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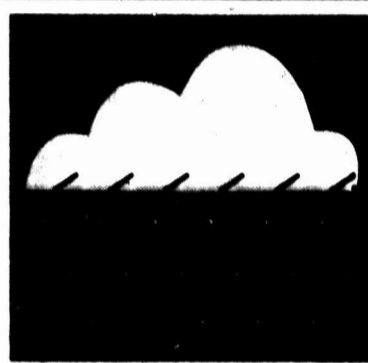


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For weather details see Page 2

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The ticket was worth an estimated \$28 million. The ticket was sold in Austin. The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: 5-8-17-35-38-41. Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$4 million.

PAMPA Friends of Wayne Strubling can pray for his recovery from cancer at two special prayer services next week. One is Tuesday, the other Thursday and both are at Pampa VFW Post at 105 S. Cuyler from 12:10 p.m. to 12:25 p.m. The first service will be led by the Rev. Todd Dyess and the second by the Rev. Derrell Monday.

AUSTIN (AP) Texas needs new laws and new institutions to accommodate violent children younger than 10 years old, juvenile justice experts told legislators Wednesday.

"It would be inappropriate to try to put these kids in the juvenile system," said Robert Dawson, a law professor at the University of Texas and an expert in juvenile law.

The Senate Committee on Juvenile Justice is considering whether to place violent offenders younger than 10 into the current juvenile justice system or create a new system to handle them.

At present, Texas lacks policies for dealing with killers still in elementary school.

- Thelma Jo Caskey, 76, retired Santa Fe Railroad telegrapher.
- Lesley Tildan Johnston, 44, U.S. Navy veteran.

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ROTH

PISD board has contested race

Pampa Commissioners Curry, Andrews have no opponents

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Voters will go to the polls to cast ballots May 6 in the Pampa Independent School District school trustee race as there will be one contested race.

Incumbent Sue Fatheree, who currently holds the Place 4 position on the school board will have one opponent, Nancy A. Coffee. Coffee is a retired high school teacher.

Lee Porter, who represents Place 5, is unopposed. There will be no city commission election in the City of Pampa, according to City Secretary Phyllis Letters.

Incumbent City Commissioners Jeff Andrews

and Faustina Curry were the only candidates to file for the positions which expire in May. Texas Election Code provides an election is not required if there is not a contested race on the ballot.

Letters estimates a savings of \$500-\$800 in election costs to the taxpayers of the City of Pampa since an election is not being held.

Andrews serves as Ward 2 Commissioner while Curry serves as Ward 4 Commissioner.

April 6 is the deadline to register to vote in the May 6 election. The first day of early voting by personal appearance is April 19 while May 2 will be the last day of early voting by personal appearance.

Park advisors will meet today

Water bill donations a topic

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members will hold their first meeting in two months when they convene at 5 p.m. today in the Green Room at M.K. Brown Auditorium, 1100 W. Coronado Drive.

Kenneth Strickland will present a water bill donation fund review while Shane Stokes and Reed Kirkpatrick will make project recommendations using the water bill donation money.

Nine recommendations are being made. They include construction of a bridge in Highland Park that would connect to the Hike-N-Bike Trail and the Super Playground and overlay of the Hike-N-Bike Trail from Alameda through Chestnut Park.

A third proposal is to construct a concrete walking trail around the Super Playground that could be used by adults while their children play in the playground. This trail could have park benches with a cover over the top of them.

Adding additional playground equipment for the parks in all four quadrants of the city is another proposal. If this project is approved, the staff will make recommendations concerning what type of equipment should be installed in each of the selected parks.

Funds remaining in the parks special donation budget at the end of February total \$21,744.23.

Construction of new restroom facilities in Central, Hobart St., Highland and Lions Club Parks is also suggested. The restroom facilities in Highland Park would be located next to the Super Playground.

Additional recommendations are add exercise stations along the Hike-N-Bike Trail, activate sprinkler systems in the parks that once had working sprinkler systems, and rebuild the stage in Central park while adding a cover to it.

Planting additional trees is also suggested.

Lefors ok's teacher contracts for 2000-01

Lefors ISD school board approved teacher contracts, appointed election judges, approved the purchase of a marquee sign, considered storm shelters for three houses the district owns, and approved an alcohol-awareness program for students.

All teacher contracts were approved for the 2000-2001 school year. Superintendent Allen Law said after the Tuesday meeting.

Eva Jo Day was appointed election judge for the May 6 school board election. Pat Seely and Allen Law were appointed absentee judges.

Board members agreed to purchase a marquee sign, but said no offer has been accepted yet.

The board took no action on the consideration of storm shelters.

The board scheduled the "Shattered Dreams" alcohol-awareness program for the first week in May. Students participate in a simulated car wreck, with law enforcement and medical personnel on the scene.

Auditors Hammerbeck, Kile and Company, P.C., were approved for the 1999-2000 school year.

The board approved the state-adopted list of textbooks. Law said the district will use the Harcourt-Brace series of textbooks.

Searching ... For pioneer-day secrets

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

"Look what I found," Richard Mackie said, holding up a tarnished 1918 Buffalo Nickel. "Make you wonder how it got out here?"

"Out here" is a pasture along Red Deer Creek northeast of Pampa. Mackie was one of six combing the gnarly buffalo grass, looking for some sign of days gone by when mules and buggy or a stagecoach and horses might have passed this way.

Mackie, Gerald Wright, Joe Wheelley and Walt West joined Jim Greene to explore Greene's pasture in search of depressions across the rolling prairie that might indicate a worn portion of the stage road between the Mobce-Texas Department of Criminal Justice tie and Tascosa, a major panhandle thoroughfare in the latter part of the 19th Century.

"There were a lot of trails through here," said Alvin Lynn, a volunteer archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission who had come up from Amarillo to join the expedition.

Lynn said there were a number of trails from Mobcettie across to present day Letors, then on to Tascosa. Other trails went from Mobcettie north toward what is now Miami. At least one of them split off to go on west to Adobe Walls.

Somewhere near Jim Greene's pasture, Wright and Greene suspect was the major stage route from Mobcettie to Tascosa.

Mobcettie was founded in 1875, along Sweetwater Creek in the eastern Texas Panhandle.

Tascosa sprouted up on the north bank of the Canadian River a year later in the western panhandle.

While the two communities fought viciously for political control of the plains, they were also trading partners.

First there was a mail route. Later there was a stage run between the two towns.

Earlier this year, Greene had mentioned (See SEARCH, Page 2)



Gerald Wright sweeps his metal detector along the banks of Red Deer Creek, looking for signs of a campsite or rest stop for a stagecoach or mail driver traveling the Texas Panhandle in the 1870s.



Alvin Lynn with the Texas Archeological Stewardship Network, a program of the Texas Historical Commission, walks across a pasture northeast of Pampa with Gerald Wright as the two discuss old stagecoach route possibilities. Lynn, below right, points to ridge on the horizon and asks Gray County rancher Jim Greene whether there are any depressions along it or across Greene's pasture that might indicate ruts of a long deserted road.



Any Non-Profit Organizations who would like to join us on the Parking Lot at our "Boat, Travel and Recreation Show" Please call the Chamber Office at 669-3241 and register. See you at the Show!!!

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL
Pampa Area Literary Council office is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For more information, call 665-2331.

THEE PLACE
Thee Place for Singles is open 7-10:30 p.m. Saturdays at 520 W. Kingsmill.

ADHD/ADD SUPPORT GROUP
If interested in the ADHD/ADD Sport Group call Connie at 669-9364.

OPEN DOOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Open Door Alcoholics Anonymous at 910 Kentucky (across from Albertson's) meeting schedule — seven days a week — two meetings a day — noon till 1 p.m. and 8-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday noon meetings are non-smoking. For more information, call 665-9702.

TRALEE CRISIS CENTER
Womens Support Group for Child Management offers parenting skills to assist parents and children in dealing with anger and behavioral issues resulting from peer pressure, sibling rivalry, family violence and/or sexual abuse from 7-8 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Tralee Crisis Center, 669-1131.

LAS PAMPA WATER GARDEN AND KOI SOCIETY
Las Pampa Water Garden and Koi Society meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Austin Elementary School. For more information, contact Sharron Andrew at 665-6138 or Lance DeFever.

COFFEE MEMORIAL BLOOD CENTER

To celebrate March as "Bring a Buddy, Get a Buddy" month, Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo is offering a blood drop beanie for all donors who bring a "buddy," as well as themselves, to donate blood. For more information, call Linda Guthrie at (806) 358-4563.

SHRINE MEETING
Pampa Shrine Club will meet at 6 p.m. March 17 at the Sportsman Club on South Barnes. Members should bring a covered dish.

TOP O' TEXAS QUEEN CLINIC

Top O' Texas Rodeo Association is sponsoring a "Miss Rodeo Top O' Texas Queen Clinic" from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Saturday, March 25, at Pampa Community Building. Cost of the clinic is \$5 per person. This year's pageant will be discussed in detail and pageant clothes will be accepted for resale. For more information, call the rodeo office at 669-0434 or Sonja Daniel at 665-5501.

FOL BOOK SALE

Friends of the Library annual Book Sale will be from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. March 30 at Lovett Memorial Library, 111 N. Houston. For more information, contact Louise Bailey, president, at 669-6578, or the library at 669-5780.

ACS LOOK GOOD ... FEEL BETTER

The American Cancer Society will present the program "Look Good ... Feel Better" from 7-9 p.m. March 27 at the ACS office at 3915 Bell Street in Amarillo. The program is aimed at helping cancer patients cope with the unpleasant side effects of cancer treatments. Cosmetology professionals will demonstrate techniques how to compensate for hair loss through the use of turbans and scarves. To register or for more information, call the ACS at (806) 353-4306.

CATTLEWOMEN SCHOLARSHIPS

Top O' Texas CattleWomen will award one \$500 scholarship and two \$250 scholarships to high school seniors who are planning to major in an agricultural, nutritional or health-related field in college. These scholarships are available to students living in Carson, Collingsworth, Gray, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts or Wheeler Counties. Applications — now available at schools in these counties — must be received by April 28 and should be mailed to Sandra Christner, P.O. Box 522, Wheeler, TX 79096. The winners' schools will be notified in early May prior to graduation.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

American Cancer Society and Crown of Texas Hospice will sponsor a four-week "Life After Loss" seminar for those who have recently suffered the loss of a loved one from 5:30-6:30 p.m. April 4, 11, 18 and 25 at Crown of Texas Hospice, 10000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo. To register or for more information, call (806) 353-4306.

HARRINGTON CANCER CENTER

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and BSA Health

System will conduct breast cancer screening clinics April 10 at First United Methodist Church Educational Building, 201 E. Foster in Pampa. Participants will receive a low-cost self-exam mammogram and a breast health appraisal along with individual instruction by a registered nurse in breast self-examination. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are by appointment only. For more information, call (806) 359-4673 or 1-800-377-4673.

STARGAZING PARTY
The Amarillo Astronomy Club will meet for a Stargazing Party at 7 p.m. March 25 at Palo Duro Park Visitor Center. Refreshments will be provided.

POETRY ANTHOLOGY
Sunshine Publishing is accepting poems for its "Whispers in the Wind" anthology to be published in July. All entries are free. Up to three poems, 25 lines or less, may be submitted and should include a SASE. Write: Sunshine Publishing, ATTN: Whispers, P.O. Box 413832, Kansas City, MO 64141-3832.

IFW EXPO AND CONFERENCE
The 15th Annual Industrial Fire World Conference and Exposition will be held April 10-13 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston. Activities/appearances will include Thermo-Man, exhibits and cutting-edge information. For more information or to register, call (979) 690-7559.

PPROA
Panhandle Producers and Royalty Owners Association will hold its annual meeting May 2-4 at the Radisson Inn in Amarillo. Activities will include a Sporting Clays Tournament at Amarillo Gun Club and a PPROA Annual Golf Tournament at Comanche Trail Golf Course. Just some topics to be covered are: "A Royalty Owner's Checklist," "Hedging Strategies for the Oil and Gas Producer," and "Oil Protectionism and the New Economy." For more information, call 1-800-658-6169.

THEATRE WORKSHOPS

Circle in the Square Theatre School, a professional actor training program, will hold auditions May 5 in Dallas for its Professional Two Year Workshops (both acting and musical), seven-week Summer Workshops (acting and musical), and Super Intensive Musical Master Class Week. For more information, call (212) 307-0388 or write: Admissions, Circle of the Square Theatre School, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY, 10019-6795.

MS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Multiple Sclerosis Association of America will conduct PROJECT: Learn MS 2000 national essay competition for high school juniors and seniors and freshmen and sophomore college students. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners. Participants must submit a 500-1,000 word essay on how MS affects a person or his or her family on a daily basis. Each entry must be typed and double spaced and can take the form of a traditional essay, personal narrative, open letter, feature or fiction story. All entries must be post-marked by June 2. For more information or for an official registration form, visit www.msaa.com, e-mail projlearn@msaa.com or call 1-800-LEARN MS.

Spelling bee



Woodrow Wilson Elementary School recently announced its Spelling Bee winners and alternates. Above: Alex Torres, fifth grade winner; Shaunna Gray, alternate; Carrie Angel, fourth grade winner; Kristopher Boyd, alternate.

WT's feisty mascot to appear at Buffapalooza

■ Sadee ... will be featured in a couple of less strenuous guessing games, including Buffalo Bingo and Guess Sadee's Weight. Visitors can also have their picture taken with Sadee, and, of course, they can pet her if they like.

CANYON — Sadee, West Texas A&M University's furry, feisty buffalo mascot will be easy to spot, even amid the carnival atmosphere and many attractions at Buffapalooza slated from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 25.

Buffapalooza is a free campus-wide extravaganza designed for the entire Panhandle community and features games, prizes, refreshments and, of course, a closer look at Sadee.

Yet those who have watched the imposing mascot drag her caretakers — the WTAMU Herdsmen — across the field during football games at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium may think twice before coming within arm's length of Sadee.

Jason Adams of the Herdsmen said there is no reason for alarm if the buffalo is handled properly. "Most of the time, people are pretty scared of Sadee, afraid of touching her, but she's really very gentle," Adams, a senior biology major from Wheeler, said. "She likes it when you rub her head, and she likes the sound of people speaking to her. I've even seen some people that she licks — to see what they taste like."

The Herdsmen, a WTAMU spirit organization charged with care of the mascot, will put Sadee on display in the parking lot of the Virgil Henson Activities

Center during Buffapalooza, which is making its debut on campus.

"We're inviting everyone in the Panhandle to come to WT on March 25 to have a great time and see what makes our University so special," Salem Wieck, president of Student Government and

chairperson for the Buffapalooza steering committee, said. "We'll have something fun to do for people of all ages."

Campus radio station KWTS, 91.1 FM, will broadcast live from the VHAC, where activity booths, refreshments and WTAMU's Traveling Chemistry Show will all be part of the fun. Inflatable games such as Bouncy Boxing and Wall Climbing will be set up on Terrill Lawn, and tennis balls will fill the air during the Campus Golf Tournament.

Sadee, meanwhile, will be featured in a couple of less strenuous guessing games, including Buffalo Bingo and Guess Sadee's

Weight. Visitors can also have their picture taken with Sadee, and, of course, they can pet her if they like.

"Just don't play with her horns," Adams warns. "She doesn't like that at all."

For more information about Buffapalooza, contact Wieck at (806) 651-2386.

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Three HMOs ask patients to split antidepressants

NEW YORK (AP) — In a bid to save money, three of the nation's HMOs are asking people who take antidepressants to buy higher-dose pills and chop them in half.

Kaiser Permanente and Foundation Health Systems, both based in California, have been recommending the practice for several years while Minnesota-based United Healthcare has been introducing it to new areas such as the Southeast this year. WellPoint Health Networks, also based in California, is considering it.

Some pharmacists and consumer advocates worry that if patients forget to split their pills or don't do it just right, the drugs may not work correctly.

"This is not a great practice," said Judy Waxman, spokeswoman for Families USA, a consumer health group. "I don't think patients should try this."

The American Pharmaceutical Association urged patients to consult with their doctors and pharmacists.

The rising cost of prescription drugs is one of the biggest headaches facing health maintenance organizations, increasing by nearly 20 percent per year for the past three years.

HMOs have adopted a slew of strategies to control costs, including limits on drugs they cover. HMOs that promote pill splitting insist that is up to the patient.

But many patients may be tempted because it saves money.

For example, Pfizer Inc.'s antidepressant Zoloft wholesales for \$1.87 for a 50 milligram pill vs. \$1.93 for the 100 milligram pill. Retail prices range from 20 percent or more above wholesale.

HMO members usually don't pay full price for prescriptions, but they may save from pill splitting, too, since they usually pay a copayment of \$10 to \$20 per prescription.

United and Foundation promote pill splitting for the antidepressants Zoloft, Celexa and Paxil. These pills were made to be split.

Kaiser also promotes the practice for a wider range of medications including some antibiotics and hypertension drugs.

"We don't force anyone to do this but it is an option for certain pills for certain patients," said Dr. David Campen, a Kaiser medical director.

Radio show host slaughters steer in protest of PETA

CAMERON, W.Va. (AP) — When Mike Gallagher finally came face-to-snout with the 4-year-old steer he had ordered killed, the syndicated radio talk-show host wavered.

Gallagher, incensed by an anti-milk campaign from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, planned to slaughter the steer named Old Blue and air its execution on his show.

He looked into Old Blue's furry white face and big black eyes Wednesday evening. "Oh, I don't want to look at him," Gallagher said, turning away, then glancing back.

Old Blue stood quietly, looking at the 20 or so people gathered at the slaughterhouse on a remote Marshall County hilltop.

"I'm seriously thinking maybe we shouldn't do this. ... I really

can't bail out now, can I? Would people be mad if I backed out?" Gallagher asked his producer. "Maybe we can give him a reprieve."

In the end, Old Blue was shot to death. Gallagher looked away.

Owner Dave Hall got a check for \$850, charities and shelters in West Virginia will get 400 pounds of meat and Gallagher got the satisfaction of pulling an anti-PETA stunt.

PETA, based in Norfolk, Va., last week withdrew its "Got Beer?" campaign after Mothers Against Drunk Driving and conservatives like Gallagher charged that it encouraged underage drinking.

The irreverent campaign was intended to be a humorous way

to protest the conditions of dairy cattle. PETA also claimed fat and cholesterol make regular milk so unhealthy that beer is better.

News that Old Blue would die had angered animal activists.

Gallagher said he's received nearly a dozen death threats in recent days and police were expected at Capital Music Hall in Wheeling for today's broadcast. A free steak and egg breakfast was planned for the audience, complete with milk and pita bread.

Church against Confederate History Month in Virginia

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A pastor is calling on churches and civil rights leaders to join him in denouncing Gov. Jim Gilmore's plan to again designate April as Confederate History Month.

Gilmore has made the declaration during his first two years in office. His proclamations recognized the sacrifices of Confederate soldiers and include a condemnation of slavery.

Gilmore spokeswoman Lila Young said the governor's resolution for this year will contain the same wording.

That hasn't satisfied the Rev. Gerald Glenn, pastor of New Deliverance Evangelistic Church in suburban Chesterfield County.

In no other country, he said, "are free citizens urged to celebrate the very people who chained them, separated their families on the auction block, raped their women and otherwise brutalized, demoralized, whipped, beat and lynched them."

Glenn said Wednesday he has no problem with the Sons of Confederate Veterans honoring ancestors who died during the Civil War. But he said governments should not declare special periods "to glorify those who battled to keep us in shackles and slave shanties."

Young declined to comment on the pastor's comments. Gilmore's predecessor, George Allen, in 1997 proclaimed the Confederate era "a source of pride, honor and respect" in Virginia and did not mention slavery.

Man wounds four in church office before fatally shooting himself

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — A Pentecostal pastor and a female member remained in critical condition today after a gunman opened fire inside a crowded Houston area church's office, wounding four people before turning the pistol on himself.

The unidentified assailant, who had apparently spurned by the woman's daughter, died in the attack Wednesday night at Iglesia Cristiana Esposa del Cordero Pentecostal Church.

Carlos Matamoros, the 43-year-old pastor, and 38-year-old Angela Contreras were hospitalized at Memorial Hermann Hospital in critical condition.

Matamoros was shot in the chest and Contreras was wounded in the abdomen, said Lisa Lagrone, a hospital spokeswoman.

Contreras' 18-year-old daughter, Leslie, was listed in fair condition at Ben Taub Memorial Hospital in Houston with a bullet wound in her neck.

An unidentified 32-year-old man was "grazed across the chest" and did not have to be taken to a hospital, Pasadena police Sgt. Mike Baird told the Houston Chronicle.

Baird said the man's name was withheld pending notification of relatives.

Judge rules in favor of online realtor

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal lawsuit between the Austin Board of Realtors and one of its members, e-Realty.com, is a symbol of the fear the industry has of technology, a real estate professor says.

Traditional real estate agents, who make their profits from commission, have long resisted the Internet as a way to do business, said Randall S. Guttery, an assis-

tant professor of finance and real estate at the University of North Texas in Denton who has studied the issue for years.

"Their monopoly is disappearing. They have protected this turf for decades, and now those barriers are breaking down. And for that, I say, 'Congratulations to the consumers,'" Guttery said Wednesday.

Realtors rejected that argument, saying the lawsuit attempting to bar the online company from publishing Multiple Listing Service data is about protecting the board's copyrighted material.

"This fight is only about protecting our intellectual property," said Diane Kennedy, president of the Austin Board of Realtors. "We will work with e-Realty to try to resolve this, but we will not surrender our right of ownership over this data."

Earlier this week, U.S. District Judge James Nowlin said that e-Realty.com could continue offering clients online access to MLS data. He also ordered both sides to use a mediator to try to work out a settlement.

Tornado destroys two homes, injures family of three in Reagan County

UNDATED — A tornado leveled two homes, swept away several storage sheds and injured a family of three as funnel clouds dipped down in rural West Texas overnight.

Robin Collins, a dispatcher for the Reagan County Sheriff's Department, said one tornado was spotted on the ground in the southern part of the county by about 15 different residents near Big Lake around 8 p.m. Wednesday.

"We had two homes completely destroyed, but the path where the tornado went was mainly a ranch area," she said.

A couple and their daughter in one of the houses was briefly hospitalized after they received minor injuries in the storm, said Collins. She said the owner of the other house wasn't home when the tornado hit. She said there also were several reports of storage sheds blown away by the twister.

Several other tornado warnings were issued through early today by the National Weather Service.

"It's been a very busy 36 hours," said Brian Curran, a forecaster at the NWS office in Midland.

A dispatcher from the Glasscock County Sheriff's Department who refused to be identified said two people were injured when three mobile homes were toppled in Saint Lawrence, to the north in Glasscock County. "We're not sure if it was a tornado that brought them down or if it was just winds."

The storms dumped pea-sized hail on parts of Yoakum County, including Denver City, the weather service said.

House vote to confront oil producing nations may do little to stem prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans said they wanted to "send a message" to OPEC oil producers. Democrats called it meaningless "feel good fluff."

But in the end, all but a handful of House members — Republicans and Democrats alike — voted for a bill Wednesday that both sides acknowledged would do little to help Americans deal with the high cost of oil, or lower prices.

Instead, the vote may have demonstrated how little power Congress has to address the soaring oil and gasoline prices that grip the nation, much less influence foreign oil production plans.

The legislation, although characterized by some lawmakers as tepid and inconsequential, passed the House 382-38, marking the

first congressional response to the tripling of oil prices over the past 14 months.

The bill, titled the "Oil Price Reduction Act," simply requires the White House to review pricing practices of the 11-member Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the president to work with other nations to restrict military assistance against countries found to be engaged in petroleum price fixing.

Nevertheless, it was touted by supporters as a "wake-up call" and a "clear message" to the Clinton administration and OPEC, which meets next Monday to consider new oil production levels, that this country is angry over the run-up in oil prices.

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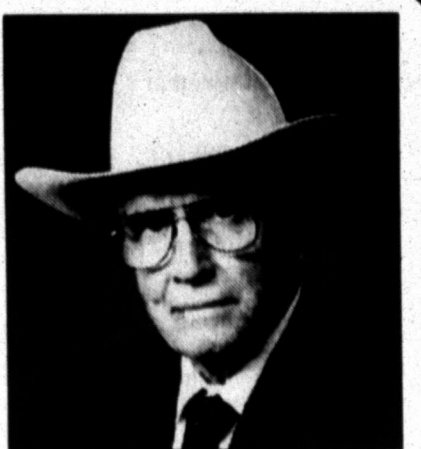
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Harvester HEADLINES

Look for the next issue of the *Little Harvester* in the March 31 issue of the *Pampa News*

PHS counselor offers advice to students for college

By Judi Pepi
Entertainment Editor

Graduation is just around the corner, and a lot of students are being accepted into various colleges like Texas Tech, Texas A&M, and Oklahoma State University, according to the PHS counselors office.

"Being accepted to the college of your choice is a very exciting experience, and so far I have been accepted to Louisiana State University and Oklahoma University," said Beth Buzzard, senior.

There are requirements that most colleges ask for in order to be accepted.

"A four year college usually requires that students graduate on the recommended high school plan, and take the SAT/ACT and TASP (if you live in Texas)," said PHS counselor Starla Kindle.

"For a two year college students need to graduate on the minimum high school plan and then later on that student can transfer to a four year college," said Kindle.

Requirements do not usually vary from a community college to a university, whether it be public or private, but a student should check to make sure he/she has the necessary requirements.

"What does vary are the costs - private colleges," said Kindle.

said.

Students can go on-line to such sources as: fastweb.com, collegequest.net, and calliemy.com, to get more information on the scholarships available.

The Pampa community had over 30 scholarships available that will be presented during the annual Awards Assembly in May.

"Apply for as many local scholarships as possible," said Kindle. Kindle says that student should try to get an early start on things to ensure that they meet all of the application deadlines.

"Apply for financial aid in January or as soon as your parents receive their tax returns," said Kindle.

Specific things students, as well as parents, should look for in a college are:

- * the location
- * make sure the college has the program your working towards
- * make sure they have the clubs your looking for
- * the cost of tuition

Locally, PHS and the Pampa community give out scholarships to deserving students.

"Local scholarships are available at PHS and students can always fill out general scholarship applications for the college of their choice," said Kindle.



private schools are more expensive than public schools. Community colleges are "There are plenty of national scholarships students are not aware of," she

In the mind of Mary Sturgeon

By Kristina Hartman
Business Manager

After nearly 26 years of teaching at Pampa High School, Ms. Mary Sturgeon is still a mystery to some students.

Although they may get to know her during English class, there is still more to be heard from this former 1997 teacher of the year.

LH: How do you remember life in high school?

STURGEON: Fun, but a lot less complicated than today. Fewer students had jobs and financial responsibilities. Student had more time to be young.

LH: What makes you keep teaching?

STURGEON: I enjoy teaching literature and history. I love all my students and hope I can help make a difference in their lives.

LH: Who inspired you to be a teacher and the type of person that you are?

STURGEON: I had a great English teacher (one at PHS) and one in college (TCU) who inspired me. My mother and grandmother taught me the importance of liking myself and making the right choices.

LH: What was the most memorable teaching experience?

STURGEON: It would be hard to pick the most memorable because I've had so many, but



one of the funniest happened two years ago when student council did a parody about life in my room.

LH: What would you change about PHS?

STURGEON: I wish I could get my students to read (study) because they wanted to learn, and not just because they wanted a higher grade.

LH: Who is your favorite author?

STURGEON: William Shakespeare because he understands the complexities of the human heart and spirit.

LH: What kind of music do you listen to?

STURGEON: I have eclectic tastes; depending on my mood, I listen to classical or jazz or Broadway show tunes, or even rock.

LH: Who is your personal hero, why?

STURGEON: Right now I would have to say Scott Sturgeon, my nephew. Born in a time of great difficulty and division in his family, he has risen above the strife and is now the "glue" that helps hold the family together.

LH: What is your favorite book, and why?

STURGEON: It's hard to say because I have so many, but I'll choose 1) *Hamlet*, the play, because Hamlet learns so many important lessons about life or 2) *A Farewell to Arms* because Hemingway's hero learns that we must be involved in life even if that means we may be hurt.

LH: What is the most untrue statement among teenagers about you?

STURGEON: I'm not sure, but if any of my students think that I don't care about them or their problems, I would like to say that is wrong. I care deeply.

America needs to learn

HELP! I'm Foreign ...



By Mitzi Pedersen
Sports Editor
(Danish exchange student)

How much does school mean to you? Are you here to goof and have a great time with your friends?

Or simply because you want to learn and like it ... and does it make you wonder if it is worth it? So what if we have to get up every morning

having to get out of our warm bed, get ready, drive to school, take notes, pay attention and even then we are not done all because some days there is this thing called homework.

Have you ever heard of this thing called homework? At a private school in Houston, St. John's, they have 45min. of homework in every class, everyday.

Do you know how lucky you are to be fortunate enough to have school? In poor countries a lot of kids don't know what school is. They are eager to learn and would love to take your seat on the second row.

I experienced something a couple of weeks ago.

I flew to Houston and got to experience a private school for a day. I was amazed.

Eight to nine classes, 45 minutes long, a different test every day, Monday En-

glish, Tuesday-German, Wednesday-math etc.

The teachers knew exactly what they were doing and the kids were there for one purpose - learning.

St. John's is one of the five best schools in the United States, and it was easy to see why. In one year they gain the same amount of knowledge we gain in two or three.

While I was there, they had a substitute, and she knew enough to cover the day's lessons. That's something that doesn't happen here.

At St. John's a school uniform is worn, and everytime something is handed into the teacher, a sheet is signed "on my honor I have not violated the honor code in any way."

"Rules may not sound good at a public school, but at St. John's they are something followed and respected"

The honor code is a student handbook like ours handed out when you are accepted into the school.

You are obligated to sign the contract, promising you will not copy other's work, cheat on test, etc. The first time you get caught cheating you are kicked out of the school.

These rules may not sound good at a public high school, but at St. John's they are something followed and respected.

To join a school like that takes money and effort, but at the end you will get it all back, when you are student at Harvard or Yale or another really good college.

Do you see a difference? I did, it was more professional; and I felt an urge to learn from being there.

Kendall return from heart surgery; doing well

By Dustin Durrett
Business Manager

From 15 to 30 channels, each a millimeter in diameter, are opened.

This year on Feb. 23, Principal John Kendall went into surgery for a blockage in his heart.

The process the doctors used is called a Transmyocardial Revascularization (TMR) also called a laser revascularization.

The surgery involves a laser which cuts a series of channels in the heart muscle of a sick heart to increase blood flow to the organ. The surgery is done by a surgeon who makes an incision in the chest and a laser is put in.

With the laser, the surgeon shoots holes through the heart's left ventricle in between heartbeats.



Mr. Kendall returned March 20 after he underwent heart surgery. He says he is glad to be back and is feeling great.

Then the surgeon presses his finger on the holes on the outside of the heart. This seals the outer openings, but lets the inner channels stay open, allowing oxygen-rich blood to flow through the heart.

This isn't Mr. Kendall's first surgery. He has had a quadruple bypass surgery in February of 97 and earlier this year, he had an open heart surgery.

The way they found the blockage was he wasn't feeling good, so he went in for a stress test. According to Mrs. Stokes, "Mr. Kendall is now doing and feeling good."

Kendall returned to school March 20.

"I'm glad to be back and feeling great," said Kendall

Student-parent for 48 hours

By Lisa Wilson
Staff Reporter

Congratulations! For the next 48 hours you are a parent ... of a "baby-think-it-over-doll," that is.

You may have seen students walking through the halls carrying babies but what for you may ask? Well, it's all part of Mrs. Katie McDonald's Preparation for Parenting class. This is the third year that students have had the "baby-think-it-over" dolls and McDonald hopes that it will pay off.

"I hope it will make them think of becoming a parent and the consequences it has," McDonald said.

The students who take the class have ended up gaining some major insight about babies.

"I have learned a lot from this experience," junior Tina Vance said.

Before, the school was lucky enough to get the babies through a generous technical preparation grant. Students had to carry around egg babies. McDonald hopes these babies will be better though.

"I think this is more real life than

egg babies and will make a bigger impact on the kids," McDonald said.

In addition to having the baby for two days and two nights, the students also have to keep a log of when it cries, carry around a diaper bag, change one diaper and do one clothing change.

But regardless of all the hard work some students found it very rewarding.

"I learned a lot about taking care of babies," sophomore Jerry Mears said.

On the other, things did get hard sometimes for the students.

"It gets so heavy after a while," Vance said.

There are only four babies - two boys and two girls. There are four different races: White, Black, Hispanic, and Native American. The students alternate when they carry the babies. Many students have gained valuable lessons from the "baby-think-it-over" dolls.

"I want to wait until I'm married to have kids," Vance said.

WTA&M research group explores effects of hail on cattle

CANYON — Cattle bruised by large hail stones experience significant trim loss — as much as 100 pounds immediately after the hail storm — according to a group of researchers at West Texas A&M University.

Dr. Louis Perino, professor of animal science, and Dr. Ted Montgomery, professor of animal science and director of WTAMU's Beef Carcass Research Center, were joined by two university students on a study to assemble data they hope will help producers cut losses by helping them understand the relationship between hail and carcass bruises, as well as the time necessary for cattle to heal after a hail event.

As the research team found, bruised cattle will heal over time, but factors producers must weigh include the severity of the hail storm, hail-stone size and carcass value compared to daily feedlot costs. At present, no data exists to direct producers toward the most economically sound decisions, Perino said.

As the research team found, bruised cattle will heal over time, but factors producers must weigh include the severity of the hail storm, hail-stone size and carcass value compared to daily feedlot costs. At present, no data exists to direct producers toward the most economically sound decisions, Perino said.

"Nobody really knows what strategy is optimal after a hail storm hits cattle because nobody, as far as we know, has looked into this before," Perino said. "We're attempting to come up with the information producers and their consultants need to make informed marketing decisions."

The WTAMU foursome first broached the subject in their article "Hail Bruising of Fed Cattle," which was published in an issue of "Bovine Practitioner." The article is the result of a study the researchers undertook in May 1999, when hail approximately 1 3/4-3 3/4-inches in diameter passed over a Panhandle feed yard.

Through the cooperation of the feed yard and two Panhandle packing plants, the researchers were able to track different groups of cattle that were exposed to the same hail storm but went to the packing plants on different days, including the day after the storm.

The first group of cattle just looked destroyed, like they had been pounded on the back with a ball-peen hammer," Montgomery said. Estimated trim loss ranged from 25 to 100 pounds, with the average at about 50 pounds per head the day after the storm. "We would certainly like more opportunities to study this phenomenon," Montgomery said.

In all, 409 carcasses from six pens were observed at packing plants following the storm — 29 one day after the storm; 117 on the 10th day; 173 on the 15th day; and 90 on the 49th day. Montgomery and Perino were joined in the observational study by Ty Schmidt, a graduate student in agriculture from Dumas, and Luke Unruh, a junior animal science major from Dalhart.

"We saw massive hemorrhages; you couldn't tell where one bruise stopped and another one started," Schmidt said of the first group of carcasses observed. "They had been beaten to a pulp."

Ten days later, when the second group of cattle that had been exposed to the hail storm passed through the packing plant, the trim loss per head was estimated at only 25 pounds. Trim loss dipped to about 10 pounds per head on a group of carcasses examined 15 days after the storm, while the estimated loss was only about two pounds per head on the 49th day following the storm. Because a subsequent hail storm producing stones approximately 1 3/4-inches in diameter passed over the same feed yard 16 days after the initial storm, results from the 49th day were somewhat confounded because all carcasses observed on day 49 had been at the feed yard during both storms.

"When there is a lot of bruising from hail, or any other cause, the resultant carcass trim can be financially costly," Perino said. "We observed carcasses from cattle that experienced a pretty extreme hailstorm. While we think this is a relevant starting point, we are left wondering about the effects of storms with smaller hail or different duration."

"We would welcome the opportunity to follow additional groups of cattle that have been exposed to hail to help generate the information producers need to optimally manage these cattle," he said.

Drilling Intentions

Intentions to Drill
GRAY (PANHANDLE)
 Pablo Energy, Inc., North Jackson, Sec. 90, B-2, H&GN, PD 3500', for the following wells:
 #10, 1080' from North & 2040' from West line of Sec. #11, 1650' from South & 1815' from West line of Sec. **HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & S.E. MENDOTA** Upper Morrow) Apache Corp., #1 Thorn, 1320' from South & 2451' from West line, Sec. 75, A-2, H&GN, PD 12500'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & SPARKS Tonkawa) EOG Resources, Inc., #2 Humphreys '59', 660' from South & 1980' from West line, Sec. 59, 42, H&TC, PD 7750'.
ROBERTS (WILDCAT & PARSELL Lower Morrow) Range Production Co., #9-X Ben Hill, 1728' from South & 1945' from West line, Sec. 143, 42, H&TC, PD 11700'.
Applications to Deepen (within casing)
WHEELER (WILDCAT & MILLS RANCH Hunton) Chevron U.S.A., Inc., #3 J.F. Daberry, 2000' from North & 2250' from East line, Sec. 1, B&B&C, PD 21550'.



(Special photo) Amarillo artist Richard Thompson will be among the artists featured during the Panhandle-Plains Invitational, an exhibit of contemporary Western art.

PPHM to host western art exhibit, sale

CANYON — Friends of Southwestern Art of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will sponsor the first Panhandle-Plains Invitational Western Art Exhibition and Sale on March 26. This event will provide the only museum-quality venue in the Texas Panhandle for contemporary Western artists. The proceeds of the Invitational will benefit the art department of the museum by funding additions to the collection and bringing the finest in historic Southwestern art to the area.

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skillful and sought-after artists to the Panhandle-Plains Invitational. Consequently, the Invitational will be curated like any other museum and only the highest-quality works will be shown. Over 35 artists from Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma have been invited to the exhibition. Among those artists planning to exhibit are Richard Thompson of Amarillo, Jim Ward of Canyon, Pat Dagnon of Colorado Springs, James Holmes of Santa Fe, Barbara Vaupel of Oklahoma and Doug Scott of Taos.

The museum has a history of hosting contemporary Southwestern artists, beginning with the Coppini Academy of San Antonio's annual exhibitions in the 1950s through the Amarillo Rotary Club

exhibitions in the early 1990s. Moreover, the museum's outstanding historic Southwestern art collection will be complemented by inviting accomplished,

Educational activities associated with the Invitational will include a lecture on Taos master Walter Ufer (1876-1936) by Dr. Dean A. Porter, director emeritus of the Snite Museum of Art at Notre Dame.

Square House Museum announces Texas cowboy show

PANHANDLE — An exhibit of large color photographs of Texas cowboys and ranch life is on display at the Square House Museum in Panhandle through April 2. The 20 images are part of a larger exhibit of photographs, called "Texas Cowboys," produced by the American Quarter Horse Museum and Heritage Center in Amarillo. All the photographs were taken by internationally known photographer David Stocklein and appear in a book of the same name. Stocklein photographed ranches all over Texas in 1997, docu-

menting the daily life of the cowboy. The Square House has selected those ranches which are located in or near the Texas Panhandle including the 6666, Harrell, JA, LX, Moorhouse and Pitchfork Ranches. Stocklein is noted for commercial advertisement photography for international clients such as Coca Cola, Jeep, Marlboro, and Anhauser Busch. He has also published books and calendars featuring Idaho and Texas cowboys and cowgirls. In more than 25 years of work, he has collected over 1/2 million stock images.

Few images are more universally recognized than the American cowboy. And the American cowboy, like the cattle ranching industry itself, began in Texas. The first cowboys were vaqueros who herded wild cattle in the brush country of what is now South Texas. From South Texas the industry spread northward to such ranching centers as San Antonio, Fort Worth and Amarillo. By the 1880's, Texas cowboys and Texas cattle could be found all across the Great Plains, from Texas to Montana and from Kansas to Arizona. Although fewer in number, today's Texas cowboys are just as important to the cattle industry as they were 150 years ago. Come to the Square House Museum during March and celebrate an American legend, "The Texas Cowboys." The exhibit is showing in the Hazlewood Arts and Education Building, at the intersection of TX Hwy 207 and Fifth Street. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, call the museum at (806) 537-3524.

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Responsible Gun Ownership Begins With Proper Safety

DEAR ABBY: Concerning the letter from "Debra in Oklahoma City" whose father informed her that guns are still loaded when the clip is removed — let me state my qualifications for writing. I am a former Army officer specializing in instructing small arms and hand-to-hand combat, and a former police officer.

Anyone who doesn't have the sense to open the action of his (or her) automatic weapon to remove any round left in the chamber — as illustrated by the letter in your column — should have second thoughts about owning one. Having a loaded weapon lying around if one has no intention of using it is asking for a disaster.

If someone knows nothing about firearms and has no interest in owning one, I have no quarrel with that. However, if someone has no knowledge of firearms and is intent on owning one — please get qualified help before purchasing one!

D.A.J., HERMISTON, ORE.
DEAR D.A.J.: Good advice from a weapons expert. Predictably, Debra's letter brought me a fusillade of mail. For a sample, read on:

DEAR ABBY: I hope no other family has to learn how true "Debra's" statement is about there being a bullet still in the chamber after the clip has been removed.

On Oct. 31, 1999, my 4-year-old and 2-year-old great-grandsons were playing with a 9 mm gun at their home. They found it in an



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

unlocked case within their reach. The 2-year-old pulled the trigger and fatally shot the 4-year-old. Yes, the clip had been removed, but a bullet was still in the chamber.

Parents, please lock up those guns, because even a 2-year-old can fire a gun!

GRIEVING GRANDMOTHER IN ARIZONA

DEAR GRANDMOTHER: I offer my sincere sympathy for the tragic loss that has befallen your family. I hope your chilling letter will be a wake-up call for those who need one. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: It amazes me that someone with such little knowledge of firearms would purchase and carry a semiautomatic handgun. My brother-in-law, who is a responsible and knowledgeable gun owner, left a bullet in the chamber of his gun — and accidentally shot himself in the hand. Even longtime gun owners can have accidents.

New gun owners should make it a priority to become familiar with their weapon. Go to a gun range

and practice with it. Learn how to handle it safely. Learn proper storage of the weapon. The law states that all firearms must be stored out of the reach of children. Remember, what you hold in your hand has the power to take a life — yours, a loved one's, or an innocent bystander's.

RICK ETZ, COCOA, FLA.

DEAR RICK: It's frightening how often that law is misunderstood or ignored. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My only daughter and dearest friend, Tara, was killed three years ago by a man well-versed in gun safety. He's an ex-Marine and NRA member. As he sat in his apartment cleaning his guns, he failed to notice that one was loaded. The bullet penetrated the common wall and struck my daughter in the head.

The senselessness of my daughter's death and the resulting trauma will forever be in our lives.

ANNE COAKLEY, BOULDER, COLO.

DEAR ANNE: Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. No parent should ever have to face the heartache of burying a child. Let's hope that your letter serves as an important lesson that could prevent a tragedy. Read on:

Horoscope

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2000

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic, 4-Positive, 3-Average, 2-So-so, 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

*** You could still be dealing with some aftershocks from yesterday. Allow your sense of humor to come out, and be less serious. With perspective and time, all appears differently. Make plans to take off early if possible. Tonight: Strut out the door.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

*** Others have plenty to say, whether you agree with them or not. Dealing with a boss and work proves to be testy. Listen to what a partner whispers in your ear. You get another vision of what could be. Work as a team; don't feel isolated. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Clear out work as fast as you can. Your positive attitude and happy ways disarm a boss. Listen to feedback; be willing to get out of a rigid mode. Decipher information, verify news. Plan an early exit from work if possible. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

*** Creativity soars. You might not know exactly what to do about a tumultuous relationship in your life. Do you really need to do anything? Clear your desk by getting into one task at a time. Relax, and take your time making deci-

sions. Tonight: Off doing errands.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

*** Deal with fundamentals. Defer strong decisions about a partnership for a while. You might still be reacting to recent events. Let go of problems and decide to see your cup as half-full rather than half-empty. Allow your frisky playfulness to emerge. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

*** Not everyone has the right solution, but exploring options serves you well. Your plate is full. Sort through ideas and decide what ramifications you are willing to deal with. Check in with a family member later. Tonight: Happy at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

*** Deal with money issues head-on, even if you feel a bit uncomfortable. Think carefully before you make a major decision. You might not always be right. Another seeks you out. Return calls; make plans that make you smile. Tonight: Out and about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

*** Beam in what you want, but don't think a change made now is final. Be willing to reiterate your ideas and discuss an issue later. Balance your budget and checkbook before making any decisions. Tonight: Treat another.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

*** Take your time while contemplating yesterday's upsets. You don't have to make a decision just yet! Evaluate what you want from a specific situation. Take action later in the day to ensure success. Tonight: Beam in what you desire.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

*** Get an early start on the day. You

succeed beyond your wildest expectations. Take action; clear your desk. Take advantage of a cycle of high vitality. Charge nervous energy into work. Later in the day, slow down and join friends. Tonight: In the limelight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

*** Assuming responsibilities seems like the best course of action this morning. You move past a problem faster than you thought you would. Your sense of direction helps friends get energized. You know what you want. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

*** Reach out for others; make calls. It is important to seek out different opinions. You could be surprised by what you hear. Your sense of what is really going on could be considerably different than what others think. Be your own person. Tonight: Bring others together.

BORN TODAY

Actress Lara Flynn Boyle (1970), designer Bob Mackie (1940), actress Donna Pescow (1954)

For a personal consultation with a psychic, call (900) 000-0000, \$2.95 per minute. You can request your favorite psychic, and Spanish-speaking psychics are available. Rotary or touch-tone phones. Must be 18 or older to call. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>. © 2000 by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- 6 Kind of orbit
- 11 Fairway chunk
- 12 Banish
- 13 Plow pioneer John
- 14 Surrendered
- 15 "Rob Roy" star
- 17 Ewe's mate
- 19 Second afterthought: Abbr.
- 20 Sch. subj.
- 23 Poetry god
- 25 College leader
- 26 Alternatives to checks
- 28 Chmn.'s kin
- 29 Compass part
- 30 Pig's place
- 31 Foul caller
- 32 Wrestling need
- 33 Tenor great
- 35 November stone
- 38 Sub system
- 41 Texas landmark
- 42 Fred Astaire's sister

DOWN

- 1 Peculiar
- 2 Game piece
- 3 It's far from a long shot
- 4 Went fast
- 5 Excessively
- 6 River to the Rio Grande
- 7 Farm character beasts
- 8 Cap
- 9 Heady brew
- 10 Blushing
- 16 Misspeaking cleric
- 17 Highway exits
- 18 Left at sea
- 20 Venture capital
- 21 "Cheers" character
- 22 Mini-map
- 24 Guitarist
- 25 HST's Paul
- 25 HST's successor
- 27 Thumb-down
- 31 Barber's need
- 33 Arrived
- 34 Fizzy drink
- 35 Greek letter
- 36 Archaic
- 37 Steno's need
- 39 The works
- 40 Actor Stephen

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-454-7377! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Over the years, I've gotten faster... But so has Marmaduke."

The Family Circus

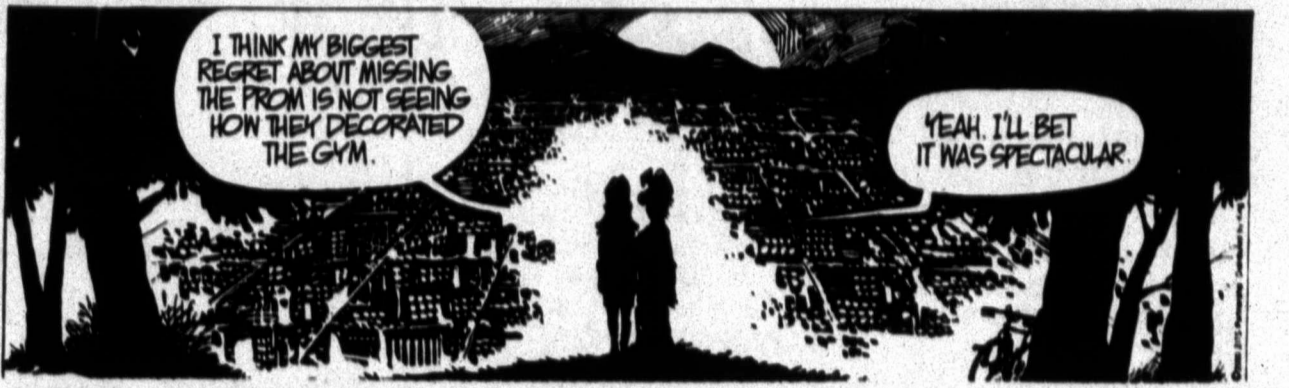


"... So it's only polite to send Him a thank-you prayer."

For Better or For Worse



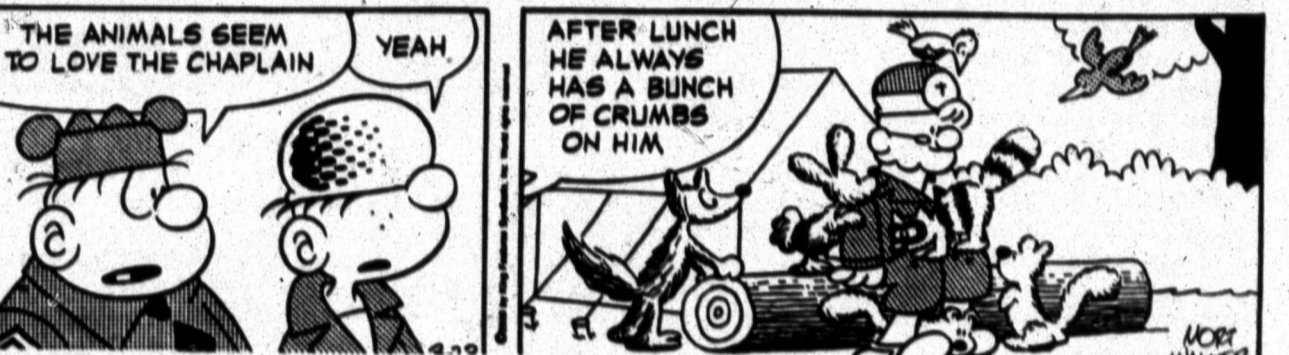
Zits



Garfield



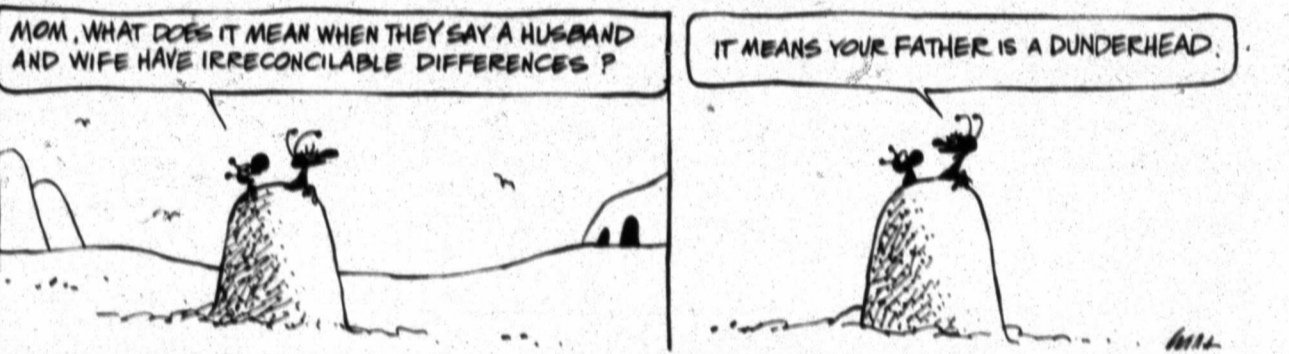
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



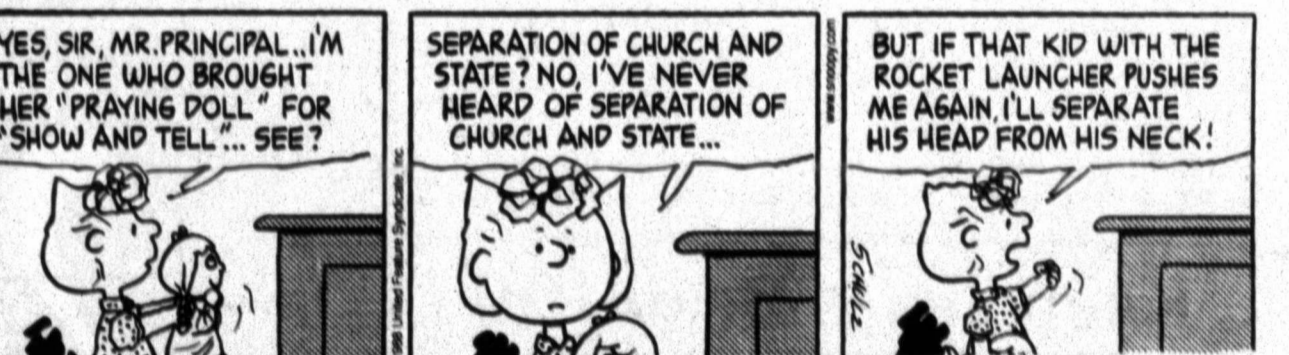
B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



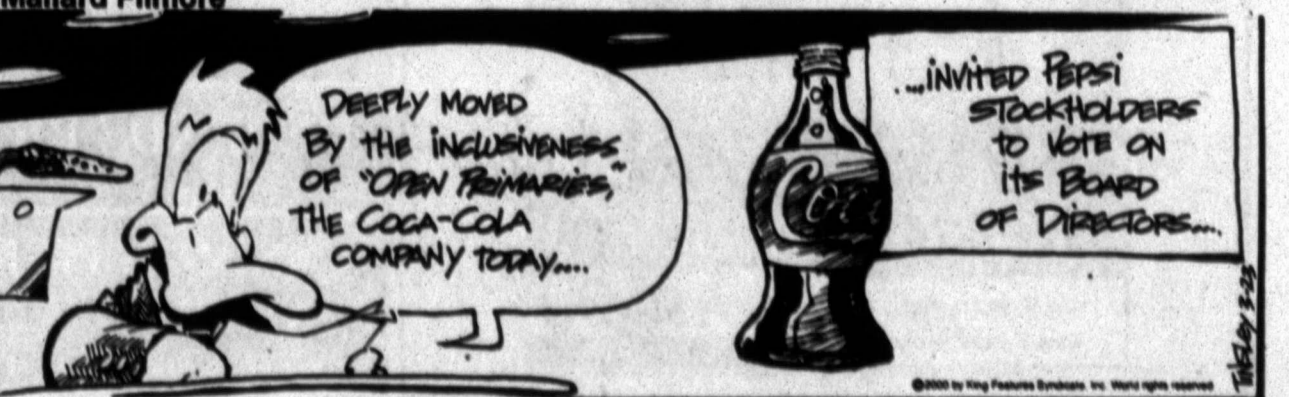
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Fillmore



SPORTS

Ok, back to the office pool

NEW YORK (AP) — OK, everyone. Back in the pool.

The second weekend of March Madness begins tonight, with a Sweet Sixteen schools left from the original 64 squads in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

No need to root for the home team. Merely check who's left on your bracket sheet and cheer accordingly. The drama of the championship — and the possibility of winning that office pool — have put the games on center stage across the country.

"The games are all so exciting," said Howard Arkin, whose Interactivepools.com has set up 10,000 pools via the Internet the last two weeks. "I know people who don't know anything about basketball, and all of a sudden they're mavens."

It's a group that includes high school students and college professors, Wall Street executives and weathermen.

At the Yale School of Management, Prof. Edward Kaplan used his computer to conjure up picks in several pools. Kaplan's thing is proving his analytical system of determining winners through specific data is superior to those who depend on basketball smarts.

So far, his results have been mixed — but he'll be watching intently this weekend.

"The money means nothing to me," says Kaplan, who invested just \$10 in one campus pool. "One person wins the pool, but everybody else loses. If I beat most of them, that's the real measure."

OK, so maybe Kaplan is in the minority. Arkin set up one pool for a multinational company that brought in several thousand entrants from around the world.

"I would imagine," Arkin says, "that quite a chunk of change is involved in some of these pools."

The tournament is as much for mercenaries as alumni. In Las Vegas, the amount legally wagered on the tournament is an estimated \$60 million — almost \$1 million for each of its 63 games.

The numbers for illegal gambling dwarf that total. Add up the \$10 office pools, the \$50 bets and the other assorted gambling from coast to coast and the FBI estimates \$2.5 billion in illegal wagers.

In the most ballyhooed pool, there will be no winner. Sandbox.com ran a pool offer-

ing \$10 million to anybody who successfully picked all 63 games. There were 610,705 entrants. By the end of the first week, all were eliminated.

And they were watching: The first weekend of the tournament posted the highest ratings since 1994. The figures for the first four days were up 6 percent from last year, when CBS paid \$6 billion for an 11-year contract that kicks in three years from now.

The interest is so high that Nike's March Madness advertising campaign is simply titled "Bracketville, USA." Sports Illustrated put a set of empty brackets on its cover behind a shot of Iowa State star Marcus Fizer. (If you slipped Iowa State into your brackets, congratu-

tions — they play UCLA in the Sweet Sixteen.)

Still, the pools (nudge, nudge, wink, wink) are not really gambling, but good fun. All-sports radio host Steve Somers of WFAN in New York refers to the "little milk and cookies pool" at his office.

Some business experts believe such pools actually foster camaraderie. Suddenly, everybody has a shared interest for three weeks.

"The betting pool ... gives co-workers an excuse to see each other face to face in a world where technology has put efficiency, but distance, in our work relationships," business consultant Bob Nelson said.

Uh, right. And go Gonzaga.

Notebook

BASEBALL

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tim Raines, unable to win a job with the Yankees, told teammates he intends to retire.

Raines, fifth on the career steals list at 807, was with the Yankees this spring as a non-roster player, partly to showcase himself after missing the final 2 1/2 months of last season because of Lupus.

Raines, 39, who made seven straight All-Star game appearances from 1981-87, compiled a .295 career average in 21 seasons with Montreal, the White Sox, Yankees and Oakland.

CORRECTION

PAMPA — Two scores were incorrect in a Wednesday article on the District 3-4A golf tournament in the Pampa News.

The correct scores were Daniel Houston 76, and Matt Heasley 80 for the Pampa boys A team.

BASKETBALL

HOUSTON (AP) — Doctors told Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon to stop playing for up to three weeks because of ongoing breathing problems.

Olajuwon, 37, was diagnosed March 1 with a disease that restricts flow of air through bronchial passages during heavy exercise, causing spasms in his lungs. He's been taking medicine for the condition.

Olajuwon, the NBA's career leader in blocks and Rockets leader in virtually every offensive category, said next season would be his last. Houston, which won NBA titles in 1994 and 1995, will miss the playoffs for the first time since 1992.

Olajuwon's career averages were 23.6 points and 11.8 rebounds before this season, when he's averaged 10 points and six rebounds in 24 minutes, 13.4 below his career average.

DALLAS (AP) — Two Southern Methodist University basketball players are indefinitely suspended for violating team rules following a Western Athletic Conference tournament game in California.

University officials, describing what they called "inappropriate and disruptive behavior involving a few students" after the WAC tourney earlier this month, said Wednesday that two members of the SMU Spirit Squad were also suspended from their team.

The university said it took the action after receiving information from Fresno, Calif., police.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram identified the suspended Mustang players as Jeryl Sasser and Renaldo Bratton.

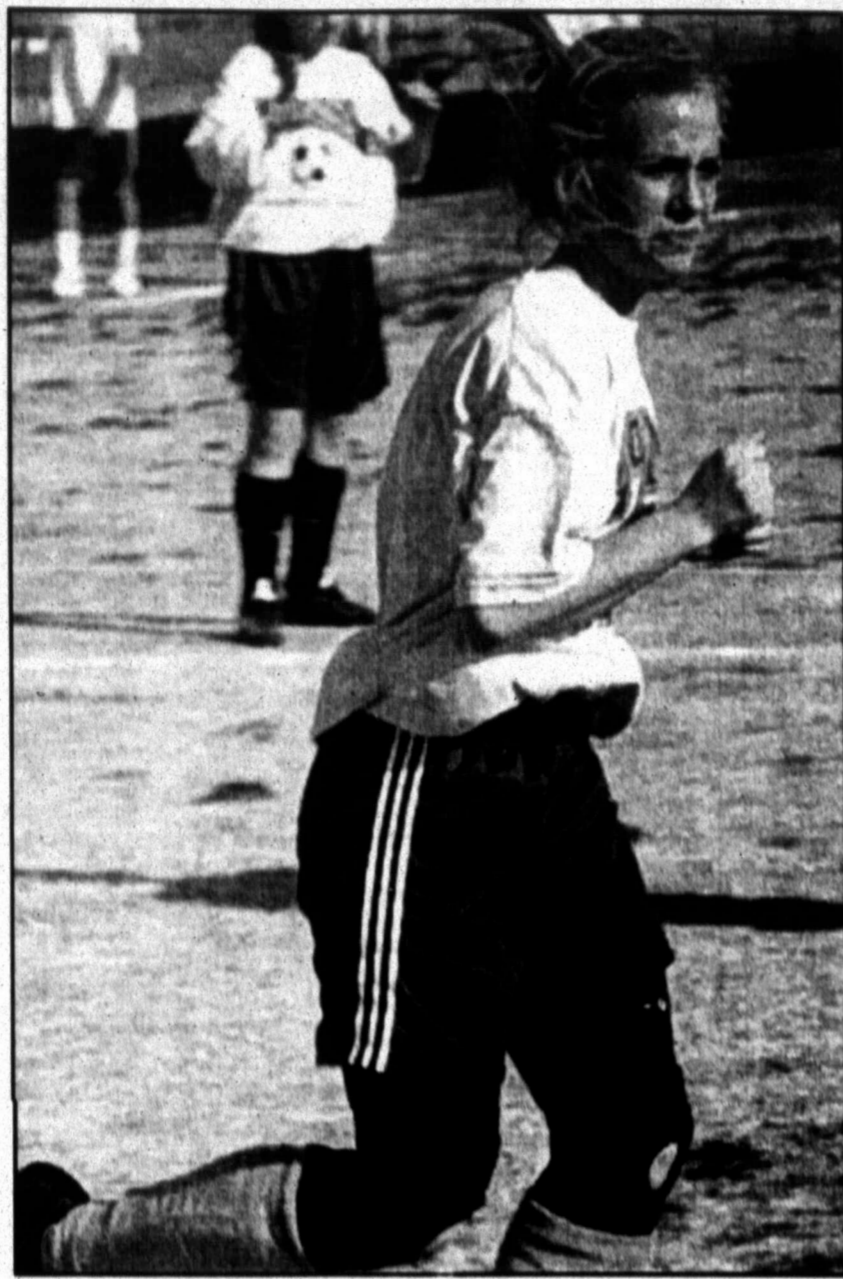
Sasser and Bratton, both juniors, were questioned about incidents that took place in their hotel room at a party that included members of the SMU basketball team and Spirit Squad, according to a Fresno Police Department report.

SMU Athletic Director Jim Copeland and Coach Mike Dement suspended the basketball players indefinitely from participating on the team for violating team rules, the school said in a written statement.

But university officials did not return a telephone call today from The Associated Press.

According to the Fresno police report, officers were called early on March 10 to a Fresno hotel, where a woman told officers two members of the SMU men's basketball team "touched her through her clothes with their hands." The woman told police she did not want to file formal charges, the report said.

In interviews with police, several basketball players and members of the spirit squad said they had been drinking, but denied the woman had been assaulted, the report said.



(Pampa News photo)

Sophomore Misti Northcutt had a goal and an assist in Pampa's 2-0 win over El Paso Parkland in a girls' soccer playoff match Tuesday. The Lady Harvesters play El Paso Bowie in the regional quarterfinals at noon Saturday in Odessa. Bowie beat San Elizario 1-0 to advance.

Hereford rallies past Lady Harvesters, 9-8

HEREFORD — Hereford rallied to defeat Pampa 9-8 in a District 3-4A softball game Tuesday.

"We played until the fifth inning, and then we just fell apart," said Pampa coach Jamie Greene.

Hereford scored two runs in the fifth and four more in the sixth to erase an 8-3 Pampa lead.

Karissa Intemann led the Lady Harvesters at bat with 4 hits in 5 trips to the plate. Stephanie Cameron had 3 hits in 4 times at bat. One of

Cameron's hits was a triple.

Pitcher Stephanie Clark, who saw her first action since a back injury in mid-February, struck out seven Hereford hitters.

"Stephanie's on her way back. She did a pretty good job," coach Greene said.

Pampa is 1-2 in district while Hereford is 2-1. The Lady Harvesters travel to Palo Duro for a 3 p.m. game Friday.

Pampa's next Optimist Park contest is Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. against Borger.

Dumas blanked Borger 7-0 in other district action Tuesday.

Flyers compete in meets at Big Spring, Dumas

BIG SPRING — The M.G. Flyers All-Around team traveled to Big Spring last month for the West Texas Championships.

Shannon Clay completed in Level 4 and had her all-time high scores on bars with an 8.15 and on beam with a 7.85. Shannon finished with a 31.10 All-Around score.

Shelby Clay, who also competed in Level 4, had a personal best score on floor with an 8.4. She finished with a 31.25 All-Around score.

Nichole Dyer completed in Level 5 and had personal best scores on vault (7.75), bars (6.0) and floor (8.15). She finished with a 28.40 All-Around score.

Also competing in Level 5 was Kaylee Greenhouse. She had personal bests on vault (8.25), bars (7.6) and floor (8.45). Kaylee took sixth on floor, fourth on bars, beam and All-Around and third on vault. Greenhouse finished with a 31.90 All-Around score.

Competing in Level 6 was Carrie Clay, who finished with a 31.35 All-Around score. She was fifth on vault, fourth on beam, third in All-Around and second on floor.

DUMAS — The M.G. Flyers

Division One trampoline and tumbling team traveled to Dumas last month for their first district meet.

The Flyers are coached by Madeline Graves and Shauna Munsell.

Competing for the Flyers were Danielle Zuniga, Chaslyn Tull, Jenna Munsell, Jessica Palmateer, Shelby Clay, Shannon Clay and Nicole Heersema.

Jessica Palmateer finished third on trampoline and fifth in tumbling while Nicole Heersema was third on trampoline and seventh on tumbling.

Shelby Clay was sixth on trampoline and fourth on tumbling while Jenna Munsell was third in both trampoline and tumbling.

Danielle Zuniga was third on trampoline and second on tumbling, while Chaslyn Tull was third on trampoline and second in tumbling.

Shannon Clay placed first in both trampoline and tumbling, taking home the gold in both events.

The Division One trampoline and tumbling team will travel to Shamrock Saturday for a meet. The Division Two gymnasts start their season April 1.

Soccer player is charged

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — An amateur soccer player is scheduled to be arraigned this month on charges that he intentionally head-butted an opponent between the eyes, leaving a golf-ball size lump and causing a cut that required 17 stitches.

Spencer Taylor faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted of aggravated battery, which is a felony. It is the latest in a string of cases where athletes, pro and amateur, face criminal charges for actions committed

during a game.

"We're not ... sending any type of message," prosecutor Wyndell Darville said. "If a criminal act occurred, it should be prosecuted."

Taylor, 28, and Aaron Epstein, 31, were playing in a game last September when they went for a ball. Taylor turned toward Epstein and they exchanged words. Then, according to police, Taylor butted him in the head. Some say Epstein elbowed Taylor.

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Pampa native to perform at Denton

Pampa native Rebecca Breining Nunez will be presented in concert at a Denton Bach Society performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's cantata, the St. John's Passion, at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at the Murchison Performing Arts Center on the University of North Texas campus in Denton. Nunez will sing the soprano section of the Bach piece.

Nunez is a 1951 graduate of Lefors High School and holds TxDOT magazine wildflower edition

AUSTIN — While this season's wildflower outlook may be in doubt because of the prolonged drought, Texas wildflowers are in abundance between the pages of "Texas Highways" April issue.

By far its most popular issue, the April magazine features a 16-page floral extravaganza filled with colorful images of bluebonnets and poppies in Fredericksburg, basket flowers in Dickens County and prickly-pear blossoms in Kerr County.

To complement the photographs, the feature includes writings by Texas' early pioneers describing the bountiful fields and prairies they encountered. The editor's "Up Front" column spotlights this year's predictions from botanists and a landscape expert.

Readers wanting more on flowers will enjoy "Bewitching Chandor Gardens," an article about a 1930's garden in Weatherford inspired by England and the Orient.

More Texas flavor abounds in the magazine with articles on Kilgore and its oil boom history; Hico, a town where some say Billy the Kid lived out his final days; and San Antonio's Southwest School of Art & Craft.

"Texas Highways," the official travel magazine of Texas, is published by the Texas Department of Transportation and has a circulation of about 300,000 readers worldwide. Its readers are as far away as the United Kingdom and South Africa.

If the April issue puts you the mood to find fields of wildflowers near you, wildflower reports are available on TxDOT's travel information hotline, 1-800-452-9292. The weekly updates run through mid-May.

The April issue is now available at newsstands or can be ordered by calling "Texas Highways" at (512) 486-5887.

degrees in music from UNT.

Henry Gibbons, DBS director of music, will conduct the choir and Fort Worth Early Music baroque orchestra in this masterpiece which tells the story of Christ's last days and crucifixion. It will be sung in the original German text taken from Martin Luther's translation of the Bible. An English translation will be provided by supertitles above the

stage. The Fort Worth Early Music orchestra will accompany the soloists and choir on instruments similar to those used by Bach in the first performance of the cantata at Leipsig during the Holy Week of 1724.

Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors. For more information or for reservations, call (940) 369-7802.

Cabot service award



(Special photo)

Linda Frost, wife of Cabot employee Bill Frost, was recently awarded the Cabot Volunteer Service Award for her volunteer work with Pampa Sheltered Workshop. Cabot Facility General Manager Zouhair Issa offers his congratulations to Frost as he presents a check for PSW to Jeannie Conner, PSW director, and Imogene McMinn, advisory board member.

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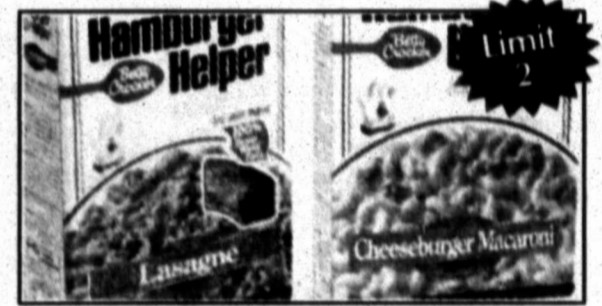


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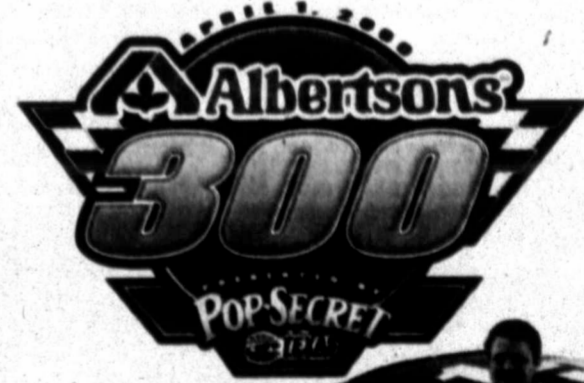
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