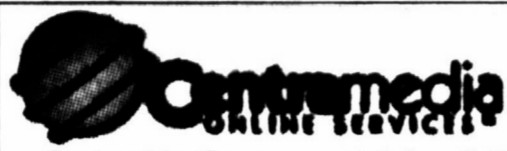


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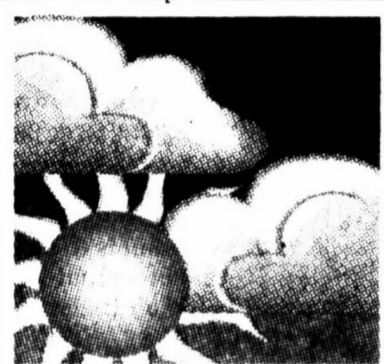
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Former Dallas Cowboys Aikman and Johnston become proud papas

DALLAS (AP) — Former Dallas Cowboys Troy Aikman and Daryl Johnston each have a new player in the backfield.

The wives of Aikman and Johnston each gave birth to healthy baby girls Friday evening at Plano Presbyterian Hospital, said Rich Dalrymple, a Dallas Cowboys spokesman.

Rhonda Aikman gave birth to Jordan Ashley, and Diane Johnston gave birth to Evan Elizabeth.

Jordan weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was born at 9:48 p.m. Evan weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces. Her time of birth was not available. They were delivered by Dr. Bryant Herzog.

Aikman, who retired this spring, and Johnston, who retired last year, both work as NFL analysts for Fox Sports. They announced their first game Thursday night.

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DA's, other requests cut; County OKs new budget

After cutting from their own budgets, county commissioners cut from other departments in order to have a balanced budget.

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Final cuts have been made in the 2002 Gray County budget including an \$18,000 car for the DAs investigator and the salary for an assistant DA was reduced from \$50,000 to \$45,000.

Precinct 2 Commissioner cut \$60,000 from his budget for vehicles during the Friday meeting while Precinct 1 Commissioner Joe Wheelley cut \$10,000 from his which allowed for tank repairs.

Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hetley cut 10 percent of his total budget with the exception of bond premiums and liability insurance. County Auditor Elaine Morris advised him to not cut his utility line item, as she said he was cutting it close as it was. He left the utility amount the same.

County Judge Richard Peet suggested he leave his fuel amount the same, but Hetley said he could manage.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright said he cut his budget to the bone before he submitted it and couldn't cut it any more.

Peet thought Wright should cut \$75,000 from his budget which is designated for part time help, saying, "Our job is not to provide jobs for people." Wright pays two employees part time who work during the summer months.

Commissioner Greene told Peet that Wright did have his employees structured differently than the other three, but it saved the county money. "That's Gerald's business," he said.

After cutting from their own budgets, county commissioners court members cut from other department budgets in order to have a balanced budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The total approved county budget is \$7,443,223 for the upcoming year. Morris said there will be only enough reserve money for the county to operate one month.

(See BUDGET, Page 5)

County sets tax rate for FY 2002 Taxes to drop slightly

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Due to an increase in assessed values, the Gray County Commission's approval of an eight percent property tax hike actually translates into slightly lower taxes.

It was in a 3-2 vote Friday that the Commission approved the tax rate for the 2002 fiscal year.

Voting in favor were Commissioners Jim Greene, James Hetley and Gerald Wright. Against the proposal were Commissioner Joe Wheelley and County Judge Richard Peet.

Wheelley and Peet indicated they were both against the measure instead favoring a measure to add \$5 or \$10 to car tags.

Under the proposal which passed, taxes on the average home-stead would decrease by \$1.35 or 0.96 percent compared with last year's taxes.

Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would decrease by .018851 per \$100 of taxable value or 3.81 percent compared to last year's tax rate.

Wheelley said he had been contacted by some residents stating:

(See TAX, Page 5)

People bring pig worries to PEDC

By KATE B. DICKSON
Associate Publisher

Something unusual happened at last week's Pampa Economic Development Commission meeting — a group of a dozen or so citizens came to the meeting.

But all who spoke had the same thing on their mind — the planned genetic research hog farm planned for east of Pampa where as many as 50,000 animals could be housed. The company's aim is to raise leaner hogs for breeding stock.

"We've never had more than two people before," PEDC Board President Richard Stowers said before setting parameters for conducting the public comment portion of the meeting. Stowers said he'd allow 30 minutes for comments giving each person who wanted to speak three minutes.

It didn't work out quite that way with board members allowing some to go over the time limit including retired chiropractor Dr. Louis Haydon who has been researching concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

"I'll take the three minutes of some of those who aren't going to speak," Haydon said.

Dr. Haydon passed out copies of some scientific research articles he has pulled off the internet as well as articles addressing the economic impact on areas that have CAFOs.

(See PEDC, Page 2)

High-profile tire trial plays out in likely place Texas heat, long driving distances

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — In many ways it makes sense that the first trial against Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. since last year's recall played out in south Texas.

Heat is the enemy of tires, and all day long here, the asphalt absorbs the hot sun. The cities are spread out, making long road trips a part of life. There are off-road treks through sand and mesquite; in the west it turns to brush. Pieces of tread are common sights along the highways.

But the high-profile trial and its bigwig lawyers often stood out against the isolated and largely barren region where Marisa Rodriguez was left brain-damaged and paralyzed after a rollover in a Ford Explorer with Firestone tires. Her family reached a reported \$7.5 million settlement with Bridgestone/Firestone on Friday.

The Rodriguez family's lawyers, culled from three firms, flew in on private jets bought by settlements in other Firestone-Explorer cases. During deliberations, they ribbed one another about who had the faster plane. Little Rock attorney Tab Turner flew home to attend a PIA meeting and "sleep in his own bed."

(See TRIAL, Page 2)



Miles Cook, left, and Jimmy Goode, get a little frustrated working on the motor for their race car.

That's racin' Pampanos bitten by the bug

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
Staff Writer

"Let's build a race car," said the voice on the other end of the phone line.

"You can't do that. I would never do that," was Pampa businessman Miles Cook's first response.

"My dad was a doctor and he told me never to do that. He'd picked up too many people in pieces who had done that," Cook explained.

Gary Griggs of Pampa, who had made the "unthinkable" suggestion, was no stranger to racing. He had raced motorcycles.

"I had raced motocross quite a few years for D&S Suzuki," Griggs said. "It seemed like a natural step from leaving motorcycles. You still get

the thrill of racing." Now Griggs thought it would be fun to put together a "junkie" with his friends and race it on dirt tracks around the area.

Despite his initial negative reaction, Cook agreed to join Griggs in the project. They also enlisted the help of their friend and fellow car enthusiast Jimmy Goode, also of Pampa. Goode wasn't as interested in racing the cars. His interest lay in building the vehicle for racing.

"I've always been what they call a 'vrench,'" Goode said. "Yeah, I get as much enjoyment keeping it running as I would driving it. I guess I enjoy working on it as much as anything."

With the help of Griggs' father-in-law, John Radcliff, the three prospective racers obtained a

(See RACIN', Page 2)

Sunday snapshot



Name: Kristi Lee
Occupation/activities: Office manager, State Farm Insurance.
Birth date and place: May 16, 1970, Pampa.
Family: Husband, Clay; son,

Ryan.

If I had a different job, I'd be a: I wouldn't have a different job.

My personal hero: My mom.

The best advice I ever got was: Be nice to people.

People who knew me in high school thought: I was fun and out-going.

The best word or words to describe me: Nice.

People will remember me as being: Helpful to others.

The four guests at my fantasy dinner party would be: My grandma, Ashley, God.

My hobbies are: Bowling.
My favorite sports team is: Dallas Cowboys.
My favorite author is:

Stephen King.

The last book I read was: "Misery."

My favorite possession is: My blow dryer.

The biggest honor I've ever received is: In third grade, I won first place for a poem I wrote.

My favorite performer is: Back Street Boys.

I wish I knew how to: Play the piano.

My trademark cliché or expression is: "Whatever."

My worst habit is: Biting my nails.

I would never: Hurt anyone on purpose.
The last good movie I saw was: "Castaway."
I stay home to watch: Dallas

Cowboys.

Nobody knows: Let's keep it that way.

I drive a: 2001 Chevy Monte Carlo.

My favorite junk food is: Doritos.

My favorite beverage: Dr. Pepper.

My favorite restaurant is: Red Lobster.

My favorite pet: My dog and cat.

My favorite meal is: Roast, gravy, mashed potatoes, corn.

I wish I could sing like: My mom.
I'm happiest when I'm: With my family.
I regret: Not going to college.
I'm tired of: All of the drugs

in Pampa.

I have a phobia about: Spiders.

The electrical device I couldn't live without is: Curling iron.

My most embarrassing moment: Don't have one.

The biggest waste of time is: Not doing anything.

If I won the lottery, the most extravagant thing I would do is: Buy a Dodge Viper.

If I had three wishes they would be: 1) Bring Ashley back to us; 2) live a healthy life; 3) have enough money to live on the rest of my life.

If I could change one thing about Pampa, it would be: More places to eat and more new businesses coming to Pampa.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

BUDGET

Peet recommended the county discontinue paying half the cost of the town marshal and paying \$21,600 a year for a man to destroy predatory animals.

Wheeley said it was a precarious situation for him. "Lefors continues to downsize. We are helping to repair their streets."

Commissioner Wright said the Lefors mayor should be present before the commission discontinued paying half of the town marshal of the unincorporated city. "They were sure against it last time we talked about it," he said.

"If I was the Lefors mayor, I'd be against it, too," said Peet. "It saves them about \$4,500 in tax money a year."

After considerable discussion, the commission decided to continue with both programs for at least another year.

Peet said Tax Collector/Assessor Sammie Morris had saved Lefors considerable money since she took over collecting the municipalities taxes. Morris said she charges them less than \$190 for tax collection compared to the several thousand they were paying before.

He said he is not against helping the communi-

ty, but Gray County is having to 'tighten its belt.' "I hate to take the predatory animal amount (\$21,600) out of the budget," said Greene. "He took care of the pigeons and took out some buzzards in a woman's yard. Also, he helped with the rabies."

"I'm on the fence on it," said Wheeley. "It is a job that is important and has been in the past. Where do we start first? This is a job that can tie into the health issue."

"The last time we considered doing away with the job, we had a courtroom full of landowners," said Wheeley.

Wright said predatory animal program provides a service for rural communities.

Greene said when he took office as county commissioner there were only 7 1/2 miles blacktop in his precinct. "Now there are 13 1/2," he said. He attributed most of that increase to residential additions such as Walnut Creek and Keller Estates.

Peet said county roads are a 'fixed cost' which doesn't change. "All those roads have to be maintained," he said.

"Our job is to provide taxpayers with services they want," said Greene. "We're not here to make a profit."

Wright indicated, he is opposed to cuts made in

District Attorney Rick Roach's budget. "Part of the reason people pay taxes is for the justice system," said Wright.

Joe Wheeley said the commission has to cut somewhere and any cuts are going to affect people.

"I, as a taxpayer, can't afford to continue to pay high taxes," he said. "We've lost population steadily for 10 years, but we still have the same in roads to be maintained."

Bob Dixon, Gray County veterans service officer, reported on the operation of the fire departments in area communities in relation to the counties. Peet said he had asked Dixon to obtain the information.

Dixon said he had contacted the city managers of Borger, Canyon and Dumas.

He said Borger's coverage area is a five-mile radius of the community in addition to the 10-mile square radius inside the city limits. He said the town has only one fire station and employs 19 firemen.

Dixon said City Manager David Willard said Hutchinson County pays Borger a flat fee of \$25,000 for the service.

He said the rest of the county area is covered by Stinnett or Fritch Volunteer Fire Departments.

Canyon, he said, has three paid firefighters and

the remainder are volunteers. Their first response area is 10 miles outside the city limits, but they provide backup assistance past the 10 mile line. He said several rural stations are in the area, and the ambulance services are combined with the fire department.

The fire department receives \$179,000 a year from the county, he said.

Dumas has a few fulltime firefighters, with the remainder as volunteers. Both Dumas and Canyon only have one fire station.

Dixon said he was told no money is exchanged between the city and county. He said the Dumas City Jail was closed down several years ago and the two entities trade out services, adding that all prisoners are housed in the Moore County Jail. He said the county also took over all dispatching duties when the city jail closed.

Peet said it is important the county have the information from the fire departments as the City of Pampa is considering eliminating six firefighters along with a second fire station in order to balance their budget.

The 2002 budget passed with a 4-1 vote. Peet was the only dissenter with Wheeley, Greene, Wright and Hefley voting to accept it. Peet said he felt there are more items that can be cut from the budget. Wheeley said he did, too, but would vote for it.

Plots reject American's arbitration plan

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The union representing American Airlines pilots said Friday it would reject the carrier's proposal for fast-track contract negotiations that could be settled by baseball-style binding arbitration.

The Allied Pilots Association, which represents about 11,000 American pilots, said the proposal would be too limiting on negotiators.

"Given the number of issues that need to be addressed in these negotiations, particularly on the safety front, APA's leadership concluded that management's proposal of baseball-style binding arbitration where only a handful of items could be reviewed by an arbitrator would be overly limiting," union president John Darrah said in a written statement.

American, the world's largest airline, had offered pilots an immediate pay raise of 15 percent to 22 percent if they agreed to stop bargaining after 120 days. If no deal could be reached, each side would submit a final proposal to a panel of arbitrators, who would pick one offer or the other.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

TAX

they felt the additional fee on vehicles would be more fair to the people than additional property taxes.

Last year the average residence homestead value was \$28,284 while this year it is \$29,122. The tax rate per \$100 is .494684. Last year's tax on an average size home was \$139.92. This year's is \$138.57.

Peet also reported he had been told by taxpayers that it was much more fair for everyone to pay the car registration fee than to increase property taxes.

Commissioner Jim Greene said he thought it is just a hidden tax.

A \$5 fee added to the annual vehicle registration charges, would generate approximately \$120,000 to the county while \$240,000 would be generated if a \$10 amount passed.

Gray County is one of 20 counties of the 254 across the state which does not have the fee.

Have an opinion about something in the news? Write the editor. The letter deadline is noon on Wednesdays.

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Letters to the editor

Telephone RBOCs are bleeding consumers dry

To the editor,
I am writing about the lack of competition that exists in the local phone market. While it appears that competition might flourish and grow in the deregulated power market, it seems that quite the opposite is happening in the local phone market.
Sprint and other companies have offered local phone service in Texas, and have then pulled that service. The problem is that it isn't profitable for them due to high access rates charged by the regional Bell operating companies (RBOCs).
Now the RBOCs are pushing legislation that would completely gut the 1996 Telecom Act in a bill called the Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001, H.R. 1542, also known as the Lauzin-Dingell bill.
This bill would allow the RBOCs to enter long-distance without having to prove to the Federal Communications Commission that they have opened up the data side of their local networks to competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) at wholesale rates. In effect, the bill would remove the RBOCs incentive to allow the CLECs to use their networks. Course we didn't have much choice now, since the "wholesale" rates have been more retail than wholesale, but at least we had a guise of competition.
There is something that can fix the problem. Sens. Hollings, D-SC, Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, have introduced the Telecommunications Competition Enforcement Act of 2001. This bill would add more enforcement teeth to the 1996 Telecom Act as well as require the local dominant carriers to put their wholesale and retail operations in separate divisions.
This would allow competition to succeed because Verizon and Southwestern Bell would have to buy access to the lines that connect us to their offices at wholesale rates just like the CLECs. I would bet on them actually offering wholesale rates, since their retail divisions will have to pay them. Once this happens, the retail operations would actually have to compete with the CLECs and we should start seeing the benefits like we did when long distance was made competitive.
There is a possibility for abuse. Each retail division would be paying the respective wholesale division of the same RBOC. These payments of "funny money," or money that stays in the same company, can allow for creative bookkeeping to make the retail unit "lose" money while making tons of money on the wholesale side in an attempt to bleed the competition dry.
I think this can be caught, and the legislation also gives the FCC the power to turn the wholesale and retail divisions into separate subsidiaries if they don't behave. Needless to say, the RBOCs are already screaming that this legislation is not fair! Waah! Letting monopolies bleed us dry isn't fair!
I recommend everybody check out the website www.voicesforchoices.com to see how the RBOCs are stifling competition. It is pretty enlightening!
Boyd Campbell
Plano

How important is clean air, water to NPD?

(The following letter to the editor is an open letter addressed to John Carter, general manager of National Pig Development (USA) in Roanoke Rapids, N.C.)
Dear Sir:
I would like to feel comforted by your recent full-page ad, but somehow I am troubled by these unanswered questions:
How does your company plan to maintain the "50-mile zone of isolation" around your facility? If this zone should be breached in the future by other hog-raising operations, what then? Once this sanctity is violated, will you turn your existing factory over to another — with free, pure water and all? This is not far-fetched in view of the fact that there are 300,000-plus hogs at Perryton, an 88,000 hog facility is to be built at Stinnett, and other hog factories are located at Follett, Lipscomb, Higgins, also Guymon, Laverne

and Mooreland, Okla., as well as Liberal, Kan.
For that reason, I have difficulty with the idea that isolation is the reason National Pig Development wants to locate here. It looks more like a forerunner for more extensive operations, simply because the characteristics of this area are so desirable.
Why will NPD be using the open-air waste lagoons (all 45 acres of them) at your proposed facility instead of dry waste methods? Lagoons are being phased out in North Carolina, South Carolina and Oklahoma for environmental reasons. We know that all lagoons leak, erode or fail over time. On the other hand, dry waste systems have been approved in Indiana, Missouri, Mississippi and North and South Carolina, and most are more economical than the lagoon systems.
We find that the average life of a hog factory is 10- to 12-years, after which it can no longer be used. What will happen when these facilities are abandoned and our water is ruined? Will NPD be accountable?
What about us? You express no concern for our well-being — clean air, clean water and a healthy environment, and you make no commitments to these. You speak only in terms of your own interests.
Please reply to the Editor of the Pampa News, so that all may read your response. We await your reply.
Edna L. Haydon
Pampa

There is more than one side to any story ...

To the editor,
My son, Duane Curtis King, is not a threat to this community. He got a 15-year-old girl pregnant. This girl led him to believe she was 19 and had a miscarriage three months before and wanted a baby.
Her mother apparently agreed as she let Duane stay in the girl's bedroom. The girl and her mother hid it from the father until she was six months along so that nothing could be done about it.
The father, who is divorced from the mother, got mad and said that he would show who could take care of the daughter better. He then went and filed on Duane. This was a careless mistake on Duane's part but we are living with it the best we can. He is no threat to the community and your children.
It boils down to that there is a child out there that is my grandchild and Duane's son or daughter, as we don't know anything and are prohibited by law to inquire. Duane is serving 10 years probation on this and the girl, mother and father are living their lives like nothing happened and they know all about the child.
Now after reading this if you want to condemn, Duane that is your business. Thank you for reading our side of the story.
Sybil Kay King
Pampa
Editors note: Duane Curtis King is a registered sex offender.

Eliminating safety staff not necessarily what city needs

To the editor,
I am responding to the city reducing the animal control personnel. This is a service that many people take for granted. One of the three employees is on call 24-hours a day 365 days a year. Three employees allow each one to have a weekend off and to trade out holidays.
How will it be possible to carry that kind of work load with only two people? Will we cut back on food or supplies? The majority of the food and cat litter is donated. Improvements have been made possible through donations (fund 12 through the city).
Where will we cut back without a third employee? If we cut back on the hours who will be available to pick up a wounded animal in the middle of the street? Will they have to just lay there and suffer until someone can get there in a few days?
If your child gets bit by an animal who will send off the animal to check for rabies? Do the children start taking shots since we have no way of determining if the animal is rabid until someone returns to the office? Who will help control the rabies problem that we hear about in *The Pampa News*? What do we do about animals running loose or when we've lost our own pets?
I don't feel we can do without fireman, policeman or animal control. We may not feel the effects of these changes for months to come but once we do how will we change it? Pampa, we need to speak up now and let the city managers know that this is not what we want. We need to find other cutbacks besides getting rid of the people doing the work.
Stephanie Ligon
Pampa

Pig debate is about more than just clean water

To the editor,
I attended the "Anti-Growth" group earlier this month. Boy, beings I'm for growth, instead of declining population, I felt like a chicken with a bunch of coyotes. Until this meeting, I really didn't fully understand their real agenda. They claim it's water, water and water — don't ruin our water!

Agriculture has always used more water than anyone. I remember, back when fuel was cheap, seeing big tail water ponds, because farmers would leave their water pumps going and go to town or to bed.
The real reason this is causing so much rhetoric is the smell and the possible influx of Latino labor. It's not water. We have had cattle and pig farms in this area for 40 years, at least, and there has been no proven danger to our aquifer.
It was brought up about corporate welfare going to other labor for training. This company didn't pass this program. It was passed by our legislature.
I was raised on a farm and we went broke during the drought in the 1950s. Back then, there wasn't as much farmer welfare going on as there is now. A lot of the farm land in our county is government-subsidized "layout" land. There are crops planted that have no chance of being harvested, so farmers can get government insurance money.
As far as low wages, what the pig farm laborers will draw might have something to do with Republicans fighting any raise in minimum wages.
I hope the people of Pampa wake up about our loss of population. Every house and business loses value every time some one moves from Pampa. The farmers talk about their farms losing value, but without growth, a lot more value is lost in the city of Pampa than by those few farmers. We need to consider what is good for the entire area.
If this anti-growth group were really worried about water, they would be picketing T. Boone Pickens and his friends who are trying to ship our Panhandle water down state.
Calvin Lacy
Pampa

Former businesses seemed to have no ill effect on town

To the editor,
How many people listened to the national news this past week-end? There were a couple of things that caught my attention. They both struck home.
They were telling how these multi-millionaires were taking out loans for multi-million dollar homes and other things then either wouldn't pay the loans or couldn't and then the banks and loan institutions, I'm talking about the big lenders, had to pass their losses on down to the poor people.
It makes you sick and angry at the same time to know that because of that and those people that low-income people are told they don't have enough revenue coming in and are not trustworthy. That takes the cake!
Now it's a sick world when people have to live scared, not able to have the little things they want or like and not knowing how to pay their bills because of people like that. These low-income families are being effected by it the worst.
Another thing that caught my attention was the 76-year-old man with Alzheimer's and no drivers license who went to the same car dealer seven times in one month and was sold a car each time he went. He had about \$240,000 worth of cars bought. Even if the dealership got fined and had to tear the loans up, it showed they tried.
There is something else that I thought about, too. Aren't these very people who are trying to bring the pigs to town that a couple of years ago threw a wild-eyed hissy fit over the trucks and tractors in town and how it or they down-graded the town and polluted it, too?
They just had to have something done about them. What about all the revenue they brought in? What about the R.V. bit? What about all the ordinances they so happily passed because the industries and other things didn't suit them?
How many people have gone into the appraisal district's office, and standing in human form, talked to the people there then were told you don't know what you are talking about and more or less being told you don't exist now or never.
How many people here go and ask about the drug and alcohol hospitals and are told that this town is not concerned about those state places. Jail is better. Their lives and families need to be destroyed by the state jails, the penitentiary.
What about the children who have to be laughed at or suffer the consequences because of it? What about the women who have to support the family?
What happened to the low-income medical facility that would have helped the citizens of town? It would have provided jobs along with helping people who can't afford the doctors or medicine. That would have been a good thing for Pampa. Borger, Fritch and McLean all have one. It would have been funded by the state. But helping the people wasn't as important as all this other mess that needs to be done would it?
Look at the census. There are supposed to be so many people living here. Did they make a mistake in counting until these big dudes need help or the city gets in a mess then all these people count and are considered citizens? When are they going to act like we are invisible until they need us.
I cannot recall that trucking companies, machine shops, bottling companies, warehouses and other businesses that were here years ago had such a bad affect on the town. They brought in revenue.
How many of these big shots realize that the Chamber of Commerce building once housed the R.C. Bottling Company?
Sue Meeks
Pampa

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LETTERS

Now we are bitterly embroiled in a situation created by Good ole Boy Bivins. We are seeing the results of a legislation he pushed which took the rights of citizens to determine what businesses could locate in our area.

So, again we pad his pockets and allow the PEDC to bring in a hog operation. This operation is proven to be a bust in other areas it has gone, too. Great Bend, Kan., had second thoughts and bombed the taxpayers to pay the operation to get to heck out of Dodge. Guymon, Okla., has had people relocate to get away from the stench. Even in our own area we have seen strong opposition to this enterprise.

Good ole Boy Bivins sponsored legislation which would also allow them special privileges when it came to the pollution of our water tables. No, probably we would never taste the hog waste in our water — as if it is not enough tasting the past oil industry — but our grandkids will be left with our legacy of "We prospered, so eat our feces."

Perhaps it is good that Good ole Boy Bivins is out of here. Maybe with a few adjustments the Pampans can take back their city, their government and set their own course to what they know is right and right for them. Otherwise we will continue to have simpletons like this continue to dictate what is good for us while at the same time blocking our abilities as citizens to voice opposition to what they are dictating.

DeWayne Foncannon
Pampa

Farm Credit District posts second quarter results

AUSTIN — The Farm Credit Bank of Texas (FCBT) and its affiliated lending associations have reported record loan volume, significant net income and strong credit quality in their second quarter financial results.

The Austin-based bank and 23 local credit cooperatives in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas comprise the 10th Farm Credit District, the largest rural lending organization serving the five-state region.

Combined loan volume totaled more than \$5.6 billion at June 30, 2001. This compares to \$5.2 billion in loan volume outstanding at Dec. 31, 2000. The 10th District has achieved record loan volume for each of the past five consecutive quarters, from June 30, 2000, to June 30, 2001.

"A generally strong Southern economy and solid demand for real estate have fueled our district growth," said Arnold Henson, FCBT chief executive officer. "Our competitive loan

programs and interest rates, reduced borrower stock requirements and increased marketing efforts also have contributed to our success."

Tenth District net income for the six months ending June 30, 2001, totaled \$55.7 million, a 33 percent increase from the \$41.9 million reported for the same period of 2000. Net income of \$27.7 million for the quarter ending June 30, 2001, was up 61 percent from the net income of \$17.2 million reported for the second quarter of 2000.

Overall credit quality of the 10th District's loan portfolio was 97.7 percent, acceptable at June 30, 2001, up slightly from the 97.6 percent reported at year-end 2000.

"We are pleased with our solid financial results and are cautiously watching the general economy," Henson said. "Our credit quality has been favorably affected by government payments over the last two years and diversification within our loan portfolio to include borrowers with both

agricultural and nonagricultural income. We have also witnessed population increases in rural areas as lifestyle changes prompt people to buy land in the country."

The combined assets of the Farm Credit Bank of Texas and affiliated 10th District associations totaled \$6.1 billion at June 30, 2001, with \$1.1 billion worth of members' equity in the lending cooperatives. Together, these lending institutions have more than 58,300 loans to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and rural homeowners and landowners in the district's five-state region.

The 10th District is composed of the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, 10 Federal Land Credit Associations, which make mortgage loans, two Production Credit Associations, which provide short- and intermediate-term agricultural loans and 11 Agricultural Credit Associations, which provide both mortgage and short- and intermediate-term agricultural loans.

The 10th Farm Credit District is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System. The system reported combined net income of \$474 million and \$864 million for the three and six months ending June 30, 2001, respectively. This compares with combined net income of \$348 million and \$660 million for the same periods last year.

Prison needs more staff members

To the editor,
I, Larry Williams honestly believe that it is the local citizens [RIGHT] to [k]now how understaffed the security is now — approximately 58 security officers short, and below minimum standards. Also, the majority of both male and female security staff are in the following category:

- 1) Obesity (Example: One male officer is about 5-feet 8-inches tall and 500-pounds.)
- 2) One female officer weighs 300-pounds and is about 5-feet 5-inches tall.
- 3) Most staff members here at "Jordan Unit" are not in shape physically to respond to fights between offenders or medical emergencies.
- 4) The most security staff members are about 60 years of age.
- 5) This unit is supposed to be only minimum custody level of inmates; however, though we have one cell block full and part of another cell block with medium custody level of inmates; totaling to approximately 90 inmates.

6) Because the security staff members are having to work eight hours for straight time and four hours for comp time. The officers must use all of their comp time before Jan. 1, or they will lose it. Because TDCJ-ID, will not pay them overtime pay there will be more to quit.

Larry Wayne Williams
Rufe Jordan Unit

Don't wait too late to get involved

To the editor,
Upon initially reading in the Pampa News about a hog factory possibly coming to our area, I thought it would never happen, so I didn't speak up.

Then when I learned at the July 10 meeting at M.K. Brown that it wouldn't be 3,700 hogs, but 50,000, I still didn't get involved.

After the hog factory became a reality and was here for a while, I decided to speak up because our water became polluted, but by then there was hardly anyone left in Pampa to hear me.

Fellow citizens, let's speak up now before it's too late. Write letters to our representatives, call Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) at 1-800-687-4040 and write: Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, LaDonna Castanuela, Chief Clerk MC-105, Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 and ask for an Environmental Impact Study.

Joyce Davis
Pampa

An evil appears to be loose in the land

To the editor,
I won't bore you with hundreds of words, but just for the record, I say "no" to the hogs.

They will cause continued devaluation of our property and ultimately higher taxes. They will deplete our water supply and when they have used us up, they will leave our community with hog sewage in our water along with disease and parasites.

This particular hog factory will be consuming 55,000,000 gallons of our water every year. Their modus operandi is to stealthily come in with one small factory, and then "lo and behold" before long, 25 more pig factories containing millions of animals which, of course, excrete millions of tons of urine and feces which requires more and more water.

Looks like we are just sitting ducks and that the "powers that be" have already decided for us. Very considerate of them.

Seems to be an evil running through our land. Mega conglomerates and their lawyers steamrolling over everyone and everything in their path.

Maybe we should be prepared to say "good-bye" to America and her ideals of individual rights and freedoms and say "hello" to the new one world movement, run and controlled by global corporations.

Until then, could you please write your Congressmen and Congresswomen and say "no" to the hogs?

Karen Son
Pampa

Sometimes you have to take a closer look

To the editor,
This is a reply to the abused Tammie Knight of Lefors.

Who fired God and put you in charge? You are passing judgment on a subject you know nothing about. Did it ever occur to you that the "elderly woman" was loading her "new red pickup" with items Tralee shares with the Salvation Army store? Maybe she was taking those "bags" to a much-needy family.

But because she works in the store, you assumed she was helping herself to "the good stuff."

That "elderly woman" could very possibly be the only friend you have in a time of need. If you knew her at all, you would know she is the most generous, kind, dedicated, compassionate, fair, hard-working person in this town. Oh, she could retire and draw her Social Security, but she chooses to serve her community.

But the way, she is not the one who prices the items in the store. She is an employee and follows orders.

Maybe it is your attitude as to how people perceive you. Just think, where would you be if there were no abuse centers anywhere? You would still be in that "bad situation" or dead! Thank your lucky stars you were able to get out of it and support the agency that helped you.

Sounds like you still like playing the part of the "victim" and think everyone is your abuser. Before you pass judgment on someone again, stop and think about it then thank God for what you have and not what you think is owed you, the abused.

Honey, we all have been abused in some way or another, but we don't use it as an excuse. We get over it, pick ourselves up and move on. I hope you will do the same.

S.B. Hinds
Pampa

Budget process not always straight-forward

To the editor,
It seems to me Mr. Lacy thinks we, the taxpayers, should continue subsidizing his hobby (golf) while cutting corners elsewhere, such as fire and police protection. While he did not say that, it is implied by his statements concerning the District Attorney's office and the "over zealous" prosecution and jailing of "non-violent lawbreakers" (re: his letter to the editor of Aug. 19).

While I'm not smart enough to come up with a balanced budget, I am smart enough to recognize special interest groups that feed at the tax trough. Mr. Lacy has all the appearances of being associated with one of those groups.

A good way to save some money would be for those who use the Hidden Hills golf course to take possession of the property, pay the Pro's salary, maintenance costs and other expenses for which the taxpayers are currently obligated.

Another savings could be realized by reducing the number of new automobiles used by administrative personnel, as well as the drivers of those non-essential vehicles. Seems the only place cuts are being considered are well below the "muckity-muck" and "head honcho" levels. Perhaps the City Council could address those issues.

I realize most folks have their own cross to bear; however, being burdened with higher taxes has the same effect as the old management practice of "continuing the flogging until morale improves." Sooner or later that practice comes home to roost.

The same is true when throwing out numbers such as a 13.5 percent tax increase. From experience, I know how the budget process works ... ALWAYS ask for a great deal more than you actually need, then settle for less, and those gullible people who supply the operating funds will think they won a great victory (the taxpayers in this case).

You know, I wish they would go for something above the figure that could trigger a roll-back vote. At that time, those of us who foot the cost of city government would have the opportunity to voice our opposition to "tax and spend, politics as usual" by voting for a roll-back. We would then, and only then, find out how much money is really needed to operate the city.

Jim Terry
Pampa

(See, LETTERS, Page 9)

Sid Sanders, DPM, R.Ph.

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ATTENTION PAMPA!!!

Do you want to Close Fire Station #2?

Make plans to attend the public hearing Tuesday August 28 at M.K. Brown auditorium. Your City Commissioners need to hear from you! Last Sunday we published the delayed response times if this station is closed. What could happen with the delayed response and the cuts of people?

This will affect the entire city, not just the north side. A two-minute delay will increase the fire 4 times as large. We have been compared unfairly to Borger, Dumas, and Canyon. These cities do not provide the same services that Pampa Fire Department does. One example was in July this year. There was a structure fire at a residence in one of these cities. The response time was over 3.5 minutes. When the fire dept. arrived they were told there were 3 people in the house. The firefighters could not enter the structure until additional units arrived over 8 minutes later. The structure sustained \$115,000.00 in damages; the structures surrounding this house had \$210,000.00 in damages. It turned out that the people were not in the house or we would have read in the newspaper about the tragic death of a mother and her two children. We do not want this type of coverage in Pampa!

Is this the Fire Protection you want for Pampa?
Do you want to close station 2 for only \$15.85 a year?
Do you want to loose 12 more taxpayers?
The Fire Department has already been cut 14 positions.



Fire fighter Dan Squires of Local 321 holds a 3-year-old he rescued from a house fire in Racine, a nice shot that reminds everyone of saving a child's life means to a fire fighter. News Photo-The Journal Times photo by: Tim Stein

The Journal Times Photo by: Tim Stein Submitted by: Racine, WI Local 321

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE EIGHT

LETTERS

Get vocal: Tell city, county leaders how you feel

To the editor,
I do not know about you, but my roots in the Texas Panhandle are very deep. One of my grandfathers came here in the 1870s as a buffalo hunter. In 1896, he was elected county judge in Hemphill County. His wife to be and/or her sister taught school in Parnell in Roberts County. My other grandfather came to the Oklahoma land rush in 1901. He homesteaded 1/2-mile from the Texas state line for a while and came to Texas as soon as he could.

For myself, I treasure the wide-open spaces, the clear skies, the clean air and good water (excluding Lake Meredith for drinking.) The wind could slow down a bit most of the time. Our environment is very good here. I have thought about moving to another location, but there are drawbacks — humidity, hurricanes, earthquakes — so the Texas Panhandle is pretty good.

I worked at the Celanese Plant from 1966 until 1996. During this time, I worked on many environmental safety projects. Starting in 1976 and the 4 1/2-years following, I was assigned exclusively to the project that changed the name from "Smelanese" back to Celanese.

I designed and saw the installation of concrete liners on the farm ponds to protect them from the erosion caused by the wind and wave action. I supervised the drilling of monitor wells into the Ogallala to detect contamination. I was present when the first contaminated water was brought to the surface.

Surprisingly, it was not a murky dark color you might expect. The water looked as good as the water from your faucet at home. Testing told a different story. The point being that the contamination is not always visible. Now, through the efforts of many and a company dedicated to clean environment, this is being or has been remediated.

There is a threat to the things I believe in. The NPD pig factory could destroy or severely impact these things. Do not misread this. I am not against the pig factory as such. I do not agree that it is the salvation for Pampa and Gray County. The thing that concerns me most is the effect on our environment.

The proposed waste lagoon system (cesspools) are a threat to our water supply; like Celanese and Texaco, it may take 40- to 50-years to be detected. The Ogallala Aquifer is a precious heritage. It has been abused and misused but must be preserved for following generations.

The lagoon (cesspool) systems with clay and/or plastic liners are too vulnerable to natural and human damage. (I wrote about the lagoon design and the flaws they possess previously.) The pig factory will consume large amounts of water, which will ultimately go to waste (pun intended.)

Swine are very prone to disease. Antibiotics are administered frequently and almost routinely. Some locations put antibiotics in the pig's drinking water. According to a Sept. 22, 2000, USDA report on hogs in Texas, the following pathogens are found in pig waste: Brucella, Eosinophilic Myostitis, Encephalomyocarditis, Erysipelas, six strains of Escherichia coli, at least 10 strains of influenza, Leptospirosis, Listeria, Nephritis, four strains of pneumonia, Procine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, Pseudorabies, 10 strains of salmonella, Staphylococcus.

According to some, there are up to 20 other pathogens in hog waste, solid and liquid. Mutated viruses have been discovered at hog farms in North Carolina and are presumed to be at other hog farms (New England Journal of Medicine.)

Zoonosis, the transmittal of diseases between species, is indicated by several viral and bacterial diseases transmitted from hogs to humans. Influenza and pneumonia being most common and widely known. Does this create a problem? Do you want to take a chance on hog waste contaminating the Ogallala? Does this indicate the reason for the high turnover rate of personnel? Do you want to go out and kiss a pig today?

The proposed lagoons are not new technology. This is technology that has been outlawed for municipalities. Why should we accept lagoon systems when new and improved technology is available? Sure, new technology will probably cost more during construction. Less if you factor in the cost of closing the lagoons or disposing of their contents.

The USDA report states, "15,000 animals (hogs) in Finish Stage will produce solid waste equivalent to a town of 28,000." This issue of closing the lagoons I have not seen addressed, except that the expected life of a pig factory cell is given as 10- to 12-years. Will the owners pack up and leave the mess for the taxpayers — you and me — to clean up?

The spray system to spray the waste on cropland may be used. The permit will probably be for zero discharge; this means that any run-off must be contained on the site. You and I know that the panhandle weather is unpredictable. I have seen seven-inches of rain in 45-minutes and the temperature drop 45 degrees in 45-minutes. What will happen when we receive one of our big rain seasons? Will the runoff go somewhere else? Red Deer Creek or the Playas? Is the contamination of our soil acceptable?

Last and but not means least is the air. Have you ever gone into L.A. by air or by car? Did you see a valley full of smog? Have you ever approached Phoenix from the west and observed the dome of smog over the city? Have you ever driven through downtown Phoenix with the car windows down and the smog burning your eyes?

This has nothing to do with pig factories, but the principal is similar; the sensing organ is the nose. If you are downwind from the factory you may get a nose full. The TNRC does have a rule prohibiting nuisance odors. Enforcement is the problem. Can the inspectors smell the odors like you and I?

Following are excerpts from a memo written by Mary Solomon on the Internet, titled South Carolina Hog Farm Moratorium Ends:

"South Carolina's moratorium on new or expanded hog farms ended August 9, 2001, and was replaced by new, tougher regulations. These regulations created a new category of hog farms — those with 1 million pounds or more of normal production animal weight or about 7,000 hogs (termed large swine facilities). These regulation create new setbacks, outlaw open-pit lagoons and sprayfields on large scale farms and go into effect immediately as emergency regulations. Smithfield Foods (parent company of NPD) claims that these permits (pending permit applications they have submitted) should be evaluated under old regulations but the Department of Health and Environmental Control says they

must meet newer, more stringent guidelines. Setback and distance requirements have been extended from previous regulations. Lagoon capacity is limited, and must be covered if they exist at all. The new regulations state that "Best Available Technology" must be used regardless of cost. A set of financial requirements assurances such as insurance, letters of credit or sinking funds of 10 percent of the total cost of the entire facility (including barns) for possible remediation of pollution. A closure plan is also required with 100 percent of the closure cost insured. Finally except for Acts of God, automatic Penalties of up to \$10,000 per day will be assessed for lagoon or treatment loss of containment, crop field runoff or discharge into groundwater, with second occurrences resulting in revocation of permits."

It seems the State of South Carolina has taken a giant step in protecting the health and safety of its citizens, can the City of Pampa, Gray County and the State of Texas do less? We do not have to accept what the pig factory offers. New

technology to prevent or decrease all of the above is available. One method tested in Indiana, Ozone Injection, claims to eliminate or reduce all of the above and leave the water suitable for reuse at the site. This would both reduce the demand on the Ogallala and reduce the likelihood of contamination. Other methods are being developed and tested.

The full-page ad in last Sunday's Pampa News stated that NPD wants to be a part of the community. To me, this means that they should be willing to install systems that do not pollute our water, soil and air. The water, soil and air are our heritage; we must do everything possible to preserve it for our children and grandchildren.

If you agree with me, let your wishes be known. If we do not act, the pig factory will be here with the blessings of our city leaders. Tell them what you think. Ask them for answers to the questions I have presented here.

Dale Roth
Pampa

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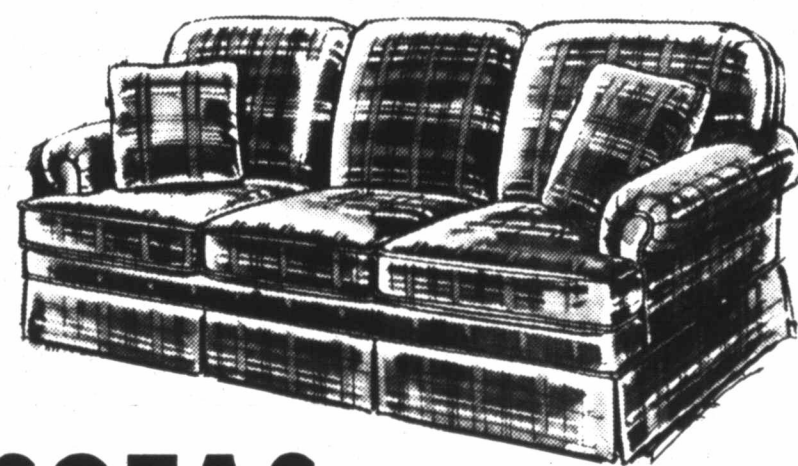


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To the friends of J.B. Floyd:

I want to thank all of you for your kindness, cards, calls, food and flowers during this time of sorrow. Meeting so many of J.B.'s friends at his memorial service let me know what fine people he had as friends.

His Mother,
Eula Floyd

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AHA no longer pro-estrogen

By MATT SLAGLE
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The influential American Heart Association is changing course and recommending that women not be prescribed estrogen solely to prevent strokes and heart disease, because of growing evidence that the supplements might cause harm.

Doctors long believed that hormone supplements are good for women's hearts. But the heart association — one of the most authoritative organizations in the field of heart disease prevention — cited conflicting evidence that has come out over the past few years.

Hormone supplements combining estrogen and progesterone are prescribed to about 20 million American women, mostly to treat hot flashes and other post-menopausal symptoms and to lower the risk of brittle bones.

The heart association said that women taking hormones for the non-cardiac benefits do not need to stop. But women should not start taking hormones simply to prevent heart trouble.

The new guidelines were published in Tuesday's issue of *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association. They represent a shift from 1999, when the organization said that doctors may consider the use of hormones to help prevent heart disease.

The lead author of the guidelines, Dr. Lori Mosca, director of preventive cardiology at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell universities, said the widely held assumption that estrogen offers a protective effect is based on the fact that women generally have their first heart attack 10 years later than men.

But a review of research on the topic found no clear evidence that hormone replacement therapy reduces the risk of heart disease in women, and actually found that in some cases, women had a higher risk of heart problems, Mosca said.

For example, a study published earlier this month in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* concluded that postmenopausal women who have had a heart attack or diagnosis of heart disease and are on hormone supplements for less than one year have an increased risk of another heart attack or dying from heart disease than those who are not on hormones.

While hormone treatment does benefit the heart by raising good cholesterol, reducing bad cholesterol and relaxing blood vessels, doctors know it also can have negative side effects, such as inflammation of blood vessels and blood clotting.

"The thing we thought was giving a benefit may cause problems in some women," Mosca said. "I think that a woman should be aware as to why she is taking hormone replacement therapy. Is she taking it because she thinks it's protecting her heart? I think women need to reflect upon why they are on it and consult with their doctor."

Dr. JoAnn E. Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, estimated that 20 percent of women taking hormone replacement therapy are doing so expressly to prevent heart disease.

Manson, co-author of a recent *New England Journal of Medicine* article that advised doctors not to prescribe hormones just to prevent heart disease, said the figure was once twice as high, but fell in recent years as more studies questioned the benefits and suggested negative effects.

"I think it has dropped but not enough," Manson said. "There are still many clinicians out there who are prescribing hormone replacement therapy for the express purpose of preventing heart disease."

A National Institutes of Health study of 27,500 women is looking at whether hormone replacement therapy should be used solely to prevent cardiovascular disease. But the results are not expected for five years.

"We have a long time to wait. In the interim, this is an attempt to form reasonable recommendations in the face of less than perfect science," Mosca said.

Dr. Nieca Goldberg, chief of the women's heart program at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City, said the new guidelines are important because they pull together a body of evidence that suggests traditional heart disease treatments, including stopping smoking, diet changes and exercise, are the best ways to prevent cardiovascular disease.

"Obviously that's a lot harder than taking a pill," Goldberg said.

On the Net:

<http://www.americanheart.org>

Women who try labor after C-Section at greater risk, study suggests

By STEPHANIE NANO
Associated Press Writer

Mothers who have had a Caesarean section increase their chances of rupturing their uterus if they attempt vaginal delivery during their next pregnancy, especially if labor is induced, according to a new study.

For years, doctors advised women who had Caesarean sections to deliver all their babies by C-section because of the scars left on their uterus. But more recently, women have been encouraged to attempt to deliver vaginally after a Caesarean and approximately 60 percent of them try labor.

From 1989 to 1996, the rate of vaginal births after a Caesarean increased 50 percent in the United States to 28 per 100 women. By 1999, it was down to 23 per 100 women.

The rate of Caesarean births has remained at about 22 percent during the same 10-year period.

Questions persist, however, about whether labor causes problems such as uterine rupture, an uncommon but serious complication. A tear in the uterus can result in a hysterectomy, blood transfusions or death for the mother and brain damage or death for the infant.

Researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle studied this issue by looking at 20,095 women who delivered their first baby by Caesarean section and then had a second child. There were 91 cases of uterine rupture, according to the findings reported in a recent *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Compared to women in the group who had a repeat C-section without labor, the researchers said those who went into labor spontaneously were three times more likely to have a uterine rupture. Women whose labor was induced — but not with a class of drug

known as prostaglandins — were nearly five times more likely to have a rupture and those induced with a prostaglandin, which is more potent, were 15 times more likely.

"By no means does our study suggest that no woman should have a vaginal birth after a Caesarean. What it says is there are risks of doing that that we didn't fully appreciate," said one of the researchers, Dr. Thomas R. Easterling.

He said some women may opt to try a vaginal delivery for the birth experience or because of the faster recovery. Those who try labor should do it in a hospital that can quickly perform a C-section should it become necessary, he said.

TDH: New educational effort targets neural tube birth defects

AUSTIN — Many Texas women don't remember to take a multivitamin, according to a survey by the Texas Department of Health (TDH), despite strong evidence that the B vitamin folic acid helps prevent certain birth defects.

Only one third of those surveyed say they take folic acid supplements daily. Though the study shows that low-income women are less likely than higher-income women to take folic acid, few of the women surveyed said cost was a prohibitive factor.

TDH, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Public Health Service recommend that all women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily to prevent birth defects of the brain and spine.

"Our findings show that many women simply aren't aware that taking folic acid before pregnancy can prevent neural tube defects," said Mark Canfield, director of TDH's Texas Birth Defects Monitoring Division. "By getting this message to more women, we hope the number of babies born with disabling and sometimes deadly birth defects will drop."

Communicating this message is a function of the Texas Folic Acid Council. TFAC, a statewide coalition of public health agencies and nonprofit organizations concerned with the prevention of birth defects, encourages women to take folic acid. TFAC began its work in 1999 when former Texas First Lady Laura Bush hosted a kick-off breakfast at the State Capitol.

TFAC recently began to distribute approximately 20,000 cosmetic bags containing multivitamins, nail files with a folic acid message and educational leaflets to

Texans enrolled in TDH's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. These kits initially will be available in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas and Odessa and in Hidalgo, El Paso, Smith and Tarrant counties. TFAC will select additional distribution sites for 2002.

Researchers have known for years that up to 70 percent of neural tube defects (NTDs) can be prevented if women of childbearing age take folic acid.

In 1998, the federal government began requiring that enriched grain products, including flour, corn, rice and oats, be fortified with folic acid.

According to the CDC, NTDs have decreased 19 percent nationwide during the last decade. Health authorities attribute the decline to TDH, the federal government and voluntary health organizations such as the March of Dimes spreading the word about the link between folic acid and the prevention of birth defects and mandatory folic acid fortification of enriched grain products.

TDH strongly supported the fortification of the U.S. grain supply at an even higher level. But women should not rely only on cereals, bread, tortillas and other fortified grain products for their daily folic acid. Health experts agree that taking a daily multivitamin or consuming highly fortified cereals (those with 400 micrograms of folic acid in a serving) are the best ways to ensure that women who could become pregnant get an adequate amount of folic acid.

Neural tube defects occur when the brain and spinal cord fail to develop during the earliest weeks of pregnancy. NTDs include anencephaly, the partial absence of the brain and skull, and spina bifida, an exposure of

the spinal cord. Neural tube defects in newborns can be emotionally and financially devastating for families. Most children with spina bifida are confined to wheelchairs; anencephaly is always fatal.

Since the neural tube forms early, women must begin taking folic acid before they learn they are pregnant. "The neural tube closes early in pregnancy, within three to four weeks after conception," said Canfield. "This means that to prevent neural tube defects, folic acid must be taken before a woman conceives. This situation is complicated by the fact that about half of all pregnancies are unplanned, so many women are not focusing on being in optimal health for pregnancy. It's very important that all women who are capable of bearing children get at least 400 micrograms of folic acid each day. The easiest way to do this is by taking a multivitamin daily."

TFAC is composed of representatives from TDH; the March of Dimes; the Spina Bifida Association; TEXGENE; the Texas Medical Association; Association of Women's Health, Obstetrical, and Neonatal Nurses; Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies; the UT-Houston School of Public Health; and Texas A&M University.

TFAC member organizations are responsible for a number of initiatives, including surveys of Texas women, statewide surveillance of birth defects and development of a professional education curriculum, a neural tube defect prevention project, awareness campaigns along the Texas-Mexico border and bilingual educational resources. Organizations interested in participating in TFAC can contact Jennifer Edwards, TFAC coordinator, Austin, at (512) 477-3221.

Researches say staph bacteria active gene swappers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Staph bacteria can quickly swap genes with relatives to turn into virulent, dangerous germs that can cause disease and resist antibiotics, a new study shows.

In a report appearing in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, federal researchers said they used a new technology to learn that *Staphylococcus aureus* could grab new genes from nearby bacteria to adapt itself to a changing environment.

Staphylococcus aureus, or staph, is an extremely troublesome bacterium that causes a variety of illnesses. It is a major cause of hospital-acquired infection. Staph causes such things as the scalded skin disease that strikes infants, toxic shock syndrome and systemic blood poisoning called sepsis.

Antibiotics once controlled the bacteria, but strains of staph are now resistant to the drugs.

"This is the first time we've been able to do such an extensive genetic comparison of these strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*," said Dr. James M. Musser, senior author of the study and head of a bacterial research lab at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease's Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, Mont. NIAID is one of the National Institutes of Health.

In the study, Musser and his colleagues analyzed the genes of 36 of the most troublesome strains of staph and concluded that virtually any of the bacteria's 2,817 strains could acquire the genes to become resistant to antibiotics.

"This is occurring at a far more greater frequency than we anticipated," said Musser. "The drug resistant strains can be created many times. It is not a single strain that is created once and then spreads."

Instead, he said the genetic combination that provides resistance can arise independently in many different places, many different times. Such an easy evolution of drug resistance "has sent a wave of terror through people responsible for public health," said Dr. Abigail A. Salyers, a microbiologist at the University of Illinois, Urbana. "They know this organism will become a major pathogen if antibiotics no longer work."

Salyers, who is president of the American Society for Microbiology, said the work by Musser and his group is important because it confirms what has long been suspected — that whole gene structures can jump

from bacteria to bacteria, creating new strains of antibiotic resistant bugs within a matter of hours.

"One of the important findings in this paper is that the anti-bacterial resistance gene is being acquired by lateral transfer," or from bacteria-to-bacteria, she said. This has long been suspected, but Salyers said the Musser paper presents new evidence.

Staph is among the most common human bacteria, carried by about a third of the population. It can be picked up from countertops or door knobs, but is more frequently transferred through skin-to-skin contact, such as shaking hands.

The bacteria can invade the body through breaks in the skin and set up a virulent systemic infection, particularly among people with weakened immune systems — infants, the elderly, the injured or the ill.

Salyers said that that thousands of people die annually of staph infection, but once the death toll was even higher.

Before World War II, more than half of all fatalities in wars came from wounds that were infected by staph or other bacteria, said Salyers. A simple, untreated scratch on the hand or foot often was enough to set off a raging and lethal infection.

Antibiotics beat staph into the medical background, but starting in the 1980s, antibiotic resistant strains evolved. Drugs that once worked suddenly did not.

Salyers said staph is back and presenting a significant new threat while researchers scramble to learn more about ways to fight it.

"Virtually anything new we find out about staph aureus is an important finding because of its potential as a major public health threat," said Salyers.

On the Net:

American Society for Microbiology:
<http://www.microbe.org/index.html>
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences:
<http://www.eurekalert.org>

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SPORTS

Notebook

GOLF

PAMPA — The Hidden Hills Women's Golf Association will have a scramble Monday at Hidden Hills, beginning at 6 p.m. with a shotgun start.

There will be five dollar entry fee, which doesn't include green fees and carts.

Call 669-5866 to sign up.

FOOTBALL

AMARILLO — All Amarillo-area Toot'n Totum stores are offering two-for-one ticket coupons for West Texas A&M's football season opener Thursday against Midwestern State, scheduled for 7 p.m. at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium.

The coupons will be available at all stores through Tuesday night and can be redeemed at the gate on Thursday.

PAMPA — Both the Pampa junior varsity and 9th grade football teams open the season Thursday against Dalhart.

Both games will be played at home.

The freshmen will be playing Dalhart's high school junior varsity with the game starting at 5. The JV game kicks off at 6:30.

BASEBALL

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A minor league umpire who told a manager he intentionally made a wrong call to get back at a player has resigned.

Erik Stahlbusch told the Professional Baseball Umpire Corp. that he was leaving his position with the Class A Midwest League immediately, according to a news release from Minor League Baseball.

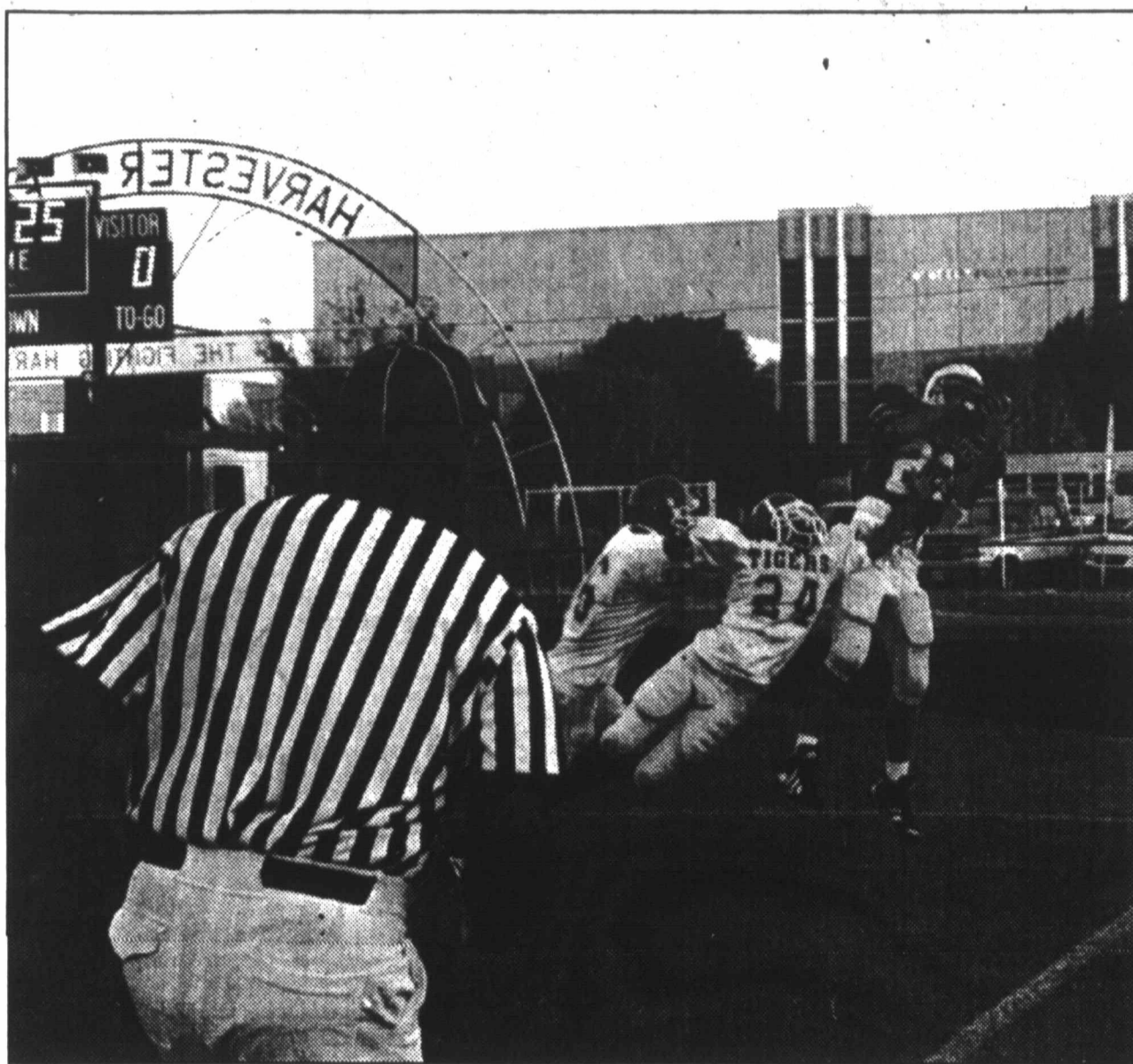
BASKETBALL

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Jason Richardson, the No. 5 overall pick in the NBA draft, was one of three rookies signed by the Golden State Warriors.

The Warriors also signed Troy Murphy, selected 14th from Notre Dame, and Gilbert Arenas, the 31st selection, from Arizona.

HOCKEY

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Phoenix re-signed goalie Robert Esche to a three-year contract with an option for a fourth year. Esche went 10-8-4 with a 3.02 goals-against average last season.



(Pampa News photo)

Adam Rodgers catches a touchdown pass for the Harvesters in Friday night's scrimmage with Frenship.

Pampa impressive against Frenship

PAMPA — If Pampa's scrimmage with Frenship is any indication, the Harvesters could have a bright season ahead of them.

Pampa scored three touchdowns while Frenship failed to cross the goalline during two 15-minute quarters of a controlled scrimmage Friday night at Harvester Stadium.

However, PHS head coach Dennis Cavalier added a precautionary note following the scrimmage.

"I felt like we did good, but you have to be careful not to point out too much about a scrimmage, good or bad," he said. "We made some big plays and it was a good team effort, but we're all looking ahead to next week."

Next week is Pampa's 2001 season opener against Dalhart, which is set for 8 p.m. Friday at Dalhart.

Sophomore tailback Johnny Moore ran for one touchdown and also caught a scoring pass from junior quarterback John Braddock. Moore also had a TD reception nullified because of a holding penalty. Pampa's other TD came on a Braddock pass to Adam Rodgers.

Junior kicker Jared

Snelgrooves made good on all three extra-point conversions.

"Johnny Moore had some nice runs and there was some excellent blocking. John Braddock threw the ball well and Randy Tice did a good job of directing the offense at various times. Adam Rodgers made some nice catches and to my knowledge he's never played football before. Jordan Klaus did a good job," Cavalier said. "There was good blocking, good pass protection and good tackling by a bunch of players."

2001 PHS Schedule

- Aug.**
- 31-Dalhart, 8 away.
- Sept.**
- 7 - Lubbock Estacado, 7:30 away; 14 - Amarillo High, 7:30 home; 21 - Open; *29 - Palo Duro, 1 away.
- Oct.**
- *5-Hereford, 7:30 homecoming; *12 - Dumas, 7:30 home; *20 - Caprock, 1 away; *26 - Caprock, 7:30 home.
- Nov.**
- *2 - Randall, 7:30 away; *Borger, 7:30 home, senior night.

*denotes district game

Former TCU coach takes over at win-hungry Alabama

By JOHN ZENOR
AP Sports Writer

In another regard, too: Franchione and the fans are helpless to do anything about the NCAA's official letter of inquiry into alleged violations under former coach Mike DuBose. The investigation has been going on for well over a year, looking into improper payments allegedly made to recruits and academic fraud from 1996-2000, spanning DuBose's rocky reign.

"It hasn't tempered the fans' enthusiasm. Alabama enters the season ranked 25th despite coming off its worst season in 43 years.

"It's business as usual in Tuscaloosa," said Linda Beving, a season-ticket holder as she ate lunch at a diner across the street from Bryant-Denny Stadium. "We're still going to have a football team, we're still going to be out there cheering."

Franchione is the fifth coach since Bryant retired after the 1982 season, and the first to bring to the post a winning record as a head coach. He has a 138-65-2 record in 18 seasons at such humble outposts as Pittsburg (Kan.) State and New Mexico.

DuBose, by contrast, was elevated from defensive coordinator and had only one year of previous head coaching experience — at Prattville (Ala.) High School.

Franchione's organization and discipline have been a good start after last season's disarray on and off the field. Players were skipping class, linebacker Victor Ellis said, and assistant coaches

bickered.

That seems unlikely under Franchione, a meticulous planner with a massive players policy manual and detailed schedule mapped out through 2002.

The discipline caught Ellis by surprise.

"It's something I wasn't expecting, but it was something we needed greatly," he said. "I think that's what we needed, a guy who can come in and make decisions and be comfortable in the decisions he made."

"And we're willing to accept that and follow him and see where it leads us."

This rebuilding job is vastly different from those Franchione has undertaken at New Mexico and TCU, programs limited in talent and with modest pedigrees and expectations.

Many of Alabama's players were part of DuBose's 1999 team that won the SEC championship and went to the Orange Bowl.

"I would not classify this as a marathon," Franchione said. "I hope it's a 100-meter dash. I think this one's got a chance to turn around much quicker."

One obstacle to an instant turnaround is the quarterback question. Franchione said this week he has decided on a starter between senior Andrew Zow and junior Tyler Watts, but he won't announce the decision before next Saturday's season-opener against preseason No. 17 UCLA.

"After a 3-8 season, I don't care who's back there," said Zow,

who needs 361 yards passing to pass Jay Barker as Alabama's career leader. "I don't want to go 3-8 again."

It was the Tide's worst record since 1957, when J.B. "Ears" Whitworth's last team went 2-7-1. Bryant took over the next season, setting a lofty standard for his heirs to the program's controls.

"The Alabama fans want to win," former Tide coach Gene Stallings said, "and we can all thank coach Bryant for that, because he set the bar."

Stallings, who played for Bryant at Texas A&M and was on his staff at Alabama, advises Franchione to keep the distractions to a minimum.

"What he's got to worry about more than anything is his football team," said Stallings, who led Alabama to the national championship in 1992. "There's a lot of distractions at a place like

Alabama. A lot of people want your time, and you just have so much time."

Curry's advice is similar to Franchione's own assessment. "All you have to do to make Alabama fans happy — it's really simple — is win every game and look really good doing it," said Curry, who won 26 games during 1987-1989 but couldn't win over some Tide fans.

Franchione said fans have impressed upon him the three biggest priorities. Beating Auburn. Winning national championships. Upholding Bryant's legacy.

"I think sometimes they all come up in the same sentence," Franchione said.

But he's not complaining. "I wanted to be at a place that had a chance to compete for a national championship," he said. "Alabama fits that mold very well."

Former big leaguer dead at 84

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hank Sauer, the 1952 NL MVP and a two-time All-Star outfielder with the Chicago Cubs, died on a golf course. He was 84.

Sauer was on the first tee at the Crystal Springs Golf Club in Burlingame, Calif., when he died.

The cause of death was unknown pending the results of an autopsy.

Sauer was the first player in

major league history to win an MVP while on a team that finished in the second division.

Sauer hit .266 with 288 home runs and 876 RBIs in a 15-year career with Cincinnati, the Cubs, St. Louis and the Giants.

He was an original member of the 1958 San Francisco Giants, and retired after the 1959 season.

Nixon's grand slam dooms Rangers, 7-4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Rookie manager Jerry Narron didn't follow normal baseball strategy, and it cost the Texas Rangers a game.

Narron stuck with rookie right-handed reliever Dan Kolb against left-handed hitting Trot Nixon rather than going to the bullpen for lefty Juan Moreno. And Nixon made Narron pay with a tiebreaking grand slam that lifted the Boston Red Sox to a 7-4 victory on Friday night.

Narron wanted to give Kolb a chance to pitch out of the situation, a move he later regretted.

"In the eighth inning, I made a

mistake," Narron said. "If

Moreno's job is to get left-handers out, I've got to get him in to face Nixon. What bothers me tonight is that I don't feel I gave our guys a chance to win in the eighth. That doesn't mean I don't have confidence in Danny Kolb, but I've got to give Juan Moreno a chance to do his job."

Nixon was determined to force Kolb to throw a lot of pitches, and he worked the count full before hitting the decisive homer.

"I go up there trying to make the pitcher work," Nixon said. "I'm picky about my pitch. I feel confident I can get a pitch I want

to hit."

Nixon saw 27 pitches in his five trips to the plate and reached base four times, including his homer, a single, a walk and an error.

"It seems like the more pitches he sees, the better he gets," Red Sox manager Joe Kerrigan said. "As a (former) pitcher I know, the more times you throw, the more the advantage goes to the hitter. After you've thrown him six or seven pitches in an at-bat, what else can you throw him he hasn't already seen?"

The Red Sox, who improved to 5-0 against Texas this season, is three games behind New York in

the AL East.

Texas evened it at 3-all with a two-run seventh. But Boston, again playing without injured slugger Manny Ramirez, broke loose in the eighth.

Troy O'Leary led off with a single against Chris Michalak (6-8), making his first appearance for Texas after being claimed off waivers from Toronto. Shea Hillenbrand singled off Kolb and Doug Mirabelli drew a one-out walk that loaded the bases.

Nixon followed by lifting a low fastball that just cleared the right-field wall for his third career grand slam and 20th homer of the season.

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Calendar of events

T.O.P.S. #149
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #149 meets at 6 p.m. Monday at 513 E. Francis. Call 669-2389 for more information.

T.O.P.S. #41
Take Off Pounds Sensibly (T.O.P.S.) #41 meets at noon Monday at 511 N. Hobart. For more information, call 665-3024.

AL-ANON
Al-Anon will hold weekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at 910 W. Kentucky.

VFW CHARITY BINGO
The Pampa Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1657, 105 S. Cuyler, will be having Charity Bingo every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Doors open at 12 noon. The public is welcome. License No. 1-75-6037422-9.

OUTREACH HEALTH SERVICES/WIC
Outreach Health Services/WIC Nutrition education classes. Open to the public. For more information, call 665-1182.

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS
The Celebration of Lights project will hold regular workshop meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Monday nights at 822 E. Foster. Anyone wishing to help with the project is invited to attend any work session.

PAMPA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB
The Pampa Duplicate Bridge Club plays Monday at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10 a.m. at The Senior Citizens. For a partner, or more information, please call Marie Jamieson at 669-2945.

PANHANDLE ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL
A support group for the mentally ill and family members meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at 218 N. Russell. This week we are discussing the negative symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia. There is no charge. For more information or if you need a ride call Sharon King, 665-2818.

MONTHLY GOSPEL SINGING
First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, hosts a Gospel Singing from 2-4 p.m. every second Sunday of the month. Pastor Albert Maggard and the congregation of First Pentecostal cordially invites the public to attend. Singers and musicians from area churches participate in this informal congregational singing and enjoy various special vocal and instrumental presentations.

CLASS OF 1961
Pampa High School Class of 1961 will hold its 40th class reunion this year. Anyone interested in helping plan and organize the event should contact Zip Swaney at 665-5532.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers from the community to respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. As well as personal satisfaction, volunteers learn how to protect themselves and cope with disaster by planning ahead, particularly essential during tornado season. In addition, ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

CCPC OTC PROGRAM
Enrollment for Clarendon College's Office Technology Certificate (OTC) Program and Machining Technology Program (MTP) is currently under way at Clarendon College-Pampa Center. Both programs can be completed in nine-months. OTC classes begin Aug. 13 and MTP classes Aug. 30. Scholarships, loans and pell grants are available. Graduates will receive free job placement assistance. For more information, call 665-8801.

FPC CHOIR/BAND
Frank Phillips College Community Choir and Community Band are

currently seeking new members. Choir practice starts Aug. 27 and band practice Aug. 28. Both meet in the Fine Arts Building on the FPC campus in Borger. For more information, call 1-800-6878-2056, ext. 728.

ART EXHIBIT
Artist Ric Farley will exhibit at Frank Phillips College Art Department Fine Arts Building (FAB) in Borger through Aug. 30. The public may meet the artist during a reception scheduled from 5-7 p.m. on the 30th in the FAB Gallery Room on campus.

FALL RETREAT
First Baptist Church Women's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 28-30 at New Beginnings near Channing. The deadline for registration is Aug. 31. Cost is \$97 (two per room) and will include food, lodging and transportation from Pampa. Forms are available at the church, 203 N. West. For more information, call 669-1155 or contact Kathryn Green at 669-0148.

ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION
Ten free Colorado blue spruce trees will be given to each person who joins The National Arbor Day Foundation throughout the month of August. The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between Oct. 15 and Dec. 10 with enclosed planting instructions. The six to twelve inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. Members also receive a subscription to the Foundation's colorful bimonthly publication, "Arbor Day" and "The Tree Book" with information about tree planting and care. To receive the free trees, send a \$10 membership contribution to Ten Blue Spruces, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410, by Aug. 31, 2001.

CANYON CAMPFIRE CELEBRATION
Caprock Canyons State Park in Quitaque and Caprock Partners Foundation will host "Canyon Campfire Celebration" at 7 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 1 at the park's group shelter overlooking Lake Theo. Local artists will perform music and cowboy poetry. For more information, call (806) 455-1492. Participants should bring their own lawn chairs as seating is limited.

CHAUTAUQUA
The annual Chautauqua, sponsored each year by Pampa Fine Arts Association, will be held Sept. 3 in Central Park.

HSQ CONCERT
Harrington String Quartet will commemorate its 20th anniversary with a public performance from 7-9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7 in Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2415 Soncy, in Amarillo. Students of all ages who have received instruction from members of the group will honor the Quartet with performances. For more information, call Katherine Moore at (806) 352-2300.

GCARC TRAIL RIDE
Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens will hold its ninth annual Trail Ride beginning at 9 a.m. Sept. 8. For more information, call 665-7609, 669-0176 or 669-7171.

PIONEER DAY
A "Pioneer Day" is set for Saturday, Sept. 8 at Cheyenne City Park in Cheyenne, Okla. Activities will include: demonstrations (churn, treadle sewing, lye soap, blacksmith and more), silent auction, flour tortilla recipe contest, petting zoo, wagon ride, entertainment, antique car and machinery show and more. For more information, call (580) 497-2760.

TOP O' TEXAS CATTLEWOMEN STYLE SHOW
Top O' Texas CattleWomen Style Show and Brunch is slated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday Sept. 8 at Pampa Country Club. Tickets are \$15. A grand prize drawing for two travel certificates will be held. For information or tickets, call Lilith Brainard in Pampa at 665-4579.

BSA FALL VOLUNTEER TRAINING
BSA Hospice in Pampa will offer its Fall Volunteer Training and Community Education Class Monday, Sept. 10 through Oct. 11. This comprehensive class is designed for adults who are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, want to learn more about hospice care, or desire personal growth and enrichment. The class will meet Mondays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. at Clarendon College-Pampa Center. This program is offered free of charge to the Pampa, Borger and surrounding communities and CEU's will be awarded by CCPC. For more information or to pre-register, call the Hospice at 665-6677.

CHAMBER PRAYER BREAKFAST
The Pampa Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly prayer breakfast at 6:45 a.m., Sept. 11 in the M.K. Brown Room of Pampa Community Building.

CHEROKEE STRIP TRAIL RIDE
The 15th Annual Cherokee Strip Trail Ride is slated Sept. 12-16. The trail ride will kick-off at 9 a.m. at Elm Park, Waynoka, Okla. Ride fees are \$5 per day (individual) or \$10 per day (family). All horses must have current health papers. Wagons are invited. For more information or to preregister, call (316) 835-2862, (580) 6997-3314, (580) 256-7095 or (580) 824-0683.

COUNTY CENTENNIAL LOGO CONTEST
Gray County Centennial Logo Contest is currently seeking entries. Deadline is Sept. 15, 2001. Submit design on separate sheet of paper and include name, address, day and evening phone numbers. Mail to Madeline Gawthrop, Route 2, Box 74A, Pampa, TX 79065. For more information, call 665-6345. No entries will be returned without a SASE.

DAYLILY SOCIETY SALE
Golden Spread Daylily Society will be selling daylilies - the officials flower of Amarillo - in a special fund-raiser from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at Amarillo Botanical Gardens, 1400 Streit Dr., Amarillo. For more information, call (806) 352-6513.

HOSPITALITY TRAINING
Hospitality Training for all Chamber of Commerce members is scheduled in three two-hour sessions at 9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sept. 27.

WCRA WORKING RANCH RODEO
WCRA Working Ranch Rodeo and Chuckwagon Cook-off is slated Sept. 29-30. For more information, contact the Top O' Texas Rodeo Association at (806) 669-0434.

PFA ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
Pampa Fine Arts Association Annual Arts and Crafts Show will be Oct. 12-14 at M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium.

COUNTRY FAIR
Pampa Chamber of Commerce Country Fair will kick-off at 6 p.m. Oct. 20 at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The festivities will include good food and dancing to the music of FlashBak.

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9 a.m. Opening Ceremony: MC Wanetta Hill, Joe Martinez
PHS Band Brass Ensemble National Anthem; Girl Scouts Present colors; Pledge of Allegiance, "The Blessing" sung by Joe Martinez

9:10 PHS Cheerleaders
9:15 Joe Martinez, singer
9:30 Pampa Gymnastics
9:45 Pampa Medical Center Awards For Chautauqua Run
9:55 Introduce Top of Texas Rodeo Queens - Announcements - Raffle
10:05 PHS Fiesta Dancers
10:25 Tae Kwon Do Demonstration
10:55 Announcements - Raffle
11:00 Dalene Wheat, singer (Drovers Restaurant)
11:15 Shekinah Glory - Vocal Ensemble (Calvary Baptist Church)
11:45 Jackie Harper, singer (First Christian Church)
12:00 A.F.S. Students Introduced
12:10 PHS Show Choir
12:40 Announcements - Raffle
12:45 Rick Scott, singer/songwriter
1:00 Paul Searl, soloist
1:30 Announcements - Raffle
1:35 "Elvis" (Smoky Binlon)
1:45 Announcements - Raffle
1:50 Clay Britton, singer (First Christian Church)
2:00 PIBM Band & Singers (Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana)
3:00 Announcements - Raffle
3:05 Dalene Wheat, singer (Drovers Restaurant)
3:25 Announcements - Final Raffle
3:30 Celtic Musicians (Amarillo)
4:00 Closing Ceremony - Girl Scouts Retire Colors; Chautauqua Theme: "Day is Dying in the West"; PHS Trumpeter: "Taps"

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Trail Riders ride for fun

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Jerry Carlson leads a group of trail riders as they participate in one of the past years' Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens Trail Rides. The Ninth Annual Trail Ride will be Saturday, Sept. 8. Proceeds go to the special needs of the retarded in the community.

By NANCY YOUNG
Managing Editor

Trail Riders unite. It's once again time for the annual Gray County Association for Retarded Citizens sponsored Ninth Annual Trail Ride.

This year's ride will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 8.

Riders look forward to riding their horses in the annual event each year. While the horsemen and women will be riding for pleasure, they will raising money to support activities for the mentally challenged in the community.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy the many trees and numerous wildlife as they ride their horses at the attractive and historical area of the Reynolds Ranch.

The annual event raises funds to support Special Olympics in the local community, support the Pampa Sheltered Workshop facility and activities, and provide for special needs of the retarded in the community.

A minimum of \$15 is needed to ride, and each rider can get as many sponsors as they want with each sponsor giving a one-time donation.

The rider raising the most in donations over \$750 will win a saddle. Second prize for the most money over \$300 is a pair of spurs which are handmade by Floyd McMinn.

Third prize winner for the most money raised over \$200 will receive a pickup load of feed. The fourth place winner for most money raised over \$100 will received three round bales of hay which will be delivered.

Numerous other prizes have been donated by area businesses.

The ranch area which the riders will cover has much historical significance as it is the place where the first settlers to the area built their homes.

The first water well was dug in that area and the building used for the county seat, post office and general gathering is also nearby.

Riders are to register at 8 a.m. Sept. 8, and the ride will begin at 9 a.m.

All horses must have a current negative coggins original certificate in order to ride, and riders are required to have the certificate at the registration.

Riders under the age of 18 must have signature of parent or guardian on registration form giving permission to ride. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided for the riders, and a barbecue lunch will be served at noon by the GCARC. Prizes will be awarded at the lunch break. The ride will continue until 3 p.m.

Trail Ride coordinator is Jane Goode. Additional information and registration forms may be obtained by contacting Goode at 665-7609, Sharon Williams at 669-0176 or Sherry Carlson at 669-7171.

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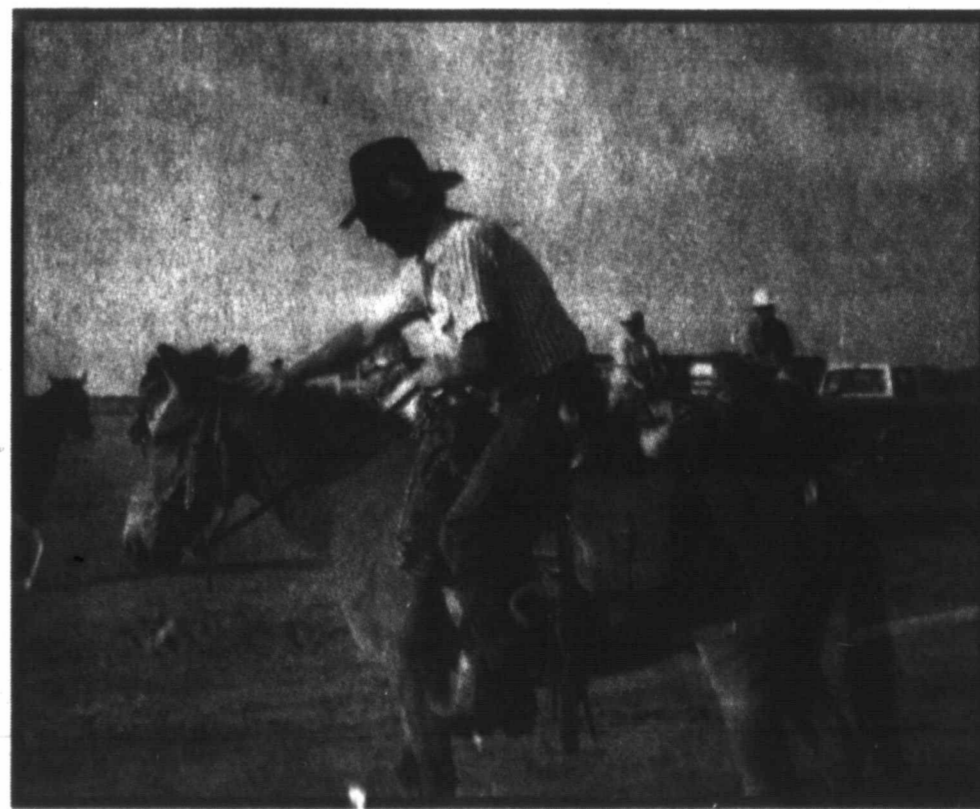
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money

Courtesy photos



Taking a break during a trail ride are Mark McMinn and Jerry Carlson. Many area residents enjoy the day-long event as they raise funds to help the group.



Cliff Elliott of Canyon gives his horse an encouraging word as they prepare to begin a trail ride. Riders from across the area participate in the annual event.

LIFESTYLE



Mary Lee Adamson and Chad A. Clardy

Adamson-Clardy

Mary Lee Adamson and Chad A. Clardy, both of Pampa, were wed July 28, 2001, in First Baptist Church of Pampa with the Rev. John Glover, minister of the church, officiating.

The maid of honor was Talyia Lane of Amarillo. The bridesmaids were Kim Maness of Amarillo, Amber Hathcoat of Pampa and Rishona Hatcher, cousin of the bride of Colorado Springs, Colo. The flower girl was Ashton Doke of Pampa.

The best man was Chris Teakell of Pampa. The groomsmen were Micah Adamson, cousin of the bride of Fritch, and Chi Brack and Clint Thomas, both of Pampa. The ring bearers were Jonathan Polasek of Pampa and Megan Hatcher, cousin of the bride of New Braunfels.

The ushers were Andrew Hatcher, cousin of the bride of Colorado Springs, and Micah Adamson. The candlelighters were Sara Albracht of Pampa and Andrew Hatcher.

Registering the guests was Carrie Doke of Pampa. Music was provided by pianist Becky Craddock and vocalists Chris and Cindy Hatcher, cousins of the bride of Abilene, performing "If You Could See What I See" and "From This Moment On," and John Glover, performing "The Lord's Prayer."

A reception was held following the service in the parlor of the church with Brenda Condo, Janice Tucker, Betty Taylor, Deanna Polasek and Nita Aderholt, all of Pampa, serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Bill and Roxanne Giles and Ray and Jeannetta Adamson, all of Pampa, and is the granddaughter of Lyndelle Hatcher of Pampa and the late Floyd (Red Dog) Hatcher, Howard and Mattie Adamson of Pampa, Bill and Dorothy Giles of Snyder, Gene and Betty DuBois of Satanta, Kan., and the late Bobbie Carter. She graduated from Pampa High School and is currently employed as a chiropractic assistant at Albracht Chiropractic of Pampa.

The groom is the son of Dwayne and Lea Nan Sparks of Pampa and is the grandson of Kenneth and Jane Purvis of Lefors and Clyde and Vera Davis of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School and is currently employed at HP Zachry Construction in Borger.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Amarillo and to Carlsbad, N.M., and intend to make their home in Pampa.



Amanda Tracy and Stuart Griffith

Tracy-Griffith

Amanda Tracy and Stuart Griffith, both of Lubbock, were wed Aug. 4 at an uncle's home in Amarillo with Robert of Amarillo officiating.

The maid of honor was Julie Snider, cousin of the bride of Prairie Lee.

The best man was Jeff Snider, cousin of the bride of Amarillo. The usher was Jeremy Hudgeons, cousin of the groom of Lubbock. Registering the guests was Sarah Boyd of Dallas.

Music was provided by violinist Diana Goad of Amarillo and Trio Fiesta, a mariachi band of Amarillo.

A reception was held at the residence following the service with Angela Hudgeons, cousin of the groom of Lubbock, serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Starla Tracy and Harry Tracy of Pampa. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in merchandising and marketing from Texas Women's University and previously worked in the purchasing department at Dollar Western.

The groom is the son of Sharon Griffith and Sam Griffith of Tyler. He holds bachelor of art degrees in biochemistry and Spanish. He is currently employed by University of New Mexico as a teaching assistant and is pursuing a master's degree in Spanish linguistics.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Puerto Vallarta, Guadalajara, Mexico, and intend to make their home in Albuquerque, N.M.



Emmy Elizabeth Dean and Ross Harrell Watkins

Dean-Watkins

Emmy Elizabeth Dean of Dallas and Ross Harrell Watkins were wed July 28 in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Galveston with the Rev. Frank Fabj, of the church, officiating.

The maid of honor was Kinsey McClure of Lubbock and the matron of honor was Erin Schofner of Jasper. The bridal attendants were Summer Shadden, Jessica Farrow and Lauren Miller, both of Austin, Kara Robison and Amanda Wood, both of Dallas, and Lindsay Jeanson of Jasper.

The best man was Joe Watkins, father of the groom of Amarillo. The groomsmen were Joel Ferland and David Adams, both of Lubbock, Josh Starnes and Tommy Dean, both of Houston, Phil Everson of Dallas and Blake Watkins of Amarillo. The ring bearers were Colt Cleavinger of Amarillo and Chase Cooke of Richardson.

The ushers were Javier Avila of Lubbock, Ben Marken of Jasper and Jonathan McComb of Corpus Christi.

A reception was held following the service at Hotel Galvez with Amy Billingsley of Jasper, Allison Watkins of Amarillo and Angie Smith of Waco serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Susan Dean and of Bill Dean, both of Jasper. She graduated from Jasper High School and holds a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing and management from Texas Tech University. She is currently an account manager for Homecomings Financial.

The groom is the son of Joe and Shelly Watkins of Amarillo, formerly of Pampa, and is the grandson of Jan and Ray Covalt and Sandra and Delmar Watkins, all of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1996 and holds a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing from Texas Tech University.

The couple honeymooned in Anguilla in the British West Indies and intend to make their home in Dallas.



Mr. and Mrs. James Hammer

Hammer anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. James Hammer of Bowie, Texas, formerly of Pampa, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary from 2-5 p.m. Sept. 2, 2001, in the Community Room at Bowie. Children of the couple will host the reception.

James Hammer and Jean Green were married Sept. 4, 1951, at Cisco, Texas. They have been Bowie residents for 20 years.

Mr. Hammer worked for Trident Gas for 30 years, retiring Aug. 8, 1995.

Mrs. Hammer worked for Bowie Hospital for 10 years, retiring May 29, 1996. She is active in Eastside Baptist Church where she is a member of the church choir.

Children of the couple are Dianna and Don Tidwell of Pampa, Danny and Judy Hammer of Paradise, Texas, Jimmy and Eva Hammer of Canadian and Robert and Sherry Hammer of Bowie. They have 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Daphne Barry and Tim Cox

Barry-Cox

Daphne Barry and Tim Cox plan to wed Oct. 13, 2001, at Westcliff Bible Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jerold and Karlina Barry of Amarillo and is the granddaughter of Annie Daphne Barry of Amarillo, and the late L.H. Barry and the late James and Bessie Faudree. She is a graduate of Tascosa High School and is currently employed by Amarillo Speed Print.

The prospective groom is the son of Marvin and Linda Cox and is the grandson of Lafoy and Catherine Vise of Pampa, formerly of Canadian, and the late Lorene Vise, Elsie Hughes of Wheeler and the late Claude C. Cox. He is a graduate of Randall High School and is currently employed by General Office Plus.

Our Bridal Registry
 Callie Babcock ~ Greg Winter
 April Marburger ~ Brooks Gentry
 Mandy Parks ~ Bryan Waldrip
 Sarah Depee ~ Brian Rekus
 Mary Lee Adamson ~ Chad Clardy
 Deborah Grunhkey ~ Ryan Davis
 Emily Monday ~ Michael Smedley
 Dana Wood ~ Greg Macik

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April Michelle Marburger and Phillips Brooks Gentry IV

Marburger-Gentry

April Michelle Marburger and Phillips Brooks Gentry IV, both of Amarillo, were wed Aug. 25, 2001, in First Presbyterian Church of Pampa with John Curry of Pampa officiating.

The maid of honor was Heather Domenico of College Station. The bridesmaids were Dianna Green of The Woodlands and Amy Wells of Indian Hills, Colo.

The best man was Shalor Craig of Houston. The groomsmen were Brian Foote and Cory Griggs, both of Amarillo.

The ushers were Derek Marburger of Houston and Reid Scivally of Amarillo.

Music was provided by organist Doris Goad and flutist Katrina Hildebrandt.

A garden reception was held following the service at the groom's parent's home in Pampa.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Marburger of Houston and is the granddaughter of Ernestine Marburger of Houston and the late Leroy Marburger and Louise Keller of San Diego, Calif., and the late Wallace Keller. She graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in finance in August 2001.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Gentry of Pampa and is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Scivally of Amarillo and the late Mr. and Mrs. P.B. Gentry Jr. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1996 and from Texas Tech University, summa cum laude, with a degree in petroleum engineering. He is currently employed by Anadarko Petroleum Corporation in Amarillo.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia and intend to make their home in Amarillo.



Amber Hayes of Amarillo and Joshua Brookshire

Hayes-Brookshire

Amber Hayes of Amarillo and Joshua Brookshire were wed July 21, 2001, in Calvary Baptist Church of Pampa with Rick Pearson, youth minister of the church, officiating.

The maid of honor was April Hayes of Amarillo. The bridesmaids were Tiffany King of Abilene and Dayla Lewis of Pampa. The flower girl was Taylor McNeely of White Deer.

The best man was Steven Crocker of Amarillo. The groomsmen were Casey Brookshire of Canyon and Jeremy Harm of Amarillo. The ring bearer was Hunter McNeely of White Deer.

The ushers were Justin Ensey of Pampa and Clint Lewis of Amarillo.

Registering the guests was Nicole Sturgill of Pampa. Music was provided by vocalist Amanda Rogers of Pampa.

A reception was held following the service at the church with Sunni Gras, Brandy Wilson and Lakeshia Perkins, all of Amarillo, serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Kathy Reeves of McKinney and the late Dale Hayes. She graduated from Caprock High School in 1997 and from Amarillo College in 2001. She plans to attend the University of North Texas at Denton this fall.

The groom is the son of Terry and Laine Brookshire of Pampa. He graduated from Pampa High School in 1996 and is manager at EZ Pawn. He plans to attend the University of North Texas at Denton this fall.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, and intend to make their home in Denton.



Angie Dawn Turpen and Justin Lee Barker

Turpen-Barker

Angie Dawn Turpen and Justin Lee Barker, both of Las Vegas, Nev., were wed Aug. 4, 2001, in First Baptist Church of Lefors with Lewis Ellis, of the church, officiating.

The matron of honor was Ginger Jernigan of Lefors. The flower girls were Elizabeth and Abigail Hartwig, both cousins of the bride of Greeley, Colo.

The best man was Robert Barker, father of the groom of Deming, N.M.

The ushers and candlelighters were Ray Turpen, brother of the bride of Lefors, and Matt Dawkins, brother of the groom of La Mesa, N.M.

Registering the guests was Heather Maples of Lefors. Music was provided by vocalist Johnny Woodard, who sang "Forever is as Far as I'll Go," and organist Taci Fernick.

A reception was held following the service in fellowship hall of the church with Marla McMurtry, Valorie McMurtry, Cheryl Allen and Carol Martin, all cousins of the bride of Texhoma, Okla., serving the guests.

The bride is the daughter of Ron and Molly Turpen of Lefors. She graduated from Lefors High School and medical school at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. She is currently employed in X-Ray at Mountain View Hospital in Las Vegas.

The groom is the son of Robert Barker of Deming and Butch and Justina Dawkins of La Mesa. He graduated from Gadsden High School in New Mexico. He was an Army medic, Flight Academy, and is currently a flight dispatcher for Sun Rise Airlines in Las Vegas.

The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Amarillo and intend to make their home in Las Vegas.

Fall gardening can be most rewarding

Longing for cooler days, I intently watch the long-range weather forecasts. I heard magic words this warm evening ... lows in the 50s for the early part of the week.

As the summer slowly slides toward fall, toasted greenery is coaxed into growing again. Plants hanging on by a leaf, sprout new buds. Tomatoes set blooms again. Mid-August to mid-September is a mini growing season.

When afternoon highs are below 86 degrees, it is time to plant a fall crop. Spinach, lettuce and radishes are cool weather vegetables. Is there anything tastier than fresh-picked greens spiked with slices of a plump, late-summer tomato? Or a plate piled high with fried green tomatoes. Absolutely not!

This is winter weather forecasting time. According to the old-timers, bugs and beasts can predict the harshness of winter.

—If the rooster molts before the hen, we'll have winter thick and thin; if the hen molts before the cock, we'll have winter hard as a rock.

—If squirrels have extra fur and very bushy tails, it will be a cold winter.

—If oak leaves stay on the trees into December, it will be a very mild winter.

Kathy Davis Morris GARDEN WISE



—If squirrels bury their nuts close to the surface of the ground, it will be a harsh winter.

—If the woolly caterpillars are extremely woolly and plentiful, the winter will be hard.

—If cattle and horses put on their winter coats in late September, buy a snow shovel.

—Onion skin very thin, mild winter comin' in. Onion skin thick and rough, winter's goin' to be real rough.

Using these guidelines to predict winter will be difficult for

me. Why? Years ago I abandoned any activity involving chickens. The Cat Brothers do not allow Sammie, the squirrel, into the yard. (Or, Sammie is too smart to venture into Cat Country.) I do not have a mulberry tree — a major delicacy of woolly worms. Or an oak tree. The last horse I personally knew pitched me on my face. And, I forgot to plant onions this year. Until winter arrives, I shall liven up my garden with a handful of spinach

seeds and make salad.

♦♦♦
"The most important thing about gardening is to enjoy yourself and have a good time." —C. Z. Guest

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Local 4-Hers participate in Gray County 4-H Bake Show

Twenty-four Gray County 4-Hers recently participated in the 2001 Gray County 4-H Better Bake Show. The 4-Hers prepared and exhibited drop cookies.

The purpose of the Better Bake Show is to promote the panhandle's major agricultural product — wheat. Participants are taught the nutritional value of wheat products and learn how to plan, prepare, serve and score these products.

County at the Panhandle District I 4-H Better Bake Show on Sept. 15 at the Tri-State Fair in Amarillo.

The purpose of the Better Bake Show is to promote the panhandle's major agricultural product — wheat. Participants are taught the nutritional value of wheat products and learn how to plan, prepare, serve and score these products.

Also competing in this year's contest were Kelby Rucker, Megan Crawford, Courtney Crawford, Emily Nusser and Blake Nusser (Swine Project Club); Ryan Baggerman and Dustin Neef (Prime Time Club); Sarah Schwab, Kendra Strickland and Megan Pettit (Super Clover Club); Wakely Pairsh, Gabriel Miller, Misty Pairsh, Nick Miller, Amanda Lawrence, Rebecka Lawrence, Emily Jackson, Cory Jackson and Drake Jackson (Lefors 4-H Club); and Sarah Shackelford, Anna Shackelford and Travis Fish (McLean 4-H Club).

The winning recipes are as follows:

Praline Drop Cookies

—Jessica Baggerman, Prime Time 4-H Club

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup, plus 1/3 cup flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar



(Courtesy photo)

(left to right) Jessica Baggerman and Emily Elliott compare notes on the recipes that won them top honors in the 2001 Gray County 4-H Better Bake Show. Baggerman and her Praline Drop Cookies will advance to competition at the Amarillo Tri-State Fair.

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS: Cream butter;

add brown sugar gradually. Blend in egg and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and mix well.

Drop dough with a small melon scoop onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment

paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-minutes. Top each cookie with two pecans while still warm. Cool cookies on a cooling rack and pour icing on top. Makes 25 cookies.

Old Time Cinnamon Jumbles

—Emily Elliott, Super Clover 4-H Club

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/4 cup soft shortening
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup sour milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups unbleached flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

DIRECTIONS: Mix shortening, butter, sugar and egg (first four ingredients) thoroughly. Stir in sour milk and vanilla. Combine and stir in unbleached flour, baking soda and salt. Chill dough 30-minutes. Drop rounded teaspoonfuls about 2-inches apart on lightly greased baking sheet. Sprinkle with mixture of sugar and cinnamon (1/4 cup sugar and 1 teaspoon cinnamon). Bake 7-9 minutes in oven preheated to 400 degrees. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

For more information about the 4-H Program, call the County Extension office at 669-8033.

Local Realtors achieve national recognition

Christi Honeycutt, Sue Baker and Jim Davidson with Century 21 Pampa Realty have been awarded the Accredited Buyer Representation (ABRO) designation by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council, Inc. (REBAC) of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

"Today's real estate brokers and agents want to provide a full menu of services for their clients, whether they are buyers or sellers," explains Terrence M. McDermott, president and CEO of REBAC. "The ABRO designation, the benchmark of excellence in buyer agency service, demonstrates to clients that the agent has taken steps to continue their education in the field of buyer representation, and has the proven experience and training to deliver ethical and professional service to real estate buyers."

Honeycutt, Baker and Davidson join more than 24,000 real estate professionals in North America who have earned the ABR designation. The requirements for this coveted designation include a comprehensive two-day course in buyer representation, a written examination on legal and practical aspects of client representa-



Christi Honeycutt



Sue Baker



Jim Davidson

tion and practical experience in the field of buyer representation.

REBAC was founded in 1988 and currently has more than 34,000 members throughout the world. The National Association of Realtors, "The Voice for Real Estate," is the nation's largest professional trade association, representing nearly 720,000 members involved in all aspects

of the real estate industry.

You can contact the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council, Inc., at 1-800-648-6224 or visit their website at www.REBAC.net

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Pipeline Group to host public education program

The Pipeline Group's annual "Public Education — Contractor Awareness Program" is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 in the Heritage Room at M.K. Brown Memorial Civic Auditorium in Pampa. The program will be sponsored by a group of companies with a common goal of preventing accidents and damages to underground pipelines and utilities.

A free dinner will be catered by Dyer's Bar-B-Que for all individuals involved in excavation related activities in Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Gray, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Roberts and Wheeler Counties.

Following the dinner, a brief safety program will be presented which stresses the importance of accident prevention by identifying pipeline and utility rights of way, use of one-call systems and the importance of working with pipeline and utility companies to safely excavate in the vicinity of underground facilities.

The Texas law requiring notification to a one-call system before excavating will be discussed. Sponsors will provide promotional materials including notification information for their companies, safety related brochures and other safety reminders.

Each year many lives are injured or lost, plus millions of dollars in repairs and lost products are incurred due to "third party" incidents — someone digging into a pipeline. Thousands of communications, some life-threatening, may be disrupted when expensive fiber-optic cables are damaged or severed. These types of excavation can be financially devastating to the responsible party. This safety program is an attempt to help those who do excavation work to avoid such situations.

Sponsors for the program include: ANR Pipeline Co., BP, Celanese LTD, Colorado Interstate Gas Co., Diamond Shamrock Refining and Marketing Co., DIG TESS, El Paso Natural Gas Co., Equilon Pipeline Co., LLC Koch Pipeline Co. LP, MidCoast Gas Services Inc., Natural Gas Pipeline Co. of America, Northern Natural Gas Co./Transwestern Pipeline Co., ONEOK WeTex Transmission Inc., Phillips Pipe Line Co., Pioneer Natural Resources USA Inc., Sun Pipe Line Co., Transok LLC, Williams Gas Pipeline-South Central, Williams Gas Processing - Williams/Mid-America Pipeline Co.

For more information, call 1-800-982-8752 or visit www.pipeline-group.com on the World Wide Web.

Litchfield reunion held in Amarillo

A reunion was held recently for the families of George and Elizabeth Litchfield and Verl D. and Leila Litchfield at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo with Vicky Jay and Wanda Clark serving as hostesses.

The couples' children are: Jony Thomas of Panhandle, Norma Brooks of Amarillo,

Nona Gray of Pampa and Gaydean Bucher, Verna Morrow and Dale Litchfield of Canadian.


Not present at the festivities were a brother and sister, Carole Appel and her family of Marshall, Ark., and the late Don Litchfield.

Among those present were numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and friends including: Carolyn and Sara Beddingfield and Jony and Cecil Thomas of Panhandle; James and Vicky Jay, Tessa Caffee Lees, Amy and Bryan Castillo, Wanda Clark and Wayne and Norma Brooks of Amarillo; Erica and Shadyn Coffee of Claude.

George and Verna Morrow, Kim, David, Jay and Kristen Parnell, Van, Guy and Bailey Beth Morrow, Dale Litchfield and Stephanie Rowden of Canadian; Kirk, Katina, M.T. and Ty Morrow of Dimmitt; Nona Gray and Ron and Cheryl Underwood of Pampa.

Dennis and Terri Williams of Lefors; Andrea and Brandon Cox and Bud and Teresa Faris of Dumas; Sue and Jackie Diggs of Lubbock; Dell and Rudy Comstock of Hemphill; Jerry and Pam Bucher of Richardson; Rick, Lisa, Zach and Stacey Bucher of Lafayette, La.; Terry, Sue, Meredith and Madison Bucher of Plano; and Faye and Avery Word of Higgins.

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 Car & Company Truck Washes
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 1998 Pennzoil Products Company

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"BACK TO THE BASICS"
CRUSADE
AUGUST 26-29
EVANELIST DR. BILL SLAYTON
GOSPEL LENGENDS THE FLANAGANS
SUNDAY AM - 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAY PM - 6:00 P.M. - CENTRAL PARK
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY - 7:00 P.M.
Fellowship Baptist Church
 622 E. Francis 665-5976


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 Good Neighbor service
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 See one of these good neighbor agents:
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Temporarily This Fall...CABLE ONE™...Has New Thursday Hours



Your Local **CABLE ONE** Office at 1423 N. Hobart, Pampa Texas, 665-2381 Will Be Open Late On Thursday Evenings. **NEW THURSDAY HOURS 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. STARTING AUGUST 23RD**

Need New CABLE ONE TV Service Installed... Want To Upgrade Your Current CABLE ONE Service ...

Now Is Your Opportunity To Take Advantage Of Our NEW DIGITAL SERVICE- FREE FOR 12 MONTHS

Certain restrictions may apply. Offer good in serviceable areas only.

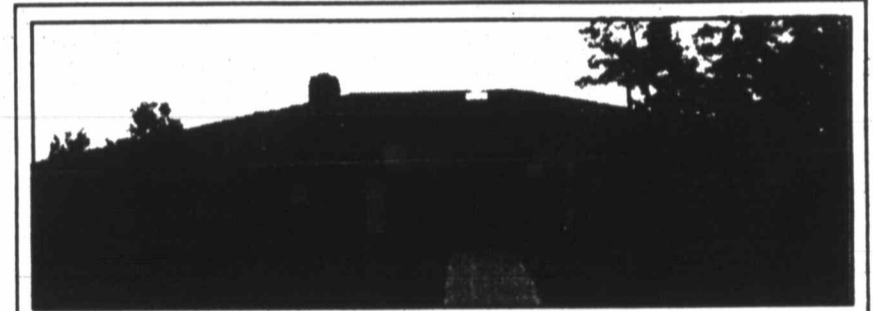
MARQUEE

Sunday, August 26 through Saturday, September 1

just a reminder...

Pet Of The Week can now be found in the Wednesday editions of the Pampa News

Sun Loan Co.
\$100 - \$500
 1534 N. Hobart 806-665-6442
Subject to our usual credit policy. Licensed by the State of Texas



This home is the perfect blend of comfortable living, choice location, and affordable price. Located on a corner lot this home has a spacious isolated master bedroom with two walk-in closets. Large kitchen breakfast area with all the built-in amenities, lots of cabinets and a breakfast bar. Separate formal dining room with a bay window. Cozy living room with a woodburning fireplace and atrium doors that lead to the office. Spacious bedrooms with walk-in closets. This home has lots of storage space, floored attic in the the garage for extra storage, sprinkler system front and back, lots of trees, and much much more. **LOTS OF HOME FOR THE MONEY!** Offered by: Christi Honeycutt - Century 21 Pampa Realty, 669-0007, 664-2335 cell, 669-1345 home.

CHAUTAUQUA

2001

**Fun Run / Walk
5K Run**

ALL ENTRY FEES DONATED TO UNITED WAY

ENTRY FORM

Mail Entry Form To
 Pampa Regional Medical Center
 Attention: Terry Barnes
 One Medical Plaza • Pampa, Texas 79065

Last Name _____
 First Name _____
 Age _____ Male Female
 City & State _____
 Check One 5K Fun Run
 Shirt Size Needed Youth/Large Adult/Small
 Adult/Medium Adult/Large Adult/X-Large

**Where: Central Park • Pampa, Texas
(corner of Georgia & Mary Ellen)**

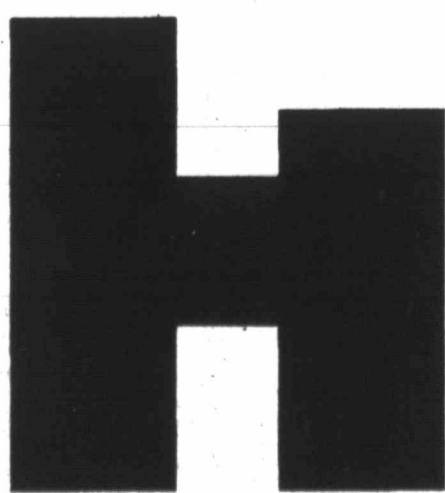
When: September 3, 2001

- Registration Day of Race beginning at 6:45 am
- Fun Run / Walk (one mile) begins at 8:00 am
- 5K Run begins at 8:20 am

Entry Fees: Register By Mail Before August 29

- Fun Run / Walk \$4.00 & 5K \$9.00
- Register Day Of Race**
- Fun Run / Walk \$5.00 & 5K \$10.00

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5-K MALE 19 & UNDER	5-K FEMALE 19 & UNDER	FUN RUN MALE 8 & UNDER	FUN RUN FEMALE 8 & UNDER
20-29	20-29	9-11	20-29
30-39	30-39	12-15	30-39
40-49	40-49	16-19	40-49
50+	50+	50+	50+

ENTERTAINMENT

Billboard music charts

By The Associated Press

Weekly charts for the nation's best-selling recorded music as they appear in next week's issue of Billboard magazine. Reprinted with permission. (Platinum signifies more than 1 million copies sold; Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.)

Billboard Hot 100: Top 10

- 1. "Fallin'," Alicia Keys.
- 2. "I'm Real," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Ja Rule). Epic.
- 3. "Someone To Call My Lover," Janet. Virgin.
- 4. "Hit 'Em Up Style (Oops!)," Blu Cantrell. RedZone.
- 5. "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," Eve (feat. Gwen Stefani). Ruff Ryders.
- 6. "Where The Party At," Jagged

- Edge With Nelly. So So Def.
 - 7. "U Remind Me," Usher. Arista.
 - 8. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
 - 9. "Drops Of Jupiter (Tell Me)," Train. Columbia.
 - 10. "Hanging By A Moment," Lifehouse. DreamWorks.
- Copyright 2001, BPI Communications Inc. and SoundScan Inc.

The Billboard 200 Top Albums: Top 10

- 1. "Now 7," Various Artists. EMI/Universal/Sony/Zomba/Virgin.
- 2. "Songs In A Minor," Alicia Keys. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
- 3. "Celebrity," 'N Sync. Jive. (Platinum)

- 4. "Eternal," The Isley Brothers (feat. Ronald Isley AKA Mr. Biggs). DreamWorks.
 - 5. "8701," Usher. Arista.
 - 6. "Kiss Tha Game Goodbye," Judakiss. Ruff Ryders/Interscope.
 - 7. Soundtrack: "American Pie 2." Republic/Universal.
 - 8. "Break The Cycle," Staind. Flip/Elektra. (Platinum)
 - 9. "(Hybrid Theory)," Linkin Park. Warner Bros. (Platinum)
 - 10. "J.Lo," Jennifer Lopez. Epic.
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Hot Adult Contemporary

- 1. "Thank You," Dido. Arista.
- 2. "There You'll Be," Faith Hill. Warner Bros.
- 3. "If You're Gone," matchbox twenty. Lava.
- 4. "Only Time," Enya. Warner Sunset.
- 5. "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack With Sons Of The Desert. MCA Nashville.
- 6. "More Than That," Backstreet Boys. Jive.
- 7. "One More Day," Diamond Rio. Arista Nashville.
- 8. "Follow Me," Uncle Kracker. Top Dog/Lava/Atlantic.
- 9. "This I Promise You," 'N Sync. Jive.
- 10. "Ghost Of You And Me," BBMak. Hollywood.

Mainstream Rock Tracks

(Compiled from a national sample of airplay supplied by Broadcast Data Systems)

- 1. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
- 2. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
- 3. "Schism," Tool. Tool Dissectional.
- 4. "Control," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen/Interscope.
- 5. "Crawling," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
- 6. "Down With The Sickness," Disturbed. Giant/Reprise.
- 7. "Bodies," Drowning Pool. Wind-up.
- 8. "Astounded," Tantric. Maverick.
- 9. "Greed," Godsmack. Republic.
- 10. "Your Disease," Saliva. Island.

Modern Rock Tracks

- 1. "Smooth Criminal," Alien Ant Farm. New Noise/DreamWorks.
- 2. "Fat Lip," Sum 41. Island.
- 3. "Schism," Tool. Tool Dissectional.
- 4. "Clint Eastwood," Gorillaz. Virgin.
- 5. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
- 6. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
- 7. "Control," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen/Interscope.
- 8. "Hash Pipe," Weezer. Geffen.
- 9. "Crawling," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
- 10. "I Wish You Were Here," Incubus. Immortal/Epic.

Hot Country Singles and Tracks

- 1. "Austin," Blake Shelton. Giant.
 - 2. "I'm Just Talkin' About Tonight," Toby Keith. DreamWorks.
 - 3. "Where The Blacktop Ends," Keith Urban. Capitol.
 - 4. "What I Really Meant To Say," Cyndi Thomson. Capitol.
 - 5. "Downtime," Jo Dee Messina. Curb.
 - 6. "Only In America," Brooks & Dunn. Arista Nashville.
 - 7. "When I Think About Angels," Jamie O'Neal. Mercury.
 - 8. "I Would've Loved You Anyway," Trisha Yearwood. MCA Nashville.
 - 9. "While You Loved Me," Rascal Flatts. Lyric Street.
 - 10. "Laredo," Chris Cagle. Virgin/Capitol.
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Top Country Albums

- 1. Soundtrack: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Mercury. (Platinum)
 - 2. Soundtrack: "Coyote Ugly." Curb. (Platinum)
 - 3. "New Favorite," Alison Krauss & Union Station. Rounder/IDJMG.
 - 4. "Set This Circus Down," Tim McGraw. Curb. (Platinum)
 - 5. "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack. MCA Nashville. (Platinum)
 - 6. "I'm Already There," Lonestar. BNA. (Gold)
 - 7. "Greatest Hits," Kenny Chesney. BNA. (Platinum)
 - 8. "Greatest Hits," Tim McGraw. Curb. (Platinum)
 - 9. "Blake Shelton," Blake Shelton. Warner Bros./WRN.
 - 10. "Born To Fly," Sara Evans. RCA. (Platinum)
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Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles and Tracks

- 1. "Fallin'," Alicia Keys.
 - 2. "I'm Real," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Ja Rule). Epic.
 - 3. "Where The Party At," Jagged Edge with Nelly. So So Def.
 - 4. "Contagious," The Isley Brothers (feat. Ronald Isley AKA Mr. Biggs). DreamWorks.
 - 5. "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.
 - 6. "U Remind Me," Usher. Arista.
 - 7. "Differences," Ginuwine. Epic.
 - 8. "Family Affair," Mary J. Blige. MCA.
 - 9. "One Minute Man," Missy "Misdemeanor" Elliott. The Gold Mind/Elektra/EEG.
 - 10. "I'm A Thug," Trick Daddy. Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic.
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Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums

- 1. "Eternal," The Isley Brothers (feat. Ronald Isley AKA Mr. Biggs). DreamWorks.
 - 2. "Kiss Tha Game Goodbye," Judakiss. Ruff Ryders/Interscope.
 - 3. "Songs In A Minor," Alicia Keys. J. (Platinum)
 - 4. "8701," Usher. Arista.
 - 5. "Duces 'N Trayz — The Old Fashioned Way," Snoop Dogg Presents Tha Eastsidaz. Doggy Style/TVT.
 - 6. "The Saga Continues," P. Diddy & The Bad Boy Family. Bad Boy/Arista.
 - 7. "Aaliyah," Aaliyah. Blackground. (Gold)
 - 8. "Broken Silence," Foxy Brown. Def Jam/DJMG. (Gold)
 - 9. "Now 7," Various Artists. EMI/Universal/Sony/Zomba/Virgin.
 - 10. "So Blu," Blu Cantrell. RedZone/Arista.
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Hot Rap Singles

- 1. "My Projects," Coo Coo Cal. Infinite/Tommy Boy.
 - 2. "Raise Up," Pezey Pablo. Jive.
 - 3. "Purple Hills," D-12. Shady.
 - 4. "My Baby," Lil' Romeo. Soulja/No Limit.
 - 5. "We Gonna Make It," Judakiss (feat. Styles Of The Loud). Ruff Ryders/Interscope.
 - 6. "Big Poppa/Warning," The Notorious B.I.G. Bad Boy/Arista. (Platinum)
 - 7. "Let's Be Friends," Ta Ta Brando (feat. Larry Potat Of The Donz). Heartless.
 - 8. "All My Thugs," Young Phantom. Heartless.
 - 9. "Po' Punch," Po' White Trash & The Trailer Park Symphony. Pocket Change.
 - 10. "One More Chance/Stay With Me," The Notorious B.I.G. Bad Boy/Arista.
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Hot Dance Music — Club Play

- 1. "Thank You," Dido. Arista.
- 2. "I Feel Loved," Depeche Mode. Mute/Reprise.
- 3. "Running (Remixes)," Information Society. Tommy Boy Silver Label/Tommy Boy.

- 4. "You Set Me Free," Abigail. Groovicious/Strictly Rhythm.
- 5. "Romeo," Basement Jaxx. XL/Astelwerks.
- 6. "Tell Me Who," Tamia. Elektra/EEG.
- 7. "Inside Your Secret," Celeste Price. Java/Capitol.
- 8. "Someone To Call My Lover," Janet. Virgin.
- 9. "Name of the Game," Crystal Method.
- 10. "We Come 1," Faithless. Cheeky/Arista.

Hot Latin Tracks

- 1. "Como Se Cura Una Herida," Jaci Velasquez. Sony Discos.
 - 2. "Azul," Cristian. Ariola.
 - 3. "O Me Voy O Te Vas," Marco Antonio Solis. Fonovisa.
 - 4. "Como Olvidar," Olga Tanon. WEA Latina.
 - 5. "Me Vas A Extranar," Pepe Aguilar. Musart.
 - 6. "No Me Concoces Aun," Palomo. Disa.
 - 7. "Besame," Ricardo Montaner. WEA Latina.
 - 8. "Pueden Decir," Gilberto Santa Rosa. Sony Discos.
 - 9. "Abrazame Muy Fuerte," Juan Gabriel. Ariola.
 - 10. "Con Cada Beso," Huey Dunbar. Sony Discos.
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Top Contemporary Jazz Albums

- 1. "Deep Blue," Keiko Matsui. Narada Jazz/Virgin.
 - 2. "Nice & Slow," Brian Culbertson. Atlantic.
 - 3. "A Twist of Marley — A Tribute," Various Artists. GRP.
 - 4. "In Modern Times," Spyro Gyra. Heads Up.
 - 5. "M Squared," Marcus Miller. 3 Deuces.
 - 6. "Tourist," St. Germain. Blue Note.
 - 7. "Face To Face," Wayman Tisdale. Atlantic.
 - 8. "The Dance," Dave Koz. Capitol.
 - 9. "Life In The Tropics," The Rippingtons (feat. Russ Freeman). Peak/Concord.
 - 10. "Kisses In The Rain," Rick Braun. Warner Bros.
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Top Classical Albums

- 1. "Verdi," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Gold)
 - 2. "Sacred Arias," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Platinum)
 - 3. "Appalachian Journey," Ma/Meyer/O'Connor. Sony Classical.
 - 4. "Casta Diva," Angela Gheorghiu. EMI Classics/Angel.
 - 5. "The (NU)1 Tenor Album," Various Artists. Decca/Universal Classics Group.
 - 6. "Play Piazzolla," Sergio & Odair Assad. Nonesuch/AG.
 - 7. "Ultimate Relaxation Album," Various Artists. Decca/Universal Classics Group.
 - 8. "Vivaldi: Late Violin Concertos," Guiliano Carmignola. Sony Classical.
 - 9. "Vivaldi: Il Cimento Dell'armonia E Dell'invenzione, Op. 8," Europa Galante (Biondi). Virgin Classics/Angel.
 - 10. "Legend," Maria Callas. EMI Classics/Angel.
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Just purchase a Dish301 or other DISH Network digital satellite TV system with MSRP of \$199 or more and receive one full year of America's Top 100 programming package for only \$9 a month. That's a savings of \$21.99 per month over our regular price. You'll also get free basic Professional Installation.

All together that's a \$462 savings!

Call today to take advantage of this incredible offer.

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America's Top 100 programming package includes channels such as: **Bluesway Channel, THE CW, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPN3, ESPN4, ESPN5, ESPN6, ESPN7, ESPN8, ESPN9, ESPN10, ESPN11, ESPN12, ESPN13, ESPN14, ESPN15, ESPN16, ESPN17, ESPN18, ESPN19, ESPN20, ESPN21, ESPN22, ESPN23, ESPN24, ESPN25, ESPN26, ESPN27, ESPN28, ESPN29, ESPN30, ESPN31, ESPN32, ESPN33, ESPN34, ESPN35, ESPN36, ESPN37, ESPN38, ESPN39, ESPN40, ESPN41, ESPN42, ESPN43, ESPN44, ESPN45, ESPN46, ESPN47, ESPN48, ESPN49, ESPN50, ESPN51, ESPN52, ESPN53, ESPN54, ESPN55, ESPN56, ESPN57, ESPN58, ESPN59, ESPN60, ESPN61, ESPN62, ESPN63, ESPN64, ESPN65, ESPN66, ESPN67, ESPN68, ESPN69, ESPN70, ESPN71, ESPN72, ESPN73, ESPN74, ESPN75, ESPN76, ESPN77, ESPN78, ESPN79, ESPN80, ESPN81, ESPN82, ESPN83, ESPN84, ESPN85, ESPN86, ESPN87, ESPN88, ESPN89, ESPN90, ESPN91, ESPN92, ESPN93, ESPN94, ESPN95, ESPN96, ESPN97, ESPN98, ESPN99, ESPN100.**

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Gray-Roberts Farm Bureau

2001 County Convention

M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium

August 23 • 7:00 p.m.

A Donation Of \$5 Per Family Will Be Taken At The Door

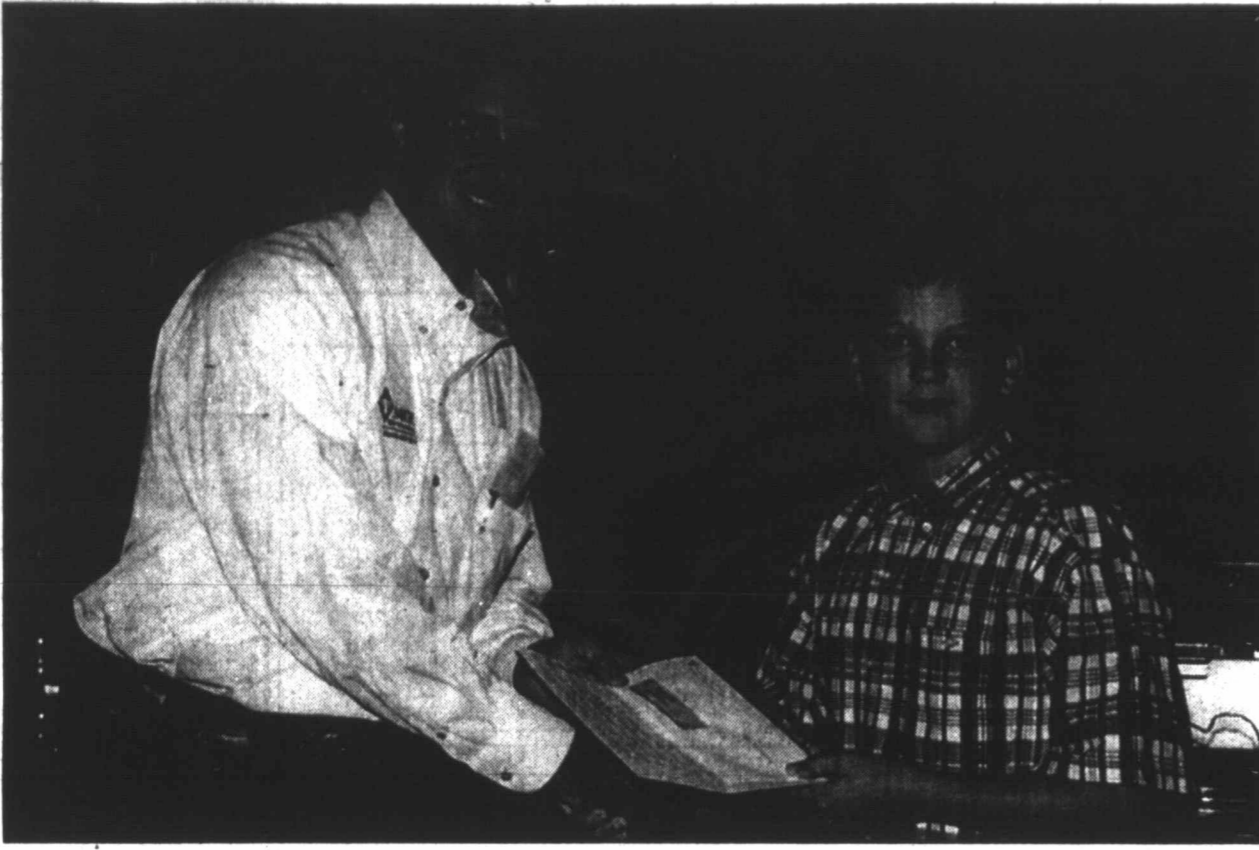
Meal Catered By Dyers Bar-B-Que

"Hank the Cowdog in Concert" is a 60 minute program of innocent fun and wholesome family entertainment. Through songs and readings, Rooster Morris brings to life the characters from John R. Erickson's award-winning "Hank the Cowdog" series of books and audio books.

John R. Erickson, author of the Hank the Cowdog series says, "Rooster Morris is a man of many talents: guitarist, fiddler, singer, composer, and performer. In addition to those skills, he is a lifelong cowboy from a family of cowboys in the Texas Panhandle. Rooster knows Hank and Hank's country to the bone, and has the skills to share Hank's adventures with others."

Rooster lives in Perryton, Texas with his wife and family. When he is not performing Hank programs, he is composing and recording his own music or cowboying on local ranches.

Junior Fed Beef Challenge



(Courtesy photos)

Nicholas Odom of McLean, left, received an honorable mention in the junior division of Texas Cattle Feeders Association Junior Fed Beef Challenge recently at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Lucas Webb, right, also of McLean, right, took best record book honors in the junior division. Presenting the awards was Snuffy Boyles of Amarillo, chairman of the Junior Fed Beef Committee. The

TCFA Junior Fed Challenge, sponsored by TCFA, allows 4-H and FFA students to gain practical experience in commercial cattle feeding. Students feed a pen of three steers, then compete on the carcass merit of the cattle, plus the student's ability in live animal evaluation, a written test, oral interview and record keeping.

TDA currently accepting Land Heritage Program applications

■ Since the program's inception in 1974, it has honored 3,580 farms and ranches in 219 counties. For the first time last year, TDA recognized farms and ranches in the 150- and 200-year categories.

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Agriculture is currently accepting applications for the 2001 Family Land Heritage Program. The program recognizes farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more by the same family. Since the program's inception in 1974, it has honored 3,580 farms and ranches in 219 counties. For the first time last year, TDA recognized farms and ranches in the 150- and 200-year categories. There were three

ranches honored for 200 years and nine operations recognized for 150.

Program applications are available through county judges or the TDA. Applications may also be obtained at TDA's website (www.agr.state.tx.us) or by writing: Melissa Burns, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711; or by calling Burns at (512) 463-2631. The application deadline is Nov. 15.

Two farms in Gray County

have received recognition from the TDA for being in continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more by the same family.

In 2000, the Hopkins family farm was recognized. Located 12 miles southeast of Pampa, James Alvin Hopkins, Jr., bought the land in 1892. He had farmed in a family operation on 4,320 acres with his brother-in-law and sister, Henry and Fannie Lovett, beginning in 1888.

In 1902, Hopkins was the first justice of peace of Gray County.

He founded Hopkins Independent School in his smokehouse. The school later merged with Grandview. Hopkins was struck by lightning in 1918 while cutting wheat with a horse-drawn header. The family home was struck by lightning in 1945,

destroying the family memorabilia. The second farm was honored this past spring. It is the A.M. Renner farm 20 miles east of Pampa on the Miami-Laketon Highway. Renner bought 1,120 acres of Gray County school land on Dec. 27, 1898.

Eight hundred acres of the orig-

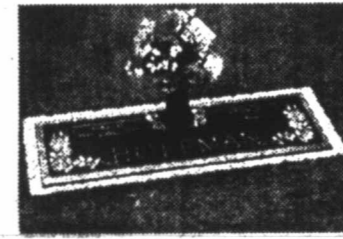
inal land is still in operation by Willie Renner and Elizabeth Shipp of Wheeler. They raise wheat, feed hay, horses and cattle. Renner died in 1953 at the age of 101. His son Willie Renner, 82, lives on the farm and raises cattle and wheat. A veteran of World War II, he served in the Pacific.

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ATTENTION Kmart SHOPPERS

The Kmart August 26, 2001 weekly ad circular, on page 13 features the Powerman 5000 "Anyone for Doomsday" CD. This item will not be available at this time due to the recording studio's change of release date.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.

2001 Property Tax Rates in CITY OF LEFORS

This notice concerns 2001 property tax rates for CITY OF LEFORS. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxes in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$25,124
Last year's debt taxes	\$0
Last year's total taxes	\$25,124
Last year's tax base	\$5,486,788
Last year's total tax rate	0.457900/\$100
This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$25,067
/ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$5,185,352
= This year's effective tax rate	0.483419/\$100
x 1.03=maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearing	0.497921/\$100
This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	\$25,067
/ This year's adjusted tax base	\$5,185,352
= This year's effective operating rate	0.483419/\$100
x 1.08=this year's maximum operating rate	0.522092/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	0.000000/\$100
= This year's rollback rate	0.522092/\$100

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If CITY OF LEFORS adopts a 2001 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of 0.483419 per \$100 of value, taxes would increase compared to 2000 taxes by \$1,456.

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Gray County Tax Office, 408 W. Kingsmill Suite 196-A Pampa, Tx.

Name of person preparing this notice: Sammie Morris
Title: Tax Assessor-Collector
Date Prepared: August 21, 2001

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The CITY OF LEFORS will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 7.98 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted. The public hearing will be held on September 10, 2001 at 6:45 p.m. at Lefors Civic Center, 102 N. Court, Lefors, Tx..

FOR the proposal: Russell Jackson
Shane Johnson Craig Harkcom
Gene Gee

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT: Melanie Ray

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$13,430	\$13,559
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$0	\$0
Average taxable value	\$13,430	\$13,559
Tax rate (per \$100)	0.457900	0.522000
Tax	\$61.50	\$70.78

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$9.28 or 15.09 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.0641 per \$100 of taxable value or 14.00 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

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Resentful Daughter Is Trapped In Bickering Parents' Divorce

DEAR ABBY: My parents have been divorced for six years. I am 11, and I have a sister who is 15.

Since our parents divorced, my sister and I fight a lot more, but I still look up to her for everything. Mom's and Dad's sides of the family constantly question us to see which one is better. Without my sister telling me what to say, I might say the wrong thing.

I love my parents, but I hate it when each of them asks questions about the other instead of enjoying our company. It's just not fair. What do you think?

SICK AND TIRED OF FIGHTING, GREENVILLE, TEXAS

DEAR SICK AND TIRED OF FIGHTING: I sympathize with your predicament. No one wants to be caught in the middle, and to put you there at your tender age is very unfair. Your parents — and many others — could benefit from the following list of "Do's and Don'ts" for divorcing couples with children that appeared in my column years ago. Read on:

First, the DO's:
 — Do allow your children to ask questions about your divorce. It's unfair to make them feel like outsiders.

— Do answer all their questions about your divorce as truthfully as possible, without making the other parent the "heavy."

— Do remember that your children need the love of both parents.

— Do assure your children that they are not to blame for your divorce.

Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

— Do encourage your children to talk freely about their feelings — even if it's painful to you. Bottling up emotions is even more damaging to children.

— Do have a special place for your children's toys and belongings during visiting time. It will make them feel more at home.

Now, the DON'Ts:
 — Don't badmouth the other parent to your children, or to anyone else in their presence.

— Don't send messages to the other parent through your children.

— Don't ask your children to keep secrets from your ex-spouse.

— Don't be overly generous (or less strict) in an effort to win your children's approval.

— Don't tell your children what to think or feel. They are entitled to their own thoughts and feelings.

— Don't try to pump your children for information about your ex-spouse.

BEEN THERE IN ST. LOUIS

DEAR ABBY: I'm only a kid, but I really need your help. I want a dog. A collie. They get along with other animals and don't need a lot of exercise. The problem is that my parents hate dogs.

They say I can have as many dogs as I want when I grow up, but I can't wait that long. Almost everyone I know has a dog. I have \$375, so I can afford to buy one and pay for its food and shots. Abby, how can I change my parents' minds? DOG-DEPRIVED IN DENVER

DEAR DOG-DEPRIVED: There is no way I can change your parents' minds for you. If I could, I would. However, if you volunteer at an animal shelter or local veterinarian's clinic, you could fill some of the void you are feeling.

Dear Abby is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby — Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Wildwood



SUFFICIENT MASS SEEMS TO CAUSE SPHERICAL COMPRESSION.



WHICH IS NICE, 'CAUSE IT KEEPS ME FROM HAVING SHARP EDGES.

Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Avid

1 Movie excerpt

5 Photo tint

10 Asian capital

12 Cager Patrick

13 Over

14 Coventry coins

15 Sea, to Simone

16 Youngster

18 Work leather

19 Drive

21 Job

22 Travolta film

24 Word of surrender

25 Travolta film

29 Robert of "Airplane"

30 Outcome

32 Heady brew

33 Band aid

34 Commotion

35 Up to now

37 1990s sitcom

39 Confidence

40 Many a newspaper

41 Puppy cries

EAGLE RADON
 FIRES ALAMO
 FROGS KAMEN
 EMU AGESAGO
 TAN YES GAS
 ENDS MILES
 COD NBC
 GONER JOBS
 DEN LAB NET
 ON THE GO TEE
 MERIT AORTA
 EVOKE TROLL
 DALES SELES

Yesterday's answer

20 Is sullen

21 Docking spots

23 Reversed

25 In abundance

26 Real looker

27 Pal, to a Brit

28 Alpine calls

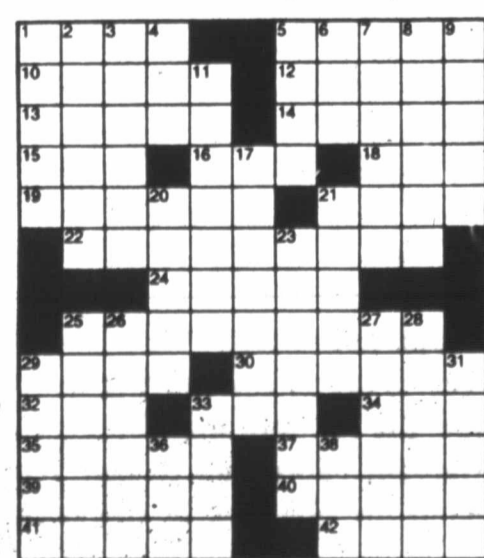
29 Precipitous

31 "The Producers" take

33 College study

36 Nile slitherer

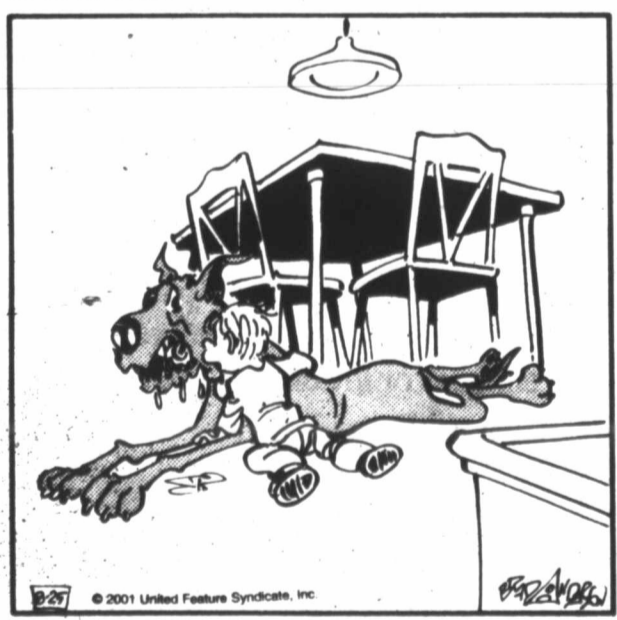
38 Track trip



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-454-7377/99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Marmaduke



"Marm! I was saving that apple to give to my teacher!"

The Family Circus

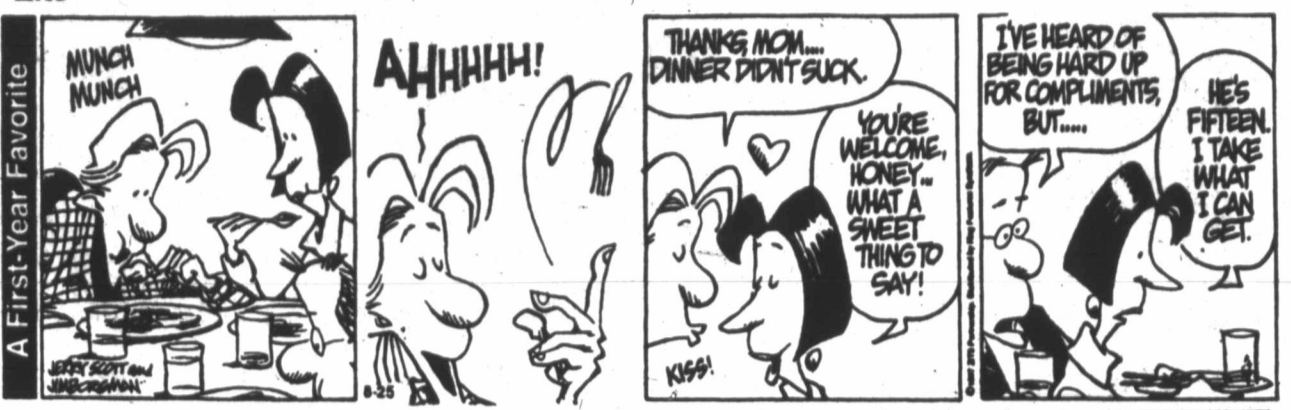


"We HAFTA go home, Jeffy! Daddy ran out of money."

For Better or For Worse



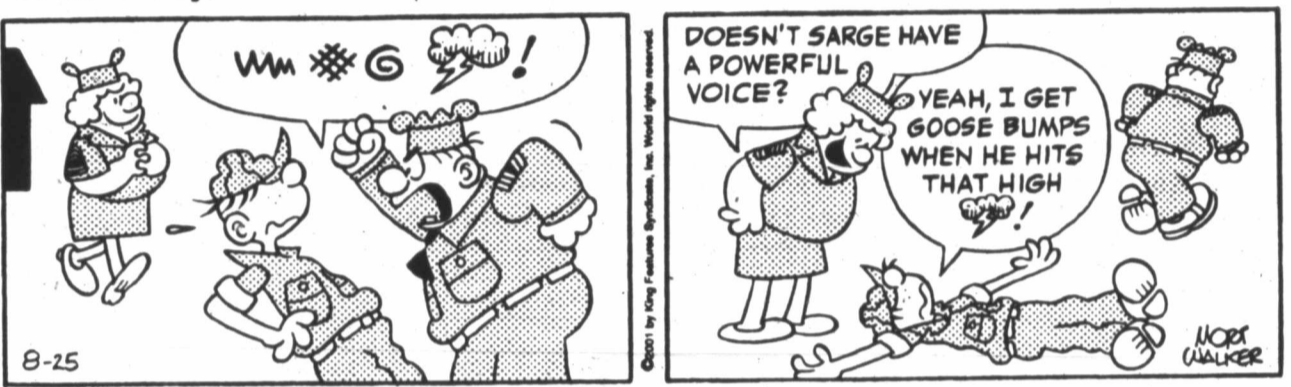
Zits



Garfield



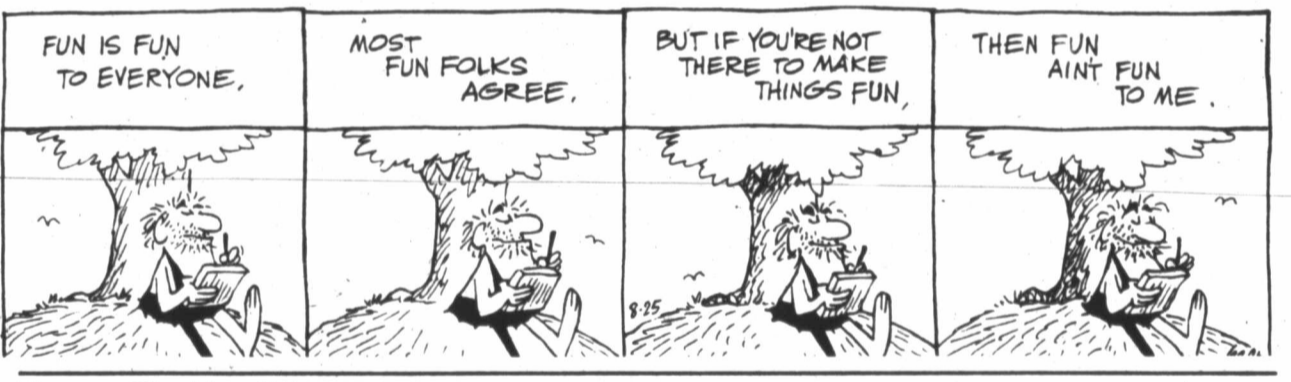
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Mallard Filmore



AGRICULTURE

More federal help needed for farmers to prevent more pollution in bays, estuaries, groups say

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fertilizer and manure leaking from farms and ranches into waterways is a big reason why almost half of America's bays are too polluted for fishing and swimming, scholars and environmentalists say.

They urged Congress on Thursday to approve at least \$6 billion to prevent more pollution and to restore millions of acres of wetlands and streamside buffers.

"There is almost total scientific consensus it's because of nitrogen coming down the rivers from the use of fertilizer," said Ohio State University-natural resources professor William J. Mitsch. The worst example, he said, is the Mississippi River basin.

The nitrogen is contained in agricultural runoff. It leads to the loss of bay grasses that serve as habitat for fish and promotes the growth of toxic algae that robs water creatures of oxygen.

It is considered the leading cause of nutrient-overloaded "dead zones" in many of the most polluted bays, the scholars and environmental groups said.

"It's like feeding them candy ... (or) too much fertilizer put on a lawn and weeds start to grow — too much of a good thing," said JoAnn M. Burkholder, professor of aquatic botany at North Carolina State University.

According to federal data, the most polluted of the nation's 138 bay areas are:

—the Laguna Madre, Corpus Christi and Baffin bays in Texas.

—the Northern Gulf of Mexico, Lake Pontchartrain and Calcasieu Lake bays in Louisiana.

—Florida Bay.

—the Neuse River Bay in North Carolina.

—the Delaware Inland Bays.

—the San Francisco and Newport bays in California.

—the Potomac River, Patuxent River and Chesapeake bays in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

—the Barnegat Bay in New Jersey.

Groups such as American Rivers and Restore America's Estuaries said that because of insufficient funds, most farmers are turned away during the application process when they seek federal help to clean up polluted bays.

"Given the chance, farmers want to participate," said Environmental Defense senior attorney Tim Searchinger.

The Agriculture Department has tried to help producers reduce the pollution runoff through vol-

untary measures — proper application rates and storage, for example.

Federal and state cost-sharing programs help farmers set up and manage conservation practices, but typically the demand exceeds the dollars available. For example, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for farmers and ranchers has \$200 million this year, only about a third to a quarter of the demand.

Despite the lack of enough federal help, the groups said, more than a third of all farms have changed the way they plow their fields to reduce polluted runoff into nearby streams.

The groups support a bipartisan bill in the House that would provide an additional \$6 billion in help.

On the Net:
Environmental Defense: <http://www.environmentaldefense.org>

American Rivers: <http://www.americanrivers.org>

Restore America's Estuaries: <http://www.estuaries.org/>
Ohio State University: <http://swamp.ag.ohio>

Cattle, calves for slaughter up 10 percent for year ago

AUSTIN — Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 3.0 million head on Aug. 1, up 10 percent from a year ago. According to the monthly report released by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the estimate was unchanged from the July 1 level.

Producers placed 510,000 head in commercial feedlots during July, down 2 percent from a year ago and down 18 percent from the June 2001, total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 495,000 head during July, a 5 percent drop from a year ago but unchanged from the June 2001, total.

On August 1 there were 2.47 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 82 percent of the state's total. The number on feed across the area was up 1 percent from last year but down slightly from the June total.

July placements in the Northern High Plains totaled 418,000 head, down 18 percent from the June total. Marketings were up 2 percent from last month, to 412,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in

the United States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 10.89 million head on Aug. 1, 2001. This inventory was 7 percent above Aug. 1, 2000.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.99 million head, 4 percent above July 2000. July placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 469,000 head; 600-699 pounds totaled 444,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 606,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 467,000 head. Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.05 million head, down 2 percent from July 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

Feeders in the historical seven monthly states with feedlots having a capacity of 1,000 head or more reported 9.39 million head on feed on Aug. 1, up 7 percent from last year and 19 percent above Aug. 1, 1999.

July placements totaled 1.73 million head, 4 percent above 2000 and 11 percent above 1999. Marketings during July, at 1.76 million head, were down 1 percent from 2000 and 3 percent below 1999.

FSA office taking applications for emergency haying, grazing

Gray County has been approved to accept requests for Emergency Haying and Grazing of Conservation Reserve Program acres, due to the drought and extreme heat of 2001.

Applications are currently being accepted at the Gray County FSA Office. Anyone interested in applying for these requests must come into the county office before beginning any grazing or haying.

Haying or grazing is authorized only through Sept. 30.

The required payment reduction is 25 percent of

the per acre annual rental rate times the number of acres actually hayed or grazed in 2001. Only livestock operations located within an approved county are eligible for emergency haying or grazing of CRP acreage.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide a grazing plan that provides an acceptable stocking rate in animal units on acreage to be grazed.

For more information on the emergency program, contact Matthew Street, Gray Co. FSA, at (806) 665-6561.

EPA grants Capture 2EC exemption

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced today that the Texas Department of Agriculture has been granted approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue a Section 18 specific exemption allowing the use of Capture 2EC (bifenthrin) on sorghum grown for seed to control the Banks grass mite.

The specific exemption expires Aug. 1, 2002.

Capture 2EC, manufactured by FMC Corp., may be used following all applicable directions, restrictions and precautions on the label as well as the following restrictions.

—Applications should be made only by certified applicators, licensed applicators or persons under the direct supervision of licensed applicators. All applicators must have a copy of the EPA approval notice in their possession prior to any applications.

—Applications may be made by ground or air or through chemigation equipment at a rate of 0.06 to 0.1 lb. a.i. (3.84 to 6.4 fluid oz. product) per acre. A maximum of two applications may be made with a maximum of 0.2 lb. a.i. (12.8 oz. product) applied per acre.

—A pre-harvest interval of 30 days is required.
—A maximum of 65,000 acres of grain sorghum grown for seed production may be treated, and no more than 13,000 lbs. a.i. of bifenthrin may be applied under this exemption.

—Treated fields should not be entered until at least 24 hours have elapsed following application, unless appropriate protective clothing is worn.

For more information, contact your county Texas Agricultural Extension Office or TDA at (512) 463-7407. A copy of the EPA Approval Notice is available on TDA's web page, www.ag.state.tx.us/pesticide/capturesorg.htm.

Weekly AgriPartner report

Texas Cooperative Extension Service weekly AgriPartner Report for Gray, Roberts, Carson and Wheeler Counties is as follows:

Southwestern corn borer moth activity has declined but numbers are still high. Check non-Bt corn fields for eggs especially if it has been over two weeks since the fields had an insecticide application. Eggs may be highly parasitized this time of he season and as a result may not require an insecticide application.

Corn earworm moths are active but pose no threat to corn but check sorghum, cotton and soybeans for eggs and small larvae. Corn earworm are called headworms in sorghum, bollworm in cotton and podworm in soybeans.

Headworms are reported infesting a few sorghum fields. Check fields twice a week in order to detect larvae while they are small and have had little opportunity to cause significant damage. One to two larvae per head is considered the economic threshold.

Reports indicate greenbug infestations have declined. Parasitic wasp and lady beetles can be given the credit for causing the decline.

Some webworm activity has been reported in area alfalfa. The larvae feed on leaves stripping off the green and leaving only the network of leaf veins. Considerable webbing is also produced. Webworms are capable of causing severe defoliation in alfalfa.

Cotton bollworm activity is gradually increasing but still remains below infestation levels that would require an insecticide application.

Boll weevil activity has increased but damage in the field continues to be virtually non-existent. Boll weevils caught in pheromone traps should increase as second-generation weevils search for fields with squares and small bolls on which to feed.

Cotton aphids can be found in cotton fields but numbers are below threshold and do not appear to be increasing.

Texas milk production down 10 percent

AUSTIN — Texas milk production totaled 390 million pounds during July, down 10 percent from last year. Production for June 2001, totaled 427 million pounds.

The number of milk cows during July averaged 322,000 head, down 27,000 head from last year and down 3,000 head from June 2001. Production per cow averaged 1,210 pounds during July, down 2 percent from last year and down 8 percent from the 1,315 pounds during June 2001.

Milk production in the 20 states participating in

the monthly survey totaled 12.1 billion pounds, down 1.2 percent from production in these same states in July 2000. June revised production, at 12.1 billion pounds, was down 0.2 percent from June 2000.

Production per cow during July averaged 1,555 pounds, 6 pounds below a year ago. The average number of milk cows in the 20 states was 7.75 million head, 72,000 head fewer than last year but unchanged from June 2001.

Remember when ...

Senior Snapshot

You lived during a time that is hard for the younger generation to imagine. Share with us some of your memories as a child and young adult. A photo is required ... it can be childhood, young adult or recent.

Name _____

Birth Date & Place _____

Family _____

Favorite Childhood Memory _____

When I Grew Up I Wanted To Be _____

My Best Friend Was _____

People Remember Me As Being _____

My Favorite Toy _____

My Favorite Game _____

My Favorite Radio Show _____

The First Movie I Ever Saw & The Cost _____

The First Phone I Ever Used Belonged To _____

The Person That Most Influenced My Life _____

The Historical Event That Most Affected My Life & Why _____

The Thing I Remember Most About The Depression Was _____

The Biggest Honor I've Ever Received Is _____

If I Could Change One Thing About My Past It Would Be _____

My Whole Family Enjoyed _____

The Person From My Childhood I Wish I Could Visit With Today Is _____

My First Job Was _____

Year & Make Of The First Vehicle I Drove _____

Cost Of Gasoline When I First Drove _____

On My First Date I Went To _____

My Favorite Hang Out Spot Was _____

The Fashion Trend Was _____

My Favorite Saying Was _____

My Favorite Song Was _____

Another Memory I Want To Share Is _____

Junior Fed Beef Challenge



Zachary Odom of McLean, left, received an honorable mention in the junior division of Texas Cattle Feeders Association Junior Fed Beef Challenge recently at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. Kristen Odom of McLean, right, won second place written exam and second place record book. Presenting the awards was Snuffy Boyles of Amarillo, chairman of the Junior Fed Beef



(Courtesy photos)

Committee. The TCFA Junior Fed Challenge, sponsored by TCFA, allows 4-H and FFA students to gain practical experience in commercial cattle feeding. Students feed a pen of three steers, then compete on the carcass merit of the cattle, plus the student's ability in live animal evaluation, a written test, oral interview and record keeping.

Grandparents keep family close with annual children's gathering

By STEPHANIE ALLMON
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — James and Linda Moffatt drive to Waco from Texarkana once a year to act as coaches, referees and timekeepers for their 14 grandchildren. The event is "Cousins Camp," a weeklong Olympic games of

sorts for the children. But for the Moffatts, it's also a chance to bond with their family, which is spread out in Waco, Carrollton and Tennessee.

"We live so far apart that we don't get to see each other very often," James Moffatt said.

Gone are the days when entire families lived so close that the

grandparents' house was like an extension of the family's home. Now, millions of grandparents must hit the airways or the Interstate just to visit their grandchildren.

For two years, Cousins Camp is one way the Moffatts have handled the distance between them. The entire family — grandparents, three grown children, their spouses and all 14 grandchildren — converge at the Castle Heights home of Todd and Alison Moffatt. With its rock-climbing wall and swimming pool, the home has been dubbed "Six Flags Over Waco" by the rest of the family.

All that playtime not only lets the family bridge the generation gap once a year, but it also helps the cousins, ages 2 to 18, get to know each other, said Alison Moffatt, James and Linda's daughter-in-law.

Sure, the house is a mess, and they go through more toilet paper and milk in a week than

most people do in a month, but for the whole family, it's a week filled with family tradition, friendly competition and fun times, she said.

Establishing traditions like a Cousins Camp and staying in touch between visits helps foster a long-distance relationship between grandparents and grandchildren, said Janet Teitsort, author of the book *Long Distance Grandma: How to Stay Connected with Grandkids Far Away*.

"The idea is to stay connected," she said, "so you don't have to start fresh every time you get together."

Teitsort and her husband, John, who live in Westport, Ind., have personal experience with long-distance grandparenting. They have an 18-month-old granddaughter in Indianapolis, an hour and 15 minutes away and seven grandkids in Louisiana.

When three of the grandkids were young, they lived in Westport and family gatherings happened often. Teitsort said she and John would see the kids almost every day and at all the community's events.

In 1989, her daughter and son-in-law moved to Ohio, then to Tennessee, then to Louisiana. Teitsort said that when the family moved to Louisiana, she was a bit nervous that the grandchildren wouldn't know who she was. So this former first-grade

teacher got creative with ways to develop relationships with each one. She compiled her ideas in her book, which was published in 1998.

Teitsort suggests keeping a calendar of the children's activities and scheduling time to call them at least once a month. Also on her calendar is a schedule of visits. She said she and John try to see the grandkids every few months, but she realizes that may not be possible for everyone.

"We can do that because we're retired and can do this," she said. "For some people it's not a possibility, and their health wouldn't let them do it."

Between visits, Teitsort uses her own talent and creativity to stay connected with the children.

"One time I wrote a story about a teeny-tiny woman in a strawberry garden," she said. "I sent them packets of jelly and gourmet crackers. They got a big kick out of that."

She also takes advantage of holidays to do something special for each of them. She has sent them boxes of graham crackers, icing and candy hearts to let them decorate Valentine's Day cookies. And at Easter, if she and John aren't able to be with the kids, they send a long-distance Easter egg hunt. They fill eggs with things like candy and money and let their parents hide them around the house. Teitsort said she and the older

grandchildren write letters to each other. But for the younger ones, videotapes or cassette tapes help them recognize voices, she said.

"In September, if you can't go for children's Grandparents Day (at school), make a videotape where you tell about your own days at school and then send it to them," she suggested.

She said technology has also helped her stay in touch. She and her husband have a videophone that allows them to see up-to-date photos of the kids.

"We got to see their Easter dresses," she said. "The reception may not always be exactly what we want to be, but they could see us."

Not everyone may think to do things like long-distance Easter eggs and cousins camps, but Teitsort said grandparents don't have to rack their brains to come up with ways to foster a relationship that spans the miles.

"I do a lot of creative stuff, but that's my personality," she said. "I recommend for younger ones that you do send a videotape, photos, cassettes, just so they can hear your voice frequently and can see a picture of who you are. Anyone can do that. You want them to know you. That's your aim."

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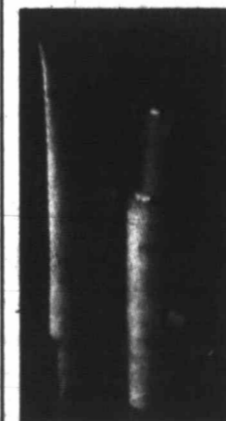


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Annual PPHM art gala in offing

CANYON — The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon will host "Canyon Rhythms, Art Show and Sale" Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 8 and 9 at the museum.

The Art Show and Sale is open to the public from 12 noon until 5 p.m., Saturday and from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission will be free. Artists from throughout Texas and the Southwest will showcase their work throughout the weekend event.

The Gala on Saturday evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail buffet. The artists will be on hand to visit with participants. Included in the gala evening will be an art auction and the music of Hugo H. Loewenstern. Tickets for the Gala evening are \$40 per person and are available by calling (806) 651-2244.

Artwork will be presented in a variety of mediums, including sculpture, oils, glass, furniture, jewelry, ceramics and wood-block prints. Artists will include B.J. Briner, Alix Christian, Jared Davis, Doyle Goebel and Curtis Nazworth, Melanie Fain, Daryl Howard, Michael Obranovich, Phil Poirier, Doug Ricketts and Michael Untiedt.

Canyon Rhythms is an annual fund-raiser of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, the museum's sponsoring organization. Proceeds will be used by the museum for educational programming.

Join the festivities and spend time at the largest history museum in Texas. While at the Museum, check out the newly renovated Pioneer Hall and the museum's newest exhibit "People of the Plains: Experiments in Living."