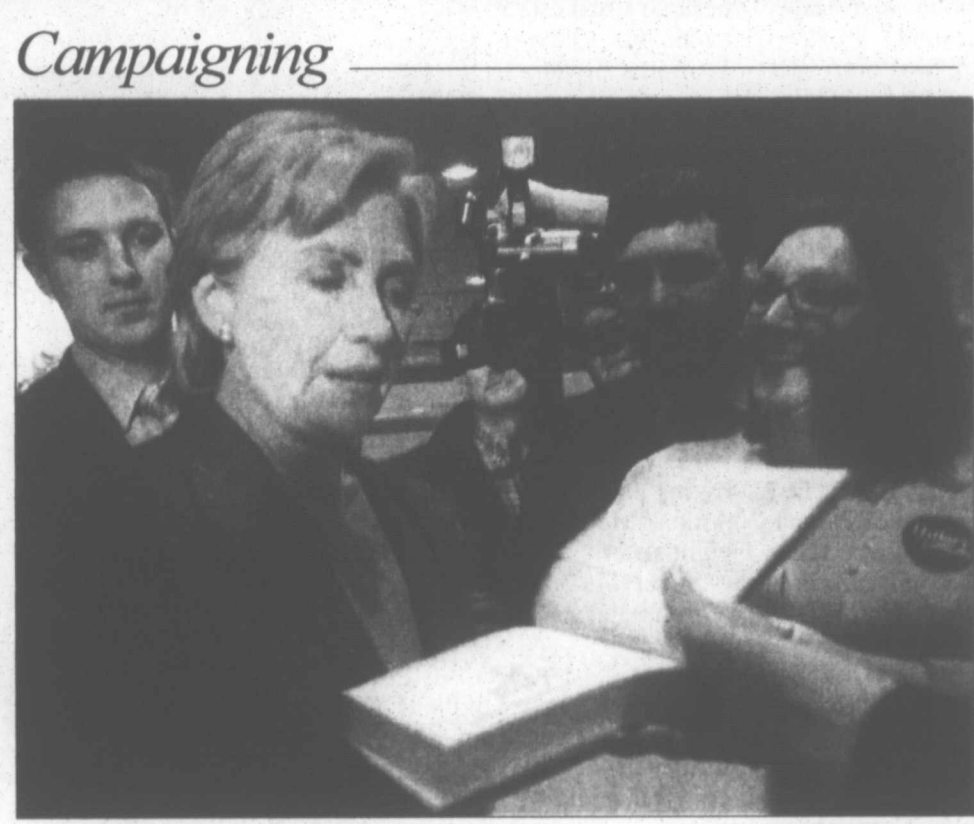
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Pampa News Photo by DAVID BOWSER
Sen. Hillary Clinton autographed books for her fans during a campaign swing through eastern Iowa.

Polls open Tuesday for primary voters

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday for the primary election. Those wishing to vote must be registered voters and must bring their current voter registration card, a valid Texas photo ID or valid Texas driver's license. Early voting ended at 5 p.m. Friday with a strong turnout, according to Elections Administrator Linda Lewis. Friday's total number of ballots cast was 382, the largest for any single day of early voting, which began Feb. 19. A total of 1,604 voted in Gray County during early voting. "That's a little better than 10 percent of all the registered voters in the county," Lewis said. Approximately 100 mail-in ballots were received, she said. Below are the polling places for Tuesday's election:

- Precinct 1:** Lefors Community Center, 103 N. Court, Lefors
- Precinct 2:** Lovett Memorial Library, 11 N. Houston, Pampa
- Precinct 3:** Grandview-Hopkins School
- Precinct 4:** Lovett Library, 302 N. Main, McLean
- Precinct 5:** First Christian Church Family Life Center, 1633 N. Nelson, Pampa
- Precinct 6:** Zion Lutheran Church, 1900 Duncan, Pampa
- Precinct 7:** M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium, 1000 N. Sumner, Pampa.

GCSO investigates burglaries

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff's Office is investigating two burglaries which occurred at area businesses sometime Friday evening. Petco Petroleum Corp., located southeast of Pampa on County Road 11, reported a burglary at 6:53 a.m. Saturday. Taken were a computer, printer and socket set. "It apparently happened between closing time Friday and when they opened Saturday," said GCSO Lt. Joe B. Hoard. Entry was made by breaking a window, Hoard said. Union Tank Car Co. discovered a burglary at 11:45 a.m. Saturday. The incident occurred sometime Friday night at its facility west of Pampa near Celanese, Hoard said. Entry was made through an unlocked door, he said. Taken were a welder, welding supplies, assorted tools and a white 2006 Ford F550 truck with flatbed. Both cases are open at this time, and no arrests have been made.

County had to pay Fletcher

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Don Fletcher received a check for \$842.37 in January 2005 after he was elected Gray County Precinct 4 constable because of a delay in his resignation of the office, according to county officials. "We didn't get his letter of resignation until a month after he was sworn in," said County Judge Richard Peet. "By law, we had to pay him." "I didn't want any money, but they said they had to pay me," Fletcher said. He ran for the office in 2004 on a platform of working to get the position abolished, thereby saving county taxpayers money. State law requires that an elected position be vacant for seven years before it can be abolished. Fletcher is again on the ballot for Precinct 4 constable, for the same reason, he said. He was a write-in candidate for the post in 2006 after his current opponent, Curtis Broadus of Pampa, announced that he was a write-in candidate in 2006 to complete Fletcher's unexpired term, which had

See FLETCHER, Page 3



Pampa News Photo by KERRI SMITH
This puppy, owned by the Norris family, was just hanging out with his puppy siblings at the Pampa High School baseball field Friday afternoon. Jenny Norris said that this puppy and his sister were adopted recently from the Pampa Animal Shelter. She said she had to take both of them because she could not bear to break up the duo.

JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Cordova convicted, sentenced in trial

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Carlos Cordova of Pampa was sentenced to two 45-year terms after jury deliberations of four and one-half hours Friday afternoon in 223rd District Court at Gray County Courthouse. Cordova was convicted Thursday of two counts of aggravated robbery, a first-degree felony for which punishment ranges from five to 99 years or life in prison plus a possible fine not to exceed \$10,000. Cordova's two 45-year sentences will run concurrently. The punishment phase of Cordova's trial began at approximately 9:20 a.m. Friday with the prosecution presenting evidence of his prior convictions, which included a 20-month sentence in the State Jail Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. "Layne Conner, Mae Conner and Jesse Conner again took the stand to testify as to the impact the defendant's conduct has had and continues to have on their lives," said Evelyn Rutherford, paralegal for 31st District Attorney Lynn Switzer, who prosecuted the case. "Layne Conner testified that each of the family members has suffered emotionally as a result of being held at gunpoint by the defendant." Presiding over the trial was 223rd District Judge Lee Waters. James Wooldridge was defense attorney. "After the completion of the state's case, the defense counsel introduced evidence of the defendant's troubled childhood through the testimony of the defendant's mother, Maxine Gutierrez," Rutherford said. Jurors received the case for deliberation as to punishment at noon Friday. "After the pronouncement of the judgment by 223rd District Judge Lee Waters, the family was then permitted the opportunity to address the defendant," Rutherford said. Cordova was originally scheduled to be tried for two counts of aggravated assault in addition to the two counts of aggravated robbery, but he will be tried at a later date on the assault charges, Switzer said. "He had raised an issue with the other two indictments," Rutherford said. See TRIAL, Page 3

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NEXT DAY FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		
Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 57. Wind chill values between 12 and 22 early. Southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. Wind chill values between 17 and 27. South wind 10 to 20 mph becoming north northwest. Winds could gust as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. North northeast wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 28. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south-east.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. South southwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming west northwest.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. South wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north northeast.

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Betty Joyce Rice, 84

Betty Joyce Rice, 84, of Pampa died Sat., March 1, 2008 in Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. —Sign the online register at www.carmichael-whatley.com

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

ADAIR, Helen Brantley — 2 p.m. Graveside services, Memory Gardens Cemetery, Pampa.

Helen Brantley Adair, 79

Helen Brantley Adair, 79, died Sat. March 1, 2008, in Pampa. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tues., March 4, 2008, at Memory Gardens Cemetery with Paul Nachtigall, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Adair was born Feb. 10, 1929, in Pocasset, Okla., and she attended school in Oklahoma. She married Richard Brantley on April 3, 1946, in Chickasha, Oklahoma. She had been a

resident of Pampa since 1947. Mrs. Adair was a member of Highland Baptist Church. She worked as a nurse at Highland General Hospital and then later became a real estate agent for Quentin Williams Realtors. She won an award for Real Estate Salesperson of the Year in 1966. She later worked as a seamstress for Pampa Tent and Awning.



Adair

She loved to fish and travel and had a great zest for life. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Brantley, by a sister, Ellen Kirby, and by two brothers, H. J. Kirby and Roy Kirby. Survivors include one son, Louis Brantley of Pampa; two daughters, Olivia Howard of Minneapolis, Minn. and Karen Ayala of Pampa; one

brother, Kenneth Kirby of Pampa; one sister, Bernice Vier of Carlsbad, N.M.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be sent to the American Cancer Society, c/o Gerry Caylor, 2130 Charles, Pampa, Texas 79065, or Odyssey Healthcare, 6900 I-40 West, Suite 150, Amarillo, Texas 79106.

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

R.C. McCurley, Jr., 94

Canadian — R. C. McCurley, Jr., 94, died Sun., March 2, 2008, in Canadian. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa. Mr. McCurley was born Dec. 19, 1913, in Blue, Okla.

He was a retired Baptist minister. He was an avid fisherman. He was preceded in death by his parents, by a brother, Amos McCurley, and by eight sisters. Survivors include one

daughter, Reta Alley of Bartlesville, Okla.; one son, Gary McCurley of Mesquite; two grandchildren, Gina Cook and Jeff Alley, both of Fort Collins, Colo.; and by numerous great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be sent to a favorite charity.

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

George 'Rocky' Thompson, 82

George "Rocky" Thompson, 82, of Pampa died Sat., March 1, 2008, in Amarillo. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors. Mr. Thompson was born Jan. 4, 1926, in Lorraine. He married Dorothy Rogers on Aug. 10, 1943, in Shamrock. He had been a resident of Pampa since 1951 and worked for Cabot for 35 years. George was a member of Central Baptist Church and the Pampa Masonic Lodge #966 AF & AM.

He was a veteran of the U. S. Army, serving from 1944 until 1946. He enjoyed building things. George was a devoted family man. He had values, principles and morals which he lived by and stood up for every day. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Imogené Finley in July



Thompson

Wayne Thompson in 1973. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Thompson of the home; one son, Darrell Thompson and wife Chris of Amarillo; two daughters, Sandra Middleton and Judy Clemmer and husband Don, all of Amarillo; one sister, Naomi Lamb of Lubbock; four brothers, Jess Thompson of Midland, Doug Thompson

and Dwight Thompson, both of Groom, and Jerry Thompson of Houston; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorials can be sent to Central Baptist Church, 513 E. Francis, Pampa, Texas 79065.

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

MURDERS

Attack on family shocks Texas community

EMORY, Texas (AP) — A weekend ambush left a mother and her two sons dead and the father wounded, a grisly shooting and stabbing attack authorities say was carried out by the family's teenage daughter and the boyfriend her parents disliked.

"We feel confident that the motive was the fact that the juvenile daughter and one of the individuals in custody were dating and that the parents were attempting to break the relationship up, which led to the crime that was committed," Rains County Sheriff David Traylor said Sunday.

The 16-year-old girl joined her boyfriend and two others in killing members of the Caffey family in their bedrooms before setting the house on fire, authorities said, confirming what most in this rural farming town had known since the pre-dawn attack Saturday.

The lone survivor was Terry Caffey, the father. He was shot five times — including twice in the back — before he dragged himself through the woods in search of help. He awaited surgery Sunday to remove the bullets, Traylor said, and an update was not available Monday morning.

Killed were Penny Caffey, 37, and sons Tyler, 8, and Mathew, 13.

The girl, who was not identified because of her age, was arraigned Sunday on three counts of capital murder and being held on \$1.5 million bond. Charlie James Wilkinson, the girl's 19-year-old boyfriend, and two others, Charles Allen Waid, 20, and Bobbi Gale Johnson, 18, were arraigned on the same charges.

Waid, Johnson and Wilkinson were being held in Rains

County jail on \$1.5 million bond. The Caffey's daughter was being held in neighboring Hunt County's juvenile detention center. Traylor said he wasn't aware if they had attorneys yet.

The killings gripped everyone and everything in Emory, from the Sunday morning church services to lunch conversations at small cafes along the two-lane road running through this town of just 1,500.

Classmates of the Caffey's daughter and Wilkinson described the couple as inseparable and with few other friends on campus. Stunning most here was the arrest of Johnson, who was widely described as a good student active in theater at Rains High School.

Jennifer McClanahan, a senior at Rains, said that Wilkinson had been scolded during her English class last week for being on the computer. Wilkinson, she said, in turn told the teacher that her girlfriend's father had hacked into his MySpace page.

McClanahan and others said Wilkinson was not really a troublemaker, other than constantly being told to remove the cowboy hat he always wore to school.

"That's Charlie," said McClanahan, 17. "He would start an argument over something like a hat."

Carl Johnson, a friend of the family, said the Caffey's moved about two years ago to just outside Emory. He called them good Christians and said he often told the daughter he wanted her soft singing voice to perform at his funeral.

Emergency Services

Sheriff

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

Saturday, March 1

Van Johnson, 54, of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of Osborn by Pampa Police Department for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and assault causing bodily injury.

Sunday, March 2

Joshua Ryan Ennis, 21, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for public intoxication.

Jeremy Joe Hernandez, 29, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of West Foster by PPD for possession of drug paraphernalia, no insurance and expired motor vehicle inspection.

Jose Refugio Mendez, 27, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of West Foster by PPD for public intoxication.

Roberto Solis, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of West 18th by PPD for possession of drug para-

phernalia, expired motor vehicle registration and minor in possession of alcohol.

Juan Rodriguez Jr., 18, of Pampa was arrested in the 900 block of West 18th by PPD for possession of marijuana.

Austin Chase McCarthy, 21, of Pampa was arrested in the 400 block of North Doyle by PPD for assault by contact.

Marvin Monroe Finney III, 32, of Pampa was arrested in the 2400 block of Comanche by PPD on municipal court warrants for possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to appear and no valid driver's license.

Rick Villarreal, 40, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on capias pro fines for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to maintain financial responsibility.

Timothy Aron Wilson, 32, of Pampa was arrested in Midland by PPD for theft of property greater than \$50 but

less than \$500.

Robert James Ellis, 19, of Pampa was arrested in the 300 block of East Brown by PPD for fictional/altered/obscured vehicle registration, no valid driver's license, no proof of insurance and expired motor vehicle registration.

Fire

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

Saturday, Feb. 1

7:11 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded to the 300 block of North Hobart on an arcing power line.

Sunday, Feb. 2

2:02 p.m. — One unit and five personnel responded to the 900 block of Scott on a medical assist.

8:50 p.m. — Two units and eight personnel responded to the 500 block of Wells on a chimney fire.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

Feds keep quiet about finds in home searched for ricin

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The FBI searched a home in Utah and three storage units linked to a man possibly sickened by the deadly toxin ricin that was discovered in his motel room, but remained quiet Monday about what they found.

In a statement, the FBI said only that the search had concluded and there was no health threat discovered at the home or the storage units.

Authorities believed they had recovered all of the ricin in several vials found last week from the Las Vegas Strip motel where Roger Von Bergendorff had stayed, but they wanted to also check the home in Riverton, where Bergendorff had lived.

Authorities believed they had recovered all of the ricin, but as a precaution they wanted to also check the home in Riverton, where Bergendorff had lived with a cousin, Thomas Tholen.

Nearby homes were evacuated Sunday as FBI agents in hazardous-material protection suits meticulously searched Tholen's house.

Tholen declined to comment Monday when reached by telephone. He said he had not spoken with investigators.

Aside from the lack of any health threat, no details from the searches had been disclosed. Fuhrman repeated Sunday what authorities have said for days: "There is no indication of any terrorist act or activity."

Bergendorff, the focus of the investigation, had lived in the house for more than a year before moving to Las Vegas about a year ago, said Tammy Ewell, who lives across the street.

Von Bergendorff has been hospitalized since Feb. 14. He has been unconscious, so police and the FBI have not been able to question him about the ricin. Health officials are still trying to confirm whether Von Bergendorff's respiratory ailment stemmed from ricin exposure.

As little as 500 micrograms of ricin, an amount about the size of the head of a pin, can kill a human, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The only legal use for ricin is cancer research.

Fuhrman would not say whether the FBI suspected that Von Bergendorff had manufactured or stored ricin in the home or the rented storage units.

Las Vegas police said that firearms, an "anarchist-type textbook" and castor beans were found in the motel room. The book was tabbed at a spot containing information about ricin.

Fuhrman said investigators were still trying to figure out why Von Bergendorff would have ricin.

Police and health officials have tried to assure Las Vegas residents there is no public health threat. There was no indication of any spread of the deadly substance, they said.

Oil prices set record

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices surged to a new record high Monday as the dollar weakened to another low against the euro.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery rose \$1.93 to \$103.77 on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising as high as \$103.95. That's higher than the price of \$103.76 that many analysts believe oil hit in 1980, when adjusted for inflation into 2008 dollars.

Oil's most recent run into record territory has been driven by the greenback's slump against other world currencies. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the dollar is falling.

Oil isn't the only commodity rising on the dollar's weakness — gold, copper and wheat are among the other commodities that have rallied in recent weeks as the dollar has fallen.

"It's coming down to another commodity price rally," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp., in Chicago.

Other energy futures also rallied Monday. In other Nymex trading, April heating oil futures jumped 6.06 cents to \$2.8675 a gallon,

and April gasoline futures rose 5.65 cents to \$2.7264 a gallon. April natural gas futures gained 20 cents to \$9.566 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude futures rose \$2.07 to \$102.17 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

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Fletcher

Continued from Page 1

two years remaining at that time. Fletcher won in 2006 and once again resigned. He did not receive any compensation of any kind from the county in 2006, according to County Treasurer Scott Hahn. His

check for \$842,37, written Jan. 31, 2005, cleared the bank where the county has its accounts on March 7 of that year, Hahn said.

The county currently budgets approximately \$45,000 annually for the Precinct 4 constable's office. If the funds are not used, they are returned to the county's general fund.

Fletcher and Broadus, both Republicans, are the only candidates for Precinct 4 constable in the March 4 primary. Broadus has said that keeping the office vacant is not a true

savings to the county, because if two people could be kept out of drug rehabilitation facilities by the Precinct 4 constable, the office would pay for itself.

Fletcher is once again running in order to resign and thus keep the office vacant, he said. He said he accepted the county's check in 2005 to help recoup some of the approximately \$1,500 he spent on campaign materials, advertising and the cost of filing as a candidate.

Trial

Continued from Page 1

ments that we need to look at and research before continuing with them," she said. "So, rather than delay the trial, we separated them out and proceeded only on the two aggravated robbery charges."

Cordova is one of three men indicted by a Gray County grand jury on Oct. 3, 2006 in 223rd District Court on two counts each of aggravated robbery and aggravated assault in connection with a Pampa home invasion. Bond was set at \$300,000.

At about 9 a.m. May 21, 2006, two armed men broke into the home of Layne and Mae Conner in the 1100 block of East Francis and took a blue Citibank bag with \$100 and \$50 bills

totaling \$4,000. A third man was believed to be the driver for the group.

One of the two armed men fired a shot at Layne Conner in the course of the robbery. Conner was not injured as a result of the shot. Also present in the home at the time of the robbery were Mae Conner and an 8-year-old grandson of the Conners, neither of whom were injured during the incident.

Also indicted in connection with the robbery were Davey Enriquez and Adam Refugio Aguilar, both of Amarillo. Both were charged with two counts of aggravated robbery and two counts of aggravated assault. Enriquez' charges were enhanced due to his prior convictions for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and burglary of a habitation.

Enriquez was convicted in January and sentenced to

four 99-year prison terms for the four felonies.

Cordova's trial began Monday with jury selection. The jury was seated at about 3 p.m. that day, followed by opening arguments and testimony by witnesses for the prosecution.

The jury began deliberations at about 2:20 p.m. Thursday and returned the

two guilty verdicts against Cordova at 4:22 p.m. that day.

"The defendant remains in custody in the Gray County Jail, where he will await transfer to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Institutional Division to begin serving his sentence," Rutherford said Friday.

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Viewpoints

'Coffee time' is more than just a time to drink with friends

When the visiting home-boy and his friend from the big city walked into the town's only drug store for a cup of coffee that morning, none of the other coffee drinkers paid any attention. No "hiddy's," just a few casual looks. Conversation proceeded intermittently, borne of long acquaintance coupled with a rural tendency not to waste words. And all according to long-established if unwritten rules.

Every day except Wednesdays, when the Merkel Drug Store is closed, local farmers and businessmen in this small Taylor County community gather for morning coffee. On this chilly morning, the first topic of conversation is the weather. Preceded by a good rain, a cold front had blown

in a couple of days earlier. "Got down to 31 at my place," says one gimme-capped farmer. "Had ice on my windshields this morning."

"How much rain d'you get?" another asked.

"About three-quarters of an inch. Started in Friday evening and rained more Saturday."

Austin advertising executive and cartoonist Roger Moore, who grew up at Merkel and returns to check his family's old farm about once a month, says locals have been meeting for coffee every day for as long as he can remember.

"When I was little, the men collected at the feed store," Moore recalls. "My daddy would say, 'I'm gonna go pack a sack,' which meant

he was going to the feed store for coffee."

The men enjoyed their cup of Joe sitting on stacks of feed sacks, packing down the sacks. Later, the daily coffee club moved to the drug soda fountain. Even so, some of the men, including Moore's father, hated going from free to five-cent coffee.

The ritual is not unique to Merkel. Since practically forever, Texans all across the state have practiced this little-known daily routine of coffee and conversation. Though more common in small towns, no-dues, no officers coffee clubs occa-

sionally develop in the bigger cities. Often, the metropolitan sippers grew up in small towns and carried their tradition with them.

"Daddy said coffee's the fount of all knowledge," Moore continues. "Sometimes rather than saying he was going to 'pack a sack,' he'd grab his hat and tell us he was 'going to school.'"

Years later, sitting around drinking coffee is how Moore found out that the only way to keep rats out of the old pickup he keeps at his place is to leave the hood up when he's not using it. "Rats like cover," he

learned.

The daily coffee drinking looks to be a casual event, but according to Moore, practitioners adhere to strict if un-codified rules.

"You don't introduce anybody," Moore begins. "Well, maybe if you sit right down next to somebody, the person you're with will say, 'This is ole so-and-so from wherever.' But the locals all know each other."

That brings up another rule: You don't acknowledge when people arrive. Or when they leave, for that matter.

Interrupting someone is the most serious breach of coffee drinking etiquette, Moore says. Breaking in on another's conversation is hardly necessary in the first place. The pace of talk is seldom hurried enough to even

tempt cutting someone off.

At the Merkel Drug these days, coffee is self-serve. What Moore's dad used to pay five cents for now costs 10 times that, still a bargain compared with the urban cafe latte salons that charge the better part of a \$5 bill. These other tongue-in-cheek prices are posted on the wall: Small - 54 cents; Medium - 81 cents; Large - \$1.62; Refills, of course, are free.

Periodically, there being no waitress, someone will pick up the coffee pot and make the rounds, topping off everyone's cup.

"Saw your picture in the paper yesterday," one of the farmers ventures, looking at a ruddy-faced buddy peering out from under a John Deer hat.



Mike Cox
Columnist

See COX, Page 8

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, March 3, the 63rd day of 2008. There are 303 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 3, 1931, President Hoover signed a measure making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States.

On this date:

In 1845, Florida became the 27th state.

In 1849, the U.S. Department of the Interior was established.

In 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the Tuscumbia, Ala., home of Capt. and Mrs. Arthur H. Keller to become the teacher for their blind and deaf 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

In 1894, British Prime Minister William Gladstone submitted his resignation to Queen Victoria, ending his fourth and final premiership.

In 1918, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended Russian participation in World War I. (The treaty was rendered moot by the November 1918 armistice.)

In 1945, the Allies fully secured the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1969, Apollo 9 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a mission to test the lunar module.

In 1974, nearly 350 people died when a Turkish Airlines DC-10 crashed shortly after takeoff from Orly Airport in Paris.

In 1991, in a case that sparked a national outcry, motorist Rodney King was severely beaten by Los Angeles police officers in a scene captured on amateur video.

In 1991, 25 people were killed when a United Airlines Boeing 737-200 crashed while approaching the Colorado Springs airport.

Ten years ago: Presidential confidant Vernon Jordan testified before the grand jury investigating the Monica Lewinsky matter. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that his company wasn't a monopoly out to crush rivals in the Internet software market. The Supreme Court ruled that local lawmakers' votes are immune to lawsuits even if they had been based on illegal or discriminatory motives. Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

'Nothing is really real unless it happens on television.'

— Daniel J. Boorstin
One-time Librarian of Congress (1914-2004)



Today's Germans has no part in Holocaust

Recently, 25 German professors issued a manifesto that said, in effect, that Germany had paid its debt for the Holocaust "in full," and that Germany should stop giving preferential treatment to Israel and adopt a more balanced foreign policy in regard to the Arab states of the Middle East.

Some German professors even went to Israel to debate the manifesto with Israelis at the Center for Strategic Dialogue at Netanya Academic College. Needless to say, the Israelis are outraged.

Still, it was something I've been expecting. Sixty-three years is a long time to pay for the sins of 12 years of Nazism. It wasn't as if Germany got off free. Germany and the German people paid a terrible price in blood and destruction for World War II. The country was literally destroyed, millions of its citizens were killed and maimed, 13 million were forcibly removed

from their ancestral homes in the East, thousands of Germans starved to death immediately after the war, and the country was looted by the Soviet Union and the Western Allies.

Today, if there are any Nazis left, they are elderly. Even the postwar generation is now approaching retirement age. Since I don't believe in group guilt, much less trans-generational guilt, I have to agree with the manifesto. Enough is enough. The overwhelming majority of Germans living today had nothing to do with the Nazi government or with the Holocaust. It is time for Germany to put that era behind it and start looking out for its own self-interest in the contemporary world.

No German who was a child during the war and cer-

tainly no one who was born after the war need feel the least bit of guilt for anything that happened. They are not responsible. Those who were responsible are long dead or dying. After three generations, for Israel to keep extracting money from Germany's mack s more of extortion than reparations. In the meantime, the Israelis themselves have some reparations to pay to the Palestinians, whom they uprooted from their homes and farms.

And while we're at it, it's time for the Justice Department to shut down its operation that continues to scour nursing homes in search of Germans who became citizens of the U.S. after the war. Not every German was a war criminal, not even every Nazi or every camp guard. What makes a

war criminal are individual acts, not jobs. We should remember that in wartime in any country, the penalty for a soldier disobeying a direct order is death. If you were assigned to guard a camp, you guarded it. If you committed individual acts of cruelty, you are properly a war criminal; if you didn't, you aren't.

Most Americans today never saw Nazi Germany. Our visual impression of Nazi Germany comes mainly from movies and television — in other words, fiction as well as some newsreels and documentaries. For decades, Hollywood used Germans as its favorite villains. Only recently has it switched to Arabs.

I'm not suggesting that the Third Reich was innocent, but I am cautioning that the reality was probably different than the impressions in our heads, just as the reality of the Civil War was no

Charley Reese
Columnist



See REESE, Page 8

Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Feb. 23
Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Vince Young's smart game plan:
You could admire Vince Young for many things: the way he led the Texas Longhorns to the national football championship in 2006, or the smart play and supernatural speed that garnered him Rookie of the Year honors.

But what's really admirable about Young is this: He's back at the University of Texas at Austin to finish

his degree.

"Some kids are like, 'Why are you back? You've got all this money and all this fame,'" the Tennessee Titans quarterback told Star-Telegram sports writer Charean Williams. "I just tell them that's not what I'm shooting for. I want to get my degree."

Young left college after his junior year, passing up one last shot at the Heisman trophy for a \$58 million contract with the Titans. His return to the classroom shows he understands that dedication and discipline matter on and off the field.

At a time when so few college ath-

letes are making the most of the educational opportunity that their athletic prowess provides — only 64 percent of football players went on to graduate, according to a recent NCAA study — it's exciting to see someone with Young's star power back in the classroom.

His fellow 'Horns gave him a standing ovation on his first day in psychology class this spring, Williams reported.

We rise to salute him, too. URL: <http://www.star-telegram.com>

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was a healthy, vibrant mother of one with a steady government job. I saw my doctor regularly for check-ups, since both my parents have high blood pressure. As an active, health-conscious vegetarian, I thought I was at my physical peak. When I experienced nausea and lower back pain, I expected my doctor to tell me my 4-year-old daughter was going to have a sister or brother. Instead, I was informed that my kidneys were barely working and I needed to see a specialist at once. That's when my life began spinning out of control. I was told I would need dialysis to keep me alive! How could this happen? Where were the warning signs and symptoms? Why wasn't my kidney function checked during previous doctor visits? There were no answers to these questions. No one in my family was able to donate a kidney to me because everyone had high blood pressure. So I went on dialysis and learned everything I could about kidney disease. After 10 years of dialysis, I finally received a successful kidney transplant. Many people don't realize that high blood pressure and diabetes are the two leading causes of kidney disease. More than 26 million Americans have chronic kidney disease, and millions more are at risk. Screening for kidney function is not part of a routine physical examination, and kidney disease generally shows no symptoms -- so if you have a family history of high blood pressure or diabetes, you are at risk. Simple blood and urine tests could save your life. So please don't put off what you can take care of today. Tomorrow could be too late. -- **DAWN P. EDWARDS, LAKE SUCCESS, N.Y.**

DEAR DAWN: Thank you for your informative eye-opener of a letter. I am pleased that you finally got your kidney

transplant because I know what a life-changing difference it has made for you and your daughter -- truly a new beginning. Readers, March is National Kidney Month, and March 13 is World Kidney Day. That's the day the National Kidney Foundation holds free screenings in 30 cities across the country. The screening program is called "KEEP," or Kidney Early Evaluation Program. You can learn more about kidney disease by visiting www.kidney.org. To find the KEEP screening nearest you, log onto www.keeponline.org, or call the National Kidney Foundation toll-free at 800-622-9010.

DEAR ABBY: I have been going through a very selective interview process toward getting the job of my dreams. The problem is, I have a vacation planned for three months from now. When is the correct time to inform my prospective employer of this preplanned, prepaid and non-refundable trip? (It's my husband's dream vacation, and I would hate to have to let him down.) -- **MS. PROFESSIONAL IN CLEVELAND, GA.**

DEAR MS. PROFESSIONAL: Inform your prospective employer immediately that you have a prepaid vacation planned. The person doing the hiring will respect you for doing so, and you should not lose out on the "job of your dreams."

I am speaking from personal experience when I say this because when I hired my personal assistant, Sherry, she let me know during the interview that she had not one but two trips planned. I respected her candor, hired her, and consider her to be one of the major blessings in my life.

For Better Or Worse



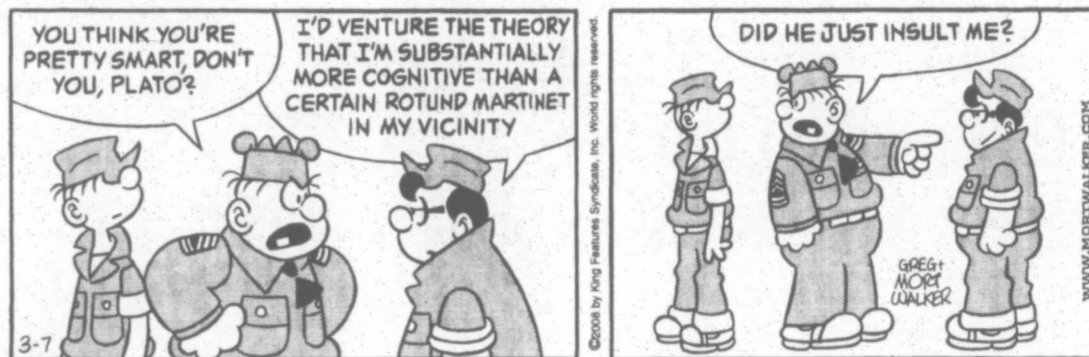
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 1950s car
 - 39 Audibly
 - 1 Field yield
 - 40 Calls for woe
 - 9 Boxing ring border
 - 11 Easy gaits
 - 13 Bond, for one
 - 14 Noticeable
 - 15 Stole stuff
 - 16 Baseball's Alomar
 - 18 Service pieces
 - 20 Hang out
 - 21 High-stepping aid
 - 22 Article
 - 23 Suffering
 - 24 Me, to Miss Piggy
 - 25 Flag Day month
 - 27 Does, when young
 - 29 Meringue base
 - 30 Searches for food
 - 32 Some shakers
 - 34 Fan sound
 - 35 Sleep sound
 - 36 Non-native, in Hawaii
- DOWN**
- 1 Skill
 - 2 Scoundrels
 - 3 Red-ink number
 - 4 Signing need
 - 5 Neatniks' counter-parts
 - 6 Relocate
 - 7 Surgeon's place
 - 8 Drew's role in "E.T."
 - 10 Casual walk
 - 12 Tempest
 - 17 Giant neighbor
 - 19 Carpet feature
 - 22 Davenport
 - 7 Surgeon's setting
 - 24 Mason of movies
 - 25 Track great
 - 26 Kenya
 - 27 Gift-tag word
 - 28 Close tightly
 - 30 Senses
 - 31 Storage sites
 - 33 Arduous journey
 - 37 Copying

ACRE	ALIST
CHILE	LAVIER
TIPIN	IVANA
EMU	TITANIC
DEPART	HOE
MASH	ORR
RAIN	EWES
NED	TAXI
ODD	PAGODA
ICEBERG	LIL
SEDER	ONICE
ENTER	NEVER
STOPS	TEST

Yesterday's answer

Marmaduke



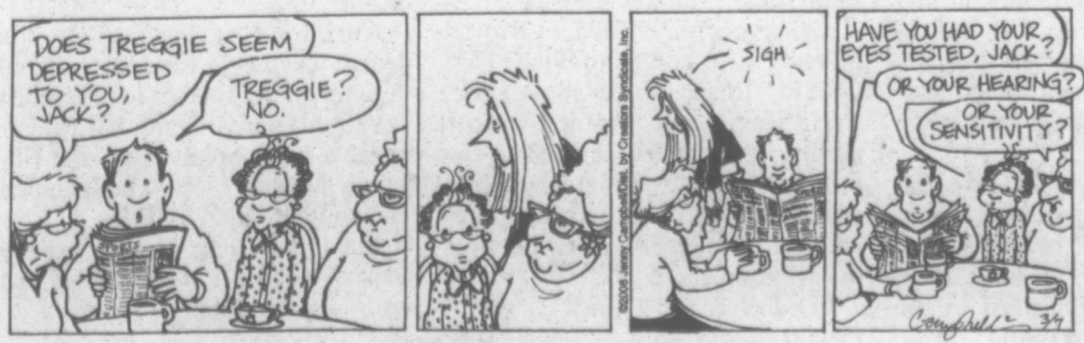
"You'll just have to wait until spring to turn on the hot tub."

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane

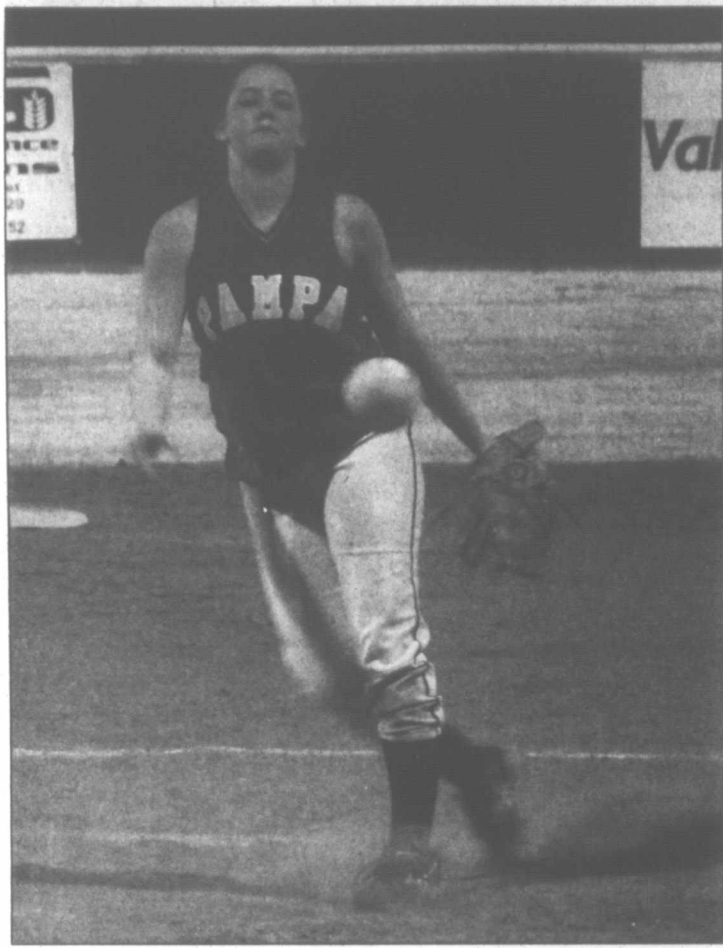


Flo & Friends



Sports

Pitching



Courtesy Photo

Katelin Wall throws a pitch during the Harvester JV softball tournament in Dumas. The girls ended up winning the entire tournament.

FBI probed Packers great McGee's gambling

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Hard-partying Green Bay Packers receiver Max McGee, who scored the first touchdown in Super Bowl history, had a gambling habit that the FBI tracked after his career ended, newly released records show.

Agents investigated McGee for about a year, from late 1972 through September 1973, before dropping the case for lack of evidence, according to records released to The Associated Press under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

Information in the late player's file appears to show the FBI thought he was a bookmaker but determined he wasn't, said I. Nelson Rose, a professor at Whittier Law School in Costa Mesa, Calif. Given that there are no federal laws against making a bet, the FBI wouldn't have had anything to charge McGee with, Rose said Friday.

"I'll be damned," McGee's former teammate and longtime friend Jerry Kramer said when told of the file released to the AP last week.

Likewise, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Sunday he did not know about the FBI's probe of McGee.

"You know he was betting. Everybody knows that," Kramer said Friday from his home in Boise, Idaho. "I kind of thought

it was more of a social thing than serious gambling."

The fun-loving McGee was beloved by Packers fans not only for his play, but also for his lifestyle and his years as an announcer for the Packer Radio Network. He died in October at age 75 when he fell while clearing leaves off the roof of his Minneapolis home.

McGee often talked about his love of gambling on horses and playing poker. One of the songs played at his funeral was Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler."

McGee's widow, Denise McGee, said she had no idea about the FBI investigation but did not meet him until after the probe was closed.

"I was with him for 26 years, and he is the most honest and loyal person I ever met," she said. "Did he like to bet on football games? Yeah, a lot of people do."

McGee played for the Packers from 1954 to 1967, helping them win five NFL championships, including the first two Super Bowls. He became part of team lore when he admitted staying up all night to party with three stewardesses on L.A.'s Sunset Strip before the first Super Bowl, then hauling in a pass from Bart Starr for the first touchdown in the championship game's history.

Edwards wins Vegas, second straight victory

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Making his second visit in six days to Victory Lane, Carl Edwards triumphantly raised the glittering gold belt he earned at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

In a town known for title fights, Edwards emerged as a heavyweight contender Sunday.

"We do this to win. Winning these races is the greatest," Edwards said. "Winning a championship would be the ultimate. What we're trying to do is win the championship this year. That's our No. 1 goal."

Just three races into this new season, it's far too early to call Edwards the favorite to win the Sprint Cup title. And this win may not be controversy free: NASCAR discovered the lid was off of his oil tank box during post-race inspection and is taking the parts back to North Carolina for further inspection.

Five Nationwide Series crew chiefs were suspended six races each, fined \$15,000 and their drivers were docked 25 points last month because their lids were loose during an inspection.

It could mean that Edwards, who won his second Cup race in six days, could have a short first visit atop the points standings. He holds a 21-point lead over Kyle Busch.

Edwards earned it by overcoming an early pit-road penalty, escaping NASCAR punishment on a second pit-road mishap, then holding off a rusty Dale Earnhardt Jr. on a pair of late restarts Sunday.

Edwards, who scored his first win of the season in

Monday's rain-postponed event in California, celebrated win No. 2 with his trademark backflip. Then he gleefully carried around the shiny new belt he was certain good friend John Cena, the WWE champion, would covet.

For Edwards, it seemed like a return to his 2005 form, when he finished third in the series standings.

"I think we are close to the form we were in 2005 when it seemed like a Roush Fenway car would win every week," Edwards said.

It was the sixth victory for team owner Jack Roush in 11 races at Las Vegas, and it ended Jimmie Johnson's string of three straight wins in the desert.

Edwards was penalized early in the race when one of his tires rolled away from the team during a pit stop. He then caught a break when it happened a second time, escaping a penalty because NASCAR determined the tire broke free because a television cameraman shooting from inside the box interfered with the crew members.

"When you think you didn't actually break a rule, you have to keep a level head," said crew chief Bob Osborne, who immediately climbed off the pit box to make a case against being penalized.

"I wanted to go ballistic and yell and scream and kick and punch and do whatever I had to do to get my way. But I kept a level head and NASCAR reviewed it."

With the decision to not penalize the team, Edwards remained in contention to run for the win. But two late

restarts gave the competition a chance to run down his No. 99 Ford.

Kurt Busch's wreck with 11 laps to go brought out the caution, and Edwards was in front of Earnhardt on the restart with five to go. But Earnhardt appeared to spin his tires at the start, and Matt Kenseth and Jeff Gordon had to split his car to avoid running into him.

"I've been out of the game so long," joked Earnhardt, who hasn't consistently run up front for several years. "I ain't had a whole lot of practice out there. I looked like a tool out there."

Once past Earnhardt, Gordon and Kenseth raced side-by-side and Edwards pulled away. Then Gordon drifted into the side of Kenseth's car, starting a spin that led to Gordon slamming into the inside wall. His Chevrolet broke into tons of part and pieces, and NASCAR had to red-flag the race to clean the debris.

"It's uncharacteristic of Jeff to overdrive or make a mistake like that," said Greg Biffle, who had to avoid the wreckage.

That accident set up a two-lap sprint to the finish, but the wait time cooled Earnhardt's tires and he was unable to mount a charge on Edwards on the restart. Earnhardt's losing streak stretched to 64 races.

"The red flag just really killed us," said Earnhardt, who settled for second. "We were terrible on cold tires. It's real frustrating."

Biffle was third and was followed by the Richard Childress Racing cars of Kevin Harvick and Jeff Burton. Kasey Kahne was

sixth, followed by David Ragan, Travis Kvapil, Denny Hamlin and Mark Martin.

Kyle Busch, who was trying to become the first driver to win from the pole at Las Vegas, struggled with adjustments to his Toyota the entire race and had to settle for 11th on his hometown track.

Johnson, the two-time defending series champion, was looking for a fourth straight win in the desert. But his team struggled the entire weekend, he fell two laps down in the race and finished 29th.

Two-time series champion, Tony Stewart bruised his foot 108 laps into the race when his right front tire failed and he hit the wall for the second-straight day.

"I was kind of worried, my legs, my entire legs from my hips down were just tingling," Stewart said. "And I had pain in my lower back, and that kind of scared me a little bit. I've not had my legs tingle like that before."

"I was kind of worried about, 'What's going on here?'"

He slowly climbed from his car and gingerly walked with the assistance of two emergency personnel into a waiting car that took him to the infield care center. He said the tingling sensation had improved before he left the care center, and said he still planned to participate in the Cup test scheduled for Monday and Tuesday in Phoenix.

"It's going to be a miserable next two days," he said. "I was already sore. We'll do what we've got to do the next two days."

Winning trophy

Winning trophy



Courtesy Photo

The Pampa Harvester JV softball team show off their tournament-winning trophy. Back row from left are Kaci Reyes, Brooklyn Barker, Emilee Troxell, Jordan Mayhew, Candia Jimenez, Madi Shults, Karla Dominguez and Coach Tucker. Middle row from left are Amanda Harkins, Katelin Wall, Kenzi Carter and Rachel Heuston. Kneeling are Devin Valentine and Mikaela Flores. (story will run in Tuesday's edition)

Els gets first PGA Tour win since 2004, wins Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Ernie Els was part of another final-round blunder. Only this time, he was the beneficiary.

Ending nearly a four-year drought between PGA Tour victories, Els shot a 3-under 67 Sunday to win The Honda Classic. He finished at 6 under, one shot better than Luke Donald (71) and two ahead of Nathan Green (67).

But this final round will probably be best remembered for Mark Calcavecchia's chip that wouldn't stop, because that ultimately was the break Els needed to finally hoist a winner's trophy once again.

"It has to feel even sweeter, you know, losing so many tournaments and one now going my way," said

Els, who snapped an 0-for-47 streak in PGA Tour events, dating to the 2004 American Express Championship in Ireland.

Els and Calcavecchia were tied for the lead as the sun began setting on PGA National. Calcavecchia hit into a greenside bunker at the par-3 15th and his shot from the sand looked fine when it hit the green.

Somehow, it never stopped rolling.

The ball came to rest on a rock ledge across the green. Calcavecchia walked over, tossed the ball into the water and made a double bogey to give Els the outright lead.

"It just didn't grab and just kept rolling and rolling and rolling," said Calcavecchia, a two-time

Honda winner. "And that was it."

Els made a cool par on the par-5 finishing hole, then waited to see if anyone would match his score. Donald made a 35-foot birdie at the 16th to get within one, but got no closer, although his birdie chip on the last hole stopped just shy of the cup.

With that, Els stopping hitting balls and slipped on his watch, basking in a winning feeling again. "To win over here, it's been really my goal," Els said. "So it's a great feeling."

Els got \$990,000 for his 16th career PGA Tour victory, along with the huge shot of confidence that he's sought for so long. Plus, he'll jump a spot to third in the world rankings, passing Steve

Stricker.

No, this isn't enough for him to catch Tiger Woods.

But he's at least a step closer in his three-year plan to challenge the world's No. 1 player.

"That's as good as I probably could have played in the final round," Els said. "So it was very satisfying."

Calcavecchia (73), Robert Allenby (70) and Matt Jones (73) tied for fourth, three shots back. Brian Davis, who was at 10 under earlier in the week and led at the midway mark, shot his second straight 73 and finished in a five-way tie for seventh, four shots off the winning score.

"Didn't go my way," Calcavecchia said. "Wasn't my

time."

Els wasted a four-shot, final-round lead in a European tour event in Dubai earlier this year, when Woods roared past him for a victory. Els made a colossal mistake on the 18th hole that day, splashing his approach into the water after trying to pull off a spectacular finish.

At Hilton Head last year, he was denied when Boo Weekley chipped in twice in the final holes. And last year in his native South Africa, Els made a triple-bogey 8 on the finishing hole to blow what seemed like another cinch victory.

But this time, a smooth, steady finish — a Big Easy finish, if you will — got it done.

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SOUTH TEXAS

Mexico bans imports of most used cars

HIDALGO, Texas (AP) — Some are dented, scratched and rusty. Others rattle and belch under faded paint jobs. But the "98" soaped onto their windshields and a surprise change in Mexican import rules have turned a single year's worth of used cars into pick of the used-car lot.

Beginning Monday, only cars made for the 1998 model year — none older and none newer — can be legally imported into Mexico. Car dealers were given notice only a month ago.

Until now, used cars 10 to 15 years old were scooped up at auction by South Texas used car dealers and rapidly sold to Mexicans hungry for affordable transportation and "la novedad" — or novelty — of unfamiliar makes and models.

Cars newer than that were banned from imports as unwelcome competition for Mexican car dealers, and anything more than 15 years old was seen as a potential environmental and safety hazard.

But now, under pressure from Mexico's new car dealers who say "vehiculos chatarra," or jalopies, undercut their sales, the Mexican government is allowing only 10-year-old used cars to be legally imported into Mexico.

All of a sudden, 1998 Lumina, Astro vans and Ranger pickups are sought-after trophies.

The Mexican Association of Automobile Distributors, which pushed for the change, said it was needed to "stop the accelerated conversion of our country into the world's biggest automotive garbage dump."

The Mexican Consulate in McAllen said the change was made "to restrict the

entry of vehicles that compete with the Mexican car industry."

A mile north of the Rio Grande, 80 percent of the customers at Walester Auto Sales are Mexican. But this past week, only one out of the 24 cars on the dirt lot boasted the magic "1998."

That vehicle was a white Chevrolet Blazer with a "Redneck" sticker on the windshield and a vanity plate of a silhouetted couple embracing in front of a tropical sunset. It was priced at \$3,200.

With the sudden change in demand, such 1998 models are appreciating for the first time since they rolled off the lot, their prices rising by \$500 to \$800, while dealers cut prices on slightly older models in a frantic effort to move them out before Monday's deadline.

"At this point we have a lot of merchandise that was going to Mexico that now will stay," said Elena Garcia, who owns Walester with her husband, Armando Garcia, who was in Florida scouring auto auctions for more vehicles.

At Gutierrez Brothers, a few Mexican car dealers milled about, shaking their heads at the limited selection.

"The worse thing we can do is buy something that we don't know if it can go across (the border)," Juan Gutierrez said. "If a 1997 worth \$3,000 can't cross, it's not even worth \$1,500."

He had to unload about 1,000 cars last month at sharply reduced prices just to avoid getting stuck with them in March.

Gutierrez said his buyers at auto auctions across the country tell him that when a 1998 rolls into the garage, 20 buyers line up where there used to be a handful.

Nurse killed while driving shooting victim to hospital

KAUFMAN, Texas (AP) — A pediatric nurse died in a head-on collision as she rushed her son's teenage friend to the hospital after he had been shot and wounded by a neighbor.

June Nalls, 41, died late Saturday when a car drifted into her lane and struck her pickup truck just east of the Kaufman city limits, authorities said.

The shooting victim was taken by helicopter to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and was in stable condition Sunday, said Sgt. Bryan Francis, a spokesman for the Kaufman County Sheriff's Office.

"I didn't even get to say 'I love you' or nothing," Mark Nalls told The Dallas Morning News Sunday night, recalling the last time he saw his wife of 20 years.

Police said a 15-year-old was struck beneath his left arm by a shot fired through the front window of a neighbor of the Nallses. Police said the 74-year-old man apparently fired because he saw someone he didn't recognize a few feet away from his home.

Francis said the case would be referred to a grand jury.

After the shooting, the 15-year-old and the Nallses' 16-year-old son ran to the Nalls home and woke Mark and June Nalls.

Police and Mark Nalls said the teens were not committing a crime when the shot was fired.

"It's a sincere tragedy," Francis said. "It'll haunt me for a while."

Nalls said his wife thought it would be riskier to wait for an ambulance than to drive the injured teen to the hospital.

"All she does is love kids and that's all she was trying to do — get that kid to the hospital," Nalls said.

Nalls said he didn't think his neighbor would intentionally shoot a young boy.

The driver of the car that collided with June Nalls' vehicle was arrested and charged with failure to stop and render aid. The Nallses' 16-year-old son, who was also in the car, was treated and released at a Kaufman hospital.

Man charged in shooting death of grandfather, 95

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — A man has been charged with capital murder in the death of his 95-year-old grandfather over the weekend, police said.

Police say that Robert Flippin was shot in his home early Saturday. Flippin's grandson, 37-year-old John Lockard, was arrested after a short standoff with the Lubbock SWAT team. Lockard is accused of shooting Flippin in the head and neck with a shotgun.

Neighbor Perleane McDaniel said that Lockard, who lived with his mother and Flippin, was polite and always said hello.

"They raised him from a baby up," she said of

Flippin and his wife, Grace, who died several years ago.

McDaniel said she saw Lockard the day before the shooting and was so concerned by his troubled demeanor she almost called the police.

"He just couldn't sit still," she told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal for its online editions. "I don't know what was wrong, but something was wrong."

Police have not yet determined a motive.

McDaniel said Lockard worked steadily and was more visible in the neighborhood than his grandfather, who had health problems.

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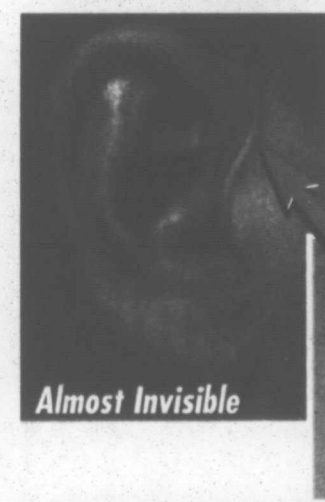
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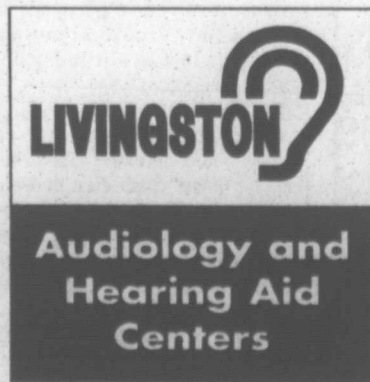
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Cox

Continued from Page 4

The man looked puzzled.

"I wasn't in the paper," he said.

"Yes you were, in the Farm Expo section," his friend said. "Your wife and kids sure looked pretty." (The joking inference being that he didn't.)

"Well, I can't afford to take the paper," he said.

"The picture said you were working on your

farm," his friend continued. "Must have been fake."

While it might seem like these men are just starting their day, most coffee clubs convene after the early rising members have already done some work.

Discussing what ended up as a pretty good year for cotton, one of the "members" noted for the record that not every year is good when your crop depends on how much it rains and when.

"I remember your daddy always used to say that if he had it to do over

again, he'd build his house closer to town so he wouldn't have to drive past his fields every day," one of the farmers told Moore. "Too depressing in a bad year."

Politics, of course, is another staple of conversation.

"He gives a good speech, but he don't say anything," one of the older men said of one candidate.

By 9 a.m., the soda fountain is as empty as a politician's promise. Until it's time for an afternoon cup.

Reese

Continued from Page 4

doubt different than the visual images left to us by "Gone With the Wind," and just as the reality of the Lakota tribes was probably different than the images created in "Dances With Wolves."

The Nazi era now belongs to historians. They still have millions of pages of Nazi records in unread archives. Let them plow through them and write and argue about it. Today's Germany has an important leadership role to play in the European Union, and it should shake off those hands that wish to keep it submerged in the past. It should shuck reparations, favored treatment to Israel and any feelings of guilt.

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

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