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HIGH 69
LOW 38

See expanded weather on Page 2

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Boydston Cemetery offers glimpse of hard times

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

A cemetery containing the graves of 19 early area residents is one of the few reminders of a pioneering family who lent their name to a town in southern Gray County which no longer exists.

Boydston Cemetery, just south of the Gray County line in northern Donley County, was established after pioneer settlers Henry S. and Mary Boydston of Illinois moved to that area in 1890. Later that year, their infant son, Eddie, died on May 2 after having been born on April 28.

Online sources state that the boy was

buried in the southwest corner of the Boydston farm, and Boydston deeded two acres at the site in 1898 for use as a public cemetery which was named Boydston Cemetery.

A town named Boydston was also established in the area after a post office bearing that name was opened in 1891 and later closed in 1940. Sources differ as to the origin of the town's name. Some claim that, although the spelling is different, the town was named for the same pioneer family as the cemetery, while others say it was named



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

▲ Eight headstones, shaped alike, are lined up in Boydston Cemetery. These represent children of the Boydston family, and many of them list the same date for date of birth and date of death.

◀ Boydston Cemetery, located in Donley County just south of the Gray County line, contains 19 graves, only 12 of which were visible on a recent visit due to tall grass which may be obscuring some of the headstones. All but two of those listed as being buried in the cemetery are children.



See **BOYDSTUN**, Page 3

Young girl advocate, voice for multiple sclerosis

By KERRI SMITH
Managing Editor

It was a cold, winter day in Pampa when 14-year old Madison Timmons was preparing to attend one of the most significant meetings that she has ever had to attend in her life. On this particular day, Madison traveled over 50 miles to meet with Representative Warren Chisum, regarding multiple sclerosis.

Chisum has served in the Texas House of Representatives since 1989 and is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. In spite of the demands of his job, Rep. Chisum took the time to speak with Timmons.

"Mr. Chisum was very relaxed, especially in his boots, hat and ranch clothes," Timmons said. "It was very easy to talk to him."

Timmons has a very personal

interest in multiple sclerosis, she was diagnosed in 2007. Since that time, she has changed her daily routine from playing tennis to attending school and she now receives her schooling through a homebound program.

What cannot be taken from Timmons though is her passion to help others and become involved in the Texas advocacy efforts on behalf of those with MS. Her diagnosis has presented her with the opportunity to look at life from a very mature perspective, which is a challenge

she has met head on. She is aware of her ability to serve as an example to others who are diagnosed with MS.

"A lot of people ask me what I would tell others with MS," Timmons said. "I say that with MS, sometimes you can tell a person's condition and other times you can't. With me, you really can't tell by looking at me that I have been diagnosed, so people sometimes say 'you look fine or why are you smiling?'"

"Well, if it weren't for MS, I wouldn't be the person I am today.

I wouldn't be as strong as I am today, and I definitely wouldn't have the knowledge behind me that I do today. Everyone has their gifts, and their purpose. Mine is to be involved and learn about this disease as much as possible."

Timmons has become actively involved in sharing her knowledge to Texas legislators. She has conducted several legislative visits with area state representatives and also serves as a MS Issue Ambassador. She describes her recent visit to Rep. Chisum as very positive.

"Meeting with political figures may be an intimidating thing for first-time Ambassadors, however we are all human," Timmons said. "We all approach things differently, but in the end we all care about



Timmons and Rep. Chisum

See **TIMMONS**, Page 3

Pampa Meals on Wheels planning first fund-raiser

Pampa MOW planning first fund-raiser of the 2008

Pampa Meals on Wheels, now in its 30th year of service to the community, is planning three major fund-raisers for 2008. Its first fund-raiser will be staged at the end of this month. Pampa MOW dates back to 1978.

A "Warehouse Cafe" and canned food drive is planned between 5:30 and 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 29 at 302 E. Foster. Six cans of food, preferably fruit or vegetables, will purchase a burger, chips and cookies.

"The increased gas prices have affected everything, and our cost per meal has risen as well," a news release from MOW said. "An average meal cost is \$4 to prepare, and our return (the amount our patrons pay) averages 60-cents per meal."

A non-profit organization,

Pampa MOW is operated almost entirely by volunteers. The program relies on volunteers to assist both in the kitchen and in making deliveries.

Approximately 30 years ago, Gray County Extension Committee, led by Reed Echols, saw the need for a meal program in Pampa. The group hired a director, Shirley Kucifer, and put together a board of directors.

Pampa Meals on Wheels was formed Oct. 9, 1978, and catered to 45 home-bound individuals. Meals were prepared at current-day Coronado Nursing Center, then known as Leisure Lodge.

By 1980, MOW had outgrown the nursing home facility. At that time, First United Methodist Church offered its kitchen and office space to the program.

See **MEALS**, Page 3

Gray County Appraisal District Review Board to elect officers

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Gray County Appraisal District's Appraisal Review Board will elect officers at their 2 p.m. meeting Wednesday in the conference room of the appraisal district offices, 815 N. Sumner.

The board will hear a scheduled late protest at 2:15 p.m., followed by approval of changes as provided by Sections 25 and 51 of the Texas Property Tax Code.

Chief Appraiser Pat Bagley will give a report to the board.

Pampa EDC to hear reports




By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

The Pampa Economic Development Corporation board of directors will hear from Shane Stokes, community services director for the City of Pampa, and Lee Porter, who is on the Pampa Independent School District board of trustees, when they meet at 11

a.m. Thursday at the Pampa Community Building, 200 N. Ballard.

The economic development corporation board will consider a portable booth for events; hear a report from Dwight Fiveash, the Pampa EDC executive director, and discuss administrative assistant office space.

NEXT DAY FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		
Sunny	Cloudy	Cloudy

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Wind chill values between 22 and 32 early. Windy, with a south-southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38. Wind chill values between 31 and 36. Southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 45. Windy, with a north-northwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Thursday Night: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 20. North wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Friday: A 30 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. North-northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. North-northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

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Obituaries

Services tomorrow

PARKS, Henry Lee — 2 p.m. Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
PUCKETT, Dan — 10 a.m. Carpenter's Church, Pampa.
SHARP, Bill — 2 p.m. Trinity Worship Center, Childress.

Henry Lee Parks, 84

Henry Lee Parks, 84, of Pampa, Texas, died Feb. 10, 2008, at Pampa.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Jim Fox, chaplain of Vista Care Hospice of Amarillo, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the

direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors.

Mr. Parks was born Feb. 15, 1923, in Eldorado, Okla. He had been a longtime resident of Pampa and worked for Celanese for 30 years, retiring in 1982.

He was a member of Hobart Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons, Gary L. Parks and wife

Cyndee of Pampa, Gregg K. Parks of Cortez, Colo., and Dale K. Parks and wife Margaret of Mount Pleasant; the sons' mother, Marie Parks of Pampa; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers, Byron Parks of Montrose, Colo., and Ethan Parks of Reydon, Okla.; and one sister, Nadia Martin of Reydon,

Okla.
MEMORIALS: BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 6-8 p.m. today, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008.

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

Dan Puckett, 68



Puckett

Texas Tech University in Lubbock where he received a degree in mechanical engineering.

Dan retired from Cabot Corp. after 28 years of service. He was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church.

For the last three years, he attended Carpenter's

Church.
 Dan married Doris Miller

on Dec. 19, 1998, in Pampa. He enjoyed collecting antique cars, and he loved spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Doris Puckett, of the home; one son, Dwayne Puckett and wife Stacie of San Antonio; his mother, Loreen Puckett of Pampa; three stepsons, Clay Miller

and wife Libby, Marland Miller and wife Lynn, all of Pampa, and Mark Miller of San Antonio; two stepdaughters, Darlene Sugar and husband Gary, and Mary Clark and husband Layne, all of Pampa; and one granddaughter, Rhiannon Puckett of San Antonio.

MEMORIALS: Carpenter's Church, 639 S. Barnes, Pampa, TX 79065.

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

Bill Sharp, 63

Bill Sharp, 63, of Pampa, died Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008, at Childress. Services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Trinity

Worship Center with the Rev. Ronnie Shoffner officiating. Burial will be in Childress Cemetery under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home of Childress.

Mr. Sharp was a truck

driver. He was born in Santa Anna on Oct. 6, 1944. He was an avid student of the Bible.

Survivors include his wife, Carol Sharp of Pampa; four sons, Billy Sharp, Archie Sharp, David Sharp, all of Childress, and William Sharp of Clovis, N.M.; two daughters, Carolyn Derryberry of Elk

City, Okla., and Candice Barcheers of Pampa; two sisters,

Barbara Wedgeworth of Amarillo and Teresa Swafford of Brownwood; 20 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made on-line at www.johnsonfunerals.net.

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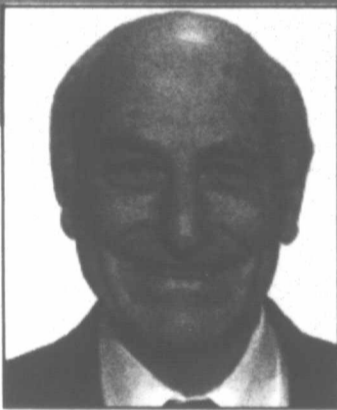
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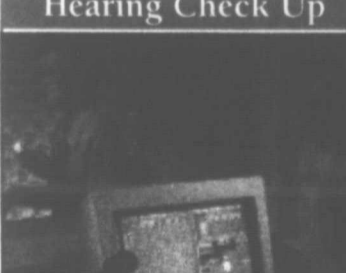
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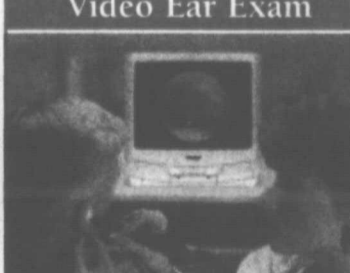


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MILITARY

Sheppard Air Force Base training commander accused of wrongdoing

WICHITA FALLS, Texas (AP) — A Sheppard Air Force Base training commander used his government travel card to pay for his children's school lunches, buy airline tickets for relatives, eat at restaurants and pay a utility bill, a witness testified Tuesday during a military hearing.

Col. Samuel Lofton III also tried to buy \$410 worth of concert tickets, but that charge was rejected, an Air Force financial service officer testified on the second day of Lofton's Article 32 hearing.

This hearing, similar to civilian grand jury proceedings, will determine if there is enough evidence for a court-martial on numerous charges, including financial wrongdoing and rape. If Lofton goes to trial and is convicted, he faces up to life in a military prison.

Lofton's attorneys declined to comment after the hearing Monday.

The financial service officer, 1st Lt. Clint Cooper, said he didn't have a total for expenses on the card. But military documents

indicate at least \$10,000, including pay for unauthorized trips and reimbursement for trips he never took.

Testimony Monday included accounts of sexual assault and rape from three alleged victims.

One civilian worker testified Lofton raped and twice assaulted her while they were alone in the building at night. She said he forcibly kissed her and put her hand on his genitals and another time raped her.

Neither prosecutors nor defense attorneys asked if the alleged rape victim reported the incidents. She said she sometimes saw Lofton afterward and that their interactions were pleasant and professional.

Under cross-examination, she acknowledged signing a card for Lofton after he was removed in

May amid evidence of financial wrongdoing. She wrote that Lofton had her "deepest respect" and said she was praying that he would "weather this storm."

The Associated Press does not normally identify alleged victims of sex crimes.

A second woman, a civilian not supervised by

Lofton is charged with rape, being absent without leave, 20 counts of larceny, four counts of indecent assault, two counts of dereliction of duty...

Lofton, testified that he forcibly kissed her and put her hand on his genitals in separate incidents in 2006. She said she told him to stop both times, and that she told a superior but nothing was done.

The third woman, who is in the military, testified about Lofton's unbecoming conduct charges, which stem from allegations he made lewd comments and tried to form a relationship with her, according to military court documents. She

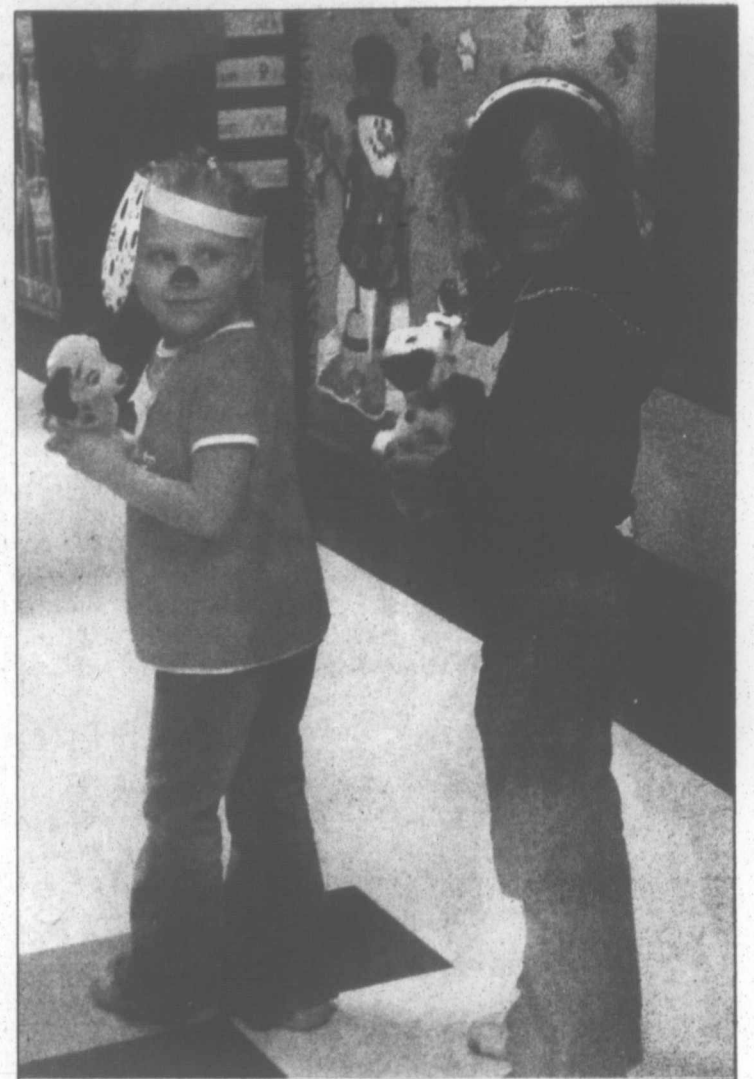
said Lofton made several sexually suggestive comments and called her at home, but that she was not offended and never felt like a victim.

Lofton is charged with rape, being absent without leave, 20 counts of larceny, four counts of indecent assault, two counts of dereliction of duty and two counts of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Lofton, in the military since 1981, was commander for about three years at Sheppard's 82nd Training Group, which has two squadrons that provide training for head aircraft mechanics. The group's other two squadrons train airmen how to be engine mechanics and how to build and load bombs and other weapons. The training group has about 2,100 students on base at a time.

A Pentagon report issued last year revealed that reports of sexual assaults in the military increased by about 24 percent in 2006.

Doggy days



Courtesy Photo
▲ Chantel Munguia, left, and Ariana Perez participate in the 101st school day, parade at Travis Elementary recently. The kids dressed up like "101 Dalmations."

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Boydston

Continued from Page 1

for H.S. Boyd, a railroad official.

The town originally was located in Donley County but was moved north into Gray County to be closer to the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railway which was built through that area in 1903. A general store opened in 1910, and by 1941 had two businesses. Other features included a school.

The population of Boydston was listed as 10 in 1930 and increased to 40 in 1941. After 1940, residents' mail was sent through Groom.

The completion of Interstate 40 helped lead to the demise of the town. By

1980, according to online sources, the railroad ceased operation there, and only a cow shed and two abandoned grain elevators remained.

A Boydston Road exit is still marked along the west-bound lanes of Interstate 40, and Boydston Road stretches north of there into Gray County.

Boydston Cemetery was used until 1937, when the most recent grave, that of an infant daughter of Jeff and Aline Guthrie, was added.

Only 12 of the 19 graves listed for the cemetery at two online sources were visible at a recent visit to the site. All but two of the 19 graves are those of children.

C.E. and Sallie W. Boydston are the parents of eight of the children, seven of whom were not named on their headstones and whose birth and death dates are the

same day. Years on these headstones are 1898, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1907.

The remaining child of C.E. and Sallie W. Boydston who is buried at the cemetery was born in 1896 and died in 1905.

Charles Eugene Boydston, who lived from 1860 to 1918, was also buried at the cemetery. The other adult listed as being interred there is a Mrs. McQueen, who died in childbirth and was buried with her infant in approximately 1895.

Four children of Berry Z. and Gracie May James are buried in an area marked by one large headstone. Dates of their deaths range from 1910 to 1925, with three of the four having been born on the same day as their death or the next day after their birth. The fourth lived about 10 weeks.

The other graves are those of a two-year-old girl, buried in 1897, and a 10-year-old boy, buried in 1903.

Several of the graves were not visible due to tall vegetation, some of which had fallen over or had blown over to lie along the ground. No maintenance appears to have been done at the cemetery for some time.

It is unknown whether some of the graves were once marked with wooden markers which may have

burned in a wildfire or deteriorated over time.

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Timmons

Continued from Page 1

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"I hope I can visit during the next legislative session, which will be in 2009. I have been to the capitol as a visitor before and watched from above in the gallery. Maybe eventually I can be down on the floor, involved in the action."

Timmons said a career in politics could definitely be in her future.

To become an MS Advocate, you can join MS

Advocacy Action Network. You could respond to occasional calls to action with e-mail, letters and/or phone calls to policymakers as well as receive advocacy updates and e-newsletters on MS policy issues.

To become an MS Issue Ambassador, you must make two in-person visits or more to legislators per year in addition to Advocacy Action Network activities.

You can also contribute to the MS Story Bank. Share your personal story about challenges that you have encountered. With permission, stories will be used to raise awareness about the MS policy issues.

For more about MS, visit the Web site www.nationalmssociety.org/txp.

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Meals

Continued from Page 1

Pampa Meals on Wheels remained headquartered in the basement of First United Methodist for nearly 25 years, until purchasing its current building at 302 E. Foster in June 2004.

Kucifer moved away from the area in 1983 and a new director, Ann Loter, was appointed. The current director of the program is Jeane Autry. Past directors include Kucifer, Loter and Cindy Gindorf. Loter served 16 years. Gindorf was director from 1999 until 2002.

Today, Pampa MOW averages 135 meals daily. Clients pay on a sliding scale.

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Viewpoints

Neglect can be a sad thing at cemeteries

The sentiment "gone but not forgotten" is a relatively common one on headstones. Unfortunately, with the passage of time, that statement doesn't always hold true as family members and friends move away or die.

Neglect can be a sad thing at cemeteries. I recently saw a poignant example of this at the Boydston Cemetery, just south of the Gray County line in Donley County.

Eight headstones were lined up in a row in the small cemetery, each identical in shape and size. Most of the writing engraved on them was the same, too. The only differ-

ence was in the dates.

Over and over I read, "Infant of C.E. and Sallie W. Boydston, born and died", followed by a date. This couple had had a baby which they had named Charlie Eugene, who was born and died Aug. 21, 1898. Starting in 1900, they apparently dispensed with names, noting on the headstones only that the infant was born and died on the same day. The years of these headstones were 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904 and 1907.

Another of the headstones was that of Eddie, son of H.S. and M.F. Boydston, who was

born in 1890 and lived only a few days.

One couple, Berry Z. and Gracie May James, had buried their children with a single headstone to mark at least four graves. Three of the sets of dates showed the infants' birth and death dates as the same day, while another had lived a little over two months. The dates span a period of time from 1910 to 1925.

Online records show that

there are 19 graves at Boydston Cemetery, all but two of which are children. One of those adults was a woman who died in childbirth and was buried with her newborn sometime about 1895.

This is heartbreaking enough, but the condition of the cemetery makes it even worse.

On the day I visited, I could find only 12 graves because tall grass, which appeared to be long enough to reach high-

er than my waist, covered much of the cemetery. It was not standing, however, but had either blown over or fallen over. Other dead vegetation remained standing and was as tall as my knees.

Some of the graves may also be unmarked, or at one time have been marked with wooden headstones which have weathered away or burned in a wildfire. Graves at a rural cemetery in Gray County suffered this fate when a wildfire obliterated some markers.

There are other rural cemeteries within an hour's drive of Pampa, too. Sometimes,

they are the only things left after a town has died. They endure, but neglect takes its toll over time. Records may be incomplete, markers may disappear or never have existed, and the number of people with an interest in keeping the cemetery neat and maintained dwindles, sometimes to no one.

What does it say of our society that the resting places of the dead are allowed to deteriorate to such a deplorable condition? Respect for our elders is a maxim often taught to the young. Perhaps we should add respect for the dead.



Marilyn Powers
Staff Writer

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2008. There are 323 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky.

On this date:

In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

In 1870, women in the Utah Territory gained the right to vote. (However, that right was taken away in 1887).

In 1908, the first round-the-world automobile race began in New York. (It ended in Paris the following July with the drivers of the American car, a Thomas Flyer, declared the winners over teams from Germany and Italy.)

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington, D.C., a year to the day after groundbreaking.

In 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" debuted with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1999, the Senate acquitted President Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

Ten years ago: A federal judge threw out President Clinton's new line-item veto authority. At Nagano, Japan, Norwegian Bjorn Daehlie became the first man to win six Winter Olympic gold medals, as he placed first in the 10-kilometer classical cross-country race.

Five years ago: The U.N. nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties, sending the dispute to the Security Council. India conducted its fourth missile test of 2003, firing a supersonic cruise missile capable of hitting major cities in Pakistan. Holiday Inn chain founder Kemmons Wilson died in Memphis, Tenn., at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 85. Actor Louis Zorich is 84. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 82. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Penn.) is 78. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 74. Actor Joe Don Baker is 72. Author Judy Blume is 70. Rock musician Ray Manzarek (The Doors) is 69. Country singer Moe Bandy is 64. Actress Maud Adams is 63. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 63.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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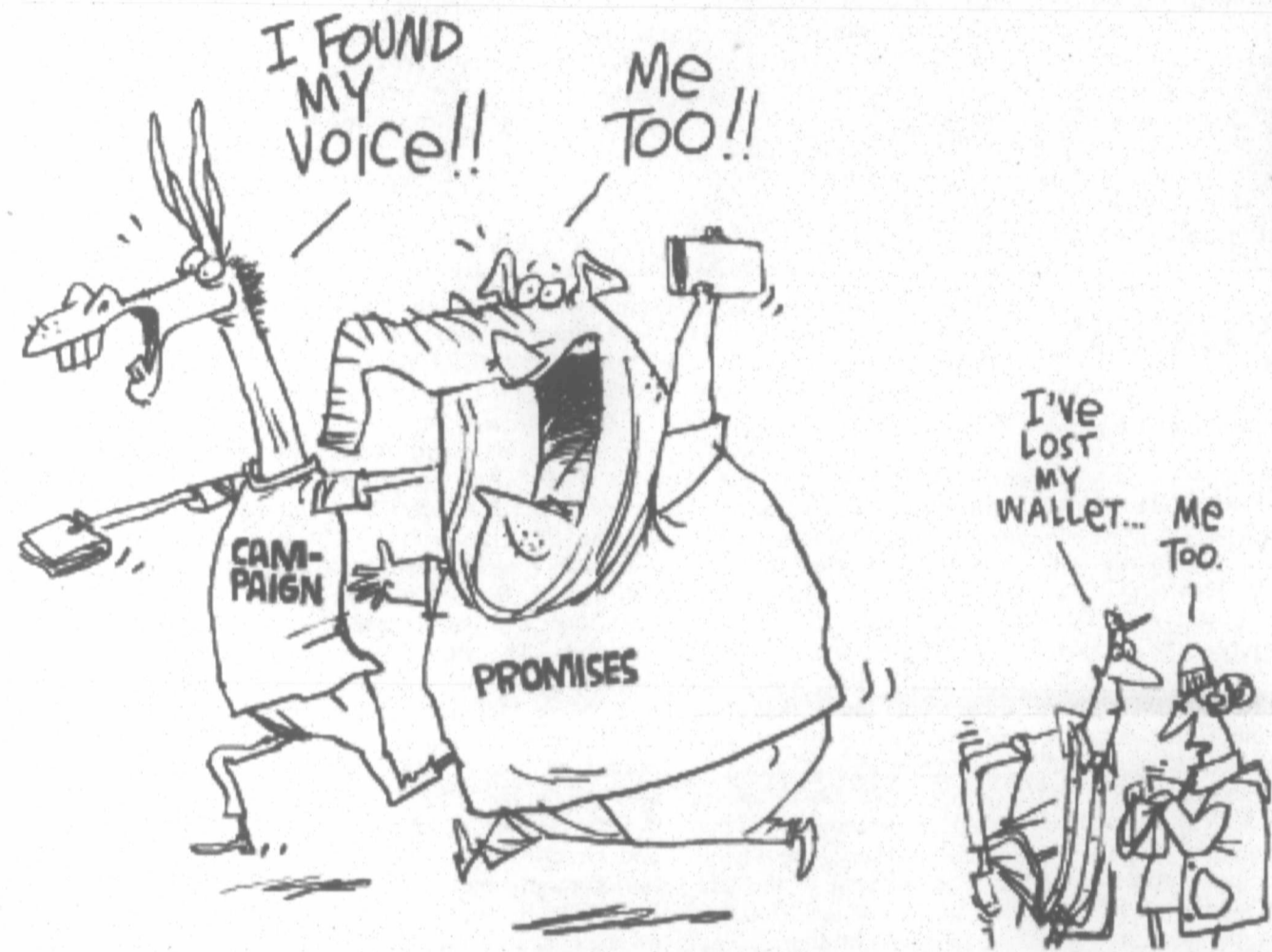
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Pols do NOT have monopoly on silly talk

It's not easy being me. I'm disturbed by statements that many Americans accept or don't question that are ludicrous, if not crazy. The terms "change," "agents of change" and "change agents" are being bandied by presidential hopefuls, their supporters and media commentators. I'd like to ask Americans listening to these people whether they are for or against change. For one to be for or against change, in any generic sense, qualifies as stupid, but maybe public stupidity is the stock and trade of politicians.

Politicians and media people don't have a monopoly on silly talk. How many times have you heard a weatherman say that the sun will try to come out later in the day? Sometimes their prediction turns out to be false, and I wonder whether they would explain it by say-

ing the sun didn't try hard enough. But it's not just weathermen who use teleological explanations, ascribing purposeful behavior to inanimate objects. I'm currently listening to CD lectures on particle physics, and I'm told that strange quarks want to decay. I'm wondering how the professor knows what a strange quark wants - has he interviewed one?

But it gets worse and sometimes mildly unpleasant. An information operator might tell me that the number I want is 610-777-8070. In the past, I have asked operators whether I'd reach my party by pressing the telephone's "o" key instead of the zero key. Operators

have always told me that to reach my party, I'd have to press the zero key, whereupon I'd ask them, why did they say "o" - were they deliberately trying to sabotage my communication efforts? Our brief conversation begins to go politely downhill. Giving them the benefit of the doubt, maybe their source of confusion stems from the fact that the zero key doubles for the operator key.

But there's hope for the future. In my classes, when the opportunity arises, I give my students the definitions for "o" and zero. "O" is a vowel and the 15th letter of the English alphabet. Zero is defined as any number that

when added or subtracted from another number does not change the value of that number.

I have other problems. When I attended Stoddard-Fleisher Junior High and Benjamin Franklin High schools, during the '40s and early '50s, teachers insisted on proper grammar, even though these schools were predominantly black and among Philadelphia's lowest ranked in terms of academic reputation.

How many times have you heard a statement such as "Tom and myself were working together"? When one of my students makes such a statement, I ask, "If Tom were not with you, would you say, 'Myself was working alone'?" Words such as "myself" or "himself" are reflexive pronouns.

See WILLIAMS, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Feb. 3
Houston Chronicle on Beijing and its media:

While China's booming economy and rising standard of living will be showcased at the upcoming Summer Olympics, there is a dark face of the Asian giant that cannot be ignored. It is the world's biggest jailer of journalists, with 29 news media members in prison for practicing freedom of speech and the press.

China won its bid for the games with a pledge to the International Olympic Committee to allow complete freedom of reporters to cover the sporting

events. Unfortunately, it has not extended that right to its own citizens, who live in an environment of severely restricted information.

The Committee to Protect Journalists made the situation in China the focus at its International Press Freedom Awards held in New York City. Advocacy cards calling for the release of the imprisoned journalists and a freer press were distributed and signed by more than 500 attendees, including Dan Rather, Scott Pelley and two international journalists honored for their work, Russian newspaper editor Dmitry Muratov and Pakistan television journalist Mazhar Abbas. The cards have been presented to Chinese consular officials in New York.

CPJ Board Chairman Paul Steiger

called on the Chinese government and President Hu Jintao to live up to China's commitment for media reforms. Releasing the imprisoned writers and editors "would be a great starting point," Steiger said. "This is an opportunity for China to match its enormous economic and technical growth with a freer press."

China's record of authoritarian oppression of free speech is unacceptable, but the decision of Afghanistan, an Asian ally of the United States, to support sentencing a journalism student to death is shocking. Sayed Parwiz Kambakhsh, 23, had downloaded articles on the Internet about women's rights and circulated an essay stating

See BEIJING, Page 5

Events calendar

• **Amarillo College Lamplight Youth Theatre Co.** will open "Willy Wonka, Jr." Feb. 15-18 at the Amarillo Globe Center for the Performing Arts in Amarillo. The adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic story will include 59 youth theatre children ranging in age from 6 to 18. Performances are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15-16 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17-18. Tickets are available through Panhandle Tickets (806-378-3096 or www.panhandletickets.com). Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and college students, and \$7 for high school students. No children under 3-years of age will be admitted.

• **Carl Williamson** of Miami, past president of Gray County Genealogy Society, will be guest speaker at the Texas-Oklahoma Panhandle Genealogy Society meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 18 in the Gramstorff Room of Perryton Memorial Library in Perryton. Williamson will discuss his new book, "Battle of Buffalo Wallow," which includes the story of Billy Dixon as an army scout, Amos Chapman, and a small group of soldiers who defended the area near Canadian. The meeting is open to the public.

• **Friends of Aeolian-Skinner** will present two concerts St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1601 S. Georgia, in Amarillo on Feb. 18 and 19. Both concerts will begin at 7 p.m. Organist Gerre Hancock will perform Feb. 18 at the church and "The King's Singers," a cappella ensemble, will perform Feb. 19.

• **Participants have until Feb. 29** to enter the Miss Irish Rose Scholarship Pageant to be staged during the March 14-16 Saint Patrick's Celebration in Shamrock. The pageant is open to girls between the ages of 14 and 18. Eighteen-year-olds must still be in high school.

The 2008 Miss Irish Rose, along with her three runners-ups and Miss Congeniality, will receive a scholarship to the college of their choice. For more information, call Betty at (806) 334-0929, Dana at (806) 662-5405 or Shamrock Chamber of Commerce at (806) 256-2501.

• **Miss Texas International Pageant System** is currently seeking entrants for the Miss Pampa International 2008 Pageant. The deadline for applications is March 1. Contestants will compete in personal interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown. To find out more or to request an application, call (210) 403-0589 or log onto www.misstexasinternational.com on the Internet.

• **Pampa Book Club** will review the following books in the coming months: "Night" by Elie Wiesel, March 12; "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith, April 9; and "Walking Drum" by Louis L'amour, May 14. The club meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Texas Room at Lovett Memorial Library in

Pampa.

• **Tickets are currently available** now through March 14 for the Area Friends of the NRA banquet set to kick-off at 5:30 p.m. March 15 in the Heritage Room of the Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Prime rib with all the trimmings will be served at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for participants 18 and under or \$50 per couple if purchased in advance. The deadline for advance ticket sales is the day prior to the banquet. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Tickets are available in Amarillo at Pro Shooters, Panhandle Gunslingers and A&K Shooters Supply. For more information, contact Connie at (806) 683-9079 or Bill at (806) 231-0771.

Beijing

Continued from Page 4

that Muslim fundamentalists who cited the Koran as authority for oppression of women misrepresented Mohammed's teachings.

He was arrested, tried by religious judges with no legal representation allowed and given the death penalty. Despite pleas from the United Nations and human rights groups to Afghan President Hamid Karzai to free Kambakhsh, a key ally of Karzai successfully sponsored a motion in the nation's Senate to endorse the journalist's execution.

After spending billions of dollars to break the fanatical rule of the Taliban and install a new government in Afghanistan that publicly espouses democracy and equal rights, the U.S. government cannot sit by and watch this human rights violation proceed to a tragic ending.

If a regime propped up by Western military forces will not respect the rights of citizens to practice press freedom, a vastly more powerful nation like China is not likely to heed international appeals to change its oppressive ways. URL: <http://www.chron.com>

Williams

Continued from Page 4

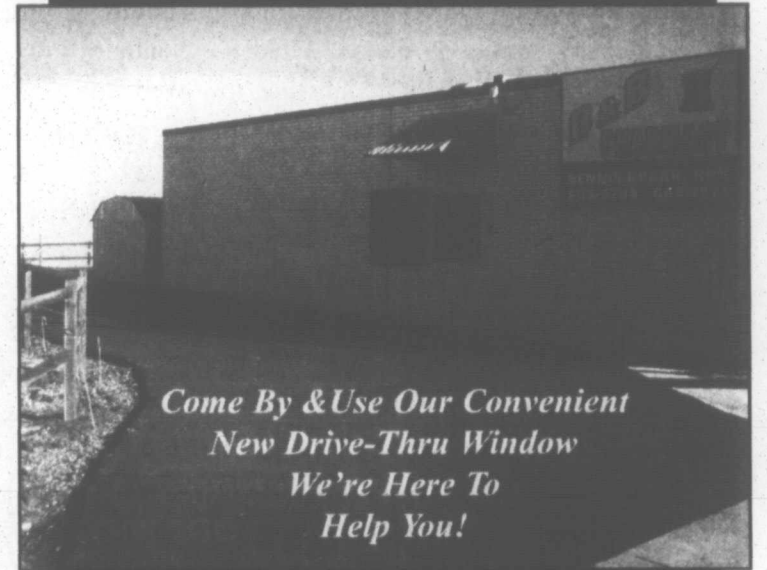
Their proper use requires reference to the subject of the sentence. For example, "Tom injured himself." A reflexive pronoun can also be used intensively for emphasis, "Tom himself was injured." In both cases, himself refers back to Tom, the subject of the sentence.

How about, "He is taller than me." Whenever I hear such error, I visualize Dr. Martin Rosenberg, my high school English teacher, with his hands on his waist, sarcastically asking a student, "Do you mean 'He is taller than me am'?" "Am" is the understood, elliptical, or left out, verb at the end of the sentence. The subject of a verb must be in the nominative case. To be grammatically correct, the sentence should be, "He is taller than I."

I wonder whether it's just me, or is anyone else bothered by silly talk? It might be that I'm getting old and out of touch, or it might be that I'm suffering from having received my education before it became fashionable for white people to like black people and non-sense was unacceptable.

—Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

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Due to the state & National **DO NOT CALL** list for telemarketers, residents who have put their names on these lists cannot be contacted. To insure a complete updated directory, we will be updating everyone's listing through the US Postal Service. So watch for your letter in the mail. It is important that you check your listing and return to us any corrections or if you would like to purchase a City Directory.



If you did not receive your letter because of an incorrect address, or would like to purchase one, please call...
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P.O. Box 265 BELMOND, IOWA 50421 E-Mail: cdi@kalnet.com



THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE
This Week: Valentine Fitness
© 2008 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schirwal, Graphics Vol. 24 No. 8
www.kidscoop.com

Puzzle answers, games, opinion polls and much more at:
www.kidscoop.com

February is the month to fall in love with fitness! Good 4 You Valentine's Day Cards

Create some healthy Valentine cards by filling in the missing vowels. Then cut out each message, paste it on some construction paper and give to a good friend!

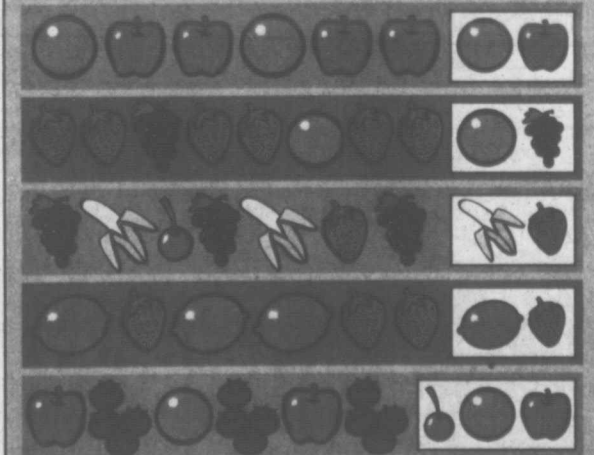
TO: _____
FROM: _____
P _ S B _
M _
V L N T N !

TO: _____
FROM: _____
R N G Y U
G L D T B _
M V L N T N ?

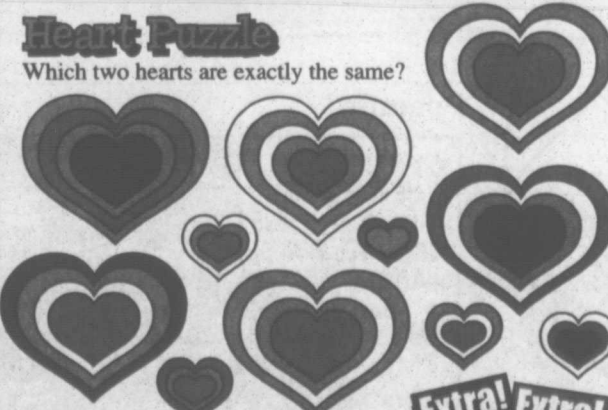
TO: _____
FROM: _____
Y R TH
P P L _ F
M Y !

Love Your Heart and Your Heart Will Love You

How do you love your heart? Well, first of all you need to understand that your heart is a muscle. And, like all of your muscles, it works best when you exercise, rest, drink water and eat healthy food.



TO: _____
FROM: _____
Y _ R _ A
B _ R R _ S P _ C _ L
F R _ N D !



Heart Puzzle
Which two hearts are exactly the same?

Valentine's Day Healthy Heart Tag

Materials: Cut out the 10 cards at right. (Paste them onto construction paper to make them sturdier if you wish.) A watch with a second hand will be needed as well.

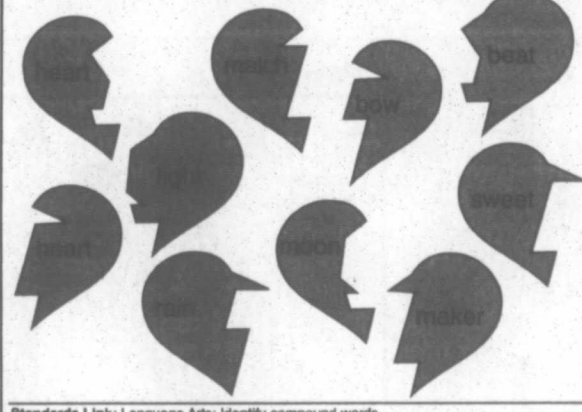
Directions: Give the stack of activity cards to the person who is "It." When "It" tags someone, that person selects a card and performs the named activity for the amount of time stated. After the person completes the activity, he or she becomes "It."

- Hop on one foot for 30 seconds.
- Flap your arms like a bird for 30 seconds.
- Run in slow-motion for 15 seconds.
- Jump up and down in place for 60 seconds.
- Tiptoe in a circle while quacking for 10 seconds.
- Stand on one leg while singing for 45 seconds.
- Stretch to the sky for 30 seconds.
- Do jumping jacks for 20 seconds.

Extra! Extra! Ad Transformer
Look for newspaper ads that encourage kids to eat or drink things that are unhealthy. Rewrite the ad so that it is advertising something good for your health.

The Kid Scoop Puzzler

Draw a line from each piece of broken heart below to its other half. What compound words did you create?



Standards Link: Language Arts: Identify compound words.

Double Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week's Kid Scoop stories and activities.

VALENTINE
HEART
MUSCLE
EXERCISE
HEALTHY
TEACHER
CARDS
PLACE
SECONDS
STACK
FITNESS
GOOD
REST
CARE

S E E X E T R K C H
S N E E I S R C E E
E I R T C M P A X R
N T A E U N L T E E
T N C S S T A S R H
I E C D H T C D C C
F L R Y O H E E I A
E A S D N O C E S E
C V H E A R G T E T

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE LESSON LIBRARY

Valentines from the Headlines

Cut out five or more words from the headlines in today's newspaper. Use these to write a Valentine message to your teacher!

Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write in a variety of genres and forms.

Write On!

My Favorite Sport

Write a paragraph telling others about your favorite sport and why it is your favorite.

Deadline: March 2, 2008. Published: Week of April 6, 2008. Please include your school and grade.

Weekly Writing Corner

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Hurt in Ohio" (Dec. 8), the 13-year-old girl who is being bullied, was deeply affecting. I have been a middle-school teacher for 10 years. I have seen what bullying can do to kids. I'm proud that "Hurt" told her parents, but because that hasn't helped her, please tell her to find an adult at school whom she trusts and tell that adult what is happening. If she hasn't gotten a response within 24 hours, she should go to another adult, and another and another until someone listens. And please, Abby, remind parents that ignoring the problem does not make it go away; it only makes it worse. Middle-school kids are especially vulnerable to bullying, and it must be stopped. — **MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER IN INDIANA**

DEAR MIDDLE-SCHOOL TEACHER: I advised "Hurt" to have her parents accompany her to discuss the situation with her counselor and the principal. However, it has been pointed out to me that being the victim of bullying sometimes happens to multiple generations in families in which the parents are extremely passive and tolerated it, and are unable to teach their children to be assertive. Fortunately, more help is available for victims of bullying -- and my readers, in addition to sharing their personal experiences, generously offered resources to combat it. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Please tell your readers that our federal government is concerned about bullying, because bullying increases school absenteeism and drop-out rates and can cause significant, long-lasting difficulties for victims. As part of its anti-bullying campaign, the Health Resource Services Administration has an informative and user-friendly Web site: www.stopbullying-now.hrsa.gov. This site has sections for parents, school professionals and students.

Bullying is a national problem. We must work together to end this preventable injury. — **PEDIATRIC CHAPLAIN, ARLINGTON, TEXAS**

DEAR ABBY: Allow me to suggest to "Hurt in Ohio," or anyone who is concerned about bullying in our schools, a Web site called www.safeschools.com. — **ANN IN FARMINGTON, N.M.**

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt," who wrote about being bullied, as well as her parents, should explore the materials on the Southern Poverty Law Center's Tolerance Web site, www.tolerance.org, and direct the staff at her school there as well. A search on "bullying booklet" will provide hundreds of references for use. The materials are free to educators and are in use in thousands of schools. Every school and every person being bullied would benefit from SPLC's products. After all, bullying and ostracism have figured in school shootings and in many student suicides. There is also excellent anti-bias material that has been used with great success in schools with problems similar to the recent one in Jena, La., heading off sad incidents like theirs. — **S.T.M., VERO BEACH, FLA.**

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt in Ohio" mentioned that her friends won't stand up for her because they "like" the jocks who are tormenting her. Well, someone should inform her that those kids are not her "friends." On the contrary, they are enablers. Bullies love an audience, and silence indicates approval. The answer is to teach students that not only schools, but they themselves should have zero tolerance for abusers. — **HENRY IN LITHICUM, MD.**

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Rough guesses
- 6 Aspirin targets
- 11 Danger
- 12 Quiver item
- 13 Chess game start
- 15 Hamilton's bill
- 16 Bill word
- 17 Never, in Nuremberg
- 18 Homes for oysters
- 20 Halloween mo.
- 21 Mine material
- 22 Sword-fight
- 23 Frogs' kin
- 26 Daring
- 27 In the past
- 28 Junior, to senior
- 29 Relaxing site
- 30 Adding booze to
- 34 Feeling down
- 35 Leather shade
- 36 Huge snake
- 37 Trading day start

DOWN

- 1 Giraffe features
- 2 Conical
- 3 Game place
- 4 Storage place
- 5 Fast curving pitches
- 6 Congress aides
- 7 Elbow setting
- 8 Resolve
- 9 Beginners world

SLANG BLED
HALER AIDES
EVITA SCIFI
DIE PHI TEN
SENDPACKING
TLL NOSE
ALIVE PANES
RENO PIC
MEATPACKING
AWL ARK NIN
DAILY SAUNA
ARNIE UPSET
DEER PEERS

Yesterday's answer

- 10 What abode
- 11 Game place
- 12 Storage place
- 13 Fast curving pitches
- 14 Au naturel
- 15 Portend
- 16 Dip, as a donut
- 17 Write easily
- 18 In theory
- 19 Scholar's bit
- 20 Lingerie item
- 21 Happening
- 22 Reach across
- 23 Mixes up
- 24 Construction girder
- 25 Actor Nick
- 26 Strong winds
- 27 Fruitcake
- 28 Lingerie item

Marmaduke

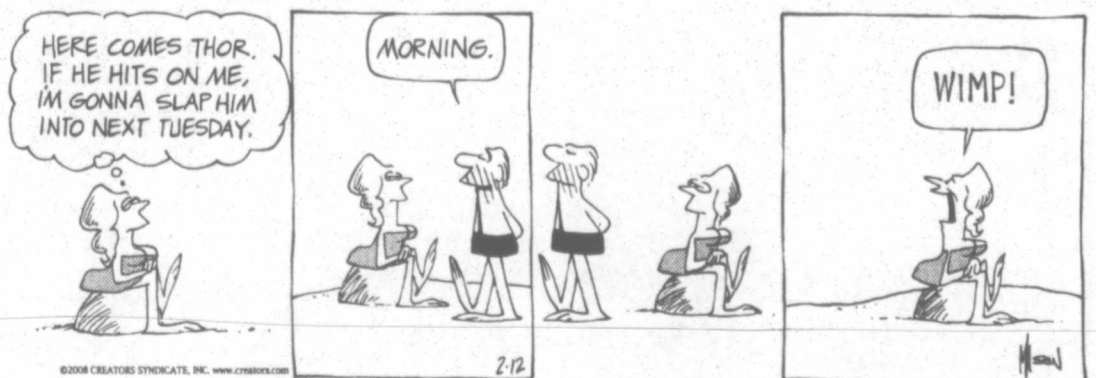


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



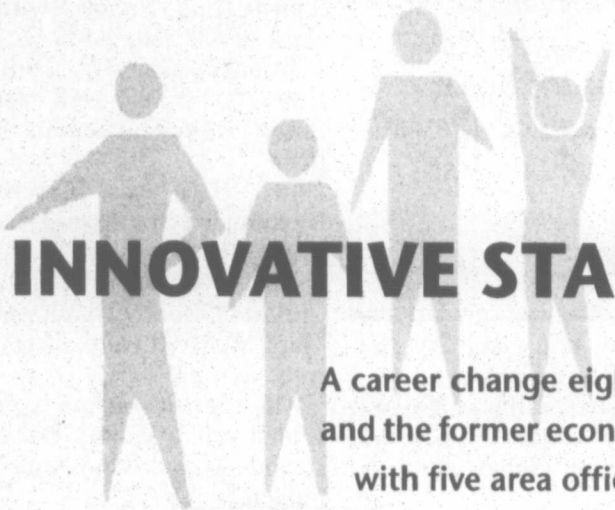
Flo & Friends



Blondie



BUSINESS REVIEW



INNOVATIVE STAFFING SOLUTIONS, LLC

A career change eight years ago for a former Stramitt employee in Perryton and the former economic development director in Perryton, led to a business with five area offices.



In August of 1996 Regina Partain, owner and manager of Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC, and Dr. Myron McCartor, former economic development director in Perryton, partnered together and created Innovative Staffing Solutions, LLC (Innovative) to be "beneficial to the community."

Innovative specializes in the hiring of long-term employees in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, as well as southern Kansas. They provide agricultural, industrial, oilfield, clerical, administrative, medical and sales personnel, as well as others.

Specializing in the best fit for the client, regardless of the industry, is one of the things that make innovative different from other staffing companies. Screening processes to ensure the best fit include reference checks, skill testing, cognitive abilities testing, and personality assessment, two levels of interview, drug screens and back ground checks as needed.

Additionally, Innovative offers education to employers and other community groups. Some seminars and workshops include Hiring Legally and Effectively, Gender Diversity in the Workplace, Team Building, and Workplace Ethics. Other courses can be customized depending upon the needs of the client.

Safety of employees is a major concern. Innovative works with both employees and clients to ensure that all employees work in a safe environment and in a safe manner.

Also, some of our staff members have been certified through the University of Utah to train substitute teachers in classroom management, how to follow a lesson plan, and how to be a valuable asset to school districts. Courses can be scheduled to train substitute teachers in the above areas.

Six offices serve the Panhandle of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. They are located in Perryton, Pampa, Hereford, Dumas, Amarillo, and Elk City, Ok.

Our company is built on the concepts of Integrity and Teamwork. We are excited to be in Pampa and to be a part of the community. We are thrilled to have the wonderful staff locally that provides solutions to our client's needs.

Stop in to our new location at 1327 N. Hobart Street, when you have the opportunity, and visit with our excellent staff: Senior Regional Personnel Consultant - Jamilou Williams, Staffing Coordinators - Veronica Tarango and Cierra Benavidez, and Accounting Clerk - Sandi Stone. We would appreciate the opportunity to earn your business or help you find the "best fit" job.

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Sports

Lady Harvesters Golf team in Plainview Girls Invitational

By Katherine Flanary Sports Editor

Over the past weekend, the Lady Harvester Golf team competed in the Plainview Girls Invitational.

The ladies finished in fifth place out of 12 teams. On day one of competition, the Lady Harvesters had a combined score of 382. On day two, the ladies scored a total of 378, making their combined score for the two days 760.

Their individual scores are as follows:

Taylor Bell scored 88 in round one, 94 in round two,

with a combined score of 182.

Shelby Rose had a combined score of 198, with a

The Lady Harvesters had a combined score of 760 for the two days of competition

score of 102 in round one, and a score of 96 in round two.

With a score of 88 in both

rounds, Shelby Wisdom comes out with a combined score of 176.

Rikki Beesley had a score of 104 in round one, and a score of 100 in round two, making her combined score 204.

With a score of 108 in round one, and a score of 113 in round two, Whitney Sherrill had a combined score of 204.

Shelby Wisdom finished sixth overall, in a field of sixty to seventy girls.

The Lady Harvesters are competing today in a tournament.

Pampa bowlers take memorable trip

By Katherine Flanary Sports Editor

27 local Special Olympic Bowlers and their 11 chaperones traveled by charter bus to San Antonio January 30 for the Winter Games.

When they arrived to San Antonio, the bowlers ate at the Golden Corral, which is a favorite among the team.

February 1 was spent touring San Antonio, with stops at the Alamo and the Market Square.

Some of the bowlers had a new experience in eating lunch at Applebee's. Some of the bowlers had never been to a restaurant like this.

That evening was the opening ceremonies. The four athletes who walked in

was Ashley Abbe, Eric Knott, Linda Pierce and Randy Swires.

Michelle Blodgette, Cody Dyer, Tina Hinson, JoAnn More Hart and Jennifer Roden all tied for second.

Coming in third was Eric Knott and Ameer Street.

In fourth, Ashley Abbe, Shawn King, Randy Swires and Cordell Scheider.

Dennise James, Tollie Jinks, Cole B. Nall and Jamie Roberson came in fifth.

In sixth was Liberty Bloxum, Hector Extrad and Kevin Reece.

Chris Bradley, Amanda Childress, Bobby Garcia and Mark McMinn were all seventh.

The Winter Games concluded with a Victory Dance at the Alamo Convention Center.

Debbie Ellis, Taisey Phillips, Wauntea Reece and Linda Lou Pierce came in first.

Friday and Saturday the bowlers competed.

Debbie Ellis, Taisey Phillips, Wauntea Reece and Linda Lou Pierce came in first.



Courtesy Photo

The Pampa Special Olympics Bowling Team takes time out of their schedule to visit the Alamo while in San Antonio for their Winter Games.

British athletes to sign contracts

LONDON (AP) — British Olympic athletes must sign a new clause in their contracts prohibiting politically sensitive remarks or gestures during the Beijing Games.

"The reality is, given the level of political scrutiny of the world's media on these games and the way China will handle them, the BOA felt it was sensible and proper to flag that rule to our athletes," British Olympic Association communications director Graham Mewson said Sunday.

The International Olympic Committee already has a rule that states that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas."

In January, Belgian athletes were told they would be prohibited from raising human rights or other political issues at Olympic venues. Outside the sports venues and Olympic village,

however, they will be free to speak their mind.

The BOA is making the change because China's government is widely regarded as sensitive to criticism over issues such as its human rights record and Tibet, Mewson said.

British athletes have been required to sign the 32-page BOA contract for 20 years before competing in the Olympics, but this is the first time such a clause is being added.

Results from third annual South Plains Shootout

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Girls 'A' Singles
Sammi Finney - 15 place
-Lost to Stark (Levelland) 1-6, 2-6
-Lost to Heine (Plaineview) 0-8
-Lost to unknown
-Won by default</p> <p>Girls 'B' Singles
Megan Barnett - fourth place
-Defeated Strong (Frenship) 5-7, 6-4 (10-7)
-Defeated Vanela (Socorro) 6-0, 6-0
-Lost to Fargason (Snyder)
-Lost to Rodriguiz (Odessa) 0-6, 1-6</p> <p>Girls 'A' Doubles
Holly Gage-Lauren Couts - tenth place
-Lost to Hood-Stewart (Monterrey) 0-6, 0-6
-Defeated Thompson-Murillo
-Defeated Mills-Tunnell (Plainview)</p> | <p>-Lost to Villalovos-Gavina (Herford) 3-8</p> <p>Girls 'B' Doubles
Alyssa Hoeting-Savanah Smith - 11 place
-Lost to Barron-Truitt (Levelland) 3-6, 1-6
-Defeated Bell-Durham (Midland Christian)
-Lost to Hogan-Ince (Frenship) 6-8
-Defeated Wilkins-Miller (Midland Lee) 8-2</p> <p>Boys 'A' Singles
Kevin Frels - 11 place
-Lost to Cortez (Irvin) 6-9, 3-6, 7-6 (6)
-Defeated Martino (Andrews) 8-6
-Lost to Landin (Big Spring)
-Defeated Thompson (Frenship) default</p> <p>Boys 'B' Singles
Myles Foreman - sixth place
-Defeated Meadows (Monterrey) 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 (10-4)
-Lost to Sanchez (Andrews) 0-6, 1-6
-Defeated Hernandez (Odessa)
-Lost to Dubois (Odessa)</p> <p>Boys 'A' Doubles
James Vaid-Bryce Hendricks - 14 place
-Lost to Southern-</p> | <p>Ritcherson (Andrews) 3-6, 0-6
-Lost to Lucero-Avila (Socorro)
-Last two unavailable</p> <p>Boys 'B' Doubles
Matt Kelley-Aaron Silva - 11 place
-Lost to Ordono-Roberts (Frenship) 2-6, 2-6
-Lost to Hodge-Wilkinson (Monterrey) 1-8
-Defeated Landrum-Zuniga (Hereford) 8-1</p> <p>Mixed 'A' Doubles
Jack Ware-Rachel Lee - eighth place
-Defeated Loera-Canlas (Odessa) 6-3, 6-0
-Lost to Day-Wilkinson (Frenship) 2-6, 2-6
-Lost to Wesson-Casas (Snyder) 5-8
-Lost to Lambright-Jones (Plainview) 3-6, 1-6</p> <p>Mixed 'B' Doubles
Tyler Morris-Ashley Hernandez, tenth place
-Lost to Gearhart-White (Lee) 5-7, 3-6
-Defeated Troutman-Hinojosa (Monterrey) 9-8 (5)
-Defeated Williams-Spears (Midland Christian)
-Defeated Valasquez-Wesson (Snyder)</p> |
|---|---|--|

The Lady Harvesters will be hosting Caprock tonight. JV will play at 6pm, Varsity will play at 7:30pm.

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Emergency Services

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

Monday, Feb. 11
9:02 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 11000 block of Highway 60 West on a call for medical assistance.

2:38 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded five miles west of Pampa on Highway 60 on a grass fire.
2:41 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1000 block of South Banks on a call for medical assistance.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
2:19 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to

the 2400 block of Christine on a call for lifting assistance.

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

Monday, Feb. 11
Kimberly Michelle Roque, 25, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a probation violation for a Lubbock County charge of aggravated robbery with a hand gun.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Daniel Jay Whittle, 37, of Pampa was arrested in the 800 block of East Francis by Pampa Police Department for failure to maintain financial responsibility and failure

to appear.

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

Eighteen traffic stops were made. One stop at the intersection of Hobart and Francis streets resulted in an arrest.

A traffic complaint was received from the 1400 block of North Hobart.

A vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Brown and Gray streets.

Animal control officers made stops concerning animals in the 600 block of North Sloan, the 2600 block of North Hobart, the 200

block of North Sumner, the 1000 block of Charles and the 700 block of West Buckler.

Welfare checks were made in the 1200 block of North Wells and the 1600 block of West Somerville.

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

Civil matters were reported in the 700 block of North Christy and the 2100 block of Dogwood.

Suspicious vehicle calls were received from the 900 block of North Frost and the 900 block of Varnon Drive.

A silent/abusive 911 call was received from the 300 block of North Zimmers.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 1900 block of Duncan.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby. The driver's door of a vehicle was keyed. Estimated cost of damage is \$500. Taken were a set of keys, a keyless entry remote, a video rental card and a pharmacy discount card. Estimated value of loss is \$15.

Criminal mischief was reported in the police department lobby. A vehicle was scratched. Estimated cost of damage is \$577.42.

A threat was reported in the 900 block of Brunow.

A domestic disturbance

was reported in the 1800 block of North Nelson.

Two alarms were reported. Theft was reported in the 1000 block of Neel Road. Taken were a car stereo, CD deck, purse, \$330 in cash, a food stamp card and two Social Security cards.

Theft was reported in the 1100 block of Huff Road. Fraud was reported in the 800 block of West Francis.

Fraudulent use/possession of identifying information was reported in the police department lobby. Checks were issued in the victim's name. The victim was not missing any checks for the account which was used.

CHOCOLATE

Bryan man's dream ends in a rainbow of chocolates

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — Once upon a time, there was a boy who spent his days drilling water wells for the family business.

But his dreams depicted a very different life: In them, he was a chef in a fancy restaurant with his name over the door.

This is the story of Mitch Siegert, which so far reads a bit like a fairy tale. At the end of his dream is a rainbow of shiny chocolates that glimmer like jewels.

"It's been crazy," Siegert said as he showed a visitor around his small three-room shop two doors down from Luby's cafeteria on Texas Avenue in Bryan.

Even keeping that well-known landmark in mind, Truman Chocolates is difficult to find. The sign nearly blends into the storefront.

There are no hours posted on the door because Siegert hasn't decided just what his hours are. And he has done no advertising.

"It's all been word of mouth." Yet, since he opened for business in July, folks have been walking in and buying his unique chocolate gems as fast as he can make them.

"Bryan-College Station would be the last place you'd expect to find an upscale chocolate shop," Siegert said. "But this is the only place I could do this because I know nothing about running a business. I have to rely on my family."

The Siegert name is well-known in the Brazos Valley. Family members own companies that drill water wells, fix or replace radiators, and repair or install air conditioning.

That last area of expertise has proved particularly valuable to Mitch Siegert.

When his air conditioning goes out, his products melt. So it's nice to have someone trustworthy on call.

Mitch Siegert grew up in Bryan, attended Bryan public schools through his junior year, and then spent his senior year at Allen Academy.

He enrolled at Texas Tech University, but one year in Lubbock was enough for him.

"I really didn't have a clue what I wanted to do except that I've always liked to cook," Siegert said. "So I decided to go to culinary school."

Siegert, 29, was accepted to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. After graduation, he did an internship with the Food Network.

"We worked with Emeril, Bobby Flay, Rachael Ray, all the shows." We cut every onion, prepped all the vegetables. It was a lot of fun. Every day we got a whole new batch of food.

In every fairy tale, there comes a part where the hero meets a wizard or princess or witch who changes his life. In Siegert's case, the transformation came when he worked at a pastry school in Naples, Fla.

"That was the first time I really got to work with chocolate. I got to experiment with coloring chocolate. We'd make 4-foot sculptures of chocolate. That's when I knew I wanted to open a chocolate shop."

Siegert returned to Bryan fascinated with the idea of making colored, flavored chocolates so shiny that you could see your reflection in them.

"This is a very American product. In Europe, they don't allow chocolate to be colored. Chocolate is brown. If you color it, you can't call it chocolate."

Siegert worked out the process in his

home kitchen and then looked for a space to rent.

The name, Truman, is his middle name.

When a customer buys one or more of Siegert's chocolates, he is buying a product that is 100 percent designed and manufactured by the owner. And every piece starts as 100 percent Swiss chocolate.

The process starts with a poly carbonate mold, which Siegert polishes over and over and over again.

Each mold has either 24 or 32 cavities, something like an ice cube tray.

The polishing process "is very time-consuming, but that's the only way to get the shine," the chocolatier explained.

Plastic bottles of chocolate cream are kept in an old oven.

"We couldn't use a new digital oven because it won't go below 100 degrees, which is too hot and burns the bottles," he said. "This old oven keeps them at just the right temperature."

The process:

To make a multi-colored shell for a flavor such as blackberry, with its blue swirls on a deep-red background, Siegert pours blue chocolate into a small piping bag like those used in decorating cakes. He squirts blue chocolate randomly across the mold.

Then he whips red chocolate with a small frothing mixer and sprays it into the mold using an airbrush.

The mold is placed in a refrigerator until the chocolate hardens.

Finally, the shell is filled with ganache, a chocolate cream flavored to taste like

banana, champagne or 14 other flavors. The newest is apple, which tastes like apple pie with a hint of cinnamon. The next flavor will be cherry, Siegert said.

"I make all the flavors myself. I know just how I want them to taste. It takes about three weeks to get it just like I want it."

Before Christmas, Siegert was making 1,600 pieces a day. All of them sold.

Now he is making 2,400 pieces a day. He is training employees Cecilia Moreno and Callie Krueger so production can be increased.

"At Christmas, we were getting orders from corporations for 500 boxes," Siegert said. "Realtors were buying them for gifts. Messina Hof wants wine-flavored ones. Veritas restaurant wants its own colors."

"I've shipped orders to the United Nations Assembly in New York. A jewelry store in Dallas ordered a bunch to hand out. The Texas A&M Board of Regents ordered some for a dinner."

"It's just been crazy." For Valentine's Day, Siegert has created eight heart-shaped chocolates being sold in a black box for \$20. A box of 16 costs \$36. Buyers can choose the flavors they want.

And Valentine's candy? Three weeks before Valentine's Day, Siegert already had a clipboard full of orders.

"I don't know if I'll have any left by Valentine's," he said, "but my girlfriend told me I had to stay open late because guys always wait till the last minute to get something. I plan on closing at 6 p.m., but we'll have to see."

As far as the happily-ever-after part of the fairy tale, Siegert isn't quite sure.

"All this still makes me nervous. Who would have thought a chocolate shop would make it in Bryan-College Station?"

"We worked with Emeril, Bobby Flay, Rachael Ray, all the shows."

— Mitch Siegert

Yellow taxicab driver plays cupid to lonely hearts in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Finding your better half this Valentine's Day could be as easy as hailing a taxi — especially if Ahmed Ibrahim is in the driver's seat.

The 53-year-old cupid cab driver, as he refers to him-

self, has spent the past few years playing matchmaker to lonely New Yorkers, setting up more than 70 dates. Nineteen have led to relationships that lasted more than a year.

Ibrahim planned to deco-

rate his yellow cab with red and white hearts and roses for Thursday.

"I've organized so many dates, and it really makes me feel good about it," Ibrahim said. "I've not had one complaint."

Ibrahim said he offers his matchmaking services to passengers he evaluates by listening to conversations and asking a few questions. He then exchanges phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

"I want to know if they're the real deal or just a player," he said. "If you're a player, then forget about it."

One of his clients, Martin Karamon, said he successfully found romance through the cupid cab's services. The

relationship ended after about six months, though the two remain friends.

"I might have to get in his cab again because I just broke up with my girlfriend," said Karamon, 37.

Woman deposits drugs

BREMERTON, Wash. (AP) — Credit unions accept deposits — just not of methamphetamine.

A woman who allegedly dropped an envelope containing money and a bag of meth at a Kitsap Credit Union was arrested and charged with drug possession, according to court docu-

ments.
A bank employee reported the deposit to police, who contacted the 18-year-old customer. Officers said she might have mistakenly included the bag when she got money out of her pocket for the deposit.

Teen gets life in prison for killing over toilet training

CINCINNATI (AP) — A judge has sentenced a teenager to life in prison for killing an 1-year-old boy by repeatedly swinging him against a wall because he was frustrated with the child's toilet training.

Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Beth Myers sentenced Derris Smith, 18, on Tuesday, stipulating he is not eligible for parole for at least 31 years. A jury convicted Smith on

charges of murder, felonious assault and child endangering.

Authorities said Smith, the mother's boyfriend, repeatedly slammed Malakai Glenn against the wall when he became frustrated last June while trying to toilet train him. The impact left drywall stuck to Malakai's head and cracked a wooden door, said the boy's mother, Sasha Glenn, 20.

Baying and barking beagle takes first step at Westminster

NEW YORK (AP) — Uno barked at his handler, bayed at the crowd, tried to grab his leash and took a flying leap at a piece of filet mignon. Oh, and he gnawed away at a newly printed sign.

Now that's one great beagle. His white-tipped tail in perpetual motion, Uno turned the green carpet of Madison Square Garden into his own personal backyard. On Monday night, he became the first beagle to win the hound group at the Westminster Kennel Club show since 1939 — that's 483 years, in dog years.

"Snoopy would be proud," handler Aaron Wilkerson said earlier. "He was being his merry little hound self."

Westminster has presented best in show 100 times and a beagle has never won. Uno's victory assured him a place in the final seven Tuesday night at America's No. 1 dog event.

Beagles are always among the most popular dogs in the country, yet Wilkerson was at a loss to explain why they've never done better here.

"I can't really say," he said. "All of them are just good."

While best in show will be presented later, the precocious package of personality certainly deserved one title: noisiest in show.

"Ah-rooo!" his howls echoed all over the arena. It didn't take much to get Uno going, either. A click of a spectator's pen, a wave of the judge's hand, any effort by Wilkerson to hush him. "Ah-rooo!"

A perfectly trimmed toy poodle, a top Sealyham terrier and a prized Akita were among the 2,627 entries at this year's show. The dogs came in 169 breeds and varieties, and there were four newly sanctioned types — the Tibetan mastiff, Beauceron, Swedish vallhund

and Plott. Also roaming around the rings: a niece of Vivi, the award-winning whippet who ran away at John F. Kennedy International Airport two years ago, and the daughter of Rufus, the colored bull terrier that won the 2006 Westminster with a football-sized noggin.

The terrier, nonsporting and herding groups were also to be judged Monday night. Judge J. Donald Jones, former a dean at Emory University, will point to his choice as best in show right before 11 p.m. Tuesday.

Though the movie "Underdog" was a big winner last year, a beagle is forever a long shot at the Garden. Tricolor and nearly 3, with pleading, golden-brown eyes and a most playful nature, Uno hoped to break out of the Westminster doghouse. His official name is K-Run's Park Me in First.

Happy Valentine's Day
from the staff of The Pampa News



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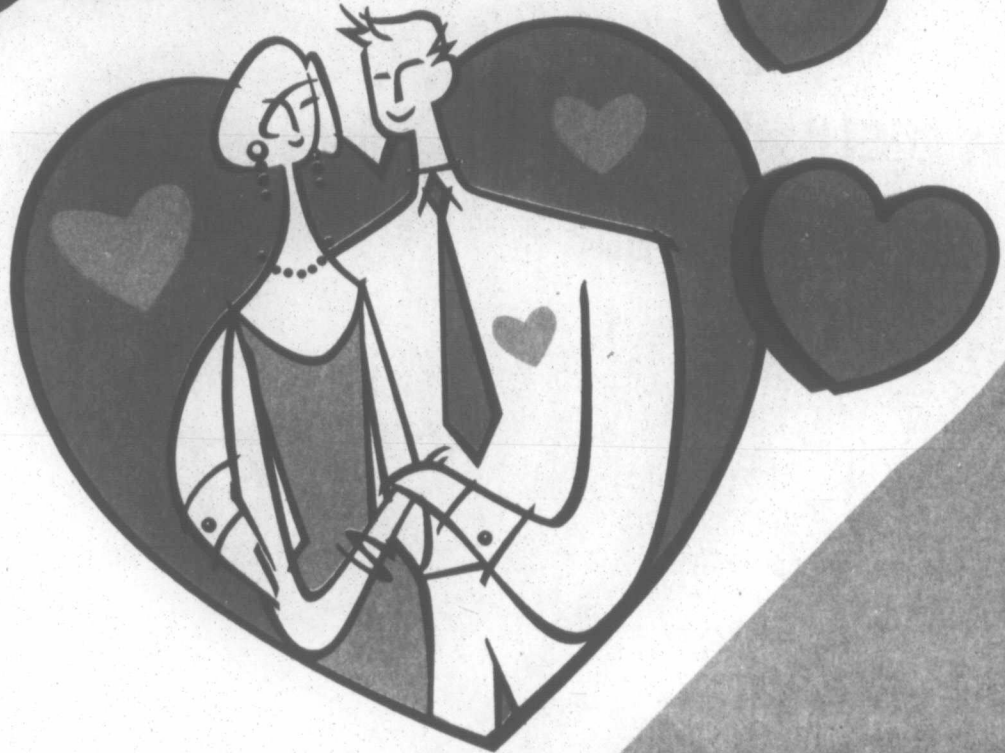


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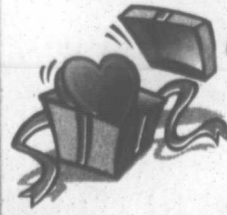
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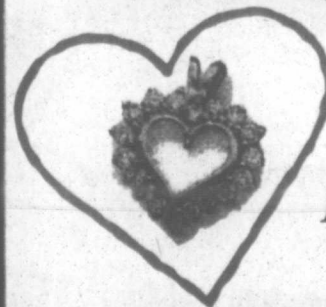
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