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The PAMPA NEWS

County budget talks begin July 31

BY DAVID BOWSER
 dbowser@thepampanews.com

The Gray County Commission will begin their budgeting process at the end of July.

County Judge Richard Peet announced four budget meetings to hammer out a new budget for the county's fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

The first meeting will be Friday, July 31, following the county com-

missioners court that day. The second will be at 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 7. The third will be at 9 a.m., Friday, Aug. 21. The fourth will be at 9 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The commissioners said no to the appraisal district's budget during the Gray County Commissions Court meeting Wednesday.

Citing the district's proposal to increase salaries at the appraisal district as much as 9.5 percent at a

time when unemployment in Gray County was rising, Commissioner Joe Wheeley lead the charge to disapprove the proposed Gray County Appraisal District's 2010 budget.

Overall, commissioners said the proposed appraisal district budget was up 4.13 percent over this year's. The proposed budget must be passed by the 15 entities that the district serves.

The commissioners court approved a new 10-year contract with Guardian EMS for ambulance service.

The subsidy for the ambulance service was increased from \$6,700 per month to \$7,400 per month. The city faces a similar contract renewal in August.

Ross Bradley, vice president and chief operating officer for COUNTY continued on page 3

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20 indictments handed up by Gray County grand jury

The following indictments were handed up to the 223rd District Court in Gray County on July 7.

Shawn Duane Carey, 9/6/1986, was indicted for one count of entering a home with the intent to commit theft, and one count of possession of cocaine, less than one gram. His bond was set at \$13,000.

Ricardo Conrado Chavez, 3/20/1980, was indicted on one charge of unlawfully appropriating property including a truck, three welders, a hoist, compressor, grinder torch hoses and reel, torch set with bottles an regulators, welding heads and reels, torch hoses and reel and welding supplies, of the value of \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000. His bond was set at \$5,000.

Monica Elaine Combs, 9/26, 2975, was indicted on one count of intent to unlawfully manufacture methamphetamine, possess in one building more than nine grams of pseudoephedrine, lithium, sulfuric acid salt and ether. Her bond was set at \$10,000.

Silvan Lavester Doctor, 12/14/1985, was indicted on one charge of possessing cocaine with the intent to deliver, in amount of 400 grams or more. Bond was set at \$25,000.

Tiffany C. Drayton, 7/15/1985, was indicted on one charge of possessing cocaine with the intent to deliver, in amount of 400 grams or more. Bond was

set at \$25,000.

Joseph Ryon Gross, 3/1/1988, was indicted on one charge of entering a building with the intent to commit theft. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Michael Shane Hatfield, 6/2/1970, was indicted on one charge of possession of cocaine, less than one gram. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Juan Ramon Sanchez, 7/6/1986, was indicted on one charge of possession of cocaine, less than one gram.

Lindsey Danielle Hobbs, 9/11/1987, was indicted on one count of possession of cocaine, less than one gram. Bond was set at \$2,500.

James Brandon Lewis, 10/4/1977, was indicted on one count of unlawfully appropriating an automobile, of the value of more than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Julia Renae Monden, 6/2/1980, was indicted on one count of possession of cocaine, less than one gram. Bond was set at \$2,500.

Jockey Myers, 8/14/1957, was indicted on one count of possession with intent to deliver cocaine in amount of 400 grams or more. Bond was set at \$20,000.

Clayton Lee Nickels, 11/17/1982, was indicted on one count of possession of methamphetamine, in an amount of less than

JURY continued on page 3

WORKING FOR THE TEAM



Mason Wilson, bat boy for the 9-10 Pampa All-stars, diligently prepping the field for game time Monday evening. The team will compete beginning Saturday in the state tournament in Amarillo. (photo submitted)

Skinner's appeal rejected by federal court

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected a Texas inmate's appeal to have his murder convictions and death sentence thrown out over the New Year's Eve, 1993, slaying of his girlfriend and her two mentally impaired sons.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in a ruling posted late Tuesday, rejected 47-year-old Henry Watkins Skinner's argument that defense attorneys at his capital murder trial should have used a police blood spatter report to bol-

ster his defense.

Skinner was convicted of fatally bludgeoning Twila Jean Busby, 40, with an ax handle, then fatally stabbing her two mentally impaired sons, Elwin Caler, 22, and Randy Busby, 20. The killings occurred at their home in Pampa in the Texas Panhandle.

The New Orleans-based court last year allowed Skinner's lawyers to advance an appeal of the blood spatter report claim after a federal district judge rejected a similar appeal.

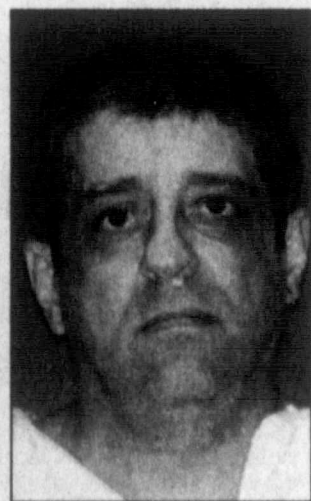
"We agree with the dis-

trict court that Skinner has failed to demonstrate that the omission of the report was sufficiently prejudicial," the court wrote.

"Even taking the report at face value, Skinner overstates its implications.

Skinner argued the report showed that the blood on Elwin Caler came from his mother, suggesting someone other than Skinner was the killer. He also argued his trial lawyers failed to uncover evidence that another relative of the victims' was the killer.

But the court ruled it was



Skinner

"not reasonably probable" that blood spatter evidence would have caused the trial jury to acquit Skinner.

"There was ample evidence that Skinner was the murderer," the court said.

Skinner's lawyers at his 1995 trial acknowledged he was present at the time of the killings but said he was passed out on the couch from a combination of alcohol and codeine and was too incapacitated to commit the slayings.

Skinner's case came under scrutiny in 2000

DEATH continued on page 3

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Friday	Saturday	Sunday
20%	30%	
High 92 Low 66	High 80 Low 64	High 88 Low 66
Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1pm. Partly cloudy, with a high near 92. East northeast wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. Southeast wind between 5 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.	Saturday: A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 80. South southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest.	Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 88. South wind between 5 and 15 mph. Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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Burglars who like green beans sought

Hungry burglars hit a home in the 1500 block of Williston. Authorities said today that burglars broke into the home on Williston shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday and took eight cans of green beans. Officers said burglars also took a shotgun, a pistol, jewelry and old coins. The value of the items stolen totaled an estimated \$3,500.

In a burglary reported in the 900 block of Llano Street shortly before 1 p.m. Wednesday, a hunting knife, tow chain, washer, two lion statues, 30 video tapes were reported stolen. The value of the items taken in the Llano street burglary was estimated at \$285.

9 hurt in Austin home invasion

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Austin police say nine people have been hurt in a home invasion using guns, knives and bats. Lt. John McMiller says the attacks took place early Thursday and one suspect was caught on a neighbor's roof while trying to flee. Several other suspects are sought. McMiller says it appears at least two women who work at a club were fol-

lowed home after the place closed. McMiller says four people were transported to an Austin hospital with non-life threatening injuries. One person was shot in the hand. The other five victims were treated at the scene. Police say some electronic items believe taken from the home were discovered abandoned nearby.

Waco family buys Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO, Texas (AP) — The Waco Tribune-Herald will be under local ownership for the first time in 33 years. Longtime Waco insurance businessman and civic leader Clifton Robinson and his son, Gordon Robinson, are buying the 117-year-old newspaper from Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises. The Tribune-Herald reports that neither the sale price nor the deal's closing date will be disclosed. Robinson announced that retired Tribune-Herald publisher Dan Savage will succeed Belinda Gaudet

on an interim basis. Cox officials say Gaudet will retire, but all other newspaper employees will be retained. Earlier this year, Cox sold The Lufkin Daily News and The Daily Sentinel of Nacogdoches to Houston-based Southern Newspapers. In Texas, Cox still owns the Austin American-Statesman, Longview News-Journal and Marshall News-Senger. Cox bought the newspaper in 1976 from Harlon Fentress, who ran a Waco-based chain of newspapers.

Obituaries There are no obituaries today

Emergency Services

PAMPA PD

The Pampa Police Department reported the following calls in the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Authorities reported 75 calls in the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. They reported 74 calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Wednesday. There were 18 traffic stops or complaints. There 31 animal-related calls. Officers made 25 follow up investigation calls.

Tuesday
Criminal trespass was reported in the 111 block of East Harvester. A threat was reported in the 300 block of West Kingsmill. Officers performed a welfare check in the 800 block of North Nelson. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 100 block of North Cuyler. A warrant was served in the 100 block of North Ward. A grass fire was reported in the 1100 block of South Varnon. A runaway was reported in the 600 block of East Browning. Officers responded to an alarm in the 700 block of East Frederic Ave. A medical emergency was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1300

block of North Charles. A stolen vehicle was reported to the police department. A suspicious person was reported in the 1000 block of East Frederic Ave. A grass fire was reported near Gray County Road D. The theft of a 1989 Chevrolet Caprice was reported in the 100 block of Wynne. Officers performed a welfare check in the 1000 block of South Neel Road. A bicycle was found in the 100 block of South Russeil. A rock was thrown through the window of a 1991 Dodge van in the 300 block of South Anne. Officers responded to an alarm in the 100 block of South Ward. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 900 block of East Francis. Domestic disturbance was reported in the 500 block of South Barnes. Criminal trespass was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. Two television sets were stolen in the 1000 block of South Prairie. Domestic disturbances were reported in the 800 block of North Summer, 900 block of South Faulkner and 500 block of North Doucette. Officers responded to an alarm in the 100 block of South Hobart. An accident was reported in the 2200 block of

North Dwight. A medical emergency was reported in the 1900 block of Hilton. Wednesday A suspicious person was reported in the 1200 block of North Hobart. A missing person was reported in the 1500 block of North Russell. Criminal trespass was reported in the 400 block of South Graham. A theft was reported in the '400 block of North Hobart. An accident was reported in the 1900 block of Faulkner. Harassment was reported to the Police Department. Two attempts were made to serve warrants. Officers provided an escort in the 600 block of North Ward. A burglary was reported in the 900 block of Llano Street. Disorderly conduct was reported in the 400 block of South Graham. A medical emergency was reported in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. An abandoned vehicle was reported at Rosewood and Sandelewood. Officers assisted a motorist at Kentucky and Hobart. A theft was reported in the 100 block of Sunset. A burglary was reported in the 1500 block of Williston. A suspicious persons were reported in the 700

block of East Scott, 500 block of North Lowry and the 2700 block of West Randy Matson Ave. Officer responded to an alarm in the 24 block of Duncan. Thursday A suspicious person was reported in the 400 block of Henry, the 400 block of North Warren, 1200 block of North Hobart. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 400 block of East Foster. Officers responded to an alarm in the 700 block of West Foster. A suspicious person was reported in the 800 block of West Francis Ave. Officers performed a welfare check in the 1600 block of West Somerville. A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of North Faulkner. Officers responded to an alarm in the 100 block of North Cuyler. Officers reported an open door in the 2300 block of West Alcock.

SHERIFF

The Gray County Sheriff's office reported the following arrest in the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. Wednesday Dawn Marie Parks, 25, of Borger, was arrested by Pampa police officers on a Carson County warrant charging her with theft of services.

Judge: Texas city quelled Latino vote

DALLAS (AP) — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that a Dallas suburb illegally diminished the voting power of its growing number of Latino residents because of flaws in its current election system and ordered city officials to modify how they run municipal elections. The ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Jorge A. Solis prevents the city of Irving from using an at-large system that allows political candidates to receive votes from across a broad geographic area rather than a specific district or precinct. The ruling came in a voting rights lawsuit against Irving that alleged the at-large election system kept Hispanics from being elected to local government positions because they were outpaced by a majority of white voters voting for other candidates. The suit was filed in

November 2007 on behalf of Manuel Benavidez, an Irving resident who has twice run unsuccessfully for the school board. "My hope is that this case brings progress and hope to our community and to communities all across the country," Benavidez said after leaning of the judge's decision. "This case is particularly important right now, because of the growing Latino population in the city of Irving." The City Council plans to review the judge's order and discuss it during next week's meeting, said Irving spokeswoman Laurie Kunke. In a statement, Irving officials said they will attempt to develop and agree on an election and redistricting plan and a schedule to implement it. The Dallas suburb had more than 191,000 residents — 31 percent of them Hispanic — during the 2000 Census. By 2006,

the Census Bureau estimated nearly 42 percent of the city's population was Latino and a majority lived in the suburb's southern half. None of Irving's eight current city council members are Hispanic, and only one Latino candidate has won a seat on the council in the last 20 years. After the judge's decision, Mayor Herbert Gears said city officials knew change was in the city's future because of the latest demographics. But he said they had not thought that revisions needed to be made now. The ruling could have broader implications in cities throughout the country where the number of Latinos and other minority residents has surged, especially as the nation prepares for the 2010 Census, said Benavidez's attorney, Bill Brewer. "We hope it contributes to the conversation when people are determining how inclusive we ought to be as we go through these

changing times with the demographics upon us," Brewer said. Irving has been the site of protests in recent years. Latino advocates accuse police officers of racial profiling with the intention of arresting suspected illegal immigrants to be deported. Irving police have denied that their participation in a federal program that allows them to check the immigration status of someone in jail has led to racial profiling.

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Rusk County murder trial moved

HENDERSON, Texas (AP) — The capital murder trial of a man accused of killing a child during an exorcism will be moved outside Rusk County. State District Judge Clay Gossett has signed the order that would move the trial of Blaine Keith Milam, 20, elsewhere, the Tyler Morning Telegraph reported. Jury selection is scheduled to begin in January. Milam and Jessica Carson were arrested late last year in the beating death of Carson's 13-month-old toddler, Amora Bain Carson. Investigators say the couple used a hammer to "beat the demons out" of her. Gossett has not yet found a new location for the trial. Jessica Carson has also yet to be tried.

'Protest zones' created for East Texas rally

PARIS, Texas (AP) — A county judge has created protest zones to help police keep the peace at a planned rally next week organized by activists angered by a racially charged death in East Texas. Lamar County Judge Chuck Superville said the protest zones are designed to separate members of the Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party, who organized the rally, from counter-protestors representing white supremacist groups. Activists are angered by what they said is a pattern of unequal justice for blacks and whites in Paris.

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Ex-POWs rally against time in bid to tell stories

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Museums are seeing an increase in donations and oral histories from the swell of former U.S. prisoners of war eager to leave their legacies. But museum officials still worry that too many POWs approaching their late 80s and 90s will go to their graves without publicly telling their stories.

The National Prisoner of War Museum, in Andersonville, Ga., said it expects to have a 40 percent increase in artifacts, journals and other donations from former POWs this year compared to last year. Primarily, those contributions are coming from those who fought in World War II.

The number of U.S. POWs in World War II, about 130,000, dwarfs those from other wars. There were approximately 7,000 in the Korean War and about 725 in the Vietnam War. With World War II having ended more than 60 years ago, the total number of U.S. POWs is shrinking fast.

Bob Patrick, director of the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center, said many aging POWs are just getting around to publicly telling their tales.

"Some of them will never get around to it," Patrick said. "It's too difficult. Some of them don't want to open the door again."

When POWs returned from World War II, many kept their stories to themselves because they were afraid of being stigmatized, they didn't think there was anything unique or unusual about their stories or they wanted to forget about the past and move on with their lives.

Army Air Corps navigator Carl Hedin's plane was shot down over France during World War II, and he was held in a German prison camp for more than two years. Hedin, of Dallas, died in April at age 86.

Hedin's widow, Gretchen Hedin, said her late husband had been writing a log about his POW experiences — from losing weight for lack of food to organizing camp rallies in which the prisoners would shout in unison for the Americans or Russians to free them.

"He never did finish it," she said, adding that he left some recordings in hopes his granddaughter will do so.

In the meantime, she's donating to the museum her husband's photos of the camp as well as miniature soldiers and other objects carved from camp soap.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War, an Arlington, Texas-based association of former POWs and their families, has lost about 100 chapters over the past five years, shrinking to 250, primarily because World War II members have died or become physically unable to organize or attend meetings, national adjutant

Clydie Morgan said. Members often speak in public and to schoolchildren, Morgan said.

"We'll lose the presence of someone who went through these experiences," she said. "The education they hold, the information they have — that's what we're going to miss. There is nothing like the real thing."

Glendale James, of the Dayton suburb of Kettering, was captured by the Germans and spent six months in work and prison camps. When James, now 84, was freed in 1945, he weighed only 98 pounds.

"They tried to starve you to death," he said.

When he returned home, he never discussed his experiences. It was only when James started meeting with fellow former POWs 20 years ago that he began to open up — and his POW-charged nightmares all but disappeared, his wife said.

"He would carry on like he had been beaten," Wanda James said, recalling her husband's nightmares. "He wouldn't talk about it when I would get him awake."

Marsh, the cultural resources specialist, said that when POWs go to the museum to record their oral histories, it often brings staff members to tears.

"It is a very emotional experience to me," said Marsh, whose museum has almost 1,000 oral histories. "They're reliving what happened to them."

Jury

cont. from page 1

one gram. Bond was set at \$7,500.

Kenneth Dale Putman, 8/28/1982, was indicted on two counts of possession of methamphetamine, in the amount of less than one gram. Bond was set at \$19,000.

Onghe Kwame Roland, 7/29/1977, was indicted on one count of possession of cocaine, in an amount of more than one gram, but less than four grams. The charge is enhanced by a 2001 conviction of the felony offense of possession of a controlled substance in Hutchinson County, Texas. Bond was set at \$10,000.

Desiray Gabrielle Vance, 8/11/1990, was indicted on one charge of possession of methamphetamine, less than one gram. Bond was set at \$3,000.

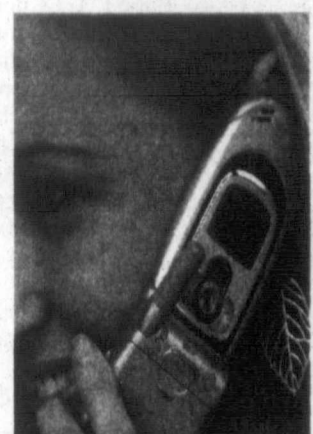
Jesus Maria Velasquez, Jr., 11/11/1969, was indicted on one count of entering a building with the intent to commit theft. Bond was set at \$3,500.

Darren Deshone Williams, 7/30/1987, was indicted on one count of possession of cocaine in the amount of one gram or more, but less than four grams, and one count of entering a habitation with intent to commit theft. Bond was set at \$15,000.

Winston Paul Whitsett, 12/21/1921, was indicted on one count of posses-

sion of cocaine, less than one gram. Bond was set at \$3,500.

Charles Eric Wood, 11/25/1980, was indicted on one count of possession of methamphetamine, in an amount less than one gram. Bond was set at \$5,000.



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County

cont. from page 1

Guardian, told commissioners that the old five-year contract had a clause that allowed the company to increase their rates up to five percent per year, but Guardian had never exercised that clause. The new contract would allow Guardian to increase their rates up to three percent per year.

Guardian EMS serves 13 municipalities in the State of Texas.

In other business, the commission passed additional court fees as mandated by recent legislation.

A four-dollar fee in criminal cases and up to a ten-dollar fee in civil actions for both county and district courts would be used to digitalize documents in those offices.

County Judge Richard Peet noted that unlike other fees that have been passed down from the legislature, the money from these would stay in the county.

District Clerk Gave Honderich estimated that the new fees would generate \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year for her office for technical enhancement.

County Clerk Susan Winborne estimated her office would get about \$2,500 a year.

The commission also approved bids on two tax delinquent properties.

Celia Gallardo bid \$400 on a vacant corner lot in the 800 block of Locust.

Tony Medina bid \$200 for a vacant mobile home on a lot at 512 E. Foster. The property is not included in the sale. Judge Peet said the taxes on the lot are current.

The commission authorized Anne Davidson, director of the White Deer Land Museum to sign a contract with Arcadia Publishing Company for a book showing the pictorial history of Gray County.

Davidson said it would not cost the county or the museum anything. She that while she planned on selling the book at the museum for \$21.99, the museum would make less than two dollars profit on the book.

She said it was not about the money but getting Gray County out in the public eye.

The book is expected to be available for sale by next April.

The commission also approved a list of election judges for November's general election.

Gray County Treasurer Scott Hahn reported to the commission that as of June 30, the county had \$126,794.16, about two percent of their funds, in cash. He said \$2.5 million, or about 40 percent of the county's funds, were in certificates of deposit, and about \$3.6 million, about 57 percent of the county's funds, were in TexPool, the state investment fund.

TexPool, Hahn said, is paying 0.3209 percent in interest. The CDs, which expire this fall, are paying about 1.34 percent. Current CD rates, he said, are between 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent.

Hahn said he is working with Happy State Bank, the county's new bank depository, and putting money in a corporate investment account there.

"He never did finish it," she said, adding that he left some recordings in hopes his granddaughter will do so.

In the meantime, she's donating to the museum her husband's photos of the camp as well as miniature soldiers and other objects carved from camp soap.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War, an Arlington, Texas-based association of former POWs and their families, has lost about 100 chapters over the past five years, shrinking to 250, primarily because World War II members have died or become physically unable to organize or attend meetings, national adjutant

Death

cont. from page 1

because of the lack of forensic testing conducted during the investigation, despite a wealth of evidence, and questions about the behavior of Skinner's trial attorney, Harold Comer, who left his post as Gray County district attorney after improperly borrowing \$10,000 from a drug seizure fund.

Comer earlier prosecuted Skinner for car theft and assault. As a defense attorney, Comer couldn't object when prosecutors used those convictions as proof Skinner would be a future danger to society, one of the questions jurors must resolve when deciding on a death sentence.

Prison records show Skinner, who worked as a paralegal, received a five-

year term for car theft in 1988 in Gray County, was paroled a year and a half later to Harris County, but was returned to prison six months later for violating his parole. He was paroled again in late 1989 and discharged in May 1993, seven months before the triple slaying.

Last November, Skinner was among numerous Texas death row inmates found contraband cell phones. An X-ray scan revealed a phone inside his rectum.

He does not have an execution date.

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Viewpoints

Today in History

Today is Thursday, July 16, the 197th day of 2009. There are 168 days left in the year.

- Highlights in history on this date:
- 1054 - Pope Leo IX delivers an excommunication to the patriarch in Constantinople. The patriarch then excommunicates the pope, resulting in the East-West Schism, where Christianity is split into Catholic and Orthodox churches.
 - 1533 - Atahualpa, king of the Inca empire, is executed on orders of conquistador Francisco Pizarro, after the Indian leader paid the Spaniard's ransom demand, 500 pounds of gold and two of silver.
 - 1809 - Revolt breaks out in upper Peru against Spanish authority.
 - 1855 - Britain's Parliament establishes responsible government throughout Australian states, except for Western Australia.
 - 1921 - Greek forces defeat Turks at Kutania in Turkey.

'He who tells the truth must have one foot in the stirrup.'

— Armenian proverb

start of atomic age.

- 1951 - Belgium's King Leopold III abdicates and is succeeded by his son Baudouin.
- 1966 - India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ends visit to Moscow with promise of \$1 billion in Soviet aid for her country.
- 1969 - U.S. Apollo 11 spacecraft is launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, to land first men on Moon.
- 1979 - Saddam Hussein takes over as president of Iraq.
- 1991 - U.S. tentatively decides to give up Clark Air Base in Philippines after the base is damaged in volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo earlier in the year.
- 1993 - The Republic of Congo's democratically elected government imposes a 15-day state of emergency to put down an armed rebellion in the capital by the former military dictator.
- 1994 - The first fragment from comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 crashes into Jupiter, creating a 1,930-kilometer-wide (1,200-mile wide) fireball.
- 1995 - Four months after they strayed across the border into Iraq, two Americans are released from their maximum-security prison.
- 1998 - The United Nations says it is pulling its human rights mission out of Rwanda after it failed to reach an agreement with the government on a new mandate.

Today's Birthdays:

- Sir Joshua Reynolds, English artist (1723-1792); Camille Corot, French painter (1796-1875); Roald Amundsen, Norwegian explorer (1872-1928); Trygve Lie, Norwegian statesman and U.N. Secretary-General (1896-1968); Ginger Rogers, U.S. actress (1911-1995); Corin Redgrave, British actor (1939--); Michael Flatley, Irish dancer, ex-Lord of the Dance (1958--); Will Ferrell, U.S. actor (1967--).



Nigeria oil truce won't end conflict

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A truce called by Nigeria's leading militant group may provide a brief respite in a conflict crippling Africa's biggest oil producer but is unlikely to end the fight unless the government addresses decades-old grievances such as pollution, underdevelopment, corruption and lack of freedom.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta has been attacking oil installations, kidnapping petroleum company employees and fighting government troops since January 2006 in what it calls a protest against the unrelenting poverty of people in the Niger Delta. Nigeria's military has fought a losing battle against opponents using guerrilla tactics in an intricate network of lagoons, creeks, estuaries and mangrove swamps stretching across 1 million square miles (640 million acres) — home to several minority groups and some of Africa's largest oil deposits.

The poverty there has been deepened by more than 50 years of oil production: soil once used for crops is sticky from crude oil leaks, rivers that used to provide fish are slick with oil and the air is acrid with fumes from decades of gas flaring.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta called the cease-fire Wednesday saying the government had met one of its demands by releasing ailing rebel leader Henry Okah. It said it wants to negotiate with the government, is busy identifying envoys and hopes the 60-day cease-fire will cre-

ate "an enabling environment" for negotiations.

President Umar Yar'Adua's special adviser on the southern Delta region, where all Nigeria's oil is produced, responded that the president was "sincere and committed, and is truly poised to turn the Niger Delta into a bastion of peace and development."

But the rebel group has called cease-fires before, the government has made similar promises and all has come to naught. In January, the group called off a four-month cease-fire alleging that the government had broken it, though the government denied that.

The most pressing issue, one the government can address most speedily, is the 13 percent share of national oil revenue allocated to the delta under Nigeria's federal system. Various groups in the region have been demanding an increase that would bring that share up to anywhere from 25 percent to 100 percent of revenue.

But Yar'Adua's government, like its predecessor, is showing little enthusiasm and faces political resistance from other parts of the country that automatically must accept less revenue if more goes to the delta. The economy of Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation of 140 million, is almost totally dependent on oil.

"The fear is that unless the government seizes this opportunity to show good faith and sincerity and commitment to addressing the substantive issues in the Niger Delta, then this might just be an interlude before we get to another phase of violence," said Nnamdi

Obasi, a Lagos-based analyst for the International Crisis Group.

Economist Peter Alexander Egom was pessimistic, saying Wednesday's moves are "really cosmetic because both sides are not ready to give up their stand; The Nigerian government wants control of that area and cannot do so unless MEND is defeated."

Pressure on the government could come from Western oil companies that are taking huge losses because of the insurgency. Nigeria was producing about 2.4 million barrels of crude a day before MEND launched its most successful attacks. Production is down to about 1.7 million barrels a day.

Yar'Adua took a conciliatory approach when he became president in 2007 but, since he did nothing about the root grievances, nothing was resolved and he was persuaded to try force.

The military launched its most punishing offensive in years in May. As usual, innocent civilians suffered most with thousands driven from their homes by soldiers while the militants continued to attack oil stations and pipelines.

Those recent attacks alone forced Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron and Agip to stop pumping more than 300,000 barrels a day. None of the oil companies would comment on the cease-fire, saying they do not get involved in politics.

On June 25, Yar'Adua offered amnesty to all militants who surrender their weapons and renounce armed struggle within 60 days.

Militants rejected that

offer. On Sunday, they struck outside the delta for the first time, setting ablaze an oil depot and loading tankers in Lagos, the most populous city.

Hours later, the government met one of the rebel demands and released Okah, the ailing militant leader. And Yar'Adua appointed a new defense minister, Godwin Abbe who has held many positions in the delta and heads the presidential committee on the amnesty.

Are these signs of a new government commitment? "There's a lot of motion without movement," Obasi said.

And the militants already are being criticized by community leaders in the delta. One ethnic leader, Victor Omaghomi of the Itsekir people, said he was unhappy that the government was appeasing militants instead of all the delta people.

We welcome your letters

To insure publication, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Letters should be brief and to the point. All correspondence will be edited for length and clarity.

- All letters must be signed. Submit your name, address and telephone number with the letter for verification. Only your name and city will be published.

- Defamatory comments will not be published.

- E-mail submissions are welcome.

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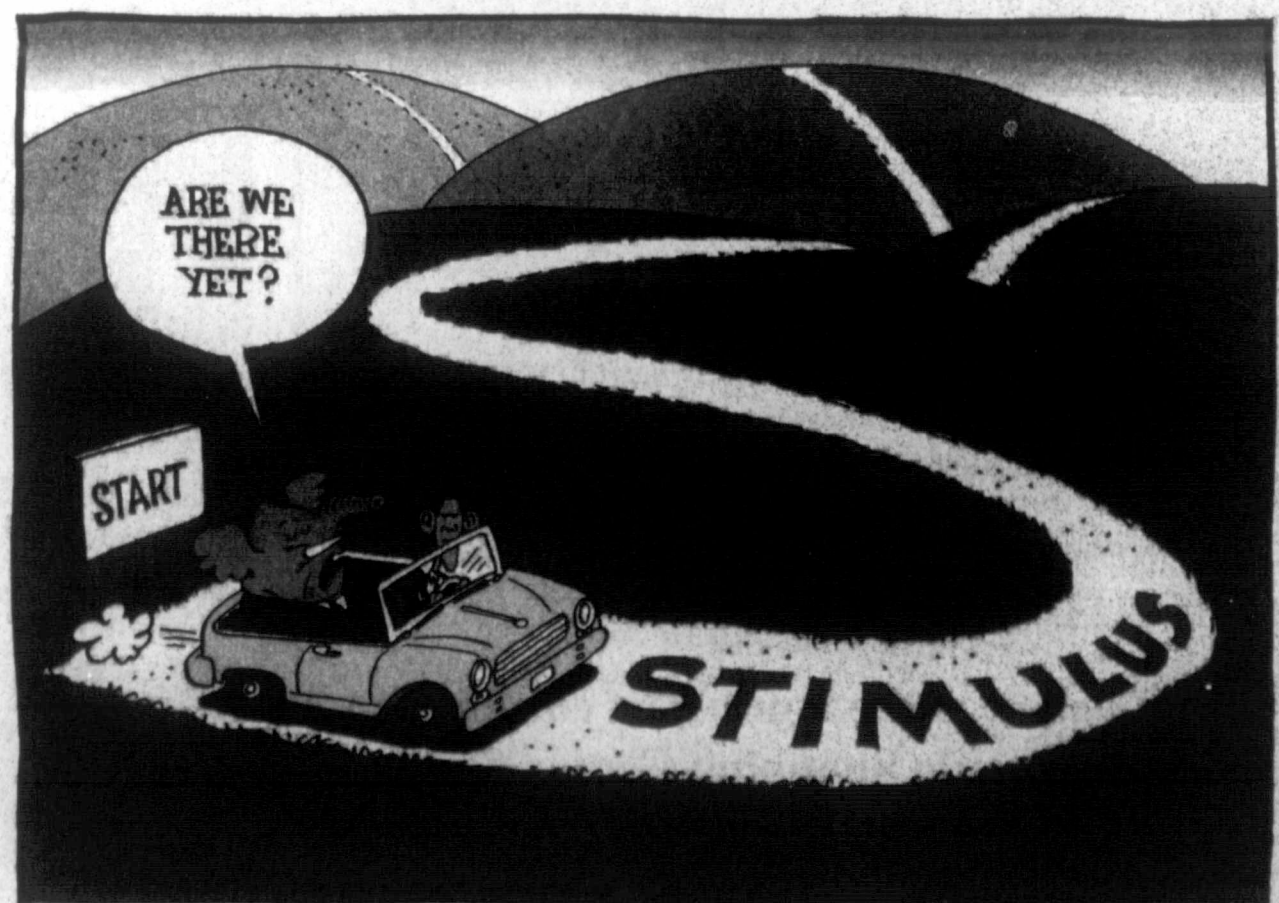
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Ava Grace Davis

Ava Grace Davis was born June 19, 2009, at 4:13 p.m. at Southwest Medical Center in Lawton, OK. She weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long at birth. Proud parents are Whitney and Brandon Davis of Fort Sill,

OK. Grandparents of Ava are Frankie and Janet Watts of Pampa, Anna Albus of Wichita Falls, Tx and Harold Davis of Lawton, OK. Great grandparents are Joe and Sue Hall and Orval Watts all of Pampa.



DEAR ABBY: I am writing this in response to the letter from "Trying to Make a Difference in Ohio" (April 21). She is the 12-year-old girl who wants to help other students be more accepting of kids with special needs.

My name is Anthony Kennedy Shriver, and I am the founder of Best Buddies International, a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

I believe that friendship is the key to building the self-esteem essential to a happy and productive life, and that is why I started Best Buddies. In just two decades, Best Buddies has grown from one chapter to more than 1,400 chapters in 42 countries. Our six programs -- Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e-Buddies and Jobs -- positively impact more than 400,000 individuals with and without intellectual disabilities annually.

At Best Buddies, we envision a world where people with intellectual disabilities are recognized for their ABILITIES, embraced by society and valued in the workplace. Until that vision becomes a reality, we will continue to educate middle school, high school and college students; community members; corporations and employers about the

emotional, functional and natural needs and abilities of people with intellectual disabilities.

I would like to add one more piece of advice to yours. I'd advise "Trying to Make a Difference" to visit bestbuddies.org to find out how to get involved with Best Buddies and urge her friends to do the same. And when school starts again, if her school does not have a chapter, I would encourage them to start one. In friendship ... ANTHONY KENNEDY SHRIVER, FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN, BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

DEAR ANTHONY: Thank you for the suggestion. After the letter from "Trying to Make a Difference" was published, I heard from readers telling me what an important difference your program makes in the lives of children with special needs. I also heard from their parents, describing what a huge difference just one child can make if he or she reaches out a hand in friendship. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My son is autistic and was teased badly by his classmates. I worked with the school to address the issue. The school talked to some wonderful older students about mentoring my son. They became his buddies, keeping an eye on him and teaching him how to more appropriately interact with other kids.

The truth is, there are

far more nice kids than mean ones in this world, and finding students eager to help wasn't hard at all. The day those kids walked up to my son and asked him if he wanted to play catch was the happiest day in his life. He beamed from ear to ear, and he hasn't stopped since.

Any young person can absolutely change the life of a child with special needs just by being a friend. -- DIAN IN OAK PARK, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a speech language clinician who has worked for more than 25 years in the public schools. I have found

that presenting information to students about what it means to have a disabling condition is essential. Once children talk about actions they see that are not "normal," they learn to understand how "normal" these actions are to some children.

In our school, once the students become aware, they will seek out special needs children and include them in games and at lunch. We have implemented Recess Buddies, Lunch Buddies and social-skill whole-class lessons, which have met with success. -- VALERIE IN VERNON, CONN.



Duboses celebrate 66th anniversary

Nina and I (Doug Dubose) were married in Austin, Texas on July 14, 1943. Nina was the daughter of Rev. & Mrs. E. L. Sparks. Bro. Sparks baptized me in the San Marcus River when I was 14 years old. He later said that he should hold me under longer. The entire Sparks family was very special to our family. I visited them from time to time with no idea of marrying Nina until on a furlough from my station in Florida, I took her hand to lead her across Congress Ave. Friendship turned into love and I wanted to take her home with me. Six months later she said yes and I took another furlough, came to Austin and took her home with me. We had a beautiful wedding with her daddy performing the ceremony. I was not a preacher at that time but a First Sgt. in the Army Air Corps, about as far as one can get from being a preacher.

I have been asked the secret of a long marriage. Well, Nina is a devoted Christian, loyal, honest, hard working, loving, long suffering, humble lady. And became a wonderful mother of our three sons: Ted in Pampa, Roy in Austin, and Max in San Antonio. Well, a man that can't live a long time with a woman like that ought to be shot.

I entered the ministry in

1949. We sold our new house and our Business and moved Brownwood and entered college to finish what I started in 1939. We lived in a housing project that had been built during the war. My first church paid 25.00 per week. We have lived in shacks and some very expensive houses, But Nina has never complained, but supported me in every way. Our marriage has lasted because a gracious God blessed me with a wonderful companion to share life with.

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Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

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5	4	9	2	7	8	3	1	6
1	7	6	4	3	9	2	8	5
8	9	1	5	2	4	6	7	3
4	6	5	7	8	3	1	2	9
3	2	7	9	1	6	8	5	4
6	3	2	1	4	5	7	9	8
7	5	8	3	9	2	4	6	1
9	1	4	8	6	7	5	3	2

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	6		3					
			8			1		
7		2			6			
	3				1			2
9		5			4			
				2			8	

Level: Intermediate

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Comics

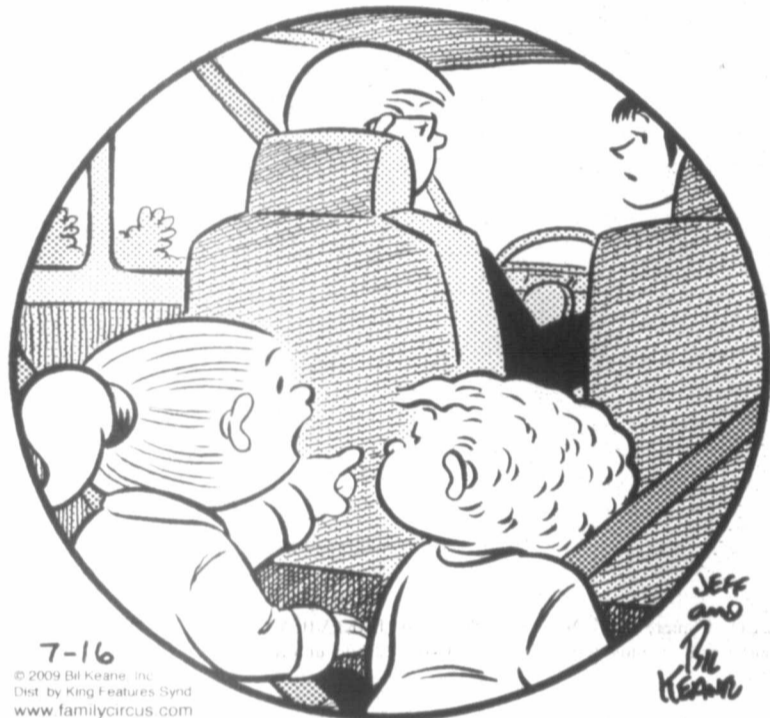
Marmaduke



"It's the only trick he knows, but he's very good at it."

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"If it's just a hop, skip and jump away, why are we takin' the car?"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



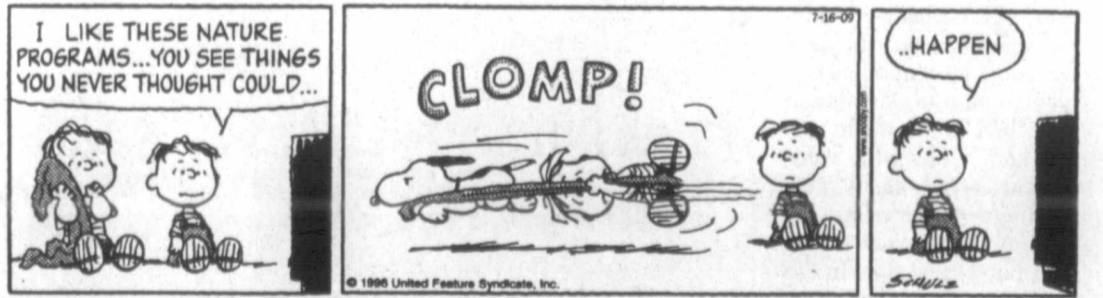
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Daily Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Ten
- 5 Giraffe
- 10 Ladd of "Shane"
- 11 Painter's place
- 12 Extra amount
- 13 Set
- 14 Liner's cheapest section
- 16 Reporting
- 20 Fancy
- 23 Outlaw
- 24 Ship decks
- 25 Unbroken
- 27 Suitable
- 28 Baltimore team
- 29 Sway
- 32 Parish building
- 36 Expose
- 39 Baseball's Rodriguez
- 40 Soft leathers
- 41 Leslie Caron film
- 42 Hand costs
- 43 For fear that

P	R	E	P		G	A	S	H			
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A	D	M	A	N		A	N	G	E	R	
I	I	I		T	A	N	G	E	N	T	
T	A	N	K	A	R	D		L	I	Z	
L	E	A	P	T		D	O	C			
						H	E	I	D	I	
B	A	N		S	I	N	G	S			
S	E	E		T	A	N	G	O	E	D	
T	A	N		L	I	N	E		O	N	O
O	C	E	A	N		R	O	V	E	R	
V	O	I	D	S		S	P	E	E	K	
E	N	D	S			T	R	A	Y		

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Milky gem
- 21 Lasso
- 22 Kid's punishment, sometimes
- 25 Long story
- 26 General
- 28 Store fixtures
- 30 Steer clear of
- 31 Hills
- 33 "I cannot tell —"
- 34 Salon offerings
- 35 Way to go
- 36 Mex. neighbor
- 37 Convent occupant
- 38 Convened

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10					11				
12					13				
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29			30	31					
		32					33	34	35
36	37	38					39		
40							41		
42							43		

7-16

9-10 ALL STARS



The 2009 Pampa 9-10 All-stars team qualified for the state round to be played at The North Randal County facility in Amarillo Saturday, July 18. In front, Mason Wilson. Front Row: Bryson Paronto, Brant Logan, Braden Sieck, Carson Eubank, Brendon Woelfle. Second row: Brady Porter, Zach Wilson, Braden Fry, Kyndan Lott, Chance Butler, Bryson Burrell, Adam Zuniga and Jared Lake. Back Row: Jeanna Zuniga, Chris Porter and Roy Lott.

Rangers alter times vs. Angels because of Cowboys

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The Texas Rangers are altering game times for what could be a key late-season series against the Los Angeles Angels — and it's because of the Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys play their first regular-season home game Sept. 20 in the new Cowboys Stadium, which is across the street and shares parking with Rangers Ballpark.

Rangers officials said Wednesday that the game time for their Sept. 20 game against the AL West-rival Angels has

been moved up two hours to 12:05 p.m. That is more than seven hours before the Cowboys kick off against the New York Giants.

Rangers president Nolan Ryan says the switch was made to help alleviate traffic issues. The Rangers also moved up the game Saturday, Sept. 19, by an hour, to 6:05 p.m.

The Rangers, who haven't been to the playoffs in 10 years, are 1 1/2 games behind the Angels.

National male prep athlete of the year from Austin



In this photo released by Gatorade, Garrett Gilbert, left, and Skylar Diggins display their trophies after they were honored as national high school athletes of the year on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 in Los Angeles. Gilbert, a senior at Lake Travis High in Austin, Texas, led his team to a 16-0 record and the Class 4A Division I state championship last season. He had a 3.78 GPA. Diggins, a senior at Washington High in South Bend, Ind., led the Panthers to a 26-1 record and a runner-up finish in the Class 4A state tournament last season. She compiled a 3.92 GPA and graduated summa cum laude. (AP Photo/Gatorade, Susan Goldman)

GOLF

Kiwanis Club Scramble

Results for the Pampa Kiwanis Club Scramble are:

- Palmer Flight
 First place with a score of 59, P. Montoya, C. Miller, R. Baxter and H. Knutsen.
 Second place with a score of 59, R. Wood, B. Allison, R.D. Stephens and E. Wilson.
 Third place with a score of 60, B. Hammer, T. Lindsey, T. Garner and D. Alexander.
 Fourth place with a score of 60, J. Mabry, W. White, J. Cantrell and C. Ritthaler.

Woods Flight
 First place with a score of 59, M Allison, R. Harder, C. Johnson and J. Hervey.

Second place with a score of 61, D Haynes, S. Haynes, S. Haynes J. Haynes.

Third place with a score of 61, S. Goldsmith, T. Brown, P Whitehead, B. Baker.

Fourth place with a score of 62, R. Hiner, D. Pullian, D. Ritter and S. Dickey.

PCC Championship Stroke Play

Results for the Pampa Country Club Championship Stroke Play 2009, that took place July 11 and 12 are:

- Men's Division
 Gross winner, Daniel Heuston, 65 and 71, for a total of 136.
 Net winner, Eddie Duenkel, 66 and 71 for a total of 137.
 Men's Senior division Gross winner, Dr. Fred Simmons, 79 and 80 for a total of 159.
 Net winners, Brett Bromwell, 71 and 70 for a total of 141 and Richard Mackie, 70

- and 71 for a total of 141.
 Men's Super Senior Division
 Gross winner, Gene Hall, 85 and 77 for a total of 162.
 Net winner, Weldon Talley, 70 and 68 for a total of 138.
 Ladies' Division, gross winner Telissa Sealy, 97 and 84 for a total of 181. Net winner, Peggy McGuire, 73 and 71 for a total of 144.
 Junior Division, Cole Buck, 83 and 83 for a total of 166.

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2000 Ford Windstar		\$500 dwn	\$240 pm
1995 Lincoln Towncar		\$500 dwn	\$185 pm
1998 Mercury Sable		\$500 dwn	\$235 pm
1986 Oldsmobile Royale	66k original miles	\$500 dwn	\$140 pm
1997 Oldsmobile Royale	1 owner	\$500 dwn	\$185 pm
1998 Toyota Carolla		\$500 dwn	\$140 pm

