

# The Pampa News

25¢

JULY 28, 1993

WEDNESDAY

## City OKs Parks Department office renovations

By RANDAL K. McGAVOCK  
Staff Writer

Improvements to working conditions for city employees and many of the water lines through out the city was discussed by the Pampa City Commission Tuesday during its regular session meeting.

In an effort to improve the appearance of the Parks Department's office and provide a better working environment for the employees of the department, the City Commission awarded a bid for improvements to the building to Ganell Industries of Pampa.

The Ganell bid totals \$22,402 and was the lowest of the three submitted to the city.

While the bid was \$402 over budget, interim City Manager Nathan Hopson still recommended its acceptance because he said it was very much needed.

"It's just an old, corrugated, galvanized building with holes all over it," said Hopson. "It leaks (and) there's not insulation in it, and this will certainly make it energy efficient."

Basically, the project specifications call for workers to re-skin the building, install insulation, install overhead doors and relocate doorways and windows at a cost of \$13,402 for the renovations, with labor expected to cost an additional \$9,000.

The renovation is much like that done to the city's

main service center a few years ago.

While renovations go on to the building, Hopson said the regular work of the Parks Department will also continue without interruption.

As for the water line improvements, the commission approved the purchase of 12 lots of material, including pipe, valves and joint restraints, at a cost of \$124,179.41.

"What we want to do is replace all those (pipes and equipment) under the streets when we do the street project so we don't have to go back and patch leaks," said Hopson.

Bids were sent out July 20 and six responses were returned.

Currently, much of the pipework in place in Pampa is cast iron, which was first installed in the 1930s and is now corroded, according to Hopson.

Lot 1 of the purchase is the most expensive, totaling \$92,366.96, and consists of more than 25,000 feet of PVC pipe ranging from 4-inches wide to 16-inches wide.

Other companies to win purchase bids included Ferguson Enterprises, for \$24,758.24 of material; Western Industrial, for \$5,160.61 of material, and Wheeler Municipal, for \$1,893.60 of material.

The money to purchase the material for the project came from a surplus of money from a bond issue approved by residents of Pampa in 1987 and from other

bonds. The installation will be performed in conjunction with some of phases of the street improvement, according to Hopson.

In other business, the commissioners authorized Hopson to enter into a contract with the Lubbock engineering firm of Parkhill, Smith and Cooper to prepare a wastewater re-use study.

The wastewater re-use study is an unfunded mandate from the Texas Water Commission and is needed to meet the requirements for a discharge permit.

The cost to the city is scheduled to be \$7,650 and cannot increase unless authorized by the city.

Topics which will be addressed by the study include an assessment of water supply and demand, reclaimed water substituted for potable water and/or freshwater, potential uses of reclaimed water, a market analysis for reclaimed water and a preliminary cost-benefit analysis.

Two other items discussed by the City Commission dealt with the re-appointment of people to the Pampa's Traffic Commission, in one instance, and to the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

Dennis Laycock, Lee Fraser, Wallace Bruce and Marvin Bowman requested re-appointment to the Traffic Commission and were given it as the commission approved the re-appointment resolution unanimously.

The four Traffic Commission members' terms expire in two years.

As for the appointment to the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority, Jerry Carlson was unanimously re-appointed to serve as one of Pampa's two representatives to the CRMWA. The term of office is two years and becomes effective Aug. 1.

In other business, the commission voted to stay with its current insurance holder, Standard Insurance, at a renewal cost of \$138,347.28, which is an increase of \$17,092.56 to the current cost. Other insurance companies the city checked with would have required less of an increase in the overall cost, but, at the same time, provide less claims coverage.

Finally, the City Commission approved the sale of a surplus autoclave machine owned by the city to Dr. Ron Easley for \$155. The only other bid received for the sterilizing machine was for \$60.

In addition to the regular session, the commission also met in executive session to discuss a lawsuit against the city filed by two former police officers. No action was taken when the commission reconvened into open session.

The Pampa City Commission normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the City Commission chamber on the third floor of City Hall.

Prior to the regular sessions, a work session is generally held in the third floor conference room of City Hall.

## Construction play



(Staff photo by Darlene Holmes)

It may be hot, but children still enjoy playing outside during the summer months away from school. Developing possible future construction skills in playing with a toy dump truck in the dirt on Aft Street Tuesday morning are, from left, Joe Rodriguez, 5; James Marquez, 10, and Jonathan San-Miguel, 11.

## Clinton ponders air power in Bosnia

By RON FOURNIER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton said today the United States would "seriously consider" using air power in Bosnia if asked to defend besieged United Nations peacekeepers.

Clinton said the French government, whose peacekeeping troops have come under fire in Bosnia, has not formally requested the air support. The French defense minister was at the United Nations today seeking protection for its soldiers.

Gen. Jean Cot, the French commander of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia, is expected to report within the next day or so that "all systems are go" for installing the air cover operation, U.S. officials said.

The United States, meanwhile, has reaffirmed its commitment to be part of the operation and France is likely to seek - and get approval - to implement the plan, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

This would set the stage for U.S. warplanes to open fire to defend peacekeepers if they come under attack and request help.

"The position of the United States has long been that if the United Nations troops were attacked there, we would do our part to protect them by making available air power.

We have not yet been asked to do that. If we are asked, that's something we will give some consideration to," Clinton said.

A regular meeting of Clinton's senior foreign policy aides took on increased importance today because the French government had signaled its desire for the United Nations and NATO to speed up plans to provide air cover for U.N. ground forces in Bosnia.

French peacekeepers were caught in the line of fire for the second time in three days Tuesday when a building in Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, was hit by at least seven Serb artillery shells.

"I'm very upset by the shelling in Sarajevo," Clinton said during a picture-taking session with Democratic lawmakers.

The French government demanded that the U.N. Security Council put into immediate effect a resolution providing for such cover and that NATO, which offered planes, begin flying missions. Clinton said a request has not been formally made of the United States.

French Defense Minister Francois Leotard is in New York today with meetings at the United Nations. He will meet with senior administration officials and congressional leaders here Thursday and Friday.

At the Capitol, House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., declined to

offer an opinion on the possible use of U.S. planes and crews. "They have not yet contacted, as far as I know, members of Congress," Foley said. "I'm sure that will happen."

Asked if the United States would definitely provide air power if requested, Clinton said, "The United States has always had the public position and the private position - we made it very clear - that if the United Nations operation in Bosnia was under attack, we would be prepared to defend them with air power," Clinton told reporters.

"We have not been asked yet. If we are asked, that's something we will seriously consider," he said.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary Les Aspin and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake were to meet today. Clinton was not expected to attend, although he likely will meet with Christopher later today.

The administration earlier this year pushed for air strikes and lifting a U.N. arms embargo to help Muslim troops, but its efforts were rebuffed by European allies. Fearing Clinton would again look weak if his new round of rhetoric isn't followed up by air strikes, White House officials stressed today that the U.S. policy dating back to the Bush administration has been to offer air support if U.N. troops come under fire.

Clinton said he will be reviewing his options "in the next couple days."

Christopher cut short his visit to Asia and said Tuesday he was returning to Washington to consult on the renewed fighting along the Israel-Lebanon border "and other things."

The Washington Post, which first reported on the possible use of U.S. planes, said today U.S. officials declined to say whether NATO aircraft would be used to retaliate for the Serb attacks or be put on alert to respond to future attacks on U.N. troops.

## Deficit talks hitting late problems over gasoline tax and spending cuts

By ALAN FRAM  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democratic lawmakers' efforts to draft a compromise deficit-reduction bill are hitting late hurdles as deals on a gasoline tax increase and spending for social programs remain elusive.

As House-Senate bargainers searched for a package they could get past both houses and send to President Clinton, the key unresolved question was how much the 14.1 cent-a-gallon federal gasoline tax should be increased.

Western lawmakers are particularly leery of any big boosts, but others want the increases to pay for tax breaks for business and the poor and for spending programs.

After meeting today with the House Democratic Caucus, White House Budget Director Leon Panetta said an energy tax is essential to produce a \$500 billion deficit reduction. He added that the administration does not expect the gas tax to rise by as much as the 9 cents most recently proposed by House negotiators.

Opponents "have yet to tell me how to get to \$500 billion without" raising the gas tax, Panetta said.

House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., predicted negotiators will reach agreement this week.

"It's going well as far as I can

see," Foley said. Liberals were concerned that proposals emerging from the talks to raise spending for social programs were too low.

The proposals were changing by the day. But participants, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the latest proposals would increase the tax credit for low-income workers by \$22 billion or less, below the \$28 billion Clinton wanted; limit Clinton's proposed \$7 billion increase in food stamps to about \$3 billion; and hold tax breaks for companies in some deteriorating communities to \$3.5 billion. The House had approved \$5 billion.

Despite the problems, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, predicted, "We are going to be able to pass the (final bill) ... through the House and Senate next week."

And Rep. Bill Richardson, D-N.M., one of the Democrats' chief vote counters in the House, said, "We're hearing a lot of muttering, but that's par for the course right before a negotiation is completed."

The House had last offered a 9-cent increase and the Senate a 4.3-cent rise in the gasoline tax. Some Democratic senators, led by Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., were threatening to abandon the plan Tuesday if the final figure exceeded the Senate offer by much.

"You'd begin to lose senators who had supported the bill" if the increase reaches even 6 cents, Baucus predicted.

Shortly before Baucus spoke, Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., said the evolving package "does not do enough to put our economic house in order" and said he might oppose it unless additional spending cuts were included.

Boren even called for a summit of Democratic and Republican leaders to draft a new plan, saying the problem of the deficit demands a bipartisan solution. That idea drew immediate criticism from the administration, which said such talks would lead to needless delays.

"You delay it a couple of months, you are going to have less deficit reduction, higher interest rates, more fragility, uncertainty in the economy, more consumer confidence going down," Clinton told reporters at the White House.

But with the objections from Baucus and Boren - who both supported the bill when it cleared the Senate by one vote in June - it was clear that the Senate would be the tougher obstacle to sending the measure to Clinton.

To bolster their chances in case of defections, the administration has been wooing some of the six Senate Democrats who voted against the original bill.

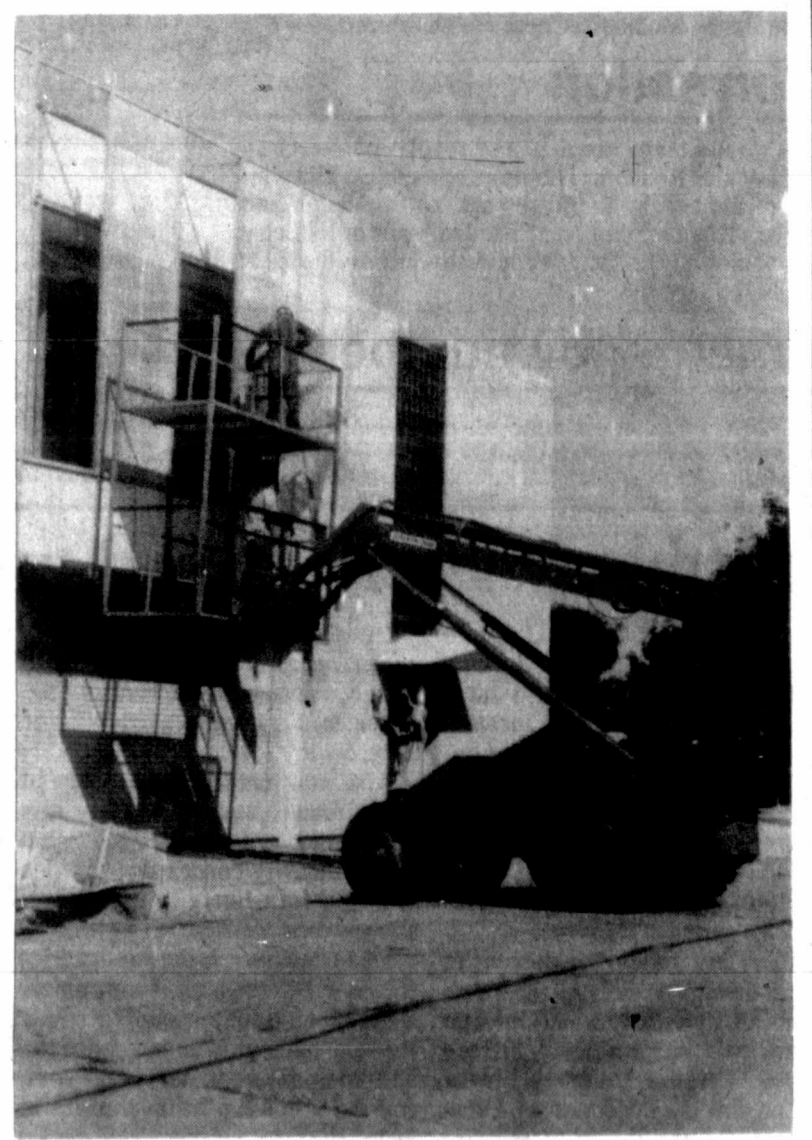
## Carson County votes increase for ambulances

PANHANDLE - The Carson County Commissioners Court on Monday voted to increase from \$75 per month to \$100 per month the county's contribution to towns in the county that have an ambulance service.

In other news from the meeting, the commissioners:

- Voted to keep the vehicle registration fee for Carson County residents at \$5 per vehicle.
- Set the annual salaries of jailer-dispatchers Gay Russ and Steve Hardin at \$12,000 and \$12,480, respectively.
- Approved a \$10,255 budget amendment to compensate for unforeseen increases, including expenses for conducting run-off elections for state senator.
- Approved the loan of a Thompson machine gun to the Carson County Square House Museum for display.
- Approved amendments to bid specifications concerning the removal of tornado debris at the "burn pit" in the northwestern part of the county. The amendments concerned the grading and seeding of the site and approval of obtaining topsoil that is away from the site, if needed.
- Approved a \$1,000 contribution to the city of White Deer for completion of a building to house that city's new ambulance service.
- Discussed the budget for the 1993-94 fiscal year. Final completion of the budget will be in August.

## Grid work



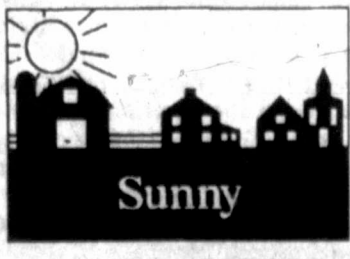
(Staff photo by Darlene Holmes)

Removing the metal grid and windows from the east side of Citizens Bank and Trust on Tuesday afternoon are Robert Hines, top; Kasey Davis, middle, and Paul Isom, bottom. They work for Ganell Industries Inc. of Pampa. The removal work is in preparation for the construction of a new side for the bank.

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12 PAGES, 1 SECTION









# Food

## Dismissed diet aids once again gain credibility

Diet pills are back in favor among doctors who have found the prescription version can help America's estimated 34 million obese people lose weight with a minimum of side effects.

For years these pills were dismissed as ineffective and potentially addictive, Keri Ann Ammerman wrote in an article in the current issue of Good Housekeeping. But last year a major four-year study conducted at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) School of Medicine and Dentistry was completed and convinced an increasing number of doctors to prescribe them.

"Our biggest fear is that we'll see overuse and abuse of these drugs by people who don't need them and then another backlash against the pills," said Dr. Louis Aronne, assistant professor of medicine at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

The renewed interest in diet pills is a result of a shift in how experts view obesity, loosely defined as being at least 20 percent over ideal weight. It usually had been blamed on character flaws in the obese.

"But now we're recognizing that there are medical explanations behind this seeming eating problem," Aronne said.

Current research indicates obesity is in part a genetically predetermined condition that affects metabolism, fat distribution and other factors, said Dr. Michael Weintraub, associate professor of community and preventive medicine, who conducted the Rochester study on prescription diet pills.

In the past, if a person on diet pills regained weight after stopping medication, it was thought the medication had failed, said Dr. C. Wayne Callaway, associate clinical professor of medicine, George Washington University, who added:

"We now understand that obesity

is a chronic problem, much like hypertension or diabetes, that can't be cured by short-term use of drugs but requires ongoing use."

The Food and Drug Administration has only approved prescription diet pills for short-term (three months) use because, until now, there were no long-term studies. Doctors are urging the FDA to reconsider the short-term limitation.

Reputable doctors will only prescribe diet pills for those who are at least 20 percent overweight. That's the point at which excess weight becomes a clear health problem, increasing the risk of heart disease,

arthritis, gallbladder disease and other ailments.

Aronne said health benefits of diet pills outweigh the risks, adding, "But I feel people should not take diet pills — or any medication — just for cosmetic benefits."

Over-the-counter diet pills, the most popular of which contain an amphetamine-derivative called phenylpropanolamine (PPA), a mild stimulant, come with a warning not to take them for more than three months. But studies show people tend to regain all the weight once they go off PPA. Also, the pills are ineffective if you use them for too short a period of

time to "jump start" a diet.

"As it stands now, the FDA has approved a product that people are using in a way that doesn't work or make sense," Callaway said.

Many doctors feel over-the-counter pills would be safer if available by prescription only, but the FDA has not yet found enough evidence to take them off the shelves.

Tomorrow's diet pills now under development may target some of the causes of obesity by stimulating metabolism, building up fat-burning muscle tissue, lowering insulin levels or increasing the release of fat from fat cells.

## Chicago restaurateur builds \$100 million eating empire

By SARAH NORDGREN  
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Restaurant whiz Rich Melman has a new idea: a food court for the fortunate. Not fast food, but fine food — food that will appeal to the tony shoppers at the nation's trendiest malls.

And, like many of Melman's ideas, this one isn't sitting still.

"Foodlife," a 21,000-square-foot food court extravaganza, opened on fashionable Michigan Avenue last month. It was Melman's 25th Chicago restaurant; it won't be his last.

Melman can — and does — spin out hot spots almost at will.

He knows it, and so do the 2,500 people who make his Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Inc. one of the nation's most successful independent restaurant groups, with annual sales of about \$100 million.

He owns restaurants in Arizona, Minnesota and Japan. He plans a store in Seattle and a second in Minnesota soon.

In Chicago, his empire is so hot, wannabes try to capitalize on his name. A recently opened restaurant was called "Not Rich Melman's Place." It truly wasn't — it closed a few weeks later.

And Melman has staying power: The first restaurant he ever opened — R.J. Grunts — is still packing them in 22 years after opening.

"He's got an extraordinary gut instinct, which is hard to describe to MBA's," says Chicago Tribune food and wine columnist Bill Rice. "He's a restaurant man to the tip of his toes. He knows how to make them feel vibrant, and how to theme them and price them."

Melman's genius lies in being ahead of the latest food craze curve — but not so far ahead that people don't come. His range extends "from quality-downscale to three-star dining," says New York restaurant consultant Clark Wolf.

Tapas? His "Cafe Ba Ba Reebal" was among the first on the scene. Fifties nostalgia at budget prices? "Ed

Debevic's Short Orders-Deluxe" — since sold — hit it early. Nouvelle cuisine on a generous expense account? Try "Ambria," "Everest," even Chicago's landmark, "The Pump Room."

Melman does seafood, ribs, French, Greek, Italian, and most critics say he does them well. "If you're not hearing him knocked, it's because it's hard to knock him," says Rice.

Melman is up each day before daylight, doing Lettuce homework before his ritual gym workout in the lavish Winnetka home he shares with his wife and three children.

Every day but Sunday he is on the job, often conducting business from a table in one of his restaurants. The 50-year-old is known to call his office answering machine from his Mercedes late at night with a laundry list of thoughts to pursue the next day.

"The guy has probably thought of and discarded more ideas for restaurants than a room full of people could come up with in 10 days," said a former employee who, like several others interviewed for the story, spoke on the condition that their names not be used.

He's an ambitious and competitive man, known to enlist "REAL ball players — former pro's" for the corporate office team at the company's annual softball tournament, the employee said.

"I don't like to do things I can't do well," Melman acknowledges.

Melman grew up in a one-bedroom apartment on the city's West Side, where his father ran a deli-style restaurant.

As a youngster, he peddled ice cream and worked for his father for spending money. Never much of a student, he tried several colleges and left them all without a degree.

"I was 22 when I thought about going into the restaurant business on my own," Melman says. "I was real frustrated ... and I left my father."

So in 1971, with real estate developer and friend Jerry Orzoff and \$17,000, he opened R.J. Grunts.

Orzoff and Melman had a tight partnership that lasted 10 years, until Orzoff died at 45 following heart surgery.

Melman's allegiance to his first partner is legendary: his sons R.J. (Robert Jerome) and Jerrod are both named after him.

Currently, Melman engenders a strong sense of loyalty, even adulation, among his six senior partners, all of whom have worked for Lettuce for nine years or more.

"Rich Melman has an innate sense of fairness," says partner Steve Ottmann. "He honors his commitment to treat people well."

A former general manager fired after more than a decade with Lettuce agreed. He said Melman seemed sincerely sorry to let him go, then helped him find another job.

"Once you've done something for him he'll help you out — and he knows his stuff," said the manager.

One unusual aspect of Lettuce Entertain You is its commitment to psychotherapy. Melman is avowedly pro-therapy — and likes his employees to be the same. Most don't mind, though some do.

"In order to continue on at Lettuce, you have to get into therapy," said one former employee. "It's their form of confession. It's creepy."

Lettuce has a fund to offset employee therapy costs, a fund Melman says is "a great investment in our company."

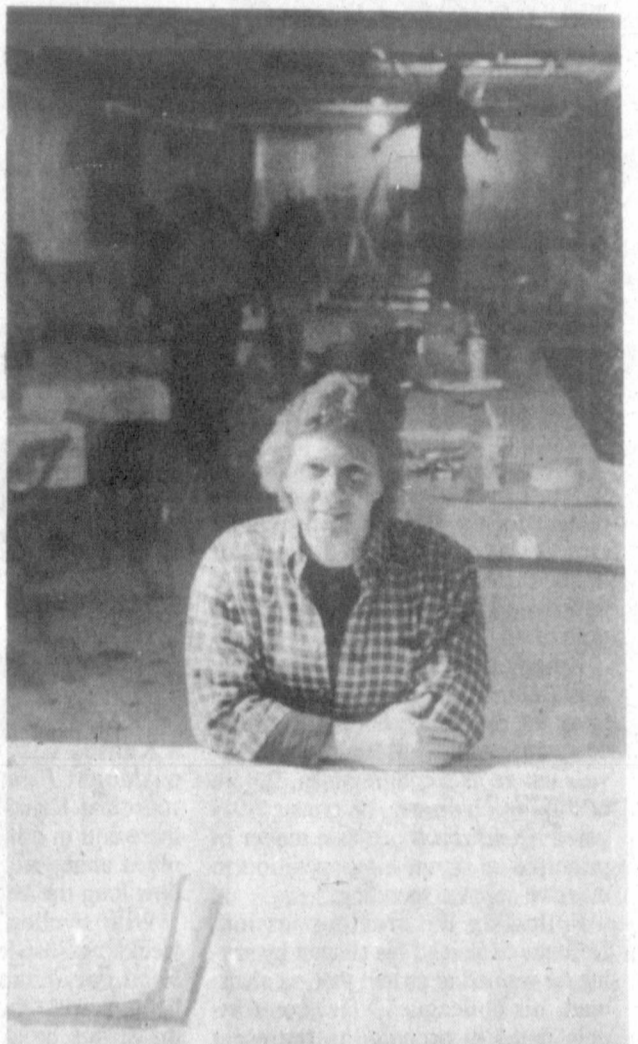
"I can't imagine where my life would be without therapy," says Melman. "People take business classes and cooking classes ... so much of your whole being has to do with emotions. Treatment is just another class."

Some critics say Lettuce Entertain You has gotten fat, more cautious in recent years. Known for avoiding the cookie-cutter approach to new restaurants, Lettuce has fallen back on some old creations for new spots.

Tucci Benuch, a popular Chicago Italian eatery, now has a cousin in Minnesota. Other spinoffs are planned.

"If there's a rap at them at the moment, it's that they're less inclined to take chances," says the Tribune's Rice. "There's a feeling that they're a 600-pound gorilla."

But Melman says his idea bank is far from depleted. "I'm feeling very optimistic," he says.



(AP Photo) Rich Melman takes a break from overseeing the construction of his newest restaurant.



## Gipson preserves art of canning

By CHERYL BERZANSKI  
Lifestyles Editor

Davie Gipson has been preserving food since she was a girl, when her mother was doing it for the family.

The Donley County native, now living in McLean, has filled freezers and cans for years to feed her three boys and husband.

"It saves money and tastes better, too," she said.

Tomatoes are the best and most fun to can, but the apricots she put up one fine summer morning were nothing to sneeze at.

The golden fruit, picked up around a neighbor's bountiful tree, was cooked to a thick pulp, which was pressed through a sieve to remove the peel.

The pulp, at least five cups, was returned to the stove with a pack of commercial fruit pectin, 1/4 cup of lemon juice and a thumb nail size hunk of butter. The mixture was brought just to a boil, when Gipson added seven cups of sugar. That mixture was allowed to reach to a rolling boil "that you can't stir down," and boiled for one minute. Gipson skimmed the bubbles and poured the mixture into jars.

Arranged waiting in her large kitchen were fruit jars with parings from a paraffin block. An old friend, Sophie Hutchison, once suggested that Gipson put the grated wax into the bottom of her fruit jars then pour over the boiling jam. The melted paraffin, Gipson said, rises to the top and forms the crucial seal and saves

time in the process.

Gipson doesn't pressure cook her jam, though she knows that many nutrition and health experts recommend it.

From her girlhood, Gipson remembers standing over a wood stove to keep the heat high enough for the fruit to boil. There was no such thing as commercial fruit pectin, so her mother boiled down the fruit until it was very thick, she explained.

The good thing about making jam is that it is a low-pressure kind of food preservation: "Nothing is lost if it doesn't jell. You're in business." The unjelled version becomes pancake and waffle syrup that Gipson feeds her family right along side the finest jam.

10 eggs  
2 cups of sugar  
4 cups of flour  
Cream the butter. Add sugar and mix well with butter. Then put in the eggs — one at a time. Beat as you add the flour, a half a cup at a time. Continue beating till the batter changes from yellow to a pale yellow.  
Pour into tube cake pan and bake for 1 1/4 hours.

## Panhandle anecdotes, recipes wanted

The Pampa News is interested in receiving the Panhandle's best recipes for publication.

But that's not all.

Along with your recipe, include any interesting anecdotes or history you think our readers might be interested in reading about. Recipes will be printed as space permits.

Recipes are not restricted to a specific meal or type of food.

The Pampa News reserves the

right to print or reject any recipe. Submissions may be sent to The Pampa News, Food Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

Last week, a mistake appeared in a recipe sent in by Elizabeth Robertson of Pampa.

This is the recipe as it should have appeared. We regret any inconvenience the mistake might have caused.

Alabama Pound Cake  
1 Pound of butter

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# The Pampa News

## Comic Page

### NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

- 1 WWII area
- 4 Legend
- 8 Summer (Fr.)
- 11 — Breckinridge
- 13 Architect — Saarinen
- 14 Armed conflict
- 15 Middle Eastern country
- 16 Like a Manx cat
- 18 Ohio city
- 20 Comes close
- 21 Least short
- 23 Fabric-coloring method
- 25 Actual being
- 29 German for "one"
- 30 Biblical king
- 32 Airline info
- 33 Spire ornament

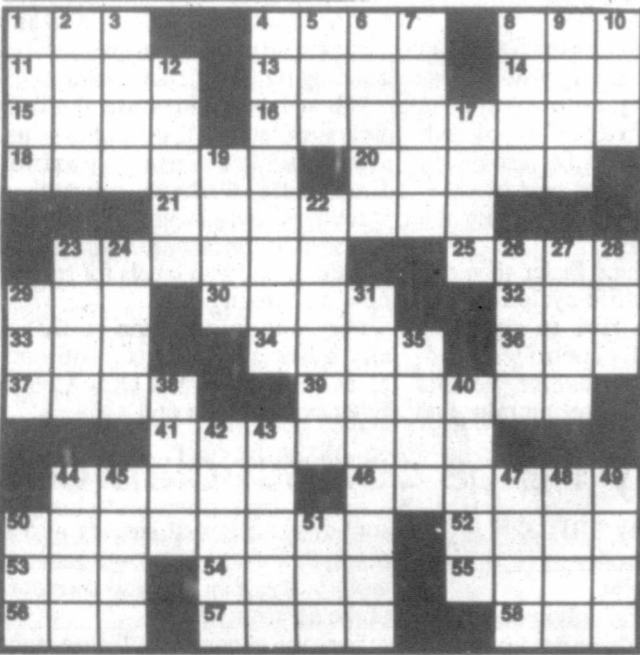
**DOWN**

- 1 Send forth
- 2 Beginner
- 3 Spoken
- 4 Figure of speech

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

ABSORB	ABJECT
BONNIE	ALUMNA
ROASTS	AIDING
ABREAST	MEN
DOLT	HAP
EOS	IBEX
HEE	INSTEP
ABJURE	NEO
IBAR	CAGE
MLI	THY
ALI	ENDORSE
ABLATE	AOUDAD
ARABLE	REDUCE
RAISER	DRAPED

- 5 Positive vote
- 6 Threefold
- 7 Pits
- 8 Pitcher
- 9 Russian news agency
- 10 Bitter vetch
- 12 Anoint
- 17 Tardy
- 19 Extinct flightless bird
- 22 A European
- 23 Overtures
- 24 Freshwater porpoise
- 26 It follows Aug.
- 27 Eye infection
- 28 Cereal spike
- 29 Wide shoe size
- 31 Vanilla —
- 35 Region
- 38 W. Coast coll.
- 40 — Hiss
- 42 Assists
- 43 Old-womanish
- 44 Arabian seaport
- 45 Obscene
- 47 Future L.L.B.s' exam
- 48 Square column
- 49 Bird's home
- 50 Actress Claire
- 51 Last letter



**WALNUT COVE**



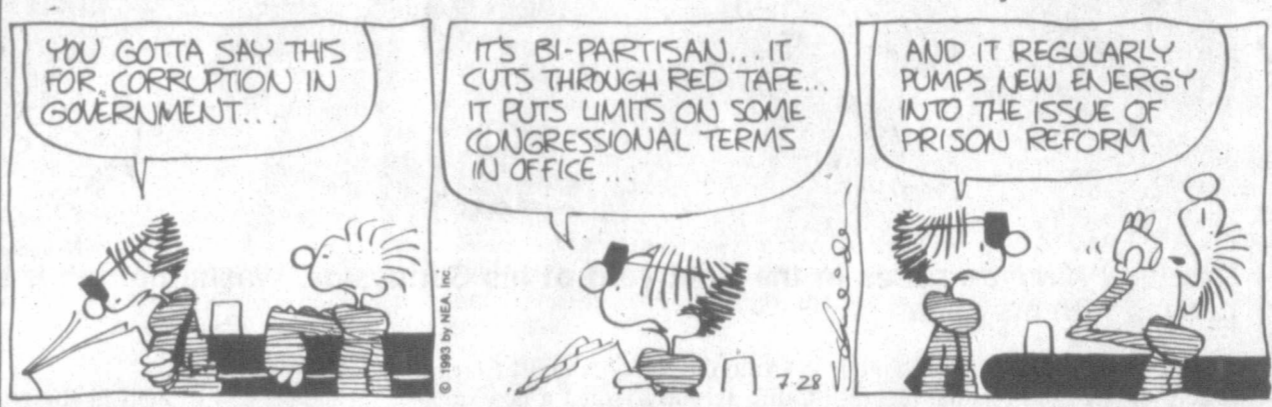
By Mark Cullum

**ARLO & JANIS**



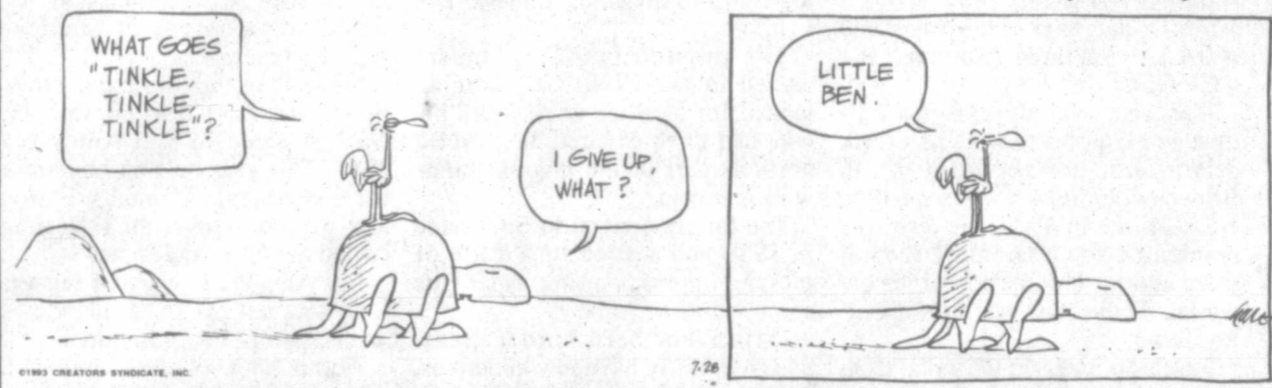
By Jimmy Johnson

**ECK & MEEK**



By Howie Schneider

**B.C.**



By Johnny Hart

**Astro-Graph**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today if you get involved in a friendly, competitive game with a pal such as golf, tennis or handball, don't make winning too important. Trying to patch-up a broken-romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you to understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Guard against inclinations today to do things that make you look good at the expense of someone else. Unfortunately, if you do fall into this pattern you might not even be aware of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Usually you are a very diplomatic individual, but today this splendid quality might desert you and you might either use excessive flattery or treat others arrogantly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Conditions that have an influence on your material security could be a trifle unsettling today. Be alert for uncertainties and be protective of your interests at all times.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This might not turn out to be such a nifty day if you and your mate can't agree upon which playmates to spend the day with. Don't make this something too difficult to resolve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be wary of patterns today which could be self-defeating and make easy matters complex. Figure out effective shortcuts, not frustrating detours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) A well intentioned friend might not be the one to whom you should go for constructive business advice today. Talk to someone who understands matters as well as you do.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Noteworthy achievements will not be denied you today if you have the fortitude and tenacity to attain them. If at first you don't succeed, regroup and charge again.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Strive to be tactful today if you're subjected to an awkward position where you might have to make a decision that will affect friends with opposing opinions. Where is Solomon when he's needed?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) In order for a joint endeavor to work at this time, there must be parity between the principals. If one contributes and the other doesn't, it could be a no-go.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) In an important partnership arrangement today, you and your counterpart must strive to be objective and not to deliberately veto what the other has to offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Don't expect co-workers to do things for you today you're capable of doing for yourself. This is a very tender spot and it could ignite a conflict.

**MARVIN**



By Tom Armstrong

**MARMADUKE**



By Brad Anderson

**KIT N' CARLYLE**



By Larry Wright

**ALLEY OOP**



By Dave Graue

**SNAFU**



By Bruce Beattie

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



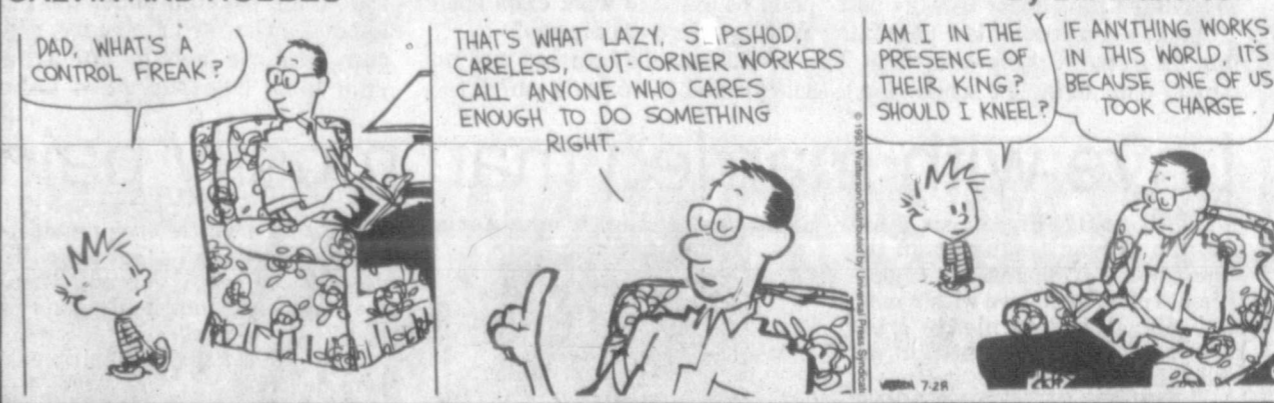
By Bill Keane

**WINTHROP**



By Dick Cavalli

**CALVIN AND HOBBS**



By Bill Watterson

**THE BORN LOSER**



By Art and Chip Sansom

**FRANK AND ERNEST**



By Bob Thaves

**PEANUTS**



By Charles M. Schulz

**GARFIELD**



By Jim Davis









## Blasts rock Rome, Milan; 5 dead

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A car bomb exploded in downtown Milan late Tuesday, killing at least five people. An hour later, suspected car bombs jolted the ancient heart of Rome, injuring 24 and heavily damaging two historic churches.

No one claimed responsibility for the blasts, but officials said they had the same aim as recent bombings: sowing chaos in a country wracked by a devastating corruption scandal.

The premier called a meeting of security officials, saying the government would not be cowed by attempts to create "panic and disorder."

The Milan explosion hit about 11:15 p.m. (4:30 p.m. CDT) near Piazza Cavour, about a half-mile from the La Scala opera house. Police blocked off the area to allow in ambulances and firefighters to battle a blaze from a ruptured gas line.

Milan police said the dead included three firefighters and a policeman who were apparently called to the scene by a telephone warning of a blast. A Moroccan man sleeping in a park also was killed. Seven people were wounded, none seriously.

"I was walking towards my car when I saw smoke coming out of the motor of a gray Fiat Uno" car, said Maurizio Ambrosini.

"There were policemen, a man and a woman, and several firefighters around the car. When they opened the hood, someone yelled, 'It's a bomb' and everyone ran away," he said. "I ran far away too. Shortly after there was a big explosion. From a distance I saw a flame as high as a building, at least 10 meters (30 feet)."

### Brownsville man hospitalized after 300 bee stings

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — An 87-year-old Brownsville man was hospitalized after he was stung more than 300 times by bees that swarmed him while he was watering a banana tree.

Jose Jesus Luna was in stable condition Tuesday afternoon at Valley Medical Center, said hospital spokesman Pat Boscher.

Monday's attack on Luna comes nearly two weeks after an 82-year-old man died after an attack by Africanized bees on his ranch in Starr County, about 340 miles northwest of Brownsville.

When he died July 15, Lino Lopez became the first person in the Unit-

In Rome, a blast heavily damaged St. John Lateran Basilica, the pope's church in his capacity as Bishop of Rome. The other struck near the ancient forum and the Michelangelo-designed Campidoglio square, the seat of city government, damaging another church.

"Almost everyone threw themselves on the floor. The lights went out. There were people screaming, there were people calling for their cat and there were people calling for the Madonna," said Giancarlo Ercolani, who was in his apartment when the blast near the forum hit.

The blasts struck at the height of the tourist season, and two months after car bombs exploded in Rome and at Florence's Uffizi museum, leaving five dead. No claim of responsibility has been made for the May bombings.

"In the face of the repeated attempts to create disorder and panic to halt the country in its move to renewal, the government reaffirms its determination to guarantee the right of Italians to democratic progress and liberty," Premier Carlo Ciampi said after summoning security officials, including Mafia crimefighters, to his offices at the Chigi Palace.

Milan's chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borelli called the blast in Italy's financial center a "symbolic act" to intimidate investigators working on the anti-corruption scandal. The investigation is based in the city.

"Naturally there is someone who is trying to create a situation of panic in the country," said Diego Novelli, a leftist member of Parliament.

Terrorists and the left and right

carried out bombings in the 1970s and early 1980s to bring down the government. Shadowy conspiracies among secret service officials also have been blamed for violence during that era.

The Rome blasts came about an hour after the Milan explosion and were so powerful they shook windows at least four miles away. Shaken tourists wandered in the area in a daze, mixing with police and Roman onlookers.

The bomb near the forum damaged the sixth-century church of San Giorgio in Velabro, which sits in an area rich in ancient monuments, state television said.

All that was left of the church's famed portico was a single arch and length of stone beam. Police said a car engine was found 240 feet away, suggesting a car bomb was responsible.

Next door at a residence hotel, doors were blown off their hinges and windows were shattered. No guests were reported injured.

On May 14, a bomb exploded in a fashionable section of Rome and wounded some 30 people. Two weeks later, a car bomb killed five people and badly damaged the renowned Uffizi museum in Florence, destroying irreplaceable works of art.

Six days after that, a car containing explosives was found a block away from the premier's office in Rome, but was defused.

Some investigators blamed the May bombings on the Mafia, saying the crime network was seeking to fight back against a series of government victories, but other investigators cast doubt on the theory.

ed States to be killed by the so-called killer bees since they migrated into Texas in 1990.

It has not yet been determined if the bees that swarmed Luna were Africanized bees. Texas Department of Health spokesman Jorge Herrera said test results to determine if they were Africanized will be available in about two weeks.

Luna was swarmed while watering a banana tree outside a hamburger stand, when the bees' hive in a nearby building was apparently disturbed.

"He was talking with a little girl, when all of a sudden the bees began to attack him," said Luna's

daughter Blanco Diaz.

Three women were also stung during Luna's attack, Herrera said. Ms. Diaz, 10-year-old Leticia Garza and her mother Elsa Garza were all stung three times.

Ms. Diaz said she put Luna and the child in the store to keep the bees away from them, then tried to kill the bees by spraying them with water and smashing them with a fly swatter.

Herrera said when he arrived, paramedics couldn't get in the restaurant because the bees were still swarming. Herrera said he donned a beekeeper suit to get to the sting victims.



Firefighters battle a blaze caused by a gas line that erupted following the explosion of a car bomb Tuesday night in downtown Milan, Italy.

### Investigators: Mother drowned son to get rid of dragon

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A woman was charged with murder Tuesday after telling investigators she drowned her 4-year-old son because he had a dragon inside of him.

Authorities said the woman's 5-year-old daughter reported that her mother drowned the boy and then told her that he wasn't real — he was a robot.

The woman's 3-year-old girl also was at the drowning scene. But Nueces County sheriff's investigator Lt. Mike Lowrance said Tuesday that authorities believe the 5-year-old was the only witness who watched Adam Shook die.

Justice of the Peace Ben Garza Jr. set bond for the 37-year-old mother, Elaine Shook, at \$100,000. She remained under guard Tuesday at the psychiatric unit at Memorial Medical Center.

"The only reason she's given us is

that God talked to her and He told her to do it," Lowrance said.

Authorities revealed Monday that she had previous psychiatric problems and had not been taking prescribed medication when the drowning occurred. Lowrance said investigators were studying her mental records.

"She made several references to killing the dragon, that she was getting rid of the dragon," he said.

Mrs. Shook was arrested Sunday morning after fishermen discovered Adam's body carefully arranged in the back of a pickup, surrounded by family memorabilia.

Clad in a T-shirt and underwear, Shook approached a fisherman at Oso Creek and told him, "I've just killed my son," authorities said.

The body was wrapped in a sheet with two teddy bears, one of them holding a little red heart stating: "I love you."

Next to the boy was a portrait of his parents and a New World translation of the Bible. Nearby, investigators found a scrap wood altar and a second sort of memorial made of blankets, a pillow and a refrigerator shelf, topped with a wreath of shrubbery.

Nueces County Medical Examiner Lloyd White, who interviewed the mother at the scene, said she described the drowning to him.

"She told me that she put him in the water on his back and sat on him and held him under the water until he stopped fighting," White said.

"She was very cooperative and forthcoming, but what she was saying was obviously not rational or connected. She would start talking about something and get way off into all kinds of bizarre symbolic language about things in the Bible and so forth," he said.

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