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Thursday, September 1, 2005

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Commission OKs county budget, tax rate

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Gray County's 2006 budget and tax rate were approved by commissioners this morning at their meeting in Gray County Courthouse.

The proposed tax rate of .488926 cents per \$100 property valuation will be divided into .437418 cents toward the general fund, .041175 for the road and bridge fund, and .010333 for debt service. The proposed rate is the same that was proposed for fiscal year 2005.

The fiscal 2006 county budget is \$8,171,334. Of that total, \$6,497,065 is earmarked for the general fund. The road and bridge fund will receive \$1,553,840, and the remaining \$120,429 will be applied to debt service.

The final total for the county's 2006 budget includes \$2,000 added to the previous proposed total in order to pay for printing of new jury summons forms, said County Auditor Elaine Morris. A new law requires a sentence to be added to the

summons which will not fit on existing summonses, she said.

The proposed budget is expected to result in an ending balance of \$1.2 million, or approximately three months' worth of county operating costs.

Commissioners approved fees and rates for rental of Clyde Carruth Pavilion which were suggested by Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby.

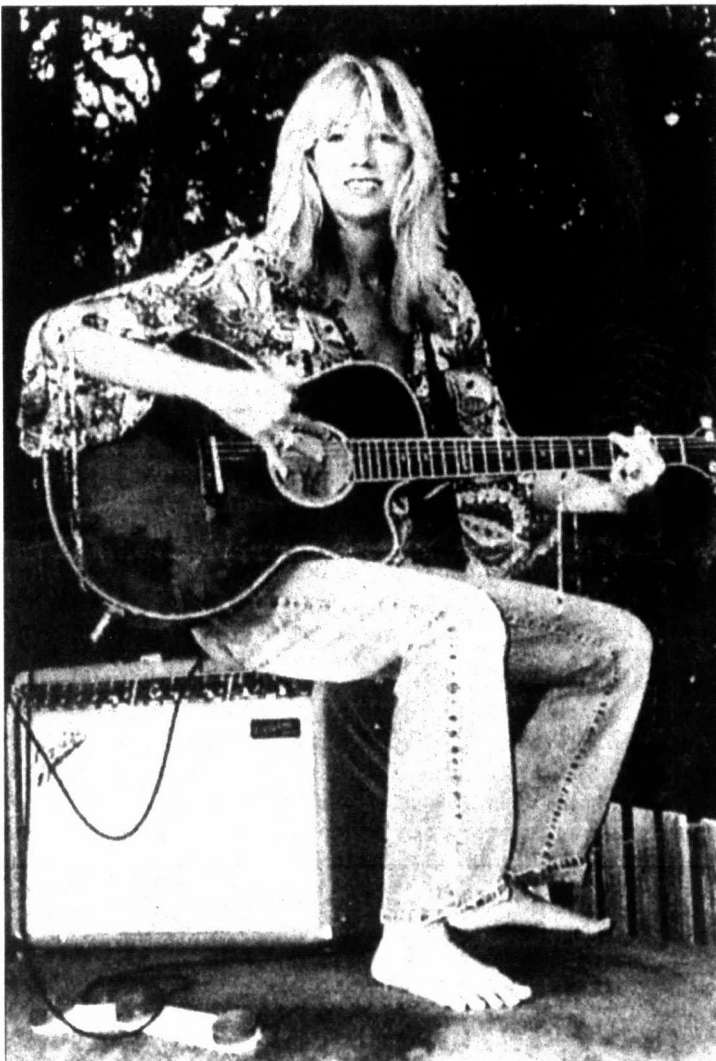
Weekend fees for non-commercial community functions will be \$100

per day plus a \$200 deposit for Gray County residents.

Weekend fees for commercial use, such as activities which sell goods or charge admission, will be \$150 per day plus a \$300 deposit.

For each type of use, half-day fees will be charged in the amount of half of one day's fee for renters who wish to gain access on Friday evenings and/or Sunday mornings, such as for setup and cleanup.

See COUNTY, Page 3



Donna Timmons, left, is one of the featured performers ready for the annual Chautauqua celebration Monday at Central Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Timmons, who has worked as a professional musician for 20 years, is scheduled to perform at 3 p.m. She has appeared on the Nashville Network and has won numerous awards as a songwriter, including first place in the blues division at the National Songwriters of America competition. Pokey the Clown, right, will return with his "Longhorn herd" for young riders during the Labor Day celebration.

Courtesy Photos



\$11,450 grant to aid county sheriff's office

By MARILYN POWERS Staff Writer

Gray County Sheriff Don Copeland has been notified of an \$11,450 grant awarded to his office by the Department of Justice, which will be used for emergency preparedness equipment.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, announced the awarding

of the grant Tuesday.

"We were notified the 29th that we had been awarded the grant," Copeland said.

The grant funds will be used to update and replace emergency response equipment throughout the county. Equipment to be updated includes vehicle lighting systems, two-way radio equipment, night vision equipment, video and photog-

raphy equipment, and firearms, Copeland said.

County commissioners okayed Copeland's applying for the grant at their May 2 meeting.

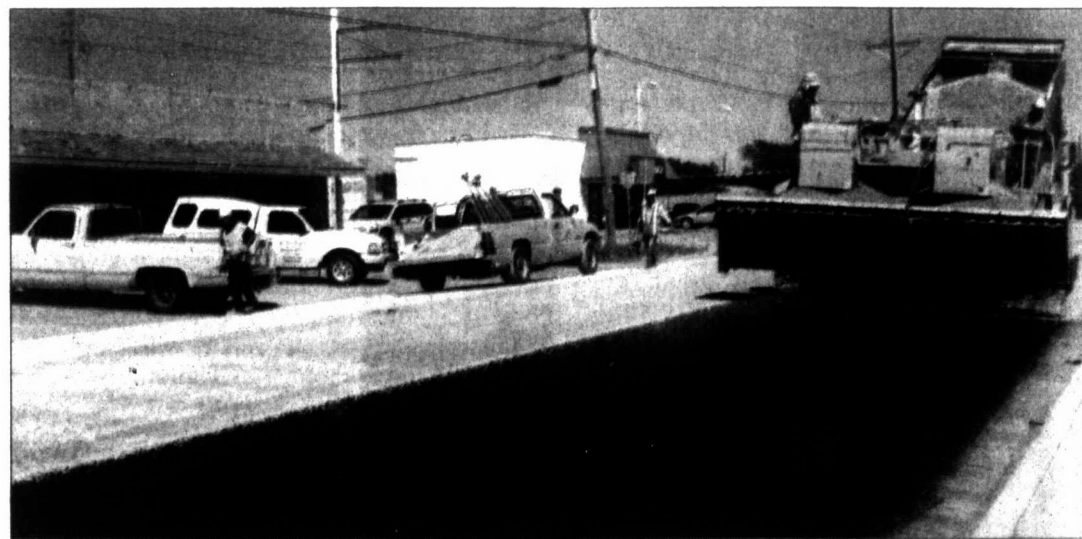
The \$11,450 was originally offered by the federal government in two pieces, one each to the county and the City of Pampa, said County Judge Richard Peet at the May 2 meeting.

"The city has opted not to utilize their part of the agreement, and to let the county use the payment," Peet said.

Gray County will have four years to complete the equipment.

"These funds will assist local law enforcement officials with the

See GRANT, Page 3



Pampa News photo by SEAN SMITH

Pampa's seal coating project is moving right along as this crew treats Kentucky Street earlier this week.

Drug bust near Shamrock lands pair in Wheeler jail

A traffic violation on Interstate 40 near Shamrock landed two suspects in jail after officers discovered marijuana in their car.

A Department of Public Safety trooper stopped a 1993 Ford two-door eastbound on I-40 on a traffic violation.

The occupants consented to a search, and a dog alerted the trooper there was something inside the car.

The trooper found 50

pounds of marijuana under the carpet of the Ford. It has an estimated value at \$29,450.

Arrested and booked into the Wheeler County Jail in Shamrock were Rafael Provencio Jr., 20, and David Munoz, 28, both of Fabens, Texas.

DPS troopers said they think the load of illegal weed originated in El Paso and was destined for Oklahoma City.

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Four charged with plotting terror attacks

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Four men, including the head of a radical Islamic prison gang, were indicted on federal charges of plotting terrorist attacks against military facilities, the Israeli Consulate and synagogues in Los Angeles.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, in announcing the charges Wednesday in Washington, D.C., referred to the London mass transit attacks in July.

"Some in this country mistakenly believed it could not happen here. Today we have chilling evidence that it is possible," he said.

Named in the indictment were Levar Haley Washington, 25; Gregory Vernon Patterson, 21;

Hammad Riaz Samana, 21; and Kevin James, 29.

The four conspired to wage war against the U.S. government through terrorism, kill armed service members and murder foreign officials, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors contend the plot was orchestrated by Washington, Patterson and Samana at the behest of James, an inmate at the California State Prison-Sacramento who founded the radical group Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh.

According to the indictment, Washington pledged his loyalty to James "until death by martyrdom" and sought to establish a JIS cell

"Some in this country mistakenly believed it could not happen here. Today we have chilling evidence that it is possible."

— General Alberto Gonzales
U.S. Attorney General

outside prison with members with bomb expertise.

Washington, Patterson and Samana — who attended the same Inglewood mosque — allegedly conducted surveillance of the Los Angeles targets, as well as Internet research on Jewish holidays. Law enforcement officials have previ-

ously said that the military facilities included National Guard sites, though the indictment does not specify.

The attacks were to be carried out with firearms and other weapons at synagogues during Jewish holidays "to maximize the number of casualties," authorities

said. Patterson allegedly bought a .223-caliber rifle in July.

In Los Angeles, authorities said the suspects could have attacked as soon as the Yom Kippur Jewish holiday in October.

"Make no mistake about it — we dodged a bullet here, perhaps many bullets," Los Angeles police Chief William Bratton said.

To finance the attacks, prosecutors said, Washington, Patterson and Samana robbed a string of gas stations in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The case arose after Washington and Patterson were arrested July 5 by police in suburban Los Angeles for investigation of robbing the gas stations.

Seven-Eleven Japan makes offer for rest of U.S. affiliate

NEW YORK (AP) — Seven-Eleven Japan Co. said Thursday it will launch a \$1.2 billion cash tender offer for the 27.3 percent stake it doesn't already own in its U.S. affiliate 7-Eleven Inc., in a move to take the world's largest convenience store chain private.

Seven-Eleven Japan — which is Japan's largest convenience store operator with more than 10,000 locations — is 51 percent owned by Japanese retailer and Denny's franchisee Ito-Yokado.

The company, which already holds 72.7 percent of the U.S. 7-Eleven, has offered \$32.50 a share in cash for the remaining shares. That represents a 15 percent premium over 7-Eleven's Wednesday closing price of \$28.34.

Dallas-based 7-Eleven said in a statement it had appointed a special committee of its board and expects

the panel will advise shareholders on or before Sept. 19 on its evaluation of the offer. It operates or franchises approximately 5,800 7-Eleven stores in the United States and Canada.

Seven-Eleven Japan, based in Tokyo, said that in order to better compete in the market, 7-Eleven must boost investment in its merchandising, store renovation, distribution and logistics systems, and information systems. The increase in investment, however, is likely to result in lower growth and profitability for 7-Eleven in the short term, the company said.

Seven-Eleven Japan also said it expects that taking 7-Eleven private will help achieve a better-governed group structure. The company expects to begin the tender offer, which doesn't require 7-Eleven board approval, on or about Sept. 6.

Gray County Weather



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

This long-legged water bird was the only one of its kind seen recently at the edge of a pond outside Pampa. Recent rainfalls have resulted in local playa lakes and ponds having water in them.

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a high around 86. South-southeast wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South-southeast wind around 10 mph.

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a high around 89. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low near 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 89. South-southwest wind between 5 and 15 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 89. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64. South wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Labor Day: Partly cloudy, with a

high near 88. South-southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Monday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly cloudy, with a low near 64.

Tuesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high around 85.

Tuesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 84.

Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Atebury Grain of Pampa:

Wheat	3.04
Milo	3.04
Corn	3.92
Soybeans	4.94

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

Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa	83.97	+0.94
BP PLC ADR	69.78	+1.40
Cabot Corp.	33.08	+0.08
Celanese	NA	
Cabot Oil Gas	44.03	+0.84
Coca Cola	43.93	-0.07
VLO	111.07	+4.57
HAL	62.73	+0.73
TRI	47.72	-0.42
KMI	96.46	+0.99

XCEL	19.18	-0.06
Kerr McGee	89.24	+1.21
XOM	61.04	+1.14
Limited	20.88	-1.10
Williams	22.74	+0.30
MCD	31.61	+0.84
Atmos	29.28	-0.31
Pioneer Nat	52.76	+3.36
JCP	47.42	-1.31
COP	69.27	+3.33
SLB	86.60	+0.37
Tenneco	18.04	-0.09
CVX	62.78	+1.38
Wal Mart	44.93	-0.03
OKL	33.80	-0.20
NS Grp	42.05	+0.01

New York Gold	435.40
Silver	6.84
West Texas Crude	68.94

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Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents today.

Wednesday, Aug. 31

Four traffic stops were made. A traffic complaint was received from the 300 block of Jean Street that concerned a go-cart.

An offense against family was reported in the 500 block of North Lowry where a child was left alone.

There were two open door reports received.

There were five reports of burglary of a motor vehicle received: the 2400 block of Navajo Road, the 2100 block of Zimmers, the 1400 block of Hamilton (2 reports) and the 40 block of West Harvester.

Suspicious persons were reported at 23rd and Christine and at Foster and Houston.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1100 block of Huff Road.

Two business alarms were answered, one in the 600 block of Cuyler and one in the 200 block of West Brown.

One civil matter was reported in the 900 block of South Dwight.

Two thefts were reported, one in the 300 block of Doyle Street and one in the 2800 block of North Charles.

Two criminal mischief reports were made, one in the 900 block of East Campbell and one in the 1300

Pampa PD

block of East Francis. Two burglaries were reported, one in the 500 block of East Foster and one in the 1100 block of Prairie.

One escort was provided.

Four disorderly conduct reports were made: the 2400 block of Charles Street, the 800 block of North Duncan, the 1200 block of East Kingsmill and the 1200 block of Finley.

One suicide attempt was reported.

Two assists were reported, one for directing traffic at Kentucky and Coffee and one on a fire call in the 500 block of East Frederic.

Found property in the form of a bicycle was reported in the 1100 block of Sandlewood.

One missing person report was received in the 300 block of Tignor.

Sheriff

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

Wednesday, Aug. 31

Marcus Dewayne Hall, 33, of Skellytown was arrested on a charge of burglary of a habitation.

Jason Paul Phelps, 28, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault.

Mary L. Floyd, 30, of Pampa was arrested on a charge of theft by check.

Myra Heredia, 18, of Pampa was arrested on charges of no valid dri-

ver's license, failure to yield and theft under \$50.

Fire

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

Wednesday, Aug. 31

10:59 p.m. — Four units and seven firefighters responded to a structure fire at Frederic and Reid. An abandoned residence was a total loss.

12:14 p.m. — One unit and two firefighters responded to a Dumpster fire in the 500 block of Roberts.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Wednesday, Aug. 31

12:34 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2100 block of Lynn and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

7:25 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 2000 block of Zimmers.

9:12 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 1900 block of Helton Road.

11:09 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to an undisclosed location on Reid.



Courtesy Photo

Cotton candy will be featured by Girl Scout troops along with a Pepsi booth at this year's Chautauqua in Central Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday. Denice Dodson, left, and Lynn Di Tirro twirl the pink sugar confection at last year's family fun day.

Bush to view storm damage, asks father, Clinton to help

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush will tour the hurricane devastated Gulf Coast region on Friday and has asked his father, former President George H.W. Bush, and former President Clinton to lead a private fund-raising campaign for victims, the White House said Thursday.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bush will survey the Alabama and Mississippi coast by helicopter, then go on to New Orleans. He also will tour some locations on the ground. He got a higher-altitude view Wednesday when Air Force One dropped several thousand feet to fly directly over the region during Bush's flight from his Texas ranch back to Washington.

"The president has wanted to visit the area as soon as possible," McClellan said. "We didn't go sooner because we didn't want to be disruptive of efforts on the ground."

Bush had said earlier Thursday that thousands

more victims of Hurricane Katrina still need to be rescued and acknowledged the frustration of people who need food, water and shelter.

"I fully understand people wanting things to have happened yesterday," he said in a live interview in the Roosevelt Room of the White House with ABC's "Good Morning America" program. "I understand the anxiety of people on the ground. ... So there is frustration. But I want people to know there's a lot of help coming."

He said that while the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 were a man-made disaster, the aftermath of Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina were "just as serious in both cases."

"New Orleans is more devastated than New York was," Bush said.

Bush has directed his staff to try to assess the economic impact of the storm as the administration prepares an emergency budget request for Congress. Bush was hearing his economic advisers' preliminary estimate in the afternoon after a lunch with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The White House arranged a conference call for later in the day so Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney could consult with top congressional leaders, according to one congressional aide. Homeland Secretary Michael Chertoff and Energy Secretary Sam Bodman also were to participate.

Bush asked his father and Clinton to lead the fund-raising campaign after their successful similar efforts in the wake of the Asian tsunami that hit last December. He made the request of them Wednesday and the three planned a Thursday afternoon meeting in the Oval Office.

McClellan said that Bush trusted the view of administration officials that the response effort so far is "going well."

But, he added, "The people on the ground who need help yesterday, he certainly understands their frustration."

Bush works to pressure Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is trying to rally other nations to agree to impose U.N. sanctions on Iran to force it to negotiate an end to its nuclear programs.

Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns accused Iran of misleading the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency

with the guise of seeking a civilian program.

"We fully expect that the IAEA will refer this issue to the United Nations Security Council, where it should be," Burns said. "Iran must (face the) judgment of the international community, now that it has acted in defiance of the international

community."

Burns did not rule out entirely that Iran might resume now-stalled negotiations with the European Union. He told The Associated Press Wednesday: "It is our judgment there is life left in the diplomatic process."

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First Name.....

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20-29	20-29	9-11	20-29
30-39	30-39	12-15	30-39
40-49	40-49	16-19	40-49
50+	50+	50+	50+

County

Continued from Page 1

Fees will be higher for non-county residents. Both commercial and non-commercial renters who live outside Gray County will pay \$200 per day plus a \$300 deposit. Half days on Fridays and Sundays will be \$100 per day.

Advance arrangements must be made through the County Treasurer's office in order to rent the Pavilion. The deposit will be returned after the event only if the renter has left the premises clean and undamaged, and has complied with the terms of the agreement set forth in the lease.

Commissioners also voted to continue the county's participation in the Panhandle Water Planning Area, at a cost of \$200 for fiscal 2006.

The planning group which includes Gray County is one of 16 across the state, said County Judge Richard Peet.

Members include counties, cities, ground water districts, and other entities such as Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

Commissioners accepted a proposal by Doshier, Pickens and Francis to conduct the fiscal 2005 county audit. The \$11,000 fee is the same amount the firm charged the county for the previous audit, Peet said.

Two tax bids were accepted by commissioners. Ronald Carpenter of Pampa had submitted a bid of \$100 for a vacant lot at 601 W. Foster, and John Galaviz of Pampa had submitted a \$200 bid for 720 Sloan.

Payment of bills totaling \$78,587.16 and salaries of \$215,158.73 were approved.

Commissioners approved their meeting schedule for fiscal 2006, with meeting dates scheduled on or about the first and fifteenth days of each month.

Grant

Continued from Page 1

resources necessary to crack down on crime in the area," Cornyn said at the Tuesday announcement. "Having the proper tools to fight crime is critical to keeping our communities safe, and I applaud the local leaders for working to secure this funding."

The federal criteria for the grants states that the funding may be used for programs

concerning law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education, corrections and communication corrections, drug treatment, and planning, evaluation and technology improvement.

Funding for the grant is from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG).

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Viewpoints

Magic paint seems to offer little protection

It was the magic paint. In 1874, Quannah Parker's medicine man assured the Comanche chief that the paint applied to the warriors' bodies would protect them as they swooped down on the handful of buffalo hunters at Adobe Walls north of present day Borger. After the battle, the medicine man claimed that one of the war party must have crossed the path of a skunk thereby destroying the protective spell of the war paint. The medicine man has since sunk into obscurity. Casey Nethercott bragged to an Arizona television sta-

tion earlier this year that he had machine guns and armored vehicles. By the end of the month, the machine guns turned out to be some hunting rifles and shotguns. One of the armored vehicles, a fiberglass dune buggy, was sold for \$100. The engine was gone and the transmission was torn up. The other armored vehicle was stuck in a mud hole on the backside of Camp Thunderbird, Nethercott's ranch near Douglas, Ariz. "I'll take you back there," said Charles Jones, the young man who had been

hired to run the ranch. In the bog between two mesquite trees was an old Ford Explorer painted flat black. **David Bowser** Columnist "Where's the armor," asked the reporter, pushing the metal on the passenger's door in and watching it pop back out. The ranch was at one time headquarters for Ranch Rescue, a paramilitary group that vowed to keep illegal immigrants from sneaking

across the border from Mexico. Positioned about a mile north of the border, an abandoned windmill on the property was used as a watchtower. Today, a quarter of a mile away, the Border Patrol has a nice, new building and Nethercott is in prison. Nethercott was accused of pistol-whipping one Salvadoran and threatening another near Hebronville,

Texas, in 2003. The jury in the case could not reach agreement on whether or not he was guilty of the assault. Convicted of a felony in California, however, Nethercott was sent to a Texas prison for possession of a firearm in connection with the Hebronville incident. In an ironic twist, the two Salvadorans that Nethercott was accused of beating and threatening filed a lawsuit against Nethercott and won a judgment against him. They were awarded his ranch west of Douglas. The rancher on whose

property the incident is supposed to have happened settled his part of the lawsuit for \$100,000. The lawyer representing the two Salvadorans said he doubts that his clients will live on the ranch. One lives in Los Angeles. The other lives in Dallas. They will probably sell the ranch. Both Salvadorans have applied for visas available to immigrants who are victims of certain crimes and who cooperate with authorities in prosecution of those crimes. Magic paint seems to offer little protection.



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 1, the 244th day of 2005. There are 121 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 1, 1939, World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland. On this date: In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was found innocent of treason. In 1878, Emma M. Nutt became the first female telephone operator in the United States, for the Telephone Despatch Co. of Boston. In 1905, 100 years ago, Alberta and Saskatchewan entered Confederation as the eighth and ninth provinces of Canada.

'Nothing succeeds, they say, like success. And certainly nothing fails like failure.'

— Margaret Drabble
British author

In 1932, New York City Mayor James J. "Gentleman Jimmy" Walker resigned following charges of graft and corruption in his administration. In 1945, Americans received word of Japan's formal surrender that ended World War II. (Because of the time difference, it was September 2 in Tokyo Bay, where the ceremony took place.) In 1951, the United

States, Australia and New Zealand signed a mutual defense pact, the ANZUS treaty. In 1961, the Soviet Union ended a moratorium on atomic testing with an above-ground nuclear explosion in central Asia. In 1972, American Bobby Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik, Iceland, defeating Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union. In 1983, 269 people were killed when a Korean Air Lines Boeing 747 was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter after the airliner entered Soviet airspace. Ten years ago: A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Five years ago: President Clinton deferred a decision on whether to develop a missile defense system to his successor. One year ago: More than 1,000 people were taken hostage by heavily armed Chechen militants at a school in Beslan in southern Russia; more than 330, mostly children, were eventually killed in the three-day ordeal. Militants in Iraq freed seven employees of a Kuwaiti trucking firm after their employer paid \$500,000 in ransom. The criminal case against Kobe Bryant case collapsed as prosecutors in Colorado dropped a sexual assault charge against the NBA star. Today's Birthdays: Former Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird is 83. Actress Yvonne De Carlo is 83. Former Texas Governor Ann Richards is 72. Conductor Seiji Ozawa is 70. Comedian-actress Lily Tomlin is 66. Actor Don Stroud is 62. Singer Archie Bell is 61. Rock musician Greg Errico is 59. Singer Barry Gibb is 59.



Tips to help you tame your e-mail inbox

A recent study revealed that while surfing the Web was the most POPULAR Internet activity, e-mail actually comprised the majority of traffic. That's right, while not as flashy and "fun" as the Web, sending and receiving e-mail is the most prominent activity on the Net. Well, if you are going to be spending so much time working with e-mail, how about a few tips to speed up that process? Over the years, I've picked up, discovered or just come up with some tips and tricks that have helped me wade through my e-mail ocean. For the purposes of this article, all of these tips will work in Outlook or Outlook Express. If you have another e-mail program, chances are these tips will work also, with a few modifications to the instructions. Have you ever received a joke via e-mail? Of course you have! Sometimes, however, you have to scroll through quite a bit of junk before you actually get to the

joke. That junk is typically what we call "e-mail headers." When a message gets forwarded to someone, the entire message, including e-mail addresses, dates and subject, is copied into the new message. Before you hit the "send" button, remove all the extraneous headers from the joke. Here's how: Pick a message you want to forward. Hit the "Forward" button in the toolbar. A copy of the message (with those silly headers) will appear. Highlight the parts of the message you don't want and hit the DELETE key on your keyboard. If you are new to computers, highlighting is accomplished by positioning your mouse pointer right before the first letter of the words you want to highlight. Hold down your left mouse button, and, while holding it

down, drag the mouse diagonally down and to the right. Highlighting takes practice. Even computer nerds like me get frustrated when I accidentally highlight too much or too little. Be patient. Removing e-mail headers from forwarded messages is beneficial in two ways: First, it makes the messages easier to read. Second, it protects the privacy of those people whose addresses appeared in those headers. Think about it. That's how most people end up on junk e-mail lists. Forwarded jokes typically contain hundreds of valid e-mail addresses. Once a junk e-mailer receives one of these jokes, he simply adds all of those addresses to his list! Another great tip is to organize your saved e-mail. Most people have anywhere

from 30 to 500 messages in their Inbox. Once I read a message and deal with it, I delete it. But what if you have a message you need to keep? Don't leave it in the Inbox! Remember, your Inbox is just like your mailbox in front of your house. What if you decided to leave "important" mail in your mailbox? Pretty soon, your mailman couldn't cram any more items in it! Your e-mail Inbox should ONLY be for NEW e-mail. To save important messages, create a folder. First, make sure you can see the Folder List on the left side of your screen. If you can't, you need to turn it on. In Outlook Express, pull down the VIEW menu and choose "Layout." Then, check the box marked, "Folder List." In Outlook, simply pull down the "View" menu and choose "Folder List." With the "Folder List" pane open, pull down the FILE menu and choose

Eric Spellmann
Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Our readers write

Pampa does not need another EDC

Several articles have appeared in the newspapers expressing the need for an EDC. Renovation of the downtown area was mentioned as a need. The downtown buildings and businesses are privately owned and the owner(s) of the buildings and success of the businesses are the responsibility of the owner(s). The state and federal taxes we pay fund grants for downtown renovation and affordable housing. Our school budget is \$20 million. The county budget is \$5 million, and

the city collects over \$14 million in taxes, fees, enterprise funds, interest and other income. If properly managed, \$39 million would pay for all school needs, streets, roads and infrastructure needs for our population of 17,000. Each budget could be cut drastically without endangering any services. The City of Pampa has 39 parks, eight soccer fields, 3.5 miles of jogging trails, one rifle range, 13 baseball and softball fields, 10 tennis courts, one golf course, two swimming pools and one skateboard park. There is a bowling alley and a paintball field in the area as well as two private golf courses and a youth center. Movie theaters have

gone out of business twice in the past 20 years because people prefer to rent movies or watch TV. We do not need an EDC for entertainment. Many people will not shop in a town that has an EDC and at least one business would not have located in Pampa if we had had an EDC. We do not need an EDC or more taxes. What we need is stewardship over what we have. We need stewards in our elected offices instead of "public leaders." **Shirley Nicholson**
Pampa

See INBOX, Page 5

'Queen of snacks'



Mary Henry, Create-a-Beat's "queen of snacks," helps make sure that Jaycee Garth has something special to munch on after school.

Charter schools exempt from new funding rule

AUSTIN (AP) — Charter schools will be exempt from a new statewide funding rule that requires school districts to spend at least 65 percent of their operating funds on instruction.

That's because charter schools were not included in the state's overall financial rating system, Texas Education Agency spokeswoman Debbie Graves Ratcliffe said.

Charter schools are state-funded, but are not subject to some regulations of traditional school districts.

"I don't see a reason for them not to be included,"

said Senate Education Committee Chairwoman Florence Shapiro, R-Plano, who has pushed for more oversight of charter schools.

Gov. Rick Perry ordered last week that schools spend 65 percent of their money on instructional costs, a standard expected to be phased in over several years.

"Charter schools, as a matter of law, have always been exempted from the accountability system, and the 65 percent requirement is part of the financial accountability system," Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said.

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Gray County Historical Commission invites you to the dedication of the **HISTORICAL TEXAS CEMETERY PLAQUE** for Fairview Cemetery and the **TEXAS WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION** on Friday, September 2, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. Fairview Cemetery 1500 Duncan Street Pampa, Texas

Inbox

Continued from Page 4

"New," then "Folder." A window will pop up asking for information about the new folder to be created. First, give it a name. If you don't have very many messages to save, simply call your folder "Keepers" or "Archive" or something similar.

If you are using Outlook, you will have an extra option at this point. You can choose what TYPE of folder you want. Will it contain e-mail messages, calendar entries, to-do tasks, notes, contacts? You get to choose. For this example, though, choose "Mail Items."

The next option is applicable in both Outlook and Outlook Express. The program is asking WHERE you want to create the folder. Your new folder will be created UNDER whatever item you single-click. For ease of use, you may want to put the folder at the same level as your other folders. In Outlook, single-click "Personal Folders." In Outlook Express, choose "Local Folders." Hit the OK button.

Your new folder will magically appear! Now, comes the fun part. Drag and drop your "keeper"

messages into this new folder. To "drag and drop," position your mouse over one of your messages in your Inbox. Hold down the left mouse button, and while holding it down, move your mouse (drag it) until it is over the new folder. Release the button and the message will "drop" into the folder.

From now on, all of your important messages will be available, without clogging up your Inbox. Keep that Inbox empty! Over the last few years, some people have shared their strategies for storing important e-mail messages. Some people create a folder for every customer so that they can archive all customer correspondence. For most people, a "Jokes" folder will probably suffice.

If you ever want to delete your new folder, simply single-click it and hit the DELETE key on your keyboard. Be careful, though; deleting the folder will also delete all of the messages it contains.

You can also drag folders to different locations in the Folder List. AND, folders can contain folders. If you are a true packrat, you could theoretically keep EVERY message you ever received in your personal folders.

I'll see you in Cyberspace!

Events calendar

• The registration deadline for a weekend retreat in Canyon for writers will be Tuesday. The retreat, to be led by Jodi Thomas, is sponsored by Writers' League of Texas. The limit is 16 persons. For more information, call (512) 499-8914 or e-mail wlt@writersleague.org. Cost will be \$199 for members and \$244 for nonmembers.

• The Texas Department of State Health Services will be offering immunization clinics for vaccines that give protection against several childhood dis-

eases. The following clinics will be offered: 9:30-11:45 a.m. and 1-4 p.m., Wednesday and Sept. 21, TDH, 736 S. Cuyler, Pampa; 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sept. 19, Wheeler School, Wheeler; and 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Sept. 22, Groom Elementary School, Groom.

• Pants Mandolin will perform from 6-9 p.m. at Amarillo Museum of Art on Sept. 15. The group was formed about two years ago and consists of five West Texas A&M University students and a Canyon High School senior.



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LOOK FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SALE CIRCULAR IN TODAY'S PAPER

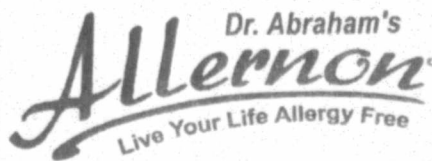

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I was disappointed by your answer to "Wondering in Illinois," who is jealous of his wife's best friend, "Cassandra." You accused her of having a "girlfriend" (and I know you meant in the romantic sense rather than platonic). You told him they were due for a long talk. In my opinion, the problem is the husband's raging jealousy. What's the evidence of lesbian activity? Their vacations together? The phone calls? Obviously, this woman is having the kind of fun with her friend that she hasn't had with her nasty, suspicious husband in a long time. (I bet he hardly has two words for her if a game is on television.) Isn't one of the signs of an abuser when he starts wanting to control his wife's friends? I think her husband needs to get a life and some friends of his own. — **KEELAH IN ITHACA, N.Y.**

DEAR KEELAH: When I advised "Wondering" that he didn't appear to be the first on his wife's list of priorities, I was understating the problem. The wife's girlfriend gives her lavish gifts and pays for their trips together; they make frequent bets with oil massages as the payoff, spend hours a day talking or text-messaging, ignore the husband to the point of rudeness if he's around, and the normal routine of the household is forgotten because of the distraction. It's not one thing -- it's the aggregate. I stand by my answer. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I agree that "Wondering" needs to find out what's going on. A friend of mine was married 11 years to his high school sweetheart. She, too, began spending a lot of time with a female co-worker, and he was often excluded. In time, he began to resent the massages, trips, dinners together and other activities they shared without him. When he confronted her, she accused him of "trying to come between her and her best friend." He got the shock of his life when he walked in unexpectedly one afternoon and caught them in a com-

promising position. His wife then demanded a divorce. Twelve years later, his former wife and her "best friend" are still a couple. If "Wondering's" wife isn't romantically involved with her friend, it's time he finds out what's lacking in their relationship that she's getting from the girlfriend. -- **ALSO WONDERING IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR ALSO WONDERING: Good point. If there isn't a romance going on, marriage counseling could do them a world of good. A marriage can be healed only if both parties want it to be and are willing to cooperate.

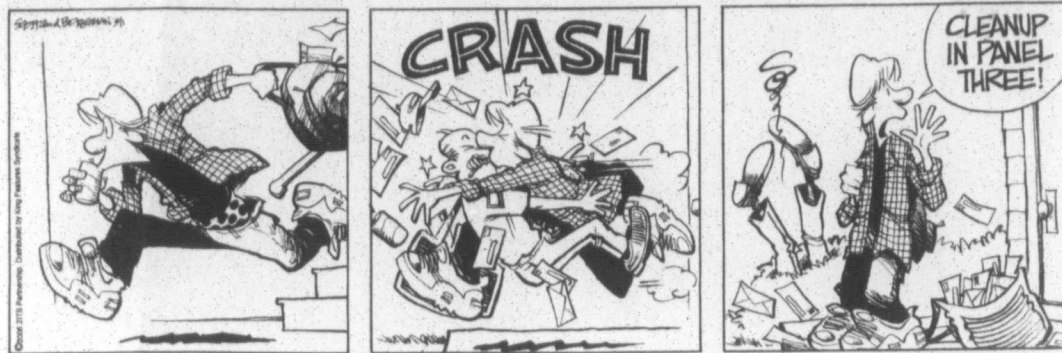
DEAR ABBY: It does appear that the wife may be having an affair with her friend. I am a member of the Straight Spouse Network, an organization started by Amity Pierce Buxton to help the straight spouse understand the coming-out process of their gay spouse. The Straight Spouse Network is a worldwide organization whose membership comprises current or former heterosexual spouses/partners of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender mates and mixed-orientation couples. Our members provide personal, confidential support and resource information to spouses, couples and families. We are the only support network of this kind in the world. -- **MARIANNE IN GULFPORT, FLA.**

DEAR MARIANNE: I am familiar with the Straight Spouse Network, which is allied with PFLAG, and have mentioned it in my column before. Dr. Buxton, who chairs the SSN, is a respected researcher and author of an excellent book, "The Other Side of the Closet" (John Wiley & Sons), that explains the gay spouse "dilemma" and offers strategies on how families can cope when the gay person "comes out." Not surprisingly, that's a complicated and emotionally wrenching process. The network's Web site is www.ssnetwork.org.

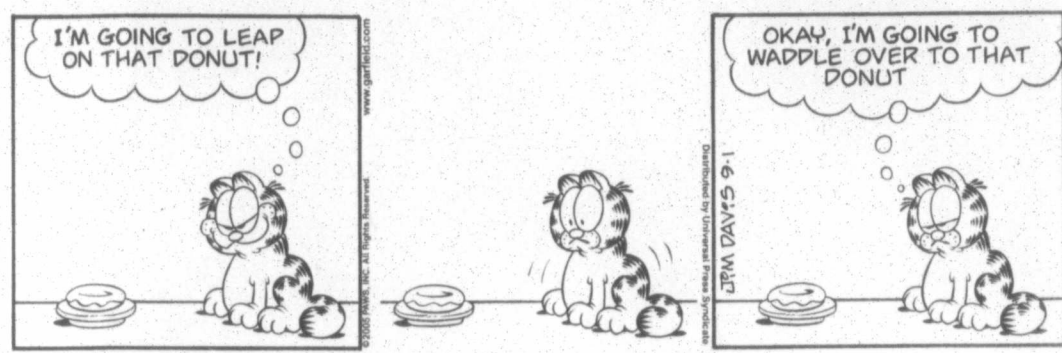
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Treaties | 1 — de |
| 6 Milk buy | 2 In the style of |
| 11 Island greeting | 3 Some unsolved crimes |
| 12 Citified | 4 Kojak's first name |
| 13 Capital on the Willamette | 5 Eastern warrior |
| 14 Hollywood worker | 6 Feeling of doubt |
| 15 Bar order | 7 Goad |
| 17 Chest muscle, for short | 8 Honest guy |
| 19 Mai tai ingredient | 9 Galloped |
| 20 Polite address | 10 Blasting stuff |
| 23 Virtual reality image | 16 Incinerates |
| 25 Flag Day month | 17 Was visibly nervous |
| 26 Relevant example | |

LOTTO BAHS
ONAIR DEREK
PENNE EAGLE
ORGY CAROLE
FOE DAD NOT
FOLDOVER
MOON NEAR
HOLDOVER
ROB HAS ICE
APEMAN DALLI
NEVER LATIN
CREAM ATONE
HALT PARER

Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 18 Dodge | 33 Appropriate |
| 20 Travel needs | 34 Writer Chopin |
| 21 Central | 35 Derisive |
| 22 Hear again | 36 Really impress |
| 24 Common bill | 37 Cereal buy |
| 25 Write quickly | 39 Make lace |
| 27 Roofing gunk | 40 Print measures |
| 31 Yawning | |

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17	18		19			20	21	22	
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Marmaduke

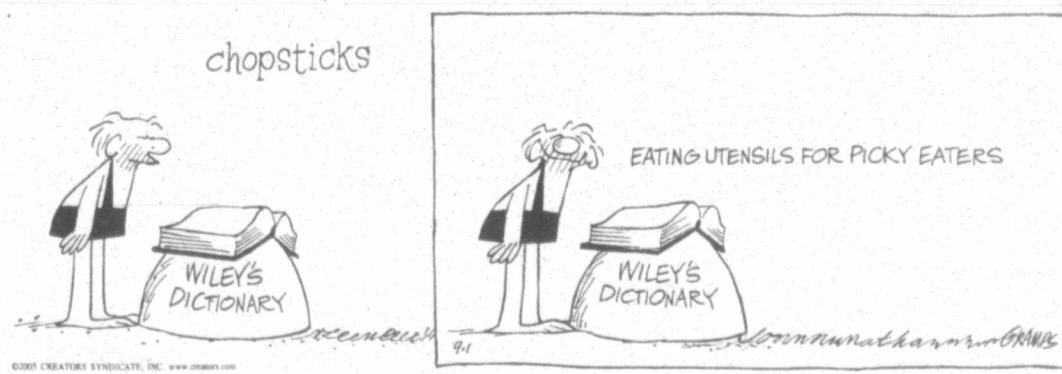


The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Flo & Friends



Sports Day

FOOTBALL FEVER

Fantastic Five: Stokes may be the sleeper of the bunch

And so the game begins. Today marks the genesis of the 2005 college football season as well as the first ever Sports Day Fantastic Five Football Picks. I came up with the name myself. I chose it because it sounded good and, when space allows, contains just the right number of letters and spaces to fit the headline properly. Outside of that, common courtesy and my own sense of moral decency prevented me from using terminology befitting those taking part in this weekly grudge match.

Michael J. Stevens
Sports Editor

Every Thursday, the Fantastic Five will be presented a list of professional, college and high school football games to be played through the weekend. Each must do his best to pick the winner of each game. We will not bother with odds, spreads, boastful comments and the like. This is old school, smash mouth prognosticating. We will keep a running record throughout the season. At the end, I may ask you to decide the loser's fate.

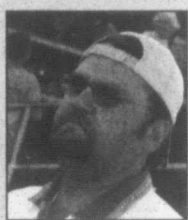
So, let's meet the players.
Michael J. Stevens
Yeah, the name sort of says it all, doesn't it? Rolls right off your tongue and screams, "Look out. Man knows his stuff." As Sports Editor of The Pampa News, I have a reputation to maintain. A status to uphold. Besides, I would look sort of silly if I let some wannabe sports pundits enter my space and show me up, wouldn't I? Pain heals. Chicks dig scars. Glory lasts forever. What does it mean? No idea. But it sounded cool when Keanu Reeves used in the *The Replacements*. Let's rock.

Sean Smith
Smith is the publisher of The Pampa News. I know he likes golf. I think he might have a ping pong table in his garage. When I asked how he enjoyed the game Friday night, he began mumbling something about rain, wind and lightning. I think I even heard him use the word 'Yucky'. I expect him to take this challenge serious however. As I left the office Wednesday, I caught a glimpse of him at his desk, conducting Internet research on the list of games I had given him.

Donny Hooper
My understanding is Hooper likes to hear himself talk on the radio. He's something of a local celebrity, I suppose. He and partner Ray Boring have been broadcasting Harvester games for some time now. The pair just wrapped their second season as the

radio voices of the Amarillo Dusters. But does he really know anything about sports? At Friday's game, he stopped to say hello, then scurried off to the warm, dry confines of the press box. I could hear him giggling as he did. He celebrates a birthday today. Happy Birthday, Old Man. I expect him to be tough.

Ray Boring
I hear tell Boring is some sort of city official and fancies himself a business man. People seem to know him. I conducted a little investigation to determine what Boring would bring to the Fantastic Five table, only to discover that the first thing folks do when asked, "So what can you tell me about Ray Boring," is smile and



laugh. Not really the picture of fear and intimidation one might want for himself. Especially when issuing such threats as, "Oh yeah, game on sports boy." Boring actually said that to me during a phone conversation Wednesday morning. I just smiled and laughed.

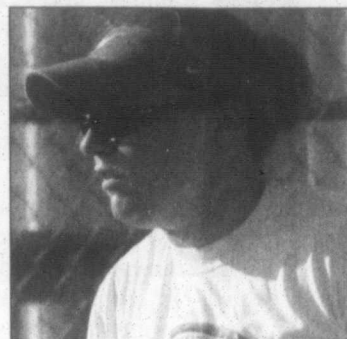
Shane Stokes
Here's my deer-caught-in-the-headlights. When asked if he wanted to be the fifth and final member of the Fantastic Five, Stokes remarked, "Sounds fun." Sounds fun? I wanted to hear threats and challenges. As I understand it, Stokes has something to do with the city park and recreation department. He pulled up to the paper Wednesday for his photo driving a comfy city vehicle. Bet he had the AC turned on too. But there is something about Stokes that causes me to think he may be my biggest challenge. Unlike the rest of us, he looks a little too kind and honest. Stokes could be the sleeper of the bunch.

There you are. The Fantastic Five. Think of us as ponies. Pick one and ride it to the end of the race. But keep in mind, we're also human. If we make too many mistakes, there will be no need or call to rub our noses in it. I'll do that myself. Game on, indeed.

Personal Note
The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina is proving to be more than many first anticipated. The devastation is incomparable. The impact immense. What emergency personnel and other officials are dealing with at this time is chaotic to say the least. As we celebrate victories this weekend, please keep the victims and their losses in your

Pampa bounces Perryton, 18-3

The Harvester Tennis Team competed in Perryton Tuesday, taking the Rangers 18-3. "We came out ready to play. None of us had ever seen this team play so we weren't sure what to expect," said Coach Emily Laurence. "They were a good practice match for us and everyone played well."



Coach Emily Laurence

The last win of the day came under the lights as Michael Foreman won a hard-fought match at the number 1 singles position. "I was very proud of Michael and the way that he conducted himself in the midst of adverse situations," Laurence said. "It's hard to be the last one playing when everyone is watching. However, Michael rose the occasion and came back for the victory."

The Harvesters are off this weekend and will start back up with a varsity match at Borger on Sept. 10., and a JV match at Borger on Sept. 15.

Pampa vs. Perryton: 18-3

- Boys Singles**
1. Michael Foreman def. Tyler Kile 1-6, 6-3, 6-4
 2. Jareth Fortenberry lost to Zac Kile 7-6 (7-1), 6-4
 3. Nick Julian lost to Luis Najera

- 6-0, 6-4
4. Steven Smith def. Jordan Depew 6-1, 6-1
5. Kevin Frels def. Chris Cano 6-3, 6-3
6. Tyler Morris def. Jeff Blasingame 6-2, 6-1
7. L. McNeely def. Braden Busch 8-3

- Girls Singles**
1. Myca Vinson def. Britanni Wray 6-0, 6-1
 2. A. Lucus def. Lindsey Chambers 6-0, 6-1
 3. Lacie Long def. Whitley Francis 6-2, 6-2
 4. Haley Acker def. R. Pekenpaugh 6-1, 6-1
 5. Tanna Stowers def. Aimee Deal 6-2, 6-0
 6. K. Farmer def. Britny Boxwell 6-2, 6-1
 7. M. Patterson def. Whitney Barnes 8-1

- Boys Doubles**
1. Foreman/Frels lost to Kile/Najera 6-4, 4-6, 6-3
 2. Julian/Smith def. Depew/Cano 6-3, 7-6(7-2)
 3. Fortenberry/Morris def. Blasingame/Busch 6-1, 6-2

- Girls Doubles**
1. Vinson/Long def. Wray/Francis 6-0, 6-1
 2. Lucus/Stowers def. Peckenpaugh/Boxwell 6-3, 6-1
 3. Acker/Farmer def. Barnes/Deal 6-2, 6-1

- Mixed Doubles**
- Patterson/McNeely def. Kile/Chambers 7-5, 6-4

Homeless Saints could face vagabond season

By DAVE GOLDBERG
Associated Press

There is only one certainty about the New Orleans Saints' future: They will live and work out of the Marriott Riverwalk in San Antonio for a while.

Beyond that, question marks abound. It's highly unlikely they'll be able to hold their home opener Sept. 18 at the Superdome — and they may not be able to play there at all this season after the stadium was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

So that first game against the New York Giants could be at the Alamodome in San Antonio. Or at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La. Or even at Legion Field in Birmingham, Ala.

And all of those sites could host other home games for the Saints, who escaped

the hurricane by flying with their families last weekend to San Jose, Calif. New Orleans plays at Oakland on Thursday night in its final exhibition game.

While the Saints and NFL officials have been discussing a variety of alternatives, they haven't talked yet with many of the people at the proposed sites.

"We can say is LSU an option, yeah, but is it an option with them?" Saints spokesman Greg Bensef said Wednesday by phone from San Jose. "That's the next hurdle. We haven't crossed that hurdle yet."

Only one hurdle has been crossed. Following the Raiders game, the Saints will go to San Antonio, where they will stay at the same hotel they stayed at last season when Hurricane Ivan chased them out of New Orleans in the second week of the regular season.

Lady Harvesters improve to 9-4

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvesters appear to be getting hitting their stride as they improve to 12-4 with wins over Childress and Vernon Wednesday.

Coach Sonia VanGilder's squad will next compete at the Wayland Tournament in Plainview Friday and Saturday. The junior varsity team will take part in the Dumas Tournament Saturday.

Results from Wednesday

Pampa def. Childress 25-15, 25-12, 25-12
Kills: Jackye Barber 13, McKinsie East 8, Nicole Clark 7, Jackie Gerber 7, Krishna Henderson 3, Cassie Tice 2
Assists: Stephanie McVay 34 Digs: Henderson 2 Ace: 0.

Pampa def. Vernon 25-19, 25-20, 23-25, 26-24
Kills: Nicole Clark 11, McKinsie East 10, Jackie Gerber 8, Jackye Barber 7, Britteni Rice 5, Stephanie McVay 4, Krishna Henderson 3 Assists: McVay 24 Digs: Logan Winkelman 3, Gerber 2 Ace: Cassie Tice 4, McVay 1, Clark 1, Jordan Albracht 1.

Bagwell goes 0-for-3

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) — Houston Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell, recovering from surgery on an arthritic right shoulder, struck out twice, walked once and flied out to left field Wednesday night in his first injury rehabilitation appearance with the Corpus Christi Hooks.

He was happy with the effort, though. "I felt all right," Bagwell said in a story in Thursday's Corpus Christi Caller-Times. "(Today) will be a good (gauge) of how I feel. With the adrenaline, it's tough to tell what your pain level is, but it wasn't too bad. Physically, I didn't go to my knees in pain, so it's all good so far."

Bagwell had surgery in early June and hopes to be back with the Astros for the stretch run.

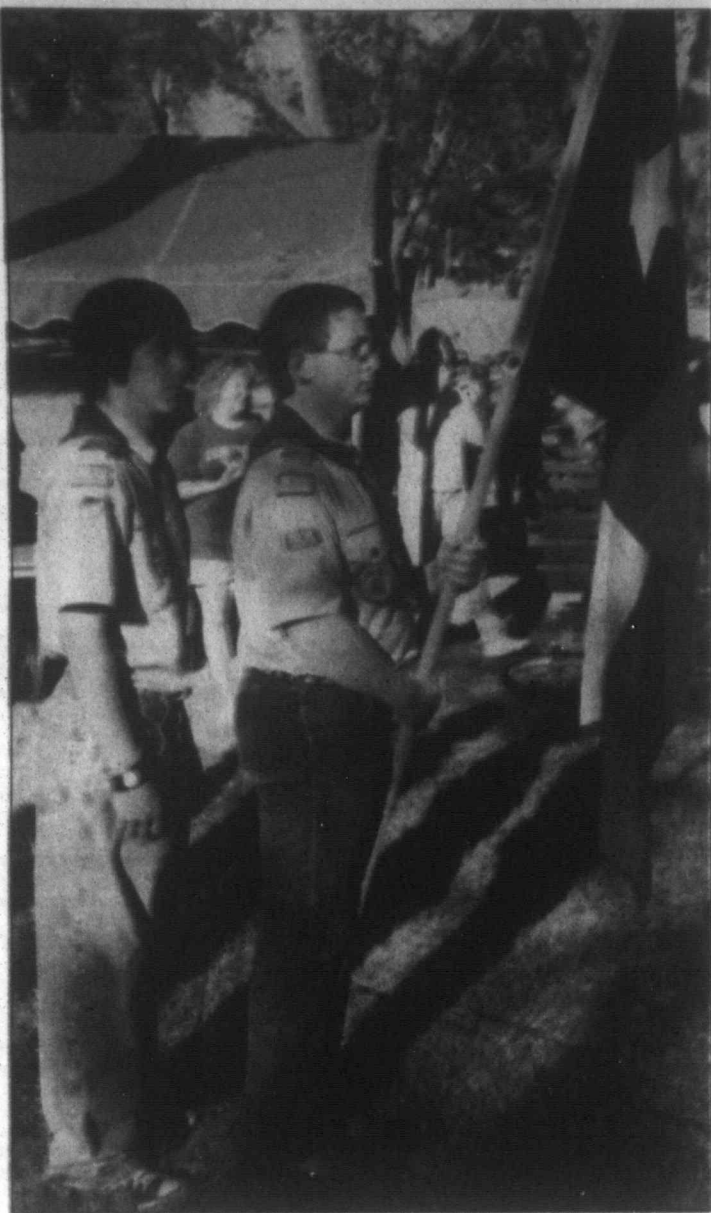
Corpus Christi lost to the San Antonio Missions 6-1.



Pampa News photo by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

Just warming up

Seniors Chadd Malone (#76) and Matt Parks (#62) take part in pregame warm-ups prior to the start of Friday night's home game against Perryton. The Harvesters hit the road Friday to face Clovis.



Chautauqua

Joseph Johnson, left, and Jonathan Cook, members of Boy Scout Troop 404 of Pampa, stand at attention during a flag ceremony at Chautauqua 2004. Organizers are currently gearing up for the annual Labor Day event to be held throughout the day in Central Park. Food booths, games, free stage entertainment and more are on tap for this year's Chautauqua, sponsored by Pampa Fine Arts Association.

Consumer spending up, savings down

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans spent freely for a second straight month in July, driving their personal savings rate down to the lowest level on record, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said that consumer spending rose 1 percent, matching the strong June increase.

Both months saw spending driven higher as consumers flocked to auto showrooms to take advantage of attractive incentive offers automakers were using to reduce a backlog of unsold cars.

Incomes rose a smaller 0.3 percent in July, down from a 0.5 percent gain in June. The combination of a surge in spending and slower income growth sent the personal savings rate falling to a minus 0.6 percent, the lowest level since the government began keeping these records in 1959.

In a second report, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits rose by 3,000 last week to a seven-week high of 320,000. Those claims numbers are expected to rise significantly in the

Emergency farm loan applications available through area FSA office

CLARENDON — Applications for emergency farm loans for damages and losses caused by drought, extreme heat and high winds that occurred from Jan. 1 and continuing are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency office in Clarendon, Larry Goetze, FSA farm loan manager said.

Wheeler County is one of 48 recently named by the secretary of agriculture as eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the aforementioned weather conditions.

Goetze said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 100 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agriculture business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to

weeks ahead as laid-off workers in New Orleans and other states hit by Hurricane Katrina file claims.

Economists have new concerns about how strongly consumer spending will grow in the future given a new surge in energy prices that has accelerated this week following the loss of production facilities along the Gulf Coast in the wake of the devastation from Katrina, expected to be the costliest natural disaster in the country's history.

Before Katrina struck, economists had been expecting that economic growth would accelerate in the current July-September quarter at a red hot pace of around 4.5 percent.

However, analysts are now slashing those estimates by 1 percentage point or more, believing that the surge in gasoline prices will lower the amount of money consumers have to spend on other products.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity.

Another concern is how long consumers can keep spending, given how low the savings rate has fallen.

obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Goetze said.

Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until March 27, 2006, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season," Goetze said.

Bush: Katrina 'unprecedented challenge'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said today the federal government has launched the most massive relief effort in history to help people devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and that while thousands more victims still need to be rescued, help is on its way.

"I fully understand people wanting things to have happened yesterday," Bush said in a live interview in the Roosevelt Room of the White House with ABC's "Good Morning America" program. "I understand the anxiety of people on the ground. ... So there is frustration. But I want people to know there's a lot of help coming."

Bush urged a crackdown on looting and crime that has spread throughout New Orleans.

"I think there ought to be zero tolerance of people breaking the law during

an emergency such as this," he said.

Bush said he has not yet finalized plans to visit the devastated Gulf Coast, but he is expected to go within days. He spoke as tens of thousands of people were evacuated on buses from the Superdome in New Orleans to the Astrodome in Houston.

He expressed sympathy for those still stranded and acknowledged that thousands still need to be rescued.

"I just can't imagine waving a sign that says 'Come and get me now,'" he said.

Bush brushed off criticism that he did not return to Washington from his monthlong stay at his Texas ranch on Tuesday, in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, instead of Wednesday.

"I hope people don't ... play politics during this period of time," he said.

"This is a natural disaster — the likes of which our country may have never seen before — and it's a national emergency. And what we need to do as a nation is come together to solve the problem and not play politics. There'll be ample time for politics."

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, meanwhile, said one problem is that "we have an ongoing flood situation even as we're in the middle of recovering from the hurricane."

"We're in a position where there are additional people we have to look for," he said in an interview on NBC's "Today" show. "We're hoping to get the most people out as we can in the next 12 hours and 24 hours, but we're going to continue to search until we're sure we've got everybody safe."

Lawyer blackmail alleged

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A pair of lawyers, married to each other, has been charged with the blackmail of four married men who had affairs with the wife.

Ted and Mary Roberts, attorneys in San Antonio, allegedly used legal petitions and confidential settlements to collect at least \$123,000 from the men.

The grand jury indictment issued Wednesday alleged that the couple's actions crossed the line between legal negotiation and criminal coercion.

"You can rest assured that I believe that lawyers are held to the same standards as everyone else in the community," Bexar County District Attorney Susan Reed said. "The law doesn't carve out the word 'lawyer' for special protection."

You can rest assured that I believe that lawyers are held to the same standards as everyone else in the community.

— Susan Reed
Bexar County
District Attorney

Ted H. Roberts, 48, and Mary Schorlemer Roberts, 49, face up to 20 years in prison and fines up to \$10,000 if convicted.

Their lawyer, Mike McCrum, said the Robertses have been unfairly accused.

"I believe they're innocent," he said. "And I believe that once the evidence is brought out fairly and objectively, everyone will see they have committed no crime and should not be indicted."

Fire damages Republic's HQ

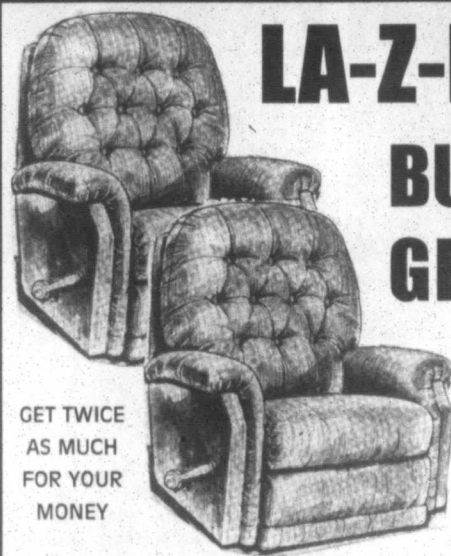
OVERTON, Texas (AP) — A fire has caused major damage to the south wing of the Republic of Texas headquarters.

Five Republic of Texas members were in the building at the time and one man suffered severe cuts to his arms as he tried to escape, said Bill Hall, Overton Volunteer Fire Department chief.

The fire broke out Wednesday morning in a building the group calls the national capital. Officials have not yet determined a cause.

Overton Police Chief Ed Williams said his officers have seized some weapons and ammunition in the building until the investigation was complete.

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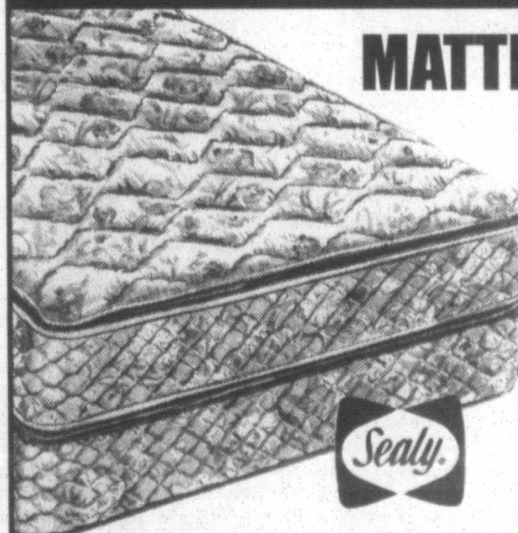
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