

Obituaries

Robert Lee 'Bob' Gordy, 76

SKELLYTOWN — Robert Lee "Bob" Gordy, 76, died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2006, in Pampa.

Memorial services are scheduled at 2 p.m. Saturday at First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, the Rev. Danny Trussell, pastor of River of Life Church in Skellytown, and Nancy Ruff, commissioned lay pastor of First Presbyterian Church, officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are by Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Gordy was born on June 2, 1929 in Haskell County. He lived in Pampa from 1948 to 1979 when he moved to Skellytown. He married Donna Cornelison on June 7, 1979, in Skellytown.

He worked for Celanese Chemical Co. for 20 years and was owner and operator of R.L. Gordy Trucking Co. from 1971 to the present. He was a member of First Baptist

Church in Pampa.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Gordy of the home; two daughters, Bruce Ann Gordy of White Deer and Mona Gordy of Mobeetie; one son, Richard Gordy of McLean; one sister, Lucille Moore of Amarillo; three stepchildren, Michelle Duvall of Amarillo and Troyce Reeves and Stacy Wells, both of Skellytown; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and 10 stepgrand-children.



Gordy

He was preceded in death by his parents, Monroe and Inez Gordy, by a brother, Jerry Gordy, and by a sister, Bernice Cochran.

The family requests memorials by to Harrington Cancer Center, 1500 Wallace Blvd., Amarillo, TX 79106 or Teen Challenge of South Texas, 3850 SW Loop 1604, #1, San Antonio, TX 78264.

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

Gray County Weather

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers before noon. Partly cloudy, with a high around 56.

Windy, with a south wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 37. South wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 56. Wind chill values between 30 and

35 early.

South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 36.

South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 56.

West-northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

West-northwest wind

between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 56. West-northwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 29. North-northwest wind around 15 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. North-northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south-southwest.

Stabbing

Continued from Page 1

Leggett was released on bond at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, according to jail records.

The case is still under investigation by the police department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Pason

Continued from Page 1

to buy a computer," he said. Pason Systems is a company which develops and

rents specialty software and computer equipment to drilling companies for use on drilling rigs. Company representatives are assigned areas in which to serve the company's customers, Hoard said.

The computer equipment bought from Martin by the citizen is valued at about \$4,000, Hoard said. The citizen bought the equipment from Martin for approximately \$800.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

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

Seven traffic stops were made. A vehicle accident was reported in the police department lobby.

Agency assistance was rendered in the 200 block of North Russell and the 100 block of South Dwight.

One burglar alarm was reported.

A civil matter was reported in the 700 block of North Wells.

An animal complaint was received from One Medical Plaza.

Found property was reported in the 3000 block of Rosewood.

Suspicious person calls were received from the 500 block of East 17th and the 300 block of Harlem.

A prowler was reported in the 1800 block of North Sumner. The incident involved possible child endangerment concerning discharge of a firearm.

Disorderly conduct was reported at Pampa High School, 111 E. Harvester.

Harassment was reported in the police department lobby and at Pampa Junior High School, 2401 Charles.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 700 block of North Wells.

Sexual assault was reported in the police department lobby.

Assault was reported at PJHS.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 800 block of North Russell. A car windshield was spray painted. Estimated cost of damage is \$50.

Theft was reported in the 700 block of North Wells. Cash totaling \$10 was taken.

A gas drive-off was reported at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Unauthorized use of a motor vehicle was reported in the police department lobby.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Austin Juan Sims, 35, of Mesa, Ariz., was arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety for possession of over five pounds and under 50 pounds of marijuana.

Melvin Wayne Harlin, 57, of Davidson, Okla., was arrested by GCSO for theft by check.

Gerardo Juan Vaquera, 26, of Lela Lake was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for failure to identify.

Fire

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

Wednesday, Jan. 25

6:38 p.m. — Four units and nine personnel responded to the 800 block of North Christy on a structure fire caused by an unattended pan of grease on a stove. Estimated damage is \$3,000.

7:35 p.m. — Three units and eight personnel responded to a structure fire in the 1000 block of North Sumner where a microwave had caught fire. Estimated damage is \$1,000.

11:45 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded to Highway 60 and Gray 4 on a small grass fire near the railroad tracks. The fire was caused by a train engine throwing out sparks.

Thursday, Jan. 26

3:15 a.m. — Six units and 13 personnel responded to the 100 block of South Dwight on a structure fire. The structure was a complete loss.

Water

Continued from Page 1

another 200,000 gallons.

Satterwhite was in Pampa Tuesday to present a CRMWA plan to sell another \$50 million in bonds in order to finance the purchase of more water rights in the John C. Williams Wellfield in Roberts County.

CRMWA has about 225,000 acres of water rights now. The water authority has spent about \$133 million so far in accumulating water rights.

Some member cities, particularly those on the South

Plains, want to continue to buy water rights, while others, mostly the smaller cities not anticipating any growth, want to cease buying water rights.

Satterwhite said the plan is a way to continue to move forward as a team. He admitted that each city's situation is unique and the proposed plan would allow some cities to meet their growing needs without financially overwhelming other member cities.

He said the proposal he's putting forward is designed to allow those that want more water to continue while allowing those not wanting or unable to afford more water rights to opt out.

The plan Satterwhite said allows those cities not wanting to buy more water rights to buy back into the plan up to 20 years out. The problem is that the buy back option would require a lump sum payment.

Last April, Satterwhite said that the three largest cities that are members of CRMWA — Amarillo, Lubbock and Plainview — committed up to \$50 million for more water rights. This plan is a result of that commitment. Any other member city may join by paying their allocated share of the expenses.

For Pampa, Horst said, that would be \$1.8 million over a 20-year period for maximum participation. He

said that would translate into about \$2 per month on the average Pampa water bill.

Pampa city commissioners voted to accept the plan but will wait to decide whether or not or at what level the city will participate.

Satterwhite said Pampa, like the other cities, can participate fully, not at all or at a reduced level. He asked only for some indication of participation by a Feb. 1 CRMWA meeting in Plainview.

"It doesn't matter to Lubbock, Plainview or Amarillo whether Pampa participates or not," said Jerry Carlson, Pampa's other representative on CRMWA's board. "The project is moving forward."

Non-participating cities would have their allocations cut, but the allocations would still be above their peak annual usage.

The plan would also include a replacement fee by cities using the water. The idea is for water users to put money into a fund to purchase replacement water in the future, something Horst said should have been done years ago.

Satterwhite is suggesting a fee of 7-cents per 1,000 gallons of groundwater, but he said the water authority probably wouldn't look at implementing the fee until its next fiscal year.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Attebury Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	3.49
Milo	3.06
Corn	3.96
Soybeans	4.54

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by:

Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.	
OXY	88.24 -1.10
BP PLC ADR	69.93 -0.20
Cabot Corp.	39.41 +0.54
Celanese	20.40 +0.06
Cabot Oil Gas	47.73 -1.37
Coca Cola	41.41 +0.27
VLO	57.24 -1.13
HAL	72.60 -1.64
TRI	41.65 +0.25
Kinder Morgan	97.18 -1.07
XCEL	19.35 +0.13
Kerr McGee	101.28 -0.35
XOM	59.61 -0.60
Nat'l Oilwell	70.14 -1.29
Limited	25.80 +0.50
Williams	23.27 -0.50
MCD	35.61 +0.45
Atmos	26.27 -0.01
Pioneer Nat.	49.45 -1.09
JCP	56.68 -0.07
COP	63.44 -0.10
SLB	118.72 -1.98
Tenneco	20.62 -0.46
CVX	60.67 -0.59
Wal-Mart	46.41 +0.44
OKE	28.20 -0.14
NS Grp	42.25 -0.30
New York Gold	563.50
Silver	9.50
West Texas Crude	65.78

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CONGRATULATIONS TO Denise Logue who won the Who's Who Contest in the Pampa News! Thank you to all the many participants!

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South Korean court orders two U.S. companies to pay up over defoliant

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A South Korean court ordered two U.S. manufacturers of the defoliant Agent Orange to pay \$62

chemical for a variety of illnesses and reproductive disorders, including miscarriages, birth defects, cancers and nervous disorders.

'It is acknowledged ... the defendants failed to ensure safety as the defoliants manufactured by the defendants had higher levels of dioxins than standard.'

— Court ruling

million in medical compensation Thursday to local veterans of the Vietnam War and their families.

The Seoul High Court ordered Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, Mich., and Monsanto Co. in St. Louis to compensate about 6,800 people. It was the first time a South Korean court has ruled in favor of people seeking compensation from the makers of Agent Orange.

The companies said in a joint statement that they will appeal the decision, which they called "contrary to the overwhelming weight of independent scientific evidence, which has not found a causation between exposure to Agent Orange and any serious human illness."

The herbicide was widely used to destroy jungle cover for communist troops during the Vietnam War. South Koreans, Vietnamese and many U.S. veterans later blamed their exposure to the

relationship between the chemical and peripheral neuropathy, the disease most widespread among Agent Orange victims.

South Koreans made up the largest foreign contingent of U.S. allies fighting in Vietnam, contributing some 320,000 troops. South Korea lost 5,077 soldiers and suffered 10,962 wounded.

U.S. records show that the U.S. military sprayed 19 million gallons of defoliants over southern Vietnam between 1962 and 1971. About 55 percent of that was Agent Orange.

In an out-of-court settlement in 1984, Agent Orange manufacturers paid Australian, Canadian and New Zealand veterans, but not South Koreans.

About 20,000 South Koreans filed two separate lawsuits in 1999 against the U.S. companies, seeking more than \$5 billion in damages.

Freedom Museum USA



Wes Reeves, far right, of Xcel Energy, recently presented Doris Robbins a check in the amount of \$200 for Freedom Museum USA. Dale Robbins, member of VFW Post #1657, is pictured at the far left.

COP CORNER

I want to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I want to start the New Year off by letting everyone know about the Special Services Division of the Police Department.

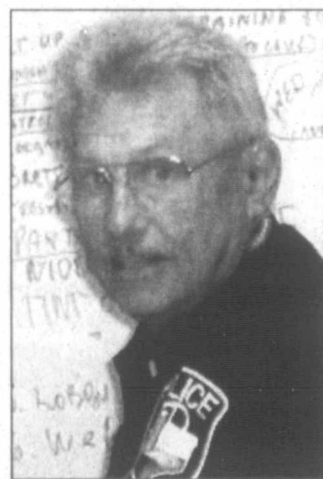
Our division has four sections. They are Community Services, School Resource Officer, Narcotics, and Animal Control. This week I am focusing on Community Services.

Officer Donny Brown heads up this section. He has several areas of responsibility assigned to him, including sex offender registrations, abandoned and junked vehicles, crime prevention, and police/community relations. Donny is also the Webmaster for the Police Department and Crime Stoppers Web-sites.

The first two areas of responsibility are fairly self-explanatory, but police/community relations can get really involved. Donny (and the rest of the division, too) is charged with presenting programs in the community. You'll remember the Halloween bags your elementary kids brought home, that was us.

We present all kinds of safety programs for adults and kids, just to name one. Donny is certified as a home/business security analyst. He can come do a security survey for you, at no charge.

One of his projects this year is to have a Citizen's Police Academy. This is a pretty involved deal and I



Courtney

hope to have an article just on it. A couple of other areas are Neighbor Watch and Citizens On Patrol.

One area we would like to have help from you is in bringing programs to your church or community group or service organization. We need the program committee chairman to contact us at 669-5700 to put your organization on the schedule.

I really don't have enough space to say everything I need to, so I would like to leave you with these thoughts. Many of the things we try to do need a little help from the community. Special Services Division hopes you, as concerned residents, will become involved in what we try to accomplish in Pampa. With your help we can have a safe place to raise our kids and grand-kids.

Cop Corner is provided by Pampa Police Department and Lt. Fred Courtney.

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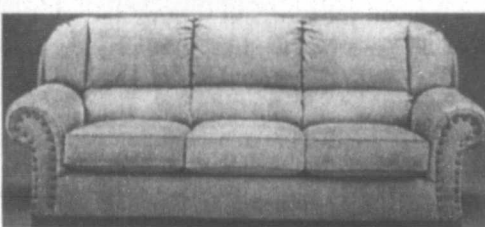
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Viewpoints

Trio of justices a disgrace to American bench

How do you coherently communicate an opinion on something so asinine you are mentally grappling with intense and extreme indignation? How do you string words together when outrage has temporarily derailed your reasoning? How do you verbalize something that shouldn't need verbalizing?

American Family Association last week reported on its Web site the astonishing acts of three liberal judges in this nation. "Judges Push Pity For Offenders, Let Child Molesters Go Free" the Web site screamed.

The three judges in question are Vermont Judge Edward

Wisconsin Judge Alan Bates and Massachusetts Judge Suzanne V. Delvecchio.

What did this brain trust to the American bench do?

Cashman let a 34-year-old man named Mark Hulett off with just 60 days in jail after Hulett confessed to violating a little 7-year-old girl over and over again over a period of four years.

Bates gave his offender, 44-year-old choir instructor Gary Hoff, 30 hours of community service — and, oh, yeah, a \$1,000 fine for sexually assaulting a then-16-year-old male student of his.

And, last but not least, Delvecchio allowed 26-year-old ex-educator Gregory Pathiakakis to completely

avoid hard time for raping one of his teenage students who was also male.

Apparently, Cashman doesn't believe in punishment.

"The one message I want to get through is that anger doesn't solve anything," an article posted by WorldNetDaily.com quotes Cashman as saying. "It just corrodes your soul."

Hello. So does stupidity.

According to the article, the judge became disillusioned with tough sentencing some time ago and now

feels "it accomplishes nothing of value."

"It doesn't make anything better; it costs us a lot of money; we create a lot of expectation, and we feed on anger."

And what about all the children who lose their lives, Judge Cashman, and the countless others who lose their innocence? How did this man ever come to occupy the bench?

More could be said on the subject, including the fact that two of the barely chastened offenders were both

involved in teaching at the time their offenses. Volumes more could be said about these three miserable representatives of the bench — namely that Delvecchio was given the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Bar Association's stamp of approval with a glowing award, leading one to believe that gay and lesbian rights evidently far outweigh children's rights — but what would be the point?

When did pedophilia become legitimate in America? When did such a base crime become blasé instead of shocking and horrifying? And how do you deal with individuals who so divorce themselves from the

victims that their sympathy is stirred for the depraved persons who perpetuate these monstrous acts?

I realize I'm ranting, and I don't care. This is something we all need to be ranting and raving about.

In the end, we Americans must choose to get involved for the sake of vulnerable youngsters. They have no say in their own affairs but must rely on the protection and the guidance of adults.

America needs to quit cossetting and coddling molesters. Throw them in jail and keep them there until they're too old and too withered to harm a flea much less a child!



Skylia Bryant
News Editor

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2006. There are 339 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 26, 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Captain Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

On this date:

In 1802, Congress passed an act calling for a library to be established within the U.S. Capitol.

In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.

In 1841, Britain formally occupied Hong Kong, which the Chinese had ceded to the British.

In 1861, Louisiana seceded from the Union.

In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.

In 1911, the Richard Strauss opera "Der Rosenkavalier" premiered in Dresden, Germany.

In 1942, the first American expeditionary force to go to Europe during World War II went ashore in Northern Ireland.

In 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to

land scientific instruments on the moon — but the probe missed its target by some 22,000 miles.

In 1979, former Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller died in New York at age 70.

Ten years ago: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton testified before a grand jury connected to the Whitewater probe. Hours before a midnight deadline, a confrontation-weary Congress voted to avert a third federal shutdown and finance dozens of agencies for seven more weeks. Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz was fatally shot at the suburban Philadelphia estate of John E. du Pont; du Pont surrendered 48 hours later. (Du Pont was later convicted of third-degree murder but mentally ill; he's serving a 13- to 30-year sentence.)

Five years ago: Lacrosse coach Diane Whipple was attacked and killed by two huge dogs outside her apartment in San Francisco (the dogs' owners were later convicted of murder and manslaughter in connection with the death). A devastating earthquake hit the Indian subcontinent, killing more than 13,000 people.

Joseph Kabila was sworn in as Congo's president, following the assassination of his father, Laurent Kabila.

'As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost, and science can never regress.'

— J. Robert Oppenheimer
American physicist
(1904-1967)



I'm not sorry for switching to Firefox

For the most part I'm a Microsoft fan. After all, I use Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Windows XP. But a while back I made a switch. And for me, that's a big deal. I changed my "default browser" from Internet Explorer to Mozilla Firefox (<http://www.getfirefox.com>).

The last time I made such a major switch was six years ago, when I moved from Netscape to Internet Explorer. So, why did I change? Well, let me start at the beginning:

A Little History

The first Web browser was created by a group of guys at the National Center for Supercomputer Applications. They called it NCSA Mosaic. It represented a major shift of the Internet from the domain of geeks to normal people. As "COM Fever" started to

spread, this development team left NCSA to start a company called Netscape. Around this time, Microsoft realized it was missing out on a profitable opportunity, so it copied (like it so often does) the concept of Netscape and branded it "Internet Explorer."

Netscape, which was charging for use of its browser suddenly couldn't compete. After all, Microsoft was giving away Internet Explorer with every new version of Windows. Microsoft quickly gained marketshare, and today commands 85 percent of the browser software market.

Well, the guys at Netscape never really went away.

Many of them started an "open source project" (free software made by dedicated volunteers) called Mozilla.

After a few years, this software is finally, in my opinion, ready for public use. "Mozilla" is actually the

umbrella name of a group designing multiple pieces of software, including:

- Firefox — the browser
- Thunderbird — E-mail program and news reader

While the Thunderbird program is great, I will stick with Outlook as my e-mail program for now. So, I opted to download Firefox. This program plays well with Internet Explorer, so you don't need to un-install the Microsoft product to test Firefox.

Why I Switched

Many of my "techy" friends had switched long ago and continually harped on me to give it a try. I finally gave in and downloaded the relatively small (5 megabyte) file. Installation was a breeze. It even automatically imported all of my Internet Explorer Favorites. But my real conversion began once I started using Firefox...

Faster

If not for any other reason, I would switch to Firefox because of its speed. Web pages pull up instantaneously. I guess I had gotten used to the "pokey pace" of Internet Explorer, because I was truly blown away by Firefox's performance. I'm not sure what to attribute this feature to, but it must have something to do with tighter

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Eric Spellmann
Columnist



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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

Jan. 12

The Odessa American on the hearings for U.S. Supreme Court justice nominee Samuel Alito:

Beyond and beneath the showboating, the Alito hearings have been substantive. There is a certain irreducible degree of artificiality, game-playing and outright bamboozle in any congressional hearing and especially in hearings on the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice.

Prior to hearing from the candidate all the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee exercise their inalienable right to blaviate for the television cameras. Whatever their philosophical or ideological orientation, they all maintain that their only concern is for the

sanctity of the U.S. Constitution, even (or especially) if they routinely vote for programs or policies that range from constitutionally dubious to indubitably illegitimate.

Senators from both parties maintain that all they really want is a judge who will interpret law rather than make it, when what they really mean is a judge who will give them the outcome they prefer for ideological reasons.

Senators with dubious records solemnly lecture the appointee on ethics. "Respecting precedent" becomes a code phrase for "don't you dare overturn Roe." All and sundry vow that they vote on the basis of qualifications and temperament, then almost invariably toe the party line.

The candidate, in turn, has to promise that his philosophy of life will not affect his philosophy of judging. He or she has to give the appearance of great

specificity without being too specific.

If things get tough, he or she can hide behind the "that issue might come before me, and it would be unethical to prejudge it" answer. Given these built-in shortcomings, the hearings so far for Judge Samuel Alito to become a justice of Supreme Court have been more informative to the general public than we expected.

This is mainly because Alito in his low-key, nuanced, cautious, conditional, lawyerly way has been more forthcoming than many candidates, including Chief Justice John Roberts, about how he approaches judging; what pros and cons of precedents he considers, and what principles and precedents he most respects.

Perhaps because of the opportunity to get serious answers, much of the

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Browser

Continued from Page 4

code (better programming). With all of its patches and updates, Internet Explorer was quickly becoming what we call "bloatware," slowing its performance on all but the fastest computers. Firefox, however, is lean and mean, as I first noted with the small file download size.

Tabbed Browsing

Instead of having multiple Internet Explorer windows open, hogging your task bar, you can have them stacked very neatly within the Firefox program itself. Clicking on one of the tabs brings that window to the foreground. This feature allows you to open multiple windows simultaneously. While you are reading one, the others are downloading in the background. It's a big timesaver, especially for those of you with slow connections. In addition, you can set your homepage to be

a group of tabbed pages, so that every time you launch Firefox, all of your favorite sites are loaded automatically!

Pop-up Blocking

Show of hands. How many of you hate pop-up ads? Ok, I see that forest of arms. Internet Explorer does not have a built-in pop-up blocker. In the past, I've recommended the add-on Google Toolbar

(<http://toolbar.google.com>) as a free, effective solution. However, Firefox has this feature built-in. And based on my tests, it's 99 percent effective. Truth be told, I haven't seen any pop-ups, but I can't guarantee any software has a 100 percent solution.

Better Bookmarks

Sure you have a five foot list of Favorites, but why did you bookmark them? Firefox's bookmark section allows you to enter notes next to each entry. That way, you can erase temporary bookmarks whose purpose was long forgotten. As with Internet Explorer, you can create folders and subfolders to help organize them, but

with Firefox, you can right-click on a folder and have all of the bookmarked sites open simultaneously in Tabs. Firefox also lets you associate a keyword with any bookmark so you can open it by simply typing its keyword in the location bar of the browser.

Search Tricks

Firefox's toolbar has a dedicated "search" blank that will send any keywords you type to Google. If you type your search terms in the location bar, your request is sent to Google, but you are instantly taken to the most relevant page. Google calls this the "I'm Feeling Lucky" feature. Firefox also takes advantage of "smart keywords." By typing in special, reserved words into the location bar, your browser can do some pretty amazing things. For instance, the keyword, "dict" followed by a word will search Dictionary.com for the meaning of the word.

Any way you cut it, Firefox is an improvement over Internet Explorer. Be careful, though. Once you try it, you won't go back to IE!

See you in Cyberspace!

Alito

Continued from Page 4

questioning by the senators beyond the predictable posturing of ideological true believers like Sens. Kennedy and Schumer has been fairly thoughtful and specific.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, for example, probed with ever more specific yet respectful questions about Alito's attitudes toward abortion and presidential power. All that said, of course, we still don't know whether a Justice Alito would be more respectful of Supreme Court precedent or his 1985 assertion in a job application that the Constitution does not protect a right to abortion if an abortion-related case came before him.

We don't know if he would

lean more toward being respectful of presidential authority or congressionally passed statute if a case involving wiretapping without warrants came before him.

Those who listened to the hearings at any length, however, will know that these issues are not as simple as partisans on either side want to make them, and that Alito is at least conversant with the issues and arguments. Aggressive questioning has helped to tighten arguments on both sides.

If you can cut through the elaborate and only partly sincere gestures of mutual respect, these hearings are more educational than most. If you tune in to C-SPAN this week you might actually pick up some new information about constitutional philosophy and the role of the judiciary.

Events calendar

• **Panhandle Community Services** has received funding for the Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program. The program provides emergency utility assistance for qualifying low-income, elderly and disabled/handicapped families. To apply, Social Security cards for everyone in the household, proof of income, current electric and gas bills and a 12 month billing history of electric and gas bills must be provided. Applicants may call their local Panhandle Community Services office at 665-0081 for more information.

• **AARP Tax-Aide**, a free, volunteer run tax counseling and preparation service, is seeking volunteers to assist in tax preparation and to become leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Tax counselors receive free tax training and become IRS certified by passing the IRS exam. They assist customers one-on-one at tax sites or over the Internet and agree to a minimum commitment of four hours per week for a 10 week period. For more information, call (806) 883-6871.

• **Pampa Community Concert Association Presents** "Live on Stage" 2005-06 concert series includes the following programs: Susan Egan, Broadway vocalist, Feb. 18, 2006; St. Petersburg Classic Ballet, March 4, 2006; and The Coats, vocal harmonic band, April 30, 2006. Additional concerts, featuring with other performers, have been scheduled in area towns. For more information on any of these events or a complete area concert schedule, contact Ronnie Holmes, PCCA president, at 665-2631. PCCA memberships are available.

• **The Kwahadi Kiva Indian Museum** will host the Kwahadi Indian Dancers on the dancers 40th Annual Winter Night Ceremonials at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6, 7, 20, 21, 27, 28 and Feb. 25 at the museum in Amarillo. Dinner will be served prior to the show. Reservations are recommended. For more information, call the museum at (806) 335-3175.

• **Amarillo Museum of Art** will host its Spring Film Festival in 2006. The festival will include the following films: "Basquiat," 7 p.m., Jan. 26; "Downtown '81," 7 p.m., Feb. 2; "I

Shot Andy Warhol," 7 p.m., Feb. 9; and "The Life & Times of Andy Warhol," 7 p.m., Feb. 23. For more information, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

• **BSA Hospice** will offer the volunteer training/community education class "The Hospice Approach to Living with Dying" from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays Jan. 31-Feb. 24 at BSA Hospice Facility, 800 N. Sumner. The course is free. The class is designed particularly for individuals interested in serving as a hospice volunteer or who just want to learn more about hospice care. For more information or to preregister, call Janet McCracken, volunteer coordinator, at 665-6677.

• **Amarillo Children's Theatre Guild** will present "Elvis Acts Up!" with impersonator Manny Triana at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4 in Ordway Hall on Amarillo College campus in Amarillo. Tickets go on sale in Ordway Hall at 1 p.m. Feb. 4. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. prior to the performance. Proceeds will benefit AC's Lamplight Youth Theatre Company. For more information, call (806) 371-5353.

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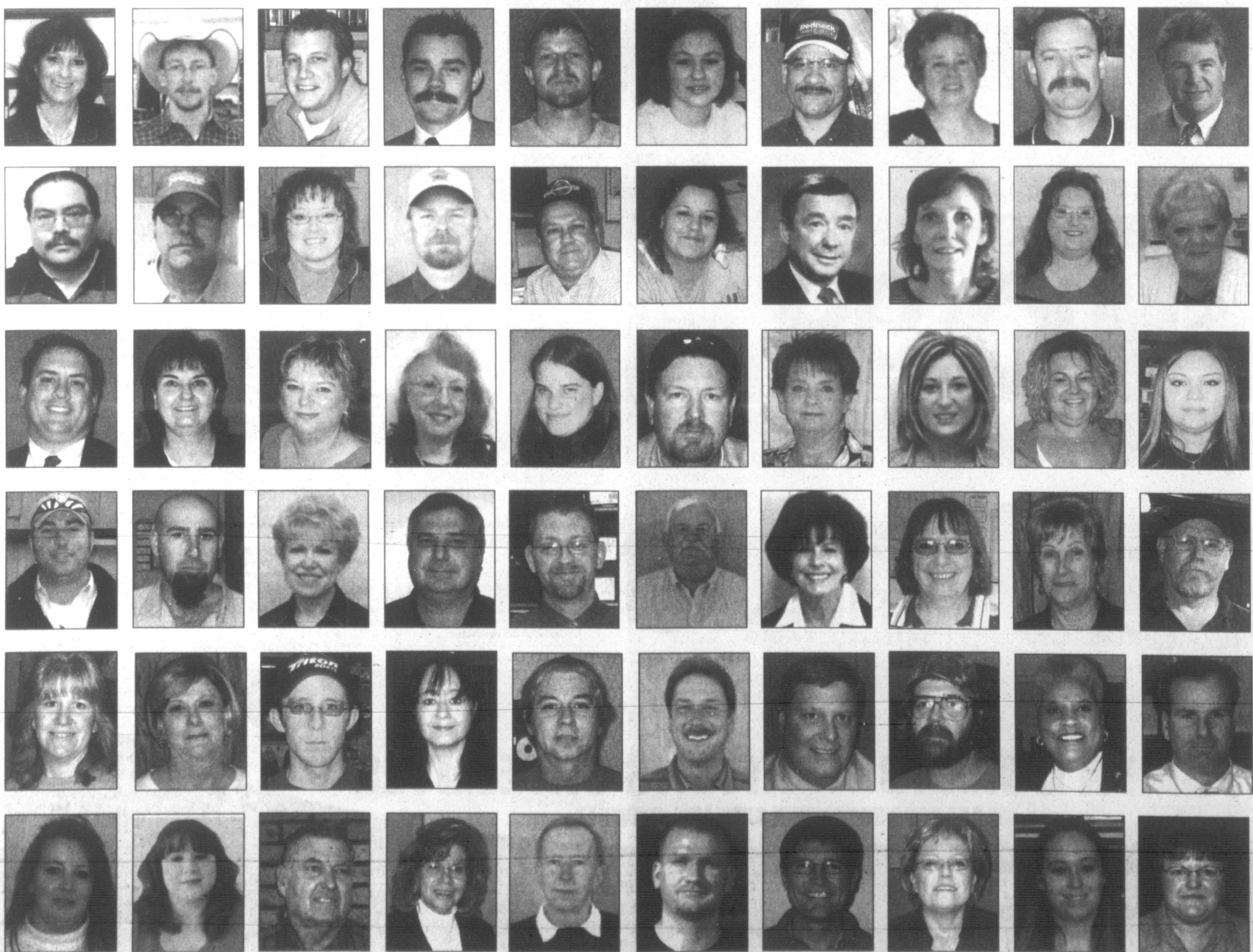
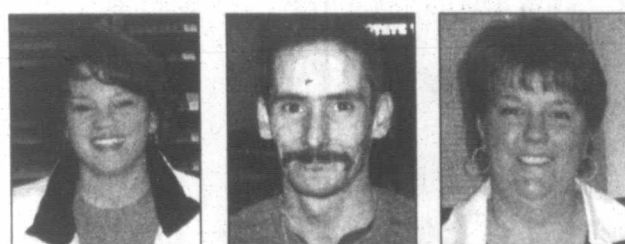
1. Match each face with the corresponding name and rectangle in the advertisements found on the following pages in today's edition of THE PAMPA NEWS.

2. Cut out each face and tape it in the corresponding blank rectangle in each ad. All entries must be original newspaper - no photo copies accepted. THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE IS TO GO TO THE BUSINESS AND LOOK FOR YOURSELF! BUT... Some of these businesses might be inaccessible to the public, so rely on friends and family to solve this puzzle.

3. The Who's Who contest will appear in the January 20, January 22 and January 24 issues of The Pampa News. A drawing will be held from all the correct entries the morning of January 26 to determine the winner. Bring entries to The Pampa News office at 403 W. Atchison or mail to P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Texas 79066. Entries must be received by 5:00pm on January 25. Label your entry with your name, address and phone number so the winner may be notified.

4. Employees of The Pampa News and their immediate families are not eligible to win.

5. The Who's Who contest will be solved in the January 26 edition of The Pampa News.





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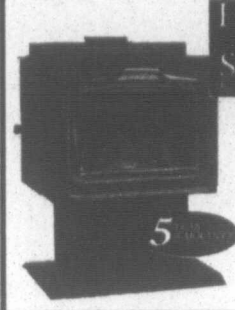
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Carol Stribling



Seth Stribling



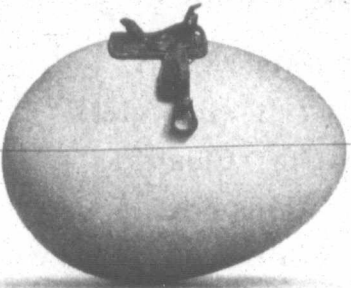
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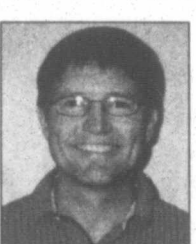


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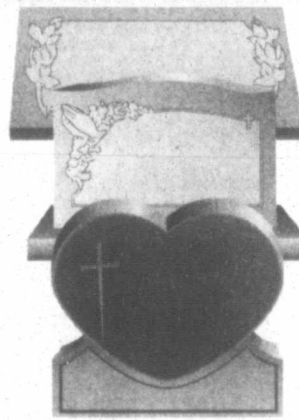
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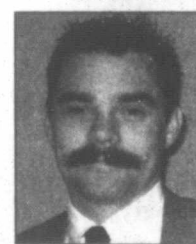
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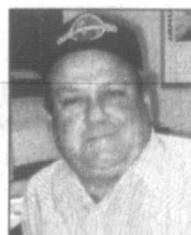
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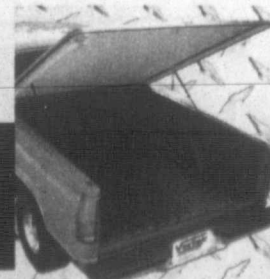
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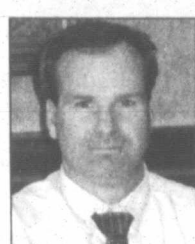
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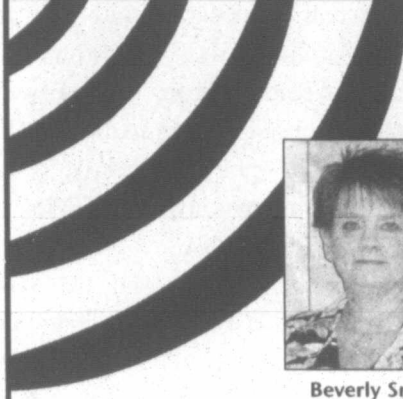
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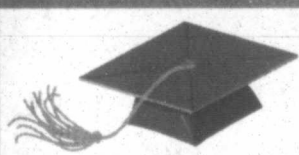
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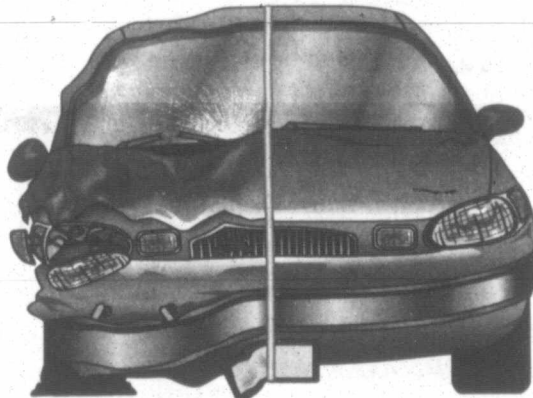
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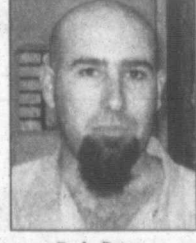
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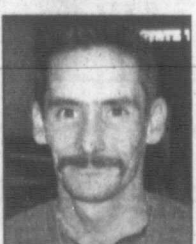
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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: In your response to a woman whose nicotine-addicted mother insists that smoking isn't harmful, you stated, "It's common knowledge that second-hand smoke is harmful." I'm not a smoker, but there is no scientific evidence that I can find to support your statement. Do some research, and you'll find that "common knowledge" is junk science. Be objective and you will see there is no real "evidence" behind the claim. Cigarette smoke is irritating to me. But the secondhand smoke thing is nonsense, and you should check all of the sources before giving advice -- not just the ones that promote the anti-smoking stance. — **NONSMOKER IN FLORIDA**

DEAR NONSMOKER: Where on Earth did you do your research? According to an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association titled "Passive Smoking and the Risk of Heart Disease" (1992), "Secondhand smoke causes between 35,000 and 40,000 deaths from heart disease every year." That same year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stated that "3,000 otherwise healthy nonsmokers will die of lung cancer annually because of their exposure to secondhand smoke." That is why the EPA classified secondhand smoke as a Group A carcinogen, a substance that is known to cause human cancer. If you doubt this, please contact the Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. They'll be glad to clarify further. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I smoked literally all of my life. My mother smoked while she was pregnant with me, both of my parents smoked in the house while I was growing up, and, not surprisingly, I began smoking at 14. However, I tried to be considerate of those around me. I agree with your statement that the daughter is going to have to look out for her children and herself. However, I disagree with your remark that she shouldn't grieve for her mother if she dies of lung cancer. Mine died at 58 from lung cancer, and I still grieve for her. — **EX-SMOKER, MESA, ARIZ.**

DEAR EX-SMOKER: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. However, what I said was, "Don't grieve because she lived her life the way she wanted." I would say the same about someone who died engaging in a dangerous sport.

DEAR ABBY: You seem to think that daughter should sacrifice her relationship with her mother over smoking. If the daughter is that strict about it, I hope the mother leaves her entire estate to the American Cancer Society and never sees her daughter or grandkids again! — **MILDRED IN SUFFOLK, VA.**

DEAR MILDRED: I did NOT say the daughter should "sacrifice her relationship with her mother." I said she should entertain her mother in her own, smoke-free home.

DEAR ABBY: As a member of a family of smokers, I'm an expert about passive smoke. With one sister dead and my daughter in a wheelchair, I am now caring for another sister who is on oxygen at night and part of the day. Smoking and passive smoke were the cause of many of their health problems. I am no longer tolerant of smokers. I have posted signs of "Oxygen in use" and "No smoking on premises," and no longer allow smoking in my home. — **"MEANIE" IN MIDLAND, TEXAS**

DEAR MEANIE: I hope you prevail. Another reader described how her grandmother would remove her oxygen mask to take a drag on her cigarette because she couldn't kick the habit.

DEAR ABBY: I was a smoker. My wife died of cancer not related to smoking. During her confinement and treatment I spent a lot of time at a cancer research hospital and saw, firsthand, the horror stories played out daily in those places. I quit cold turkey, and it was the best move I ever made. — **LEARNED MY LESSON IN FLORIDA**

Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Seedy fruits
- 5 Interfere
- 11 "— soup yet?"
- 12 Is jealous of
- 13 Kilauea flow
- 14 Expiates
- 15 Makeup kit item
- 17 Major no-no
- 18 Car part
- 22 Move like a cat
- 24 Kilt's kin
- 25 Wrestler's victory
- 26 Clock numeral
- 27 Pays to play
- 30 Salad green
- 32 Burner setting
- 33 Distress call
- 34 Trial prop
- 38 "Jane Eyre" writer
- 41 Meter or liter
- 42 Pearl producer
- 43 Goblet part
- 44 Influences
- 45 Throw

DOWN

- 1 Dossier

ACTS	EXTRAS
SOAK	DERIVE
INKY	GRADEA
SEE	SEXY
CEASE	TAP
PROXY	SPACE
RAVE	AKIN
EJECT	SLEDS
PAR	ALIEN
STAR	OWE
KIBITZ	AVID
ORACLE	NERD
PARKED	TREY

Yesterday's answer

Marmaduke



"Another drive-by woofing."

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Mommy, next time could we get a candle that smells like a chocolate-chip cookie?"

For Better Or Worse



Zits



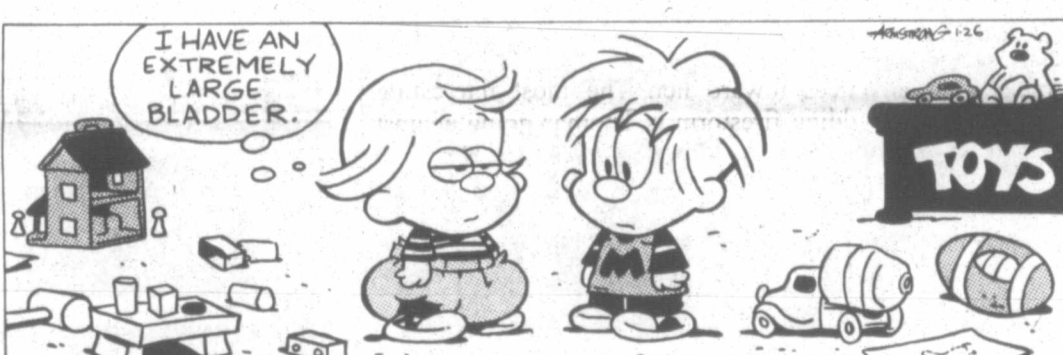
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

THINKING ALOUD

Just a few thoughts

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor



Have I arrived?

During halftime of the girl's basketball game Tuesday night, Globe News sports writer, Lance Lahnert, and I kibitzed about the atmosphere in The Pit. We bump into each other quite frequently during basketball season. "This is a great place to play," he commented. We spoke briefly about the teams, the floor and how hard it is to shoot basketball with a camera. The lighting in McNeely Field House adds an extra challenge. We later shook hands as he took off to take a seat at the scorer's table, I assumed my stance at court side, camera at the ready. Moments later Pampa Athletic Department secretary, Sandy Clark, placed a hand on my shoulder and asked, "Who was that you were talking to?" Thank you Sandy.

While I'm doling out 'Thank Yous'

Thanks to Coach Lupe Larazzolo and his Pampa Boxing Club members for the neat goodies you bring me from your many tournament travels. Whether or not boxing is your thing, you should know we have some very talented pugilists here in Pampa that carry with them a great measure of Pampa Pride everywhere they go. Keep up the great work.

While I'm tooting horns

"Pack The Pit" night was a wonderful success. The stands were full and the building was hot and loud. "This is how it used to be," one man said to me. It is how it should be now. However, all our teams deserve the same support. Coach Greg Miller's Pampa Aquatic Club, Coach Josh Cadenhead's wrestlers and the soccer teams just to name a few that see little, if any fan support. They too deserve better than what they are getting. Perhaps that will change.

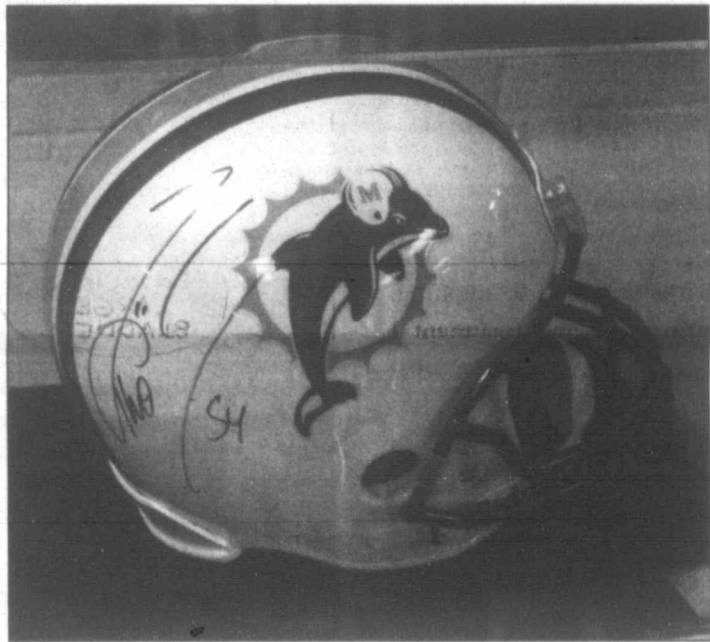
Worth some attention

The story coming out of the New York Knick's front office where former vice president of marketing and business operations, Anucha Browne Sanders, has filed a multimillion dollar lawsuit against the team's president of basketball operations, Isiah Thomas. In it, Brown Sanders alleges sexual harassment, saying Thomas made comments and advances toward her. The most interesting aspect of this budding firestorm is Thomas going against his attorney's advice and addressing the media during a Wednesday press conference. "She did not even work for me," he said. "I will not allow her or anybody, man or woman, to use me as a pawn for their financial gain." This one has the potential to be as uneventful as watching a Knicks game, or as exciting as watching American Idol's Simon Cowell uncork some raw honesty on a poor dope who was grossly misinformed by a friend or loved one as to their talent, or lack thereof.

Money matters



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS



Shavious Kelly (above, left) and Nick Dudley hold the enclosed display case containing a Miami Dolphins helmet autographed by linebacker and former Pampa Harvester, Zach Thomas. The PHS Football Booster Club is selling tickets for the chance to win the helmet. To purchase, contact a booster club member or football player. Tickets are also being sold during home basketball games. The winning ticket will be drawn Feb 14.

Annual Lamar Hot Shot Contest set for Saturday

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Plenty of basketball to be played in Pampa Saturday when the annual Lamar Hot Shot Contest takes to the floor of the PHS MPAC building.

The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with late registrations. Shooting gets underway at 9.

Contestants from all local elementary schools compete for fun and trophies in what has become a tradition in Pampa. Prizes will be awarded to the top three places in each grade level.

Entry fee is only \$4 and all who compete will receive an ice cream coupon courtesy of Sonic. Lamar teachers will operate the concession stand throughout the day. Souvenir shirts and sweaters will also be available for sale.

For additional information, contact Lamar Elementary, 669-4880.

Lamar Hot Shot Contest Saturday, Jan. 28 PHS MPAC Building

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.:

Late registrations. You can also enter up to your scheduled shooting time for \$5.

9 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.:

2nd & 4th Grade Girls

9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.:

2nd & 4th Grade Boys

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.:

Finals, 2nd & 4th Grade

12 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.: Lunch Break

12:15 p.m. - 1 p.m.:

3rd & 5th Grade Girls

1 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.:

3rd & 5th Grade Boys

1:45 p.m. - 3 p.m.:

Finals, 3rd Grade & 5th Grade



A young hoopster takes part in last year's Lamar Hot Shot Contest.

PAMPA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2005

Data Control Codes	General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$12,039,329	\$891,387	\$12,930,716
5800 State Program Revenues	8,394,028	679,728	9,703,756
5900 Federal Program Revenues	64,034	3,081,231	3,145,265
5020 Total Revenues	20,497,391	4,652,346	25,149,737
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	10,777,316	1,589,136	12,366,452
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	534,375	13,858	548,233
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	380,782	248,149	628,931
0021 Instructional Leadership	229,611	20,501	250,112
0023 School Leadership	1,255,494	55,158	1,310,652
0031 Guidance, Counseling and Evaluation Services	831,454	41,906	873,360
0032 Social Work Services	-	1,852	1,852
0033 Health Services	178,340	55,097	233,437
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	611,610	3,053	614,663
0035 Food Services	-	1,143,373	1,143,373
0036 Cocurricular/Extracurricular Activities	884,015	19,093	903,108
0041 General Administration	1,146,467	3,550	1,150,017
0051 Plant Maintenance and Operations	2,179,222	42,945	2,222,167
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	16,545	1,140	17,685
0053 Data Processing Services	62,604	83,753	148,357
0061 Community Services	62,421	138,378	200,799
Debt Service:			
0071 Debt Service - Principal on Long Term Debt	524,608	320,000	844,608
0072 Debt Service - Interest on Long Term Debt	50,071	312,418	362,489
0073 Debt Service - Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	75,214	75,214
Capital Outlay:			
0081 Facilities Acquisition and Construction	79,382	-	79,382
Intergovernmental:			
0093 Payments to Fiscal Agent/Member Districts of SSA	-	596,184	596,184
6030 Total Expenditures	19,804,317	4,766,759	24,571,076
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under)	693,074	(114,413)	578,661
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued (Regular Bonds)	-	6,535,442	6,535,442
7913 Capital Leases	269,330	-	269,330
7915 Transfers In	-	37,437	37,437
8911 Transfers Out (Use)	(37,437)	-	(37,437)
8949 Other (Uses)	(12,025)	(6,428,552)	(6,440,577)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	219,868	144,327	364,195
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	912,942	29,914	942,856
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	2,988,032	434,625	3,422,657
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$3,900,974	\$464,539	\$4,365,513
D-74			January 26, 2006



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Pampa wrestlers take the mat against Boys Ranch tonight

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Coach Josh Cadenhead and his Pampa Wrestling Team will host Boys Ranch this afternoon at McNeely Field House. Introductions and matches will begin at 6.

This is an important meeting for the Harvesters. Not just because Boys Ranch is a district foe, but with the Pampa Quads set for Saturday, all mat time is valuable.

"Tonight's match is important because this Boys Ranch team is in our district and we will have to get past some of these wrestlers to have a shot at going to regionals," said Cadenhead. "Our guys can see what they are up against. Tonight counts as far as stats and seeding in the district tournament, but district is when we have to kick it up a notch and be very sharp out on the mat."

Districts will begin Feb. 4.

For those not familiar with wrestling, Coach Cadenhead offered three aspects of his sport that make it unique.

1) "Wrestling is the oldest sport in history, developed by the Greeks. It was one of the first sports in the Olympics.

2) "Wrestling is the all-around sport. It takes great mental toughness, flexibility, strength, balance, technique, endurance, dedication, and most of all, heart. If one were to ask a group of college football scouts if they would take an undersized football player, most would

respond by asking, "Was he a wrestler in high school?"

3) "Wrestling is a self-gratifying sport. One works out endlessly in the wrestling room, controls his weight, and controls his own destiny. A wrestler can not hide behind his teammates like in football. He is showcased on the mat for all to see. If he makes a mistake, there is no other to blame. If he can not get the job done, there is no one to point the finger at. But when it is all said and done and he walks off the mat, he knows he just gave it everything he has for the toughest six minutes in his life."

Saturday's Pampa Quad will feature four teams — Borger, Caprock, Vernon and Pampa. Matches should begin shortly after noon and wrap up around 5:30 p.m. Said Coach Cadenhead, "The format is set up just like a dual, the only difference is that each team will get three matches rather than only one." He added, "This is a great opportunity for all the wrestlers to get several matches before preparing for the district tournament."

Cadenhead also notes the dedication his guys have put into the season. "These guys have been working extremely hard in the wrestling room and it all comes down to one or two matches at district. Some will move on and others will be finished. Pampa has an opportunity to advance several wrestlers to Regionals and take a shot at State."

Before they can walk

It appears some of Pampa's youth can't wait for their walking legs to come in before they take the floor of McNeely Field House on the campus of Pampa High School. This future Lady Harvester was photographed during Tuesday night's "Pack The Pit".

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK



TexSCAN Week of
January 22, 2006

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DRIVERS - OVERTIME TRANSPORTATION. a UPS Company, needs 53' T/T Drivers. New pay package. CDL-A w/hazmat required. Low cost benefits. Call Donna at 1-877-786-6773.

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Remark gets man fired

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A gubernatorial candidate challenging pro football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann in the Republican primary fired his campaign manager after the man told a televised call-in show: "The rich white guy in this campaign is Lynn Swann." Bill Scranton, a former lieutenant governor who is white and comes from a wealthy family, also issued an apology to Swann after his campaign manager's comments Wednesday. The remarks by James Seif "in no way whatsoever reflect my views or those of my campaign," Scranton said. "I want to apologize to Lynn Swann, his family, supporters and PCN viewers for the offensive and disturbing comments made on my behalf." Swann, a former Pittsburgh Steelers star, is seeking to become Pennsylvania's first black governor. His campaign spokeswoman, Melissa Walters, declined to comment about the remarks Thursday morning.

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

EXT CGE AXV OAXU UFPA EXT

GQP UPMM XNN, STV VFP

ZAVPQAGM QPDPATP JPQDZHP

KXPJ. — JXTQHP TAOAXUA

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE CAR TO WATCH IS THE CAR BEHIND THE CAR IN FRONT OF YOU.
— ANONYMOUS

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*pictures for illustration only

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FOUND female 6-8 mo. old Miniature Schnauzer, gray & black, (on Hwy. 152 West). 664-1519.

14d Carpentry

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14d Carpentry

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

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NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

Is your House or Foundation Settling? Cracks in bricks or walls? Door won't close? Call Childers Brothers, Inc. Stabilizing & Foundation Leveling. 1-800-299-9563 or 806-352-9563 Amarillo.

RICHARD'S General Building. Additions, carports, porches, garages, fences, roofing, painting, texturing, sheetrock. Call Richard, 273-2907, 886-0267. Fully Insured.

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14r Plowing/Yard

WE Do Tree Trimming, Shrubs, Flower Beds, Etc. David Jenkins 2100 N. Banks Pampa, Tx. 79065 806-665-0480 Free Estimates Senior Discounts

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115. faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC

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14v Sewing

SEWING of Any Kind and Alterations. Call 665-2565.

19 Situations

BABYSITTING in my home, 7 days a week. Call Nina, 669-2327.

21 Help Wanted

D.E. CHASE, INC. 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx.

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Must pass DOT Drug Screen.

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PT Evening Cook's Helper needed. Hours are 12:30-9pm., 3-4 days per week. Must be able to work weekends. Please apply in person. For more info. call St. Ann's Nursing Home, 537-3194 and ask for Linda or Phyllis.

NEED Class A CDL Driver. Experience and references required. Must have clean driving record. Pre-employment drug test required. Apply in person, West Texas Landscape, Pampa, ask for Jeff.

OILFIELD Trucking Co. needs Truck Pusher and Winch Truck Drivers. 806-669-3133, 866-415-4104

HIRING ASME Code Welders, also Finishers & Journeyman. 5 yrs. exp. Corner Ind., 118 Buntion St., Borger, Tx. 806-274-2281.

NEEDED Field Salesman for drilling and production equip. Must have previous exp. Send resume to Clifton Supply Co., P.O. Box 173, Pampa, Tx. 79066-0173.

COOKS needed. Apply in person, Texas Rose, Pampa.

LICENSED PA wanted for busy orthopedic practice. Salary is competitive and insurance will be provided. Please send resume to Box 06, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066-2198.

SIVALLS Inc. is looking for welder fabricators, and paint service tech. Welding and drug tests req. Benefits: health ins., profit sharing, 401K, 8 paid holidays and 10 days vacation per year. 806-665-7111, Pampa.

PART-TIME Childcare worker needed noon-5:30 weekdays. Exp. Pref. but not req. GED or HS Diploma req. Apply in person 9:00-11:30 am. St. Matthew's 727 W. Browning 665-0703

NOW hiring AC Maintenance person for apartment complex. Please call 1-800-558-7692.

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Fax resume to 806-355-1574 or email resume to jrea@premier-comm.net

CATERING PERSON needed. Apply in person only at Dixie Cafe, Pampa.

TRUCK Driver needed with CDL/HAZ MAT endorsement sign On Bonus based on qualifications. Bradley Disposal Co., 11805 W. McCullough. Apply in person.

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Fleet Mechanic Diesel Mechanic with Own Tools Req. A-CDL-X a Plus Competitive Salary Great Benefits, 401K Pampa Terminal Call Johnny or Steve 806-669-9091

MOVING Sale Tv/stereo stand, tables/2 chairs, refrigerator, king bed, 6 piece bedroom set, floor lamp. After 6pm, 664-2001.

2 torches, 200 ft. hose, 2 set gauges, 2-100 lb. propane tanks for sale. 595-0478.

ADVERTISING Material to be placed in the Pampa News MUST be placed through the Pampa News Office Only.

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69 Misc.

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White House grants to rebuild Gulf Coast fall short

WASHINGTON (AP) — One state's funding windfall is another's frustration in the Gulf Coast, where the Bush administration is distributing billions of dollars in grants to rebuild hurricane-ravaged housing — money that falls short of what Louisiana sought.

But in Mississippi, lawmakers are pleased with \$5 billion that can help up to an estimated 50,000 households walloped by storm-related flooding last year.

At issue is previously announced \$11.5 billion in community grants that the Bush administration said Wednesday would be divided among five states. In doing so, the White

House rejected a \$30 billion redevelopment plan for Louisiana that state officials considered the cornerstone of their hopes for rebuilding.

"My dad used to tell me, 'Cheer up, things could be worse,'" said Rep. Richard Baker, R-La., the architect of the \$30 billion plan to jump-start his state. "So I cheered up and things got worse."

By rejecting his plan, Baker said the White House "is basically saying to Louisiana, 'If you want to rebuild, you have to find resources of your own.'"

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The White House action "demonstrates a continued lack of understanding for the magnitude of the devastation and the immense rebuilding task our state faces."

— Sen. Mary Landrieu
D-La.

the magnitude of the devastation and the immense rebuilding task our state faces," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La.

Louisiana would get \$6.2 billion, the bulk of the \$11.5 billion. But that still falls short of what state officials said was necessary

to help an estimated 200,000 homeowners return and rebuild their communities.

The grants also divided Gulf Coast lawmakers who have been working together to win more assistance.

In Mississippi, lawmakers hailed the grants. "It's

huge," said Rep. Gene Taylor, D-Miss., who has worked closely with Louisiana lawmakers over the last four months to ensure that Congress continues sending assistance to the region.

Under the grant program, Florida is eligible for \$83 million, Alabama \$75 million and Texas \$74 million.

Federal Gulf Coast redevelopment officer Donald Powell said the money is intended for uninsured homeowners who lived outside flood plains but saw their property destroyed by the triple-whammy of hurricanes that began with Katrina on Aug.

29, followed by Rita on Sept. 24 and Wilma on Oct. 24.

But when asked about Louisiana's concerns that the grants would not help tens of thousands of people — mostly in low-income and working class neighborhoods around New Orleans — Powell said states can use the money to satisfy their most urgent hurricane relief priorities.

Once the grants are depleted, Powell said, "We are very open to going back and asking for more money."

Congress has so far appropriated \$67 billion to help the region get back on its feet.

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