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Pampa

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50¢ Daily • Sunday *1

Search firm to find PEDC director

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Using past history as a compass, city commissioners voted unanimously to hire a professional search firm to find a new executive director of the Pampa Economic Development Commission.

The decision Wednesday was in agreement with the PEDC board's recommendation a Dallas company, Pathfinders, be hired to find a replacement for Lew Mollenkamp.

Lewis Meers, PEDC board chairman, said the company's fee is \$15,000 plus expenses which are expected to be about \$5,000. It is the same company through which Mollenkamp was hired. He was the only one of three PEDC executives to be hired through a search firm.

Mollenkamp resigned earlier this month to take a job in Dallas offered by Arthur Anderson, a big-five accounting firm. He had been at the PEDC about 18 months.

City Commissioner Faustina Curry noted hiring a search firm doesn't cut out local people from consideration because they can contact the PEDC and apply to the search firm.

Roger David, PEDC board member, told commissioners his first inclination upon learning of Mollenkamp's departure was for the board to handle the hiring process and to find "someone local" to fill the job. However, David said there is no one local with the economic development experience needed by the PEDC.

"We got our money's worth (with Mollenkamp)," David told commissioners. "We should spend the money and have someone on board within 90 days and keep the momentum going."

To hire a less qualified person, given the learning curve he or she would need, David said more money would be spent than if a search firm was initially hired.

"This way, we can get right back to what we're supposed to do, rather than go through training," he added.

Commissioner Jeff Andrews said in the past year under Mollenkamp's direction the PEDC had 10 projects which are creating 300 jobs. He compared that to the three years prior to Mollenkamp when there were eight projects resulting in about 215 jobs.

"That record says something about the fact we need to get a go-getting professional," Andrews said.

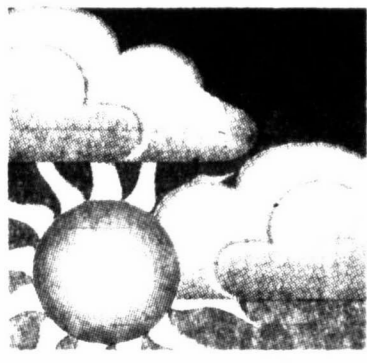
The commissioner related a conversation he had about a week ago with someone local who wanted the job before Mollenkamp was hired.

"He did want the job but he doesn't want it now," Andrews said. "He told me that after watching (the director before Mollenkamp) he knew he could do as well as the last one but said 'after watching a true professional I know I can't.'"

Commissioner Faustina Curry noted hiring a search firm doesn't cut out local people because they can contact the PEDC and apply to the search firm.

PEDC board member Riley Kothmann spoke in favor of a search firm saying, "We have an obligation to provide for the city the best executive director we can find. I am convinced going to the experts to hire someone who has the contacts is the best way to do that. We want someone who has the same skills and expertise that Lew has."

Picking up on the momentum theme, Kothmann said the PEDC "has moved very fast, very far in a short time ... we don't want to lose out and we can without momentum."



High today 60
Low tonight 30
For weather details see
Page 2

No ticket matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket would have been worth an estimated \$18 million.

The numbers drawn from a field of 50 were: 07-11-14-25-35-46

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$23 million.

DALLAS (AP) — A Southwest Airlines jet and a small aircraft came within 100 feet while taking off from Austin on Wednesday morning, officials said.

A Southwest flight bound for Midland with 120 passengers and a crew of five had just lifted off when the captain noticed a single-engine Cessna coming at him from a crossing runway.

"Fortunately, the captain noticed the smaller plane out of the corner of his eye," said Southwest spokesman Ed Stewart. "He immediately pulled the airplane into a much steeper climb."

The smaller plane passed just beneath the Boeing 737.

A preliminary investigation showed the Cessna pilot started his takeoff although he'd been told by an air traffic controller to hold.

- George R. Bagley, Sr., 91, retired foreman with Natural Gas Pipeline.
- Geneva Ruth Corcoran, 61, services pending.
- Almeda Catherine Jarrell Fraser, 85, daughter of panhandle pioneers.
- Maggie B. Hefley, 102, retired rancher, bank employee.
- Barbara Lewis, services pending.

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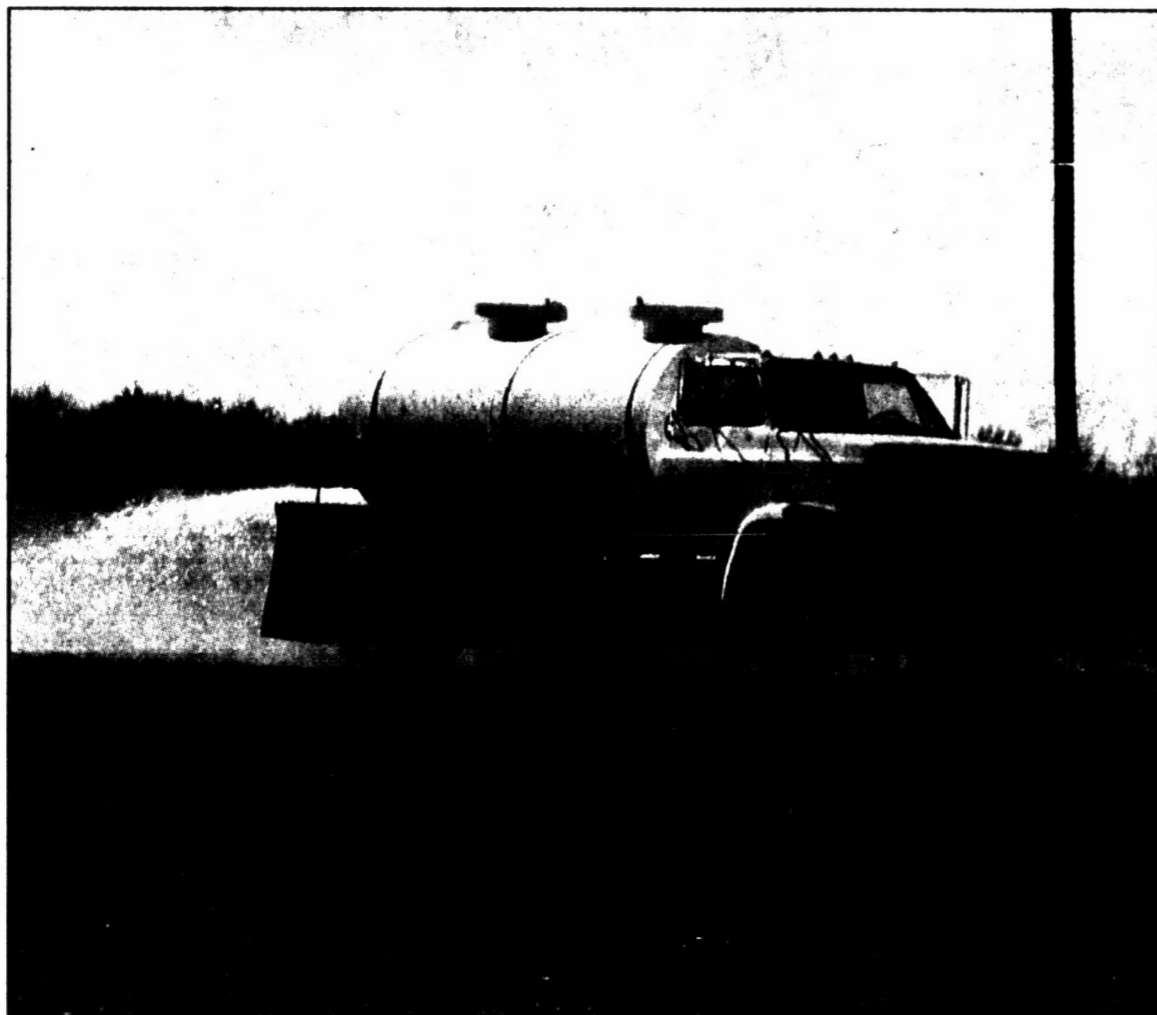
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College work...



(Pampa News photo by Jeff West)

Preliminary work has begun at the new Clarendon College site on Kentucky. College officials estimate 300 days to complete the project. More than \$1 million was raised during a fund drive to help defray costs of the new campus.

Judge nixes motion to prohibit evidence

A Pampa man could go to trial as early as Monday on charges of possession of a controlled substance after a district judge denied his motion to suppress evidence.

James Ivan McKinney, 33, was arrested May 28, 1997, and charged with possession of a controlled substance. Judge Lee Waters of the 223rd District Court Tuesday denied McKinney's motion to suppress evidence in the case.

Officers with the Panhandle Regional Narcotics Trafficking Task Force said they had information in May, 1997, that a Pampa man was selling methamphetamine in the 600 block of North Gray Street. After obtaining a search warrant, officers arrived to find the man's wife at home alone. She told officers that her husband was with a friend in a blue pickup.

While police were searching the home, the man returned, riding in a blue Ford pickup. McKinney was driving, according to authorities. As McKinney got out of the pickup, officers said, a syringe fell to the ground and a bag of off-white powder fell to the floor board of

(See JUDGE, Page 2)

Typo restarts case

The trial of former Panhandle Chief of Police Kenny Rogers has been delayed due to a typing error from the prosecutors office.

In the indictment for theft by a public servant the charge read "with the consent of the owner," when it should have read "without the consent of the owner," according to the prosecutors office.

Since the original indictment is going to have to be re-issued Rogers again has an option to work out a plea bargain or plead not guilty.

Rogers is accused of three different counts of taking less than \$500 from public accounts. The three charges combined make the charge a felony punishable by up to two years in state jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

PEDC fiscally sound despite sales tax drop

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Conservative budgeting with sales taxes earmarked at 10 percent below expectations should leave the Pampa Economic Development Commission with about \$220,000 in the bank when the fiscal year ends in the fall.

That's what Lewis Meers, PEDC board chairman, told city commissioners Wednesday when asked about how dropping sales taxes are affecting the PEDC. The PEDC is funding by a half-cent sales tax.

Meers told commissioners the PEDC can meet its obligations and while the amount may seem small, "there are so many ways the PEDC can do deals. We can make loan guarantees, tax abatements and go after grants."

"There is money out there and we intend to go after it ... That's why we need a good executive director," Meers said. (See related story this page) "We need a profession with experience, education and a track record."

Meers said he knows commissioners don't like to hear the phrase "tax abatements" but said it may be necessary to give them to recruit some new businesses.

Commissioner Jeff Andrews, expressing concern about the continuing drop in sales tax revenue, said, "This drop is showing us that the oil and gas businesses are not good right now. It is important we improve diversification in order to help smooth things over in these bad times."

Meers agreed and told commissioners the dairies coming to Gray County were landed as a result of Mollenkamp's "brainstorm. Those deals didn't just come in, Lew went out and got them," he said.

Citing privacy concerns, Meers would not give specifics but said there are "more deals in the mill right now that Lew brought to the table."



Don Taylor

What's V-I-T-A-L for success tips

By JEFF WEST
Staff Writer

Don Taylor, Director of the Small Business Development Center in Amarillo spoke at the Rotary meeting Wednesday about the Center and the five things he believes are essential for success.

Taylor has also co-written the best selling book "Up Against Wal-Mart." The Small Business Center is a project of West Texas A&M University and Taylor said it serves three functions for 26 panhandle counties.

The first is to offer free counseling to any small businesses. Second, Taylor said the Center can offer training of almost any type necessary by business. And, third is to be a central point for information. He said he doesn't know everything but the Center had a good list of expert sources.

Taylor said he has studied successful people and found they have five traits in common which he used the acronym "vital" to represent. The first was value which requires a balance between

(See SUCCESS, Page 2)

Citizens can pick up free mulch

Some Pampa residents can enjoy Christmas trees a little longer, spread over their yard.

Director of Community Services Bill Hildebrandt said the city has chipped up a lot of Christmas trees and now has over two truckloads of mulch available for the public.

The mulch is at the Parks Department Storage

Area which is south of the railroad tracks and just across from Hobart Street Park.

Hildebrandt said residents must provide their own vehicles to haul with and load the mulch themselves but may take as much as they need. The mulch is not locked up so residents can come after business hours if necessary.

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Daily Record

Obituaries

GEORGE R. BAGLEY, SR.

George R. Bagley, Sr., 91, of Pampa, died Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999. Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. John Glover, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Bagley was born Jan. 3, 1908, at Celeste, Texas. He married Helen Gibbs on June 15, 1930, at Chanute, Kan. He moved from Nebraska to Kingsmill in 1946 and from Kingsmill to Pampa in 1972. He retired as foreman with Natural Gas Pipeline in 1972 after 38 years of service.

He was a member of First Baptist Church and Homebound Sunday School Department. He was a former member of Pampa Evening Lions Club and White Deer Lions Club and was an active member of Pampa Senior Citizens Center.

Survivors include his wife, Helen, of the home; two daughters and sons-in-law, Marilyn and James Kirkwood of Pampa and Ruthann and Martin Bailey of Muncie, Ind.; a son and daughter-in-law, George R. and Janice Bagley, Jr. of Lovington, N.M.; a sister, Mattie Claire of Arizona; a brother, Bill Bagley of Houston; four grandchildren, Jani Kirkwood, Marla Bailey, Mark Bagley and wife Diana, and Kim Bagley; and two great-grandchildren, Erinn Bagley and Victoria Bagley.

The family will be at 1924 N. Banks and requests memorials be to First Baptist Church, Pampa Senior Citizens Center, Crown of Texas Hospice or American Cancer Society.

Calendar of events

PAMPA AREA LITERACY COUNCIL

Pampa Area Literacy Council office will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through 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.

EMMAUS REUNION

Emmaus Reunion Group meets the second Thursday of each month. For more information, call 669-3426 or 669-9226.

PANHANDLE PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD

Panhandle Piece Makers Quilt Guild regular meeting Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. at Pampa Senior Citizens Center, 500 W. Francis. Visitors welcome. For more information, call 669-0568 or 665-4718.

PAMPA AREA CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

There will be a program on depression and a videotape "Moving Back Into the Light", the program will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21 in the Cafeteria of Columbia Medical Center. We will start at 7 p.m. and adjourn by 8 p.m. for refreshments and a time to get better acquainted. Remember, friends, family members and others are welcome to attend. Need a ride to the meeting? Call Betty Whitson (after 5 p.m.) at 669-2198 or Linda Norris at 665-2654. In case of bad weather call Columbia Medical Center at 665-3721 to see if the program has been canceled.

Police report

The Pampa Police Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 20

Erik Dale Bennett, 18, 618 Lowry, was arrested on a warrant for disorderly conduct.

Luis Jimenez, 19, 944 E. Denver, was arrested on warrants.

Darrell Eugene Roland, 36, 710 N. Russell #6, was arrested on charges of public intoxication.

Walter L. Johnson Jr., 27, no address given, was arrested on charges of probation violation.

Jesus Ramon Vargas, 853 S. Sumner, was arrested on charges of public intoxication and evading arrest.

James Lee Powers, 33, 1161/2 Foster #3, was arrested on charges of public intoxication.

Sheriff's Office

The Gray County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 20

Bobby Ray Tillmon, 53, 1136 Prairie, was arrested on charges of theft over \$500.

Ambulance

The Rural/Metro reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, January 20

3:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of W. 25th and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

5:42 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of S. Wells. No one was transported.

9:30 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1000 block of S. Wells and transported one to Columbia Medical Center.

Thursday, January 21

12:28 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of S. Prairie. No one was transported.

Fires

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

Wednesday, January 20

7:13 p.m. — Two units and three personnel responded three miles west on Highway 60 on a vehicle fire.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Antebury Grain of Pampa		Coca Cola		62 11/16		dn 3/4	
Wheat	2.63	Columbia/HCA	19	up 1/8			
Milo	1.20	Enron	65 7/8	up 1/16			
Corn	1.50	Halliburton	31 1/2	up 1/16			
Soybeans	1.55	IRI	3 1/2	SC			
		KNE	22 5/16	up 1/16			
		Kerr McGee	36 1/8	dn 3/8			
		Limited	12	dn 1/16			
		McDonald's	71 1/4	dn 1/2			
		Mobile	86 5/16	dn 1/16			
		New Atmos	29 11/16	dn 9/16			
		NCE	45 5/8	dn 3/8			
		Pennsey	39 1/4	dn 7/16			
		Phillips	40 7/8	up 1/2			
		Pioneer Nat Res	8 7/8	up 3/16			
		SLB	50 3/16	up 15/16			
		Tenneco	34 9/16	dn 1/16			
		Texasco	51 11/16	up 3/8			
		Ultramar	24 1/8	up 3/8			
		Wal-Mart	80 7/8	up 5/8			
		Williams	30 1/16	up 9/16			
		New York Gold	287 3/4				
		Silver	5 1/8				
		West Texas Crude	5 1/8				

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

Symbol	Price	Change
Amoco	60 1/16	up 1/16
Atco	26 7/16	SC
Cabot O&G	11 1/16	dn 1/16
Chescon	80 1/16	up 1/16

Focus on 'the big picture' Clinton lawyers tell Senate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concluding the first phase of President Clinton's impeachment trial, his lawyers are urging senators to reject allegations of legal wrongdoing and focus on "the big picture" — an attempt by a married man to hide an extramarital affair.

For their third and final day of oral presentations to rebut perjury and obstruction of justice charges, the Clinton team is combining the methodical arguments of private lawyer David Kendall with the oratory of Dale Bumpers, Bumpers, a former Democratic senator from Arkansas and longtime friend of Clinton, is known as a gifted public speaker.

Once Bumpers finishes, senators who have been forced under trial rules to sit in uncharacteristic silence will have another unfamiliar task — submitting questions in writing to Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who as presiding officer will read them and ask the lawyers and House prosecutors to respond.

The questioning is expected to begin Friday and continue Saturday. Some 70 questions have been submitted by Republicans so far, a GOP spokesman said today.

The question period may be the phase of the trial conducted in a bipartisan spirit. Subsequent motions to dismiss the case and call witnesses such as former White House intern Monica Lewinsky likely will break down largely along party lines.

Republicans have said they oppose dismissal and support the need for limited live testimony from key witnesses such as Ms. Lewinsky, Clinton friend Vernon Jordan and presidential secretary Betty Currie — and should get their way with a 55-45 majority.

However, with a two-thirds majority needed to make Clinton the first president evicted from his job, Democrats hold the votes for acquittal and show no signs of backing a move to remove him from office.

Republicans know the trial is unpopular with Americans. Clinton's job approval ratings rose after his State of the Union address Tuesday night, ranging from 66 percent in an ABC poll to 72 percent in a CBS survey to 76 percent for NBC.

One well-known conservative Republican, evangelist and broadcaster Pat Robertson, said Clinton pulled off such a public relations coup in the

address that there is no chance he will be convicted. "They might as well dismiss this impeachment hearing and get on with something else," he said on "The 700 Club" broadcast.

Bumpers was chosen to make the argument that the House case was a "partisan rush to judgment" that doesn't meet with the "higher duty the Senate has always had," an adviser to the White House said Wednesday. Bumpers, who retired this year after 24 years in the Senate, also was chosen because he can talk ex-senator to senator, the adviser said.

Clinton's predecessor, George Bush, is to attend a Senate lecture series sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., declined a chance to discuss the impeachment trial. But speaking in the Old Senate Chamber Wednesday evening, the fore managers ignored testimony from Mrs. Currie in order to falsely accuse the president of trying to obstruct the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against the president.

The defense lawyer cited Mrs. Currie's testimony that Clinton never asked her to pick up gifts from Ms. Lewinsky after the presents were subpoenaed by the Jones lawyers. Mrs. Currie testified it was Ms. Lewinsky who asked her to retrieve the gifts.

Furthermore, Ms. Mills said the prosecutors ignored Mrs. Currie's testimony that Clinton was not trying to pressure his secretary when he questioned her about her recollection of his actions with Ms. Lewinsky.

"It's those facts, those stubborn facts that just don't fit," Ms. Mills said.

Several of the House prosecutors said later that Ms. Mills had actually made a good case — their case — for the calling of witnesses.

"She went straight to Monica Lewinsky and attacked her credibility on the gift issue. And certainly the testimony of Monica Lewinsky and Betty Currie is in conflict, and she emphasized that over and over again, of course supporting the credibility of Betty Currie," said Rep. Asa Hutchinson, R-Ark.

"That is a decision that the senators have to make, when you have testimony in conflict, as to which direction you're going to go. And the only way you resolve that is by calling of witnesses who are, in fact, in conflict," Hutchinson said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

JUDGE

the truck. McKinney's lawyer, James Fling, argued that police did not have probable cause to detain McKinney or search his pickup. Fling said that the search was illegal and the arrest was illegal.

The warrant, Fling pointed out, was for 616 1/2 N. Gray although police officers later admitted that the correct address was 618 1/2 N. Gray. Officers said the house that was searched sat behind 616 N. Gray, there was no number on the house and officers claimed they were acting in good faith when they asked Gray County Justice of the Peace Margie

Prestidge for a warrant to search it.

While the prosecutor's office maintained that the pickup was within the area of the house being searched, Fling claimed it was not and that officers had no authority to order McKinney out of his truck.

Officers said a search of the house turned up a syringe, rolling papers and residue from a marijuana pipe were found in the bedroom. They said a marijuana pipe was found in the living room of the house during the search.

McKinney was indicted June 26, 1997, for possession of a controlled substance. Officers said a field test of the white powder indicated it was 0.18 grams of methamphetamine.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SUCCESS

price, quality and quantity for business owners. He said value for employees meant doing more than one got paid for. The second trait is integrity which Taylor said is the beginning of both wisdom and wealth.

The third trait is being thorough. He said success involves the "relentless pursuit of doing simple things well."

Multibillionaire testifies in support battle that child eats \$3 worth daily

By SAMUEL MAULL
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The multibillionaire head of Revlon cosmetics testified in a child support battle that his young daughter eats "about \$3 a day" in food when she is with him.

Ronald Perelman, one of the wealthiest men in the country, reluctantly described his lifestyle and financial worth Wednesday when questioned by a lawyer for his third ex-wife, Patricia Duff, who is seeking almost \$100,000 a month to support their 4-year-old daughter, Caleigh.

The hearing was held over child support; the question of permanent custody is to be settled in another court. Duff, 44, who was married to Perelman, 55, for about 18 months, has temporary custody of Caleigh.

Perelman, questioned by Duff's lawyer William Beslow, described his financial worth as "approximately \$6 billion" and described a life with private

jets, yachts, deluxe vacations and lavish homes.

Beslow said he wanted to show the court the standard of living Caleigh had enjoyed, saying she should be allowed to continue that standard.

He is seeking \$50,000 a month for direct child support, plus \$40,000 a month for housing, and salaries for nannies and a chef, money for vacations, visits with relatives and a second car, bringing the total to around \$100,000 a month.

When Beslow asked how much he believed Caleigh needed for food, Perelman replied, "When she's with me she eats about \$3 a day worth of food" including cereal, hamburgers and pasta.

Perelman is now paying \$12,000 a month child support, plus a reported \$125,000 a month to Duff herself, an amount set in a prenuptial agreement.

Justice Franklin Weisberg cut short inquiries about Perelman's money, saying there was little disagreement on "85 percent" of the issues, including what Perelman would pay for, and that he had wide discretion on what to award the child.

Teen-age son charged in slaying of dad

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The 16-year-old son of a slain San Antonio attorney has turned himself in to authorities after a murder warrant was issued for him in connection with his father's shooting death.

Brian Vaughn reported Thursday to Bexar County juvenile authorities. He was charged with killing his father, Leslie Vaughn, 44, who practiced law for 18 years in Bexar and Guadalupe counties.

The lawyer was shot in the back of the head while

he slept at about 1:30 a.m. on Nov. 10.

Brian Vaughn became a suspect early in the murder investigation, but officials waited for weeks before seeking a warrant, said Lt. Bud Baker of the Bexar County Sheriff's Department.

"We just didn't want to make any mistakes," Baker said. "This is his father."

Sheriff's detectives say the teen-ager will remain in juvenile custody until he goes before a judge.

Weather focus

LOCAL FORECAST

Partly cloudy, windy and cooler today with a high of 60 and west-northwest winds at 25-35 mph and higher. Tonight, cloudy with a low of 40, a 40 percent chance of rain changing to snow after midnight and winds from the north at 20-30 mph. Tomorrow, cloudy with a high of 40 and with a 30 percent chance of snow until the afternoon. Yesterday's high was 71; the overnight low 44.

REGIONAL FORECAST

WEST TEXAS — Panhandle — Tonight, cloudy and windy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Rain changing to snow after midnight. Low around 30. North wind 20-30 mph and gusty. Friday, cloudy and blustery with a 30 percent chance of snow until early afternoon, then decreasing cloudiness. High in the mid 40s. North wind 25-35 mph and gusty. Extreme Southern Panhandle/Low Rolling Plains — Blowing dust and wind advisory in effect today. Tonight, partly cloudy and windy. Lows 30-35. Friday, partly cloudy, windy and colder. High in the 40s. Permian Basin/Upper Trans Pecos — High wind warning and blowing dust advisory in effect today. Tonight, partly cloudy and windy. Lows 35-40. Friday, mostly sunny and windy. High in the 50s. Concho Valley/Edwards Plateau — Wind advisory in effect today. Tonight, partly cloudy and windy. Lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s. Friday, mostly sunny

and windy. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Far West Texas — High wind warning and blowing dust advisory today. Tonight, partly cloudy and windy. Lows in the mid 30s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s. Guadalupe Mountains/Big Bend Area — High wind warning and blowing dust advisory in effect today. Tonight, partly cloudy and windy. Lows in the 30s. Friday, mostly sunny. Highs from the mid 40s northern mountains to mid 60s along the Rio Grande.

NORTH TEXAS — Wind advisory in effect central and west today and this evening. Tonight, mostly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms extreme east, some severe. Turning cooler central and west. Lows 40 west to near 60 southeast. Friday, mostly cloudy and windy. A chance of thunderstorms extreme east. Highs 46 west to 66 southeast.

SOUTH TEXAS — Hill Country and South Central Texas — Tonight, partly cloudy. Isolated evening showers or thunderstorms south central. Lows from near 40 Hill Country to lower 50s south central. Friday, partly cloudy and windy. Highs in the upper 50s Hill Country to upper 60s south central. Southeast Texas and Upper Texas Coast — Tonight, mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms west and scattered thunderstorms developing after midnight in the east. Some storms possibly severe over the extreme east. Lows in the lower 50s west, near 60 east. Friday, mostly

cloudy and breezy with scattered morning thunderstorms in the east, partial clearing west. Highs in the 60s. Coastal Bend and the Rio Grande Plains — Tonight, partly cloudy. Lows in the 50s inland, lower 60s coast. Friday, sunny, windy and cooler. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s.

BORDER STATES

NEW MEXICO — High wind warning south central mountains, Sandia/Manzano Mountains, central high plains, southeast plains, Tularosa Basin and southern desert. Wind advisory remainder of state. Tonight, windy and much colder. Cloudy with widely scattered snow showers mountains and north. Lows teens and 20s mountains and northwest, 30s elsewhere. Friday, cloudy with slight chance of rain or snow showers north-east, decreasing clouds in the afternoon. Partly cloudy elsewhere. Windy and cool. Highs mid 30s and 40s mountains and north with 50s to low 60s south.

OKLAHOMA — Tonight, rain likely north. A chance of rain elsewhere, especially after midnight. Rain becoming mixed with snow toward morning in the morning. Little or no snow accumulation. Lows in the upper 20s northwest to the lower 40s southeast. Friday, cloudy, windy and colder with areas of rain, especially north and central. Rain may be mixed with light snow north and central. Little or no snow accumulation. Partial clearing in the afternoon in the west. Near steady temperatures in the 30s and 40s.

City briefs

The Pampa News is not responsible for the content of paid advertisement

CALF FRIES - Moose Lodge, Thurs. 6:30. Members & guest.

WED. NIGHT Karaoke with Cowboy. Thurs. night - live band Suspense. Fri. & Sat. featuring Kracker Jack. Call for res. Sunset Bar & Grill 669-0959. Adv.

NEW 1999 Tanning Beds at Chez Tanz - Special-one month unlimited tanning \$30, when purchased by Jan. 31st. All California Tan products 15-20% off. Under new ownership. Adv.

COTTAGE COLLECTION booth 107/109. Case items 25% off, all else 50% off. Adv.

BAMM BEANO Bear Award Tuxedo and Yankee Champ sets, now in stock. The Senator 'y Collectcritters. Holmes Sports Center, 304 S. Cuyler. Adv.

TEX'S BAR. Read between the lines. Which pig hollars loudest? One under gate or one in pen. Tex. Adv.

MEREDITH HOUSE is having an Open House Sunday, January 24, 1-3 p.m., located behind Homeland on 25th str., 665-5668. Licensed Assisted Living #9564. Adv.

MAYTAG GAS dryer, works great. \$75 obo. 669-6622. Adv.

LESTON HOUSES & Christmas Throws 50% off, remainder of Christmas merch. further reduced for final week of sale. Hurry in to Joy's Unlimited, 2218 N. Hobart. Adv.

Research consortium releases report on Texas' charter schools

AUSTIN — A consortium of research organizations has produced its report of a second-year evaluation study of Texas' original 19 charter schools. Results were presented to the State Board of Education at its January meeting in Austin.

The study, commissioned by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE), was conducted by a team of researchers from the School of Urban and Public Affairs, University of Texas at Arlington; Texas Center for Educational Research; Center for the Study of Education Reform, University of North Texas; Center for Public Policy, University of Houston; and Texas Justice Foundation. Major findings from that evaluation include:

■ Although charter tends to be much smaller than traditional Texas public schools, the average student-teacher ratio - 16 to one - is about the same.

■ Eleven of the 19 original schools operating in the second year were classified as "at-risk" schools because of their declared intention to serve primarily at-risk students and because of the socio-economic characteristics of student households identified through parent surveys.

■ Charter school directors say their single most difficult problem during the second year of operations is lack of adequate operating funds. Limited financial resources make it difficult for schools to find and maintain suitable space to offer classes, hire faculty and staff, and acquire materials. Other major challenges identified by directors include facilities, lack of planning time, and repayment of state aid overpayments.

■ Charter schools enroll higher percentages of Hispanic and African American students and lower percentages of Anglo students than traditional public schools in Texas. Enrollments of special education students, limited-English-proficient students, and gifted and talented students are proportionately lower in charter schools than in traditional public schools in Texas.

■ Charter school students performed at lower levels on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) than traditional public school students.

■ Texas accountability ratings for August 1998 show that 40 percent of charter schools have an acceptable or higher rating. Ten percent of charter schools are low-performing, 15 percent were not

rated, and 35 percent were rated under the alternate accountability system.

■ Roughly half of charter school teachers are non-certified. Charter school teachers are both more likely to be non-degreed and to have doctorates than traditional public school teachers.

■ The greatest source of satisfaction for charter school teachers is to see their students succeed. Teachers in at-risk schools in particular noted relationship with students as a source of satisfaction, whereas teachers in non-at-risk schools were more likely to cite teacher empowerment and teamwork as sources of satisfaction. Teachers are most discontented with poor administration and lack of resources, viewing the latter as their school's most serious problem.

■ More than three-quarters of charter school directors report having a wait list of students. Most plan to expand by adding classes and faculty positions. Fewer than half expect to add grade levels.

■ Charter school parents express high satisfaction with the charter schools their children attend-about 85 percent of both at-risk and non-at risk parents give these schools a grade of A or B. Fewer than half would give their child's previous school such grades.

The second-year evaluation centered Texas' first 19 open-enrollment charter schools. These schools were started in response to legislation which authorized the SBOE to grant 20 charters. Sixteen of the 20 schools receiving charters in May 1996 began operation in fall 1996; one started in January 1997; two started in fall 1997; and one had its charter revoked before it opened.

The study encompasses a variety of data sources including parent, student, and teacher surveys; surveys of charter school directors and local school district officials; TAAS results; document analysis; and on-site visits.

Subsequent legislation had allowed the SBOE to grant charters to an additional 140 applicants. Schools receiving charters operate independently of local school districts and are freed from many state education regulations. Because first-year charter school applications were approved on a first-come, first-serve basis from a small applicant pool; characteristics of the initial charter school cohort may differ significantly from those of later cohorts.

Charter school directors say their single most difficult problem during the second year of operations is lack of adequate operating funds. Limited financial resources make it difficult for schools to find and maintain suitable space to offer classes, hire faculty and staff, and acquire materials. Other major challenges identified by directors include facilities, lack of planning time, and repayment of state aid overpayments.

Water focus of WTAMU survey

CANYON — A survey conducted by students at West Texas A&M University found that a majority of area residents would consider using native plants for landscaping if it would help preserve the region's water supply. Even more people, the survey found, would support development of native landscape demonstration zones in Canyon and Amarillo.

Students in Jim Rogers' Environment and Man class interviewed 345 Panhandle residents, asking 16 questions related primarily to the water supply and environmental pollution. They found that 64 percent of respondents are "concerned about water availability in the Texas Panhandle," and an even higher percentage (78 percent) would consider landscaping

with native plants if it would conserve water.

Moreover, 292 respondents — 85 percent of those surveyed — said they would support development of the native landscape demonstration zones.

"The survey indicated that as a whole, Panhandle people have a good awareness of environmental issues," Rogers, instructor of environmental science, said. "I was surprised by the willingness of so many residents to support these kinds of demonstration zones."

Rogers said he will consider using results of his students' survey as the basis for launching an integrated project among WTAMU disciplines to plan demonstration zones that utilize native plants. He plan might then be shared with local bodies

of government, he said.

One such demonstration zone is already in the works on the WTAMU campus. Horticulture students have designed a landscaping proposal for the 300-square-foot planter located in front of Cornette Library. Scheduled for implementation during the spring semester, the proposal calls for plants that are native to the Panhandle, as well as an irrigation system that conserves water.

Native plants include a variety of tall and short grasses, trees, shrubs and wildflowers, according to Dr. Clay Robinson, assistant professor of plant science.

"Many of the plants used in the library project will be plants you might find in Palo Duro Canyon," Robinson said.

Farm Bureau meeting



(Special photo)

Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau representatives James Race, LUTCF agency manger, Don Whitney, LUTCF service agent, and David Haynes, service agent, attended District I district meeting held recently in Amarillo. At the meeting, Whitney received the Multi-Line Agents Award for District I and Gray-Roberts County Farm Bureau was named Agency of the Month for December.

Meredith House



(Special photo)

Wanda Watson, left, volunteer in charge of weekly exercise at Meredith House, was recently honored with a certificate of appreciation from Director Cinda Jennings.

United Way Award Luncheon and Meeting planned

The United Way Awards Luncheon and Annual Meeting has been set for Tuesday, Jan. 26 in the large meeting room of the Community Building, 200 N. Ballard with the serving line beginning at 11:45 a.m. Dyers Bar-B-Que will serve chicken fried steak. The cost will be \$6.50 a plate. Deadline for your reservations are Friday, Jan. 22 by noon. Cancellations on reservations can be made as late as Monday, Jan. 26. To make your reservations, please call the United Way office at 669-1001 now.

The total amount pledged for our 1998 campaign to date is \$331,385. Our goal was \$335,000, so we are short \$3,615 at this time. We still have a few pledges out, so we feel confident we will reach our goal. Thanks to each of you for your commitment and help for this community. In my estimation, 1998 was an extremely successful year for our community. Clarendon college raised over \$1.3 million and the Super Playground in excess of \$75,000. This will be a time of celebration for our volunteers, donors, the 20 agencies and over 10,000 people who will be helped this year. Please make your reservations today!

CC Livestock Team places in top five

CLARENDON — Clarendon College Livestock Judging Team placed fourth overall at the National Western Stock Show held recently in Denver, Colo.

The team competed against 38 teams representing 15 different states and earned second place in cattle judging, third place in swine and fifth place in reasons.

CC Livestock Judging Team will next compete at the Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth the first week of February. For more information, call Jerry Hawkins at (806) 874-3571.

ILF holding amateur photography contest

The International Library of Photography will award over \$56,000 in prize this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the Pampa area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The deadline for the contest is Feb. 28. The contest is open to everyone and entry is free.

"Any photographer, whether previously published or not, can be a winner," stated Jeffrey Bryan, Contest Director. "Photographers from the Pampa area have successfully competed in past competitions." Every photograph entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, full-color, museum-quality album.

To enter, send one photograph in only one of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture, or Other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8x10 or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photos cannot be returned. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 350-9002, 10045 Red Run Blvd., Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 28.

The International Library of Photography is an organization dedicated to bringing the work of amateur photographers to the public's attention.

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Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:40

4th Week
Patch Adams (PG-13)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:15
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:45

1st Run
You've Got Mail (PG)
Fri. & Sat. 7:00 & 9:15
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:00
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 1:45

1st Run
Varsity Blues (R)
Fri. & Sat. 7:10 & 9:25
Sun. thru Thurs. 7:10
Sat. & Sun. Matinees 2:00

VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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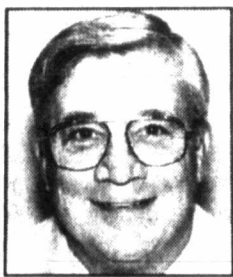
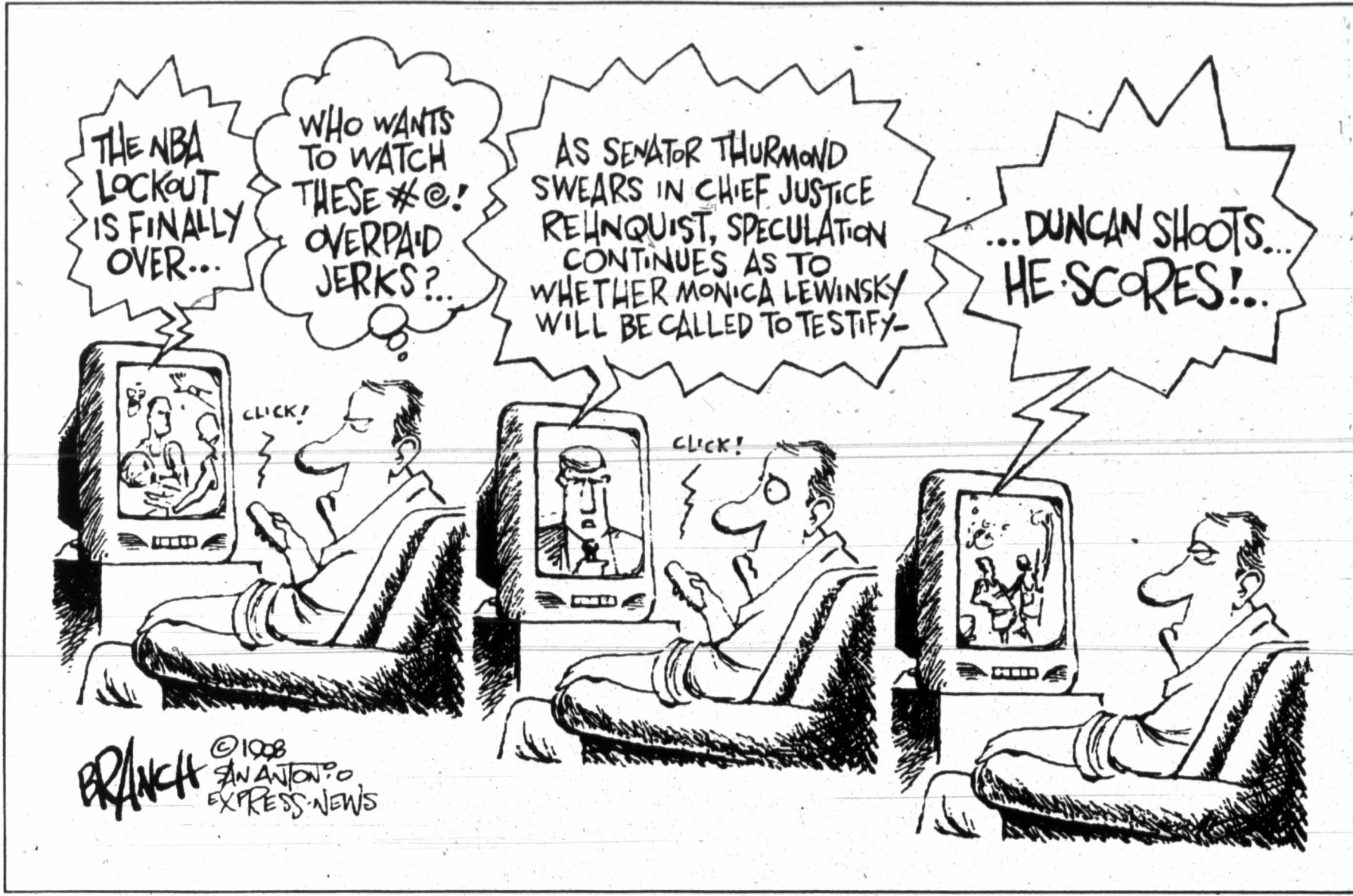
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Across the mayor's desk with Mayor Bob Neslage

Pampa's future is bright thanks to volunteers

We in Pampa are most fortunate to have the group of volunteers who comprise the "Celebration of Lights" organization. This initiative was established to increase civic pride and promote tourism in Pampa and, I must say, they accomplished their goal in fine fashion. Holiday light displays have measurably improved over the past three years and have helped foster a positive spirit within our citizens.

Many of you have driven out to enjoy the "Celebration of Lights" display out at Recreation Park over the holiday season. Numerous hours go into construction, maintaining and assembling the beautiful exhibit. City employees, inmates from the Jordan Unit and various volunteers under the direction of Colleen Eskridge, the 1998 program president, assembled the display this past year.

Many volunteers, including civic clubs, youth groups, Chamber of Commerce and churches worked evenings manning the site and collecting donations regardless of weather conditions. Kathleen and John Chaney, Susan Winborne, Paulette Kirksey and Richard Stowers are a few of the key volunteers who have provided the direction, motivation and momentum to ensure the project's success. This column could not provide the space to acknowledge all those who contributed their time and talent to the project.

While working the site one evening, I encountered many visitors from surrounding communities and, without fail, they complimented Pampa for assembling the beautiful display. I cannot help but believe the sparkling lights are symbolic of the many energetic citizens in Pampa who have the vision of a prosperous and vibrant community, of which we can all take pride. Yes, the possibility of this vision of a brighter future becoming a real hands.

Hope for American culture

The agony that this newest craze on college campuses must be causing the tenured radicals can only be guessed at. It mocks their elaborately constructed fictional world in which men must be contrite for their past sins and women Amazon-like in their imitation of those very sins. But according to The New York Times, ballroom dancing has taken American college students by storm.

The antithesis of everything slovenly, ill-mannered, loose and loud, the polar opposite of the world we've inherited from the 1960s, ballroom dancing is making a comeback. The nation may be too tolerant by far of President Clinton's conduct, but if the waltz and the swing are back, the country cannot be too far gone.

From Yale to San Diego State, and from the University of Wisconsin to Arizona State, colleges cannot create classes quickly enough to meet demand. The Times reports that at Pennsylvania State, there were eight classes offered in ballroom dancing last year in which 240 students participated, but this year, the number will be 48, and 1,440 students will trip the light fantastic.

The Times story is accompanied by a photo. You see the crossed feet of a young woman. On one foot, her Nike sneaker, on the other, she is strapping on a satin high-heeled dancing shoe, the kind Ginger Rogers floated on. One can't analyze culture entirely through footwear, but the difference is so glaring, it can't escape notice, either. The sneaker is the emblem of the 1980s and 1990s. It says informality, androgyny and practicality. The dancing slipper says romance, femininity, grace and mystery.



Mona Charen
Syndicated columnist

Ballroom dancing is elegant and formal. It begins with posture, includes subtle etiquette and assumes a great deal about the male/female partnership. The gentleman is expected to lead (quick, some smelling salts for the women's studies teachers) but with a touch that is gentle and predictable. He is expected to survey the dance floor over his partner's shoulder and smoothly maneuver them away from the other couples. The smallest pressure on the small of her back is the signal to glide off serenely in a new direction.

The very pose of a couple waltzing is one that breathes romance. Bodies and faces are close, as is coordination. And since most of the movement is done by the feet, eyes are free to meet.

Contrast this with the wild, self-centered and chaotic movement that has impersonated dancing since Chubby Checker. At every dance party I attended between the ages 13 and 30, the dancing consisted of girls gyrating suggestively to the music while their "partners" did the same 10 or 15 feet away. Often as not, the girls had at least some sense of rhythm, while

the boys would do the "white man's overbite." This sloppy scene was interrupted every now and again by a slow dance, which consisted of male/female pairs gently rocking from one foot to the other while engaged in other activities that should best remain private. When Winston Churchill called dancing "the vertical expression of a horizontal urge" he couldn't have imagined how close it would come in our time.

Perhaps some people enjoyed this solipsistic exercise, but it seemed to make most self-conscious and awkward. The men knew they weren't as skilled at wiggling as the women, and the women often confirmed this by pairing off with one another.

But the faces of those who have just completed the fox trot or the cha-cha are glowing. There is a deep satisfaction that comes from a man and woman working as a team, he stepping forward and she back, then the reverse, traversing the dance floor together. The dance becomes a joint accomplishment, a challenging game, rather than a human version of sexual display among the birds and beasts.

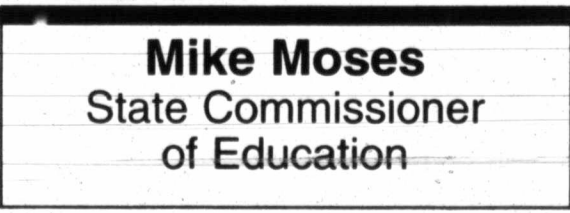
Everything about ballroom dancing is at war with the sexual mores of turn-of-the-century America. It suggests romance and courtly love where "hooking up" has become the norm. It imposes separate roles for men and women where for years the differences have been blurred. And it requires discipline and practice where we have previously stressed mere self-indulgent expression.

Bill Clinton notwithstanding, the news from the cultural front lines is not all bad.

Today in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Jan. 21, the 21st day of 1999. There are 344 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History:
On Jan. 21, 1793, during the French Revolution, King Louis XVI, condemned for treason, was executed on the guillotine.
On this date:
In 1861, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and four other Southerners resigned from the U.S. Senate.
In 1908, New York City's Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance that effectively prohibited women from smoking in public. Mayor George B. McClellan Jr. vetoed the measure.
In 1915, the first Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.
In 1924, Russian revolutionary Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died at age 54.

What gets tested gets taught



Mike Moses
State Commissioner of Education

Texas students and teachers are making impressive annual gains on the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) tests, and Texas is one of two states realizing the largest average gains on reading and mathematics tests administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, known as "the nation's report card." Even though we are succeeding, we must not become complacent. We can expect even more of our schools, and our schools can expect more of their students.

I recently announced my proposal for expanding our state's student assessment program to raise the bar of academic achievement for Texas students. My proposal calls for expanding the assessment program at both the elementary and secondary levels to provide a more comprehensive picture of the academic achievement of Texas students. I have recommended moving the exit-level test to the 11th grade and expanding the exit-level test to include science and social studies in addition to reading, writing and mathematics.

Additionally, I propose eliminating the four end-of-course exams (algebra, biology, history and English) and incorporating the content of those exams into the 11th grade exit-level test. My plan calls for testing in all five core subject areas at 10th grade and assessing reading and mathematics at ninth grade. This expanded assessment at the secondary level will provide Texans with a much broader panorama of student performance in high school. As I travel throughout the state, many business leaders and parents of high school students have advised me that it's time to raise the performance bar to ensure that young Texas adults of the 21st century are prepared academically for further education and for the world of work.

My recommendations also call for adding a social studies test at fourth grade, a science test at

fifth grade and a writing test at sixth grade. We need to provide our younger Texans with a solid foundation in reading, writing, math, science and social studies upon which they can build throughout their academic careers.

As you can see, the proposal that I have outlined increases the amount of state testing. We must remember that TAAS increased the amount of testing over its predecessor exam, the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), and our students and teachers rose to the challenge. With TAAS we have seen double-digit gains in the performance of students of all ethnic groups and economic backgrounds. I must point out that the states of Texas and North Carolina — both of which have comprehensive assessment programs — surpassed all other states in performance gains on NAEP, as noted in a report entitled Exploring Rapid Achievement Gains in North Carolina and Texas that was released recently by the National Education Goals Panel. In addition, the Goals Panel asserted that "gains in academic achievement in both states are significant and sustained."

Currently Texas' state testing program requires, on average, two or three days of testing per year, and we assess in the five core areas only at grade eight. My proposal will increase the number of tests that some students have to take, but I believe that this increase is worth the price both in terms of the higher standards we will establish and the greater academic "bang for our buck" that we will receive. I believe that my pro-

posal for an expanded assessment program will allow us to set high, but not unattainable, standards.

Some critics may balk at the fact that my plan increases the number of state administered tests. However, we have suggested eliminating the four high school end-of-course tests, which will streamline assessment at the high school level and will actually reduce the number of tests that some of our 10th graders take currently. Critics may assert that this new proposal will be more costly than the current assessment program. Though the costs will increase, we must remember that the testing program in Texas constitutes substantially less than one percent of all of our spending on public education. Most assuredly, we obtain a wealth of information about the performance of our schools and students for this expenditure on assessment.

During my tenure as commissioner, I have fully comprehended that what gets tested gets taught. Testing is an integral part of the learning process. All of us are tested every day at work and at home. The state tests that our students take in school mirror the curriculum that they must learn. When students are learning their daily lessons, they are preparing for tests. Teachers are not expected to just "teach the test." However, teaching children the objectives over which they will be tested is fair and appropriate.

Assessment is a key component of education since it confirms what we know and points out where we need to learn more. Given the societal and academic expectations of the 21st century, we must prepare our students. We must arm our students with the advanced level of learning that they will need — whether they assemble computers, teach children, or serve as corporate CEOs. Paving the way for our children's future is our job; ensuring their success is our legacy. It's time to raise the bar.

Thought for today

"The sun has a right to 'set' where it wants to, and so, I may add, has a hen."
—Charles Farrar Browne

Social Security proposal draws some opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) — As lawmakers begin to dissect President Clinton's rescue plan for Social Security, his proposal to have the government invest hundreds of billions of dollars in the stock market is meeting with substantial opposition.

"I will oppose government-managed investment in the private sector," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which oversees Social Security.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan told lawmakers on Archer's committee he dislikes the idea, too.

"I do not believe it is politically feasible to insulate such huge funds" from political interference, Greenspan said at a hearing Wednesday.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said today that Greenspan raised some legitimate concerns. But under the mechanisms envisioned by Clinton, "There will be no — zero — no government involvement in the investment of the funds," Rubin said on NBC's "Today."

Today, Jesse Jackson, chairman of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, and former Republican vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp were scheduled to testify before the committee.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Clinton suggested using 62 percent of government surpluses over the next 15 years to bolster Social Security's cash reserves.

Administration officials say the president will push for the government to invest about a quarter of that money in the stock market, despite the swift criticism.

"We strongly share the concern that such investment be independent and nonpolitical ... but we feel that we are capable of doing this wisely and safely," said presidential adviser Gene Sperling.

Greenspan's opposition did not catch the White House off guard — he has expressed it before. Also, Greenspan offered enthusiastic support for Clinton's overarching plan to use budget surpluses for Social Security — especially because it would have the indirect effect of reducing the national debt.

"In my judgment, that's all to the good," Greenspan said.

The influential Fed chairman's disdain for government investment in the stock market, combined with opposition from Republicans who control Congress, could scuttle an important part of Clinton's plan.

Based on current projections the portion of the surplus Clinton wants to invest in stocks would amount to around \$40 billion a year for the next 15 years.

The rest of the surplus Clinton wants for Social Security — about another \$2 trillion — would be kept just as Social Security has always held its extra cash: in Treasury bonds. In a departure from the past, Clinton proposed barring lawmakers from using the proceeds from those bonds — essentially money borrowed from Social Security by the rest of the government — for any purpose other than paying down the national debt.

Clinton also proposed that another 11 percent of the surplus go toward new government-subsidized 401(k)-style retirement accounts for most American workers. Many Republicans generally support such an idea.

Without the earnings it assumes would come from the stock market, Clinton's plan would fall about five years short of a key goal: keeping Social Security from running short of cash for 55 years. That might mean an increase in pressure for other changes in Social Security.

Clinton will urge members of Congress to help devise a way the Social Security investments could be made with minimal political influence — perhaps by an independent board appointed for long terms. Some congressional Democrats are already working on it.

Opponents say political problems are unavoidable. Would the government invest in companies it is suing, for example?

"The possibilities for abuse in that arrangement are unlimited," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

Prominent Dallas gay activist dies of AIDS

DALLAS (AP) — John Thomas, former head of the AIDS Resource Center of Dallas, has died of complications from AIDS.

Thomas, 51, died Wednesday.

He was Dallas' most prominent AIDS activist. The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Community Center was renamed in Thomas' honor three months ago.

"This is the closing of an era in Dallas in gay and lesbian history," said William Waybourn, a longtime friend and former managing director of the national Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

"It's very hard, if not impossible, to replace someone like John," Waybourn said. "Because John was seen as Mr. Nice Guy, he was able to get more done."

Services will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, the world's largest predominantly gay and lesbian church. Mourners are expected to overflow the 943-seat sanctuary, said the Rev. Michael Piazza, senior pastor. The service will be shown on closed-circuit TV in adjoining buildings.

"He didn't want to have a memorial service," Piazza said. "He wanted to have a rally" that "challenges people to get involved in the community."

"It really is going to be a celebration of all he stood for."

Thomas was arrested at AIDS protests in Dallas, New York, Washington and San Francisco, Waybourn said. And he became part of lawsuits against Texas' sodomy law and Parkland Memorial Hospital's treatment of AIDS patients.

In May, Thomas chose to stop taking most AIDS treatments, even refusing nutrient infusions as an unacceptable form of life support. He then sent an e-mail message to close friends telling them of his decision.

Music had been part of Mr. Thomas' life since his childhood in Centerville, Iowa, and Quincy, Ill., when he sang in church.

His father, a Baptist pastor still preaching in his 80s, accepted his son's sexual orientation, said Thomas' older brother, Bob.

Thomas surprised many people by his involvement in the Republican Party, Waybourn said. He was the first openly gay person to address the Republican National Committee, Waybourn added.

"I think he felt they needed more enlightenment than did the Democrats," he said.

Cemetery fence torn down that separated races

JASPER, Texas (AP) — For more than 160 years, an iron fence ran through the Jasper cemetery, making sure that blacks and whites who lived apart also rested apart in death.

On Wednesday, they tore the fence down — just days before the trial for the first of three white men charged in the dragging death of a black man last summer.

City employees and volunteers took the rusting fence apart, piece by piece. It had stood since the cemetery opened in 1836.

"For many of us, this fence has been a symbol of segregation in our community," Father Ron Forsage said in prayer as the work went on around him. "Give us the power and strength through this rotten and broken fence to repair the fences in our own lives."

About 75 people — blacks and whites — sang in celebration of the fence's removal. There were also tears.

Goldcoats pay visit



Top O' Texan Goldcoats welcome Annie's Tan-N Spa as a member of the Chamber in a recent ribbon cutting. Goldcoat's Ken Rheams, Ed Ringering, Julie Cooke and Jim Davidson welcomes Cindy Malone (manager), Ann Malone (owner) and Joy Brown (Reflexology) and Jana Albracht, not pictured.

Electric deregulation bill introduced

AUSTIN (AP) — Most consumers would see a 5 percent decrease in their electric rates in 2002 under legislation filed Wednesday to deregulate the state's \$50 billion electric utility market.

"The time is right to restructure the electric industry to give consumers a chance to buy their electricity at the best price possible," said Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco.

If passed, Sibley's bill would freeze electric rates starting Sept. 1 for consumers served by investor-owned electric companies, then decrease them in 2002. That would cover more than 70 percent of the state's 8.6 million electric customers.

Rates would be frozen at the reduced level for five years, or until 40 percent of the electricity in a particular market provided by two or more utilities.

"The bill will create a robust, competitive environment that should give consumers who shop around an even better deal," said Sibley, who has five Senate co-sponsors on the bill.

The bill also proposes using ratepayer-backed bonds to pay off the lingering debts of Texas utilities, estimated at about \$4 billion.

A similar proposal caused a deregulation bill to unravel during the 1997 session when rural cooperatives withdrew their support because they said bond provisions were too complicated.

Those same cooperatives, which provide electricity to about 3 million Texans, stand behind this bill. It gives the cooperatives and municipal utilities the option of not opening their markets to competition, and it doesn't require them to offer a rate reduction.

Sibley's legislation contains "critical consumer safeguards, while creating the framework for meaningful choice for both urban and rural consumers," said Mike Williams, president of Texas Electric Cooperatives, which represents the state's 83 cooperatives.

"This gives them the flexibility to see how the market develops and to determine whether that competition will bring benefits to their consumer owners," said Mark Zion, executive director of the Texas Public Power Association, which represents the 75 municipal utilities in Texas.

The fight over whether the utilities looking at paying off debts for power plants — so-called stranded costs — get money up front through bond proceeds or long-term through a variety of

fees is expected to be one of the more heated aspects of the debate.

Legislation filed by Rep. Steve Wolens, D-Dallas, would pay the costs through fees on utility bills.

Consumer groups say paying 100 percent of the stranded costs the utilities request is a mistake and that the debts are due to bad investments.

"This bill sticks consumers with the bill for the utilities' mistakes," said Tom Smith, director of the consumer group Public Citizen.

The bill also addresses how to create competition where existing utilities currently own most of the power plants in a certain geographic area.

No single provider — like TU Electric and Houston Lighting & Power — could control more than 20 percent of the generating capacity in one region.

A utility that owns more would be forced to auction off a percentage of its plants to potential competitors.

The Public Utility Commission could create an exception allowing a utility to continue to control a certain market under the legislation.

The bill comes after an 18-month study by the Senate Interim Committee on Electric Utility Restructuring, which Sibley chaired.

Lt. Gov. Rick Perry appointed the same seven-member commit-

tee to form a standing committee on the issue.

Deregulation is expected to hit fewer roadblocks this session than last. It has already received the support of Gov. George W. Bush.

"I will not support a measure if I thought it was going to cause consumer prices to rise," Bush said Wednesday. "Competition, particularly in what has been a regulated market, should lower prices."

"It sounds like Sen. Sibley and Rep. Wolens are working on a plan that may make sense to Texas."

Sibley's electric deregulation bill is SB7. Wolens' bill is HB349.

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Lefors High Pirate Pride

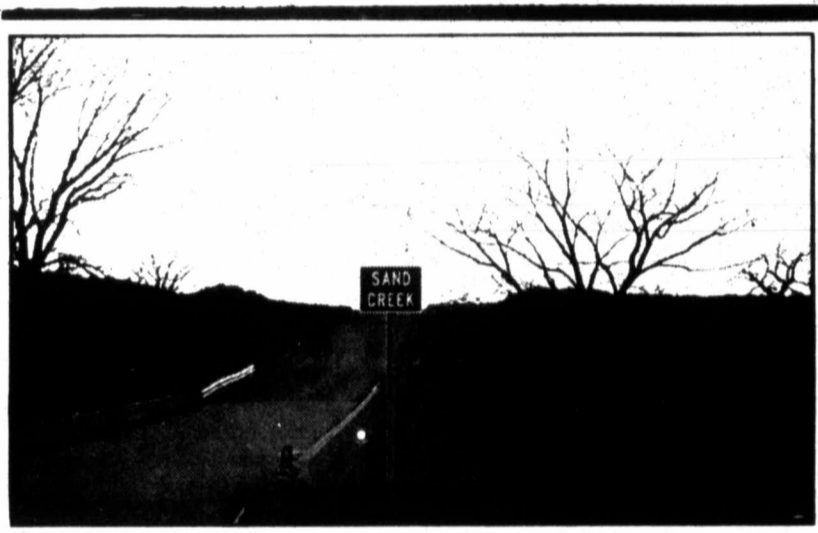
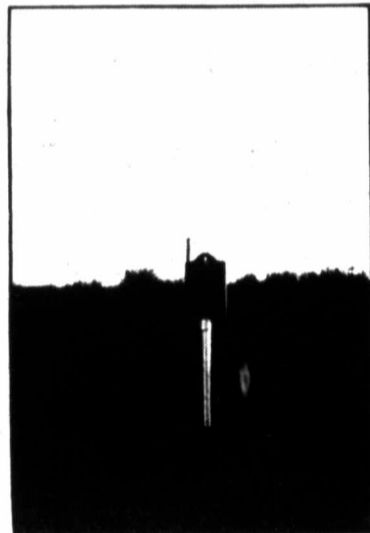
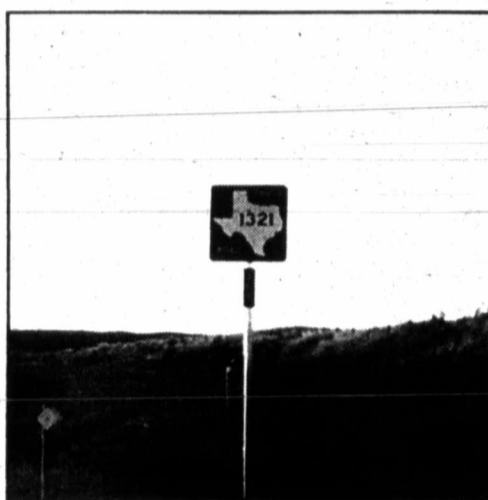


Historical Marker Shows Wounds of Time

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

This historical marker, found on Ranch Road 1321, is outside of Lefors in Gray County. The historical marker tells a story of the High Plains. On September 29, 1872, Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie found on this site a 262-tepee village of Comanches defying treaties that sought to confine them on reservations. Mackenzie's 231 U.S. Cavalry and infantrymen captured the village in half an hour and vanquished Chief Mow-Way's warriors who made a desperate resistance from sheltering creek banks. That night the Indians succeeded in recapturing their horses from an army guard on detail. This taught Mackenzie a lesson that led to his eventual victory in the 1874 crusade to defeat the Indians.

Below Left: A view of the historical marker from the north. Below Right: Sand Creek, east of Lefors, is the site of a Battle of the Red River Wars. Across: Ranch Road 1321 where the historical marker is located. Top Right: Close up of the historical marker, Battle of North Fork of Red River.



LOCAL STUDENT GETS HONORED

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

Brandie Neal of Lefors attained a least a 3.0 grade point average during the last semester at Clarendon Junior College. She has been asked to apply for membership into Phi Theta Kappa. Phi Theta Kappa is the national junior college honor society designed to recognize academic scholastic achievement in junior colleges throughout the United States.

Brandie Neal is the daughter of Rick and Tojuana Pierce of Lefors. Brandie started her education in Lefors at Lefors Elementary. When she completed the fifth grade, Brandie and her family moved to Midland, where she continued to excel throughout her sixth, seventh and eighth grade years. When she graduated from the eighth grade her family then moved back to Lefors. She then concluded her education at Lefors High School. Brandie Neal graduated from Lefors High School in 1997.

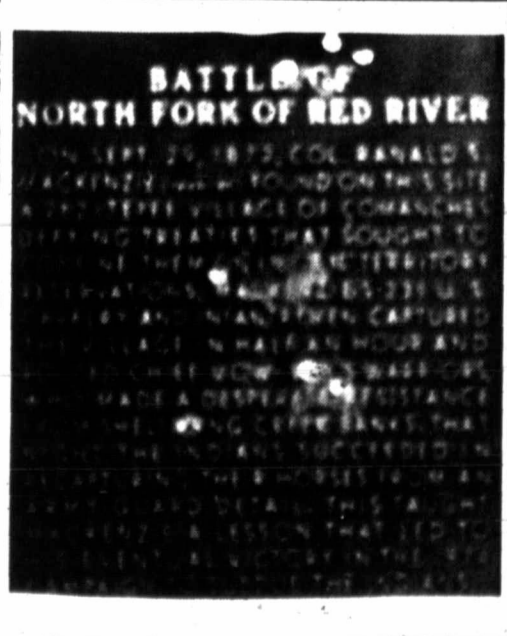
Brandie Pierce, of Lefors, and Adrian Neal, of Shamrock, where joined in the bonds of holy matrimony on Saturday, December 20th, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lefors Church of Christ building. On June 26, 1997 Brandie and Adrian had a little bundle of joy. They named him, Xavier Alexander Neal.

Brandie and her husband, Adrian, have attended Clarendon Junior College, where both still attend and continue to excel. Brandie and Adrian live in Lefors. Adrian maintains a job at Wal-Mart in the Lawn and Garden department. Xavier continues to grow and will turn two in June. We wish Brandie and the whole Neal family the best in years to come.



staff writer
Chris Alexander

Representative Warren Chisum recently visited Lefors to speak with the students about his policies, including the bill that would prevent homosexuals from adopting or fostering children. Here he's posing in front of his picture, which hangs in the Hall of Honor, in Lefors High School. Representative Chisum graduated from Lefors in 1957.



Thank You Pampa

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

The junior class of Lefors High School would like to express its deepest appreciation toward the businesses that donated items to raffle. The proceeds of the raffles will go to pay for the Junior/Senior prom and the class of 2000's senior trip.

Thank You:
Radio Shack
Hastings
Auto Zone
Harvester Lanes
Please show these businesses your support as they support your students.

Accelerated Reader Points

assoc. editor
Dee J. Preston

Top ten students:

Dafydd Vaid 106.8
Amanda Lawrence 67.2
Hannah Andis 66
Trent Roberson 64
Drake Jackson 57.8
Amana Ponce 55.9
Jerad Andis 50.6
A.D Wiles 46.6
Kayla Andis 45
Jeremy Sprouse 44.5

Total school points = 1586



That unused, ancient railroad goes right through the middle of Lefors.

A Bunch of Thanks

staff writer
Amanda Sprouse

Schools reside on the choices of many people. Not only do principals and superintendents have an important role in the school but the school board members are the ones that have to make sure that the school and its inhabitants are in tip top shape. January is their month. This is when an individual should stop and appreciate all that these members do. School board members take time from their busy lives and jobs to make sure that everything is running smoothly. So as you walk down the halls of your school remember the people who make that possible.

We here at the Pirate Pride News want to congratulate Laurie Daugherty on her successful nomination to be in The Who's Who of American High School Teachers. This is a prestigious honor and we wish her the best.

staff writer
Chris Alexander

Small Town America

Lefors Independent School District, which was formed in 1924, is at the geographic center of Gray County. The school has about 170 students enrolled in Kindergarten through 12th grade currently. High School and Junior High students still attend classes in the original building.

Lefors, located approximately 12 miles from the city of Pampa, relies on oil and gas production, along with

ranching for its economic growth. This small town also features three churches, for your worshipping pleasure. There's the First Baptist Church, Church of Christ, and the Methodist Church, all of which welcome new members and visitors with open arms.

This community has even more to offer other than church and school! There's also "The Barbecue Shack", owned by Danny and Jo Wilemon, which

serves some of the best barbecue and burgers this side of...well they're pretty darn good anyhow.

Lefors doesn't have a stoplight, but there are a few stop signs, and even a whopping five paved roads! Wow, now that's uptown. Guess what, there's also a railroad that runs right through the middle of town (O.k., it hasn't been used in my lifetime, but hey, it's still there). So, the next time you're driving by, why not spend some time exploring the wonders of small town America, via Lefors Texas.

A FEW THINGS TO PONDER Lefors Elementary Awards Third Six Weeks

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

1. A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. On my desk I have a workstation...
2. Can atheists get insurance for acts of God?
3. If a tin whistle is made out of tin (and it is), then what, exactly, is a foghorn made out of?
4. If it's zero degrees outside today and it's supposed to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold is it going to be?
5. Tell a man that there are 400 billion stars and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint and he has to touch it.
6. Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
7. If they arrested the Energizer Bunny, would they charge it with battery?
8. If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with, "Quit while you're ahead"?
9. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it FedUP?
10. Do Lipton employees take coffee breaks?
11. Why are they called apartments, when they're all stuck together?
12. What WAS the best thing before sliced bread?

Pirate Pride editor
Jeremy Pierce

A Honor Roll- Cameron Barnes, Keely Callaway, Seth Fry, James Vaid, Emily Jackson, Ashlyn Johnson, Gabriel Miller, Aaron Spotts, Rachael Stubbs, Drake Jackson, Lindsay Duckworth, Nick Miller.
A-B Honor Roll- Cody Hess, Tyler Kimbley, Abby Andis, Keenan Lott, Haley Smith, Roger Smith, Daniel Wariner, Christina Cook, Kegan Furgerson, Kaid Jones, Rebecka Lawrence, Brandon McBee, Misty Parish, Miahel Taylor, Chad Kent, Cameron Klein, Hannah Andis, Amanda Ponce, Jerad Andis, Devan Franks, Tommy Hughes, Tanner Ray, Danielle Sprouse, Kayla Andis, Paul Jackson, Courteney Gee, Matt Daugherty, Timothy Todd, Trent Roberson, Carolyn Kimbley, Brad Kent, James Elrod, Shayla Smith.

Best Citizen- Kindergarten Shayley Morriss, First Grade Seth Fry, Second Grade Emily Jackson, Third Grade Dafydd Vaid, Fourth Grade Jerad Andis, Fifth Grade Timothy Todd, Sixth Grade Bobby Sprouse.

Japanese wallow in string of books harping on their country's failings

TOKYO (AP) — Bureaucratic bungling. Chronic lack of imagination. A burned-out economy and mounting social malaise.

Forget romance novels with dashing heroes or adventure tales packed with action. When it comes to books, the Japanese these days are curling up with something most folks would rather forget: their own flaws.

"Lessons of Failure," is a favorite among recession-weary businessmen. Then there's the bluntly titled "Japan's Failures." For something more elegant, settle down with "The Essence of This Country's Failure."

The Japanese certainly have enough to be gloomy about. The economy is stuck in its worst recession in 50 years. Unemployment is at a record high and crime is creeping up. The health, education and financial systems are ripe for overhauls.

But the boom in "crisis literature" has its roots in something deeper than the business cycle: the Japanese penchant for comparing themselves to the West, especially the United States.

In the sky's-the-limit 1980s, that meant a Japan that could match — and beat — the world's richest countries. But these days, many here have concluded that Japan is falling behind the rest of the developed world.

"Since the early 1990s ... people have been feeling that something is wrong with Japan," said Yasuo Ueda, an expert in publishing at Tokyo's Sophia University.

The recent books often trace the country's troubles to supposed flaws in the Japanese character: lack of imagination, failure to set overarching goals and an inability to think logically.

And for maximum impact, they make a firm link with the one overwhelming failure that still rankles Japan's tender ego: the crushing, catastrophic defeat of World War II.

In "Lessons of Failure" — considered a strong seller with sales of nearly 30,000 copies in a month — economist Kimindo Kusaka argues that official ineptitude and failure to capitalize on strengths led Tokyo to lose both the war 50 years ago and the economic competition today.

Kusaka points to the vaunted Zero fighter plane, which started out as a brilliant technological innovation but was superseded by more advanced American weapons.

"You can say the same thing about banks and insurance — the Japanese have been defeated in the same way," Kusaka said. "Now we'll adapt and catch up, but by then America will have come up with something else."

Philosophy professor Kenichi Matsumoto lays out similar ideas in "Japan's Failures." He argues that Japan is doomed to make the same mistakes of the war until it fully comes to terms with the defeat and analyzes the reasons behind it.

Matsumoto says the country never had to address its failings after the war because the American occupation forces wrote a new constitution and prosecuted war criminals instead of the Japanese themselves.

"Japan needs to look at the essence of our own failures in the past and look back at what should have been done and what went wrong at the time," he said. "We need to decide our own direction by ourselves."

Despite the dark soul-searching, Japan can hardly be considered a country that has utterly failed. Compared to many nations in the West, poverty is barely in evidence, the streets are extremely safe and the drug problem is minuscule.

And though the "failure books" harp on Japan's decline, they are not entirely defeatist. The writers call for a rejection of the old system and the adoption of new ways of doing things and even new ways of thinking.

Such a radical shift is not out of the question. Japan swiftly changed from a feudal backwater to a European-style military power in the late 1800s. After World War II, it switched from militarist state to democratic economic juggernaut.

For the Japanese publishing world, the fascination with defeat has meant sales. Though none of the three "failure" books are in the Top 10 list, publishers say the genre is on the rise.

Joint Chiefs tell Congress Clinton defense increases too small

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers have told the nation's top military commanders not to count on any savings in the near future from additional base closings.

Even though President Clinton is expected to ask for another round of closings in the budget he sends Congress next month, "he's not going to get a base closing bill. We were burned once. We're not going to be burned again," Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., said Wednesday.

Also at the House Armed Services Committee hearing on the state of military readiness, the chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, along with Gen. Henry Shelton, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the \$12 billion in extra military spending the president is proposing falls short of meeting many pressing Pentagon needs.

In his State of the Union address on Tuesday, Clinton reiterated his intention to request \$12 billion in increased Pentagon spending in his fiscal 2000 budget, part of a plan to spend \$110 billion over the next six years.

Shelton said the \$12 billion "will go a long way toward meeting our most critical requirements." But, he added, it falls short of the \$20.1 billion in increased spending the services believe they need next year.

"Readiness is very fragile and the indicators are not good," said Adm. Jay L. Johnson, chief of naval operations.

Like the other military chiefs, Johnson voiced support for the administration request — but also made it clear he would not mind one bit if Congress wanted to throw some more money the Navy's way.

"The administration understands our issues and is working hard to assist us, but congressional help will also be crucial," Johnson said in prepared testimony. "Your enduring support is greatly appreciated."

Gen. Charles Krulak, commandant of the Marine Corps, cau-

tioned: "If we are going to maintain our technological advantage in defense, we simply must modernize the force."

Overall, the Pentagon chiefs have told Congress they need about \$150 billion more over the next six years, instead of the additional \$110 billion Clinton has proposed.

Committee Republicans complained that, of the \$12 billion for next year, only about \$4 billion would be in real new money. The remaining \$8 billion would come from savings due to lower inflation and lower fuel costs. "I hope the budget contains real spending increases to apply against real shortfalls," said the committee chairman, Rep. Floyd Spence, R-S.C.

The White House has said that Clinton will ask Congress to approve two new rounds of base closings — one in 2001 and another in 2005.

But lawmakers still are reeling from earlier rounds in 1991, 1993 and 1995 that shut down 70 bases.

Republicans are also suspicious of the administration's commitment to the base-closing process, which was established in an effort to take politics out of the system by having an independent commission make binding recommendations.

They accused the White House of improperly intervening in this process last year to keep defense jobs in California when McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento closes — and fulfill a 1996 re-election campaign promise made by Clinton in the state.

Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo., told the service chiefs to detail exactly which bases they think are wasteful and should be closed.

The chiefs talked generally about excess infrastructure, but none presented any specific proposals to the panel.

Meanwhile, three Senate advocates of base closings — Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Charles Robb, D-Va. — introduced a bill in the Senate to authorize rounds of base closings in 2001 and 2003.

Case before Supreme Courts may set redistricting rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Supreme Court hostile to election districts drawn with race in mind soon may provide important new guidelines for policing the map-making efforts of state and local lawmakers.

While hearing arguments in a North Carolina case Wednesday, the justices wrestled with a key issue: How much evidence is needed to conclude that an election district is the product of unlawful gerrymandering because racial considerations played too large a role?

The court's decision, expected by late June, could have enormous influence on political redistricting nationwide after the 2000 census.

A redistricting plan based on partisan politics cannot be ruled unlawful just because "it hap-

pens to correlate with race," Washington lawyer Walter Dellinger argued in defending the make-up of North Carolina's 12th congressional district, now represented by Democrat Mel Watts.

"This is a Democratic district that makes sense," Dellinger told the court.

Robinson Everett, a Durham, N.C., lawyer representing voters who successfully challenged the 12th District in a lower court, said state legislators had "used code" in considering how to draw it in 1997.

"They said 'Democrats' but these are particular Democrats who are African-Americans," Everett contended in discussing how some of the district's boundary lines were drawn.

In a series of decisions since 1993, the

Supreme Court has scuttled attempts by state and local lawmakers to draw districts that preserve or enhance minority candidates' chances to win if race was a "predominant factor." Most of those rulings were reached by 5-4 votes that traced the court's ideological divisions.

Redrawing 12 congressional districts after the 1990 census, the North Carolina Legislature created two majority-black districts in 1992 — the 1st and 12th — and voters that year sent the state's first blacks to Congress since 1901.

That 1992 redistricting sparked two Supreme Court decisions, one in 1996 that struck down the 12th District as unlawful. The Legislature redrew the district in 1997, one in which blacks comprise 47 percent of registered voters.

Researchers get \$6 million to study coffee's benefits

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Millions of Americans know the therapy a cup of coffee can deliver early in the morning.

Researchers at Vanderbilt University say it's possible coffee could do more, perhaps even help people who suffer from depression and alcoholism.

"People drink coffee because they like it or they like the way it makes them feel," Peter Martin, director of Vanderbilt University's Addiction Center, said Wednesday. "My suggestion is that we really don't know what causes those effects."

Vanderbilt is scheduled to open its Institute for Coffee Studies within the next six months, thanks to \$6 million in funding from trade groups in leading coffee-producing nations in Latin America, including Brazil and Colombia.

Some studies have suggested coffee can help relieve depression, treat alcoholism and prevent colorectal cancer. The institute's mission is to understand why.

"We're going to help people get over the idea that coffee is caffeine," said Martin, who will head the institute. "Caffeine actually is a very small component of coffee. There are a lot of other components in coffee that are not very well understood."

Some studies have suggested that caffeine might slightly boost blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels.

But Edward Giovannucci, an assistant professor of medicine at the Harvard Medical School, said most Americans have nothing to worry about.

He spent a year reviewing medical literature on the health benefits of coffee drinking and found the risk of colorectal cancer drops 24 percent among those who drink four or more cups of coffee a day.

"I wouldn't tell people to go out and start drinking coffee," Giovannucci said. "But there isn't much harm in drinking coffee."

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Daughter Tries to Speak Up And Gets Shot Down by Mom

DEAR ABBY: This is to comment on your advice to "Emotionally Bruised," whose mother is supercritical. Do not assume that a calm, mature approach will make a difference. Years ago, I read advice similar to your reply to her in a magazine.

"Mom," I said, at an appropriate moment, "it hurts me when you say things like that." She gave me one of her exasperated sighs, and glared at me. "You were always so sensitive!" she said.

It is well known that the abuser turns the fault back onto the victim. Now my sister — less sensitive, I guess — wonders why I don't feel guilt for my absence.

STILL BRUISED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR STILL BRUISED: That letter touched a nerve with many readers, who felt my answer did not go far enough. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Although you were right that "Emotionally Bruised" should tell her mother how she feels, it may not resolve the problem. I followed that advice, and what followed was Mom calling me for several days, crying and saying I had "misinterpreted" what she had said. The same pattern occurred again and again. If I spoke up, the crying began.

Sometimes you have to protect yourself from your own mother. You may have to accept that she will never change, so distance yourself.



Abigail Van Buren

SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

No one should have to take abuse. Continue to visit, but when she starts her lectures, say, "Sorry, Mom, I have to go," then make your exit and don't look back.

FREER AND HAPPIER NOW

DEAR FREER: Call me an optimist, but I thought confronting the offending parent and explaining how the criticisms made her feel might be enough. There is no "one size fits all" answer to a problem like this, because some families are more dysfunctional than others. However, I would recommend avoiding the parent only as a last resort. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: My mother also constantly insulted me. I never lived up to her standards. She disliked my friends, one in particular because her brother had gotten into trouble. I never did, either. I never even smoked or drank.

I was always told that I'd be a failure and would never graduate from high school. Not only did I

graduate, but I went on to two business schools, and was on the President's List and the honor roll.

When I met the man I eventually married, Mom hated him and made no bones about it. She tried to break us up whenever we visited her, and called on the telephone and tried to start something. When I learned it was impossible for me to have children, she blamed me for it. She said if I lost weight, I would be able to give her grandkids. I never could convince her otherwise.

My mother was always "disowning" me. Many times I tried to keep us together, but one day, I'd had it. She disowned me — and I never went back. Since then, my life has improved dramatically. For the first time in my life, I had peace. I used to do a lot of crying, but that stopped, too.

Mother is dead now, and finally we are both at peace.

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Abby shares her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "Abby's More Favorite Recipes." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 per booklet (\$4.50 each in Canada) to: Dear Abby Booklets, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Horoscope

FRIDAY, JAN. 22, 1999

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 are inspired by others and their ideas. New beginnings are possible because of your ability to absorb data. Let your spirit soar, go with a whim. Information confirms that your direction is positive. Network, touch base with others, broaden your horizons. Tonight: Celebrate Friday with friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Go within. Evaluate career plans and one you put on a pedestal. You might be confused or in need of grounding. You have many wonderful ideas; implementing them is another issue. Consider choices, gather information and maintain detachment. Tonight: A night for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You can make a difference with friends. Be supportive of another, but also evaluate exactly where you are coming from. You have many dreams and ideals that sometimes cause you problems. A partner helps you find clarity; you need to listen. Tonight: Out with friends where the music is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Accepting responsibility and dealing with pressure go hand in hand. Others have incredible expectations of you. An associate pushes, yet inspires you. Trust

information received at work. You might need to reorganize to finish what you must. Tonight: Could be a late night!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Be a mind traveler, exploring different options with an unusual and inspirational partner. Your own creativity chimes in, making new beginnings possible. A relationship could be rekindled if you so choose. Tonight: Clear the office as soon as possible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ A partner helps you manifest something to which you have given a lot of thought. Allow dreams to become realities. Another helps you. Think twice before etching a decision in stone. There could be some key pieces of information missing. Tonight: Turn up the heat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You are clearly taken by another. The question is, are you taken in? You might be putting this person on a pedestal, or he could be playing a role. A reality check won't hurt, especially if this involves a child. Communicate concerns; you get strong responses. Tonight: Others seek you out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Work proves demanding, but you'll put in the hours you deem necessary. Another questions your choices. Be direct with a co-worker. Skirting an issue or not sharing your thoughts could backfire on a work project. A family member's offer is too good to be true. Tonight: Consider a new exercise program.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Creativity remains very high. Allow a friend to give his input. Listen carefully to others. You could be hearing what you want to rather than what you

need. Question choices carefully. You might not get the complete perspective.

Tonight: Having fun with a favorite person!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Stay with a decision. Understanding a family member is important. Spending isn't as stable as you would like. Your vision of what is possible could be quite different than what you get. Listen carefully to a loved one. Tonight: Entertain at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You see what others don't. Your unique perspective takes you in new and different directions. Others appreciate this quality, yet sometimes they have a difficult time visualizing. Make plans, return calls, getting together with co-workers could become a party! Tonight: Where the action is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might want to spend money on a special idea that only you see the logic in. Talks with a boss or partner enlighten them and allow them to support you. Trust your intuition as long as you can financially afford to. Share, rather than becoming defensive. Tonight: You are allowed to be mysterious!

BORN TODAY

Actress Linda Blair (1959), singer Steve Perry (1949), actor John Hurt (1940)

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.

Crossword Puzzle

by THOMAS JOSEPH

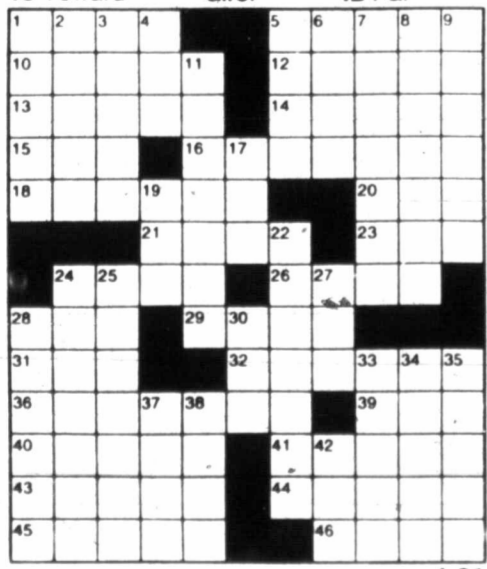
ACROSS

- 1 Lot
- 5 Go bad
- 10 Next to
- 12 "Blue Sky" star
- 13 Washer cycle
- 14 Fight site
- 15 "The Name of the Rose" author
- 16 Tennis play
- 18 Alaska buyer
- 20 Mineral ending
- 21 G-men
- 23 Actor
- 24 Pocket bread
- 26 Rough buildings
- 28 Attila follower
- 29 Thailand neighbor
- 31 Exist
- 32 Flounshed
- 36 Beer buy
- 39 Mine output
- 40 Cleaner's problem
- 41 Lusitania sinker
- 43 Spiked
- 44 Handbag
- 45 Diary jotting

LOWERS SLUR
ARARAT HIFI
BERNIE ATOM
VALE INPART
ELI MAGNETO
NOT ALE JOB
ONTRIAL ONE
MELON FEEL
ALEX TILLED
SAVE ALLEGE
SWAY HESTON

Yesterday's Answer

- 1 the stern
- 2 Agitated
- 3 Prudish
- 4 one
- 5 Rough
- 6 Inclined
- 7 "Don't be ridiculous!"
- 8 Peculiar
- 9 Toward
- 10 the stern
- 11 Agitated
- 12 Prudish
- 13 one
- 14 Rough
- 15 Inclined
- 16 "Don't be ridiculous!"
- 17 Peculiar
- 18 Toward
- 19 Dudley or Roger
- 20 Wipe clean
- 21 Hinder
- 22 Docking
- 23 spot
- 24 Capper of the comics
- 25 Pal



Marmaduke



I didn't want to go to Mir... I just wanted a short walk.

The Family Circus



"Why does it take you so long to figure out what time it is?"

For Better or For Worse



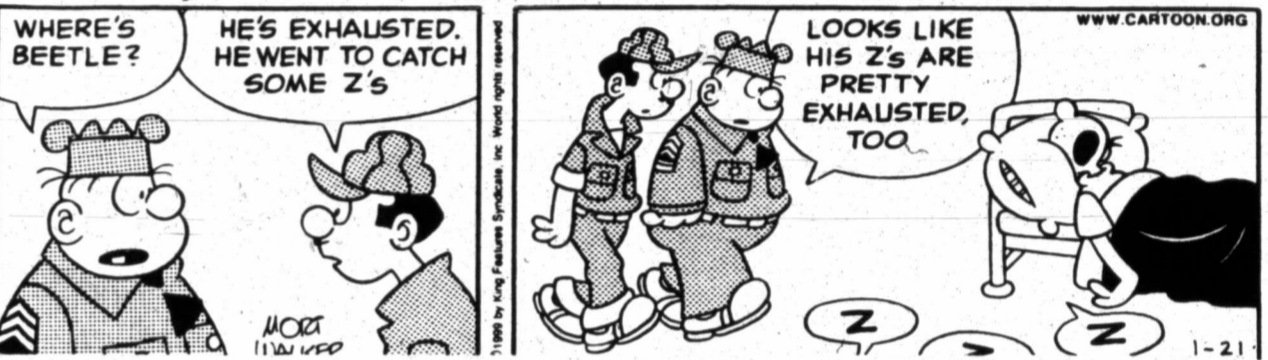
Zits



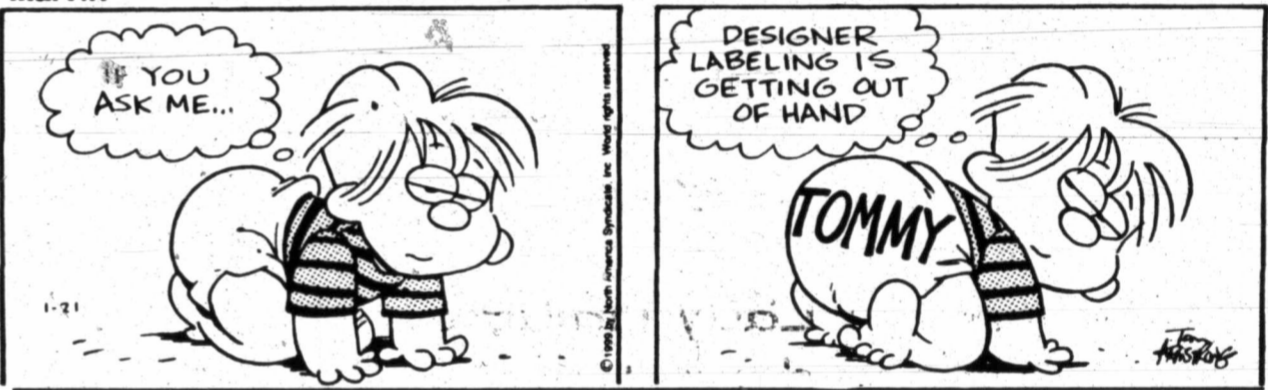
Garfield



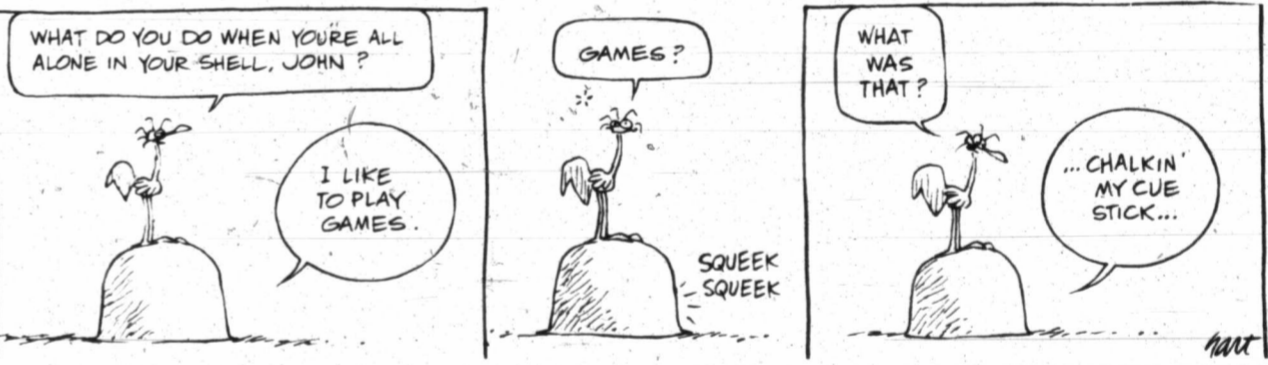
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



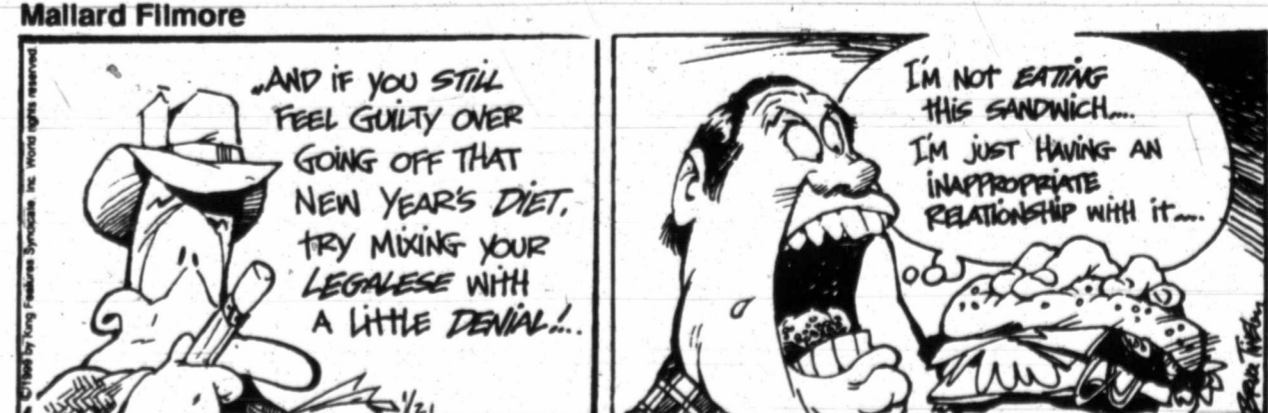
Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



STUMPED?

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

SPORTS

Pampa cagers go on the road to Borger

Notebook

SOCCER

PAMPA — The Pampa boys soccer team travels to San Angelo on Saturday to meet Central High. The Pampa girls team will compete in the Lubbock Tournament today through Saturday.

The Pampa teams dropped a pair of matches to Lubbock High on Tuesday. Pampa boys dropped a 5-2 decision while the Pampa girls were defeated 3-0.

Pampa boys have a 2-4 record while the girls are 1-2. Lubbock High boys are 4-5 while the Lubbock High girls are 5-2.

Jeremy Hall and Kyle McCullough each scored a goal in Pampa's loss to Lubbock High in the boys' match.

The match was tied 2-2 at halftime.

"We had five starters out, but our subs did a great job," said Pampa coach John True. "They just couldn't get the job done."

The Pampa teams open the District 3-4A season Jan. 30 against Randall Varsity matches begin at 2 p.m.

Pampa's first home district matches are Feb. 2 against Caprock.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Rodman decided he wasn't naked enough to quit playing.

Rodman, who for years has been said he'll strip off his clothes before leaving the court in his last NBA game, said Wednesday he is not planning to sit out a year.

The NBA's most outrageous player posted a message on his Internet site announcing he has had enough of limbo. His agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the seven-time rebounding champion wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender. Chicago, New York and L.A. are all cities I'd like to play in. Playing overseas could be pretty cool, too."

Rodman announced Tuesday he would sit out a year as rumors spread that he was about to be traded to the New York Knicks.

NEW YORK (AP) — Get ready for the busiest day in NBA history.

Tons of trades are waiting to be made, nearly 200 free agents are ready to start signing and training camps are opening.

"It will be the craziest day in the history of the league," agent Keith Glass said, "and I'm looking forward to it."

He's not the only one. After 204 days, hundreds of millions of dollars in losses and countless fits, starts, fights and snags, the NBA lockout finally came to an official end Wednesday.

Six and a half months of pent-up business was to be conducted at 2 p.m. EST today, with the floodgates opening on what should be well over 100 transactions. The schedule comes out at 5 p.m.

"It's a great feeling," commissioner David Stern said after he and union president Patrick Ewing signed the nearly 300-page collective bargaining agreement. "It was an incredible relief."

The day began with the biggest unanswered free agent question being the future of Tom Gugliotta.

The Phoenix Suns made a last-ditch effort to woo him to the desert after their own prized free agent, Antonio McDyess, decided to take less money to play for the Denver Nuggets.

Phoenix can make moves to get about \$8 million under the salary cap. That would mean the Suns could not offer Gugliotta the maximum \$9 million.

The Timberwolves, by comparison, can offer him the maximum with 12 1/2 percent raises — a total of \$86.2 million over seven years — and

PAMPA — Pampa travels to Borger on Friday night for what promises to be an intense District 3-4A matchup between two long-time rivals.

Pampa, 9-13 overall, will be looking for its first district win after a pair of setbacks.

Borger is 13-10 for the season and 2-0 in district.

"Borger has some very good athletes. They've been playing awfully good here lately," said Pampa coach Robert Hale.

Jose Calderon, a 6-4 center, and Tony Powell, a 6-0 guard, provide the Bulldogs with a strong inside-outside scoring punch. Powell is considered to be one of the district's top guards. Calderon was a parttime starter a year ago.

Borger's latest outing resulted in a 65-57 win over Hereford on Tuesday night. Except for about the first four minutes of the first quarter, Borger led the entire game.

"Our defense is looking good, especially our halfcourt game. We've been able to put a lot of pressure on the offense and make people work for their shots," said Borger coach Ray Murphree.

This is Murphree's first year as Borger head coach. He did serve as an assistant to Duane Hunt from 1971-79.

"It's taken the players awhile to learn a new system, but they're starting to jell now," Murphree said.

The Harvesters have been impressive despite district losses

to a strong Hereford team (47-44) and Class 4A's No. 1 ranked Palo Duro (56-42).

"I felt like we had a very good effort out of our guys against Palo Duro and I felt like we had an outstanding effort against Hereford," Hale pointed out. "We just couldn't get it done."

The Harvesters matched up well against the powerful Dons Tuesday night and came close to an upset until the final three minutes of the game.

"In the last two games our inside play has been looking good. We just need to do some work on our outside game now," Hale added.

Pampa takes on Borger in District 3-4A girls' action Friday

night in Borger.

Pampa is 1-3 in district and 9-10 for the season. Borger is 3-1 in district and 14-8 for the season.

The Lady Harvesters got off to a fast start against a talented Palo Duro team Tuesday night before dropping a 73-52 decision. Senior pivot Lisa Dwight had 12 points junior guard Emily Waters followed with 11 for the Lady Harvesters, who had their third highest scoring output of the season.

Borger is coming off a big 41-40 win over Hereford on Tuesday night. Maggie Sauls, a 5-9 sophomore, tossed in 13 points for the Borger girls, who came from behind in the fourth quarter for the narrow win. Amber Johnson (6-0 senior) and Brandi Paige (5-9

senior) are solid players inside for Borger.

Pampa, which opened the district season with a 42-35 win over Caprock, will be looking to snap a three-game losing streak.

Jordanna Young (5-6 junior) is averaging around 9 points per game to lead the team in scoring. Waters and Dwight are both averaging around 8 points per game.

Pampa defeated Palo Duro, 40-25, in girls' junior varsity action.

Emily Hartman had 14 points and Ashley Derington 11 to lead Pampa JV in scoring. Ashley Derington added 8.

Pampa's JV team is 3-1 in district and 14-6 for the season.

City league begins play

PAMPA — City League basketball action tipped off Wednesday night at the Pampa Middle School gym.

Pampa Machine won a 53-51 squeaker over Subway in the Men's League.

Scott Reed had 16 points and Shane Stokes 11 to lead Pampa's scoring attack.

Others scoring were Myron Jolly 8, Clint Taylor 6, Bill Robben 5, Steve Schaub 5 and Mike Parsley 2.

Leo Ramirez tossed in 31 points, including six 3-point goals, to lead Subway.

Rene Granillo and Jason Ketchum had 6 points each while Oscar Bedolla 4, Gonzo Salazar 2 and Peyton Daniels 2. Granillo hit two 3-point goals.

Pampa Machine led by 13 points (48-35) going into the fourth quarter, but Subway went on a 16-5 run to come within a basket when the final buzzer sounded.

Lady Raiders down lowans

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — No. 6 Texas Tech's 71-47 rout of No. 14 Iowa State should go a long way towards securing a second consecutive Big 12 title for the Lady Raiders.

Tech (17-1, 6-0 Big 12 Conference), was tied with Iowa State, (13-2, 5-1) for first place, but the victory effectively puts Tech two games in front. If the teams end the season tied, Tech's victory Wednesday night would ensure the title goes to the Lady Raiders.

But players and coaches said the blowout meant more than just sole possession of the lead.

"As the season goes on, these are the games you don't want to JUST win, but you want to come out and show you're improving," said coach Marsha Sharp. "And that you're ready to pursue postseason play. I think we showed that tonight as well as taking steps towards another championship."

The Lady Raiders showed defensive tenacity against a competent team for the first time this year, holding the Cyclones to just nine first half points.

Angie Braziel led the Lady Raiders with 14 points. Melinda Schmucker added 10 points and four steals.

"We got them frustrated and made them take bad shots," Braziel said. "...We didn't come out great on offense but we made up for it on the other end of the court. Defense can win games."

Both teams were cold in the early going. Iowa State was a dismal 1-of-10 in the opening 5:11, while Tech hit just three of its first nine shots over the same stretch.

"We came out as flat as a team can be," said Iowa State coach Bill Fennelly. "There's not much to say. We'll put this behind us and try to get back into our game."

Tech took control after a 3-pointer by Schmucker with 15 minutes left, going on a 15-4 run.

Keitha Dickerson won the battle down low, scoring three quick layups to help the Lady Raiders build a 22-8 lead with 3:53 left in the first half.

Tech led 28-9 at the half. "I think we found out tonight why Texas Tech is the sixth-ranked team in the country," Fennelly said.

Lady Pirates



(Special photo)

The Lady Pirates team, consisting of players from Pampa, Panhandle and Amarillo, finished with a 7-0-1 record to take first place in the U-12 girls' soccer league in Amarillo. Team members are (front, from left) Missy Brown, Pampa; Jennie Rogers, Pampa; Casey Hodge, Amarillo; Katie Padgett, Amarillo and Sally DeJongh, Amarillo; (back, from left) Tory Nolte, Amarillo; Teryn Garner, Pampa; Summer Cunningham, Panhandle; Ashley Garner, Pampa; April Funck, Amarillo and coach Eddie Brown, Pampa.

Speed is Mitchell's main commodity

MIDLAND, Texas — Tory Mitchell is six feet tall and 160 pounds. Those aren't really impressive numbers in the recruiting world, and for sure not the numbers that have the attention of college football coaches.

There is just one number catching coaches' eyes across the nation. That is 4.26 (seconds), his 40-yard dash time.

When it comes to pure speed, there might not be a football player in the nation who can compare to Mitchell, the Junior National champion (19-under) in the 100 and 200 meters. That is the biggest reason why the Big Spring senior has been ranked by First Down Recruiting as the No. 4 recruit in the state of Texas, a top 100 recruit in the nation by The Dallas Morning News and the No. 5 receiver in the nation by The Sporting News.

And why do coaches put so much importance on a stopwatch? A look at one play in the Andrews-Big Spring game might say it all.

Andrews running back Shaud Williams, who himself is ranked as the No. 6 recruit in the state by First Down, broke away on what appeared to be another in the long line of touchdowns for the heralded back. There was nothing between Williams and the goal line, and with 4.4 speed, who's going to stop him?

Answer: Mitchell, from the other side of the field.

"Shaud broke it through the line to the right sideline and was gone," Big Spring coach Dwight Butler said. "Tory was on the other sideline. It was a touchdown and there was no one in America that could have caught him but Tory. It was impressive. That is what he can bring to a team and

what people are banking on. That speed is the unknown factor. You can't coach that."

Mitchell hasn't said where he is going to school although the schools which he has visited or will visit include national champion Tennessee and Florida State, which Tennessee beat in the national title game. Also on Mitchell's list are Miami and Texas Christian. Baylor was on the list but became a question mark after coaching changes this off-season.

The last two schools, TCU and Baylor, aren't in the same class as far as football goes, but both are top schools for track sprinters. TCU's runners are always contenders for NCAA sprint titles and there may not be a school with such a rich history of producing World Class quartermilers as Baylor, the alma mater of Olympic 200 and 400 champion Michael Johnson.

So, track is an important consideration for Mitchell, who won the Class 4A state title in the 100 and 200 and should be a favorite in any sprint race this season.

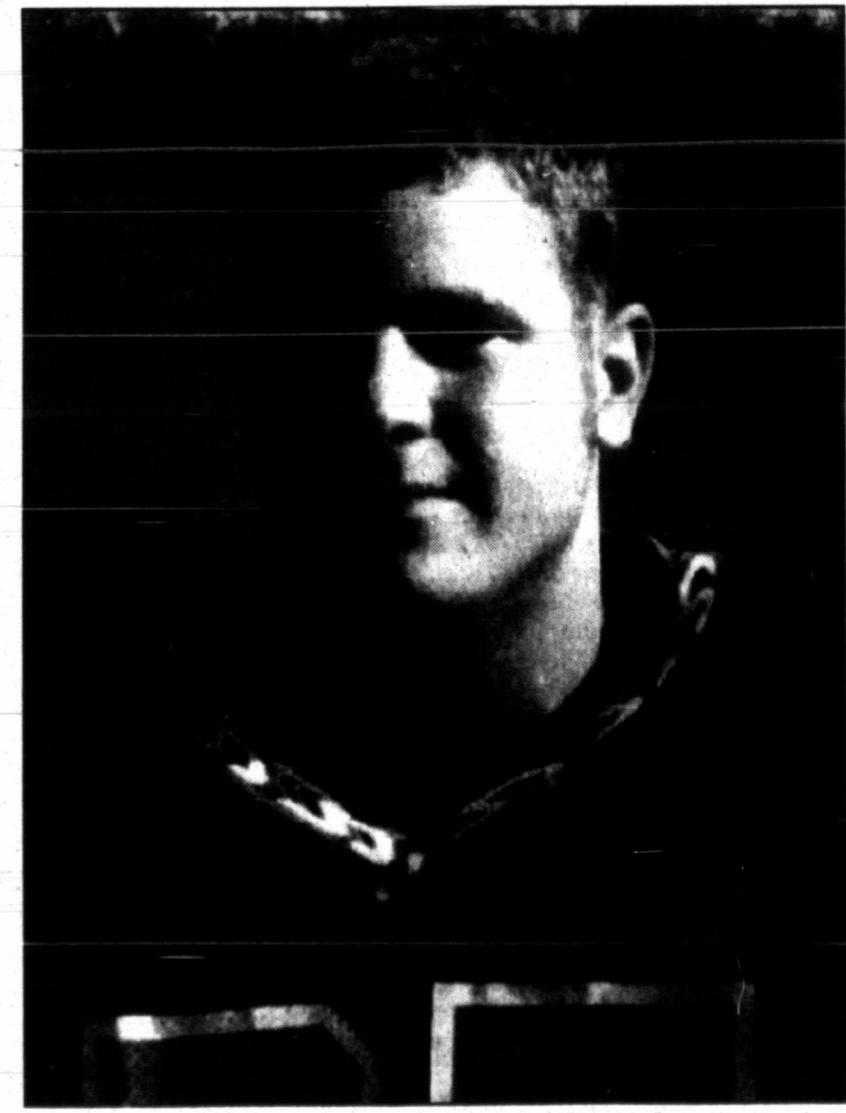
"He is going as the packaged deal," Butler said. "Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said he will have next year off to concentrate on working towards the Olympics. He will red-shirt to work on track. All of the others have said the same thing."

Mitchell says looking at two sports has made things easier for him.

"If a school doesn't have a good track program or good football team, what is the use of going there?" Mitchell asks. "I want a school that will help me in both and I want to help the school in both."

There is no doubting Mitchell's ability to help a program in track.

Sweeping the Junior National titles in both the 100 and 200 transformed him from state champion to one of the premier track recruits in the nation.



Canadian offensive lineman Mike Brogdin (above) was named Wednesday to the Texas Sports Writers Association Class 2A first-team, All-State Football Team this season. The 225-pound senior helped lead the Wildcats to a 12-2 record and the Division I semifinals. He graded 91 percent on blocking assignments.

Eagles take two victories

LEFORS — Kody Franks of Lefors had a 20-point performance Tuesday night against Samnorwood, but the Pirates were defeated, 64-49.

Luke Carter had 23 points while Bill Waters and Artie Wright each added 15.

The score was tied 26-all at halftime, but Samnorwood was able to break away for an 8-point lead going into the fourth quarter.

Chris Alexander and Len Lock had 10 points each for Lefors.

Samnorwood won the girls' game by a score of 54-34.

Penny Summers led Lefors in scoring with 10 points. Heather Howard, Melody Seely and Candid Ray had 6 each.

Kasey Coleman tossed in 25 points for Samnorwood. Candace Brewer followed with 12.

Samnorwood led by only one point, 26-25, at halftime, but went on a scoring spree in the third quarter for a 12-point advantage.

Walsh named 49ers GM

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Trying to recharge a front office left in disarray by the departures of its top people, the San Francisco 49ers reached into their past for stability and direction Wednesday by hiring Bill Walsh as general manager.

Walsh, the Hall of Fame coach who laid the groundwork for the 49ers' long-running success, signed a four-year contract. Terms weren't disclosed.

It is his third tour with the club. He coached the 49ers to three Super Bowl victories in the 1980s and had an uncomfortable year-long stint under George Seifert as a consultant in 1996 in which his suggestions were routinely ignored.

Young anglers fish for records

By RAY SASSER
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Most kids will never set a school record for touchdowns or run the 100-meter dash in record time. Given a rod and reel, a little research and a dose of patience, kids with a knack for fishing can put their names in the record book kept by the Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Take Jay Jackson, for instance. In June 1997, Jay's father, Jody Jackson, took a look at fish records reported for Lake Athens.

"I noticed that most of the sunfish records were vacant, and I thought it would be fun for Jay to have a record-fishing certificate, so we bought a box of crickets and went fishing," said the elder Jackson. "Jay was 6 at the time. He caught a lake-record bluegill one day and a lake-record longear sunfish two days later."

Together, the fish didn't weigh much more than half a pound, but that's not the point. Jay Jackson is currently listed as the holder of two Lake Athens records. He actually set a third sunfish record, but it has since been eclipsed.

"I think it would be fun for a kid to start out at a young age and just see how many obscure fish records he could set," said Jackson.

TP&W has no separate category for youth anglers, but the state agency last year opened a fly fishing category for state and water-body records. Many fly fishing records remain wide open. For instance, there has been no fly fishing entry for largemouth bass, the state's most popular gamefish.

"I know fly fishermen are catching a lot of nice largemouths, but I don't think they want to enter such a prestigious species as a record unless the fish is a big one," said Jinger Knight, who handles the Angler Recognition Awards Program for TP&W.

Knight sends out about 600 annual awards, including First Fish Awards, State Records, Water Body Records, Catch and

Release Awards, Big Fish Awards and Outstanding Angler Awards.

There are separate records for Fly Fishing, Bow Fishing, Private Waters Rod and Reel and Unrestricted catches (fish caught by any legal method other than rod and reel fishing).

Log onto TP&W's web site for complete records listings and also for illustrations that might prove useful in identifying some species of fish. Then go fishing and see how many records you can set.

When submitting fish for water-body or state records, you must include a clear, color photograph of the fish, made from a side view of the fish.

Mark Marmon of Bellaire did just that when the fly fishing records were announced last year. Fishing in Brays Bayou near his home, Marmon certified records for five species, none of which is commonly considered game fish. Marmon's Brays Bayou water-body records include common carp, grass carp, Rio Grande cichlid, white mullet and blue tilapia.

The record for amassing fish records belongs to John Hardin of Carrollton, who has traveled the state and caught fish with everything from fly rods to castnets (unrestricted category). Hardin has set 105 fish records.

Hardin must have skipped Lake Arlington, which has no official record for crappie or any of the various sunfish species. Sunfish records are up for grabs on many popular fishing lakes, probably because most anglers don't think of inherently small sunfish in terms of records.

Bachman Lake is another Dallas landmark that's ripe for fish records. Largemouth bass

is the only Bachman Lake record on the books. Hundreds of other small lakes are likewise wide open to record seekers.

When submitting fish for water-body or state records, you must include a clear, color photograph of the fish, made from a side view of the fish. That photo will be used in verifying the species and is particularly important with sunfish, which are sometimes difficult to identify. Also with hybrid stripers and white bass, which are often mistaken for one another.

Knight advises anglers to freeze their potential record catch whole pending verification of the species. If biologists have any doubt about the catch, based on the quality of the photograph, they require the fish be provided for identification.

"The most common mistake that causes anglers to lose a potential record is not keeping the fish intact," said Knight. "We will frequently contact a fisherman who submits an insufficient photo and discover that the fish has been eaten. At that point, there's nothing we can do."

Another requirement for water-body records or state records is that the fish be weighed on scales that are legal for trade and the weight witnessed by one or more disinterested observers. One witness must be the owner or employee of the business where the fish is weighed.

Knight said there's frequently a problem with locating a scale large enough to weigh big catfish, alligator gar or saltwater species like sharks. Feed mills and fertilizer plants are two businesses that maintain accurate scales capable of weighing any fish you're likely to catch in Texas waters.

Distributed by The Associated Press

Report: Barnett hired at Colorado

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Gary Barnett, wooed by many schools since leading Northwestern to the 1996 Rose Bowl, is the new coach at Colorado, sources told The Associated Press today.

Barnett, who resigned as Northwestern's coach after seven seasons, told his players of his decision Tuesday night, said sources who are close to Barnett and requested anonymity.

Barnett was expected to arrive in Boulder tonight, and the school planned a Friday news conference to introduce him. Barnett is to spend Thursday assembling a staff and preparing to meet recruits.

Barnett replaces Rick Neuheisel, who left Colorado on Jan. 9 to coach Washington at \$1 million a year.

Northwestern has called a 4:30 p.m. EST news conference and is expected to announce that Miami (Ohio) coach Randy Walker will replace Barnett.

In the past few years, Barnett has turned down coaching opportunities at such top schools as Notre Dame, UCLA and Texas. He is returning to the school where he was once an assistant under Bill McCartney.

Barnett met with Colorado ath-

letic director Dick Tharp on Tuesday in Houston, where the agreement was set, according to media reports in Chicago and Denver.

Barnett's hiring came one day after Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak turned down a chance at the Colorado job. Barnett was Colorado's original choice, but Tharp had trouble dealing with Barnett's expensive buy-out.

Barnett signed an 11-year contract with Northwestern in 1996, but Denver's KCNC-TV said Colorado won't have to pay Barnett's \$250,000 buyout fee. Barnett apparently will settle with Northwestern on his own.

Northwestern was one of the worst programs in the country

before Barnett arrived, having failed to win more than four games in a season since 1971.

The Wildcats won only eight games in Barnett's first three seasons, but the following year he led them to a 10-2 mark, including a 41-32 loss to Southern California in the Rose Bowl.

The Wildcats went 9-3 the following season, which ended with a 48-28 loss to Tennessee in the Citrus Bowl.

Northwestern returned to its losing ways the last two years, going 5-7 in 1997 and 3-8 in 1998. Also, Northwestern has been rocked by a sports betting scandal in which four former Wildcat football players were indicted Dec. 3, accused of lying about their gambling activities.

Canadian sweeps Spearman

CANADIAN — Canadian boys and girls basketball teams extended their District 5-2A records to 4-0 with wins over Spearman on Tuesday night.

In the boys game, Caleb Ashley had 15 points and Travis Francis added 7 as Canadian won by a score of 51-45.

Landon Miller had 17 points

and Clayton Wilkerson 10 to lead Spearman.

Canadian rolled to a 54-40 win in the girls' game. Angela Bivins had 17 points and Kate Farrar 11 to lead Canadian's attack.

Jenn Snell had 11 points and Brooke Lesly 8 to lead Spearman.

Kournikova survives long ordeal in the sun to advance to third round

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Thirty-one double-faults didn't doom Anna Kournikova.

She came out of the ordeal with a victory, lots of friendly advice and a sunburn from being on court nearly an hour longer than she should have been.

No matter how often her serves flew beyond the lines or plunked into the net, a crowd of 3,000 gave the glamorous teen boisterous support, enjoying every minute of her 2 1/2 hours on Court 2 today in the Australian Open.

She served double-faults Nos. 21 and 22 on her first two match points, when she led 5-0 in the third set. No. 23, in the same game, sent her on the way to losing the next five games.

The 17-year-old Russian had to serve six more times for the match before winning 1-6, 6-4, 10-8 over Japan's Miho Saeki, ranked 80th.

That sent the No. 12 seed to a third-round match against Germany's Andrea Glass, ranked 74th. She'll have a day to practice, but she said that "in practice, I

serve fine."

Men's No. 8 seed Greg Rusedski didn't survive his errors. The 1997 U.S. Open runner-up lost 6-4, 6-7 (9-11), 7-6 (7-5), 6-2 to former Stanford star Paul Goldstein in a three-hour match during which he served nine double-faults — along with 12 aces — and had 76 unforced errors.

He was the eighth men's seed to fall before the third round.

"I think for someone in his position, he was a little bit frustrated. I kind of dug out some balls he maybe wasn't expecting and created some angles," said Goldstein, ranked 187th.

Rusedski agreed.

"He played fantastic. You'd think you had the point won and it would come back two more times."

Andre Agassi, at No. 5 now the second-ranking survivor in the field, crushed No. 60-ranked Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 6-0.

Aranxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded fourth, became the third

women's seed to go out, losing 6-2, 6-2 to Austria's Barbara Schett, who also beat her in a tuneup tournament for the Australian Open.

Kournikova's woes weren't limited to the total of 91 double-faults in her last four matches.

At 6-5, on her third match point, she hit an easy overhead into the net.

At 9-8, she had to save four break points. Saeki, meanwhile, saved one match point with a drop volley, but hit a backhand crosscourt wide on the next one, about 55 minutes after Kournikova's first chance to end the match.

Kournikova shook hands with Saeki and slumped into her chair with a towel over her face for a minute or two before signing a batch of autographs and leaving.

"I got my sun tan," she said later. "My nose is burned. It was a good fight, and I'm glad it's over." Meanwhile, two-time defending champion Martina Hingis extended her winning streak in the tour-

Scoreboard

RODEO

DENVER (AP) — Here are Wednesday's unofficial results from the 15th of 23 performances at the National Western Stock Show Rodeo.

Bareback Bronc Riding — 1, Beau Mayo, Stephenville, Texas, 81 points on Clover Alley, 2, Ty Murray, Stephenville, Texas, 80. 3, Denny McLanahan, Canadian, Texas, 77. 4, Chuck Logue, Decatur, Texas, 75.

Steer Wrestling — 1, Byron Walker, Ennis, Texas, 4.7. 2, Steve Duhan, Sonora, Texas, 8.8. 3, Marvin Dubose, Lampasas, Texas, 20.9. 4, Joe Walker, Irving, Texas, 24.7.

Call Roping — 1, Ryan Brockert, Lexington, Texas, 11.5. 2, (tie), Chris Neal, Muldrow, Okla., and Jeff Yates, Corsicana, Texas, 12.7. 4, Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas, 13.4.

Team Roping — 1, J.P. Wickert, Sallisaw, Okla., and Trevor Brazile, Decatur, Texas, 6.1. 2, Tommy Crowson, and Chad Chadwick, Queen Creek, Ariz., 8.4. 3, Roger Fulton, and Chip Porterfield, Sparta, Mo., 14.9.

Saddle Bronc Riding — 1, Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada, 85 points on Collect Call, 2, Ross Kreuzer, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada, 68. 3, Todd Fike, Pavilion, Wyo., 65. 4, (tie) Josh Bilbrey, Laramie, Wyo., and Dan Black, Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, Canada, 59.

Womens Barrel Race — 1, Lisa Lockhart, Oelrichs, S.D., 15.18 seconds. 2, Dara Hopkins, Keller, Texas, 15.26. 3, Vicki Rienhardt, Marshall, Texas, 15.37. 4, Cheryenne Wimberly, Stephenville, Texas, 15.40.

Bull Riding — 1, Cody Hancock, Taylor, Ariz., 75 points on Cajun Time, 2, Lane Bosley, Kilgore, Texas, 71. 3, Rex Phillips, Elko, Nev., 68. 4, Jaron Nunnemaker, Fortuna, Calif., 64.

The following are current leaders after the 15th performance —

Bareback Bronc Riding — (second go-round) 1, (tie), Chris Harris, Arlington, Texas, on Cloverleaf and Justin Williams, Zap, N.D., Uptown Allen, 86. 3, Beau Mayo, Stephenville, Texas, 81. 4, (tie) Mark Garrett, Nisland, S.D., and Ty Murray, Stephenville, Texas, 80. (total on two) 1, (tie) Harris and Denny McLanahan, Canadian, Texas, 160. 3, (tie) Williams and Scott Montague, Fruitdale, S.D., 158.

Steer Wrestling — (first go-round) 1, Randy Suhr, Laramie, Wyo., 4.1 seconds. 2, Byron Walker, Ennis, Texas, 4.7. 3, Jason Lahr, Emporia, Kan., 5.0. 4, (tie) Brad Gleason, Touchet, Wash., and Clay Sciba, Victoria, Texas, 5.2. (second go-round) 1, Lloyd Gilbert, Buffalo, S.D., 4.2. 2, (tie) Kurt Goulding, Duncan, Okla., and Leon Vick, Byers, Colo., 4.4. 4, Phil Clayman, Naylor, Mo., 4.5. (total on two) 1, Gleason, 9.9. 2, Lahr, 10.3. 3, Randy Suhr, 11.0. 4, Vince Walker, Oakdale, Calif., 11.2.

Call Roping — (first go-round) 1, Todd Gould, Layettville, Ga., 8.3. 2, Kurt Goulding, Duncan, Okla., 8.4. 3, Chet Keetch, Montpelier, Idaho, 8.5. 4, Casey Bataud, Huntsville, Texas, 8.6. (second go-round) 1, Brad Goodrich, Hermiston, Ore., 7.9. 2, Matt Patus, Slatmore, Texas, 8.3. 3, Jimmy Emmons, Grandview, Texas, 8.4. 4, (tie) Jer Coelho, Long Creek, Ore., and Shawn Franklin, House, N.M., 8.5. (total on two) 1, Franklin, 17.3. 2, Petrus, 17.9. 3, Jerome Schaeberger, Ponca City, Okla., 18.1. 4, Jeff Smith, 18.2.

Team Roping — (first go-round) 1, T.J. Smith, San Mateo, Fla., and Zane Bowlers, Llano, Texas, 5.5. 2, Guy Miller, LeMesa, Texas, and Tommy Guy, Abilene, Texas, 6.0. 3, (tie), Fred Whitfield, Hockley, Texas, and Arles Pearce, Hempstead, Texas, and Tye Fitzpatrick, Carson, City, Nev., and John Raper, Gardnerville, Nev., 6.2. (second go-round) 1, (tie) Steve Purcella, Hereford, Texas, and Wayne Folmer, Stephenville, Texas, and Glyn Robinson, West Point, Miss., and Ross Lowry, Sumner, Ga., 5.3. 3, (tie) Larry Harris, Checotah, Okla., and Mickey Gomez, Oklahoma City, and Clay Tryan, Huntley, Mont., and Nick Sarchett, Scottsdale, Ariz., 5.4. (total on two) 1, Daniel Green, Oakdale, Calif., and Allen

Bach, Valley Home, Calif., 13.0. 2, Mike Gomes, Chowchilla, Calif., and Wade Bunn, Palo Cedro, Calif., 13.4. 3, Billy Stephens, Channing, Texas, and Jeff Medlin, Tatum, N.M., 13.9. 4, Turtle Powell, Alpine, Texas, and John Paul Lucero, Villanueva, N.M., 14.1.

Saddle Bronc Riding — (second go-round) 1, Rod Hay, Wildwood, Alberta, Canada, 85 points on Collect Call, 2, Ryan Mapston, Geyser, Mont., 77. 3, Ryan Elshere, New Underwood, S.D., 76. 4, Ty Murray, Stephenville, Texas, 75. (total on two) 1, Hay, 160. 2, Elshere, 155. 3, Mapston, 154. 4, Steve Dollarhide, Wickiup, Ariz., 150.

Womens Barrel Race — (first go-round) 1, Jeana Fininson, Martinsville, Ind., 15.03. 2, Lisa Lockhart, Oelrichs, S.D., 15.18. 3, Charmyne James, Stephenville, Texas, 15.19. 4, (tie) Paula Petersburg, Erie, Colo., and Annesa Self, Carrollton, Texas, 15.23. (second go-round) 1, Janet Stover, Jacksonville, Texas, 14.91. 2, Danyelle Campbell, Washington, Utah, 14.93. 3, (tie) Monica Wilson; Carlston, Alberta, Canada; Gayla Shafer, Loma, Colo.; Marlene McRae, Ramah, Colo., 15.06. (total on two) 1, Fininson, 30.11. 2, Campbell, 30.31. 3, Wilson, 30.33. 4, Shafer, 30.40.

Bull Riding — (second go-round) 1, Chad Castillo, Tucson, Ariz., 86 points on Madd Maxx, 2, Keith Adams, Fredericksburg, Texas, 82. 3, Reggie Keil, Mud Butte, S.D., 81. 4, Royd Doyal, Pittsburg, Texas, 78. (total on two) 1, Glen Koseley, Nanton, Alb., Canada, 157. 2, Rex Phillips, Elko, Nev., 156. 3, Cody Hancock, Taylor, Ariz., 155. 4, Gregory Potter, Enid, Okla., 153.

FOOTBALL

At A Glance

By The Associated Press
All Times EST

Wild Cards
Saturday, Jan. 2
Miami 24, Buffalo 17
Arizona 20, Dallas 7

Sunday, Jan. 3
Jacksonville 26, New England 10
San Francisco 30, Green Bay 27

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
Atlanta 20, San Francisco 18
Denver 38, Miami 3
Sunday, Jan. 10
New York Jets 34, Jacksonville 24
Minnesota 41, Arizona 21

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 17
Atlanta 30, Minnesota 27, OT
Denver 23, New York Jets 10

Super Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 31
At Miami
Atlanta vs. Denver, 6:25 p.m. (FOX)

TRANSACTIONS

Wednesday's Sports Transactions
By The Associated Press

BASEBALL
American League
MINNESOTA TWINS — Announced the retirement of RHP Bob Tewksbury.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Signed LHP Brian Taylor to a minor-league contract. Designated OF Tarrick Brock for assignment.
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS — Signed RHP Bobby Witt, RHP Steve Ontiveros, RHP Marc Valdes, LHP Steve Cooke and LHP Norm Charlton to minor-league contracts.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Promoted Chip Myers from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator. Named Ray Sherman quarterbacks coach.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Named Bob Bratkowski wide receivers coach.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Signed CB Charles Dimry to a two-year contract.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed OT

Dave Fiore to a four-year contract. Named Bill Walsh general manager and signed him to a four-year contract.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Named Mike Sheppard quarterbacks coach.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS — Recalled G Patrick Lalime from Kansas City of the IHL. LOS ANGELES KINGS — Placed F Craig Johnson on injured reserve, retroactive to Jan. 15.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled G Chris Mason from Milwaukee of the IHL. PHOENIX COYOTES — Recalled C Letowski from Springfield of the AHL.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Named David Andrews executive vice president and chief operating officer.
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Recalled G Rich Pender from Worcester of the AHL. Assigned F Jochen Hecht to Worcester.
COLLEGE
CLEMSON — Suspended G Johnny Miller and F Vincent Whitt one game for violating unspecified team rules.
IOWA — Named Norm Parker defensive coordinator.
METHODIST — Named Christina Mullin men's tennis coach.
NEW MEXICO — Named Gerald Bradley wide receivers coach and Robert Anderson running backs coach.
NORTHWESTERN — Announced the resignation of Gary Barnett, football coach, so he can take the same position at Colorado. Named Randy Walker football coach. Announced the retirement of Don Perrelli, women's basketball coach, at the end of the season.
PENNSYLVANIA — Announced the retirement of Julie Soriano, women's basketball coach, at the end of the season.
THE CITADEL — Named Bruce Johnson defensive line coach.

BASKETBALL

Wednesday's College Basketball Major Scores

By The Associated Press

EAST
Bucknell 63, Colgate 60
Lafayette 73, Lehigh 70
Massachusetts 63, St. Joseph's 55
Richmond 66, American U. 63
St. John's 84, Providence 57
Xavier 76, Fordham 58

SOUTH
Cent. Florida 82, Miami Atlantic 72
Connecticut 70, Miami 68, OT
Duke 82, Clemson 60
E. Tennessee 92, Belmont 95
Florida 77, LSU 58
Florida St. 74, Wake Forest 68
George Mason 77, Commonwealth 68
James Madison 75, William & Mary 59
Kentucky 72, Auburn 62
Mississippi 81, Mississippi St. 68
N. Carolina A&T 73, N.C. Central 61
N. Carolina St. 77, Wake Forest 65
N.C.-Asheville 89, High Point 78
Old Dominion 76, N.C.-Wilmington 62
Tennessee 85, Georgia 69
Vanderbilt 77, South Carolina 66
Winthrop 81, Elon 72

MIDWEST
Aron 94, Ohio U. 87
Bradley 69, Illinois St. 68
Creighton 60, Evansville 60
E. Michigan 56, Cent. Michigan 53, OT
Kansas St. 76, Colorado 52
Kent 58, Miami, Ohio 62
Minnesota 78, Michigan 70
Northwestern 62, Penn St. 60, OT
S. Illinois 64, Indiana St. 63
Saint Louis 69, South Florida 60
Wis.-Green Bay 60, Cleveland St. 57
Wisconsin 75, Illinois 53

SOUTHWEST
Alabama 67, Arkansas 61
Nebraska 96, Oklahoma 81
Oklahoma St. 75, Baylor 47

FAR WEST
CS San Diego 84, Sacramento St. 68
UC Santa Barbara 78, Cal Poly-SLO 75
UCLA 88, Southern Cal 80

Oklahoma State rolls past Baylor

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) —

As always, even with a big lead, Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton wanted to make sure his team kept playing tough defense against Baylor.

So during the halftime break, with the Cowboys leading 41-18, Sutton laid down the law.

"I told them, 'This isn't a threat, but if you're not playing hard, that buzzer's going to go off over there and you better look around, because somebody's coming in for you,'" Sutton said.

The Cowboys got the message, sustained their intensity and won 75-47 Wednesday night. Baylor only committed five of its 18 turnovers in the second half, but also shot just 30 percent.

The Bears finished with their second-lowest point total of the season.

"They ran through all our screens, got very physical with us," Baylor coach Harry Miller said. "We didn't do a good job of executing, in terms of setting good screens. You see the results.

They're a very good defensive ball club."

The defense was outstanding during a 33-4 first-half run that gave the Cowboys (13-4, 5-1 Big 12) control for good. Baylor (6-12, 0-6) was 2-of-16 with 10 turnovers during the 11 1/2-minute stretch, in which the Cowboys turned a 9-6 deficit into a 39-13 lead.

"Our defense during that time was really good," Sutton said. "We got good shots and we were able to hit the shots. Just played about as well we possibly can play, because we played well at both ends."

Oklahoma State shot 28 percent and scored 43 points in a home loss to Oklahoma last week, and followed that with a poor first half against Texas Tech. They struggled early again Wednesday, missing 11 straight shots as Baylor took the 9-6 lead.

But a tip-in by freshman Fredrik Jonzen, who finished with a career-high nine rebounds, got the Cowboys

going and started a 6-0 spurt.

A follow shot by Baylor's Jamie Kendrick made the score 12-11, then came 14 straight points by Oklahoma State including back-to-back 3-pointers by Glendon Alexander and Doug Gottlieb.

After Kish Lewis made a jumper for Baylor, Oklahoma State scored 11 more in a row to make it 39-13.

"It was just a case of one team being clearly superior over another one," Miller said. "We did OK early, then they turned up the pressure defensively and I thought they put us back on our heels."

Desmond Mason scored 18 points and Adrian Peterson had 16 for the Cowboys. Junior center Alex Webber had the best conference game of his career with 14 points.

"It seemed like I caught the ball on the post and there was an open middle," Webber said. "I got it on the wing and there was an open jump shot."

6-3, 6-1, 6-1 victory over Julian Alonso, the sole survivor among 14 Spanish men who started the tournament.

Korda even brought back his victory scissors kick, seizing a chance to celebrate in the wake of the drug controversy that has arisen over his positive steroid test last summer.

Shrugging off the "improper and insulting" cracks from several spectators, Korda said, "I have a high spirit. I have my head up. I am trying to play tennis only."

The unseeded Korda next meets American Todd Martin, the No. 15 seed, who beat Germany's Hendrik Dreckmann 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-0.

No. 10 Yevgeny Kafelnikov beat Australia's Jason Stoltenberg 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (12-10), 7-6 (7-3). Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, who ousted No. 4 seed Carlos Moya, beat American qualifier Cecil Mamiit 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 (9-7).

Unseeded Jim Courier beat Morocco's younes El Aynaoui 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Economy: Trade deficit up sharply in November

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trade deficit shot up to \$15.5 billion in November as American exports of aircraft, computer equipment and farm products fell sharply while imports climbed to an all-time high.

The November deficit was up 14 percent from a revised October figure of \$13.6 billion, the Commerce Department reported today. U.S. manufacturers continued to be battered by the global financial crisis, which has cut deeply into their export sales while triggering a flood of cheaper imports into the United States.

With one month still to be counted, the U.S. trade deficit in goods and services has already hit an all-time high of \$153.9 billion, surpassing the old mark of \$153.4 billion set back in 1987.

After December is counted, the deficit for the year is likely to climb to around \$164 billion, far above last year's \$110 billion. And economists are predicting even worse news for 1999 as recessions over more than one-third of the globe cut into U.S. exports and beleaguered Asian countries try to export their way back to prosperity by shipping goods to America.

The Clinton administration has taken to insisting that the United States cannot be the "importer of only resort" and has called on Europe, the other region of the world still prospering in the face of global adversity, to take more goods as well.

President Clinton, in his State of the Union address this week, also announced the United States will push for launching a new global round of trade liberalization talks aimed at countering rising protectionist forces.

Domestic political pressures are forcing Clinton to take a tougher protectionist line when it comes to one key industry, steel.

U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said Wednesday that if December trade figures do not show "substantial declines" in imports of Japanese steel, the government will begin proceedings to slap penalty tariffs on Japanese steel imports into the United States.

Potential GOP presidential hopefuls court conservatives

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lamar Alexander says George W. Bush is a man of many "weasel words," and Gary Bauer says the Texas governor is something less than a Reagan Republican.

The two likely GOP presidential candidates are courting conservatives by contrasting themselves to Bush at a three-day Conservative Political Action Conference that gets under way today. Though he has not decided whether to seek the GOP nomination, the son of former President George Bush is likely to do so and would be the early favorite.

That makes Bush, who is not attending the conference in suburban Washington, an inviting target.

Across the Potomac River, the Republican National Committee is holding its winter meeting to decide whether disappointing 1998 election results are reason enough to oust chairman Jim Nicholson. Florida GOP chairman Tom Slade, trying to prevent a second Nicholson term, has reported some momentum in recent days but still is in an uphill battle, GOP officials say.

The meeting begins today. The election is Friday.

At the CPAC meeting, a gathering of the party's most active conservatives, Alexander is saying Bush should stop describing himself as a "compassionate conservative."

"Is Mr. Bush trying to tell us that he's not like the rest of us conservatives? That

conservatism, as a political philosophy, is ... without compassion?" Alexander said in a text prepared for delivery today.

He referred to the slogan dismissively as "weasel words" — designed to "confuse people by meaning nothing," Alexander warned his audience about politicians like Bush who qualify conservatism with poll-tested modifiers.

He singled out Bush's father, for example, who called himself a "kinder and gentler" Republican.

"Not long after we qualified our language, we were qualifying our principles. We accepted a tax increase — violating the bedrock conservative principle of lower taxes and smaller government — and soon found ourselves vacating the White House for the first time in 12 years," he said.

Alexander knows that the younger Bush is viewed skeptically by many conservatives who feel his father was never committed to their cause. Alexander hopes the criticism earns him support from conservative activists, many of whom consider the former Tennessee governor too moderate.

Bush shrugged off Alexander's criticism.

"Some people choose to campaign based on what they believe and some people choose to campaign on talking about the other person," he said at a Austin, Texas, news conference Wednesday.

That Alexander said Bush should simply call himself a conservative, the

governor grinned and said, "I'm a conservative."

Bauer is a conservative activist himself, but he is little-known and has no campaign experience. Though his chances of winning are slim, Bauer hopes to get mileage by portraying himself the campaign's only true conservative.

"I am strongly considering running for president. Where it will lead, I do not know," Bauer said in a text prepared for his speech today. "But for what it is worth, I do know what I believe. If I run, I will know why I am running, what I stand for, what my party stands for and where I would seek to lead this country."

He seemed to suggest that his potential rivals could not say the same. In a meeting with reporters in Washington on Wednesday, he focused on Bush.

"I think George W. Bush would describe himself as a Bush Republican and I think Elizabeth Dole is in many ways a Dole Republican. But if I run, I'll run as a Reagan Republican — and I am perfectly happy with those debates," Bauer said.

Bauer planned to focus his speech, however, on legislation he would support as president, including outlawing abortions in the second and third trimester as a first step toward his goal to eventually end all abortions.

Millionaire businessman Steve Forbes, former Vice President Dan Quayle and New Hampshire Sen. Bob Smith are among the other GOP hopefuls scheduled to address CPAC this week.



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Compromise over expulsion order possible

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — With the threat of NATO airstrikes looming, the Yugoslav government has suggested it might be prepared to rescind the expulsion of the top international monitor in Kosovo.

The chairman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Knut Vollebaek, was expected in Belgrade today for a last-ditch effort to prevent the expulsion of American diplomat William Walker.

Walker, head of the international peace verification team, has been given until 5 p.m. today to leave the country. He publicly accused Serb police of massacring 45 ethnic Albanians in the southern Kosovo village of Racak last week.

With diplomatic pressure mounting on

Yugoslavia, signs of compromise emerged late Wednesday. Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic said the "case of Ambassador Walker will be solved through compromise" and to mutual satisfaction.

A Serbian deputy premier, Tomislav Nikolic, said that because of "diplomatic moves," Walker's departure "will be delayed so that he could be given the chance not to be thrown out but" to resign, ostensibly for health reasons.

Draskovic, cited by the independent Fonet news agency, spoke after meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Avdeyev. The Russian official also met with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic in what diplomatic sources said was an attempt to reverse the expulsion

order. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity.

In a written statement after his talks with Avdeyev, Milosevic insisted that the verification team be "unbiased" and work "according to its mandate." The government has insisted the team has no authority to interfere in "anti-terrorist operations" against ethnic Albanian rebels.

Earlier, Avdeyev told Russian reporters that it was unlikely NATO would launch airstrikes as long as the international verifiers remained in Kosovo. Milosevic blunted — but did not end — the threat of NATO airstrikes in October when he agreed to end a prolonged crackdown on ethnic Albanian guerrillas fighting for independence for Kosovo, a province of Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

There has been concern that the verifiers could be held as hostages if NATO carries through with airstrikes. A French-led NATO rapid reaction force is stationed in Macedonia to evacuate the mission if necessary.

In Kosovo today, sporadic mortar and machine-gun fire resounded in the Racak area as a U.N. refugee agency convoy delivered aid to villagers driven from their homes by last week's shelling.

Aid officials estimated that about 400 people are camped in the open in steep mountains south of the village or seeking shelter in bombed-out houses. Two trucks brought food, blankets and other items to the area this morning, and ethnic Albanians arrived on five tractors to haul the goods up the mountainside.

Tensions in Kosovo escalated dramatically after the discovery Saturday of the bodies in Racak. The government claims they were rebels killed in combat.

The Yugoslavs refused to let the U.N. war crimes tribunal investigate the killings but invited forensic experts from Finland to take part. Five of them began work today at the morgue in Pristina.

International officials are concerned that authorities may falsify or hide the results in order to back up claims the victims died in battle.

The head of the Finnish team, Helena Ranta, appealed to Serb authorities to halt their investigation until her entire team is in place with its X-ray equipment. The last members of the team were due here today.

"They have no X-ray facilities and the victims have been shot," Ranta said today. "To detect bullets, you have to have X-rays."

At least two guerrillas were killed in fighting Wednesday, which broke out at midmorning in villages near Kosovska Mitrovica, 25 miles northwest of Kosovo's capital. There were no reports of Serb casualties.

Each side blamed the other for starting the fighting. Serb police said the Kosovo Liberation Army began shooting when officers entered a nearby village to search for guerrillas who wounded five policemen two days ago.

Rebels said they opened fire after Serb forces shelled the nearby village of Vraganica. Dozens of frightened ethnic Albanian civilians fled the fighting aboard horse-drawn carts as the two sides exchanged semiautomatic and machine-gun fire.

Serb media also reported a Serb mother and her two children were injured before dawn Wednesday when a mortar exploded on their home in a village near here. One child, a 14-year-old girl, was seriously wounded.

Pentagon urging deployment of missile defense system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration wants to amend a 1972 arms control treaty to permit deployment of a national defense against long-range missile attack but plans to build it regardless of Russia's assent.

If Moscow balks, the Clinton administration will withdraw from the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and proceed with deployment, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Wednesday. But that move assumes President Clinton determines that such a system is technically feasible.

At a Pentagon news conference in which he announced new spending on anti-missile defenses, Cohen said he would prefer that the ABM treaty be preserved to discourage the spread of offensive missiles.

He was asked what the administration would do, however, if the Russians refused to amend the treaty.

"Then we have the option of our national interest indicating we would simply pull out of the treaty," he replied. Cohen noted that the treaty provides for a right of withdrawal with six months' notice if either party concludes renouncing the pact is in its "supreme national interest."

He said administration officials are studying exactly what modifications would be needed. Russia, and before it the Soviet Union, long has opposed a U.S. national missile defense, in part in fear that such a system would make America the only nation invulnerable to missile attack. The Cold War-era ABM treaty was meant to make both superpowers vulnerable to attack and thus limit the chance that either would attempt a decisive first strike.

Cohen announced that the administration now believes it probably will take two years longer than previously estimated to build a defense against long-range missile attacks. At the same time, he said the need for such a defense system is greater than ever.

The administration moved its target date for

deploying a national missile defense from 2003 to 2005, Cohen said. Deployment is estimated to cost \$10.5 billion.

Cohen said President Clinton's proposed 2000 budget, to be submitted to Congress on Feb. 1, will include an extra \$6.6 billion for missile defense work through the year 2005.

A decision on whether actually to deploy a national missile defense will be made in June 2000, Cohen said. The decision will depend on two things, he said: The level of threat of a missile attack and the Defense Department's technical readiness to build such a defense.

"We are affirming that there is a threat, and the threat is growing, and that it will pose a danger not only to our troops overseas but also to Americans here at home," Cohen said. He said the main worry was of a limited missile attack from a hostile nation such as North Korea or Iraq.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., who long has argued for an accelerated push on missile defense, called the Pentagon announcement a "small step" in the right direction. He said it meant the administration was acknowledging it had underestimated the missile threat.

"I am encouraged by and hope today's announcement really signals a change in administration policy," Weldon said. "But I remain skeptical given the president's continuing lack of a firm commitment to proceed with deployment."

The missile defense system Cohen described would include a sensor based in space that would detect the plume of a ballistic missile at liftoff, providing early warning of an attack.

Ground-based radars in the United States would calculate the missile's trajectory and guide a ground-launched interceptor rocket to destroy the missile outside the earth's atmosphere. The interceptor rockets might be based in Alaska or North Dakota, Cohen said.

Sundance Film Festival can bring big bucks for unknown films

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's a documentary about a gritty subject and almost no one has seen it.

But after a showing at this week's Sundance Film Festival, "American Pimp" could capture a distribution deal worth big bucks — and its creators are hoping to milk the opportunity for every potential penny.

"We held out showing it to any distributors to put it in a friendly situation for us as far as getting the best price," said Allen Hughes, who has teamed with his brother to make the film as well as "Menace II Society" and "Dead Presidents."

"Even though we've gotten great offers, you don't know how great they are until you get them all in one room."

Sundance, held each year in Utah, is the nation's top showcase for independent films. Overrun by Hollywood players, entertainment reporters and publicists, it's a festival where buzz leads to more buzz, which leads to more hype, which leads to film studios paying millions of dollars for films — something they may or may not regret in the morning.

Last year, for instance, Miramax spent a staggering \$6 million for "Next Stop, Wonderland," which grossed only \$3.4 million in North

American theaters.

But for every bust, there are deals like the reported \$1 million spent last year by Artisan Entertainment for "Pi," which grossed \$3.2 million, making it one of the year's most profitable indie films.

With such potential for success, it's no wonder the festival was inundated with entries. A record 840 feature films were submitted for the 16 slots in the highly coveted dramatic competition. Others were chosen for exhibition outside the competition. The festival also includes documentaries, foreign films and shorts.

At this movie marketplace, films that have no business going for so much money end up going for big bucks, all in the frenzied hope of finding that next "Shine" or "sex, lies & videotape" or striking a multi-picture deal with the next Quentin Tarantino.

While the festival provides a major boost to fledgling film producers, it can also mark the birth — or rebirth — of a performer's career.

A year ago, Ally Sheedy was considered by many to be a has-been actress of the '80s "Brat Pack." But after Sundance critics heaped praise on her daring performance as a drug addict in

"High Art," her star was back on the rise. Now she's a contender for an Oscar nomination.

"I'd have to say that Sundance has played a major role in my life," Miss Sheedy said. "What's the last year been like? Dumbfounded, blindsided and flabbergasted are words that seem appropriate."

Sundance was essentially born in 1985 when Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, which fosters independent filmmaking, took the reins of what was then called the U.S. Film Festival. It adopted the Sundance name in 1991.

It has gotten so big that one festival isn't enough anymore. The alternative Slamdance, now in its fifth year, selected 14 features out of 1,716 entries. When it started, only 43 films were entered. There are still other alternative film festivals.

But the centerpiece is Sundance. It starts today Salt Lake City with the premiere of Robert Altman's "Cookie's Fortune," then moves to the nearby ski resort of Park City through Jan. 31. It will feature 114 films, including 69 premieres.

Everyone expects film producers to have their checkbooks ready. Although "Wonderland" fizzled, Miramax has scored with numerous independent films picked up at Sundance and other festivals.

Tobacco states heap scorn on Clinton lawsuit

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Tobacco company executives and officials in states dependent on the crop had nothing but scorn for President Clinton's threatened lawsuit against cigarette makers and an increased tobacco tax.

"This industry is under siege," Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton said Wednesday. "There's a limit to what this product can bear, and we're coming close to that limit."

Patton was among representatives from 11 tobacco states and four companies who discussed Clinton's speech as they met in Durham to work out plans for a \$5.15 billion trust fund to assist farmers hurt by the settlement of state lawsuits.

In his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, Clinton said the federal government would follow the lead of states and sue tobacco companies to recover health care costs of treating sick smokers.

States won \$246 billion, mostly through lawsuit settlements, plus new restrictions on tobacco ads and other industry practices. Federal attorneys have studied the states' strategy.

Administration officials insisted Wednesday that the decision was made after they determined the government has legal grounds to make its case.

Tommy Payne, senior vice president of R.J.

Reynolds, said Clinton apparently wants "more money from the industry and some political gain from the industry."

"The federal government already makes more money per pack on cigarettes than the companies make," he said. "The federal government makes 24 cents per pack, and R.J. Reynolds makes 9 or 10 cents."

Phil Carlton, a tobacco industry lawyer, said the companies would fight any federal suit "to the last day."

"If there's any federal lawsuit, if new taxes are added by Congress, it will have a terrible impact on the industry," he said. Cigarette makers called the potential federal suit "political."

Administration officials say the lawsuit is independent from Clinton's push to pass tobacco legislation in Congress, but they acknowledge a pending suit could put increased pressure on the industry to cut a deal.

The government released few details about the upcoming lawsuit, which is meant to recover tax dollars spent treating sick smokers in Medicare, the Defense Department, Veterans Affairs, federal employee health benefits and other federal programs.

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