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Pampa

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Nov. 6 election voter registration deadline Tuesday

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Pampa and Gray County residents who want to vote on Nov. 6 and are concerned about their eligibility or need to register don't have much time to get these chores done.

Voters who live within the city limits of Pampa will decide whether to dissolve the Pampa Economic Development Corporation on that date. In addition, all Gray County voters will vote on 19 statewide amendments. County voters won't vote on the PEDC issue.

Voters who need to update any voting information have only two days to get it done so they can cast ballots in the Tuesday, Nov. 6 election.

Anyone with questions regarding their voting status are urged to do so no later than Tuesday, Oct. 9.

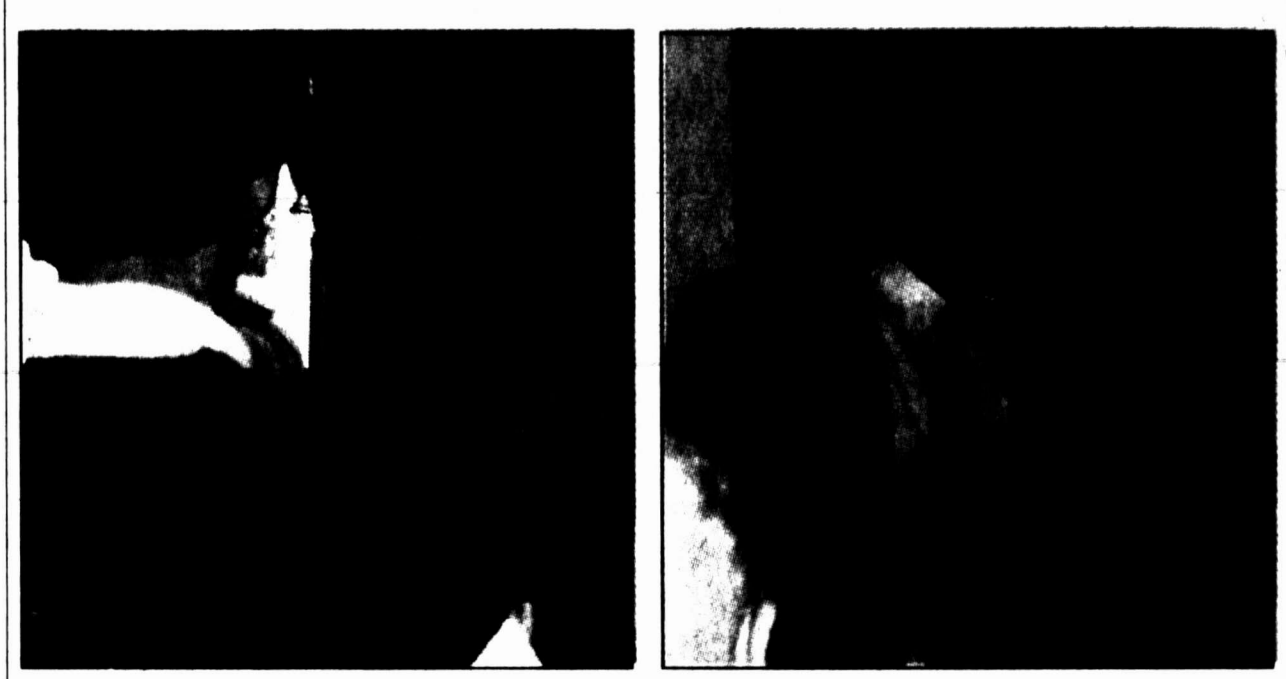
Any registered voters who have moved within the community must update the information on their voter registration card.

Jan Woods of the Gray County Tax Assessor's office said the office has had numerous calls from residents to ascertain if the information on their voting cards is correct.

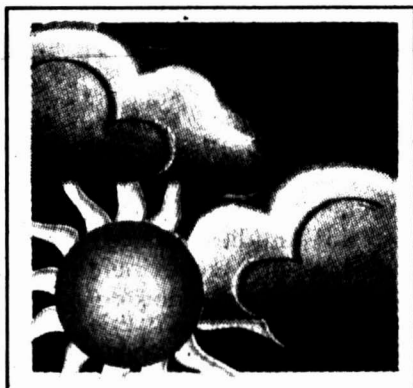
Anyone who will be 18-years-old may vote in the election if they have registered to vote.

The tax collector's office is on the first floor of the Hughes Building. Anyone wanting to vote may contact them.

Hall of Fame inductees



(Pampa News photos by Dee Dee Laramore)
 Dr. Sylvia Grider, left, chats with Ann Lusk after the Pampa High School Hall of Fame luncheon at the Pampa Country Club Friday. Dr. Grider credits her success to the ethics of "hard work" she learned from her parents R.C. and Mildred Grider and from her teachers at Pampa High School. Dr. Robert Jernigan, right, reminisced about various points of interesting architecture in Pampa — the high school, the post office, and the library, while speaking at the Hall of Fame luncheon. The annual Hall of Fame event was moved this year to Homecoming Week rather than in the spring during a more hectic time of the school year.



High today 80
 Low tonight 53
 For weather details see Page 2

Tuesday open forum about PEDC issues

An open forum sponsored by the Pampa Chamber of Commerce will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 at M.K. Brown.

The forum will be in regard to the election to decide the future of the PEDC.

It will have a panel consisting of two member of the city council, Faustina Curry and Jeff Andrews, and two members of the PEDC Board, Lee Porter and Jerry Foote.

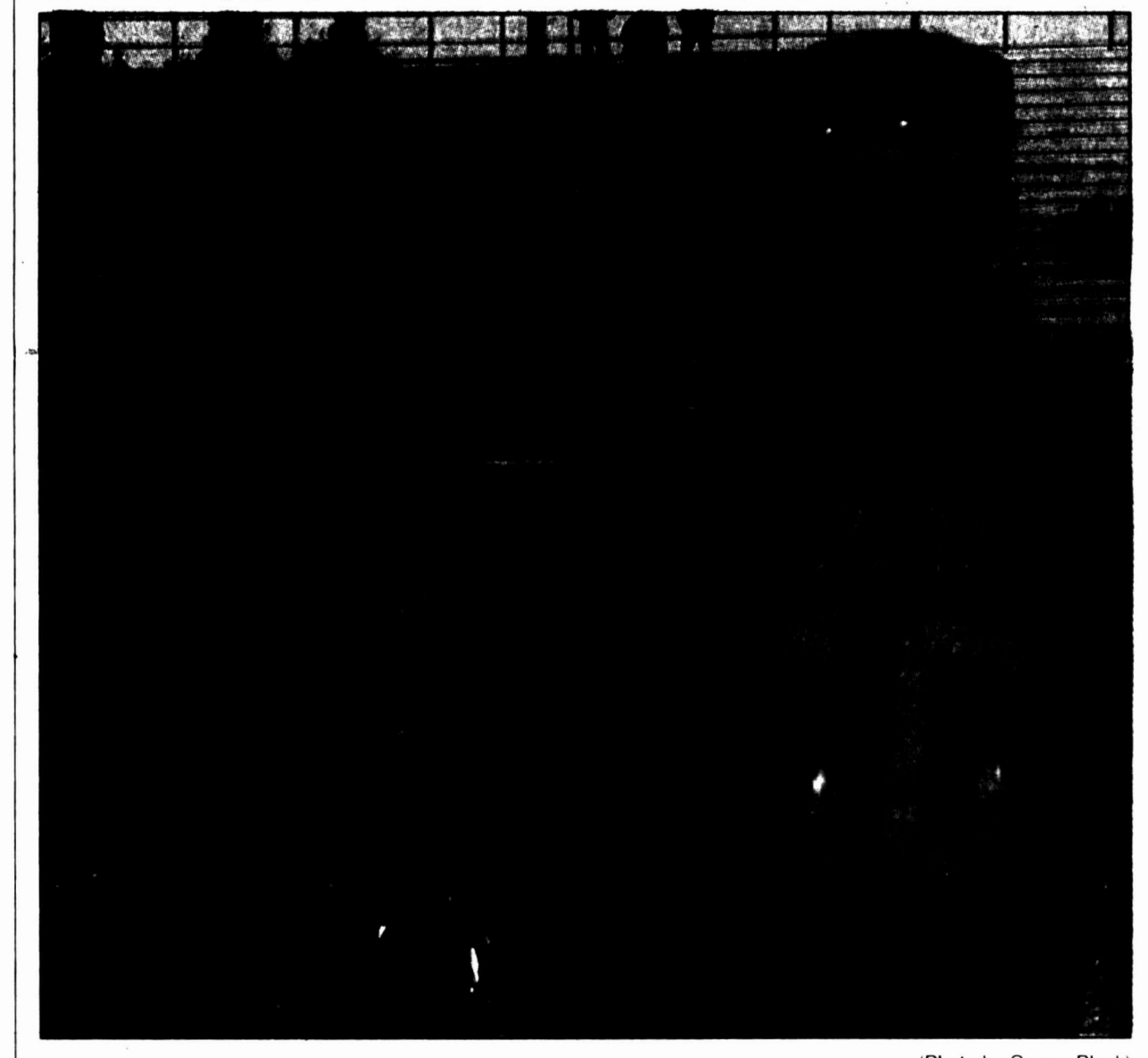
All local residents in Pampa are encouraged to attend the meeting, according Chamber Board Chairman Chuck White.

MISD board meet Monday at 7:30 p.m.

MIAMI — Miami school board members are to meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 8, in the school administration office, 321 Custer, to consider a bond closing announcement and use of the money received from issuing \$500,000 in revenue bonds.

Requests to speak before the board have been made by Reuben Espinosa regarding the senior trip and by Jimmie Glenn concerning the FFA trip to National Convention.

Other matters to be considered by the board include sale of school buses, school board, training, current bills and fund balances, and a leave request.



(Photo by Grover Black)
 Amy Robbins and Chris Lewis were crowned Friday night as King and Queen of PHS Homecoming 2001.

County mulls how to comply with animal law

By NANCY YOUNG
 Managing Editor

Just what to do about prohibiting dangerous wild animals in unincorporated areas is a question Gray County Commissioners Court decided to leave for another day when more information is available.

Counties may prohibit person from keeping the animals within county boundaries according to a state law, said County Judge Richard Peet during the court's last meeting.

Animals which are listed as "dangerous" are lion, tiger, ocelot, cougar, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, bobcat, lynx, serval, caracal, hyena, bear, coyote, jackal, baboon, chimpanzee, orangutan, and gorilla.

Peet said the law would apply to animals which are outside the city limits of Pampa, McLean and Lefors in Gray County.

Precinct One Commissioner Joe Wheelley said before the commissioners court takes action on the matter he wants the law to be investigated more.

"Before I vote on something, I want to know I'm voting on," said (See COUNTY, Page 2)

High Plains Ranch rodeo winners told

Last weekend ranch teams from Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma competed in the 2001 High Plains Fall Classic Ranch Rodeo in Pampa. This WRCA-sanctioned ranch rodeo consisted of "real" cowboys competing in events that simulate what they do everyday to earn a living.

Ranch Bronc Riding was sponsored by Pat Helton Well Service and the two teams from the Parker and Finley Ranches and Adcock's Lazy Eleven Ranch tied with 17.5 points. The winner was determined by a coin toss with Adcock's Lazy Eleven Ranch winning. The winning bronc rider, Burke Adcock from Miami, Texas, won a hand-made bit provided by Gary Wiggins.

The Team Doctoring event was sponsored by Gray County Veterinary Clinic and the winning team from the Masterson Ranch of Guthrie, Texas, received ropes provided by Equestrian Equipper of Amarillo and spur leathers donated by Olivers Saddle Shop. (See RODEO, Page 3)

Loaned execs aid United Way

Pampa's United Way is slightly more than 15 percent toward its \$375,000 goal following the second check-in meeting this week.

A total of \$58,409.73 — 15.5 percent — has been received so far this year in the annual fund raiser, officials report. The third check-in is set for 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9, at the large meeting room of the Community Building, 200 N. Ballard. Sponsors for the check-in are Pampa Meals on Wheels, Community Day Care Center and CASA of the High Plains.

Seven Pampa professionals are donating their time and talents as loaned executives for the 2001 (See UNITED WAY, Page 3)

Senior snapshot

Birth Date & Place: Oct. 5, 1917, Glasgow, Ky.
Family: Father, Mother, three girls, one boy.
Favorite Childhood Memory: Fishing with my dad.
When I Grew Up I Wanted To Be: A school teacher.
My Best Friend was: Mary Pitcock.
People Remember Me As Being: Polite and very quiet.
My Favorite Toy: A doll my mother made for me.
My Favorite Game: Hide and seek.
My Favorite Radio Show: Don't have one.

The First Movie I Ever Saw & The Cost: A western — cost 20-cents.
The First Phone I Ever Used Belonged To: My Aunt Minnie's.
The Person That Most Influenced My Life: My father.
The Historical Event That Most Affected My Life & Why: Fourth of July. All the aunts, uncles and cousins got together for a big dinner in a park.
The Thing I Remember Most About The Depression Was: Working very hard on the farm.

The Biggest Honor I've Ever Received Is: My husband's proposal of marriage.
If I Could Change One Thing About My Past It Would Be: Nothing.
My Whole Family Enjoyed: My mother reading the Bible to us every night.
The Person From My Childhood I Wish I Could Visit With Today Is: My cousin Joe Pedigo.
My First Job Was: A cook on a country farm for old people.
Year & Make of The First Vehicle I Drove: Model T-Ford.
Cost of Gasoline When I First Drove: 15-cents a gallon.

On My First Date I Went To: A box supper.
My Favorite Hang Out Spot Was: Grapevine swings on our farm.
The Fashion Trend Was: Handmade dresses.
My Favorite Saying Was: Gosh.
My Favorite Song Was: All church songs.
Another Memory I Want To Share Is: The school house was used for Sunday school, prayer meetings, church services — by all denominations.

Classified advertising in *The Pampa News* gets results for buyers and sellers. To place your ad call 669-2525.

- Ronnie Lee Gaines, 57, meter and gas tester.
- Alice F. O'Toole, 96, former bank teller.

- Agriculture7
- Classified25
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- Editorial4
- Entertainment18
- Sports12

West Texas LANDSCAPE
 Residential & Commercial
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Country Fair at M.K. Brown Civic Center • October 20 • 5:00-Midnight
Call 669-3241 For Tickets

OCT 7 2001

Daily Record

Obituaries

RONNIE LEE GAINES
Ronnie Lee Gaines, 57, of Pampa, died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2001. Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday in Carmichael-Whitley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mr. Gaines was born Feb. 5, 1944, at Wheeler and graduated from Pampa High School in 1963. He married Rita Bryant on March 20, 1964, at Pampa.

He began working at Thurmond McGlothlin in 1970 and, at the time of his death, was a meter and gas tester. He was a member of Barrett Baptist Church.

Survivors include a wife, Rita, of the home; a son, Jeffery Gaines of Augusta, Ga.; a daughter, Kristi Baten of Pampa; his mother, Maxine Gaines of Pampa; a sister, Pam Redus of Georgetown; a brother, Don Gaines of White Deer; and five grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to American Heart Association, 2404 W. 7th, Amarillo, TX 79106.

ALICE F. O'TOOLE

Alice F. O'Toole, 96, of Pampa, died Friday, Oct. 5, 2001, at Panhandle. No local arrangements are planned, and the body will not be available for viewing. A private burial will be held Monday in Tucson, Ariz.

Mrs. O'Toole was born March 8, 1905, at El Reno, Okla. She married William L. O'Toole in 1940 at El Reno; he died in 1995 at Tucson.

She had been a bank teller in El Reno and was a Catholic.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Irene VanMerdelvt.

Survivors include a sister, Marie Jamieson of Pampa; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance.....	911
Crime Stoppers.....	669-2222
Energas.....	1-888-Energas
Fire.....	911
Police (emergency).....	911
Police (non-emergency).....	669-5700
SPS.....	1-800-750-2520
Water.....	669-5830

Services tomorrow

GAINES, Ronnie Lee — 10 a.m., Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.

Police report

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

Friday, Oct. 5
Elijah Walid George Nasr, 17, 2001 Williston, possession of marijuana under two ounces in a drug-free zone.

Sheriff's Office

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

Friday, Oct. 5
Brian Lee Rossiter, 27, 736 S. Barnes, violation of probation/assault causing bodily injury, no seat belt/Carson County, failure to appear/Carson County.

Saturday, Oct. 6
Greer Douglas, 55, 2302 Alcock, arrested by the TABC for public intoxication on a licensed premises.

Ambulance

Rural/Metro made the following calls during the 48-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Saturday.

Thursday, Oct. 4
11:39 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 200 block of North Wells and transported one to PRMC.

12:38 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of Willow Road and transported one to PRMC.

Friday, Oct. 5
8:24 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to a local nursing center and transported one to PRMC.

10:30 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 1100 block of North Hobart and transported one to PRMC.

10:57 a.m. - A mobile ICU responded to the 700 block of East Malone and transported one to PRMC.

12:25 p.m. - A mobile ICU responded to Banks and Kentucky on a motor vehicle accident; no transport.

Texas round up ...

San Antonio officer who died in Pentagon attack laid to rest

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A hero's honor was given Friday to Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Wagner, 40, died when a hijacked jet crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

The fourth-generation soldier was buried in the same cemetery as her father, Army Sgt. William E. Wagner.

She was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

The Purple Heart is awarded to all military personnel who are wounded or killed in action. The Order of Military Medical Merit cites Wagner's "exemplary contributions" to the Army medical department.

Scientists test food-poison germ

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A \$1.5 million federal grant is being used by Central Texas scientist to try to develop an oral vaccine that uses a food-poisoning bacteria to protect people from potential bioterrorist threats.

Scientists from the University of Texas Health Science Center, Brooks Air Force Base and Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research say salmonella could prove valuable in developing oral vaccines against anthrax, tularemia and other potential biological weapons. The bacteria could serve as the vehicle that carries anthrax and tularemia antigens into the immune system.

Karl Klose, the lead researcher on the project, said scientist will test strains of salmonella to create an anthrax vaccine first, and if successful, they will then try to apply the same techniques to develop tularemia vaccine.

Microbiologists already have shown that salmonella can penetrate the gastrointestinal tract after the bacillus has been disabled so it doesn't cause food poisoning. The challenge now is to attach antigens that will help people develop immunity against diseases, said Klose, an assistant professor of microbiology at the health science center.

"People have long thought that salmonella would be a good vehicle for delivering antigens to provide immunity," Klose said in Saturday's edition of the San Antonio Express-News. "It goes into the intestine and kind of invades your immune system a little bit, and that's all we need."

Lawyer looks to NFL in Senate bid

AUSTIN (AP) — Austin lawyer Ed Cunningham plans to use his ties a sports agent to raise money for his bid for the U.S. Senate. He's reaching out to NFL players.

Cunningham is seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat being vacated by Republican Sen. Phil Gramm.

This Sunday, a fund-raiser in Philadelphia will be hosted by the Eagles' John Welbourn and Troy Vincent, Cunningham said.

Fund-raisers also will be sponsored by the Chargers' Elliot Silvers in San Diego on Oct. 17, and the Saints' Cam Cleeland in New Orleans, for which a date hasn't been set, he said.

Cunningham, 35, said proceeds from the Philadelphia fund-raiser will go to victims' families.

His goal is to raise \$100,000 at the \$500-per-per-

son fund-raiser.

As he turns to raising money for his own effort, Cunningham said he hopes to get players on all 31 NFL teams "energized for the campaign."

"The players are getting real excited. Long-term for the party, it's going to be beneficial to have these guys active," Cunningham, a former University of Texas football player, said in Saturday's edition of the Austin American Statesman.

In his work, Cunningham said he represents players on every team.

Taliban offer to free aid workers if U.S. halts military action

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghanistan's ruling Taliban offered Saturday to free eight international aid workers accused of spreading Christianity if the United States stops threatening military action, the Afghan Islamic Press news agency said.

The news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry statement from the Afghan capital, Kabul.

"If they stop issuing threats, we will take steps for the release of the eight foreigners," it quoted the ministry as saying.

The private news agency, based in Islamabad, has connections to the Taliban. Efforts by The Associated Press to contact the Taliban directly for confirmation were not immediately successful.

The eight aid workers are charged with trying to convert Muslims to Christianity, a serious crime in that devout Islamic nation, especially under the strict rule of the Taliban militia.

Two of them include Americans Heather Mercer, 24, and Dayna Curry, 29, who both attended Baylor University and were active members of Antioch Community Church in Waco.

The ministry, in the statement, linked the aid workers' fate with that of the Afghan population, weary from years of war.

"On humanitarian grounds, if aid workers are important, so are the people of Afghanistan who have been hit by drought, cruel sanctions and are facing winter," the ministry said, according to the report.

Marker placed to honor Slats Rodgers

MALLEN, Texas (AP) — He was a daredevil with a crop duster, known to bootleg Mexican liquor when he wasn't barnstorming with surplus war planes.

Texans will mostly remember Floyd "Slats" Rodgers (1899-1956) as the self-taught aviation buff believed to have built the state's first plane, a lopsided affair he called "Old Soggy." A historical marker in Rodgers' honor will stand at the McAllen-Miller International Airport, where Old Soggy was dedicated Friday.

Old timers — some who learned to fly from Rodgers, at least one who remembered Rodgers literally dropping into her family's front yard — attended the dedication, as did descendants.

"He was kind of a showoff, I guess," said Anne Macaluso of Dallas, 83, the youngest of four daughters from Rodgers' first marriage.

Born in Tunnel Hill, Ga., Rodgers moved with his family to Keene, 30 miles south of Fort Worth, and to an uncle's farm near Waco. A boyhood interest with kites evolved into one of flying, and he read avidly on the topic.

COUNTY

Wheeley, adding he has a neighbor who has a tame bobcat and would like to know how that would affect him.

"I'd like to know if we could remove an animal from the list if we passed it," said Precinct Three Commissioner Gerald Wright.

Precinct Four Commissioner James Hefley said he would like to know how the law will affect people that deal in exotic animals. "Besides, people have to have a federal license to hold these animals," he said.

Hefley said the interpretation of "regulate or permit" which is in the law needs to be clarified.

"I would imagine we (county commissioners court) can't do anything until someone complains," said Precinct Two Commissioner Jim Greene. "But we need to find out before we take any action."

Peet said the commissioners court has a Dec. 1 deadline regarding the measure. Penalty for violating the measure, if enacted, would be a Class C misdemeanor.

On another subject, County Treasurer Scott Hahn told the court elected officials in Gray County have not been covered by workers compensation since Jan. 1.

Hahn said the county moved its workers com-

pensation coverage to a local agent on that date and he assumed the original agreement with Texas Association of Counties would re-enact itself.

Hahn said he needed a minute order for coverage to be activated. He said the county is fortunate none of the officials have needed to file a claim. The county has been paying for the coverage for the officials, he added.

"This could have been disastrous," said Commissioner Wright, "especially with law enforcement not being covered."

County Auditor Elaine Morris said the deputy treasurer in the county treasurer's office discovered the error when she was researching all insurance policies of the county recently.

In other action, Nancy Coffee was appointed to serve out the unexpired term of Dr. Dawson Orr on the White Deer Land Museum Board. Approval was granted to the museum to remodel the outside facade of a building located at 124 N. Cuyler.

Lipscomb County Judge Willis Smith was reappointed to the Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation Board of Trustees. Peet said He has been on the board about 15 years and desired to serve the eastern Panhandle. Chairman of the committee is Dean Copeland of Pampa.

County payroll in the amount of \$182,459.49 and accounts payable in the amount of \$102,919.11 were approved by the commission.

Study: Children of Gulf War vets more likely to have birth defects

WASHINGTON (AP) — The children of Gulf War veterans are two to three times as likely as those of other vets to have birth defects, suggests a government study based on questionnaires and interviews with the veterans.

Gulf vets reported more miscarriages, too. The research, published in this month's Annals of Epidemiology, follows other studies that did not find evidence of greater risk of birth defects.

The latest study, conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Johns Hopkins University scientists, surveyed Gulf and non-Gulf veterans from all four service branches. Just under 21,000 active and retired military, reserve and National Guard members answered questionnaires about their health, reproductive outcomes, exposure to risk factors and other issues.

Many of the veterans who did not respond to the questionnaire were interviewed by telephone. About 70 percent of those who were sent questionnaires participated.

"Veterans are very concerned that they have a higher risk of bearing children with birth defects," said Dr. Han Kang, a Veterans Affairs epidemiologist and the lead researcher.

"There are two or three studies that tried to address that concern and did not find any evidence of that," Kang said, "and now we are reporting at least a strong possibility of that happening."

The Pentagon says an estimated 90,000 troops who served in the Gulf War complain of maladies including memory loss, anxiety, fatigue, nausea, balance problems and chronic muscle and joint pain. The ailments are known collectively as Gulf War Syndrome. Some veterans also worry that their war exposure harmed their reproductive health, making them more likely to have babies with serious birth defects.

Millions of dollars have been spent on government studies on the subject. A presidential panel in December concluded that none of the research has validated any specific cause and that more study is needed.

South Carolina women, all over 60, bare themselves for charity

AIKEN, S.C. (AP) — Wearing little more than pearls and smiles, more than two dozen women, all older than 60, have brought new meaning to dropping everything to help charity.

Their 18-month "Still Magnolia" calendar is less graphic than it is revealing about how the group came together to raise money for local programs for older residents, including Meals on Wheels.

"When I learned of the problems our Council on Aging was having, I couldn't say no," said 64-year-old Dorothy Ridley, a Meals on Wheels volunteer. In the calendar, she appears on a private tennis court wearing pearls and tennis shoes with her otherwise private parts covered by a loosely held towel and the top of the net.

Scott Murphy, executive director of the Aiken Area Council on Aging, said the program will be expanded and include better meals with some of the \$125,000 raised by calendar sales.

Betty Ryberg, who helped organize the project, said the Still Magnolias name was picked because the women are still as beautiful as the magnolia flower.

The women also offer a message that "it's not all about 16-year-olds and Britney Spears," Ryberg said.

The photos were taken mostly on private prop-

erty, but there were moments of mild embarrassment, Ryberg and Ridley said.

"The funniest thing was the color of the photographer's face," Ridley said. "I think he just hadn't adjusted."

A brush with uninvited eyes came outside a city performing arts center when six women dropped their shirts to pose just as a couple of inmates that clean the park came around a corner, Ryberg said. "They started screaming," she said.

"I ducked at that point," Ridley said. "I hid my face and everything else."

The project already has covered a \$26,000 production bill and has \$30,000 in the bank from sponsors and a sold-out calendar unveiling gala set for Friday — with 360 couples and a waiting list of couples wanting to pay \$75 to get in.

The Aiken women kept their doings as secretly as possible, referring to shoots and planning meetings as "tea parties." Over the weeks, a group that started with nine people swelled to more than 70.

"A couple of women still haven't told their husbands," Ryberg said.

On the Net:
Still Magnolias: <http://www.stillmagnolias.org>

Slowdown triggers unemployment tax hike

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas employers will be paying higher unemployment taxes next year because of the economic slowdown, the Texas Workforce Commission announced Friday.

The increase results from a hike in the general tax rate for employers who experienced layoffs over the last 12 months. The automatic increase cannot be stopped without changing state law, the agency said.

Over the last 12 months Texas had an increase in

both the number of claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits and in the average benefit payment amount.

For the period ending Sept. 30, there were 862,221 new claims for unemployment benefits compared to 685,478 for the same period a year ago. That's an increase of 176,743 claims.

The average weekly benefit payment amount was \$227.90, compared to \$218.21 per week a year ago, an increase of \$9.69 a week per claim.

City Briefs

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

40% OFF Mary Engelbreit All this Week at Joy's Unlimited, 2218 N Hobart!!

HICKORY HUT, 716 W. Brown, Mon.-Fri. 11-6:30. Now with Baked Potatoes plus Homemade Chili. 665-0562.

RENT OUT Our Hot Water Extraction Carpet Machine, Warner Horton Supply, 900 Duncan, 669-2981.

ABOUT TOWN Handy Man. Home repairs & remodeling. Painting. No jobs too small. Call Larry Nabors. 665-2793.

JUNIOR SERVICE League's Halloween Costume Party, Oct. 13th, 7 p.m.-12 a.m., 318 N. Cuyler (Knight of Columbus Hall). Over 21 only. BYOB. \$100 Cash Drawing! \$5 / person at door.

WALL PAPER Hanging: Neat, Meticulous, Experienced, Dependable, Affordable Prices. 826-2011, Andrea Wright.

CHANEY'S CAFE, Sun. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Roast, ch. fr. steak, Swiss steak, spaghetti & meatballs. Opening evenings Tues-Fri

LASER SPECTACLES, sponsored by Altrusa Intl. Inc. of Pampa, Oct. 11th, MK Brown Auditorium, 7 p.m. Tickets \$5.

WATKINS PRODUCTS, Betty Stribling, 665-8806.

CLINT & Son's Smokehouse, (across from United) Oct. Special, 50¢ off any Plate, Salad & Sandwich Bar or All-U-Can Eat Buffet.

NEW WOMEN'S Clothing Boutique at Beauty 2000, 329 N. Hobart.

WEEKLY TIP: No more problems with birds or squirrels when you have a chimney cap with Spark Arrester. Courtesy of Fireside Comfort.

Weather focus

PAMPA — Today, partly sunny with highs around 80. South winds 10 to 20 mph with

gusts to 30 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy with lows near 53. Columbus day, partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of

showers or thunderstorms. Highs around 82. Monday, partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers or thunderstorms.

Heard-Jones HEALTH MART

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 114 N. Cuyler • Pampa, Texas • 669-7478
 Prices Good Thru Saturday, October 13, 2001

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 Or DR. PEPPER
 6 - 12 Oz. Cans
\$ 1.69

CAMPBELL'S SOUP
 Tomato or Chicken Noodle
 10.75 Oz. - Your Choice
2 Cans \$ 1.00

KLEENEX
 FACIAL TISSUE
 150 Ct. **89¢**

NORTHERN BATH TISSUE
 4 Roll Pkg.
89¢

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CELEBRITY CANNED HAM
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REYNOLDS ALUMINUM FOIL
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3 For \$ 2.00

PLANTERS SNACKS
 CANISTERS
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89¢

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

RODEO

The wild and woolly event of Wild Cow Milking was sponsored by James Bradley of the JLB Ranch and won by the Johnson Ranches headquartered out of Amarillo, Texas. Slickers and Wild Rags provided by Cavender's Boot City were their prizes. Another wild event was the Wild Horse Race sponsored by State Rep. Warren Chisum. This event provided spectators with lots of excitement and was won by the team members from the Cimarron River and Winters Ranches of Kenton, Okla. They took home headstalls and reins provided by Olivers Saddle Shop and brushes provided by Equestrian Equipper.

A tie in the Team Penning event is a rare occurrence but the Tongue River Ranch from Dumont, Texas, tied Quien Sabe Ranch from Oldham County with a point total of 22. Therefore, the tie-breaker rule was used and the team with the fastest total time was the Tongue River Ranch. Sponsored by Larry Baker Plumbing, Heating and Air, the team members from the Tongue River Ranch took home saddle blankets provided by Olivers Saddle Shop and scrubbers provided by Equestrian Equipper.

During the competition, each contestant and each horse are also competing for the prestigious prizes awarded to the "Top Hand." Sponsored by M&H Leasing, the custom-made saddle and saddle blanket for the "Top Horse" went to Kenny Chambers of the Johnson Ranches. The custom hand-tooled saddle is provided by Olivers Saddle Shop.

The "Top Hand" award of custom-made spurs and saddle blanket was also sponsored by M&H Leasing and went to Burke Adcock from the Adcock's Lazy Eleven Ranch of Miami. The

spurs are made by Dale Bass of Amarillo and the saddle blankets were provided by Equestrian Equipper.

Another tie occurred for the overall winning team. The Nail Ranch and The Tongue River Ranch tied with 76.5 points. The winner was determined by the team who had the fastest time in the team penning event. The Tongue River Ranch was determined to be the winner.

The overall winning team of the 2001 High Plains Fall Classic received many outstanding prizes, complements of M&H Leasing. Each member of the Tongue River Ranch received custom designed hand-made silver belt buckles made by Dale Bass of Amarillo, Resistol Hats provided by Wayne's Western Wear, custom made key chains donated by Dale Bass and cologne, complements of Bob Clements Cleaners. The members of The Tongue River Ranch team will also share in the \$500 cash prize sponsored by M&H Leasing.

Other activities held during the weekend included a colt starting and reining demonstration featuring the expert skills of Buster McLaury. This clinic was well received by a very attentive audience. Following the demonstration, Pokey the Clown presented his Junior Ranch Rodeo in the arena.

The Junior Ranch Rodeo was sponsored by Romines and Topper. The winning Pee Wee division team was from the Prothro and Landess Ranches of Kenton, Okla. The winning junior division team was from the Keith Outfit of New Mexico. These teams will represent Pampa at the WRCA Junior Ranch World Championship Finals Rodeo in November at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Another great activity was the Chuck Wagon Cook-off and dinner. Five chuckwagons had their

hands full cooking for over 300 people and getting their food ready for the judges at the rodeo pavilion. The meal of chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, beans, biscuits and dessert was great and folks were entertained by music and cowboy poetry from Rod Taylor, Curt Brummet and Buster and Cheryl McLaury. Pokey the Clown also auctioned some of his famous custom-made stick horses to benefit Fellowship of Christian Cowboys.

Winners of the chuckwagon cook-off were:

MEAT CATEGORY. First place, Old Town Ranch Chuckwagon, Pampa; The Wild Cow Ranch, Fritch.

BEANS CATEGORY. McFall Chuckwagon, McLean, first place; The Weems Cattle Co. Chuckwagon, Amarillo, second place.

POTATO CATEGORY. McFall Chuckwagon, first place; Weems Cattle Co. Chuckwagon, second place.

BREAD CATEGORY. McFall Chuckwagon, first place; The Wild Cow Ranch, second place.

DESSERT CATEGORY. Weems Cattle Co. Chuckwagon, first place; McFall Chuckwagon, second place.

The winner of the Best Overall Chuckwagon was The Wild Cow Ranch Chuckwagon. The winner of the Best Wagon was the Weems Cattle Co. and winner of the Best Campsite went to The Wild Cow Ranch.

Sponsors were: M&H Leasing, Cattle Exchange of Canadian, Culligan, Engine Parts and Supply, Red River Steakhouse of McLean, Dyers Enterprises, Keyes Pharmacy, Complete Travel, Inc., R&R Catering, National Bank of Commerce, Parts In General, Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, Jim Leverich, Newman Welding, Jiffy Cleaners, Utility Oil, Frank's Thriftway and Desperados.

UNITED WAY

Pampa United Way campaign. Led by Dr. Dawson Orr, this year's campaign chair, the loaned executives are meeting with area businesses and organizations to help raise funds for the Pampa United Way and the 19 member agencies it serves.

This year's loaned executives are as follows:

James "Buddy" Allen - James "Buddy" Allen is loaned to the United Way again this year by Cabot Corporation - Pampa plant. "The United Way has always put forth a gallant effort in Pampa and has served the community very well," he said.

A member of the Mary Ellen & Harvester Church of Christ, he also has served the community as a board member of the Pampa Optimist Club.

Allen and his wife Linda are the parents of two sons, Jarod and Darrin.

Jack Bailey - Bailey serves as personnel director for the Pampa Independent School District. He is a veteran United Way volunteer with experience both as a loaned executive and as chairman of the United Way.

"As a loaned executive, I will be happy to inform anyone about how United Way functions," Bailey said. "Pampa has 19 entities this year and the money goes to help in many different ways. It's great to be a part of the United Way."

Bailey has been an active member of the community in other ways as well, serving as chairman of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee, the Finance Committee and chairman of the Administrative Board.

He and his wife Jo have three children, Angie Ware, Leslie Bailey and Jennifer Rodriguez.

Lynn Hancock said he sees his

role as a loaned executive as "to motivate and encourage businesses and their employees to give to this worthwhile ministry."

Hancock, pastor of Briarwood Church, has served the United Way in the past as the loaned executive chairman. He also is a member of the Pampa Rotary Club, the Greater Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce and the Pampa Ministerial Alliance.

"This is a great opportunity for us to touch the lives of so many people," he said.

Hancock and his wife Janet have three children - Jamisen, Lynnsee and Jansen.

Mark McVay also serves as chairman of the major firms committee where he will coordinate the major firms campaign drive. Employed as business manager of the Pampa Independent School District, he is an active member of St. Vincent's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, CASA of the High Plains, Boy Scouts, Rotary Club and Pampa Optimist Club.

"Community support has always been a cornerstone in Pampa," McVay said. "The community has always been generous and supportive of the United Way."

McVay is married to Ginger McVay. They have three children, Natalie, Stephanie and Trevor.

Stanley Stabel is loaned to the Pampa United Way by Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors where he has been employed for 16 years. His past work with the United Way includes

ing as allocation committee and as a loaned executive in previous campaigns.

"(The United Way) is a very important cause for Pampa," Stabel said. "Someone you personally know will benefit from the United Way this year."

A member of First Baptist Church, Stabel is past president of the Pampa Kiwanis Club and also helped coach Pampa Optimist Club sports. He and his wife Devonna have a son Christopher and a daughter Kara.

Sharon Strickland joins the United Way as an executive loaned by FirstBank Southwest. She presently serves as president of the loaned executives and has also served as vice president.

"United Way is a vital part of our community," Strickland said. "It is the way you can assist others of all ages and walks of life in our community. United Way helps many local agencies meet the needs of our local citizens."

Strickland and her husband Ken are the parents of a daughter, Kendra, and a son, Justin. Her community involvement extends to First Baptist Church, where she is a member and Sunday School teacher. She also serves as president of the PAC - Swim Team Board.

Randy Watson also comes to the United Way as a loaned executive from FirstBank Southwest.

"One of the best things about the United Way is that I know that 99 cents of every dollar stays in Pampa, Texas," he said. "It is efficient and the funds are used wisely."

Watson's community service includes attending First Baptist Church, and serving as a member of the Pampa Rotary Club and as treasurer for the Pampa Center Foundation. He is married to Beth Watson and they have two children, Emily and Luke.

His duties as a loaned executive include soliciting donations from major firms and working in the special gifts division.

Scientists hold memorial for animals lost in flood

HOUSTON (AP) — Researchers at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston on Friday cried and laughed as they remembered the lab critters that had become their friends.

There was the time Scuba, a monkey, became inexplicably upset — until someone realized he was missing his rubber ducky, which had been misplaced while his cage was being cleaned.

That was one of the many sto-

ries shared at a memorial service for the 4,700 research animals lost when Tropical Storm Allison flooded basement labs at the School in June.

"It was a very touching tribute," said Dr. Chris Smith, director of veterinary medicine and surgery for the medical school's animal laboratory. "It went the gamut from laughing and recalling the antics of these animals, to crying because I'll never see them

again."

About 150 administrators, faculty, research staff and students attended the service, which featured an altar of fresh flowers and photos of some of the animals.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE Pampa NEWS

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Please, don't confuse me with the facts



Richard Stowers

Guest column

I know (we know) that we are all concerned about the future of Pampa. And if you will allow me, I will attempt to use the "we" tense through most of these comments that will hopefully not be too much in the form of rambling. We, as I would care to use it means my family, our employees at Culberson Stowers, the board members and staff at the PEDC, and the citizens of Pampa/Gray County. We have to act together, function together, and pull together, for as we should all believe - it is not you or me, but we, and together we have to help the town grow.

The only way that we can avoid any mistakes is through inaction. Sometimes, we will sit on the "sidelines" because it's more convenient, or maybe, if we don't perform the task, someone else will step forward and accept the responsibility. But what if "they" (whomever that is) don't get the results that we want, does that mean that "they" were wrong, especially if we never provided our input? Who is responsible for an absence of communication as it relates to PEDC meetings and activities if we do the normal publication of meeting times and maintain the office to answer any other questions?

No one can dispute the fact that we live in a much different world - internet, air travel, lifestyles, personal health, etc., and terrorism. How will we react to the challenges of each day, and can we even project what they may be? If we were retired, or contemplating such, how could we address the current volatility of the stock market? Or, if we've always played it safe, the returns on interest rate sensitive investments has dropped dramatically? Have all of our plans gone to pot? These are all questions that we should ask ourselves everyday. But the primary issue that I would like to review with you, my fellow residents and neighbors, is our PEDC.

First and foremost, it would not be my intention to point fingers, for the blame of any of our failures would not fall on any one person or entity. However, if you think that you'll feel better to establish blame, then blame me. Much has been said recently about our unresponsiveness. To that, please accept my apology. To those most adamant about wanting answers, how have you tried to get your answers? As I recently became aware, while we are in an open meeting, we can only answer any questions with a statement of fact if it is an agenda item, otherwise we cannot respond to your questions or comments. Does this mean that we are not interested in providing your answers? Not only no, but h___ no! The rule can be that any of your questions or requests for information will be answered or provided for by the staff, or the other board members either after the meeting or during normal business

hours. I do not know of anyone who has been turned down in a request for information, at least as long as we are asked civilly. It is in our best interest to provide the correct information, as the biggest problem that we have is misinformation.

As to misinformation, that has become a major problem. Maybe this is not completely correct, but NPD has not been an agenda item with the exception of our discussion of how to handle the ill-fated public meeting. The meeting was called because of our desire to keep the public as informed as possible. That ultimately created a nightmare for our board. We have not, and will not offer NPD or any other swine operation of any variety any incentives now or in the future. I believe it to be fair to say that this is the will of the people.

Because of the fact that we live in a reasonably small community, and because of the demands that each one of us experiences on a daily basis, it is extremely difficult to avoid conflicts. It has been my pleasure to serve this town through all of the different venues that I have been privileged to serve on. The PEDC board has been one of the most rewarding, and of late, the most challenging. I have absolutely not abused my position at any time, and will offer no excuses for any involvement with US Bus, the Suburban, or any other potential conflicts between myself, Culberson Stowers, and the PEDC. I have provided documents several times, and will continue to do so, to defend any claims of misuse or abuse in the time that I have been on the board.

We have been blessed to have the support of the paper through most of our existence. There was a recent comment that I made that questioned the number of people that read the paper. This was by no means intended to be a reflection on the paper, but of the citizens only reading the negative news and not the positive. How many times have sales tax numbers been repeated at the coffee shop? Why do we have the desire to believe street gossip, when correct information can be no more than a phone call away.

For those who object to our granting our director a pay raise, accept my apologies. We did not

communicate that intent to our city commission. Our City Commission has had an extremely difficult job to balance the budget with a declining population. My opinion is that the population decline would have been more severe had the PEDC not been there recruiting companies like American Energy. But the reality is, we did not communicate the intent to change our director's salary. Some may say that she's not worth it. My challenge to you is find me someone with the knowledge, desire, and commitment, especially compared to her predecessors, who will put up with public sentiments like we have had recently. Mrs. Tripplehorn has been great to work with, and has given of herself tirelessly and unselfishly.

Now I would like to offer some basic facts. I would like to think of myself as an eternal optimist, and as such, feel that the citizens will affirm the economic development corporation for the City of Pampa. I will also offer that the best type of corporation will be a 4A, although a 4B will be better than nothing. For our ninth year of existence just ended we had our second best year of sales tax revenue - \$705,115.30. We have created and/or retained close to 270 jobs. We have worked with Celanese, as our largest employer to identify and develop related industries for opportunities for more jobs. We evaluate each lead to the best of our ability, and sometimes, we are successful. Sometimes, we are not, but we learn and go on to the next project. We do have a plan for the dairies that requires more milking cows to reach a number that will support the milk processing (bottling, cheese, ice cream, etc.) industry. We have previously and will continue to work with our local business/industry to help expand their market with resultant employment increases. We have laid the base for Enterprise and Foreign Trade Zones. We have had many successes that seem to get lost in much of the other chaos.

In closing, please accept my apologies to anyone whose feelings I have hurt, or lives disrupted. For the current "firestorm", I apologize with the exception that it has gotten a group of people involved. For the upcoming election, I hope that we can get more people involved for it is important to have the tools that the EDC offers. Lastly, I know that I have rambled too much, but maybe it will make a difference in someone's attitudes or opinions. And if anyone would like to express their opinions to me, feel free to call or email at rstowers@pan-tex.net

(Editor's note: Stowers has announced his resignation from the PEDC board and it is scheduled to be acted upon at the next (Oct. 9) Pampa City Commission meeting.)

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily the opinions of The Pampa News.

Texas Editorials

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas: Austin American-Statesman on securing the nation: Mere weeks ago, it was a back-burner issue compared to other national topics. Now, though, homeland security has become the No. 1 concern throughout America.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks proved how vulnerable this nation remains. President Bush responded wisely and powerfully, announcing a new Office of Homeland Security. Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge will head the agency, which is accorded Cabinet-level status. That's another smart move by the president. Soon after the attacks, Bush declared national security his administration's most crucial issue, and the leader of this new department belongs in the Cabinet.

Ridge's office will create a new plan to tighten security across the nation. The Office of Homeland Security will bring under one umbrella the numerous counterterrorism functions that are scattered among the FBI, the CIA, the National Guard and local police and fire-fighting forces.

Collaboration is key if this focus is to be accurately trained. And El Paso could be one of the major focal points. U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes has long advocated a more effective cooperation among Border Patrol, Customs and INS officials. All three agencies, especially now, are intently focused on national security, and it would be a good idea for the Office of Homeland Security to consider strengthening, perhaps by consolidation and certainly with more effective communication, the efforts of these agencies.

Reyes is anxious to see the priorities of the new Cabinet-level office. "If it's terrorism and how people are getting into the country, then the Immigration and Naturalization Service should be the lead agency," Reyes said. "If the priority is the movement of good and commerce, then the U.S. Customs Service would be the choice. If they say both are priorities, then we will end up with the status quo ... with about 40 different agencies doing different things related to border security, and the lack of coordination we now have."

The Office of Homeland Security will not just focus on preventing terrorist attacks. It will also fortify potential targets by developing plans to protect the nation's transportation, power and food systems. Those are worthwhile ambitions, but without strengthening security at our borders, the Office of Homeland Security goals cannot be met.

From our files

40 years ago
SUNDAY, Oct. 8, 1961. Pampa's observance of Fire Prevention Week will be launched Monday with a parade scheduled for 11 a.m. through downtown streets.

MONDAY, Oct. 9, 1961. SKELLYTOWN (Spl) — Miss Sally Banks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Banks, was installed worthy advisor of the Assembly of Rainbow for Girls at an open installation ceremony recently in the Masonic Hall in White Deer.

TUESDAY, Oct. 10, 1961. CANADIAN (Spl) — Hemphill County's sixth annual Foliage Tour will start Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. at Lake Marvin east of here, John Wilkinson, Chamber of Commerce manager, announced today.

25 years ago
FRIDAY, Oct. 8, 1976. Robert Monogue, administrator of Highland General and McLean General hospitals, said today that he has submitted his resignation, effective Nov. 11, to members of the hospital board of managers.

SUNDAY, Oct. 10, 1976. About 60 airplanes landed at Perry Lefors Air Field shortly after 4 p.m. Saturday, the final stop of a week-long All-Texas Air Tour that began a week ago in Temple.

MONDAY, Oct. 11, 1976. Louise Brown and Darlene Birkes won Sweepstakes Awards for the most blue ribbon entries at the annual Pampa Garden Club fall flower show "America Sings" Saturday and Sunday at M.K. Brown Auditorium.

10 years ago
TUESDAY, Oct. 8, 1991. MIAMI — Public school trustees here formally accepted the resignation of school tax collector Debbie Stribling during an emergency meeting Monday night.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 9, 1991. Pampa United Way has reached 18 percent of its \$349,000 goal and is expected to continue moving closer to that goal during a Thursday check-in meeting.

THURSDAY, Oct. 10, 1991. Nurses from across the area gathered at Pampa's Coronado Hospital Tuesday, Oct. 8, for a day-long training session presented by M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Nursing Outreach Program, according to Monette Blando, RN, MSN, coordinator of in-service education at Coronado.

New federal regulations oppressive, stupid

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, Czar Norman, has ordered new, ill-thought-out, oppressive airline regulations in the wake of recent terrorist attacks. Among them: a ban on knives — plastic or steel — anywhere in the airport and on airplanes, even in kitchens, no curbside check-in, restricted carry-on luggage, no visitors beyond security checkpoints and who knows what else.

Has Czar Norman gone far enough to protect us? I've watched "Investigative Reports" and the "History Channel", documentaries about supermax prisons. Taking away plastic knives is not enough for real security. Knife-like weapons can be fashioned out of plastic forks and spoons, toothbrushes, ballpoint pens, razor blades, eyeglass lenses and glass utensils. That means if Czar Norman is serious about protecting us, he should ban all these items on airplanes and from airports.

Even if all items that can be used to produce knives are banned, I know from watching documentaries about supermax prisons, such as California's Pelican Bay, simply passing people through metal detectors and patting them down is not enough. Weapons can be secreted in various body cavities. To ensure total air travel safety, Czar Norman can't allow indicia such as mandated body cavity searches to impede American safety.

But there's a potential problem: Given



Walter Williams

Syndicated columnist

American litigiousness, I can easily see where body cavity searches might produce numerous suits for sexual harassment. But technology offers an alternative. Some supermax prisons have equipment, that the FAA might consider, that employs a tidier method of body cavity search. The prisoner is strapped to an X-ray chair and a picture taken.

If Czar Norman thinks that a ban on plastic forks and spoons, toothbrushes, ballpoint pens, razor blades, eyeglass lenses, glass utensils and even fingernail clippers is impractical, and body cavity searches a bit too intrusive, a substitute would be to order that passengers be handcuffed to their seats during flights save for necessary bodily functions, and then escorted to the lavatory.

Being knowledgeable about World War II, I can suggest another way to deal with hijacking threats. Say there are a thousand planes flying

from the East Coast to western destinations. Just when they take off, group up in a formation and then have squadrons of F-15s provide escort. If one plane deviates from the flight plan without permission, one of the F-15s could force it to land or shoot it down.

By now you should realize the potential for ridiculous air-safety measures. Also, you should realize that some mandates (such as banning knives) won't improve air travel safety by one iota. The reason why is that terrorists will never use knives to hijack an airplane again. The reason why knives were successful this time was that passengers thought that the hijacking simply meant that they'd wind up in Cuba or some other destination. If they knew that the hijackers were going to take them all to their death, knives wouldn't have stopped them from trying to subdue the hijackers.

The new air safety regulations are consistent with today's anti-crime strategies: If people commit crimes with guns, call for gun control; if people commit crimes with knives, call for knife control. Current law prohibits pilots from having guns to protect their crew and passengers. That law should be changed.

Instead of meekly going along with the FAA's new, costly, oppressive and stupid safety regulations, Americans should rebel against them. Are we so timid and feminized that we'll accept anything politicians do in the name of safety?

Today in history

By The Associated Press
 Today is Sunday, Oct. 7, the 280th day of 2001. There are 85 days left in the year.
 Today's Highlight in History:
 On Oct. 7, 1777, the second Battle of Saratoga began during the American Revolution. (British forces under Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered 10 days later.)
 On this date:
 In 1849, author Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore, Md., at age 40.
 In 1940, Artie Shaw and his Orchestra recorded "Hoagy Carmichael's Stardust" for RCA Victor.
 In 1949, the Republic of East Germany was formed.
 In 1950, the U.N. General Assembly approved an advance by U.N. forces north of the 38th parallel in the Korean Conflict.
 In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Republican opponent Richard M. Nixon held the second of their broadcast debates.

Remember, every Muslim is not a terrorist

The P.U. prize for the worst statement during the terrorism crisis goes to the Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the famous evangelist.

Appearing on Fox News, he tried to frame the acts of terrorism as an Islamic attack against Christianity. The un-Christian tone of his remarks even drew a wry comment from Brit Hume.

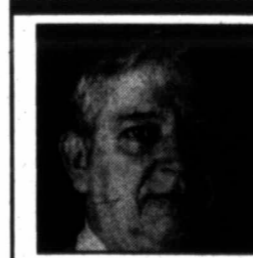
The remarks were not only un-Christian in tone, they reflected an ignorance of both Islam and the Middle East, not to mention New York City. You've got to love those New Yorkers for their spirit and toughness, but I doubt anybody in the world, looking for a symbol of Christianity, would choose New York City — or the Pentagon, for that matter.

What Graham said was the equivalent of saying that the troubles in Northern Ireland are a papal plot against the Anglican Church. Religion has nothing to do with either Ireland or the acts of terrorism against the United States. What is involved in both cases are purely secular issues.

Islam reveres Jesus of Nazareth as a holy prophet of God and teaches Muslims that they must treat Christians as they treat themselves. Muslims and Christians have lived together in the Middle East for centuries. After all, both religions were born there.

Sure, there are small sects of fanatic Muslims, just as there are small sects of fanatic Christians and fanatic Jews. And to believe the nonsense that Islam is trying to destroy Christianity is to fall victim to the propaganda of a Christian sect.

There are a billion Muslims in the world, and 7



Charley Reese

Syndicated columnist

million of them are American Muslims. It's important that Americans not let some religious yahoos mislead them into condemning all Muslims for the entirely secular acts of a tiny group of individuals. At this writing, we don't know if Muslims were involved. If some were, they were not motivated by their religion but by their hatred of America, which has been generated by our own policies and actions.

One young girl being interviewed during the constant TV coverage was in tears and asked the questions: "Why does anyone hate us? What have we done wrong?"

Unfortunately, she will never know by listening to the politicians who, in both parties and in Europe, are trying to depict the terrorism as an act of war against "freedom and democracy." That's as absurd and misleading as Graham's statement. Does anybody actually believe there are people sitting around in the world saying to themselves: "I hate freedom. I think I'll go attack the United States"? What balderdash.

Unfortunately, we have given plenty of people

reason to hate us. Men in both parties presume the right of the United States to intervene militarily in the internal affairs of other countries whenever it pleases us. We made war on Yugoslavia — killing civilians and destroying what was left of their economy — without any provocation at all. We have killed more than 500,000 Iraqi children (and those are United Nations figures) by maintaining an embargo as cruel as any siege in the Dark Ages.

We have been outrageously one-sided in supporting Israel, which, with the help of our money and our weapons, has brutally killed Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese and seized their lands. Every single time that those victims of Israel's violations of international law have sought relief from the United Nations, the United States has blocked any help with our veto or threat of a veto. That is not the action of a nation that allegedly supports the rule of law or democracy.

The fact is, we have overthrown governments that were democratically elected when we didn't like the outcome of the democratic process. We did that to the Iranians and imposed the shah's rule on them. Then we supported the shah's repression with money, arms and training for his secret police, which routinely used torture and arbitrary executions. Iranians have good reason to hate us.

And to show you further how cynical our government has acted, we even clandestinely helped Iraq when it invaded Iran.

I love our country, but our government is not some pure, innocent band of angels. It's important for us to realize that.



(Courtesy photos)

Angie Graves, Panhandle 4-H Adult Leaders Association president, recently presented Joe Coutts, left, and Doug Abbot, right, with plaques during the Panhandle 4-H Fall Forum in Miami. Coutts and Abbot were among 44 "Distinguished 4-H Leaders in the Panhandle."

Annual Panhandle 4-H Fall Forum honors 'Distinguished 4-H Leaders'

The annual Panhandle 4-H Fall Forum was held recently at Miami School in Miami. Area 4-Hers, adult volunteers and county Extension agents from a 21-county area attended business

meetings and workshops on Fashion and Fabric Design, Pork Quality Assurance, Entomology, Horticulture and the Clover Kids Program. The highlight of the event was

a ceremony honoring 44 "Distinguished 4-H Leaders in the Panhandle." These volunteers were honored for their commitment and service to their local and county 4-H programs.

"Annually more than 5,300 volunteers are involved in the Panhandle 4-H program. In addition, the Panhandle 4-H program reaches nearly 20,000 youth each year," said Angela

Burkham, Panhandle 4-H youth specialist. Distinguished 4-H Leader Awards were sponsored this year through the Amarillo Globe News Reach Out and Volunteer

Program. Recognized from Gray County were Joe Coutts and Doug Abbott. For more information about the 4-H and Youth Program, contact your local county Extension office.

Former Pampan, now A&M-Kingsville professor, to attend FFA Costa Rica leaders experience

KINGSVILLE — Dr. Randall H. Williams, agriculture professor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, has been selected by the National FFA to participate in the State Leaders Experience in Costa Rica in Central America.

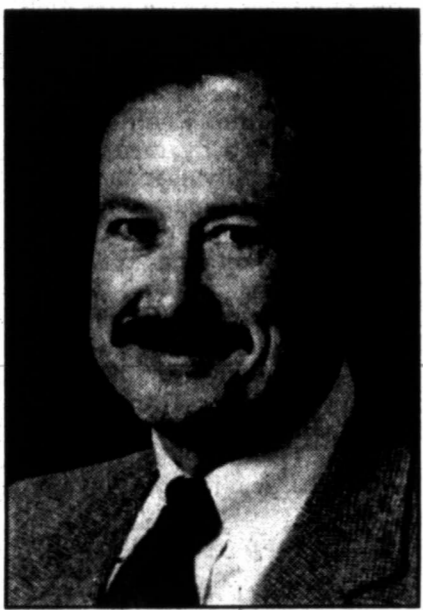
Williams, originally from Shamrock, is the only person from Texas to be selected for the prestigious program since its inception three years ago. Williams and 11 others will make the trip in this, the final year of the experience. In all, only 36 agriculture leaders nationwide were chosen for this honor.

Williams has been teaching agriculture sciences at Texas A&M-Kingsville since 1990. Prior to coming to Kingsville, he was chair and instructor in the agriculture and technology department at Vernon Regional Junior College.

He was a vocational agriculture instructor at Caprock High School in Amarillo and taught in the vocational agriculture and cooperative education program at Pampa High School.

Williams will leave Nov. 9 and return Nov. 21, spending his time gaining international experience and learning about the agriculture industry and the culture of Costa Rica.

"I am honored to be selected for this trip. I will represent our university and bring my experience back to Texas A&M-Kingsville and the rest of the state," Williams said. "This will also give me an opportunity to talk to prospective students in Costa Rica and tell them what A&M-



Dr. Randall H. Williams

Kingsville has to offer."

In exchange for being selected to go to Costa Rica, Williams has agreed to share the knowledge he gains from the trip with his students, local and area leaders and even statewide representatives.

"Part of this trip is that we bring back what we have learned to others. What better way to get the word out than for me to teach what I learn to the students in my classes, most of whom will become agriculture teachers or cooperative extension agents."

"These new future teachers need to know themselves about the importance of global and social issues concerning the rest of the world and their impact on domestic agriculture here at home. They then will be better prepared to pass along their

knowledge and understanding to the students in their own classrooms," Williams said.

Williams also plans to speak to local service clubs and church groups in addition to passing on knowledge at the State FFA Convention and the Texas Cooperative Extension agents meeting.

"As I work with state officials, both in the political realm and with the education agency, I will be better informed with more current, first-hand information in order to provide educated opinions, backed with factual information that will assist all involved in making correct decisions that impact FFA youth and the future of Texas agriculture," he said.

"It will be interesting to research agriculture in Costa Rica and bring back information," Williams said. "I also have heard it is a beautiful country with lush tropical rainforests. I have been to nearly 40 foreign countries, but I have never been to a rainforest so I am looking forward to seeing the country."

"Agricultural education has become my life. It is who I am and it is what I do. How could I live in a profession where discovery is not paramount to knowledge and progression? Having this experience will allow me to be a better professional in working with FFA youth for a continued assurance of a strong, sustained and successful future of agriculture throughout the 21st century," Williams said. Williams will have the opportu-

nity to experience the agricultural and natural resources and diversity, the formal and post secondary educational systems, the governmental structures and the country's interrelation with the United States and experience and understand business procedures and operations.

The group will visit the Dole banana plantation to learn the history of United States banana companies on foreign soil and what the U.S. is now doing to meet the Costa Rican sustainable development standards.

They will also visit EARTH College (Escuela de Agricultura de la Region Tropical Humeda), a private, nonprofit, international college contributing to the sustainable development of the humid tropics through education in the agricul-

tural sciences and natural resources. Williams and his group will meet with representatives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, visit the Escuela Centroamericana de

Ganaderia where the students do research with sheep, goats, iguanas and crocodiles, take a walk through the rainforest and tour a butterfly farm in San Jose. (See, FFA, Page 6)



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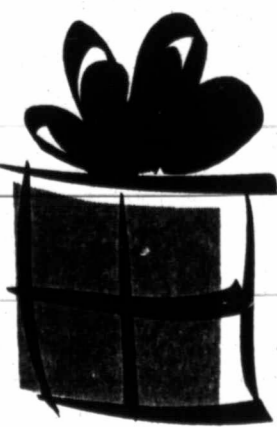
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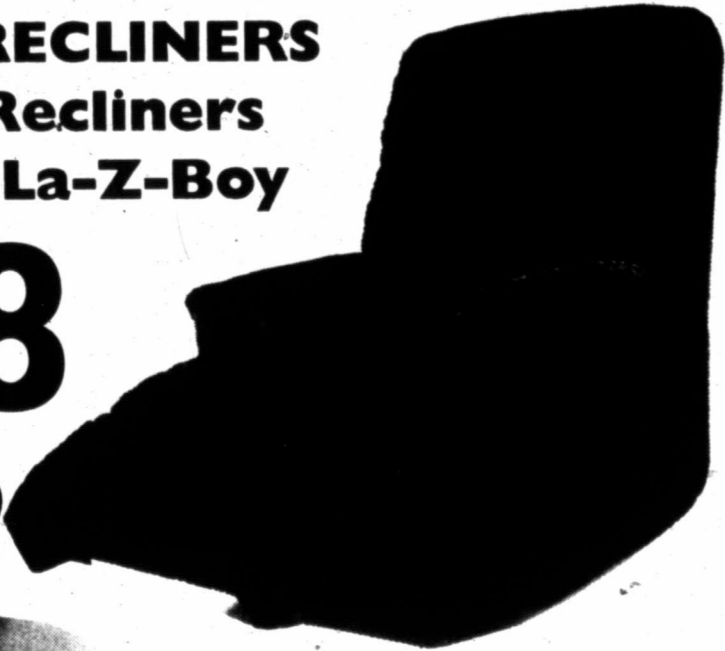
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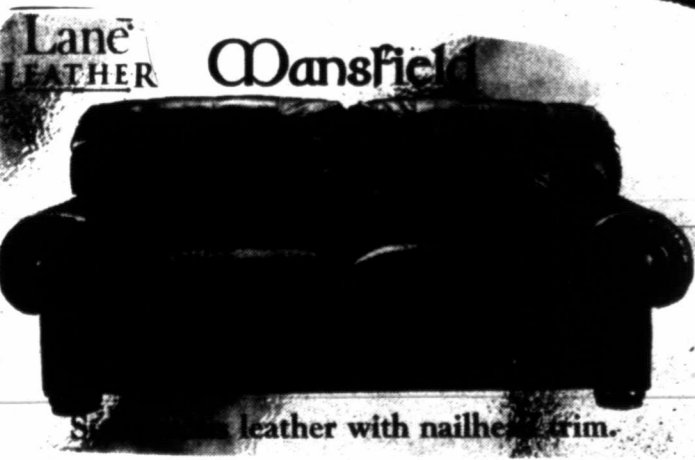
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Home for Holidays program offers free tickets to 15 area seniors

Fifteen applicants from the panhandle area will be selected to receive complimentary round-trip tickets based on need for economic assistance and reason for travel. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the holiday program.

Southwest Airlines and Area Agency on Aging of the Panhandle have announced the start of the 22nd annual "Home for the Holidays" program, which will provide panhandle seniors with complimentary airline tickets to visit family and friends over the holidays.

Over the years, the airline has allowed thousands of seniors the opportunity to be reunited with family and friends during the holiday season.

Fifteen applicants from the panhandle area will be selected to receive complimentary round-trip tickets based on need for economic assistance and reason for travel. This year marks the 22nd anniversary of the holiday program.

Camille Keith, vice president of Special Marketing at Southwest Airlines, has nurtured

the program through the years. "I have been proud to watch the Home for the Holidays program grow tremendously as Southwest Airlines has expanded," said Keith, "and I am grateful for our loyal Customers and hardworking Employees that allow Southwest Airlines to continue to give back to the community."

Applications are available at senior centers across the panhandle and by contacting the Area Agency on Aging at (806) 372-3381 if calling from the Amarillo/Canyon area or 1-800-642-6008 outside of Amarillo.

To apply, a person must be 65 years of age or older and demonstrate a strong economic need. Southwest Airlines is sending senior citizens "Home for the Holidays" in each of the 57 cities it currently serves. Deadline for submission of applications is Monday, Nov. 26.

Since its inception in 1979, thousands of senior citizens have been given the opportunity to go "Home for the Holidays." This worthwhile community service program has earned several honors including the Distinguished Private Service Award from the Nevada Governor's Conference on Aging, a Private Sector Initiatives Award from the Nebraska Governor's Conference on Aging and the Presidential Award for Private Sector Initiatives bestowed by President Reagan in 1986.

WTAMU to host Parent's Day, poster display

WTAMU Parent's Day set CANYON — Parents from near and far will converge on the West Texas A&M University campus Saturday, Oct. 20 for the 24th annual Parent's Day 2001. Highlights of the event include breakfast with Mercury Morris, a tailgate party and President Russell C. Long's announcement of the Parents of the Year.

Parent's Day is sponsored by the WTAMU Mom and Dad's Association and gives parents an opportunity to visit the campus and meet other WTAMU parents.

"Parent's Day is a great way for parents to come and spend time with their students," Amy Pifer, associate registrar, said. "Instead of the student going home on the weekend, parents can come and see their student's new home."

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Virgil Henson Activities Center. Breakfast will be served and Mercury Morris, a former football star with the Miami Dolphins, will be the featured guest speaker. Morris played for the University from 1966-68 and still holds the WTAMU record for career scoring — 252 points on 42 touchdowns.

A Mom and Dad's Association meeting will follow at 11:30 a.m.

The WTAMU band will host a band parents luncheon at noon in the Hazel Kelley Wilson Dining Hall. During the afternoon, a variety of campus activities will be available. Students and their parents may choose to visit the newly renovated Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum or watch the

Lady Buffs in volleyball action. Kappa Sigma, a social/service fraternity, will host a car show from 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Classroom Center parking lot. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. All proceeds will benefit the National Disaster Relief Fund.

The Mom and Dad's Association will host their annual tailgate barbecue beginning at 5 p.m. in the south parking lot at Kimbrough Memorial Stadium. Entertainment will be provided by members of the band fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi. Cost of the tailgate barbecue is \$6 per person.

The Buffs will take on Texas A&M — Kingsville at 7 p.m. Halftime festivities will include the long-awaited announcement by the President of the 2001 Parents of the Year. The top three finalists will also be recognized.

Parent's Day activities will conclude with "A Night in Havana" from 10:30 p.m.-midnight in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center Commons. The event is sponsored by Panhellenic. Cost is \$5 per couple and students are admitted for free. All proceeds will benefit a local charity.

For more information about Parent's Day 2001, call the Registrar's office at 1-800-99-WTAMU or (806) 651-2022.

West Texas A&M University campus.

The "Art of War" display now features more than 20 different posters depicting homefront patriotism during World War II. The posters urge Americans to plant victory gardens and to buy victory bonds. The posters are displayed throughout the library and include captions of information and trivia about the war.

The library plans to switch out the homefront-themed posters in November with a series on the nation at war. The 15 posters depict the war effort by portraying the darker side of war. Many recruitment posters are included in the series. A number of Pearl Harbor posters will also be featured in the display. The nation-at-war series will run through December.

The World War II posters are part of the library's collection in its Government Documents section. The posters were produced by government agencies such as the Office of War Information and the Treasury Department and issued by the government in the 1940s. Mary Rausch, head catalogue librarian, said the posters were inventoried by Government Documents staff in the 1940s and have been sitting on shelves for the past 60 years.

"We were absolutely amazed at the wonderful condition they are in," she said. "The colors are clear and bright."

The display is free and open to the public. For more information, call Rausch at (806) 651-2219.

Poster display illustrates patriotism

CANYON — The spirit of patriotism and the fight for liberty are portrayed through a collection of World War II posters now on display at the Cornette Library on the

CONTINUED FROM PAGE FIVE

FFA

Williams received his bachelor's degree in agricultural education with an animal science minor and his master's degree also in agricultural education from Texas Tech University and his doctoral degree in agricultural education with a minor in educational administration from Oklahoma State University.

He was chosen as an intern for the Center for Leadership in Higher Education Class of 1999 by The Texas A&M University System and he was a Texas Higher

Education Coordinating Board Summer Program Fellow for the Texas Council of Faculty Senates and The Coordinating Board in 1998.

While at A&M-Kingsville, Williams was on the Faculty Senate for several years and was the only person to ever serve two terms as president. He was a member of the Presidential Search Committee; the Assessment, Budgeting and Planning Committee; the President's Executive Committee; the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee; the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences

Advisory Council; the Crisis Management Committee; the Enrollment Management Team; the University Curriculum Committee and the Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee, among others.

In 1991, Williams was a member of the university's delegation to Russia as part of the Texas International Exchange Consortium, charged with developing a faculty exchange program.

Williams was a National FFA Representative of the United States Agricultural Educators for Participation in a Farmer to Farmer Program also in Russia in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Land O'Lakes International Corp. in 1997.

He was a member of the National Task Force for Local Program Success-FFA and is now the assistant superintendent of the National Agricultural Issues Career Development Event and a member of the National Task Force for the Global Competitiveness of American Agriculture, all for the National FFA Board.

Williams was given an Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest honor awarded by the National FFA Organization and the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor awarded by the Texas FFA Association.

He is past president of the Agricultural Consortium of Texas and serves on the Board of Directors of the Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas.

He received the University Distinguished Service Award as Outstanding Faculty Senator of the Year, the Division of Student Affairs Faculty/Student Advocate Award and the College of Agriculture and Home Economics (now Human Sciences) Faculty Service Award.

Pampa Civic Ballet casting call

Jeanne Willingham, director of Pampa Civic Ballet, has issued a casting call for the December performance of "The Nutcracker" slated at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 1 in M.K. Brown Auditorium.

The audition schedule is as follows: SUNDAY, Oct. 7 — 2-3:30 p.m. (Company auditions/Advanced) SUNDAY, Oct. 14 — 2-2:30 p.m. (3-7-year-olds); 2:30-3:30 p.m. (8-14-year-olds); and 3:30 p.m. (Call back/Clara and Prince)

Anyone wishing to perform must be present for the cast call, said Willingham.

All dancers chosen to perform will be required to furnish their own costumes and to attend all rehearsals to which they are called.

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AGRICULTURE

House considers shift in farm spending

By PHILIP BRASHER
AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House is considering a historic shift in farm spending that would switch some crop subsidies into conservation payments that reward farmers for leaving acreage idle or improving environmental practices.

Groups representing grain and cotton growers oppose the proposal, which would primarily benefit dairy-producing regions and states in the East and West that traditionally have received relatively little farm assistance.

An amendment to a \$170 billion farm bill that the House was to debate Thursday would shift \$19 billion from planned crop subsidies into conservation programs.

The measure "helps preserve open space and protect water quality while helping more farmers — especially family farmers," said Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, R-N.Y.

Environmentalists were buoyed by a White House statement Wednesday that criticized the farm bill and urged lawmakers to put more money into conservation programs. The administration said the legislation would encourage continued overproduction of crops and

benefit the nation's largest farms.

Major farm groups so dislike the conservation proposal that the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, has threatened to shelve the bill if the amendment were to be approved. Aides expressed confidence that it would not be.

The bill would guarantee a steady flow of money over the next decade to the grain and cotton growers that have traditionally received most federal farm payments. It also provides new subsidies to peanut farmers and revives honey and wool supports that were abolished in the 1990s.

The bill would boost commodity programs by \$50 billion, or 65 percent, over the decade and conservation spending would grow by \$16 billion, or nearly 75 percent. Environmental groups say the increase in conservation programs is inadequate, and they also oppose a rise in payment limits that would allow large livestock operations to qualify for assistance in cleaning up manure problems.

A vote Wednesday afternoon indicated the administration was failing to sway a significant number of lawmakers in its effort to limit payments. The House rejected 238-187 an amendment that would have imposed strict \$150,000-per-person limit on crop subsidies, which would have saved \$1.3 billion over 10 years. A program

begun by the Clinton administration sets no limit on benefits that large farms and corporations can collect.

"A limit of \$150,000 is not only reasonable, it's plain generous," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn.

The farm bill's supporters say the administration's criticism came too late.

"This isn't news that the economy is in trouble in farm country. It's been that way for over four years," said Rep. Jim Nussle, an Iowa Republican who chairs the House Budget Committee.

The bill would replace a 1996 law that was supposed to wean farmers from government payments. Grain prices subsequently collapsed, however, and Congress has since approved billions in additional aid.

On the Net:

White House statement: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/107-1/HR2646-h.html>

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman's statement: <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2001/10/0192.htm>

House Agriculture Committee: <http://www.agriculture.house.gov>

Cotton farmers hurting adrift on a global glut

By KILEY RUSSELL
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — The state's cotton farmers are struggling to survive the latest in a series of lousy seasons that have driven prices to Depression-era levels.

Farmers blame big crops in India, China and the United States for the poor prices, and a strong U.S. dollar for slumping domestic sales and exports.

With the world production of cotton far outpacing demand, growers are earning about 65 cents per pound for the pima variety and around 82 cents for acala. The California upland variety is earning about 60 cents per pound, but that price is still subject to change, said Bruce Grossesma, vice president of sales for Calcot, a Bakersfield-based cotton cooperative.

Most growers' break-even price is about 70 cents per pound.

The industry also is suffering the long-lingering effects of the Asian economic crisis, which has forced top textile regions to cut back on U.S. imports, said Calcot spokesman Mark Bagby.

Even in the United States, several mills have closed and some textile companies have filed for bankruptcy.

"We haven't seen these levels since 1972, and adjusted for inflation, it's below Depression prices," said Mark Borba, owner of Borba Farms in Fresno County.

The story is much the same in other cotton states. Texas cotton farmers, for example, have been hurt by drought and high irrigation costs the last two years, and the toll can be seen in the industries that support farmers.

"We're getting squeezed pretty hard," said Scott Wylie, who sells chemical application equipment at nine locations in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and has laid off about 20 percent of his employees.

"The South Plains and the Panhandle are being harder hit and it's a direct result of the cotton downturn," Wylie said.

The total world output for cotton is forecast at between 88 million and 90 million 500-pound bales, of which the United States will contribute roughly

20 million bales this year. California is expected to produce about 2.25 million bales.

There's also about 36 million bales on the world market left over from last year's crop, Borba said.

The global market conditions will have particularly harsh effects on California's growers, who export up to 85 percent of their crop.

"We've had to lay off people and are farming less intensively this season," said Chuck Nichols, who grows 2,700 acres of cotton near Hanford.

The low prices caught Calcot by surprise this year, and the cooperative's 1,725 cotton growers in California and Arizona were told they will have to give back some of the advance payments doled out before the season began.

This is the second time in Calcot's 74-year history it has required growers to pay back advance money.

"This has been the season from hell, it's one thing after another. Then the terrorist attacks shut down commodities trading, and all the planes were grounded for crop dusting," Bagby said.

The fast couple of seasons haven't been much better for the nation's growers. In 1999, things got so bad that Congress and President Clinton carved \$194 million out of the federal budget to provide growers with support payments — in addition to the federal subsidies they'd already received.

Although Americans consume about a quarter of the cotton produced in the world, U.S. shoppers just couldn't make up for such depressed market conditions and the world's surplus continued to grow through last year, further depressing prices paid to farmers.

"The row crop growers are hemorrhaging money right now, and the future is not very bright," Borba said.

AP writer Betsy Blaney in Lubbock, Texas, contributed to this report.

On the Net:

U.S. Cotton Exchange: <http://www.cotton.com>
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.: <http://www.plains-cotton.org>

Texas winter wheat crop up over '00, down from '99

AUSTIN — The 2001 Texas winter wheat production is estimated at 108.8 million bushels, up 65 percent from last year but 11 percent below 1999.

According to a September survey by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, the statewide yield averaged 34 bushels per acre, 4 bushels above last year and the same as was forecast in August. Acreage harvested for grain, at 3.2 million acres, was up 45 percent from 2000 and 7 percent above the August forecast.

Production on the Northern High Plains is esti-

mated at 57.0 million bushels, up 115 percent from last year. Winter wheat production on the Low Plains is estimated at 23.8 million bushels, up 132 percent from last year. Production in the Cross Timbers area is estimated at 4.2 million bushels, up 62 percent from last year. Production in the Blacklands is estimated at 11.4 million bushels, 48 percent lower than the 2000 crop.

U.S. winter wheat production for 2001 is estimated at 1.36 billion bushels, down 13 percent from last year. Yield per acre averaged 43.5 bushels, down 1.2 bushels from a year ago.

McAneer Farms on Dam of Merit list

McLEAN — McAneer Farms in McLean was recently named to the American Gelbvieh Association's annual Dam of Merit list, a program honoring cows that calve by the age of two and rebreed quickly and consistently, year after year. Cows with longevity and stayability make money for cattle producers.

Out of the 55,243 active cows in the Gelbvieh breed, four percent or 2,200 cows were named Dam of Merit.

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Hereford breeders, youth to attend meet

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Hereford breeders will visit Kansas City and the American Royal for the American Hereford Associations (AHA) annual membership meeting and national show, Oct. 27-30.

Throughout the week, Hereford enthusiasts may participate in the annual membership meeting and view Hereford cattle vying for national show awards. State delegates will elect three new board of directors and new officers for the board will be chosen.

The national shows will be held Oct. 30. Bill Jacobs, Sulphur, Okla., will judge the horned show while Brett Barber, E. Lansing, Mich., will evaluate the polled cattle. In conjunction with the show, AHA will host The Belles of the Royal Heifer Sale Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. in Wagstaff Arena on the American

Royal show grounds. Fifteen elite heifer calves are offered at the sale, and will be on display throughout the week's activities.

Sale listings can be viewed at www.hereford.com. For more information on this elite heifer calf sale, contact Joe Rickabaugh at (816) 842-8878.

Hereford youth from around the country will travel to Kansas City for their annual PRIDE Convention, Oct. 27-29. The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) PRIDE Convention workshop spotlights nationally renowned speakers who will inspire and educate. The keynote speaker on Sunday, Oct. 28, is Mark Mayfield, Smithville, Mo. He is known as "The Corporate Comedian," and has shared the stage with celebrities like Colin Powell, Paul Newman and Peter Frampton.



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MHMR: Free depression screenings to be available in Big Spring

BIG SPRING — Free, confidential depression screenings will be administered from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11 in the Big Spring Mall by qualified mental health professionals from Big Spring State Hospital and West Texas Centers for MHMR.

The screenings are being held on National Depression Screening Day in conjunction with Mental Illness Awareness

Week, Oct. 7-13.

Participants who attend the screenings will hear an educational presentation about depression, take a written screening test, review the test results with an attending clinician, and receive educational materials.

The screenings, which produce confidential results, are not a substitute for a psychiatric eval-

uation, said Dr. John Pichitino, Big Spring State Hospital director of Psychology.

Last year, the two agencies screened nearly 40 people during four hours, he said.

"We found that people really wanted this service," Dr. Pichitino said. "We had people waiting for us to open last year. Many of the people we screened were depressed and needed

help. And we expect the number to be even higher this year in light of the troubles facing our nation."

Seven in 10 Americans say they have felt depressed since the terrorist attacks, and half are having trouble concentrating, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center for the "People and the Press." More than a third have had trouble concentrating.

Participants who attend the screenings will hear an educational presentation about depression, take a written screening test, review the test results with an attending clinician, and receive educational materials.

depression keep getting better and better each year," Moughon said. "But there's this stigma with admitting you're depressed. That's why we're urging people to come to the mall and take this anonymous and confidential test."

Questionnaires addressing symptoms of depression are prepared for several age groups — children, teenagers, parents and adults. Following completion of the questionnaire, recommendations concerning treatment options are made available if necessary.

Nine different symptoms of depression are targeted during the screening, and if the respondents answer positively to five of them, they may be clinically depressed, Smith said. Symptoms of clinical depression range from loss of appetite to a disinterest in friends and activities.

The questionnaire can be an eye-opener for many people who are unsure if they are depressed, Dr. Pichitino said. "Our hope is that people who may think they are depressed, and who test positive for forms of depression will seek treatment."

"We feel as if this is a very important public service."

"What people are feeling to perfectly natural in the wake of these disasters," said West Texas Centers for MHMR CEO Shelley Smith, LMSW. "Even if you didn't know someone who was personally affected by the terrorist attacks, it has touched us all as Americans."

"And now that we're sending troops overseas, there's a lot of uncertainty."

Coping with terrorism may produce shock, trauma, feelings of anxiety, fear and depression, Smith said.

Approximately 2.94 million Texans — nearly one in six people, live with some form of mental illness. About 20 percent of all Americans experience a mental disorder each year. Clinical depression is the most common form of mental illness.

Nearly 80- to 90-percent of all people who live with depression can be effectively treated with medication and/or therapy, Big Spring State Hospital CEO Ed Moughon said.

"The medications for treating

West Texas Centers for MHMR provides outpatient services for people with mental illness and mental retardation in 23 rural West Texas counties. Big Spring State Hospital cares for more than 200 patients who need intensive hospitalization for their illness in 78 counties in West Texas and the Texas Panhandle. For more information, call (915) 270-1878.

Sheppard AFB Commissary 'holding its own'

By **LYNDA STRINGER**
Times Record News

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — It's a long-standing military family tradition: load up the kids for your monthly trip to the commissary.

But why take the extra time to drive on base to shop when you have plenty to choose from right around the corner? Sheppard Air Force Base Commissary Director Mike Cox said the answer is simple.

"Since we don't operate with a profit motive, we have the best prices in town," Cox said.

But competition with civilian grocery stores is still tough. With many customers living off base, it's an increasingly harder sell. At the Sheppard store, one of almost 300 at military installations worldwide operated by the Defense Commissary Agency, sales are down 8% over this time last year, Cox said.

"But, we are certainly seeing a change to that; we've started picking up over the last 11 months," Cox said.

The Sheppard commissary is being creative to get people to take advantage of the commissary savings.

"It's not so much about competition with

the folks downtown as it is about educating people about the benefit," Cox said.

The commissary is there, he said, as a military benefit for active duty, retirees, National Guard and Reserve personnel and their families. Products are sold to customers at wholesale cost plus a 5 percent surcharge. "There is no markup," Cox said.

The retirees make up about 40 percent of their customers.

"Those are the folks that come here faithfully every month," Cox said.

Younger military families, Cox said, shop regularly once they realize how much they can save. According to the latest market basket survey, service members save 29.2 percent on their overall grocery basket compared to civilian grocery stores and super centers, Cox said. The yearly savings is estimated at \$2,300 a year for a family of four.

Cox specifically targets the single airmen on base who don't have the facilities to cook a big meal. "It's a challenge to reach the student population because they have a limited area they are living in, so we try to give them a touch of home," Cox said.

Home meal replacements — home-cooked meals ready to heat and eat — are a growing trend with the students. "It gives

them something like mom used to make," he said.

They've also had special gimmicks like moonlight madness sales with popular music playing on the intercom to entice younger military shoppers. The Cowboys mascot, Rowdy, even made a recent appearance. The store also hosts customer focus groups to find out what shoppers want and how the store can improve to meet their needs.

The biggest draw, Cox said, is a case lot sale. The case lot sales — where hundreds of items are sold at even bigger discounts — compete with warehouse stores like Sam's.

This past weekend 264 of the DeCA commissaries, including Sheppard, participated in what was billed as the World's Biggest Case Lot Sale, with more than one million cases of items ordered worldwide. Case lot sales increase the savings for military customers to 50 percent, according to a DeCA release.

Cox said despite the ample supply of civilian choices the military commissary is holding on to its share of the market and isn't planning to go anywhere.

Distributed by The Associated Press

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MEDICAL

Heart Association revises prevention guidelines with recent studies

By SUSAN PARROTT
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The American Heart Association is revising its prevention guidelines for heart attack survivors to recommend wider use of beta-blockers and drugs called ACE-inhibitors, along with more aggressive control of risk factors.

The guidelines, recommended jointly with the American College of Cardiology, incorporate recommendations from clinical trials completed since original guidelines were published in 1995. They are to be published in a recent issue of *Circulation*, a journal of the American Heart Association.

"We felt the evidence is so powerful over last two or three years that these needed to be updated," said Dr. Sidney C. Smith, chief science officer of the AHA. "These medical

therapies can significantly extend lives and quality of lives as well as diminish future procedures."

A major change in the guidelines, first announced by the AHA in July, recommends 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 — cites conflicting evidence that has come out over the past few years. Studies have suggested that in some cases, women had a higher risk of heart problems if they took hormone replacement therapy.

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. Hormone supplements 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.

Also, heart attack survivors should be treated more widely with drugs called ACE inhibitors and beta blockers. Beta blockers work by blocking the body's response to the high levels of stress-related hormones that pour into the bloodstream of heart failure patients. ACE inhibitors widen blood vessels, reducing stress on the heart.

Patients also should be given cholesterol-

lowering drugs before hospital discharge, the guidelines emphasize. Smith said only one-third of eligible heart attack patients are prescribed the drugs while hospitalized.

"The patient's acceptance of these therapies is greater in the hospital," Smith said. "The hospital environment is an important location to introduce these therapies."

Patients also should avoid secondhand smoke, eat foods high in omega-3 fatty acids such as tuna and salmon, and use new antiplatelet drugs if they are unable to take aspirin. Antiplatelets prevent sticky blood cells from clumping together to form a clot.

The guidelines are important because as the average age of the American population rises, so does the incidence of cardiovascular disease, Smith said. Also type 2 diabetes is on the rise and two-thirds of deaths in diabetic patients are from cardiovascular disease.

"Much of what is stated here has already been incorporated by several people in practice, but there are still a lot of people who are not very much at the cutting edge of research," said Dr. Salim Yusuf of the Population Health Institute of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. Yusuf was not connected with the study.

"It's a very influential study, in essence telling us what the rules of the game should be," he said.

AHA: <http://www.americanheart.org>
American College of Cardiology: <http://www.acc.org/>

Let the cooler heads prevail this football season

DALLAS — Heat may be high school athletes' most serious opponent at the beginning of this football season. Dr. Benjamin Levine, director of the Institute for Exercise and Environmental Medicine — a joint venture between UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas — says the best approach is a gradual period of acclimatization to the heat.

"Football players should spend a week acclimating to the heat by easy jogging or walking without helmets or pads, wearing only light-weight and light-colored clothing," Levine says.

Maintaining adequate hydration is also essential, Levine says. "All players should be weighed at the beginning and end of practice. Any player more than two pounds lighter than they were the day before should be scheduled for a lighter workout."

Players should also take frequent rest breaks without their helmets in a shaded area and add extra salt to their foods during mealtime.

When the blush of summer refuses to fade

DALLAS — If flushing and acne mark your peaches-and-cream complexion, the culprit may not be hormones but a skin disorder.

Rosacea, a chronic condition that affects 13 million Americans, appears as flushing, broken blood vessels or pimple-like pustules on the cheeks, nose and chin, says Dr. Gene Jones, an associate professor of physician assistant studies at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"These symptoms are often mistaken for sunburn, a complexion change or acne," Jones says. "Many people don't recognize rosacea in its early stages and don't seek treatment."

Although there isn't a cure for rosacea, a dermatologist can provide topical or oral antibiotics to minimize symptoms, Jones says. Avoiding environmental and dietary triggers, such as spicy foods, alcohol, sun exposure and rigorous exercise, will also help to keep symptoms in check.

Pass the Salmonella, please

DALLAS — The next time you have a dinner party, an uninvited guest may appear.

Food preparation and handling are the two main causes of food poisoning, says Dr. Greene Shepherd, a toxicologist at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. But if you follow a few simple precautions, food poisoning can be turned away at the door.

Make sure to refrigerate or freeze perishables immediately, and cook food at recommended temperatures to kill bacteria. Wash your hands in hot, soapy water for at least 20 seconds before preparing, serving or eating food, and thoroughly wash plates, utensils, cutting boards and countertops after contact with raw meat. Also don't leave leftover food standing too long.

"Hot or cold foods left standing too long at room temperature provides an ideal climate for bacteria to grow. Just be smart about how you buy, store, prepare and serve food, and you'll reduce the risk of food-borne illnesses," says Shepherd, medical director of the North Texas Poison Center.

For more information, call 1-800-POISON-1 (764-7661).

Breathe easier this school year

DALLAS — For children with chronic diseases, returning to school can disrupt management of their condition. But parents can avert potential problems by learning in-school medication rules and creating an action plan for care of their children in school, says Dr. Patty Hicks, assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

"The family should communicate fully with the school nurse so that management of disease and taking medication is as seamless as possible for the child, with the least disruption of school activities," Hicks says.

For children with asthma, many area schools use a plan that is customized to meet each child's medical needs. Under the plan, a peak-flow meter is used to gauge blockage of a child's respiratory passages and provide an early-warning system, Hicks says.

If indicated by the child's score on the peak-flow meter, the plan specifies use of an inhaler or other medication, taken by the child in the presence of an authorized adult. The plan also defines further specific actions to be taken, ranging from additional use of inhalers to seeking immediate emergency care.

"This approach takes the guesswork out of when to administer medications and when to disrupt normal activities," Hicks says. "Perhaps best of all, action plans help educate the children to take on the role of managing their own disease."

Getting the blues in the golden years

DALLAS — Depression is a disorder that many associate with the middle-aged. But it affects the elderly in increasing numbers and can exact a considerable toll, says a professor of psychiatry at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Dr. Myron Weiner, who specializes in geriatric psychiatry, says that it is not unusual in his practice to encounter older patients who have been suffering needlessly from depression.

"Older folks with emotional disorders seek treatment less often than younger folks do," he says. "They grew up thinking that being depressed is a normal state when you get older, that you should just bear up and get on with it."

Weiner says that many older people are unaware that there are medications that can help, as well as psychotherapies that have been designed to use alone or with these medications.

If the elderly exhibit signs of depression, Weiner encourages them to seek medical attention.

"See your family physician or seek a therapist for a professional diagnosis," he advises. "If the thought makes you feel timid, talk to family members and ask them to assist you in finding help."

"You may be missing out on some of the best years of your life."

Got pain? Could be kidney stones ...

DALLAS — Before you attribute your achy body and flu-like symptoms to a summer cold, you should rule out kidney stones, which nearly 1 million Americans suffer from each year.

The typical stone former is a 20- to 40-year-old male. "Kidney stones are one of the most painful conditions known. Moreover, kidney stones commonly recur," says Dr. Howard Heller, assistant professor of internal medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

Kidney stones form because of genetics, too little fluid intake, misuse of certain medications, total bed rest for several weeks, urinary tract blockage and chronic infections.

Although some people with kidney stones have no symptoms, Heller says most will have at least one or more of the following: severe pain in the back or lower abdomen; pain that lasts for minutes to hours, followed by periods of relief; nausea and vomiting; burning and frequent urges to urinate; fever, chills and weakness; or cloudy, bloody or foul-smelling urine. If you experience a combination of these symptoms, consult a physician.

A major change in the guidelines ... recommends that women not be prescribed estrogen solely to prevent strokes and heart disease, because of growing evidence that the supplements might cause harm.

Artery disease underdiagnosed, according to latest research

CHICAGO (AP) — An artery disease that is strongly linked to heart attacks and strokes is underdiagnosed and undertreated, despite widespread availability of a simple test, a study says.

The research in a recent *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests that peripheral arterial disease or PAD, previously estimated to affect about 8 million to 12 million Americans, may be more common than previously thought.

It also suggests that doctors are overlooking the disease in part because leg pain — consid-

ered a classic symptom — may be present in just 10 percent of patients.

Compared with healthy patients, those with PAD face at least four times the risk of developing a heart attack or stroke. But the study indicates primary-care doctors may be underestimating the disease's severity and are not giving patients appropriate treatment that could reduce their risk, the researchers said.

"PAD is equally important to American health as heart disease itself," said Dr. Alan T. Hirsch, a vascular medicine specialist at the University of Minnesota and the study's lead author.

The condition, also known as peripheral vascular disease, is a narrowing of blood vessels and arteries in the legs and sometimes arms. It usually stems from the same type of fatty plaque buildup that causes hardening of the arteries leading to the heart.

The research involved 6,979 high-risk patients — over age 70 or between ages 50 and 69 but with a history of smoking or diabetes. The authors evaluated how well the disease would be diagnosed in 350 primary-care doctors' offices in 25 cities, using a simple test that compares blood pressure in the arms and ankles.

Overall, 1,865, or 29 percent of the nearly 7,000 patients tested, had PAD — 823 whose disease was diagnosed by the physicians during the study and about 1,000 whose diseases had already been diagnosed.

Among those already diagnosed, the study found, only about half of the doctors treating them said they knew of the previous diagnosis — even though the patients' charts contained documentation about it.

Doctors had either forgotten about their own diagnoses or — more likely — were unaware of diagnoses made by others, said co-author Dr. Michael Criqui of the University of California-San Diego School of Medicine. Either way, he said, the results suggest doctors weren't paying attention

to a serious condition that should have been suspected because of the patients' risk factors.

Among already-diagnosed patients, more than 40 percent had not been prescribed aspirin or other blood-thinning medications, and 12 percent were not on blood pressure drugs.

Criqui said many doctor think of the disease as a leg problem, even though the study found that only about 10 percent of patients have classic leg pain.

Doctors should be using their ankle-arm blood pressure measurement to routinely screen high-risk patients, Criqui said.

"If you rely on leg pain alone to catch PAD, you miss 90 percent of PAD patients," Criqui said.

Dr. Kenneth Ouriel of Cleveland Clinic Foundation wrote a JAMA editorial calling the study "an important reminder for primary care clinicians to be cognizant of PAD and its associated signs and symptoms."

Identifying patients earlier will lead to earlier treatment that can be expected to improve their overall health status and life expectancy of elderly patient with atherosclerosis," Ouriel said.

On the Net:
JAMA: <http://jama.ama-assn.org>
American Heart Association: <http://www.americanheart.org>

CDC: Healthy people should wait until November for flu shots

ATLANTA (AP) — The government is asking doctors to wait until at least November to give flu shots to healthy people because of delays in manufacturing the vaccine.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also said this year's batch of flu vaccine appears to be well-matched to the strains of the virus circling the globe. Because flu strains are unpredictable, different vaccines must be cooked up each year.

The recommendation to limit early shots comes during the second straight year of delays by the three private companies that make the vaccine as they struggle to expand. The CDC had warned of the delay earlier this summer.

The agency wants vaccine that arrives in September and

October to be reserved for health care workers and people at high risk for flu, such as those with chronic diseases.

Healthy people should wait until November and, if possible, December, the agency said.

About 56 percent of this year's 79 million vaccine doses were expected to arrive by the end of October.

The flu kills about 20,000 people a year. Those considered most at risk are people 65 and older or those suffering from chronic illnesses such as heart and lung disease, asthma or diabetes.

Flu season typically peaks between January and March.

On the Net:
CDC flu updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

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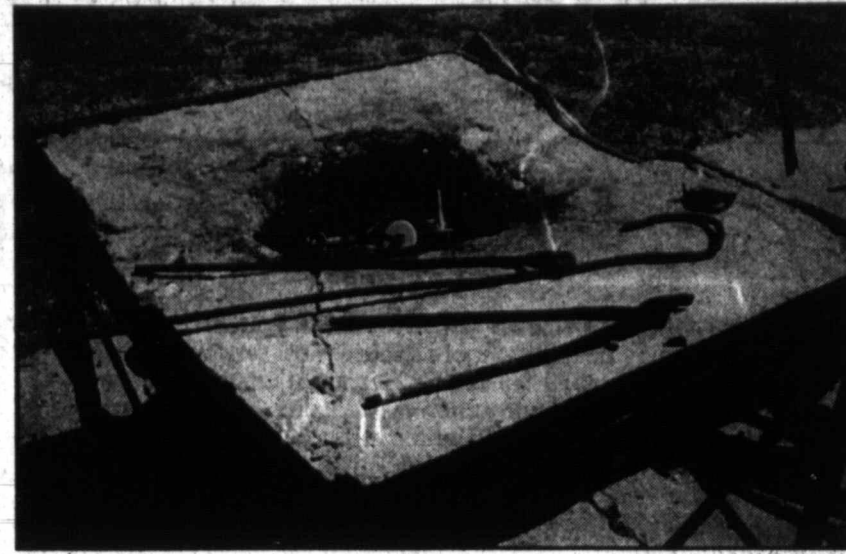
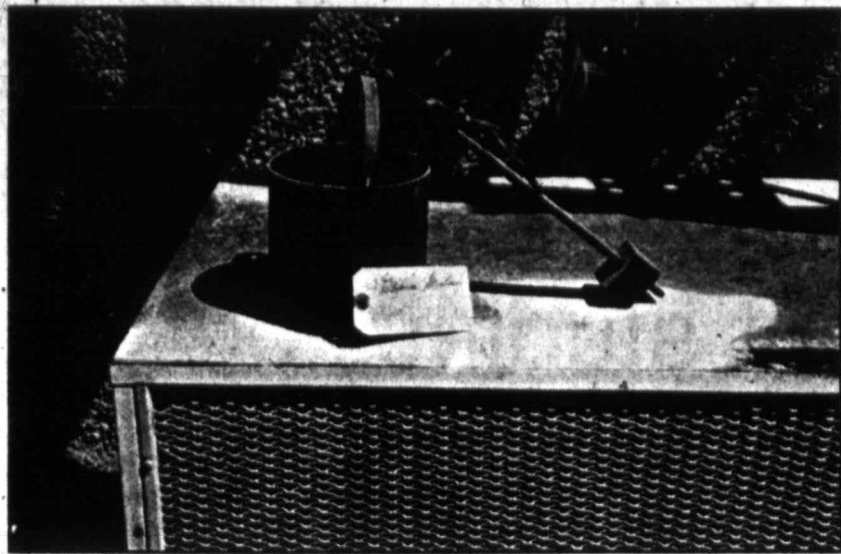
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(Photos courtesy of White Deer Land Museum)

Some articles used by pioneer farmers: A grain scale; a single-bottom plow pulled by two horses; and a blacksmith's table complete with tongs and a fork used to remove objects from a fire in the center of the table.

Kretzmeier and Baer families remembered in Pampa's street names

(The Kretzmeier and Baer stories were written for "Gray County Heritage," published in 1985. On the Chamber of Commerce map of Pampa for 2000, Kretzmeier Street is D2 and Baer Street is E-G2.)

Stanley Kretzmeier, born 1906 in Clay Center, Kan., was the son of Otto and Elizabeth Baer Kretzmeier. Both of his grandparents had come from Germany in the middle 1800's to avoid compulsory military service. A grandfather's clock made of wood from the Black Forest of Germany stands in the Kretzmeier home.

When the Panhandle area was opened for farming in the early 1900's, Otto Kretzmeier and his brother-in-law, Chris Baer, made an inspection trip to Pampa from their home in Kansas. The sight of nothing but grass waving in the wind as far as the eye could see was awe-inspiring. Only an occasional windmill could be seen for miles in any direction. Otto and Chris bought and equally divided 640 acres of land for \$12 an acre.

The farms demanded much hard work but there were some fun times. Once Stan (about 12) and his brother Roy (about 10) hitched their half-Indian pony to their grandfather Baer's best buggy. The boys started throwing corn cobs. One hit the pony and caused him to break into a run. The low-hanging branches of a tree caught the top of the buggy. The top flew off and so did the seat. For a few days the boys had to stand when they ate.

Cuyler Street was only two blocks and one lot long on a Halloween night when some boys

Museum Mementos

Eloise Lane
White Deer Land Museum



dismantled the farm machinery in Nels Walberg's implement store (location of present Rose Building) and pushed it into the street. They dismantled buggies and hauled them by ropes onto roofs of buildings lining Cuyler Street. The boys had to return all of the machinery and buggies the next day before they could attend classes at school.

When Stan played football in high school, the practice field was on the lot where the Gray County courthouse is now located. He finished high school in Kansas where he learned the basics of blacksmithing. Because he was mechanically inclined, his father gave him the responsibility of keeping the farm equipment in good running order.

Because of health problems, Otto gave up farming in Texas and left Stan (age 20) and Roy (age 18) in charge of the farm. They did all their own financing and paying the bills.

At a party given by Stan's aunt on his 22nd birthday, he met Theresa Wehling who had come to Texas to visit her brother. They were married and had four children: Mary Adair of Amarillo; Margaret Ann

Hartman of South Gate, Ky.; Roberta Schwind of Borger; and Stanley Warren Kretzmeier of Fritch.

Through the years they had many struggles. Farming did not always provide a steady source of income, and Stan had to supplement his finances with outside jobs. The dirt storms of the 1930s were especially devastating. Stan learned to tell the origin of the storm by the color of the dust that settled after the winds died down. White dust came from Colorado; red dust was from the Dakotas, and black dirt blew in from Kansas.

Theresa Wehling Kretzmeier died August 17, 1984.

—White Deer Land Museum Archives

In 1913, Chris Baer (brother of Elizabeth Baer Kretzmeier) and his wife, Freida Schroeder Baer, moved from Clay Center, Kan., to their farm located two and one-half miles northwest of Pampa. The farm was one-half section of land but later another quarter of a section was purchased which was always referred to as the "south quarter." Since they had six children to feed

and clothe, it was not long until they were experimenting with growing all types of grain and food.

Many friends and neighbors scoffed at Chris when he planted an orchard, but he had faith in the land, and in time he was producing a variety of fruit, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums and cherries, also two black walnut and two pecan trees. He also planted a grape arbor and blackberry and raspberry bushes. A large garden was planted each spring which kept the family in vegetables in the summer, and what was left over was canned and preserved for use in the winter months. The strawberry patch was a delight to the family and to many friends who partook of the berries, especially when Freida made her famous home made ice cream.

Chris and Freida were active in

the Methodist Church all their lives.

Freida, a teacher in the children's department for 15 years, enjoyed mothering the "little ones." Chris was on the board of stewards and was a leader in the move to build a new church which was at the same location as the present church. They were active in community affairs and in the farming community where they lived. Freida was often called to sit with and administer to some sick neighbor or friend, and she always went willingly.

All six children graduated from Pampa High School and some went on to higher education. Even through hard times they had a good life and a lot of fun. Harold, Al and Isabel passed away in the 1970's, but three are still living. Franklin lives in Dumas, Carl in Rockport and

Florence (Baer) Oates in Pampa.

Many of the artifacts that the pioneer farmer used in his everyday work may be seen at the White Deer Lands Museum, the old anvil, the forge, the blacksmith shop equipment that Chris used every day in the work on the farm. Since horses had to be shod and plow shears sharpened, these things were a necessity to the pioneer farmer. In fact, he had to be "a Jack of all trades," and most of them were.

The farm house still stands on Price Road just off Kentucky Street. It is now surrounded by oil fields and commercial buildings. The orchard and shade trees that were so lovingly planted are all gone now, but the memory of them still lingers on.

—by Florence Oates



Home of Chris and Freida Baer — on the west side of Price Road just north of the Kentucky Street intersection.

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RRC: Teach children after-school rules for propane appliance safety

AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission is reminding adults to discuss propane gas appliance safety procedures with children for when they are home alone after school.

"It's estimated that there are close to one half million latchkey children in Texas so it's imperative that they know what to do in the event of an emergency," said Chairman Michael Williams. "Teaching our children the basic propane safety rules will allow them to recognize those emergencies when an adult isn't home."

"It should go without saying that propane appliances are not toys," said Commissioner Charles Matthews. "Children should never play near or around propane tanks. In addition, appliances should not be used without adult supervision."

"Children need to remember ABC when it comes to propane appliances—always be careful," said Commissioner Tony Garza. "By teaching children how to identify common noises and smells from propane appliances they'll learn to recognize anything out of the ordinary. It's a lesson that can't be repeated enough."

Propane gas has an odorant added to help identify any gas leak. Show your child how to identify that "rotten egg" smell by using a "scratch and sniff" brochure available from Texas propane suppliers.

The Railroad Commission of Texas' Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division (AFRED) can provide consumers with basic safety tips, as well as additional propane uses and rebates by calling toll-free, (800) 64-CLEAR (800-642-5327).

Propane safety tips are also available on-line at the Texas Railroad Commission web site: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/afred/safety/safety.html>.

Speech/Debate tournament results

Top O' Texas Tournament hosted recently by Pampa High School Speech and Debate Team saw 20 schools from around the panhandle competing. First place sweepstakes award went to Amarillo High School.

Second place went to Tascosa High School and third went to Borger High School.

—The PHS team leader is senior Richard Conner.

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UW Check-in Luncheon

At its most recent check-in luncheon, Pampa United Way reported \$58,409.73 — 15.5 percent of its total campaign goal. The next check-in will begin at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9 in the large meeting room of Pampa Community Building. As always, pledge cards will be due.

The following is a comparison of last year's and this year's receipts: Commercial, \$165 (2001)/\$3,929 (2002); Individual, \$6,383/\$14,779; Major Firms, \$5,070/\$298,620; Oil and Gas, \$10/\$13,020; Professional, \$10,109/\$35,750; Public, \$1,893/\$7,611; and Special Gifts, \$12,640/\$33,285.

The next meeting will be sponsored by: Pampa Meals on Wheels, Community Day Care Center and CASA of the High Plains.

★ **CROSSROADS OF AMERICA** ★
★ **PAMPA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** ★
★ **Annual Country Fair** ★
★ **The Greater Pampa Area** ★
★ **Chamber of Commerce** ★
★ **Presents** ★
★ **CROSSROADS OF AMERICA** ★
★ **Auction — Dinner — Dance** ★
★ **Saturday, October 20, 2001** ★
★ **Dinner and Silent Auction — 5:00 P.M.** ★
★ **Live Auction — 8:00 P.M.** ★
★ **Dance to FlashBak Band — 9:00 P.M. — 12:00 A.M.** ★
★ **M.K. Brown Civic Auditorium** ★
★ **\$20.00 PER PERSON** ★ **\$25.00 AT THE DOOR** ★
★ **NO REFUNDS** ★ **Call 669-3241 for ticket information.** ★
★ **DOES NOT INCLUDE BINGO** ★
★ **MUST BE 18 TO PARTICIPATE** ★

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November 8

United Way helping Genesis House meet its valuable mission

This article is one in a series of profiles on the agencies and organizations supported by Pampa United Way. This information is being provided by Pampa United Way as part of its 2001 "The Way America Cares, Community by Community!" fund-raising campaign.

Genesis House is a residential substance abuse treatment facility for male and female adolescents.



There are two residential homes — one housing males and the other housing females.

The mission of Genesis House is to provide the opportunity for residents to reverse their destructive behavior patterns through education and development of positive social and life skills.

Through the implementation of Behavioral Therapy, the Genesis House Program incorporates the principal that unwanted behavior in adolescents can be changed. The residents attend school at Pampa Middle School or Pampa High School.

The average length of stay for a resident is four to six months. Also, educational family groups are provided monthly along with individual family sessions. Services offered to the families are designed to identify family protective and risk factors associated with behaviors in adolescents who abuse drugs.

Genesis House is licensed by the State of Texas as a Basic Child Care Facility and Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. It is a non-profit corporation governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Genesis House is funded in part by Pampa United Way and Texas Commission in Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and from the beginning has been dependent upon the Pampa community, which has continued to generously support the programs.

Drug abuse abounds in all societies. There seems to be a misconception that it only thrives in poverty-ridden neighborhoods. It flourishes in all neighborhoods. For example, one of Genesis House recent success stories is of a resident who came from an upper middle-class family, whose family income exceeded \$100,000 annually.

For the purpose of anonymity, let's hereafter refer to the resident as Ann. Ann was a 17-year-old female with severe drug abuse problems.

Her history included the use of cocaine, cannabis, alcohol, amphetamines and nicotine. Ann was court-ordered to Genesis House Treatment Program due to her drug abuse, violation of a court order, truancy and run-aways. She was experiencing depression and had an explosive temper, which had caused serious family conflicts and also included incarceration for Ann.

Ann admitted to her counselor she had a drug problem and needed help. Together they set goals for her to reach. Her short-term goals were to be drug free and to finish high school. Her long-term goal was to attend college in order to become a pathologist.

Prior to her use of drugs, Ann had been an "A" student, a cheer leader and a member of the National Honor Society. Ann was enrolled as a senior at Pampa High School where she once again became an "A" student.

Ann actively participated in her treatment plan, worked diligently to abide by Genesis House and school rules and began to turn her negative and

destructive behavior pattern into a positive and constructive one.

She successfully completed the Genesis House Program in four months. At that time, she had earned enough credits to receive her high school diploma. She chose to return to Pampa and graduate this past spring with the senior class of 2001.

Ann's family was very supportive of her and participated in the family counseling sessions. Ann was successfully discharged in March 2001. Her family reports she has remained drug-free, currently has a job, attends church with the family, attends Alcoholics Anonymous four or five times each week and has a positive relationship with her family.

She plans to attend West Texas A&M University this fall. The family has also continued the recovery process by attending Al-Anon on a regular basis.

Genesis House was the first residential facility in the State of Texas to deal solely with alcohol and drug abuse problems of adolescents. Because of the community support and the success of adolescents like Ann, Genesis House is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Organized crime slaying spawns a fraud-fighting software company

By ELIZABETH GOLDMAN
Austin American-Statesman

AUSTIN — Twenty years ago, Roger Wheeler unwittingly fell in with the wrong crowd. Looking for some good investments, the Oklahoma businessman bought some jai alai clubs on the East Coast, seeing the potential profit in the gambling business. But he got more than he bargained for, running up against organized-crime figures.

Wheeler was shot and killed in the parking lot of the Southern Hills Country Club in Tulsa — home to this year's U.S. Open golf tournament — after playing a round on May 27, 1981. The crime went unsolved until this year, but out of it came a data-mining technology that could eliminate billions of dollars in fraud every year. The Similarity Engine and its related software are the fruit of a decade of effort by Wheeler's son, David, who turned his obsession with finding his father's killer into Austin's InfoGlide Corp., founded in 1991. The technology has been used in law enforcement but not in the Wheeler case.

Michael Shultz became InfoGlide's new chief executive four months ago, charged with expanding on David Wheeler's work. After many lean years and a misguided foray into e-commerce, InfoGlide is taking a new tack. The company has brought in new leadership, drastically cut its staff and cemented a major deal with Computer Sciences Corp.

It's the CSC agreement that will allow InfoGlide to move forward. "The CSC deal is absolutely vital," said Gene Lowenthal, a general partner with InfoGlide investor Sanchez Capital Partners and a board member. "CSC will provide the momentum we need." Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but Shultz said the minimum benefit to InfoGlide will match its total revenue from the previous year, roughly half a million dollars.

An international consulting and technology company with substantial operations in Austin, CSC will bundle InfoGlide's Fraud Investigator product with the cost-containment solutions it offers to insurance companies. CSC has exclusive global rights to resell the software in the multiyear deal. "The systems that they offer work, and they work well," said Joe Jensen, executive vice president of Cost

Containment Solutions for CSC's Financial Services Group, which is based in Austin.

Property and casualty insurance companies lose an estimated \$26 billion annually to fraud, which Jensen thinks can be stemmed by adding products such as Fraud Investigator to CSC's offerings, which aim to trim costs in the insurance industry by setting frameworks for evaluation of claims.

Fraud Investigator is based in the Similarity Engine, which searches databases for near matches as well as exact matches, something Wheeler thought might make the difference for police searching for links among crimes.

Those who commit insurance fraud commonly use a slight variation on a name, address, Social Security number or other identification — different enough that an exact-match search wouldn't notice the connection. The Similarity Engine combs through databases and highlights items that could be related. Upon closer examination, it's often clear that people with different names are really one and the same.

Hunting the sharks

The technology, for which InfoGlide has received or applied for a dozen patents, has applications anywhere fraud is a problem. It's used by eBay, the online auction house, to filter out fraud, especially people who use aliases to bid up a price against themselves. "If there are sharks in the pool, people will not swim. eBay's very future depends on minimizing the number of sharks in the pool," Shultz said. "Now, if you've ever been denied service at eBay, no matter how many times you change your alias, we'll get you. We do that about 47,000 times a month."

InfoGlide is also in preliminary discussions with a group in Nevada that hopes to take advantage of that state's recent decision to allow online gambling. That work brings the company back to its origins in Roger Wheeler's flirtation with the gaming industry, which has only now come to any closure. John Martorano confessed to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison on May 3. First-degree murder charges were filed in Tulsa County Court in March against

James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger and Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi.

David Wheeler, who is on InfoGlide's board of directors but is no longer involved in day-to-day operations, has not expressed discomfort with the gambling efforts, Shultz said. "David operates at 50 or 60 thousand feet," he said. "I don't know what makes David nervous." (Wheeler could not be reached for this article.)

One thing might be his company's struggles during the past year, when it broadened its focus well beyond fraud in an attempt to cash in on the frenzy of e-commerce activity. The Similarity Engine can also be applied to online shopping, finding products a customer wants even if he types in an incorrect request. But InfoGlide didn't have the expertise in that industry to get a good foothold, and when e-commerce sites started dropping like flies, it was hurt. A year ago, the company had about 75 employees; today, after Shultz's firing of an additional 16 people in July, it has 24.

Finding new footing
The company has received three rounds of venture funding, including \$13 million last fall. "There were no limits to

what you could do. Money was endless," Shultz said of the past year. "In retrospect that wasn't as good a decision as it seemed at the time, so we're going back to our roots."

The company has never been profitable, but Shultz expects to reach that milestone within the next two years. This year alone, he hopes to double revenue on a staff that is a quarter of its former size. Revenue growth will come by expansion into the Medicare and health insurance industries, either working with individual companies or in deals similar to that with CSC.

possibly with a company such as Dallas-based Electronic Data Systems Corp.

Shultz, who came to InfoGlide after selling Austin startup QuestLink Technology Inc. a year ago October, says he tried to head off the inclination to bash the previous leadership. "I say, 'Excuse me, but this company is alive,'" he said. "Yeah, we did a lot of things wrong, but the company's alive, and for that we must be grateful."

Distributed by The Associated Press

National Fire Prevention Week

October 7-13 is National Fire Prevention Week for 2001. This year's theme is "Cover the Bases and Strike Out Fire." The following are some fire prevention safety reminders and tips for consumers to keep in mind year-round.

Safe at Home: The Basics

- Know the facts
- According to National Fire Prevention Association:
 - In the U.S., a home fire is reported to a fire department roughly every 85-seconds.
 - In Canada, a home fire is reported to a fire department every 25-30 minutes.
 - In both the U.S. and Canada, four out of five deaths occur in the home.
 - In the U.S., someone is killed in a home fire every three hours.
 - On average, Canada loses one person a day to a home fire.
 - Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device available. Having a smoke alarm in your home cuts your chance of dying in a fire nearly in half!

■ Safety Advice

- Install at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and in or near all sleeping areas. Smoke alarms should be tested once a month and batteries replaced once a year or when the alarm "chirps," warning that the battery is low.
- Every household should develop and practice a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and an outside meeting place.
- Consider installing an automatic sprinkler system if you are building a new home or retrofitting your existing home.

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669-1202

Mon-Fri 8:30-6:00

Sat 8:30-1:00

Club news

Club news is published strictly on a first come, first serve basis due to space limitations. The deadline each week for Sunday's paper is Wednesday at 5 p.m. (Tuesday at 12 noon on holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.) The deadline does not guarantee publication. Thank you.

Highland Hobby Club

Highland Hobby Club met recently for a block party in the 1900 block of Banks in Pampa. The event was hosted by Johnnie and Art Rohde. Thirteen were present.

Club president Ferline Calvert presided over the business portion of the meeting and members enjoyed a music video provided by the hosts.

Mildred Salsman will host the November meeting.

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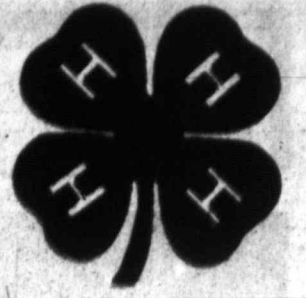
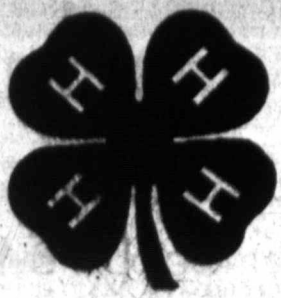
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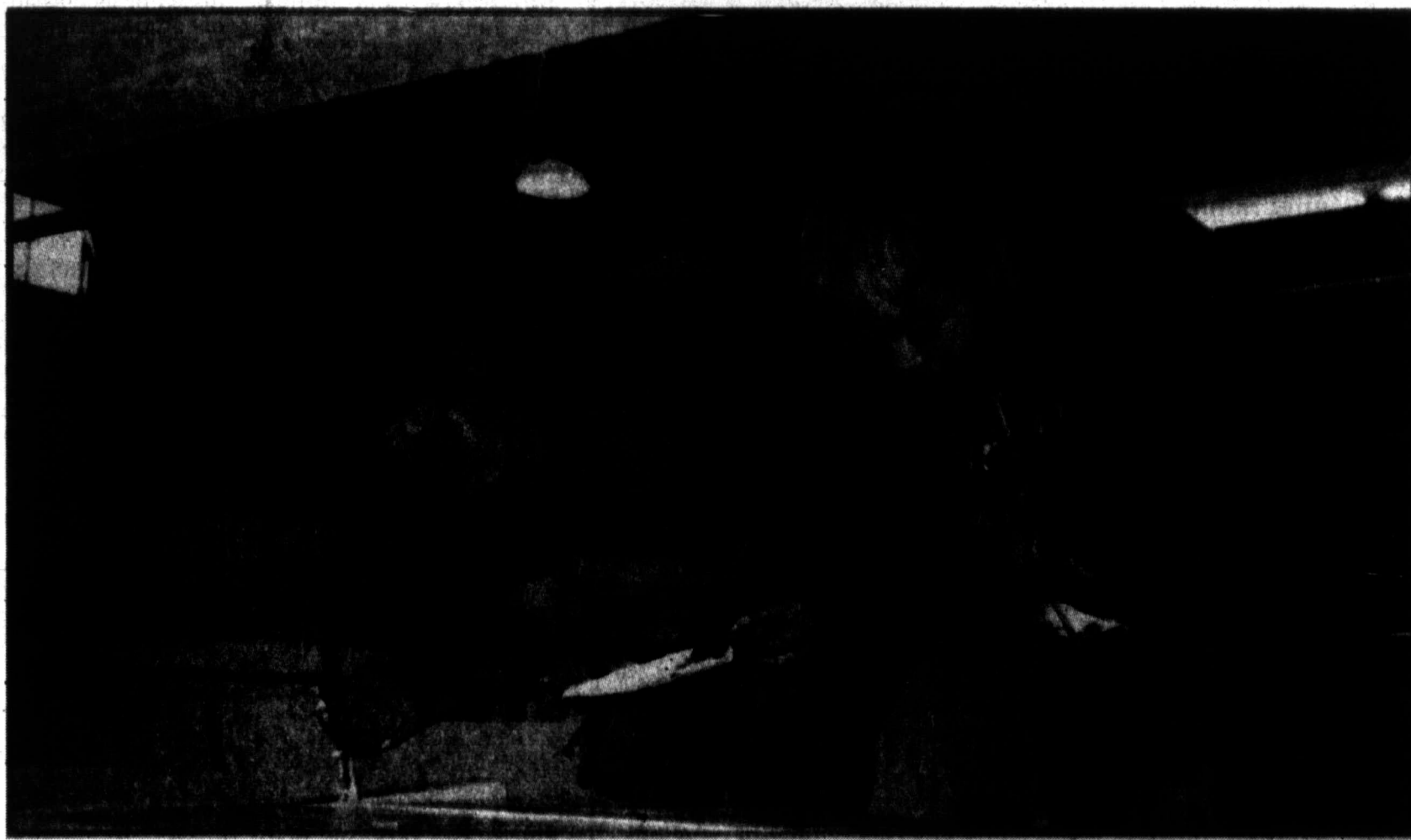


Offers good for a limited time on new activations on select rates only and are subject to change without notice. 1600 minutes includes 100 anytime minutes, 250 "night" minutes for calls made from 8:00 p.m. to 5:59 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 250 "weekend" minutes for calls made from 8:00 p.m. Friday to 11:59 p.m. Sunday, and 1000 mobile-to-mobile minutes per monthly bill cycle from within home calling area only. Mobile-to-mobile minutes require a CDMA handset and all parties to the call to be on the Cellular One Western Wireless network. Long distance charges may apply when calling outside local calling area. Minutes will be billed to or deducted from plan minutes for each calling party. Unused minutes expire each month. Billing period and cannot be carried over. Mobile-to-mobile minutes valid for length of digital service with Cellular One. Service fee includes taxes, assessments, surcharges, warning long distance or other toll charges. Incoming and outgoing calls are recorded up and billed to full-minute increments from the time the network begins to process the call before the call rings or is answered through the transmission of the call. 12-month agreement required with fee for early cancellation. Activation fee may be required. Outside the digital coverage area, service may be unable and certain digital features may not function. See digital coverage map and written materials to store for complete details. Service is not TTY compatible. Other restrictions apply. Special statements and the Terms and Conditions apply to all services of this network.

OCTOBER 7 2001



4-H is fun



Drake Jackson and Gabriel Miller spent many hours painting bleachers at the Clyde Carruth Pabvillion.

By Joan Gray
Gray County Extension Agent

Gray County 4-H members will join 4-H members around the United States to celebrate National 4-H Week, Oct. 7-13.

4-H is the world's largest youth organization with over six million participants nationally, and is in all 50 of the United States as well as over 80 countries worldwide.

4-H is the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension. The first 4-H club was organized in Texas in 1909. It was a boys "corn club" and was established in Jack County with 25 members.

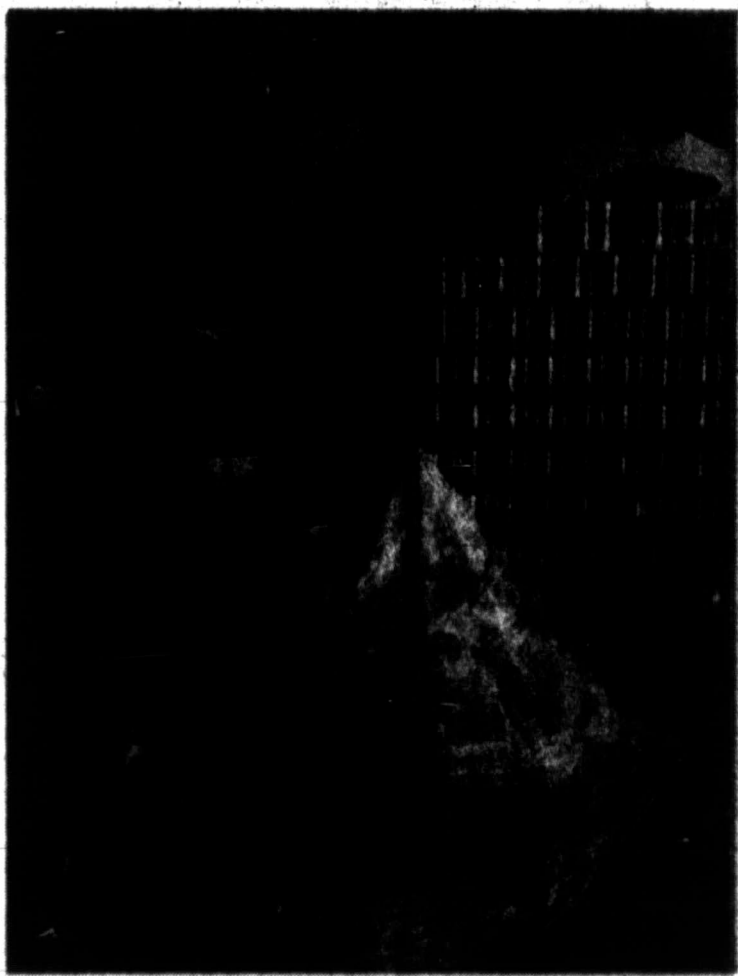
In 1912, the girls "tomato clubs" were established in Milam County. Texas peaked at just over one million participants in 2000.

The four H's stand for head, heart, hands and health. With this focus on the total development of young people, 4-H continues to prepare youth, ages 5-19, to be responsible, capable citizens.

While 4-H enjoys a reputation of program excellence in the traditional areas of agriculture and consumer sciences, the Texas program is also at the forefront of contemporary public issues such as workforce preparedness, leadership development, and environmental stewardship. By taking part in 4-H, young people gain academic and interpersonal skills that provide a foundation for their future.

Joining 4-H costs nothing. Some project areas may require an investment to get started.

For more information about the 4-H program, contact the Gray County Extension Service at 669-8033.



Tori Meeks, kneeling, hands canned food to Misty Pairsh and Nick Miller when they worked at the High Plains Food Bank.

The following are quotes from 4-H members in response to the question: How has 4-H Made a Difference to you? The members' names and ages are listed in addition to the 4-H group of which they are a member.

"Being active in 4-H has helped me to become a more confident person and has taught me the importance of working hard so that I may reach goals that I set for myself."

— Lindsey Price, 15, Prime Time

"Learning and doing things differently."

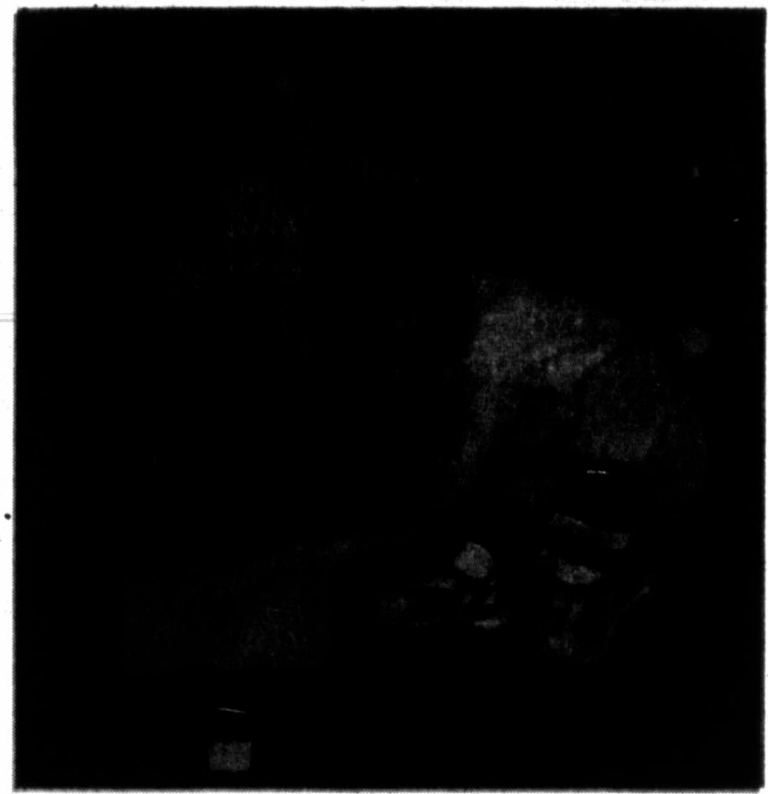
— Julie Schuneman, 11, Prime Time

"I know how to sew and cook."

— Megan Pettit, 11, Super Clover

"4-H has built my character, established my career goals, and has helped me to try my hardest in anything I do."

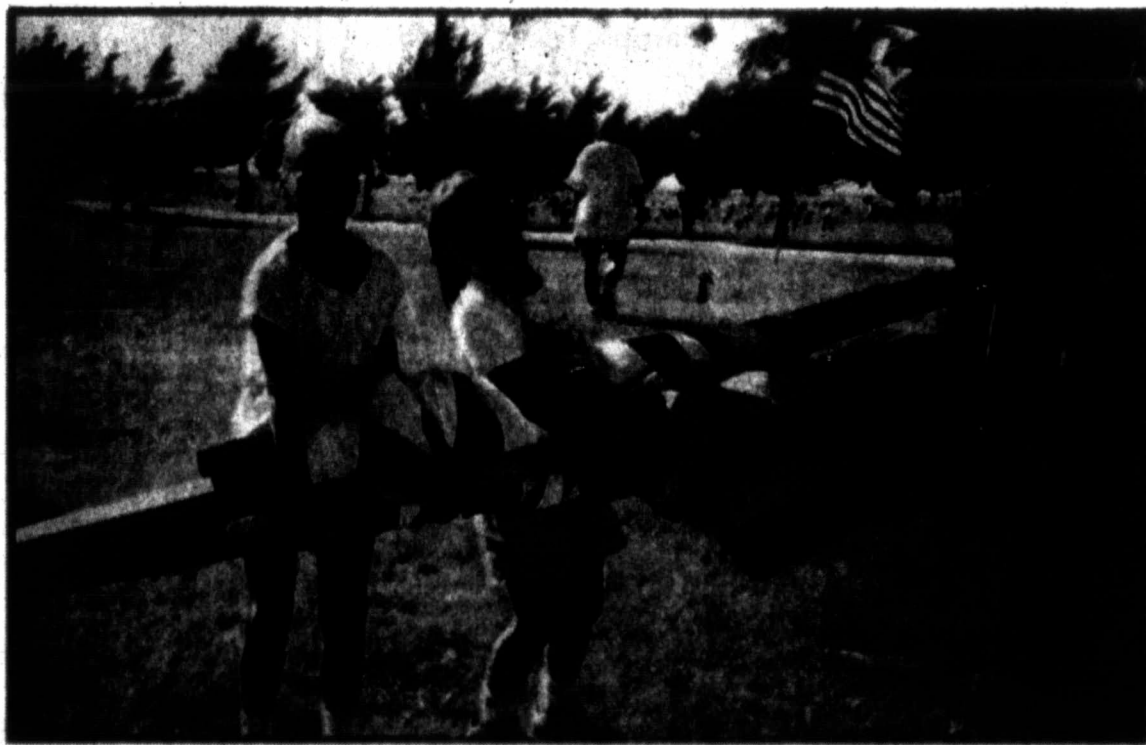
— Sarah Schwab, 16, Super Clover



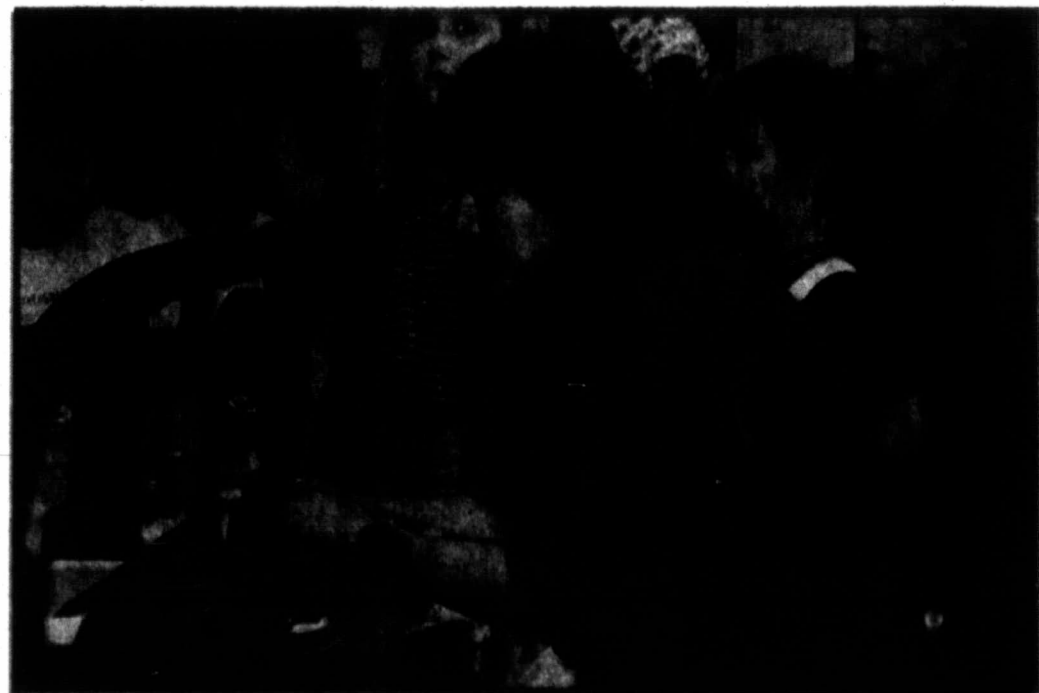
Wakely Pairsh and Gabriel Miller packaged food at the High Plains Food Bank.

4-H Pledge

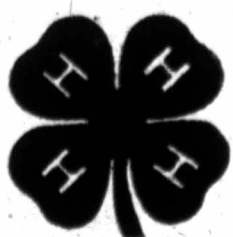
"I pledge
my head to clearer thinking,
my heart to greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service,
and
my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my
country and my world."



Emily Jackson and Misty Pairsh help distribute the U. S. flags at the cemetery for the Memorial Day service.



Travis Fish, Gabriel Miller, Jessica Baggerman, Tammy Syfrett and Lucas Webb at Dion's of Texas in Shamrock on a clothing project tour.



4-H Motto:
"To Make the Best Better"

4-H Slogan:
"Learning by Doing"



LIFESTYLE



Mr. and Mrs. Billy Waggoner

Waggoner anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Waggoner of Pampa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. The couple was showered with cards, letters and other remembrances in recognition of the occasion. Billy Waggoner and Bobbie White were married Sept. 28, 1951, at Panhandle, Texas. The couple have been Pampa residents for 50 years and belong to Central Baptist Church of Pampa. Mr. Waggoner retired from Cabot Machinery Division/IRI in December 1986 after 35 years of service. Mrs. Waggoner is a homemaker. Children of the couple are Carol and Jimmie Clark and David and Louann Waggoner, all of Pampa. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Amy Hahn and Brian Raney

Hahn-Raney

Amy Hahn of Pampa and Brian Raney of Dallas were wed Aug. 4, 2001, in Calvary Baptist Church of Pampa with Paul Nachtigall, of Highland Baptist Church of Pampa, officiating. The matron of honor was Rachel Behnke of San Antonio. The bridesmaids were Cassi Speed of Lubbock, Nicole Henkelman, sister of the groom of San Antonio, and Amy Wagner of Augusta, Ga. The best man was Mark Alley of Rapid City, S.D. The groomsmen were Stephen Jennings of Pampa, Jeremy Bertsch of San Francisco, Calif., and Travis Bernhard of Detroit, Mich. The ring bearer was Warren Bradley, cousin of the bride of San Diego, Calif. The ushers were John C. Hahn, brother of the bride, and Marcus Schock, both of Pampa. Registering the guests was Whitney Davis of Amarillo. Music was provided by vocalists Darrell and Dixie Danner who sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "From This Moment." Dixie also played the piano. A reception was held following the service at Pamcel Hall of Pampa with Candy Wood of Pampa, Jennifer Bradley of San Diego and Shelley Sellers of Amarillo, all cousins of the bride, serving the guests. The bride is the daughter of John and Annette Hahn of Pampa. She currently attends Texas Woman's University at Denton where she plans to graduate in May 2002 with a bachelor of science degree in nutrition. The groom is the son of Charles and Audrey Raney of Deering, N.D. He holds a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (1998) and is currently employed as an accounts representative for Celanese in Dallas. The couple planned a honeymoon trip to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, and intend to make their home in Denton.

Books: A rich diet of food for thought



Our Bridal Registry

- Callie Babcock ~ Greg Winter
- April Marburger ~ Brooks Gentry
- Sarah Depee ~ Brian Rekus
- Dana Wood ~ Greg Macik
- Melissa Wingcart ~ Scott Houston
- Erin Reeder ~ Jason Williams
- Angela Harvey ~ Clark Overman
- Susan Thornton ~ Brad Redwine
- Britany Kempf ~ Tristan Perry
- Erin Waters ~ Colby Waters
- Mandy Tyrrell ~ Chris Archibald

On Eagle's Wings

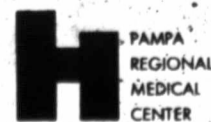
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The Next Six-Week Session Will Start
Monday, October 8, 2001
One Session At 5:30-7:30. Other Sessions An Hour Long

The Cost Is Free For Those Delivering At PRMC
\$50 For Those Delivering At Another Facility



For More Information Contact Pampa Regional Medical Center at 806-663-5566

Menus

October 8-12

Pampa Schools	Senior Citizens
MONDAY Breakfast: Pancakes. Lunch: Fish strips or pizza, blackeyed peas, potatoes, pears, rolls.	MONDAY Chicken fried steak or baked crispy cod fish, mashed potatoes, spinach, corn, northern beans, apple spice cake or butterscotch pudding cups, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
TUESDAY Breakfast: Yogurt, toast. Lunch: Teriyaki chicken or burritos, green beans, rice pilaf, pineapple, rolls.	TUESDAY Parmesan chicken or Salisbury steak, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, macaroni/tomatoes, black-eyed peas, coconut cream cake or chocolate pie, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread or jalapeno cornbread.
WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Chocolate chip muffins. Lunch: Chicken fajitas or steak fingers, refried beans, Spanish rice, flour tortillas, fresh fruit.	WEDNESDAY Roast beef brisket, brown gravy or cook's choice, mashed potatoes, carrots/peas, fried squash, beans, strawberry cake or bread pudding, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
THURSDAY Breakfast: Scrambled egg, biscuits, sausage. Lunch: Beef patty or cheese nachos, whipped potatoes, English peas, chocolate pudding, rolls.	THURSDAY Chicken strips or sausages and kraut, cheese potatoes, spring blend veggies, turnip greens, beans, peaches and cream pound cake or blackberry cobbler, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls or cornbread.
FRIDAY Breakfast: Cereal, toast. Lunch: Sloppy joes or hot dogs/chili, French fries, corn, peaches.	FRIDAY Catfish and hushpuppies or Swiss steak, potato wedges, brussels sprouts, beans, fudge marble cake or tapioca, slaw, tossed or jello salad, hot rolls, garlic toast or cornbread.
Lefors Schools	Meals On Wheels
MONDAY Breakfast: French toast sticks, toast, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: Mexican casserole, chicken fajitas, beans, rice, salad, fruit, milk.	MONDAY Steak fingers, gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cookies.
TUESDAY Breakfast: Yogurt, toast, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: SOG, ham, potatoes, green beans, fruit, milk.	TUESDAY Hamburgers, tater tots, cake.
WEDNESDAY Breakfast: Ham, eggs, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken patty, fish, macaroni and cheese, blackeyed peas, jello, fruit, milk.	WEDNESDAY Mexican casserole, Spanish rice, pinto beans, jello.
THURSDAY Breakfast: Pancakes, toast, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: Chicken fry or chicken nuggets, whipped potatoes, corn, fruit, milk.	THURSDAY Sausage spaghetti, green beans, cauliflower, banana.
FRIDAY Breakfast: Breakfast burritos, toast, cereal, juice, milk. Lunch: Hamburgers, barbecue, mixed vegetables, tater tots, fruit, milk.	FRIDAY Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, brussels sprouts, graham cracker.

Newsmakers

CANYON — West Texas A&M University's Student Government has announced its freshmen and graduate student senators for the 2001-2002 school year. The elections were Sept. 13-16, and all voting was done online. Sophomore, junior and senior senator positions were filled last spring. A senator is elected for every 200 students enrolled in a given class. In all, eight freshmen and two graduate students were elected. They include: Seth Lewis, a freshman mass communications

major from Pampa. Sarah Fraser, a Pampa High School senior, has been nominated to compete in the national Principal's Leadership Award scholarship program (PLA), sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP). Herff Jones, Inc., funds the Principal's Leadership Award program. John Kendall, principal, Pampa High School, announced the nomination, which places Fraser in the national competition. One hundred fifty national PLA winners will be chosen this spring to receive \$1,000 college scholarships. High school principals from across the country could nominate one of their student leaders. Nominees were selected based on leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs; achievements in the arts and sciences; employ-

ment experience; and academic record. They were also required to write an essay. "Fraser has demonstrated exemplary achievement in her academic work and service to her school and community," said Gerald N. Tirozzi, executive director, NAASP. "She's a fine example of the outstanding caliber of young people in America's high schools." In recognizing leadership in co-curricular activities as well as academic performance, the PLA recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education. Co-curricular activities are an essential part of the school curriculum. While at Pampa High School, Fraser has been on the D-FY-IT Advisory Board as well as the Multicultural Advisory Board. She is a member of the National Honor Society, a National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalist, and recipient of the Spanish IV and

Speech and Debate Awards. She attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Camp and also The National Youth Leadership Forum. Next fall, she plans to attend either Notre Dame or Wheaton to study economics and finance. NAASP, the pre-eminent school leadership organization, serves as the national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals and aspiring school leaders. NAASP promotes the intellectual growth, academic achievement, character development and leadership services. NAASP administers the National Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society, and the National Association of Student Councils. NAASP is also the sponsor of National Leadership Week.



Sarah Fraser

T-SHIRTS & MORE

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LETTERS

Harper

To the editor: This letter is in response to the pension of the Attorney General and school district and school board. I would like to see a Harper Val... attempt to pay cases in the... should be co... For two ye... to tell us the High School... We request... ments were u... teacher in the... Unable to g... to help us fin... ion and desc... Although D... Griffin and M... was able in c... nents and the... These band... and at one ti... and condition... made of the in... or really gift... Pampa schoo... This is but... lent's attitud... lship can be... Alanreed gyt... enghy, exper... d without a... Attorney Co... am sure, pro... forum. The... uman cond... Bill Reeves... McLean... P.S. I have e... required to hi... likened to a m... tionable phys...

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To the editor: I first came... computer con... United Medic... named of t... of the year, the... escape the DF... .BJ Memorial... A couple of... ng about wat... Gray County... guy, I took my... ee how our d... At the meeti... myself as an a... and was the le... ny embarrass... oom, when he... een a recorde... nated by a s... o leave. On the way... on. We both o... ad their mind... What does th... Tom Richard... Pampa

Support

Go out

To the editor: Over 5,000 pe... not because of... ote, wave the... hurch of our c... We also have... issues facing Pa... be decided by e... ational activity... You waved... mourned and... Whatever you... wanted to kill... Liz Smith... Pampa

Voters

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To the editor: First of all, I... deleted four-fif... Secondly, for... they need to w...

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LETTERS

Harper Valley PTA, indeed!

To the editor,
This letter is in regard to Nancy Young's story relative to the suspension of the McLean superintendent of schools:

Attorney Harold Comer's put down of our community, school district and school board by attributing our current school problems to a Harper Valley PTA syndrome is a cheap shot and was made only to attempt to portray his client in a better light. It is less costly to try cases in the newspaper generally, but in that event the information should be complete.

For two years, taxpayers of this district have requested Mr. Griffin to tell us the whereabouts of the band instruments of the McLean High School Band.

We requested an inventory and information as to how the instruments were unilaterally "loaned" by Mr. Griffin to a Roger Meyers, a teacher in the Pampa school system.

Unable to get information locally, Dr. Dawson Orr was requested to help us find out just what instruments were involved, their condition and description.

Although Dr. Orr was not aware of the loan arrangement between Griffin and Meyers which had gone on for seven or more years, he was able in one week's time to furnish an inventory of the instruments and their condition.

These band instruments were and are property of the McLean ISD and at one time had a value estimated at about \$40,000. Their value and condition have not improved in seven years. Until an issue was made of the instruments, the ISD board was not aware of the "loan," or really gift, as no return date was divulged and after seven years Pampa schools could believe they own them.

This is but one of several examples of the suspended superintendent's attitude toward ISD property. Other examples of his custodianship can be found at the Alarreed school building and at the Alarreed gymnasium. There is at least one recently completed entity, expensive contract signed only by Mr. Griffin and completed without a vote or knowledge of the school board.

Attorney Comer is well known in the area, is experienced and will, am sure, provide excellent representation for Mr. Griffin in whatever forum. The ability to understand the misadventures occurring in human conduct comes with experience.

Bill Reeves
McLean

P.S. I have empathy with Mr. Griffin in one respect. When a man is required to hire a lawyer to defend his character and activities, it is likened to a man ingesting poison in the hope of improving a questionable physical abnormality. Harper Valley PTA, indeed!

What does 'Cow good — Pig bad' have to do with PEDC?

To the editor,
I first came to Pampa in November of 2000 as an employee of a computer consulting company to set up the infrastructure of the United MediCorp in their new building at 200 N. Cuyler Street. I was amazed of the friendly folks and quality of life here. After the first of the year, the opportunity came for me to move my family here and escape the DFW Metromess with it's two-hour daily commute on the BJ Memorial parking lot.

A couple of months ago, I saw that there was a "Town Hall" meeting about water quality concerns and the impact of NPD coming to Gray County. Being a registered voter and a civic minded kind of guy, I took my 14-year-old son to one of these meetings so he could see how our democratic system works.

At the meeting, an older gentleman got up to speak. He identified himself as an attorney who has practiced law in Perryton since 1954 and was the legal council for the area's water quality board. Imagine my embarrassment when he was shouted down, by the back of the room, when he attempted to inform the crowd that there had never been a recorded incident of any watershed, in this area, being contaminated by a swine facility's lagoon. That is when we took our queue to leave.

On the way home, I discussed the events of the evening with my son. We both observed that most of the people at the meeting already had their minds made up: Cow good — Pig bad.

What does that have to do with the PEDC?

Tom Richardson
Pampa

Support the American way: Go out and vote

To the editor,
Over 5,000 people in this country are dead. Not because of Islam, not because of religious fanaticism, but because we have the right to vote, wave the flag, sing 'God bless America,' be patriotic, go to the church of our choice and be American.

We also have the right not to do these things. There are serious issues facing Pampa and its citizens, each and every one, which will be decided by election. If you chose to watch TV, do some other recreational activity, or forget to vote, do the terrorists win?

You vowed the flag, you cried for 'God bless America,' you mourned and were emotionally involved. All of this is symbolism. Whatever your beliefs, believe that the vote is what the terrorists wanted to kill.

Liz Smith
Pampa

Voters need to be cautious, think before they elect ...

To the editor,
First of all, I think it is only fair that you allow me to say that you deleted four-fifths of my letter last week.

Secondly, for anyone wishing to keep the pigs out of Gray County, they need to write to the TNRCC: 3918 Canyon Drive, Amarillo, TX

79109.

They need to include the words "I wish to protest application WQ0004371" or words to that effect along with some scientific reason. "Gray County" and "NPD" should also be included.

Lastly, I just want to add how disgusted I felt about the way our city commissioners, mayor and, I have to believe the city manager, handled the petition to abolish the PEDC.

They did everything in their power to stop the petition drive including shortening the days from 10 to six. Then scheduling themselves an extra meeting to try to place their own proposition on the ballot — you think that is legal? Weren't they the ones responsible for the "goings on" of the PEDC in the first place.

We have two wards up for re-election in the spring. Faustina Curry in Ward 4 and Jeff Andrews in Ward 2. Let's take a long hard look at who we elect and keep a better eye on things.

Karen N
Pampa

What is wrong with this picture, America?

To the editor,
We were told by news media and government that Bin Ladin ordered his followers to kill Americans because we are their enemy, we are Christian.

Christianity was established 2001 years ago. Nearly all of Europe practiced Christianity 600 years before America was discovered.

What is wrong?
Kenneth Williams
Pampa

Community must rally to preserve way of life

To the editor,
By now everyone is aware of the terrorist attack on our nation. We watched in horrified disbelief that this could be happening to our country! Only those old enough to remember Dec. 7, 1941, could comprehend what was occurring. Thanks to our news media, we were there this time.

There is, however, another attack against America being carried out in rural America. The devastation is not readily seen, but nonetheless is very real. The "terrorists" can be easily identified, but much more difficult to control. Those who aid them are well known in the communities where the attacks are occurring.

While foreign terrorists do their deeds in the name of their religion, Islam, domestic terrorists, aided by their co-conspirators, commit their dastardly deeds in the name of money. They hide under a disguise named "Economic Development," while foreign terrorists disguise themselves as airline pilots.

The domestic form of terrorism is even more insidious than the deeds of those who hate the United States. Domestic terrorism is committed in the name of love and compassion. However it leads to the pollution and eventual destruction of our most valuable resources — water, air and the land we love and upon which we live.

History tells us that nations can survive external attacks, but few, if any, can survive attacks from within! Most of you have probably figured out the "demon" of which I speak ... corporate hog and poultry feeding, breeding and research facilities. They pay taxes into the public coffers and attempt to "cover up" their true objectives with hollow promises.

But these "terrorists" have vastly underestimated the intelligence and resolve of rural folks who dearly love the land for which our ancestors fought and settled. They endured hardships we cannot imagine. Their foes were visible and easily identified.

The Indians fought bravely to defend the land they loved. Primarily due to conflict between the tribes, they lost the battle for the land. Let this be a lesson to us — no infighting, no personal anger, no blaming others and absolutely no "miss-information."

Let's stand up for all the things in which we believe. We believe in our ability to overcome adversity. I think the majority of my fellow citizens share my belief. We care more for the health, economic and moral, of the community as a whole rather than to our own individual selfish interests. I believe our common goal is to preserve our price-less heritage.

No other location can compare with our Texas Panhandle. I am going to fight for what I believe to be, in the best interest of this area! How about you?

Jim Terry
Pampa

The Pampa News welcomes and encourages readers to express their opinions on issues of public interest and concern. However, we also reserve the right to accept or reject any letter for publication.

Letters should be 300 words or less. Letters submitted for publication should be neat and legible, typed if possible, or at least handwritten in a clear manner. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, spelling, grammar, taste and potentially libelous statements. Submission of a letter does not guarantee its publication, nor can we guarantee a date of publication due to space and time limitations.

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ALL letters must be signed for publication; no unsigned, name withheld or anonymous letters will be published. The writer must list an address and a telephone number or numbers where he or she may be contacted for verification; addresses and telephone numbers will not be printed, unless requested for a specific reason.

Poetry, candidate or political endorsements, letters to third parties and "thank you" letters will not be published except at the discretion of the editor, depending on general interest.

Letters may be dropped off at the office, 403 W. Atchison, or mailed to The Pampa News, Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066.

Publisher's note: The last day letters to the editor will be run that relate to items on the Nov. 6 ballot, including the Pampa Economic Development Corporation issue, will be Sunday, Oct. 7. Because the topic of a hog farm has been tied to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation no letters about hog farms will be allowed during this time. Paid advertising will be accepted.

Tips on modern manners

By The Associated Press

Some tips from "Emily Post's Etiquette" by Peggy Post:
Cellular, portable telephones

"It is ludicrous to ask those around you to hush so that you can hear on the telephone when you're standing on the street or are in a restaurant or on a train, considering that a telephone conversation is not an expected part of the gathering or environment."

Public displays of affection

"In this country, holding hands, affectionate greetings accompanied by a kiss on the cheek, or a quick hug are perfectly acceptable in public. Passion is not."

Consideration for those who serve you

"Only the lowest type of boor is rude or inconsiderate of the people who serve him in restaurants, stores or any public places. It can safely be said that this sort of discourtesy is a sure sign of insecurity. Those who have self-confidence do not need to act in that way in an effort to prove themselves superior. Good manners and thoughtfulness are so much a part of their nature that they treat everyone with whom they come in contact with the same courtesy, whether there is anything to be gained by doing so or not."

Consideration for strangers

"Whether on the road or going through a door, respecting the rights and sensitivity of others, even total strangers, is part of

what civilized behavior entails. When in the checkout line at the supermarket, unless you are in a raging hurry, it is courteous to let the person behind you who has only three items go ahead of you and your loaded cart."

Dining

"Don't ever put liquid into your mouth if it is already filled with food. You might have a little toast in your mouth when you drink your coffee, but it should be so little as to be undetectable by others."

Tipping

"It wasn't long ago that 15 percent of the bill, excluding tax, was considered a generous tip in elegant restaurants. Now the figure is moving toward 20 percent for excellent service. In ordinary family-style restaurants 15 percent is still the norm."

"In general, a tip to a taxi driver is about 20 percent of the fare."

Posture

"There is no doubt that a person who stands and sits erect looks best. A round-shouldered slouch, with head thrust forward and stomach sticking out, certainly does little to make one appealing."

"Graceful standing and walking posture includes the following components: shoulders back, chin in and slightly up, abdomen and stomach in, back straight and knees relaxed. When left to their own devices, arms are relaxed and swing naturally during walking."

Your representatives

State Rep. Warren Chisum
Pampa Address: 100 N. Price Road, Pampa TX 79065
Pampa Phone: 665-3552
Austin Address: P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910
Austin Phone: (512) 463-0736

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Austin Phone: (512) 463-0131
teel.bivins@senate.state.tx.us

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U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison
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Texas Gov. Rick Perry
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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 one million copies sold. Gold signifies more than 500,000 copies sold.)

Billboard Hot 100: Top 10

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan; radio playlists; and monitored radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Fallin'," Alicia Keys. J.
2. "I'm Real," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Ja Rule). Epic.
3. "Where The Party At," Jagged Edge With Nelly. So So Def.
4. "Family Affair," Mary J. Blige. MCA.
5. "Hit 'Em Up Style

- (Oops!)," Blu Cantrell. RedZone.
6. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
7. "U Remind Me," Usher. Arista.
8. "Let Me Blow Ya Mind," Eve (feat. Gwen Stefani). Ruff Ryders.
9. "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.
10. "Differences," Ginuwine. Epic.

The Billboard 200 Top Albums: Top 10

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Blueprint," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
2. "Songs In A Minor," Alicia Keys. J. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)

3. "Totally Hits 2001," Various Artists. Warner Bros./Elektra/Atlantic/Arista.
4. "A Day Without Rain," Enya. Reprise. (Platinum)
5. "Silver Side Up," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
6. "Satellite," P.O.D. Atlantic.
7. "Hybrid Theory," Linkin Park. Warner Bros. (Platinum)
8. "Break The Cycle," Staind. Flip/Elektra. (Platinum)
9. "8701," Usher. Arista.
10. "Now 7," Various Artists. EMI/Universal/Sony/Zomba/Virgin. (Platinum)

Hot Contemporary Adult

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

1. "There You'll Be," Faith Hill. Warner Bros.

2. "Thank You," Dido. Arista.
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. "One More Day," Diamond Rio. Arista Nashville.
7. "Follow Me," Uncle Kracker. Top Dog/Lava/Atlantic.
8. "I Want Love," Elton John. Rocket.
9. "More Than That," Backstreet Boys. Jive.
10. "All Or Nothing," O-Town. J.

Mainstream Rock

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

1. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
2. "Gets Me Through," Ozzy Osbourne. Epic.
3. "Control," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen/Interscope.
4. "Schism," Tool. Tool Dissectional.
5. "I Wish You Were Here," Incubus. Immortal/Epic.
6. "It's Been Awhile," Staind. Flip/Elektra.
7. "Down With the Sickness," Disturbed. Giant/Reprise.
8. "Fade," Staind. Flip. Warner Bros.
9. "Crawling," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
10. "The People That We Love," Bush. Atlantic.

Modern Rock Tracks

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

1. "How You Remind Me," Nickelback. Roadrunner.
2. "I Wish You Were Here," Incubus. Immortal/Epic.
3. "Smooth Criminal," Alien Ant Farm. New Noise/DreamWorks.
4. "Control," Puddle Of Mudd. Flawless/Geffen/Interscope.
5. "Fade," Staind. Flip.
6. "Schism," Tool. Tool Dissectional.
7. "Alive," P.O.D. Atlantic.
8. "In The End," Linkin Park. Warner Bros.
9. "Down With The Sickness," Disturbed. Giant/Reprise.
10. "Clint Eastwood," Gorillaz. Virgin.

Hot Country Singles and Tracks

(Compiled from a national sample of monitored country radio by Broadcast Data Systems)

1. "Where I Come From," Alan Jackson. Arista Nashville.
2. "Only In America," Brooks & Dunn. Arista Nashville.
3. "Angray All The Time," Tim McGraw. Curb.
4. "What I Really Meant To Say," Cyndi Thomson. Capitol.
5. "I Would've Loved You Anyway," Trisha Yearwood. MCA Nashville.
6. "Complicated," Carolyn Dawn Johnson. Arista Nashville.
7. "On A Night Like This,"

- Trick Pony. Warner Bros.
8. "Austin," Blake Shelton. Giant.
9. "Love Of A Woman," Travis Tritt. Columbia.
10. "Angels In Waiting," Tammy Cochran. Epic.

Top Country Albums

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Greatest Hits," Martina McBride. RCA (Nashville).
2. Soundtrack: "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Mercury. (Platinum)
3. "Pull My Chain," Toby Keith. DreamWorks. (Gold)
4. "Never Love You Enough," Chely Wright. MCA Nashville.
5. "Set This Circus Down," Tim McGraw. Curb. (Platinum)
6. Soundtrack: "Coyote Ugly." Curb. (Platinum)
7. "Greatest Hits," Kenny Chesney. BNA. (Platinum)
8. "I'm Already There," Lonestar. BNA. (Gold)
9. "New Favorite," Alison Krauss & Union Station. Rounder/IDJMG.
10. "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack. MCA Nashville. (Platinum)

Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Singles and Tracks

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports and radio playlists)

1. "Differences," Ginuwine. Epic.
2. "Family Affair," Mary J. Blige. MCA.
3. "I'm Real," Jennifer Lopez (feat. Ja Rule). Epic.
4. "Rock The Boat," Aaliyah. Background.
5. "Living It Up," Ja Rule (feat. Case). Murder Inc.
6. "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.
7. "Fallin'," Alicia Keys. J.
8. "Ugly," Bubba Sparxxx. Beat Club.
9. "Where The Party At," Jagged Edge with Nelly. So So Def.
10. "I'm A Thug," Trick Daddy. Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic.

Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "The Blueprint," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella.
2. "Gerald's World," Gerald Levert. Elektra.
3. "Ghetto Fabulous," Fabolous. Desert Storm.
4. "No More Drama," Mary J. Blige. MCA.
5. "8701," Usher. Arista.
6. "Now," Maxwell. Columbia/CRG. (Platinum)
7. "Songs In A Minor," Alicia Keys. J. (Platinum)
8. "Aaliyah," Aaliyah. Background. (Platinum)
9. "Superhero," Brian McKnight. Motown.
10. "Face2Face," Babyface. Arista.

Hot Rap Singles

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Raise Up," Petey Pablo. Jive.
2. "Buster," Dennis Da Menace. 1st Avenue.
3. "Jump Up In The Air," Original P Introducing Hyped Up Westbound Soljaz. Westbound.
4. "Po' Punch," Po' White Trash & The Trailer Park Symphony. Pocket Change.
5. "I'm Your Girl," Dena Cali. ES3.
6. "Ugly," Bubba Sparxxx. Beat Club.
7. "How We Do," Big Lew BKA Popeye Reds (feat. Nonchlant). Col-Beast.
8. "My Projects," Coo Coo Cal. Infinite/Tommy Boy.
9. "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Jay-Z. Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG.

Hot Dance Music — Club Play

(Compiled from a national sample of dance club playlists)

1. "Feel This 2001," Robbie Rivera. Strictly Rhythm.
2. "Little L," Jamiroquai. Epic.
3. "Crystal," New Order. Reprise.
4. "Yes," Amber. Tommy Boy.
5. "Official Chemical," Dub Pistols. Geffen.
6. "Absolutely Not," Deborah Cox. J.
7. "The Player (Remixes)," First Choice. Philly Groove.
8. "It Began In Afrika," The Chemical Brothers. Freestyle Dust.
9. "Stand Still," Aubrey. Groovilicious/Strictly Rhythm.
10. "Break 4 Love," Peter Dinklage + Pet Shop Boys + The Collaboration. Star 69.

Hot Latin Tracks

(Compiled from national Latin radio airplay reports)

1. "Suerte," Shakira. Epic.
2. "Heroe," Enrique Iglesias. Interscope.
3. "Tantita Pena," Alejandro Fernandez. Sony Discos.
4. "Como Se Cura Una Herida," Jaci Velasquez. Sony Discos.
5. "No Me Conoces Aun," Palomo. Disa.
6. "Pueden Decir," Gilberto Santa Rosa. Sony Discos.
7. "Me Vas A Extranar," Pepe Aguilar. Musart.
8. "Cada Vez Te Extranamos," Banda El Recodo. Fonovisa.
9. "Azul," Cristian Ariola.
10. "O Me Voy O Te Vas," Marco Antonio Solis. Fonovisa.

Top Contemporary Jazz Albums

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Crush," Richard Elliot. Verve.
2. "Future 2 Future," Herbie Hancock. Transparent.
3. "Urban Knights IV," Urban Knights. Narada Jazz.
4. "AArt," Acoustic Alchemy. Higher Octave.
5. "Deep Blue," Keiko Matsui. Narada Jazz/Virgin.
6. "A Twist of Marley — A Tribute," Various Artists. GRP.
7. "Nice & Slow," Brian Culbertson. Atlantic.
8. "M Squared," Marcus Miller. 3 Deuces.
9. "Songs From The Analog Playground," Charlie Hunter. Blue Note.
10. "In Modern Times," Spyro Gyra. Heads Up.

Top Classical Albums

(Compiled from a national sample of sales reports collected, compiled and provided by SoundScan)

1. "Classic Yo-Yo," Yo-Yo Ma. Sony Classical.
2. "Dreams & Fables," Cecilia Bartoli. Decca.
3. "Verdi," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Gold)
4. "Sacred Arias," Andrea Bocelli. Philips. (Platinum)
5. "Appalachian Journey," Ma/Meyer/O'Connor. Sony Classical.
6. "Vivaldi: Late Violin Concertos," Guiliiano Carmignola. Sony Classical.
7. "American Seasons," Mark O'Connor. Sony Classical.
8. "Richter Rediscovered," Sviatoslav Richter. RCA Victor.
9. "Ultimate Relaxation Album," Various Artists. Decca.
10. "Richard Strauss: Ariadne Auf Naxos," Giuseppe Sinopoli. DG.

Further information is available at Billboard Online on the World Wide Web at <http://www.billboard.com>.

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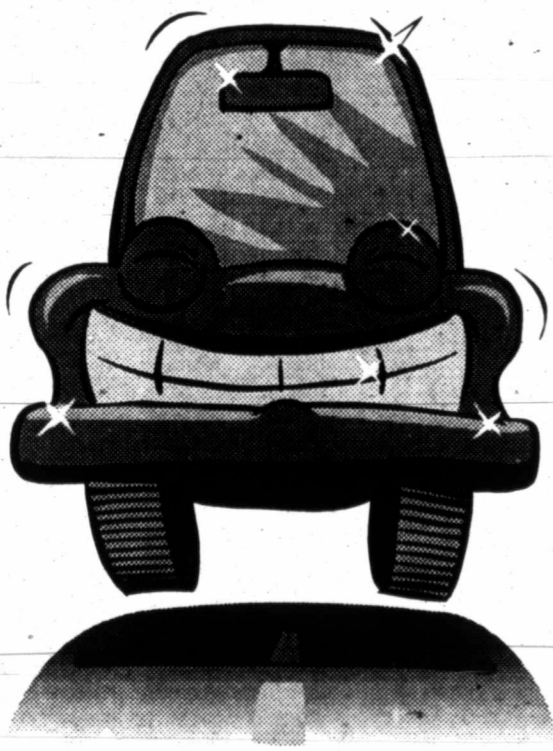
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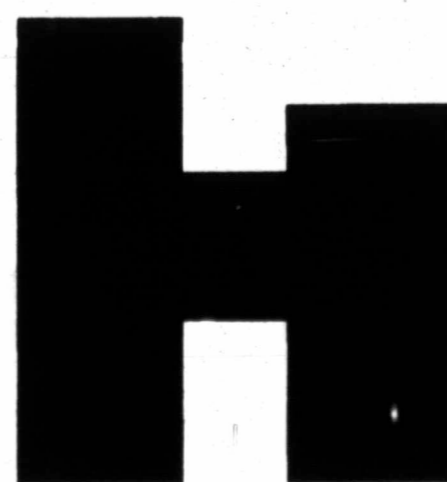
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Letters to the editor

No personal income drawn from funds

To the editor,
During the Sept. 23rd PEDC meeting, it was brought up and discussed about the non-payment of a loan to George Kilcrease DBA/Promise Land Parkmodel Homes Inc. My dad always told me excuses only satisfied the people that make them. No excuses, but I do want to apologize for some bad business decisions that I made and for trusting some people I should not have. I also felt clarification was due on my part as the article in the Pampa Daily News on Sept. 24th reflected poorly on my integrity.
I established Promise Land Parkmodel Homes Inc., in July of 1996. I approached the PEDC for a loan of \$80,000 in November of 1997. The statement made in *The Pampa News* stating that no payments have been made on the loan is true; but I want to clarify that I've made many transactions. To date, I've paid material costs of \$421,632.45 with a less than 2 percent remaining debt. My labor cost has exceeded \$214,000. The building in question was leased for \$1104.16, which was applied directly to my loan payment, taxes and insurance on a monthly basis.
If not for this lease, I would have lost my building. All this is to counter the question raised by the board president regarding the use of the lease money. There simply was no money left for the PEDC or me. I continue to do work in the area, employing four part-time employees. I consider it four jobs that Pampa needs. I want the Pampa taxpayers to understand that I used their money in running a business and not in supporting my family. No personal income was drawn from these funds. I appreciate the efforts made by the PEDC and the board members. My intent, as was that of the PEDC, was well and just.
George Kilcrease
Promise Land Parkmodels

Questions to ponder ... reflecting on the PEDC

To the editor,
Since this seems to be our last chance to express our views on the PEDC and pig factories for awhile, I thought that I might list some questions and tasks for the paid ads endorsing the PEDC to use. After all, I believe most of the following are what a lot of the citizens of Pampa are asking and wondering about.
1. Why are so many people involved with the PEDC and their friends in Pampa threatened by the democratic process of a vote?
2. Why the PEDC and its supporters think it stands for change when it has failed and gone into debt?
3. Why was it allowed to go into debt?
4. Why the same people can't admit that these are the same reasons that the voters, many who voted for the PEDC in the beginning, are asking for a chance to decide the PEDC's fate?
5. If the PEDC was not supporting or encouraging the pig factory, why did it pay for motels and M.K. Brown? (Why didn't they just say "no")?
6. A complete list of businesses that received money from the PEDC in the last 10 years.
7. A full report on the status of those businesses now.
8. A complete list of business turned down by the PEDC in the last 10 years.
9. A check of what kind of businesses those were. For example, were they small, local businesses or large, out of area businesses?
10. Itemized, detailed lists of expenditures from the PEDC for the last 10 years. No general or miscellaneous accounts allowed without itemizing.
11. Why our water treatment and waste treatment plant must meet guidelines that the pig operation will not have to?
12. Why if the pig operation is not offensive in any way, that one of the criteria mentioned for locating here is a sparse population?
13. Why other areas are cleaning up and banning such operations but we are told this one will be different?
14. Can we say "Genetic Research"? (For those of you who like nature the way it is.)
15. Why depleting the aquifer which is a nonrenewable water source by 50 percent in 30 years is acceptable to some? (My only answer is they won't be here so why care?)
16. Why the rural area residents who are the most to suffer from the flies, odor and possible overflows and run-off are not being supported and protected 100 percent by their Pampa neighbors? (They have already had a whiff of progress — dairies.)
17. If a nice pig factory and open waste pits will help promote tourism in the area?
18. Will new Pampa residents be willing to take advantage of the rent houses in town or will they prefer the better low cost houses left by the citizens moving out to escape?
19. Have you ever heard a retired person say, "I'm just looking for a nice place with open pig waste lagoons to retire?"
20. Do we really never get an east wind?
21. Why those in the area who will benefit financially are so willing to sell the rest of us and the future generations down the river? (We know the answer to this one.)
22. Can these questions be answered properly in a paid advertisements for the pro-pig and pro-PEDC camps?
Remember the old television ad of the American Native standing on the mountain crying for what had been destroyed? I know how he felt.
Tonya Lewis
Pampa

Pampa voters need to learn facts before vote

To the editor,
I believe that every individual has the right to their opinion, and their opinion is every bit as important as my own. It is time to express mine. I have recently seen a side of our town and of some of my fellow Pampans that has shocked and disappointed me greatly. Your opinion and mine should at least be based on the same facts.
I have heard many rumors about the PEDC, the PEDC board and Susan Tripplehorn (which has been particularly distressful to me). Susan has been criticized and called names for things that occurred before she was director of the PEDC, that she had nothing to do with, or that simply are not true. She has been open to and has welcomed any questions from the public. Rather than take coffee-shop gossip as the truth, I know that you would be welcomed at the PEDC office anytime, and if you do not already know Susan, you will find her to be very intelligent, professional woman who loves our community.
She has worked hard to earn her certification and her credentials are equal to any others in her field. Can all of you who have criticized her say that you have been to every meeting and you have visited with Susan or the PEDC board and that you know all the facts?
I believe it is imperative we keep the PEDC. It is a very competitive market and many towns are striving to attract businesses to their area. I don't think we can compete without the PEDC. We are probably due for some changes, but to get rid of the PEDC would be a giant step backward. The PEDC is comprised of volunteer professionals from our community who want to serve Pampa. The tax that goes to the PEDC is one-half of 1 percent (that equates to 5-cents of every \$10) Affordable, I think.
We have all learned a great deal in recent weeks, and we will prosper only by working together. Attend the informational meetings, not to boo and hiss like a rowdy 12-year-old, but to listen, learn and to

ask the questions that concern you. You owe it to yourself and your neighbors to learn the facts before you vote.
Kadda Schale
Pampa

Grant does not have to be repaid ...

To the editor,
The audits of PEDC, which are public records, make interesting reading. From 1992 to September 2000, its revenue was \$5,770,200.62. This does not include interest on certificates of deposit or the U.S. Treasury note in the amount of \$496,015.65, or the amount received from the City of Pampa taxes each year. Yet, they ended the year 2000 with a total liability of \$2,673,567. When you add the \$5,770,200.62 received plus the \$2,673,567 liability it totals \$8,443,767.62. I have not seen \$8 million worth of benefits to Pampa.
Isn't the City Commission supposed to approve the PEDC expenditures? Did the City Council investigate any of the expenditures? Did they actually approve the note of \$1,000,000 borrowed by the PEDC on Nov. 4, 1998, to fund a grant to a business that moved to Gray County? It is my understanding that a grant does not have to be repaid, and therefore, we gave one company \$1,000,000 to move here. Aren't our City Commission members better business people than that? When is the next election date?
Don Reed
Pampa

PEDC has lost a great deal of trust, support

To the editor,
I was somewhat surprised when I read the notice in the Friday, Sept. 28, 2001, edition of *The Pampa News*. I quote: Publisher's Note: The last day letters to the editor will be run that relate to items on the November 6 ballot, including the Pampa Economic Development Corporation issue, will be Sunday, October 7. The deadline for submitting final letters is noon, Wednesday, October 3. Because the topic of a 'hog farm' has been tied to the Pampa Economic Development Corporation, no letters about hog farms will be allowed during this time. Paid advertising will be accepted.
I do not recall a publisher of the *The Pampa News* in prior times ever setting a 30-day gag rule or topic/column restrictions. My first impressions were:
1. This notice was intended to initiate a "money-making advertising situation" to benefit *The Pampa News*.
2. The intent was to restrict freedom of speech for both sides of the PEDC issue and other issues on the Nov. 6th ballot.
I do think it is important for our local newspaper to make money through advertisements, but some people can't afford the price of advertisements and the Opinion Page of the newspaper is their only option for expressing an opinion.
I read and understood Mr. McCall's pro-PEDC position in the Sunday, Sept. 23, 2001, issue of *The Pampa News*, entitled "Both Sides Voice Concerns re: PEDC" He stated and I quote: "... If you are going to make an attempt to come back and grow (as a community), you're going to have to have a PEDC, there is no choice. There is no one else to go out and solicit business for this community. I think there has been too much 'coffee shop talk' and too little fact."
I did have some reservations about the publisher of a newspaper taking an obviously biased position, but I respected his right to freedom of speech as he voiced support for the PEDC — a 4A corporation, and said that it was the only option for the growth of Pampa. However, it is my hope that his singular opinion would not overshadow his duty as a newspaper publisher to permit freedom of expression and print opinions on both sides of the issue.
Some years ago, my husband and I voted for the inception of the PEDC — a 4A corporation. But now, there are numerous reasons, aside from the hog factory/motel bill connection, that we and many other people in Pampa are concerned about and opposed to the current PEDC:
1. The current PEDC, according to certain newspaper reports, is approximately \$2.5 million in debt. As our nation faces uncertain times and untrod paths after the Sept. 11, 2001, "Attack On America", citizens must use good business sense at all levels of government. The PEDC is an entity monitored by the City of Pampa. The fact that the PEDC is some \$2.5 million in the red is cause for just and great concern.
2. The PEDC recently settled a lawsuit with Bill Ready for improprieties to the tune of \$42,000. Yes, the PEDC insurance plan did pay all but \$1,000, but the fact that the PEDC settled the lawsuit for \$42,000 as a result of improprieties is a cause of just and great concern.
3. It is common information that prior to the establishment of the PEDC companies such as Celanese, Ingersoll Rand and Cabot were invited and came to the Pampa area. The first prison was established before the PEDC. My husband and I pledged support to securing the bid for the first person. Somehow, all of this was accomplished without the PEDC.
4. A raise was proposed by the PEDC board for the PEDC director when no other city employee was to get a raise. This fact is a matter for reasonable concern.
5. It is my opinion that this PEDC — a 4A corporation — has lost the trust and support of a great majority of Pampa citizens. In the past, citizens who have questioned certain policies or monetary expenditures have been told by the PEDC, "We cannot respond to your questions." This veil of secrecy and lack of communication has been cause for great concern. Does a month or two of communication and answering questions justify the many years of poor communication about the PEDC's use of taxpayer money?
6. I personally would like for the following to happen:
—Sunset the current PEDC for reasons noted above.
—Pay off the outstanding, incurred debt.
—Take a look at the possibility of establishing a 4B corporation which could help existing business in Pampa which are struggling to "stay afloat" and also, help newly-formed businesses in Pampa.
Others may disagree with me on these issues. I respect their right to do so. Through the years, my husband has worked very hard to see that the people of Pampa get a chance to vote on issues important to them. Most importantly, vote on Nov. 6th.
Linda Olson
Pampa

ask the questions that concern you. You owe it to yourself and your neighbors to learn the facts before you vote.
Kadda Schale
Pampa

Life is full of learning from mistakes ...

To the editor,
It is a fact of life that everyone makes mistakes, and the PEDC has made some in the past. By making mistakes, we learn from those mistakes. At least the PEDC is trying to bring a more diversified economy that Pampa so desperately needs. The people who are seeking to destroy the PEDC are really seeking to destroy Pampa!
A child's story about a little boy who cried wolf one to many times comes to mind when I think about this situation. Like the little boy who cried wolf one to many times, Pampa will find itself in a world of hurt without any hope of being rescued. What business owner in their right mind would want to relocate to a town that opposes any new business venture of any type?
The PEDC and I share a common goal to see Pampa grow and not to become a ghost town. Pampa can not afford to lose more population and that will happen if the PEDC is abolished. People will leave Pampa for other cities that offer a more diversified economy. The loss of population led to the recent shortfall in meeting the budget

requirements, and I fear it will become worse if the PEDC is abolished.
We need to put the pettiness aside and decide what is good for Pampa as a whole and not just for a small group of citizens. If the PEDC is abolished, it will be a very big mistake, but it will be too late to learn the lesson from that mistake.
Sacora Belknap
Pampa

The importance of how a message is carried

To the editor,
When PEDC was formed, there was a brief mission statement, which read as follows: 'The primary purpose of the PEDC is to promote, assist, and enhance development through the attraction, expansion, and retention of business enterprises.' That is the message that was to be carried forth to business enterprises to reduce Pampa's population decline. This message, the mission statement, is similar to the statements used by 450 cities and towns in Texas.
PEDC has not operated in a vacuum. The five-member board is appointed by the mayor and city commissioners. The director is appointed by the board. All projects must be approved by the city commissioners and the mayor. Therefore, our mayor and city commissioners must share in the praise and the blame for PEDC activities.
Here, let me state, there is absolutely no reason to believe that any illegalities have occurred. I believe that the board, director, mayor and commissioners have performed to the best of their ability.
There have been PEDC successes to the tune of 265 new jobs. However, there was one major failure — U.S. Bus. The responsibility for that failure must be shared by the board, past mayor and past commissioners.
There is an economic theory called "critical population mass." When a towns' population is declining and the population reaches the critical mass, there will be an exodus of people, reduction of city enterprises and services, empty buildings and homes and a decline in school population. This is not a dream. It has happened to town after town between here and North Dakota.
It is essential that we do not forget the message and recognize the importance of the way the message is carried.
Wilbur C. Cotner, Jr., P.E.
Pampa

Vote for the future, not for retirement

To the editor,
To the citizens of Pampa Texas:
What a proud state to live in. I always felt Texas was a state that rallied around its fellow citizens and had the one-for-all and all-for-one deep-seated heartfelt attitude.
It's hard for me to write this letter because I have been seriously considering moving to the Pampa area. I have been watching with great interest the discussion of a high-tech hog research company, which decided on its own to move into the surrounding area of Pampa. Now somehow that discussion has become directed toward the local economic development that puts people in jobs and butter on the table.
I have volunteered for 15 years in community and school affairs. I know for a fact that in order for a community to survive there must be jobs available for everyone who wants one. Our young people need to know that when they graduate from high school, technical school or college that the community they were born in and grew up in not only has a place for them but wants them. There are truly hurtful, mean-spirited feelings being expressed by several people who seem intent on making sure your lovely town has no future.
I believe that everyone should volunteer to make our America a better place. Progress and caring about your community should be your number one priority. After all, why should one very high-tech company moving into the area do anything but help your future and by the way, high-tech is the wave of the future.
By ignoring the future and refusing to move into it aggressively, who will be the winners and losers? Pampa truly is a lovely community, and this combined with my many friends there has made your town very inviting to me; however, I am looking for a future, not retirement. I will be watching with great interest to see if the good, responsible people of your community vote to give Pampa a future, and me too maybe, or if this terribly negative campaign results in a terminal diagnosis for your community.
God bless America, God bless Texas and God bless the people who care and see the future in our children and do what they can to see they have jobs and a future.
Like many of you, I too am a concerned parent. Come on, you guys, get out and vote for your future, not retirement.
Lonna Hogan
Oklahoma City, Okla.

UMC viable part of local community, economy

To the editor,
I would like to return the "gold star" to UMC that Ms. Nicholson attempted to subtract from UMC's list of successes in last Sunday's paper. I am the Pampa resident whom Ms. Nicholson referred to in her letter. Unfortunately, she is not completely informed on the facts surrounding my home sale and subsequent purchase of another home.
The house I sold was on the market long before UMC came to Pampa. I have been a Pampa resident for over 27 years, and I am fully aware of Pampa's past and present economic outlook. When I decided to buy another home here, it was almost entirely due to the fact that I had been employed at UMC for eight months, and I believe strongly enough in UMC and its future to purchase another home here. If not for my employment with UMC, I probably would not have remained in Pampa after the sale of my prior home.
As for my new home being in a more "modest neighborhood," my neighbors include several prominent long-term Pampans, all of whom seem to believe that we live in a very nice area. There are at least two houses within two blocks of my current home that probably appraise for well over \$200,000. I hope they know they are in a "modest neighborhood." Ms. Nicholson has never been a guest in my new home, so she has not had the opportunity to evaluate my home.
I have been with UMC for over a year. I am very grateful to PEDC for bringing the company to Pampa. There were other communities which would have truly appreciated a company the size and quality of United Medicorp. Most of the incentives given to the company have been used to simply provide an office with necessary floor space and wiring to support our computer and telephone systems. We provide valuable on-the-job-training to many of our employees, most of who have never worked in the medical claims industry prior to their employment with UMC.
As to Ms. Nicholson's concerns that UMC could face "heavy competition in this area" in the future, there is always competition in business. None of our competition is local, as we are the only business in Pampa providing claims management services.
Since UMC has come to Pampa, we have been and continue to do business with over 45 local businesses. We are a growing, viable part of the Pampa economy. The vast majority of the employees at UMC will be happy to tell you how much they value their job.
(See, LETTERS, Page 23)

LETTERS

The comp... employees. P... dren with co... tives provide... UMC all wor... wages when... Our conce... other busine... vide services... grow. We nee... future.
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To the edi... I read wit... of this news... golden egg?... The inform... is factually... forgot to m... I believe is... year from t... PEDC that v... Our payro... about \$1.4... will become... money creat... until the ori... plier" effect... as any unde... basic econo... Ms. Nicho... will be inter... a new grou... their busine... mind regard... UMC's pa... future grow... tioned mult... approximate... percent of t... sales tax of... .50 X .02 =... growth in U... payroll will... Assuming... Pampa will... the PEDC. I... erty taxes... We own at 2... simply goin... panly has e... money? An... hire and tra... difficult t... which UMC... In my op... nomic theor... the PEDC a... While UMC... idends have... ny's cash fl... updated co...

LETTERS

The company provides an excellent benefits package for the employees. For the first time, I have been able to provide my children with complete medical, dental and vision insurance. The incentives provided by PEDC do not "pay UMC employee wages." We at UMC all work very hard to earn our wages. Our customers pay our wages when they pay for our services.

Our concern is for the future of our town. We need to have the other businesses in Pampa prosper. We need them to be here to provide services and goods that our company needs to continue to grow. We need an available pool to draw new employees from in the future.

Our families depend on Pampa schools, businesses, and services. Major corporations understand the critical importance of advertising, otherwise why would Coca-Cola, Nike, Kraft and thousands of other businesses spend billions of dollars each year?

Marketing the advantages Pampa has to offer falls outside the scope of city government. Our city government has a well defined purpose, and they are busy enough trying to accomplish their assigned tasks in these economic conditions. Without the PEDC, who will be out in the market place selling Pampa?

Someone once told my daughter that "no one likes their job." She was able to tell them that they were wrong — her mother likes her job very much. Thank you, PEDC.

Toni Reed
UMC employee

Pampans need to regenerate pride in community

To the editor,

Your policy of cutting off letters to the editor concerning the economic development issue as of this week is not understandable to me for a thinking newspaper. Many of us can't remember what was written yesterday, much less a month ago, which will be the case when the Nov. 6 election arrives.

We have been loaded with confusion, untruths and myths for several weeks. I hear people say they are for economic development but not the PEDC. What do these people mean? Without the PEDC, there will be no home for economic development in Pampa. What are the alternatives? The Pampa Chamber of Commerce is not funded to do a professional job presenting Pampa to potential new industries. Volunteers can't carry a sustained professional search and presentation of Pampa and why it should be attractive to a new business. Our former citizens who gave enormous financial support to opportunities that came along are no longer here or able to repeat their generosity. No, this type of effort is accomplished through an economic development corporation, and the only one we have is PEDC.

Do we need to review why economic development is important to the survival of Pampa as the crown city in the Top of Texas? There are communities all around us that are trying desperately to woo new businesses to them. Most of these fund an economic development corporation to run an aggressive and polished campaign for new business. How can we talk about Pride in Pampa if we're backtracking and withering? Will our leading businesses and industries take a dim view of Pampa if we quit trying to be better, larger, enthusiastic and optimistic?

If PEDC is dissolved, what do you think the chances of voting in another EDC would be? I'd say about like building a ship channel in Red Deer Creek.

A final thought: Should the entire PEDC board of directors and staff turn in formal resignations with non-re-appointment requests? Some already have. Conditions of acceptance by the city commissioners might be that in event the vote goes to dissolving PEDC, some of the old board and staff might be requested to continue to wind down all activities and to pay the bills. In event of a vote not to dissolve PEDC, the commissioners would be required to appoint a new board without carryovers and at their discretion. The commissioners may also want to issue some clearer guidelines for future PEDC operation. This would certainly be a sacrifice of some hard working and dedicated people but might be for the greater benefit of Pampa by assuring a clean slate of directors and staff. Would this give a vote to continue PEDC a better chance? I only hope my friends will forgive me for outlining this suggestion. It is not original but it does make some sense if PEDC would be more acceptable with a clean start.

We need PEDC for Pampa. We need to regenerate some Pride in Pampa.

Jack Reeve
Pampa

The goose that laid \$100 million in golden eggs ...

To the editor,

I read with interest the letter to the editor in last Sunday's edition of this newspaper entitled "Who would kill the goose that lays the golden egg?"

The information provided by Ms. Nicholson and attributed to me is factually correct in all respects, but for some reason Ms. Nicholson forgot to mention some other financial information I provided which I believe is far more significant ... UMC has grown during the last year from the level of about 40 jobs which we committed to the PEDC that we would bring to Pampa, to about 75 today.

Our payroll in Pampa for the year ending December 2001 will be about \$1.4 million. The money spent by UMC employees in Pampa will become income for other Pampans, who in turn will spend their money creating income for yet another group of Pampans, and so on until the original money has been spent five times over. This "multiplier" effect is well documented and recognized in economic theory, as any undergraduate college student who has completed a course in basic economics can attest.

Ms. Nicholson states that "When the PEDC contract runs out, it will be interesting to see if the cost of wages ... forces UMC to seek a new group of generous taxpayers to contribute \$673,000 to run their business for another eight years." Several thoughts come to mind regarding this statement.

UMC's payroll in Pampa during the eight years, assuming no future growth, will total \$11 million. Using the previously mentioned multiplier effect, this is an economic impact on Pampa of approximately \$55 million over the eight years. Assuming that 50 percent of these expenditures are subject to sales tax, and a local sales tax of 2 percent, the UMC payroll will generate (\$55,000,000 X .50 X .02 =) \$550,000 of local sales taxes. Again, this assumes no growth in UMC's payroll; UMC management believes that the UMC payroll will grow several times over during the next seven years.

Assuming only modest growth, UMC's economic impact on Pampa will exceed \$100 million during UMC's contract period with the PEDC. During that period, UMC will pay about \$52,000 in property taxes. UMC has already invested about \$175,000 in the building we own at 200 N. Cuyler Street. Does Ms. Nicholson believe we are simply going to walk away from the first and only building the company has ever owned and in which we have invested so much money? And does she not understand how difficult it has been to hire and train 80 people during the last year and manage an extremely difficult transition of the computer and telephone systems upon which UMC's business is dependent?

In my opinion, if a person understands the facts and basic economic theory, it should be clear that the golden eggs that are laid by the PEDC are benefiting the community of Pampa in a huge way! While UMC has become profitable since our move to Pampa, no dividends have been paid to UMC's stockholders and all of the company's cash flow has been used to pay down debts and reinvest in updated computers and training new hires. These investments are

necessary to provide services to our customers and secure the long-term success of UMC.

UMC's commitment to stay in Pampa will endure as long as we can accomplish what we came here for; the ability to hire as many people as we need to grow our business ... people with a good basic education, the right skills and a strong work ethic.

If the citizens of Pampa vote to shut down the PEDC, I wonder how this community will compete with over 400 other communities in Texas that recognize the need to compete to attract new jobs and are funding their local economic development corporation?

I wonder if Pampa will suffer the same fate as so many other small towns that have seen their oil and agriculture dependent economies decline and their tax base erode, eventually leading to the closure of the local hospital, school system, fire department and finally police department? I wonder whether in eight years UMC will be able to hire enough people to meet our needs ... or will too many people have moved to other communities that can still provide a school, hospital and police and fire services? I cannot foresee any other circumstances under which UMC would depart Pampa.

In my opinion, the people who would kill the goose that lays the golden eggs for all of Pampa are the same people who are seeking to shut down the PEDC. While I recognize that the PEDC has had some missteps, I think it is important for all Pampans to realize that (a) these missteps occurred under prior management, and (b) attracting new businesses to Pampa is not easy ... you can't hit a home run every time you come to the plate!

At this juncture, I believe the citizens of Pampa must recognize the age-old saying, "the only constant is change." The oil field is in decline, and we must attract new industry to Pampa to preserve the high quality of life that so many people have enjoyed here during recent decades.

The PEDC is the best "change agent" available, and we need to support it and work to make it better rather than throw stones because of a few setbacks in its initial efforts. The good old days are gone ... but there can still be good times ahead. The decline in Pampa's population from 1990 to 2000 is a wake-up call. I urge the citizens of Pampa to wake up and support the PEDC before it's too late!

Pete Seaman, CEO
United Medicorp, Inc.

A retirement community will go no where but down

To the editor,

In last Sunday's paper, Edna Haydon suggested that Pampa become a retirement community, so let's look at that suggestion.

By definition a retirement community is for older people, people who have retired and have ceased to be employed. These people don't have young children, so there will be no need for a progressive school system. The state funding for education would be reduced, so Pampa ISD would need to lay-off many in our public schools to include teachers and staff.

These are assets we will say good-bye to as they will leave town seeking employment elsewhere. Then because the young people are gone the city and county will lose taxable property valuation since nobody will be building new houses or businesses, and that will lead to reduced services by both entities. More assets, or maybe in this case benefits, we will say good-bye to.

Because merchants rely on a wide cross-section of customers to keep their doors open, they will go under for lack of customers. Another asset for our community to say good-bye to. New businesses will not be attracted to Pampa because the population is older and dwindling. The Pampa News will see its subscriptions decline and as a result go from a daily paper to a weekly and eventually close its doors. Another asset gone forever from this community.

And of course there is Celanese, Edna, which relies on a young workforce to keep its ranks filled. Will they stay in a town that has a "retirement" workforce? One more precious asset this town can say good-bye to. We currently have several financial institutions here in Pampa, but as a retirement community with a dwindling population, how many of them will close their doors for lack of customers? Edna, one more asset gone forever!

We are already down to three grocery stores and a handful of quick marts, but they will have to go also as the result of no one young enough to man the stores plus the reduced customer base. Yep, Edna, one more asset gone.

We have numerous playgrounds and parks here in Pampa and something will need to be done with them since there will be no children to play in them. Edna, have any suggestions? Or, Edna, maybe you think retired senior citizens are going to flock to Pampa like they do to south Texas and Florida. I'm sure they will be really impressed with our cold as sin winters and hot as Hades summers where plant life burns to a crisp between rains. I think not, Edna!

Now, Edna, this is just the tip of the iceberg and a pitiful, pitiful, legacy to sentence Pampa to. If you truly want to take Pampa down or just simply don't like young people, why not just say so and be done with it? Tell those of us who love this community and believe in it the truth and stop dealing in subterfuge. Tell us why you would rather kill this town than to do us the service of simply moving to a place more suited to your tastes.

Jean Sims
Pampa

What diabolical hatred behind terrorist plot ...

To the editor,

September 2001

The sirens wail in the home of the brave.
The middle of the great city has become a massive grave.

Tears flow like a river as blood runs in the street.
The people cry for justice while our nation's leaders meet.

No one in the world wants to take credit for this plan.
What diabolical hatred must fill the heart of this man.

Soldiers roam the streets as war planes roam the skies.
How many of our brave soldiers will not come back alive.

Surely all of this is my imagination running wild or a nightmare in the night.

But on the TV screen the President tells the people now is the time to fight.

The reserves are called up while the generals make their plans.
While the people cry out loud for God to bless our land.

—By Daniel V. Casey of Pampa

One local PEDC-sponsored business thriving

To the editor,

I moved to Pampa Aug. 31, 2000. PEDC helped get me here. In July 2000, the company I worked for, UMC, made a decision to move to Pampa. The other towns that were considered were Terrell, Mesquite, and Fairfield, all in Texas. (All within 30 minutes to an hour and one half from Dallas.) The reason I mention the distance is we could commute to all those cities or be close to Dallas. You see, I have three grown children and seven of the most beautiful grandchildren in the world. They all live in the Dallas area as do my two brothers. I miss my family, and did not wake up one morning and decide to move. I was given a promotion. Now I have a family of 75 fellow employees all living in Pampa.

At first, I decided to change employers, but after a brief visit to Pampa, I fell in love with the people. Everyone was excited to have an employer moving in instead of out. The greatest asset this or any town has is people. Where are all the people going? At the current rate of 600 per year, the assets are leaving faster than moving in. Pampa is a great city with great traditions because of the great people. I remember as a young man watching Pampa play basketball in Austin. Those were smart young men, well coached and well disciplined, and talented. Pampa's school system is one of the finest. How do I know? Over 70 of them work with me.

Not only has the PEDC investment in UMC been recovered once, but many times. In the month of July, UMC paid over \$6,000 in bonus money to the employees. Even with all the problems the country had last month, UMC will pay over \$1,000 in bonus money. Every management person was given stock options by UMC. They own part of the company. Eighteen of them are from Pampa. UMC does not load up a truck and go to Amarillo to buy supplies, we buy in Pampa more times than not. There are 75 people downtown eating lunch and drinking cokes and coffee. They wanted to stay in Pampa.

Last week a local physician was having billing problems. Two UMC ladies went to his office and helped him. No charge for advice. I want to invite anyone that would like to see the UMC/Pampa operation to stop by and look for yourself.

Dennis Bazhaw
Pampa

Being positive can be uplifting experience ...

To the editor,

In the Sept. 30 edition of the letters to the editor, Ms. Karen Son wrote a letter that was very pointed in one respect. She stated that the people of Pampa should be allowed to spend their "pennies" the way they wanted to. And Ms. Son, without aggressive economic development in our community, that is exactly what we will have here in Pampa — pennies. Thank you for pointing that fact out, I hope every reader is listening!

You further stated that the PEDC should have its records "reviewed and investigated." Obviously, you have listened to Pampa's detractors and refuse to believe the fact that the city reconciles the PEDC accounts on a monthly basis.

Are you implying that the city finance department is dishonest? You stated that the PEDC was "playing with all our pennies." Have you ever bothered to attend a PEDC meeting and witness for yourself the many hours those board members put in, uncompensated hours, by the way, trying to do the best they can for Pampa's economic future? Or do you just sit at home complaining and penning unsubstantiated letters to the editor?

Have you ever inquired about the literally hundreds of hours Susan Tripplehorn puts in, after hours, trying to bring new, good paying businesses to Pampa or the number of days and nights she spends away from her husband and daughter trying to recruit those same businesses? Or do you just sit at home criticizing and penning misinformation letters to the editor?

And, yes, Ms. Son, there have been some honest mistakes made in the past by the PEDC board. But then the only ones who never make mistakes are those who never do anything or those of heavenly decent. Makes one wonder which category you and the other detractors fall into?

Ms. Son, it's always so easy to criticize when you are sitting on the sidelines, but, for a change, try coming up with something positive, try helping this town instead of pulling it down, try being supportive of those who give freely of their time and energies trying to benefit Pampa. It might surprise you to find out that being positive feels far better and is far more productive than being part of the "let's kill Pampa gang."

H.D. "Joe" Bailey
Pampa

Pampans should to look before they leap ...

To the editor,

"Look Before You Leap" ... this is the main worry I have with the current situation concerning the PEDC.

Three years ago about this time, I was one of the ring leaders in the petition to keep Gray County from getting involved in the juvenile facility effort, which had been proposed for the county-owned building on Hobart near the National Bank of Commerce, and originally built to house nurses for the county hospital.

The reason I was against this was not because I felt a juvenile facility was a bad idea. Rather, I was against this project because it seemed very little "looking" had been done by various county officials before they were willing to "leap" into a poorly-thought-out effort. At that time, no assessment had been made on the condition of the building, no evaluation had been done to know if the plumbing and electrical systems could maintain a 24/7 residential facility, and very little planning was apparent on how to pay staff salaries or cover an operating budget once the facility would have been open.

Now I am again worried that there has been very little "looking" before "leaping" on the bandwagon to do away with an agency that has only been in place for something over eight years. And during that time, two of the four directors (that I'm aware of) did little to encourage a real economic development program for Pampa and the Gray County area.

If Pampa eliminates the PEDC, what is our chance of "leaping" into an abyss of no economic development because there will be no entity able or authorized to promote economic development.

On paper, it may sound like a good idea to abolish the PEDC. But consider the future: What else can do the job PEDC was mandated to do?

The City of Pampa cannot take the place of PEDC; it is understaffed now. If you don't believe that, look at your recent water bill. Most likely, it reads "Bills were averaged this month." That is because there are not enough employees to read every water meter every month in the City of Pampa.

The Chamber of Commerce cannot function as an economic development corporation; it is not a government entity, but only a membership organization. Using the Chamber of Commerce to function as an economic development corporation would (besides being illegal) be like having the Rotary, the Altrusa or First Presbyterian Church functioning as an economic development corporation. All four of those organizations are membership-based, and could not handle tax money for economic development.

And consider other unintended consequences.

One consequence is already evident, and it is this: "What is going on in Pampa? Don't you folks want to improve? Don't your families want your children to be able to find work there? Don't you want to encourage new businesses? Do you just want to turn off the lights, close the door, and disappear into the sunset, leaving behind a once-thriving city (the second-largest in the Texas panhandle) to the tumbleweeds and the rats and the lizards?"

The above quotes are a combination of comments I've received in the last week from people as near as Vega, Texas, and as distant as Madisonville, La.

Before you vote next month, consider ALL of the consequences and decide what is really best for Pampa. Remember to "look before you leap."

Loralee Cooley
Pampa

—Past President: Pampa Fine Arts Association (host of the ARTTrain in 1998; sponsor of the Labor Day Chautauqua Festival since it began 20 years ago)

—Member: Tourism Committee for the Greater Pampa Chamber of Commerce

—"Damn-yankee." (Born in Illinois, married a Texan, moved South and stayed.)

(See, LETTERS, Page 28)

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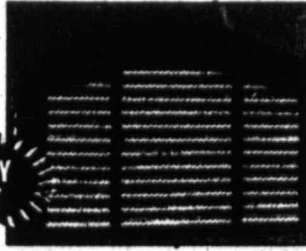
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Sunday, October 7

Page 24

Daughter Can't Pretend She's Part Of One Big Happy Family

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl and I need some advice. My dad recently had an affair with a woman he met when he went back to school. She is also married. He asked her to marry him, but she said no, so he decided to come back home. He has left us twice before, so my home isn't very stable.

My parents got married at a very young age and have been together for 26 years. Mom tells me she doesn't want to get divorced, because she is still in love with him and thinks that "a two-parent home is better than a one-parent home." She may be right, but even my counselor agrees that one stable parent is better than two unstable parents.

Now that Dad is living back home, he expects me to act like nothing happened — that we are "one happy family." I can't do it, and I'm still very hurt. What should I do?

NEEDS ADVICE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NEEDS ADVICE: Since no one in your family has amnesia, your father's expectations are unrealistic. Considering the fact that he has left the family multiple times, your feelings of hurt and distrust are valid. Family counseling could be helpful to all of you, but if your parents are unwilling, the wisest thing you can do is to continue talking with your counselor until you work through more of your feelings.

DEAR ABBY: Our oldest daughter "Bonnie" has just entered into

Dear Abby

Is written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips.

How can I diplomatically explain to Bonnie and settle on a neutral place to meet without any hurt feelings?

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE DEAR CAUGHT: There is no way you can do that, so I urge you to rethink your plan of action. You are not helping your daughter, Bonnie, to make "wise choices" by making her feel like an outcast. If June doesn't want to speak to her — fine. But Bonnie has suffered enough tragedy and disappointment without your adding to her grief. Punishing her will only widen the rift.

DEAR ABBY: The woman I live with accepted a gift — a dog — from a guy. Six weeks later she had an affair with him. It happened only weeks after we had made commitments for a future together.

The problem now is the dog. She says she is keeping it because it was a personal gift. I don't want it around because it is a constant reminder that she cheated on me with the person who gave it to her. I feel that keeping the dog shows a lack of respect for me and our relationship.

I need an answer. Should she keep the dog?

GARY IN LINCOLN, NEB.

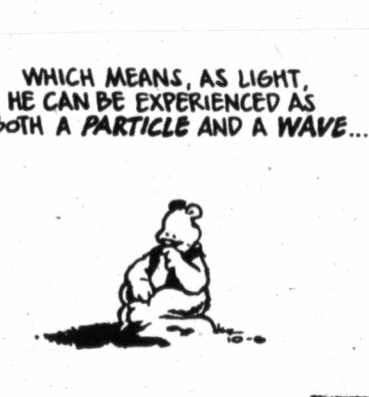
DEAR GRAY: Considering what the dog symbolizes, certainly not. And if she insists on keeping it, I predict your future will be 'ruff, ruff, ruff!'

Have A Story Idea....

Contact DeeDee or Nancy

669-2525 • 800-687-3348 • deede@pan-tex.net

Wildwood



Crossword Puzzle

By THOMAS JOSEPH

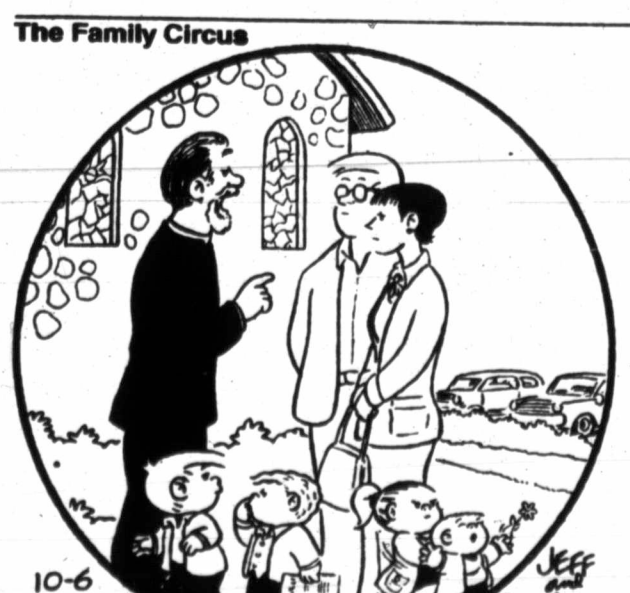
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 - "Twelfth Night" countess
 - Unpopular czar
 - Mum
 - Hourglass fill
 - Reviewer Roger
 - Popular czar
 - Carnival attraction
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 - Bed board
 - Quarrel
 - Cry to a slow driver
 - Solo of "Star Wars"
 - Less than any
 - Region of eastern France
 - Mongrels
 - Washer cycle
 - Locker art
 - Sighed cry
 - Muhammad's daughter
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 - Heaped 3
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 - Pocket stuff
 - Used a chair
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 - Bother Charles
 - Climber's spike
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 - Merge
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 - Practices for a cut
 - Out down
 - Rival

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Marmaduke



"All right. I'm changing the burned-out bulb."



"Explaining God to children is a piece of cake compared to trying to explain the children to God."

For Better or For Worse



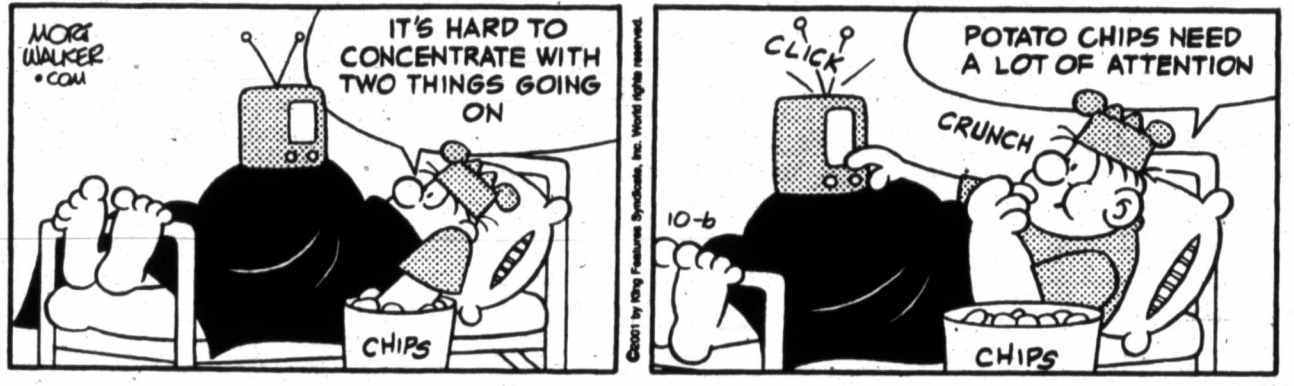
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



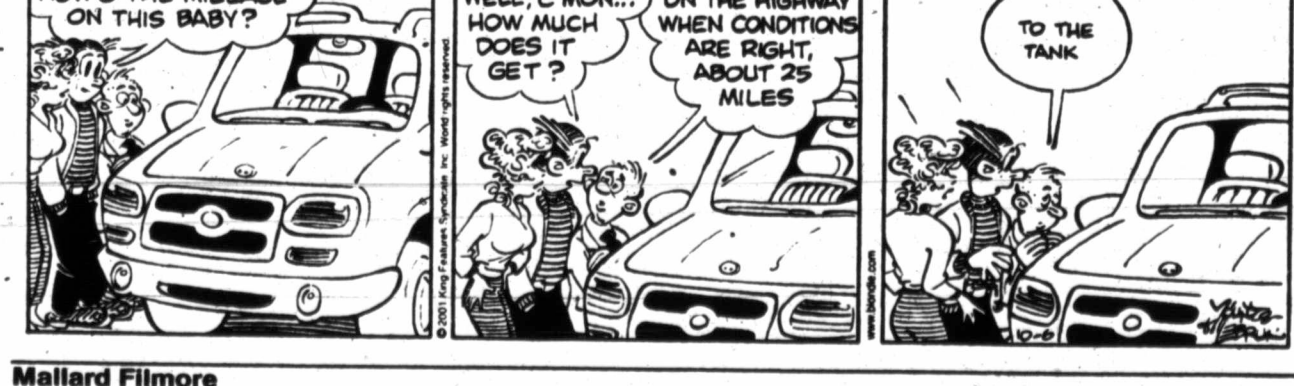
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Mallard Filmore



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Southwest Airlines' balance sheet made it stand out from rivals

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — In the hours after terrorists seized four jetliners, key officials of Southwest Airlines holed up in the company boardroom and tracked about 260 Southwest jets still in the air.

Federal officials had ordered all planes grounded. When the last Southwest jet landed safely at Dallas Love Field, the 20 or so employees, including chairman Herb Kelleher and chief executive James Parker, broke into cheers.

Then they turned to the realization that air travel wouldn't be the same after Sept. 11, that passengers would be skittish about getting back on a plane.

"We were worried about, what cash do we have? Where is it? Can we get it?" chief financial officer Gary Kelly says. "We had \$1 billion in cash on Sept. 11. I was worried it would go to zero."

By the next morning, Southwest had tapped a \$475 million line of credit with banks and had called Boeing Co. to postpone taking 11 more 737s, worth about \$30 million apiece — including one that had been scheduled for delivery Sept. 11.

Analysts say this slavish devotion to cash and financial fundamentals helps explain why Southwest avoided layoffs and maintained investor confidence during a crisis while its rivals were battered.

"By far they had the strongest balance sheet in the industry," said Ray Neidl, an analyst with ABN Amro. "They might have been the only carrier that could have survived without government assistance."

In an industry where heavy borrowing to buy expensive aircraft is common, Southwest had a net debt-to-capital ratio of 33 percent compared to 59 percent at American Airlines' parent company, 66 percent at United's parent and 88 percent at Continental, according to Salomon Smith Barney.

In the first few days of trading after the attacks, investors hammered airline stocks, some of which lost two-thirds of their value and only regained ground after it became clear that Congress would approve a \$15 billion bailout.

Through Thursday, shares in Houston-based Continental had fallen 55 percent since Sept. 11, and stock in Fort Worth-based American, United, Delta and Northwest had lost 25 to 40 percent.

Dallas-based Southwest, with the largest stock-market value in the industry, saw its shares fall less than 8 percent.

With the credit it drew upon, plus \$144 million in federal aid, Southwest now has \$1.5 billion in cash to cushion \$120 million in losses since Sept. 11, Kelly said.

Kelly said the burn rate has slowed to less than \$3 million a day and ridership climbed to 53 percent last week, compared to 66 percent a year ago.

The break-even point, he said, is between 55 percent and 60 percent.

Southwest had clung to its daily schedule of 2,800 flights, despite 20 percent cuts at the other major carriers.

The other carriers have also announced 100,000 layoffs, but Southwest has avoided job cuts and made a \$180 million contribution to its employee retirement plan on schedule on Sept. 14.

"We're very far away from considering layoffs," Kelly said, while adding that Southwest will "keep all options open. We're not out of the woods yet, and we're not sure we're going to know when we are out of the woods."

The president of the union representing Southwest's 6,700 flight attendants said the absence of layoffs — a promise made early on by Parker and other top executives — would pay off in better labor relations.

"They made it clear that their first priority was to protect the jobs of people that were already here," said Thom McDaniel, president of Local 556 of the Transport Workers Union. "They immediately took a cautious approach, cutting anything nonessential that they could."

Southwest says it will actually hire more flight attendants this fall. The airline had 400 unfilled positions before the attacks, preferring to pay overtime rather than hire more employees who would be eligible for benefits.

The airline has made a profit every year since 1973, even during the early 1990s, when the industry lost about \$6 billion in two years.

In the first half of this year, only Continental and Southwest earned money, and analysts now expect Continental to fall into the red for the full year. But they still look for Southwest to earn 53 cents per share, or about \$400 million, according to a survey by Thomson Financial/First Call.

Some analysts have questioned whether tougher security rules at airports will delay Southwest's quick turnaround times and add to costs.

Southwest operates mostly short-haul flights to smaller secondary airports and eschews the hub-and-spoke system of connecting flights used by other carriers.

Some analysts think Southwest is more vulnerable if travelers decide driving is safer than flying.

"The airlines that are going to hold up the best in our opinion are those with big hubs located in large cities," said Brian Harris, an analyst with Salomon Smith Barney, who believes Southwest will lose 8 cents per share in the fourth quarter. "It's much easier to recapture traffic in those hubs."

Southwest has put some of its expansion plans on hold. It says it will begin service in Norfolk, Va., as planned this fall but only by taking planes off other routes.

It continues to cut costs, including a reduction in travel agent commissions that it figures will save \$40 million. Kelly said Southwest will make any changes necessary to survive in the new, post-Sept. 11 airline world.

"Were not static," he said. "We can innovate."

On the Net:
<http://www.southwest.com>

Airlines drastically lower prices to draw customers after attacks

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The nation's biggest airlines have launched a sale that provides considerable discounts to get travelers back in the air after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Passenger loads have fallen off sharply since terrorist hijacked four airliners last month. To boost passenger loads, No. 3 Delta Air Lines kicked off the global fare sale, and industry leader United Airlines, No. 2 American Airlines of Fort Worth, Texas and No. 4 Northwest Airlines quickly matched.

Terry Trippler, airline expert with OneTravel.com, said it appeared all of the major airlines had matched the fares by Thursday afternoon.

"This is the clearance sale. There are some people who will never travel at any price and there are some people who have a price at which they will travel. For many people, not all of them, this is the price that will get them to travel," Trippler said.

No. 4 Northwest, for example, was offering roundtrips between New York and Los Angeles for \$279, Minneapolis-Boston for \$251 and Detroit-Dallas for \$251. Delta's roundtrip prices included New York-Mexico City for \$200, Atlanta-Zurich for \$342 and Chicago-Honolulu for \$398.

The new sales came as Northwest said the number of passengers flying on its planes dropped nearly 34 percent in September, from a year ago.

Northwest's traffic decline was in line with what other major carriers have reported in the wake of the attacks, which have forced more than 100,000 job cuts at the airlines and in related industries.

New restaurant welcomed ...



Pampa Chamber of Commerce Top O' Texan Goldcoats welcome new Chamber member Consuelo's. Goldcoats, from left, are Benny Horton, Chuck White, Dick Stowers, Jack Reeve, Jerry Foote, Charlene Morris, Ronnie Holmes, Pat Montoya, and Bill Hildebrandt. With them from Consuelo's are D. Martinez, Diana Lara, Elizabeth Solis, Consuelo Martinez, Minerva Rodriguez and Velia Perez.

Neiman Marcus sales fell 19 % in Sept.; expecting lower earnings in first quarter

DALLAS (AP) — The Neiman Marcus Group said Thursday that its September sales skidded 19 percent from a year ago, as consumers reined in spending in the face of a weakening economy and the terrorist attacks.

The luxury retailer, which operates Neiman Marcus and Bergdorf Goodman stores, said it is planning for lower earnings this quarter, which ends Oct. 27, but did not provide an estimate.

"We are in the process of adjusting our purchases, examining our marketing activities, reviewing our expense structure, and reconsidering our capital expenditure plans," said president and chief executive Burton M. Tansky.

"While it is now clear that first quarter results will be below previous guidance, given the uncertain economic and political events which continue to unfold worldwide, we cannot provide further guidance at this time," Tansky said.

The consensus forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call was for earnings per share of 61 cents per share

in the first fiscal quarter, down from \$1.01 reported a year ago.

In trading Thursday on the New York Stock Exchange, Neiman Marcus Class A shares fell 26 cents to close at \$26.30.

The company said in the five weeks ended Sept. 29, its total revenue fell to \$248.6 million from \$306.4 million in the same period a year ago. The decline was 21 percent at the stores and was especially steep at New York-based Bergdorf Goodman, the company said, while direct-marketing sales declined 9 percent.

The plunge in sales was concentrated in the three weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks, the retailer said. Comparable revenues fell an average of 25 percent from a year earlier, although they improved at the end of September, the company said.

For the nine weeks ended Sept. 29, total revenue dipped 11.6 percent to \$441.9 million from \$499.9 million in 2000, the retailer said.

On the Net:
<http://www.neimanmarcusgroup.com>

Business highlights ...

Bridgestone/Firestone recalling more tires

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. agreed to recall 3.5 million more Wilderness AT tires, ending a 1 1/2-year federal investigation into thousands of reports that the tires suddenly lost their tread.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which ordered the recall, also announced it had discovered 68 more fatalities connected to Firestone tire failures, raising the total to 271. Twenty-five of those deaths and about 50 injuries involve the newly recalled tires.

Most of the accidents reported to NHTSA involved rollovers of the Ford Explorer, which used Wilderness AT tires as standard equipment. However, NHTSA said Thursday it found no evidence to support Bridgestone/Firestone's claim that the design of the Explorer was faulty and at least partly to blame.

Thousands to be helped by worker relief package

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of Americans who have lost their jobs in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks should get longer unemployment benefits and \$3 billion in health care, training and other aid, President Bush said. The White House and Congress debated plans to revive the economy.

Bush unveiled his worker relief package amid fresh evidence that the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington had stunned an already wobbly economy. The Labor Department said new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week to the highest level in nine years.

Economists expect more bad news Friday when the government releases broad unemployment figures for September. More than 200,000 new layoffs have been announced in the past three weeks.

Dell, Cisco optimism boosts stock prices

NEW YORK (AP) — With optimism from technology mainstays Dell Computer Corp. and Cisco Systems Inc. boosting stock prices, investors appear to be coaxing the larger information technology industry out of its money-shedding morass.

Some analysts say investors could be misguided. The two companies are bright spots against a backdrop that still looks pretty gloomy.

Dell, the nation's No. 1 computer maker, announced it would meet third-quarter earnings expectations and that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks had little effect on operations.

Chief Executive Michael Dell said the company's low-cost direct-to-consumer model continues to win customers.

The company's stock closed up 8 percent, or \$1.68, to \$22.32.

Will security hamper global movement of goods

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In the days following the jetliner terror attacks, the normally smooth flow of trade was practically paralyzed. Now that global commerce is back near normal, businesses have a new worry.

With wartime-type security at American points of entry still in place, some businesses are concerned that protracted anti-terrorism efforts will complicate — and slow — the movement of goods that anchor the world economy.

The cost could amount to one-half of 1 percent of U.S. gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services, estimates Peter Morici, a senior fellow at the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington D.C. That would be about \$51 billion per year.

Winter fuels to be more affordable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans hard hit by the economy's downturn have one less thing to worry about: this winter's energy prices.

With plenty of supplies and weak demand, the government predicted Thursday the cost of gasoline, heating fuel and electricity all should be much lower this winter than last.

That's in sharp contrast to a year ago, when short supplies and spikes in demand saw prices soar.

The Energy Information Administration's winter fuels report said that prices have been declining and should continue to do so

in the coming months because of solid inventories and sagging energy demand triggered by the poor economy.

The most striking turnaround is seen in natural gas prices, expected to average about a third of what they were last winter on the wholesale market.

Fallout from attacks ripples through economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fallout from the terror attacks is rippling through the economy, catapulting new claims for unemployment benefits to a nine-year high.

Layoffs mounted for workers in travel and tourism last week, and economists believe the jobless picture will get worse in coming months.

Even before the attacks, the nation's unemployment rate had risen to 4.9 percent in August from 4.5 percent, the biggest one-month jump in more than six years, as businesses eliminated 113,000 jobs.

Swissair resumes flights after two-day shutdown

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Propped by a government loan, Swissair resumed flights Thursday after a two-day shutdown, with takeoffs for South Africa, the United States and Macedonia, the airline said.

Besides attempting to resume as normal schedule, the airline was also trying to move thousands of passengers stranded by the carrier's shutdown Tuesday in a squeeze between banks and creditors.

Swiss Finance Minister Kaspar Villiger announced Wednesday that the government was giving Swissair a loan of \$281 million to enable it to operate until Oct. 28, when Crossair, a financially healthy regional airline, would take over two-thirds of its flights.

Meanwhile, European Union regulators in Brussels promised to quickly consider Belgium's offer to give a similar bridging loan of \$114 million to its national carrier, Sabena, to keep it in the air.

French firm buys into Stonyfield Farm

PARIS (AP) — Food and beverage maker Groupe Danone said that it has acquired a 40 percent stake in fast-growing yogurt maker Stonyfield Farm, extending its U.S. interests.

Danone declined to disclose financial terms of the deal, but said that Stonyfield has annual revenue of about \$85 million and that it makes the top brand in the U.S. natural yogurt segment.

The French company, which also sells bottled water and cookies, had revenue of about \$600 million from its U.S. dairy product operations in 2000 and revenue of about \$1.4 billion for all U.S. operations, a spokeswoman for the company said.

Danone said that under the operational terms of the deal, it has an option to acquire majority control of Londonderry, N.H.-based Stonyfield, in 2004.

Family won't collect any of \$13.7 million jury award

HOUSTON (AP) — The family of an oilfield worker will not receive any of the \$13.7 million awarded them by a jury for the death of a Harleton employee killed in a gas well explosion in Louisiana in 1998.

Danny Smith's relatives were given \$65 million to settle related lawsuits earlier this year. Under state law, a party in a negligence suit receives nothing if a jury awards it less than what other defendants in the case have settled the case.

Smith, 32, and six others were killed while trying to cap a natural gas well in Bienville, La., on Oct. 24, 1998.

The jury found Cudd Pressure Control, an Oklahoma company that was capping the well, 45 percent responsible for the accident.

The jury also found Halliburton, which made the steel packer being thrust in the well, 20 percent responsible, and Sonat Exploration, which ran the site, 35 percent responsible.

Show your pride in
America!
Please don't litter.

LETTERS

A 'good citizen' would cough up for bills

To the editor,
I received a letter from Mr. John Carter of National Pig Development dated Aug. 21, 2001. In it, he stated that they (NPD) would be good citizens of Pampa.

If this is true, why haven't they, way before now, offered to reimburse the taxpayers for the motel rooms? They are multi-billionaires, yet, we, the taxpayers, paid for their rooms when, according to PEDC, we, the taxpayers, are in debt \$2.5 million.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out we can't even afford to take them to McDonald's for hamburgers much less pay for their motel rooms.

I've been told that when we, the taxpayers, also paid for the room at M.K. Brown on July 10 for National Pig Development it was a "courtesy" to them. How nice of us! Shouldn't we be reimbursed for this, too? Since PEDC did not seek NPD out, shouldn't they be paying their own bills?

NPD, good citizens?
I would like to know how PEDC arrived at \$2.5 million that we, the taxpayers, are in debt. Wouldn't you?

Joyce Davis
Pampa

Pampa EDC: How deep in debt can it become?

To the editor,
We have been gone for two weeks on a vacation that had been planned for many months, and it appears there has been a lot of action while we were gone. Before I came to Pampa 21 years ago, I lived and practiced in Shattuck, Okla., for 30 years. My friends and patients were dairy farmers, ranchers, wheat and alfalfa farmers.

On this trip, I stopped in Roswell and Portales, N.M., to discuss their dairy business. I visited with the director of Roswell's Chamber of Commerce for over an hour. At present, they have 35 dairies with approximately 45,000 milk cows.

The Director stated they are maxed out on dairies and are now having pollution problems caused by the dairies. She stated that Roswell has no economic development corporation, and that the dairy recruitment was done by the Chamber of Commerce committees.

Their Chamber of Commerce spent \$60,000 on feasibility studies to prove dairies could succeed in Chaves County. There was no need to give incentives as their dairy-business model showed that dairies coming to Chaves County could reduce current operational expenses by 28-30 percent.

She also stated that the county and the city does not help dairies because of an anti-donation clause which prohibits this. No land or grants were given. There was some tax abatement. The dairies came from California and Wisconsin where the land cost was much higher, and some came from Stephenville, Texas, where they were having big pollution problems.

In last Sunday's Pampa News, there was an article telling what a problem the dairy cow pollution is causing to the area around Los Angeles, Calif. As for allied industries that the dairies might attract, Roswell has only a cheese factory that provides the dairies a secondary outlet for its product when there is an over-production of Grade A milk and when the price of milk is low.

Our PEDC has given grants or gifts to two dairies in the amount of \$1,319,000 million plus a \$190,000 loan. Roswell gave their dairies none. The PEDC has stated it plans to give the next dairy a \$300,000 grant, the next one \$200,000 and the next one a \$100,000 grant.

The PEDC says it wants to get more than 10,000 dairy cows in Gray Co. based on the reasoning that this will attract other milk related business such as an ice cream plant, a cheese plant, dry milk plant and others. Roswell with its 45,000 milk cows has only a cheese plant that operates only when milk prices are low.

Portales, N.M., has 38 dairies and approximately 45,000 milk cows. These dairies came from California, Wisconsin, New York and Stephenville. The county agent stated that they did not receive financial incentives to come to Portales. They came because of the better climate, cheaper land, less need for protective buildings and open space.

In Portales, they have two auxiliary dairy businesses, a dry milk factory which uses the over-production and milk that is not Grade A.

Milk Transport Supply Corp. is also headquartered there. They pick up and transport 100 or more tank trucks of milk each day to all areas of the country where milk is needed.

If our two dairies decide to sell out, do they walk off with the \$1,319,000 million of our tax money in their pocket plus the value of their installation?

It has been stated that the PEDC is now in debt for approximately 2 1/2 million and it will take three years to pay this off with the tax money. If we keep the PEDC, how far in debt will we be in three years?

It has been said many times that we need to reduce government. By getting rid of the PEDC and returning economic development to the Chamber of Commerce, we will be eliminating this layer of bureaucracy that has been wasteful and unresponsive to the taxpayers.

Dr. Louis W. Haydon
Pampa

Economic development issue brewing a long time

To the editor,
Pampa Economic Development Corp. and John G. Carter of National Pig Development would like to have you believe that the recent petition to recall PEDC was because of PEDC's embracing of the proposed hog farm.

While that obnoxious prospect was obviously one of the reasons for concern on the part of those who signed the petition, or "the straw that broke the camel's back," it is also true that PEDC has been arrogant, unresponsive and wasteful with taxpayer funds for years. This has long been festering beneath the surface, and finally came to a head when the people were presented with the opportunity to do something about it.

The good citizens who have the courage to protest what needs to be changed should not be made to feel guilty or unjustified for doing so, nor should their motives be distorted.

Jean Lewis
Pampa

Article discusses rural America's future ...

To the editor,
The following are excerpts from an article, "Large Scale Corporate Hog Operations," by Dr. John Ikerd, Agricultural economist, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

Tomorrow's problems are disguised as today's solution.

My number one concern regarding large-scale, corporate hog operations is that rural communities will see them as "the solution" to today's problems without seeing them as a potential "source" of problems for tomorrow. Maybe there are some communities so desperate for jobs that it makes sense to take the risks. Maybe they feel they have to do something today to give them a chance to do something better tomorrow. But, hog factories are a short-run solution, at best, that may create more long run problems than they solve today. Low-wage jobs should be viewed as a stop gap strategy suitable only for communities with no other options. Sooner or later non-thinking jobs will be done somewhere else on the globe, where people will work harder for less money and are accustomed to doing whatever they are told.

The primary advantage for rural areas in the 21st century will be the unique qualities of life associated with open spaces, clean air, clean water, scenic landscapes, and communities of energetic, thinking, caring people. Communities that sacrifice these long run advantages for short run economic gains may have a difficult time surviving in the new century.

Thus my number one concern is that large-scale, corporate hog operations are tomorrow's problem disguised as today's solution. They keep rural people from doing the things that need to be done today to ensure the future of their communities. Large-scale hog operations will not create communities where our children and their children will choose to live and grow. Communities with a future must take positive actions today to ensure a desirable quality of life for themselves, their children and rural children of future generations.

We also know that we cannot allow large, corporate organizations, such as those operating Confined Animal Feeding Operations, to do whatever they want to do wherever they have the money and/or can buy the votes to do it. Rural America may well be the place where America makes a historic stand.

The most significant long-run social, economic, and cultural impacts of CAFOs on rural communities could well be the beginning of a new revolution — a revolution that ultimately will discard the outdated paradigm of short-run, self-interest economics for a new paradigm of sustainable economic, ecological and social development.

The full text of this article can be reached on the Internet at <http://www.ssu.missouri.edu/faculty/jikerd/papers/top-10h.htm>

Edna L. Haydon

Pampa

Town must stand up; freedom is what it's about

(Publisher's note: Mr. McCracken, if indeed I intended to "control the communication of the citizens of Pampa," your letter would not be in The Pampa News.)

To the editor,
Fellow American citizens, I have some astonishing news for you, it seems that here in our great State of Texas, in a small town called Pampa, the city fathers will go to any length to stifle their citizens.

As you have most likely heard the NPD, (National Pig Developers) are planning to put a 50,000 hog facility 11 miles east of Pampa. This company is part of Smithfield Foods Inc., the largest pork manufacturers in the world, and condemned by environmentalists as "outlaw" polluters. Our Pampa Economic Development Corporation welcomed these folks with open arms on July 10th of this year, obviously without looking into their method of operation or history. There are numerous lawsuits against Smithfield by environmental groups across our country. They have a reputation that speaks for itself.

The welcoming of this company comes only after about 10 years of pathetic performance, failed companies, conflicts of interest and who knows what all. They have put us 2.5 million dollars in debt. Pampa citizens have had enough. They don't want the PEDC squandering our tax dollars anymore, and most of them don't want a hog factory.

Now a group of concerned citizens got up a petition to abolish the PEDC. They succeeded in gathering way more than the required 10 percent of the registered voters signatures. (Big surprise.) Obviously this upset the few of this community who seem to think they run the town and everyone in it.

Now here is the really astonishing part. Mr. L.W. McCall, our Pampa newspaper's publisher, has just announced he is going to control the communication of the citizens of Pampa by not allowing any letters to the editor that speak of hogs or the PEDC until after the Nov. 6th election.

This is a critical time for folks to voice their opinions and relate their feelings about the PEDC, and the hog factory. What does Mr. McCall think has been selling his newspapers lately? Could this have anything to do with the fact that Mr. McCall is a very close friend of Richard Stowers, the president of the PEDC, who has recently submitted his resignation to the city commissioners? Mr. Stowers is also very pro pig. One would guess Pampa is no longer a part of the free United States of America.

It is becoming more and more obvious that this poor little town has stood by and let a few people walk all over them for entirely too long. Now that they are standing up for their rights, these same people are doing everything they can to shut the majority up.

Say good-bye to your rights fellow American citizens. When you are told what you can and cannot write about, you are no longer free.

Tom McCracken
Pampa

Monies could possibly have been put to better use

To the editor,
I've been conned a lot of times, and I have run into a lot of Slick Willy's, but all this mess I think took the cake. They didn't just do it to one person, they did it to the whole town.

Did they really enjoy making us all look like idiots? I guess we might have been since we were listening to them and believing everything they said. Telling us everything we did had to be turned into the Credit Bureau because it was the law. That we couldn't have any back bills and a big income.

Then they were doing the same thing they were holding against the people. What's good for the goose ought to be good for the gander.

Two-point-five million might not be a lot to them but think what it could have done for the town.

It could have put a lot of food on people's tables that they can't afford to buy. Look what it could do for the disabled and terminally ill. The elderly, children. It could help put roofs over peoples' heads. It could have fixed homes, so people could heat this winter.

There are a lot of things that much money could do for the town. It could have helped with the city debt.

Here they were making the whole town think bad about themselves. Making us feel bad because we couldn't do what we needed and some things we wanted. Making us believe it was all our own fault.

Then we find out it wasn't.

They were in bigger messes than we ever thought of being in. If you are going to do the crime, then you ought to do the crime.

Sue Meeks
Pampa

Government is solely funded by taxpayer money

To the editor,
I keep hearing the statement that the PEDC operates on "state money" or "money given to them by the state" or "grants from the state."

The PEDC is funded by the one-half cent tax that is collected by the State from the Taxpayer on every purchase he or she makes. The State then gives the half-cent to the economic development corporation to invest in businesses to boost the local economy.

All money that is spent by the PEDC (or any other government program, whether federal, state, county or city) is taxpayer money. The only place governments get money is from the wallet of the taxpayer, and no matter how it is collected and redistributed, it is still taxpayer money.

We taxpayers are aware that we paid all the money that PEDC has given away, we paid all the salaries paid by PEDC, and we will pay the \$2.5 million dollar debt owed by PEDC with our half-cent tax.

(See, LETTERS, Page 17)



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