

AREA:
White Deer dance school
to have 31st revue, Page 5

GOOD EVENING
Monday, May 6, 1996

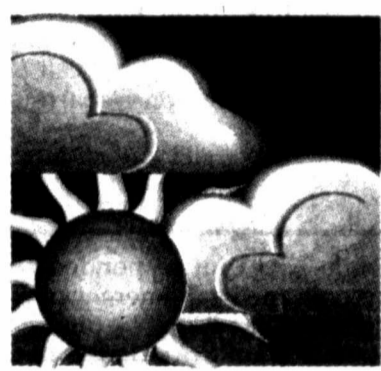
SPORTS:
Rockets face biggest challenge
ever against the Sonics, Page 7

THE PAMPA NEWS

VOL: 89 NO: 26

Pampa, Texas

50¢ DAILY/SUNDAY \$1



Low tonight in mid 50s,
high tomorrow near 90.
See Page 2 for weather
details.

PAMPA — Space is available for persons interested in attending one or both of this week's "Texas Global Communities" workshop set for Tuesday and Wednesday at M.K. Brown Memorial Auditorium.

The workshop topic for Tuesday is tourism development and the topic for Wednesday is business retention and expansion.

Each day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m.

Pre-registration for one workshop is \$35, or \$60 for both, which includes lunch. Deadline is 5 p.m. the day prior to each workshop. Registration the day of the event is \$45 per workshop with registration set from 8 to 8:30 a.m.

The workshops are hosted by the city of Pampa and presented by staff members of the Texas Department of Commerce.

For more information, call Bill Hildebrandt or Seleta Chance at M.K. Brown Auditorium, 669-5790.

McLEAN — Incumbent Eugene Galley and newcomer Don Charles Dorsey emerged the winners in Saturday's school board election.

Galley and Dorsey were the top two vote-getters in a field of five.

Dorsey received 81 votes, Galley 75 votes, David Smith Haynes 65, Charles Lee McClendon 60 and Sasha Danelle Fish 9 votes.

A total of 148 people cast ballots in the election.

PAMPA — School trustees will hold a public hearing Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Pampa High School auditorium to hear discussion on the elementary school consolidation plan.

In other business, the oath of office will be delivered to new board member Dr. Jay Johnson and returning trustees Pat Kennedy and John Curry. The board will also consider electrical upgrade bids.

Meetings are open to the public.

AUSTIN (AP) — One ticket bought in the Houston area matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth \$8 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 7, 9, 17, 22, 24 and 37.

There were 207 tickets sold with five of the six numbers, with each ticket worth \$877. There were 9,163 tickets that matched four of six numbers, with each winning \$71.

Lottery officials estimate the jackpot for Wednesday night's game will be \$4 million.

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Officials: Desalinization project may be scrapped

By MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer

LUBBOCK (AP) — Unexpected problems have hindered plans to divert brine from one of West Texas' most important underground water sources, officials say.

An estimated \$11.5 million plan likely will be scaled back or scrapped in favor of a costlier alternative, officials say.

The plan to siphon brine from a natural aquifer and inject it three-quarters of a mile below ground was hindered by a basement of mostly impermeable granite at 3,200 feet, about 1,000 feet too shallow.

Details of a contractor's draft report on the project should be available today, said Shirley Shaddix, program coordinator for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation office in Oklahoma City.

"It's igneous rock with no permeability, and it's usually considered that that's what it is all the way down to the mantle," Ms. Shaddix said. "You stop drilling at the basement."

The bureau already has spent about \$2 million to try to keep salt from entering Lake Meredith, said John Williams, general manager of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

Located about 35 miles north of Amarillo, the lake supplies tap water to about 450,000 people in 11 cities, including Lubbock, Amarillo and Pampa.

Engineers determined that it would be most economical to

draw the brine from a spot on the Texas border, near Logan, N.M., and inject it deep underground. They hoped that would stop the salty aquifer from seeping into the Canadian River near the state line.

If full-scale injection is impossible, brine removal efforts likely will become more expensive, Williams said.

"We'll have to evaluate if we can afford to do the project with other methods," he said. "Deep injection seems to be the most economical way."

But a consultant on the project, Lee Wilson of Santa Fe, N.M., said the shallow rock formations should not make injection impossible. He said he hoped that a smaller injection program would reduce salinity nearly as well as the original plan.

"A reduced number of injection wells would keep us unequivocally within budget," Wilson said. "But we're looking at other alternatives, like brine processing techniques. The benefit of that is there would be a much smaller amount of brine to dispose of."

Those techniques, designed to distill water from the brine and sell off leftover minerals to industry, could cost more to construct but might offer the project a way to recoup its costs from the sale of byproducts.

Wilson said another option is building on-site injection wells and some a few miles away, relying on a pipeline to move the salt-

water. That prospect certainly would increase project expenditures, Williams and Wilson agreed.

One municipal source, who asked to not be identified, said he heard the project's price tag could approach \$18 million. The federal government, state and water authority, which involves 11 West Texas cities, each agreed to pick up a third of the original tab.

The U.S. House recently approved a final payment of \$570,000 toward the project, based on an initial lower cost estimate.

Williams said indications of permeable zones in the rock and a layer of clay that could stop brine from resurfacing could make limited injection an option.

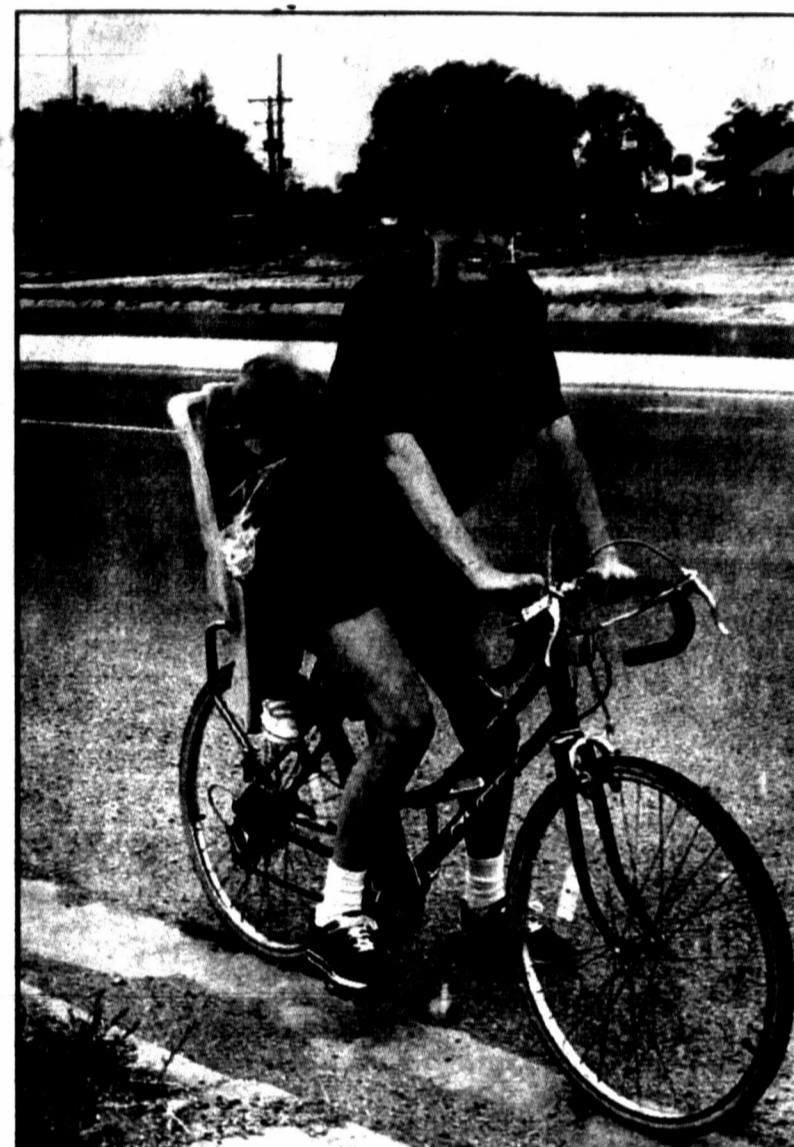
A larger-scale project to mix Roberts County groundwater into Lake Meredith is slated for completion in 1999. Wilson said that program alone will vastly improve the quality and quantity of West Texas tap water.

Amarillo is eager to remain involved in the New Mexico desalinization efforts if the cost isn't prohibitive, said city utilities director Ron Freeman.

"There probably is a (cost) limitation there," he said. "Everyone is interested in getting the salt out of the water if it's possible, within reason."

Lake Meredith's salinity levels have steadily worsened since tests began in 1965. The Bureau of Reclamation declared Canadian River water quality to be marginal as early as 1960.

Morning ride



(Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

Julie Davis, 1136 S. Barnes, and her son Garrett, age 2, go out for a morning bicycle ride today, taking advantage of the mild weather provided by low clouds and moist air. Despite the cloudy skies Sunday and this morning, no rain fell. But the forecast calls for a high rebounding in the mid 80s today, with a slight chance for showers this evening.

Pampa woman injured in freak gasoline fire

A Pampa woman received second- and third-degree burns Saturday night in a freak gasoline fire.

Alecia Casanova, 42, was taken by emergency helicopter to University Medical Center burn center in Lubbock. She is in critical condition there this morning.

Details were sketchy today, but officials say Casanova was

apparently burned when someone ignited a cigarette lighter while her son was priming a carburetor with gasoline.

Her son was treated and released from Coronado Hospital. The incident occurred in the 700 block of East Browning around 10 p.m. Saturday.

Botello's injuries included burns to the upper torso and face, as well as internal injuries caused

by the inhalation of flames.

The excessive heat and flames caused swelling to her throat, causing emergency workers some difficulty in securing her airway. Despite the difficulty, ambulance personnel were able to prevent neurological damage, a Rural/Metro spokesman said today.

Botello was airlifted from Recreation Park.

Clinton supports GOP adoption tax credit plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is endorsing Republican legislation to give a \$5,000 tax credit to most families that adopt children and penalize states where interracial adoptions are discouraged.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said a letter Clinton was sending to Congress today reflects "the president's desire to ease (procedures) for adoption — address issues that will make adoption more available for an increasing number of American families."

The letter, first obtained by the *Washington Post*, says: "Promoting adoption is one of the most important things we can do to strengthen American families and give more children what every child in America deserves — loving parents and a healthy home."

McCurry said the president also believes that more frequent adoptions could reduce the rate of abortions.

Following the president's lead, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt today also endorsed the tax credit. Gephardt, D-Mo., has sponsored similar legislation in the past.

"With 400,000 kids still in foster care in this country, now is the time to provide incentives for families wishing to adopt," Gephardt said. "We simply have to make adoption more affordable."

The tax credit was part of the House GOP's "Contract With America."

Adopt-A-Garden



(Pampa News photo by Chip Chandler)

William McCarley and Shane Stokes roll out water line while installing a drip-irrigation system at M.K. Brown Park Saturday afternoon. McCarley, who recently adopted the park surrounding the municipal pool, oversaw the planting of 35 trees along the irrigation lines. Volunteers laid about 1,000 feet of water line, tied to the existing sprinkler system at the park.

VFW Post seeking younger members

Pampa's Veteran of Foreign Wars Post #1657 is looking for a few good young men. Actually, more than a few would be even better.

Mike Porter, who long has been a member of the local post and served as an officer on the board, said the VFW Post is seeking veterans ranging from Korean War to the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Desert Storm conflicts to join the post.

Porter said most of the current post members "are getting old," with a need for younger blood to participate in and carry on the activities of the post.

"We are dying off to the point where there are not enough of us to keep the doors of the VFW open, and they do need to be open and active in the maintenance of the veterans' rights and benefits," he said.

"We ask the Korean veterans, the Vietnam veterans and the Desert Storm veterans to step up and take over the responsibility of the protection of the rights of the veteran," Porter said. "The older veterans would love to go to the VFW meetings and be able to sit back and let the younger veterans take charge."

Porter said the Pampa VFW Post meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the VFW Post building, 105 S. Cuyler, at 7 p.m. He invited younger veterans to stop by and learn about the activities and projects conducted by the post.

Porter said he realizes many veterans may perhaps want to

put their military years behind them.

"War in any form is hell," he said. "The finest of the nation are called forth and put in harm's way. We did not want to go, but out of loyalty to the good old USA we left our families, businesses, education and, in some cases, our future to go and again defend our country."

"Had we not gone in World War II, we might be speaking German or Japanese in our country today. Had we as Americans not gone to Korea, we might be speaking Korean. We went to Vietnam and now we don't have to speak Vietnamese, and we are still free," he continued.

"We can assemble together and not be in fear. We have freedom to either succeed or fail as we see fit for our lifestyle."

Porter said it has been a long time since the World War II VFW members came home and accepted the responsibility "of reminding our elected officials of their duties to our country."

Now it is time for the younger generations to take on that responsibility, he said.

"What a blessing it would be to know that as us old veterans look and wait for the final call to fall in, that the young veterans would be at the gavel calling in the Desert Storm and Bosnian veterans," Porter said. "Come, young veterans, and take up the gavel of peace and carry the VFW into the 21st Century with gusto."

City wants to stop rude cabbies

NEW YORK (AP) — Which of these are you most likely to hear when you hand a New York City cabbie a \$50 bill for a \$5 cab ride?

A) Thanks for the tip.
B) Are you out of your mind?
C) I am sorry, but I am not required to change a \$50 bill. Please let me drive you to the nearest place where you can get change.
If the Taxi and Limousine

Commission gets its way, cabbies will be answering "C," along with 49 other courteous statements such as: "Thank you for hailing me, sir (madam)."

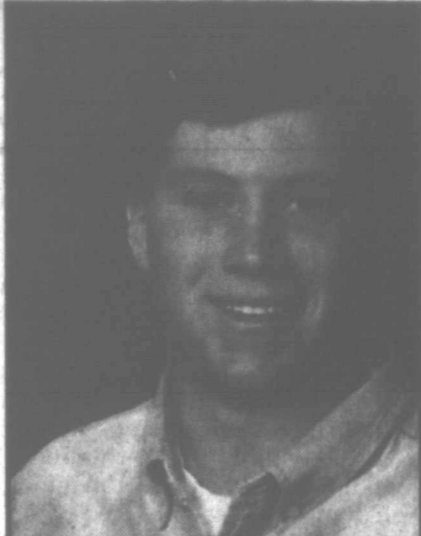
After finally requiring drivers to speak English and know how to find Broadway, the agency now wants to banish the quintessential New York image: rude cab drivers.

Area newsmakers

LUBBOCK - Darin Lane Wyatt was initiated into Beta Gamma Sigma, the honor society for collegiate schools of business at Texas Tech University. Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest national scholastic honor a student in a school of business can achieve.

Membership is open to outstanding scholars in institutions accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. Fewer than 25 percent of all institutions offering degrees in business and management in the United States have met these standards.

Wyatt is the son of Dennis and Andrea Wyatt and graduated from Pampa High School in 1993.



Darin Lane Wyatt



Jennifer Noelle Wyatt



Misty Brooke Scribner

LUBBOCK - Jennifer Noelle Wyatt, daughter of Dennis and Andrea Wyatt, and **Misty Brooke Scribner**, daughter of Billy and Cathy Scribner, were initiated into Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma national honor societies at Texas Tech University.

These organizations are committed to recognizing and encouraging superior academic performance. Freshmen must have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average during their first year or semester to qualify for membership. Scribner and Wyatt served as president and vice president of Pampa High School student council graduating in 1995.

invitation and limited to students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and rank in the top 10 percent of their respective classes.

Area inductees include: **Scott M. Dyer**, Allison, a junior pre-physical therapy major; **Elizabeth G. Hale**, Briscoe, senior English education major; **Tori M. Kelley**, senior generic special education major; **Angie M. Schmitto**, senior theatre arts major; **Diana E. Watson**, senior elementary education major; **Jerry J. Faltinek**, senior management major, all of Pampa; **Jeremy B. Britten**, senior chemistry/biology major, Panhandle.

Kelley was elected president of the chapter.

Recipients must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Area inductees include: **Stacy Fields**, Groom, pre-physical therapy major; **Andrea Phillips**, Pampa, pre-veterinary major; and **Jennifer Zamora**, Panhandle, music therapy major.

CLARENDON - Associates degrees were awarded to 94 students at the 98th Clarendon College commencement on April 26.

Area graduates include: **Sheley Howard**, Pampa; **Ethel Mae Angton**, Shamrock; **Angie Beddingfield**, Groom; **Rita Jo Crockett**, McLean; **Justin Paul Daur**, Panhandle; **Sherry Ann Graham**, Canadian; **Joannie Lynn Hibler**, Wheeler; **Rodney Ingersoll**, Allison; **Krista Burgin Johnson**, Groom; and **Chad Edward Williams**, White Deer.

Pampa was elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Texas Plains Girl Scout Council's nominating committee at the council's annual meeting April 27.

Angie Davenport and **Angie Turpen** of Lefors were recipients of the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. The award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development. For their Gold Award project, Davenport and Turpen chose to organize Neighborhood Watch groups in their community in cooperation with the city of Lefors and the Pampa Police Department.

Each recipient received a \$500 educational grant from the council.

The 35-year service pin was awarded to **Adelaide Colwell** of Pampa for her years of service to Girl Scouting.

CANYON - Seventy-one West Texas A&M University students were inducted into the Texas Zeta Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national academic honor society on April 10.

Membership in Alpha Chi is by

CANYON - Fifty-eight members of West Texas A&M University's sophomore and freshman classes were inducted into the national honor society Phi Eta Sigma on April 1.

AMARILLO - Jeanne Roper of

Actors re-enact Mexican-American war

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Some say the Mexican-American War was the nation's most obscure war, but a weekend commemoration of two of its battles drew dozens of actors whose specialty is reliving history.

The 1846 battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, which started the Mexican-American War, were re-enacted by the participants in

"Soldados and Doughboys: A Living History Program." Crystal Gattis, squeezing a bellows as a laundress would have done 150 years ago, revived a fire which almost had been extinguished by a relentless wind.

Ms. Gattis said that cooking and sleeping on the actual battlefield site gave the event special significance.

State briefs

Self-declared ambassador jailed in West Texas

MONAHANS (AP) — Facing a federal contempt citation, an anti-government group's leader remained jailed today for a third day after his arrest in West Texas.

Richard L. McLaren of the Republic of Texas movement was held at the Ward County Jail in Monahans, Sheriff Ben Keele and a spokeswoman for the San Antonio-based group said Sunday.

"We are holding him for the U.S. marshal," Keele said.

He said no bond information was available on McLaren, who describes himself as an ambassador and chief legal counsel for the sovereign republic.

Television station KMID-TV reported that McLaren was jailed without bond.

Federal officials declined comment today to The Associated Press.

sudden it's, 'You can't do it.'

The advocacy group, 2 months old, lacks a cohesive game plan. But members are talking about picket lines, boycotts, a class-action lawsuit and an appeal to the City Council.

Members such as Justine Yeager, president of a local Czech group, were ready to offer alternatives at the a meeting.

"Maybe instead of separate ethnic days, they could designate one international day that would highlight a lot of multicultural activities in Dallas," she told *The Dallas Morning News*.

Teen insists she never intended to kill her father

FORT WORTH (AP) — A teenage girl whom prosecutors say committed "the perfect crime" insists she did not intend to fatally poison her father, only to sicken him.

A daughter of divorced parents, Marie Robards, 19, said she loved her father "very, very much" but desperately wanted to live with her mother.

"I never thought anything through," she told a reporter on the eve of her murder trial for the 1993 slaying of Steven Robards, 38, a postal worker.

Her father, although "manic-depressive," was kind and loving and never abused her, she insisted.

Prosecutor Mitch Poe dismissed the teenager's story as illogical, pointing out that she could have told emergency medical personnel about the poison the night she fed it to him. She didn't.

Coalition pushing state fair to restore ethnic days

DALLAS (AP) — A decision by the State Fair of Texas to end its longstanding tradition of ethnic days is not sitting well with some people.

"We're not just going to sit by and let this be taken away from us without any kind of reaction or fight," said Steve Ogden, president of the Norwegian Society of Texas.

"It is a very heartbreaking thing, especially for us in the Czech group," added Bertha Podhrasky, president of the Czech Cultural Society.

Ms. Podhrasky said her group has been represented for more than a half-century. "All of a

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Linda Germany School of Dance to present 31st annual revue



(Special photo)

Students will perform a jazz dance to Elvis Medley. They are Emily Nusser, front, left, Ashlie Snyder and Shelby Boyd. Back, left, Annie Haiduk, Katie Gordy, Kalee Mills, Candace Bentley and Sideanna Harvey.

Headed for the Future

7:30 p.m. Friday, White Deer High School

WHITE DEER — Dancers from the Linda Germany School of Dance in White Deer will present "Headed for the Future," their 31st annual revue.

The recital is set for 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 10, in the White Deer High School auditorium. Students from White Deer, Skellytown, Panhandle and Groom will perform ballet, pointe, tap, jazz, lyrical and novelty numbers.

The show is sponsored by Xi Sigma Beta chapter of Beta Sigma Phi with proceeds going to charity. Admission for adults is \$2 and \$1 for students. Preschoolers are free.



(Special photo)

Tap dancers will perform to George M. Cohan Medley. They are Brittany Warminski, front, left, and Bethany Bailey. Back, left, Shea Craig, Kylie Powers, Katelyn Freeman, Brooke Owens and Kara Lewis.

Trend towards declining crime may soon be reversed, authorities fear

WASHINGTON (AP) — Serious crimes reported to police fell for the fourth straight year in 1995, but authorities fear that rising teenage violence may soon make these seem like "the good old days," as one put it.

The FBI released preliminary figures Sunday showing that reported crime overall fell 2 percent last year from 1994, led by a 4 percent drop in violent crime.

Law enforcement officials, legislators and scholars applauded the figures but warned that large national trends are masking an alarming rise in violence by teenagers.

"We are facing a bloodbath of teen violence in the years ahead that will make 1995 look like the good old days," said James Alan Fox, dean of criminal justice at Northeastern University in Boston.

"We shouldn't be lulled into a false sense of security," said Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., chairman of the House crime subcommittee. Attorney General Janet Reno pledged to "continue to put more cops on the beat, get guns off the street and put violent criminals behind bars."

The only crime to rise — larceny, by 1 percent — foreshadows the anticipated surge in youth crime, said Professor Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie-Mellon University. Overall reported crime was down in every region, led by a 4 percent decline in the Northeast, according to the FBI compilation of local police figures.

In cities of more than 1 million residents, overall reported crime fell by 6 percent. Suburban counties and most mid-sized cities also reported declines, but rural counties showed a 3 percent increase.

Among violent crimes, murder dropped the most — 8 percent. Robbery was down 7 percent; rape, 6 percent and aggravated assault, 3 percent.


Total property crimes dropped 1 percent, with auto theft down by 6 percent and burglary, 5 percent.

But the increase in larceny "is the first glimmer of the impact of the next generation," Blumstein said, "because larceny — such as bicycle theft, stealing auto parts and shoplifting — is the crime with the youngest criminals. The peak age for larcenists is 15 or 16." Most burglars and robbers are older.

"In the other crimes, what's going on among teenagers is being swamped by much larger numbers of older folks who are growing out of the high crime

ages and giving up crime," Blumstein added. Fox predicted that "this calm before the crime storm won't last much longer."

The murder rate for teenagers grew by 22 percent between 1990 and 1994, Fox said. "Over the next 10 years, the teen population will expand by 17 percent, because there are now 39 million children under age 10, more than we've had since the 1950s when the baby boomers were in grade school," he added.



RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS

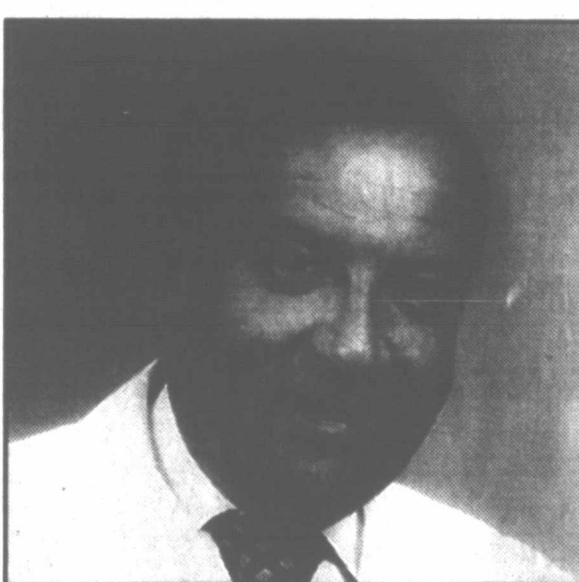
Amarillo College's Law Enforcement Academy in partnership with Clarendon College will begin a class for Reserve Police Officers Monday, May 20, 1996 at the Gray County Sheriff's Office

A Pre-Test must be taken by all interested applicants. The free test can be taken through Thursday, May 9, 1996. The approximately two hour long test is administered:
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Clarendon College Extension Office
900 N. Frost—Pampa, Texas
(Contact Jerry Lane at 685-8801 for testing information)

Interviews for applicants will be conducted in Pampa May 13-17, 1996
For additional information, call the Amarillo College Criminal Justice Center at (806)354-6081

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Good Story Passed Along Gets Changed In The Telling

DEAR ABBY: In your column of April 2, you apologized for an error that was my fault, not yours. It concerned an anecdote about Calvin Coolidge's sister.

Abby, I really did read that allegedly true anecdote many years ago. (I think it appeared in Reader's Digest.) I had no reason to doubt its authenticity, nor any means of verifying it.

But I do apologize for causing you embarrassment. I assure you it was not intentional.

JACK RUNNINGER, ROME, GA.
P.S. The story pointed out the dangers of pretending to remember someone. Abby, I can't believe how widely read you are. When you published my letter, I heard from long-lost friends from all over the United States, and even some from Japan, Hawaii and Hong Kong.

DEAR MR. RUNNINGER: Thank you for the apology. I received many letters from hawk-eyed readers wanting to set the record straight. (Bless them all!) Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I think you should know that the true story about Calvin Coolidge's sister was stolen from a routine that Jack Paar used on one of his comedy records many years ago. In Paar's routine, the dialogue was pretty much the same as in the Coolidge story; however, it took place in London, and the response to "What is your dear



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

mother doing these days?" was, "She's still the queen."

I had the record in the early 1960s, and if I still had it, I would send it to you. However, like the routine, it's been gone for a long time.

DAVID J. BROWN, COOKVILLE, TEXAS

DEAR MR. BROWN: Thank you for wanting to set the record straight. However, over the years, I have noticed that there has been a lot of "borrowing" of material. Perhaps Jack Paar conceived the idea for his routine after reading the joke in Reader's Digest. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: In a recent column you were taken to task by a reader over an anecdote that erroneously referenced Calvin Coolidge's sister. I thought you might be interested in knowing you had the anecdote right — but the wrong president! The following is from a collection of Read-

er's Digest humor called "Fun Fare," published in 1949:

"The first Mrs. Richard Harding Davis was one day riding in a Long Island train when an important-looking woman took a seat across the aisle from her. Mrs. Davis remembered that somewhere she had met the newcomer, but what her name was, she could not recall. To make the situation acutely embarrassing, the lady nodded pleasantly and said, 'Won't you come sit with me, Mrs. Davis?'"

"Mrs. Davis changed her seat, and then began a mental struggle to recall the eluding name. Presently, what she hoped was a clue disclosed itself. The lady mentioned a brother. 'Oh, yes. Your brother,' Mrs. Davis gasped at the straw. 'What is he doing now?'"

"'Oh, he's still president of the United States,' said Mrs. Douglas Robinson, sister of Theodore Roosevelt."

The quote is attributed to Joseph Cummings Chase.

MARY STRAUS, PLEASANTON, CALIF.

DEAR MARY: Apparently an anecdote is like the game many of us played as children: By the time something has been repeated a few times, it bears little resemblance to the original story.

Horoscope



Tuesday, May 7, 1996

More frequent travel to unusual places is possible in the year ahead. These sojourns could produce pleasant adventures as well as unique opportunities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might meet someone today who has access to contacts and persons pertinent to your present needs. He or she will help you if you show him how. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Some negative conditions can be reversed today. Believe in yourself and your abilities and let a positive attitude govern your efforts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Involvement with people who have clout will enhance your ability to succeed today. However, you still should not be condescending to powerless friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be granted several favors which will help you to do your work today. Take advantage of every opportunity, regardless of its size.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may experience some unusual trends today and you might have good luck in unexpected ways with people who have never been fortunate for you previously.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Success will not be a mere figment of your imagination today. You will be in a cycle which will give you more control over important endeavors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) You can derive a great deal of pleasure from social engagements today. Good friends,

good conversation and a surprise ending could all be on the agenda.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) You will have a stronger-than-usual chance of augmenting your finances today. You might have the ability to get something you've wanted for a long time.

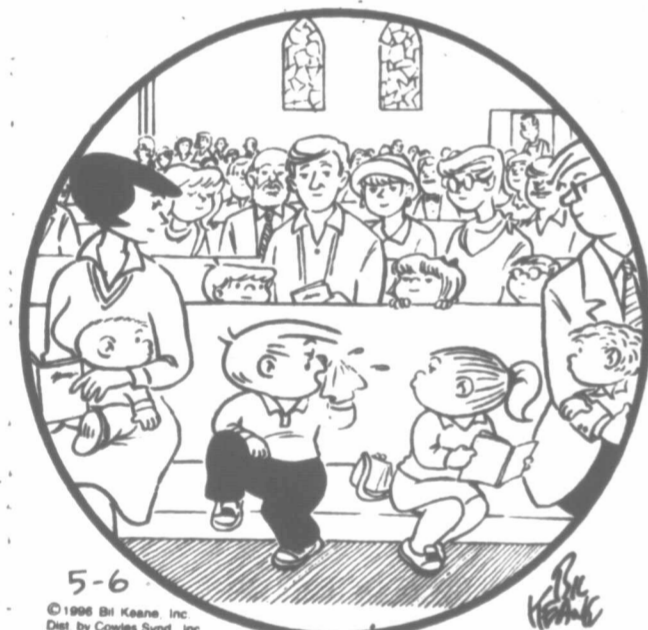
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Managing and directing others skillfully will be your best asset today. Even if you give them tough assignments, they will not grumble or feel inconvenienced.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Tenacity combined with optimism will be a winning combination for you today. The victory you envision at the end of the line can be achieved.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) You can make big strides at this time regarding an interest in which you've recently become involved. Make this endeavor your top priority today.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You are in a favorable financial cycle, so remain constantly alert today for opportunities that could increase your holdings.

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"I've never heard so many 'Bless you's for one sneeze."



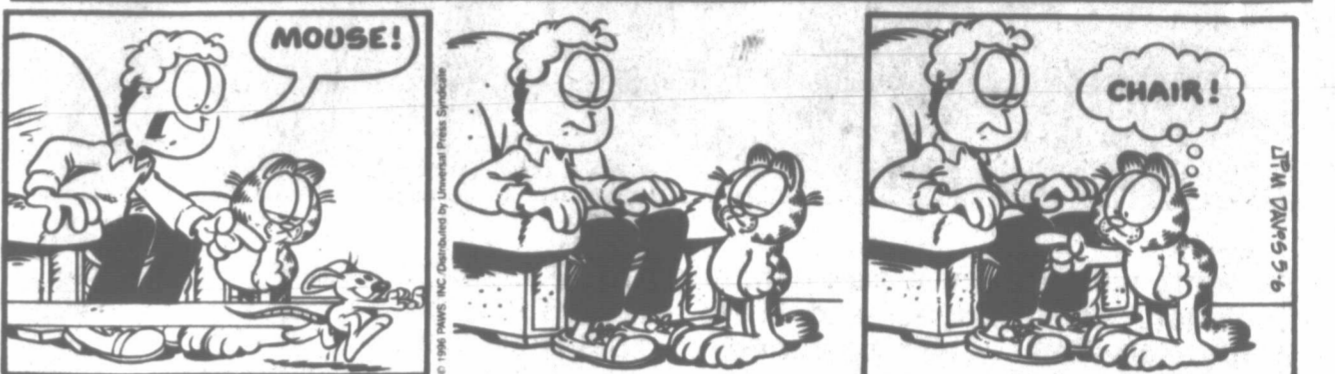
"The rain is good for the flowers."



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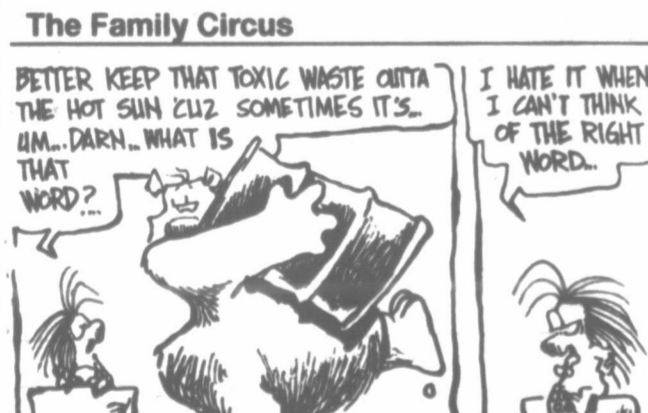
Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



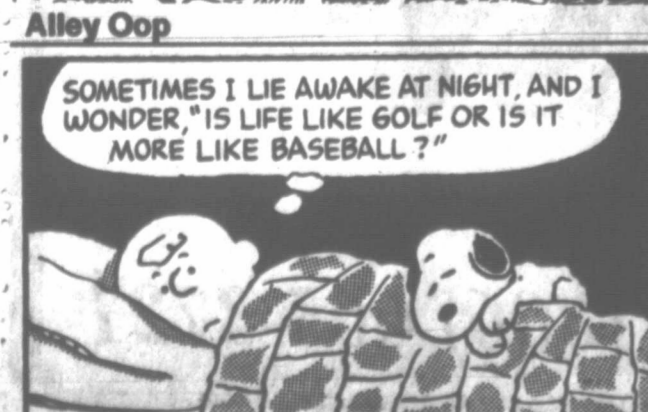
Grizzwells



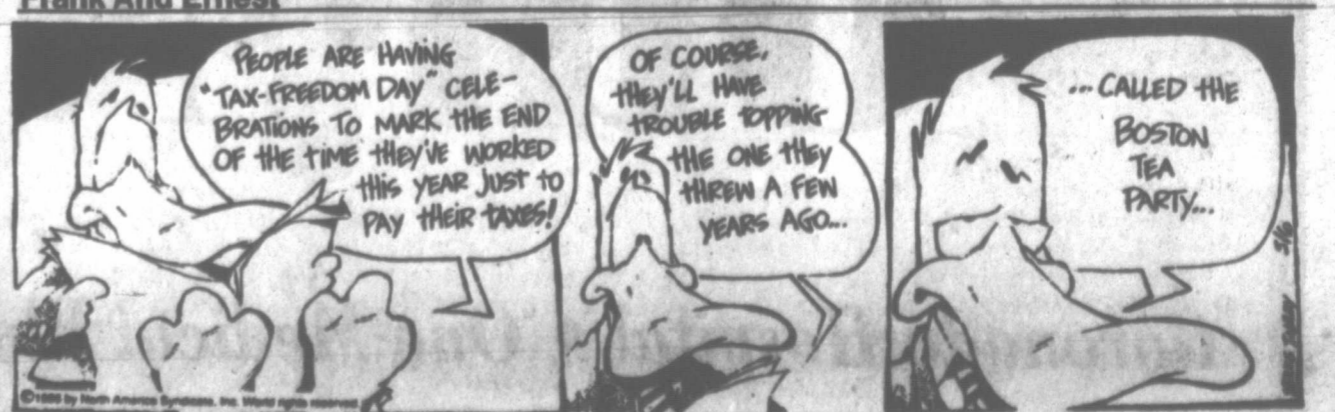
Marmaduke



Alley Oop



Peanuts



Mallard Filmore

Nation briefs

Rescuers intent to reassess strategy in search for Colby
ROCK POINT, Md. (AP) — For a week, searchers have scoured the land and waters around William Colby's vacation home looking for any sign of the former CIA director.

But despite the use of search dogs, divers, sonar equipment and river dragging lines, Colby — who is presumed dead — remains missing. Searchers planned a meeting today to rethink their strategy.

Colby, 76, disappeared while canoeing in front of his summer home April 27. His canoe was found swamped the next day, but searchers have been unable to find his body.

Naked man on tracks attacks crew, police say

DARIEN, Conn. (AP) — After commuter train crew members suspected they ran over a body, they made an emergency stop and found a naked man on the tracks who was not only alive, but very angry.

The man, who was lying in the space between the two rails, attacked three Metro-North crew members who checked to see if he was alive early Sunday, police said.

"When the workers turned their flashlights on, he jumped up and started beating them," said Metro-North police Officer James Pymm. He said the man then ran into nearby woods and the three crew members were

treated for scratches, bites and bruises.

Artay Drinks, 23, of Bridgeport, was captured about an hour later and booked on assault and trespassing charges. He was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

Man forgets to unlatch chopper from truck, crashes

BIG LAKE, Minn. (AP) — When George Hook fired up his helicopter to take off from the back of his truck, he forgot one little detail — unlatching one of the chains holding the craft down.

The ensuing crash Saturday left him only scratched and his helicopter destroyed.

"I just forgot," Hook explained. "I got distracted."

Hook, 57, of nearby Becker, uses the three-seat helicopter to spray crops in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and it's easier and less expensive to haul it from job to job by truck, he said.

He realized he had a problem Sunday when he noticed the truck starting to rise with the aircraft, he said.

Then the front of the helicopter jerked downward, crashing to the ground as the rotor blades carved into the cab of his truck.

He said it wasn't his first helicopter mishap. In 1977, he hit a power line.

"I landed upside down and helicopters aren't supposed to land upside down," he said, laughing.

Government hopes for best, prepares for worst

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — When the last government suddenly boosted prices as part of a "shock" plan to stabilize the economy, the poor streamed down from bleak hillside slums to loot Venezuela's modern capital.

That was seven years ago, yet traumatic memories are still fresh of the chaos in which soldiers killed 300 people and several thousand were wounded.

The specter of another bloodbath has intimidated public officials and everyday people alike. But President Rafael Caldera felt compelled to introduce a new austerity plan April 15 to deal with shrinking economic output, soaring prices and growing unemployment.

Caldera is crossing his fingers that Venezuelans will accept sacrifice today to achieve a better standard of living tomorrow.

So far, the country has remained quiet, but everyone is watching warily for signs of simmering resentments over new price rises.

"The measures are being accepted with calm. Maybe you could say with resignation," said Planning Minister Teodoro Petkoff. "... There is a general realization that something had to be done."

One factor in the calm may be that Caldera prepared the country for the need to end price controls, cut subsidies for staples and other measures that are pushing up costs. That contrasts with President Carlos Andres Perez, who sprang his economic

"shock" plan with no warning in 1989.

The flash point of the riotous two days seven years ago was Guarenas, a working class community 20 miles east of Caracas. During morning rush hour at a crowded bus stop in Guarenas, college student Erika Ruiz agreed there isn't the same anger today.

"It seems strange to me that people haven't banded together here in Guarenas to protest," she said. "Maybe because they fear it might turn out worse than seven years ago. ... People are resigned."

Caldera, 80, did not publicly present a comprehensive economic plan during his 1993 campaign. That came back to haunt him.

Shortly after he took office on Feb. 2, 1994, the private banking sector nearly collapsed. The government had to earmark \$8 billion — two-thirds of the 1994 budget — to bail out the banks. The sudden influx of cash into the economy drove up prices 71 percent that year and undermined the value of the bolivar, Venezuela's currency.

To curtail inflation and capital flight, Caldera imposed controls on foreign exchange, prices and bank interest rates. That helped for a while.

But by early this year, the bolivar was overvalued, inflation was headed toward 100 percent and outpacing wage gains, and unemployment was 11 percent and rising. The economy was projected to contract

for the third time in four years.

Caldera's proposed solution is wrenching: lift price controls, allow bank interest rates to rise, and boost the government's tax on merchandise at the wholesale level by one-third to 16.5 percent.

All of those steps will mean higher costs in the short run for Venezuela's 22 million people, 80 percent of whom are estimated to live in or near poverty. But the government hopes they also will bring down inflation and give the economy a firmer base for real growth.

While the minimum wage

remains about \$2,800 bolivars a month — now \$112 after a 38 percent drop in the bolivar's value — prices for food and most merchandise have shot up the past three weeks.

That is true even for the few items for which the government still sets the price. The cost of powdered milk is up 37 percent to the equivalent of \$1.64 a pound. A pound of chicken rose 41 percent to 66 cents.

Uncontrolled prices are up even more. Coffee beans, for instance, have jumped 89 percent to \$2.22 a pound.

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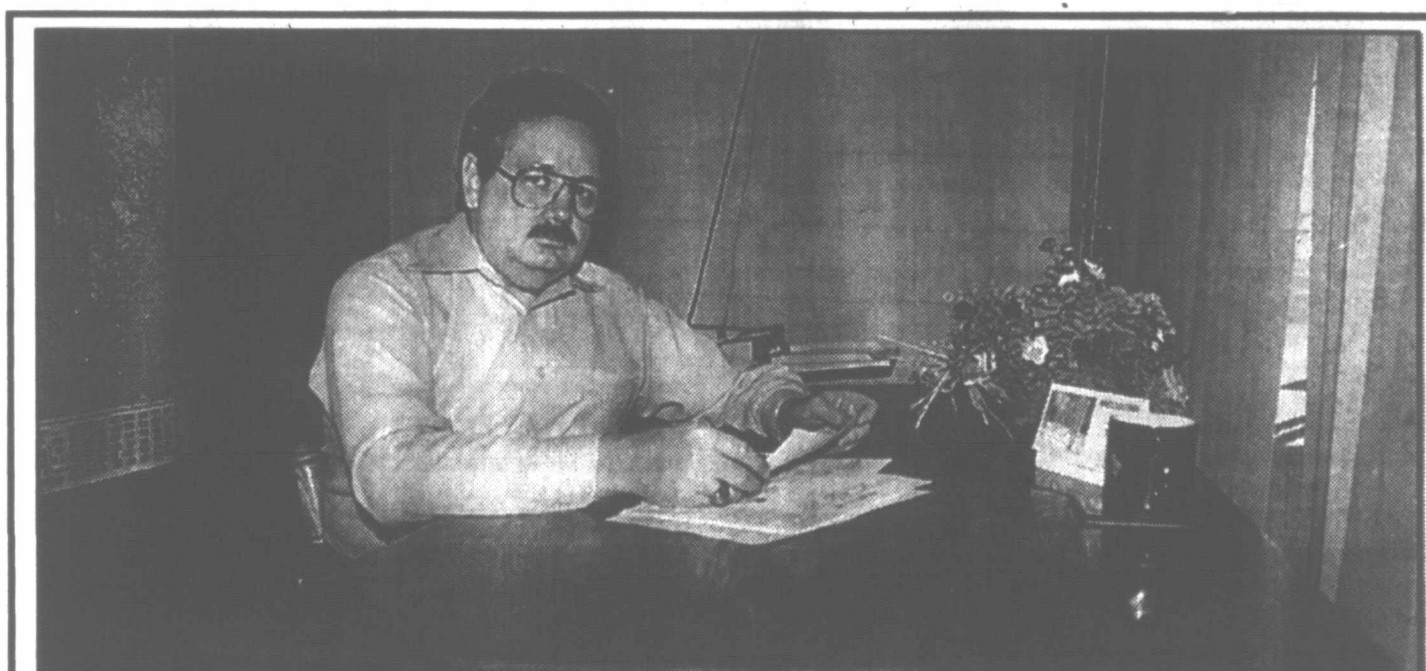
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