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Wednesday, March 15, 2006

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Planes join McLean wildfire battle Tuesday

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

MCLEAN -- Planes bombed it while firefighters from almost a dozen units battled it on the ground amid smoke so thick visibility was often no more than the length of a person's arm.

Fire officials and emergency personnel, as well as the residents of McLean, hoped increased winds today would not fan hot spots in the vast battleground of Tuesday's wildfire on the south side of Interstate 40,

across from the City of McLean.

The fire broke out about noon Tuesday and spread north approaching I-40, burning to the edge of the McLean Feedyard.

Thick, dry grass crackled as units from McLean, Pampa, Gray County, Canyon, Panhandle, Amarillo, Randall County, Groom, Skellytown, White Deer and Hoover

fought to stop the roaring blaze fanned by strong southerly winds.

The Texas Forest Service brought in two planes to join another plane and a helicopter to brave the smoke and heat and bomb the flames from the air with fire retardant.

The Texas Forest Service also brought in firefighters on the ground and two bulldozers to battle the

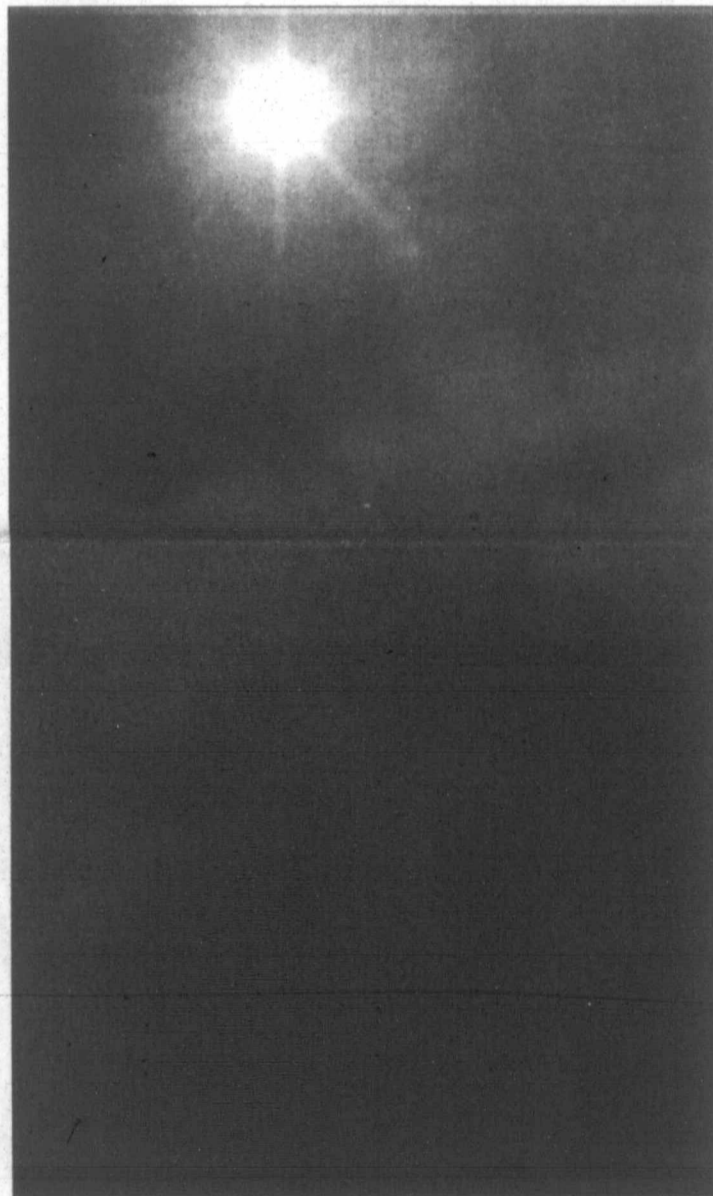
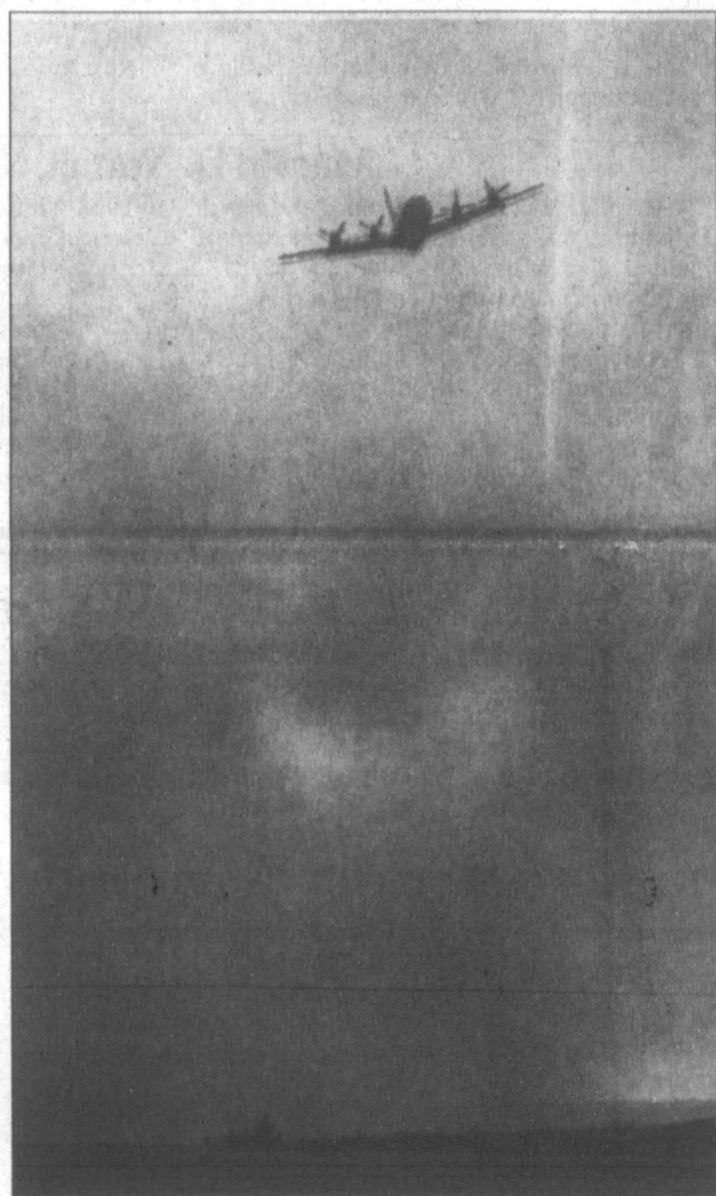
blaze.

Pampa police officers, Gray County deputies and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers blocked Texas Highway 273 south of the interstate as flames lined the road and smoke was so thick even the emergency crews had difficulty making it through.

Deputies said the fire was out by 6 p.m. with only smoldering hot spots left.

Red Cross phone number for displaced fire victims:
800-297-2270

See FIRES, Page 3



A Lockheed P-3, left photo, flies out of a column of smoke after dropping its load of fire retardant on a fast moving wildfire on the south side of McLean Tuesday. At right, the sun plays hide and seek behind a column of smoke billowing from the same wildfire Tuesday afternoon.

Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

Wildfires cause Lake McClellan to be shut down

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Lake McClellan is among the areas damaged by wildfires which began burning Sunday and have caused widespread destruction of grasslands and property, as well as 11 deaths.

"I had a meeting Monday with the U.S. Forest Service, and they have closed Lake McClellan Recreation Area because of high lines being down and trees that could fall," said Gray County Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright.

No injuries or deaths have been associated with the fire at the lake recreation area.

"The fire that started on Interstate 40 went down through Lake McClellan and burnt the permit office completely down," Wright said.

"There was a tremendous amount of damage to the trees. A lot of them will have to be taken down. We lost a lot of trees."

A dredge, a piece of equipment used to clear the lake of accumulations of silt and other material, which was at the lake at the time of the

See LAKE, Page 3

City OKs M.K. Brown work, new trash truck, resurfacing

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

M.K. Brown Auditorium will get a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The city will get a new trash truck and more city streets will be resurfaced.

The Pampa City Commission approved a bid by Larry Baker for \$584,564 for the new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. The bid was almost 20 percent more than had been estimated by the consulting architect.

City Manager John Horst told the commission that the city had budgeted \$500,000

for the system. The commission concurred with Horst's suggestion to use the extra money generated by sale tax receipts last year to make up the difference.

"It's a critical project," he said.

Shane Stokes, the city's recreation director who oversees the auditorium, said the contractor would have 60 to 70 days to complete the job. The completion target, built around the auditorium's use, is the end of June.

Stokes explained the first 30 to 40 days would be used to get the needed equipment in and work out the plans. Actual work on the installa-

tion would be done in June after the last of the spring performances scheduled for the auditorium.

The commission also approved two bids for the trash truck. The first was for the cab and chassis from Roberts Truck Center for \$49,971.52. The second was for the 25 cubic yard packer body from Southwest Equipment for \$54,528.

Public Works Director Richard Morris explained to the commission that the bid was split because past experience indicated the city could get a better deal.

See CITY, Page 3

4 killed by fire are identified

By DENNIS SPIES
Editor

The bodies of four men found near a car in Roberts County Sunday evening have been identified.

The four, en route to work between 6:30 and 7 p.m., were caught in the smoke from the wildfire in Hutchinson and Roberts counties.

Trooper Daniel Hawthorne of the Department of Public Safety in Clarendon, said the workers were driving on a county road near Miami in Roberts County

in heavy smoke, became disoriented, and drove into a pasture.

When the car was turned around, it went into a small ravine and became stuck. The four abandoned the car and tried to exit the smoke on foot, Hawthorne said.

The smoke and fire overtook them and they were found near the car in the ravine.

Hawthorne identified the victims as Roberto Chavira, 42, of Cactus; Arthur Dominquez, 32, of

See VICTIMS, Page 3

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Pitching in



Courtesy photo

Pampa employees of Bank of America partnered with Ben E. Keith Foods of Amarillo and Culligan Water of Amarillo Tuesday to donate bottled water and snack foods to the Salvation Army for use by volunteers and firefighters battling prairie wildfires. Pictured are, from left, Brandi Wyatt, Kay West, Bill Bryant, Scott Fixsen, Susan Sandoval and Orlene Baird. Fixsen represents Ben E. Keith. The others are bank employees.

Fires

Continued from Page 1

Fire officials said they hoped that 40 mph winds forecast for today would not whip up more flames.

North of McLean, officials finally opened Texas Highway 273 to Lefors Tuesday. The road had remained closed since Sunday due to downed

power lines.

Crews from electric utilities and phone companies repaired downed lines and replaced poles burned in two by the flames that swept through here the past Sunday and Monday.

Texas Animal Health Commission agents and inspectors from Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers combed the blackened pastures for dead cattle and horses.

Gray County Justice of

the Peace Mary Ann Carpenter's home north of McLean was burned to the ground as were the homes of several of her neighbors.

Black streaks of ash on the highway marked the places where the fire crossed the road, fanned by 50 mph winds earlier this week. Even the flood plain along McClellan Creek was blackened, the trunks of 100-year-old cottonwoods still smoldering.

Lake

Continued from Page 1

fires, was also burned.

"It's a total loss," Wright said. "It was worth \$250,000 when the U.S. Forest Service brought it to the lake."

Lake McClellan is part of the U.S. Forest Service's Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands, based in Cheyenne, Okla.

Also lost in the fire was 50,000 feet of plastic

dredge pipe used with the dredge, Wright said.

The lake was all but dry at the time of the fire Sunday.

"Right at the dam, there was a small puddle, not even a measurable amount," Wright said. "For all practical purposes, it was dry."

The Forest Service will meet to discuss what can be done for the lake and recreation area, Wright said.

"They're pretty optimistic that federal funds will be available for the disaster situation at the lake," he said.

"We hope to rebuild the permit office and do cleanup."

Lake McClellan, located 23 miles south of Pampa off Highway 70, covers 300 acres. It had facilities for picnicking and camping, and trails for motorized off-road vehicles, as well as fishing and boating activities when sufficient water was present in the lake.

"It's going to take a long time to get it back in shape for people to use," Wright said.

City

Continued from Page 1

The bid for the packer body was not the lowest bid, but Morris said that they had dealt with the company that had made the low bid on two previous occasions and had problems with them. They had bought packer bodies from Southwest Equipment before and had a better experience.

Morris said the life expectancy of the truck was about five years.

The city had budgeted \$110,000 for the truck. The

two bids totaled less than \$105,000.

The commission also approved an extra \$100,000 for seal coating city streets, bringing the total for this summer's seal coating project to \$250,000.

Materials cost 86 cents a square yard last year, but this year the materials are expected to cost \$1.26 a square yard.

Last year, the city coated about 11 miles of streets, or about 10 percent of the streets in Pampa, for \$250,000, but because of increased costs, Morris said he expected to coat only about nine to 10 miles of city streets.

Horst suggested that the

extra money could come from expected projected increases in the sale tax revenues this year. The commissioners again concurred.

Commissioners also approved correcting a typographical error in the city's International Residential Code and a written policy allowing Lovett Memorial Library to loan and borrow materials from other cities.

Librarian Ann Stobbe said the library has followed the policy for 20 years, but it had not been written as required by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

The commission formalized the policy.

Miss Deaf Texas killed by train

AUSTIN (AP) — The reigning Miss Deaf Texas who was killed by a train was text messaging her parents and friends on her cell phone as she walked near the tracks and might have been distracted, police said.

Tara McAvoy, 18, was walking about a foot away from Union Pacific railroad tracks. She had typed a message to her parents, both of whom are hearing-impaired, letting them know she was walking along the tracks from home to her mother's workplace on Monday.

A few minutes later, McAvoy was struck by the snowplow on the front of a 65-car Union Pacific train, which authorities said extended 16 inches on both sides of the tracks. She died at the scene.

"As the train approached,

they sounded the horn and got no response," Austin police Detective David Fugitt told the Austin American-Statesman. "They activated the emergency brakes but were unable to stop in time."

Fugitt said he is not sure whether McAvoy would have felt vibrations from the train.

The train was hauling a fleet of cars from Mexico to

St. Louis.

McAvoy graduated from the Texas School for the Deaf in 2005 and won the state pageant in June. She was scheduled to compete in the national pageant in California this year.

She had been a cheerleader, a basketball player and an honor roll student at the Texas School for the Deaf.

Victims

Continued from Page 1

Pampa; Merdaro Garcia Jr., 32, of Pampa; and Gerardo Villareal, 30, of Rio Grand City.

Hawthorne also said that two people previously missing in Hutchinson County have been found and are unharmed.

"They were found and are in good health," Hawthorne said. "No other details about their location or where they were are available at this time."

Hawthorne also said that information released on a Howardwick fire truck rollover Sunday was incorrect.

All three firefighters were injured and were transported to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

According to Hawthorne, one fireman is in ICU and listed as critical; one is in ICU but is listed as stable; and the third is recovering and listed as stable.

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Record

Continued from Page 2

two personnel responded to Miami Street on a report of smoke odor.

Ambulance

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

Tuesday, March 14

9:30 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of Somerville.

9:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transported a patient to Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo.

4:32 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 800 block of West 25th and transported a patient to PRMC.

5:11 p.m. — A mobile ICU unit responded to the 200 block of Craven and transported a patient to PRMC.

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Viewpoints

Newsmaker Interviews: T. Boone, the oil tycoon

T. Boone Pickens Jr. — who in 1983 as president of Mesa Petroleum mounted an unsuccessful corporate takeover of Gulf Oil — no longer runs his own independent oil company. But the self-made tycoon from Oklahoma still is very much on top of the day-to-day madness of the global energy business, where prices are spiking, world oil production is said to have peaked and Americans live in daily terror of unfriendly despots in the Middle East and South America.

25 percent of all the oil a day in the world and we have less than 5 percent of the population.

These days Pickens, 77, is running BP Capital, a successful hedge fund that invests primarily in oil and gas futures, alternative energy and energy-related companies. I talked to Pickens — who says he went after Gulf Oil not to move it out of Pittsburgh but because he thought it was being so badly managed — by telephone recently from his offices in Dallas:

Q: What was your reaction when you heard President Bush say America "was addicted to oil" and we need to kick the habit?

A: Well, there's no question we're addicted to oil. We're using between 20 and

Q: In order to kick that habit, there are a couple ways to do it — you replace the oil, you use less of it, you find more of it. What's going to happen?

A: The big oil fields in the world have been found. From time to time you will find another one, but you don't find them so often. I think 85 million barrels a day is all the world can produce and that's what you are producing today. I don't think you can "find" your way out of the problem. Probably the best thing you can do is raise the price and start to kill the demand.

Q: An Exxon executive said this week that the United States should stop trying to become "energy independent" and become "energy interdependent." What do you think of that statement?

A: Well, you can't become energy independent. That's out of the question because you're importing 60 percent of the oil that you use every day. There's no way you're going to (become independent). ... If everybody in the

United States started riding a bicycle, it'll work.

Q: For 100 years people have been saying we've been running out of oil, but every year we have more and more in proven reserves and ...

A: That's not true. What's confused the world is that we've had more oil available to us than we've used. So the supply was greater than the demand. Now the demand is equivalent to the supply. And I don't think you can get any higher supply than you are getting right now. The demand is going to go on up. The main thing is, when the price goes up, demand will slow.

Q: When the price goes up, won't they be able to find new ways of finding and recovering oil? That won't make a difference?

A: That's right. You can do that. But don't count on technology bailing you out. It's too big for technology. You can just do so much with oil in the ground.

Q: Of all the alternative

energy sources, which will become the most important in the next 50 years?

A: I think you're going to have a second infrastructure that's already under way — it's started in California — to use natural gas as a transportation fuel. Of all the oil used around the world every day, I think about 75 percent is used for transportation.

Natural gas has a misuse — and that is power generation. Natural gas is a more valuable fuel than making electricity out of it, and so that will move out of the power generation and that part of power generation will be absorbed by coal, which already does about 50 percent of power generation, and nuclear, which does about 25 percent. And the natural gas will move into the transportation fuel market. It will go in as compressed natural gas and also liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Q: The switch to using natural gas to power electric plants was a federal energy policy decision, right?

A: What it was, if you remember, was more of an environmental issue. It was cleaner. See, natural gas burns, oh, I don't know, 86 percent cleaner than gasoline. It has many better qualities. But the point is, it is domestic. You're going to import some LNG, but the percentage will not be scary, like the percentage of oil.

Q: Let's make you "Energy Czar." What should the federal government's energy policy be doing that it is not doing now?

A: One is that the people should understand that this country will never become energy independent. It isn't going to happen. ... So what can you do? What you'll do is, you'll start to live within your means. You'll cut down consumption. Some people have the idea that this is just the United States. It's just not so. The point is that it should be looked at as a global commodity. The American people will understand if somebody explains it to them.

What does this administration do? Well, if you want to go in and open up ANWR, fine, open it up. Get a pipeline off the North Slope down to the Lower 48 and

bring 4 billion cubic feet of gas in a day. That would be nice. Go ahead and open up other places in the United States that look like they'd be prospective for oil and gas.

Q: It sounds like you're saying let the market figure this out. Is there a role for government?

A: I don't particularly like wind because I don't like the unsightly towers associated with them. But there's no question wind will work. And solar will work. And when the price is right, these things will all start to come into play.

Q: Without the need for subsidies. They're heavily subsidized now, as is ethanol?

A: I don't know whether you subsidize or allow the price of fossil fuel to go up, and when you do, it will create opportunities for the alternatives.

Q: By the way, Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, describes you as a "well-known takeover artist" from the 1980s. What would you prefer to be remembered as?

A: "Legendary oilman."
Bill Steigerwald is a columnist at the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

Bill Steigerwald
Columnist



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 15, the 74th day of 2006. There are 291 days left in the year. This is the Ides of March — and the day the buzzards return to Hinckley, Ohio.

Today's Highlight in History:

Fifty years ago, on March 15, 1956, the Lerner and Loewe musical play "My Fair Lady," starring Rex Harrison as Professor Henry Higgins and Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, opened on Broadway.

On this date:

In 44 B.C., Roman dictator Julius Caesar was assassinated by a group of nobles that included Brutus and Cassius.

In 1493, Christopher Columbus returned to Spain, concluding his first voyage to the Western Hemisphere.

'People are, if anything, more touchy about being thought silly than they are about being thought unjust.'

— E.B. White
American author and humorist (1899-1985)

In 1767, the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, was born in Waxhaw, S.C.

In 1820, Maine became the 23rd state.

In 1913, President Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

In 1919, the American Legion was founded in Paris.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied bombers again raided German-held Monte Cassino.

In 1964, actress Elizabeth Taylor married actor Richard Burton in Montreal; it was her fifth marriage, his second.

In 1975, Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis died near Paris at age 69.

In 1977, the U.S. House of Representatives began a 90-day test to determine the feasibility of showing its sessions on television.

Players take modern baseball's lead

With baseball season just a few weeks away, the media focus is not on the coming season but instead on what a famed major league batting sensation did a long time ago.

Somebody once remarked that we Americans build our monuments to our heroes out of stone so we'll have something to throw at them when they prove to have feet of clay. The case of Barry Bonds proves the truth of that adage.

In a new book, "Game of Shadows," it is alleged that Bonds was using huge quantities of steroids from 1998 to 2002. Yet he has never failed a drug test. And as USA Today commented, "Just like everyone else, Bonds should have to flunk a test in order to draw a suspension."

Forget about the fact that long before he ever used a single strength-enhancing drug he was a stand-out star on the baseball diamond. Wrote Boston Herald baseball columnist Tony Massarotti: "Barry Bonds was a Hall of Famer long before the steroids and he is still a Hall of Famer now."

In my book, that's what counts. Barry Bonds is a baseball player. If he's not a really nice guy, that's another

er story. What matters in baseball is the ability to play the game well. And you can say what you want about Bonds as long as you keep in mind that some of the greatest players in the game were a pretty bad lot off the field.

As Massarotti put it: "Mickey Mantle was an alcoholic. Ty Cobb was a scoundrel. Even the lovable [late] Kirby Puckett has had allegations against him of spousal and domestic abuse, and rest assured that the list of tainted superstars goes on and on.

"Bonds was and is a baseball player, like Mantle and Cobb and Puckett and McGwire. None of them were really anything more."

In 1999, before any alleged steroid use began Bonds had already hit more than 400 home runs and stolen 400 bases. Massarotti notes that he had also won three Most Valuable Player awards.

That's what counts in the game. This whole steroid use business has been grossly overplayed and is a distraction from the purpose of the game, which as far as the

team owners are concerned is to attract large numbers of fans to pay the bills and the monstrous salaries the baseball heroes pull down. Fans demand home run heroes and lots of home runs. Historically, the owners have managed to overlook such trifles as steroid use or

the less-than-sterling characters of some of the baseball giants.

Last February I wrote that

after the ruinous players' strike a few years ago, the team owners needed to get people back to the ballpark. What they did to make the game more exciting was build stadiums that had shorter outfields, they juiced up the ball by winding it much, much tighter; and they went to harder maple bats — all because they wanted to have more home runs and wanted to have records broken.

Thus all the players did was take baseball's lead. They reasoned that if baseball could juice up the ball, why shouldn't they juice up themselves — make themselves stronger, bigger and better — to allow themselves

to get those home runs that baseball wanted them to hit. And to create excitement, baseball wanted to stir up increased public interest by staging competition over which home run records would be broken by which players.

Baseball has known about the use of steroids by their players for a long time but they chose to turn a blind eye to it — they needed those home run heroes to keep the fans juiced up. With the home runs and the records being broken, the fans were coming back to the ballpark and that was the game baseball needed to win.

And all those sportswriters who are now running around wringing their hands and taking pot shots at Barry Bonds either knew about the players' use of steroids or just weren't paying attention. Now with this new book they are shocked, shocked to discover that Barry Bonds was shooting up a few years ago.

C'mon, it's time to stop throwing stones and throw baseballs instead. Let's play ball!

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on more than 200 talk radio stations nationally as part of the Radio America Network.

Michael Reagan
Columnist



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Writings of George Orwell still relevant today

George Orwell remains a valuable writer, though he died in 1950. He was a man who was an active participant in his times, and since the new century appears to be going down the same road as the last one, we can still learn from him.

His essay "Politics and the English Language" ought to be read by every journalist and by everyone who reads journalists or listens to the babble on television.

"The great enemy of clear language is insincerity," he wrote. "When there is a gap between one's real and one's declared aims, one turns as it were instinctively to long words and exhausted idioms, like a cuttlefish squirting out ink."

"In our age, there is no such thing as 'keeping out of

politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia," Orwell wrote. Earlier in the essay he had said, "In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defense of the indefensible."

Our time and his time remain the same. We invade a sovereign nation based on lies, destroy its infrastructure, depose its government and kill 30,000 of its people, and we call that "spreading democracy" or "defending freedom."

The phrase "war on terror" is a phony metaphor. We are not at war. Ninety-

nine and 99/100ths percent of the American people are living the same way they've always lived. We have troops in Afghanistan and Iraq fighting an insurrection

that our invasions of those countries caused. They are at war — a war of their own country's making — but the rest of us are not. Waving a flag or putting a bumper sticker on one's car cannot be called a war effort.

The "war" is being relegated to the inside pages, and it's a safe bet that no matter what happens in Baghdad, the Academy Awards will receive more coverage and notice than the

war. In our nutty society, the choice of a comedian to emcee a Hollywood trade show is considered big national news.

What distinguishes us from other animals is language, and when we use language not to communicate truth as best we can determine it, but to deceive, mislead, obfuscate and obscure the facts, then we are committing the ultimate sin against humanity. We are playing a dangerous game with our own sanity.

Our own journalists sanitize even their skimpy coverage of the war. The American people must not be allowed to see the real face of war, lest they withdraw their support. The real

Charley Reese
Columnist



Presidential aide in hot legal water

WASHINGTON (AP) — During President Bush's State of the Union address, Claude Allen had a coveted box seat as a guest of the first lady. He sat there with an embarrassing secret.

For weeks as he worked side-by-side with Bush on policy that would be included in that Jan. 31 address, he carried the secret that was about to threaten the reputation he built during a swiftly rising career in Republican government.

What Allen knew and apparently didn't tell others at the White House is that he could be in legal trouble. Police say Allen was caught trying to get refunds on items he hadn't bought at a Target store in the Washington's Maryland suburbs, just 30 days before the State of the Union address he was helping to craft.

White House officials say they didn't know the truth about the allegations until last week, after Allen, 45, had resigned from his \$161,000-a-year job as Bush's domestic policy adviser. The felony charges have shocked those who knew Allen and considered him completely devoted to God, family and country.

"Nothing from my personal experiences with him would ever have led me to question his integrity, his morals, his honesty," said Alex Azar, the Health and Human Services Department deputy secretary who worked with

Allen during all five years of the Bush presidency. "He was always regarded as someone with real integrity and somebody with a keen moral compass."

Allen is the great-grandson of slaves who was raised a Democrat in a poor Washington neighborhood. In college, he says he became a born-again Christian and a Republican.

'Nothing from my personal experiences with him would ever have led me to question his integrity, his morals, his honesty.'

— Alex Azar
Health and Human Services
Department deputy secretary

He rode those ideologies up through positions in state and federal government, all the way to the White House, where last year he became the highest-ranking black to serve in the West Wing.

Allen was a conservative who supported a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and supported the right of Christian military chaplains to

mention Jesus in prayers at the publicly funded institutions. He drew the ire of liberals but impressed those he worked with for being a humble team player who was helpful to staff on all levels. Some of his co-workers, sorry to see him leave, cried at his going away party, held last month in the West Wing.

His explanation that he wanted to spend more time with his family made sense to those who knew him — he complained that he barely saw his two sons and two daughters, ages 2 to 14, with the long hours serving the president. Allen and his Barbados-born wife, Jannese, recently moved to a nearly \$1 million home in the Maryland suburbs to be closer to their church, the non-denominational Covenant Life.

His wife home schools their four children, and Allen told people that having the family close to the church's resources was more important than the 10 miles it would add to his commute to the White House.

In his time of trouble, Allen has asked the church's pastoral team to care for him, senior pastor Joshua Harris wrote in a statement on the church's Web site. "Our concern is for his soul," Harris wrote. "Our desire — and Claude shares this — is for him to walk with humility and integrity."

Reese

Continued from Page 4

face of war, of course, is broken bodies, blood, splattered brains and innards, horrible burns and other mutilations. There are no pleasant aspects of war. So, Americans are allowed to see soldiers giving candy to children, and occasionally an explosion on the horizon or the wreckage after the bodies have been removed.

In the meantime, the president and

his folks blather on in carefully chosen euphemisms and newspeak just as if they were characters in an Orwell novel. At least the American people are at last beginning to catch on, and Bush's approval rating is 34 percent and his vice president's rating is 18 percent.

That speaks well of the American people. They do trust their politicians, though that trust is often abused, but eventually they begin to check actions against words, facts against claims. Once they realized they've been bamboozled, then all the fancy words and euphemisms in the world won't restore their trust.

Bush has been in trouble in Iraq and Europe and Asia, and now he appears to be in trouble at home. He has three more years, so it would be a great help if this year one or both of the houses of Congress shifted to Democratic control. That would restore the checks and balances so necessary to preserve liberty, not that Democrats are any prize. That doesn't matter. The genius of our Founding Fathers is that they realized that as long as government fights itself, the liberty of the people is safe.

Write to Charley Reese at P.O. Box 2446, Orlando, FL 32802.

Events calendar

• **The local branch of the American Petroleum Institute** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Pampa Country Club. The guest speaker will be Gary Weaver with Security DBS Drill Bits. Dinner will be served at a charge of \$15 per person. Memberships will be available at the door. Door prizes are being donated by Halliburton.

• **Red Hat Dollies Society** will meet at 11 a.m. Thursday at Pampa Senior Citizens Center. Members are asked to bring "white elephant gifts." The group will also attend a concert at Stokes Barn at 6 p.m. March 25.

• **Tenor Eric Barry** will perform at 7:30 p.m. Thursday during the next Third Thursday at Amarillo Museum of Art in Amarillo. Barry currently trains with opera diva Mary Jane Johnson. He was one of only six tenors invited to attend the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. Other events will include a documentary about Georgia O'Keeffe and a coffee tasting. Third Thursdays are free and open to the public. For more information, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

• **College-bound high school students** can take the ACT

Assessment on April 8 the next nationwide test date. The registration postmark deadline was March 3. Late registration postmark deadline is Friday. The cost is \$29 without and \$43 with the Writing Test (an additional \$18 fee is required for late registration). Students can receive registration information from their high school guidance counselors or they can register on ACT's Web site at www.actstudent.org.

• **The next Pampa Area Christian Singles Dance** will feature Earl Witt between 8 and 11 p.m. Saturday at the Sportsman Club on South Bams. The event is smoke free and alcohol free. Admission is \$6 per person. Snacks are welcome. For more information, call 665-7059.

• **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum** in Canyon will present the genealogy program "Who's Who in your Family Tree" at 2 p.m. March 26. Guest speakers will include Lisa Lambert, preservation specialist, and Ellen Lovett, of Family History Center. The cost of the program is \$5 for PPHM members and \$10 for non-members. For reservations or more information, call Aarika Hand at (806) 651-2242 or e-mail

ahand@pphm.wtamu.edu.

• **Clarendon College-Pampa Center** will offer advanced Excel from 6:30-9 p.m. every Monday between March 27 and May 22. The instructor will be Connie Mondragon. Students will learn how to integrate Excel files with other applications and the Internet; how to use advanced mathematical functions; how to create and modify charts; how to analyze data; and how to create macros and hyperlinks. The class is limited to 40 students. A fee of \$60 and a textbook are required. To register or for more information, call CCPC at 665-8801.

• **The Association of Sons and Daughters of World War II Veterans** will lead a group to England and France during April 2006 to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the D-Day landings, the Battle of Normandy and the drive through France to Bastogne. The itinerary will include London, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, Omaha and Utah beaches, Caen, St. Mere Eglise, Caretan, Argentan, Falaise and Paris. For more information, call (561) 865-8495 or write Sy Canton 5121 B Nesting Way, Delray Beach, FL 33484.

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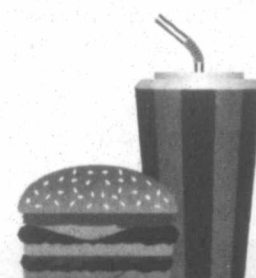
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EVERYONE MUST REGISTER

For More Information

Ronnie Haynes 665-6859

Kevin Davis 665-7843



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Wednesday	Thursday
Double-meat Pak-A-Burger w/green chiles or a Reg Pak-A-Burger, fries & a Medium Drink \$4.99/\$4.00	B-B-Q Sandwich, tater tots & a Medium Drink \$4.10
Friday	Saturday
Steak Finger Dinner with a Medium Drink (dinner includes salad, fries, gravy & Texas toast) \$6.65	Jr. Pak-A-Burger, fries & a Medium Drink \$3.50

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Thursday March 30th
Friday March 31st
Saturday April 1st
Sunday April 2nd
Monday April 3rd

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 LOST YOUR PET? Come by the shelter every 2-3 days to check for your animal. We hold stray animals for 72 hours only. So PLEASE call us as soon as your pet is missing!
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CREATE a Beat!



Bryce Gordon demonstrates that even Texas Longhorn fans need a little exercise to stay in shape for the rest of the CREATE a Beat! workout class.

Dubai company describes plans to sell American port operations

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Dubai-owned company said Wednesday it plans to sell all its U.S. port operations within four to six months to an unrelated American buyer and laid out new details about how it plans to pursue the sale under pressure from Congress.

DP World said that until the sale is finalized, its U.S. businesses will be operated independently. The announcement was the first time DP World described its plans for the U.S. operations as a "sale" and indicated it would retain no stake in them.

"An expedited sale process is under way and with the cooperation of the port authorities and joint venture partners, it is expected that a sale can be agreed within four to six months,"

the company said in a statement.

DP World said it will provide information about its business to "interested parties," which it did not identify, and said it will assess offers based on what it described as "value, deliverability and the continuity of management, employees and customers."

The new disclosures by DP World responded to questions raised since its announcement last week about how it intends to transfer to an unspecified American company all the U.S. operations it acquired when it bought London-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. for \$6.8 billion.

The British company handles significant operations at ports in New Jersey, New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia — plus lesser dockside activities at 16 other ports in this country.

DP World has said those U.S. operations are worth roughly \$700 million.

"This is the first time we have gotten clarification that the intent is for full divestiture," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "While I still have to look at the details, it looks now like they have fleshed this out in far greater detail," said Schumer, who said he was assured "the process be open and fair and quick."

"That is very good news. That's what we have been seeking from the beginning," he said.

At the White House, moments before DP World's announcement, spokesman Scott McClellan said company executives had earlier promised to transfer their U.S. businesses, "and it's important that they fulfill the commitment that was made."

"They have expressed that they are fully committed to doing so, and the Treasury Department said that they would work with them on implementing that decision."

— Scott McClellan
 Spokesman

DP World said until the sale is complete, its U.S. operations will be managed independently by P&O Ports North America Inc., the wholly owned U.S. subsidiary of the British company it bought.


Since DP World's announcement last week, Republicans and Democrats alike in Congress have questioned whether the company planned a full divestiture or whether it would retain some stake in the U.S. operations.

DP World said previously that its decision last week was based on an understanding it would be given time for an orderly transfer and that DP World will not suffer economic loss.

But until Wednesday, it had steadfastly declined to clarify its statement or the timing of any possible sale. Leading congressional critics threatened repeatedly to intervene if DP World's plans fell short of a full divestiture of its U.S. operations.

DP World said Wednesday it hired Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. of New York as its financial adviser for the sale.

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Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, you helped me with an unhappy relationship I was in. I took your advice, and it made a big improvement in my life. I am now engaged to a wonderful woman, and we're very happy. I never thought I would have to write you again. Abby, I am seeing some behavior in my 15-year-old nephew that has me worried. He's a "high achiever" and, basically, a pretty good kid. Maybe he's under stress from school or sports, but he has been having some shocking, angry outbursts. Whether against his parents, his brother or his girlfriend, he will fly into a rage. He shouts, pounds his fists on the table, slams doors (breaking a glass pane) and storms out of the house. I saw him shove his brother during a recent argument, and I have heard him threaten to put his fist through a wall. Luckily, he hasn't followed through. He doesn't have a history of causing trouble, and these angry outbursts don't happen all the time. I know you have a booklet about controlling anger. Do you think it might help him, and how can I order one? — **WORRIED UNCLE, ANNAPOLIS, MD.**

DEAR WORRIED UNCLE: We all have moments when we react without thinking. Your nephew is young, and his problem could be caused by a number of things -- including immaturity, lack of self-control and raging hormones. If you have a good level of communication with him, the first thing you should do is have a talk with him and ask what's really going on. If he is not having emotional or substance abuse problems, my anger booklet might be helpful to him. It contains constructive information about anger and suggestions for defusing it in healthy ways. It can be ordered by send

ing a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY: I have been house-sitting -- and paying rent -- for a retired couple for the last six months. They are traveling in an RV, so I moved into the spare room, collect their mail and keep their house in order. They come back to town every few weeks so one or both of them stays a night at the home. This was OK until last night. The husband wasn't supposed to be at the house. I was expecting him tonight because he has a doctor's appointment tomorrow. When I came home and saw him there, I was a little surprised. I was tired from a hard day at work, so I went to bed early. This morning, I awoke at 6:15 to my door opening. The husband came into my room, said he was cold, and jumped into my bed. He was naked! I told him he was a freak, jumped out of bed, rushed into my bathroom, locked the door and got ready to leave for work. I didn't see him before I left. Should I call the wife and tell her what happened? I am staying at a friend's tonight because I don't want to run into him again. I no longer feel safe with him there. Should I find a new place to live? I'm 31 and he is in his 60s. Yuck! — **GROSSED OUT IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR GROSSED OUT: The answers to both of your questions is yes -- and the sooner the better.

For Better Or For Worse



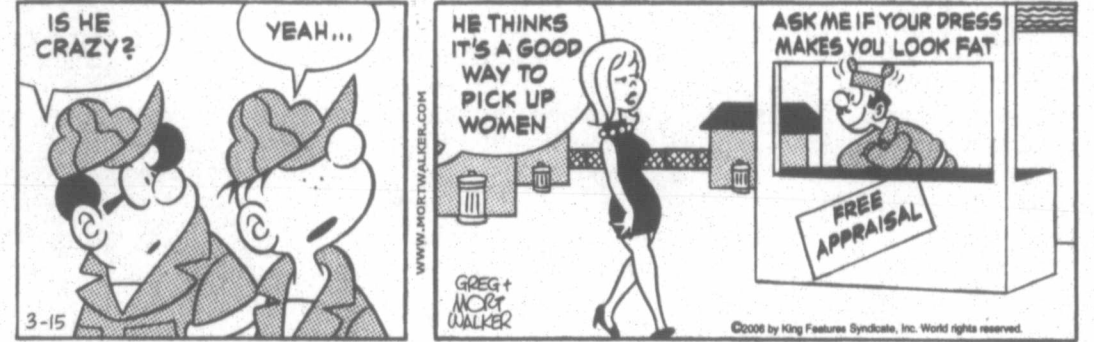
Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

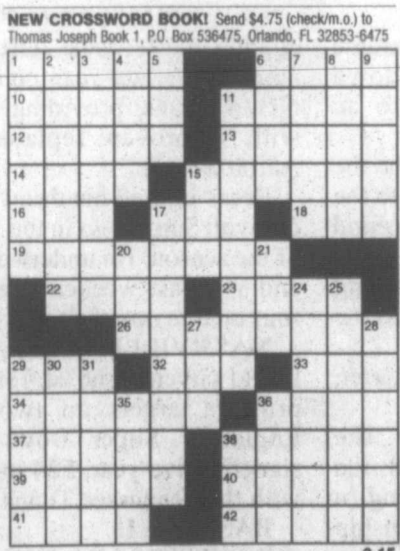
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Dale of Westerns
 - 41 Editor's base
 - 42 Friend of Peter
 - 1 Puts in order
 - 6 Watch part
 - 10 Count on
 - 11 Ingenuous
 - 12 Concession stand buy
 - 13 New York's Island
 - 14 Angers
 - 15 See 12-Across
 - 16 Ready to go
 - 17 Disencomber
 - 18 Pronounce
 - 19 Cared for
 - 22 Family fight
 - 23 Washday amount
 - 26 Irked
 - 29 Furious
 - 32 Floral ring
 - 33 La Brea goo
 - 34 Noted golf event
 - 36 Carnival attraction
 - 37 Temptress
 - 38 Heston role
 - 39 Fiat
- DOWN**
- 1 Bigot's problem
 - 2 Not oblivious to
 - 3 "No No" girl
 - 4 Young ones
 - 5 Hog haven
 - 6 Mall event
 - 7 Pagoda roofing
 - 8 Madonna movie
 - 9 Like a slob
 - 11 Indian capital
 - 15 Polite address
 - 17 Odorous
 - 20 Center
 - 21 Buck's mate
 - 24 Craftsman
 - 25 Cul-de-sac
 - 27 Finger count
 - 28 Formal
 - 29 Pondered
 - 30 Tangential comment
 - 31 Day in Hollywood
 - 35 Farm unit
 - 36 Wander
 - 38 Kitten call



Yesterday's answer



Marmaduke



The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie



1 Public Notice

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE Notice is hereby given that LLP Mortgage Ltd. f/k/a Loan Participant Partners, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership, is the current holder of that certain Promissory Note, dated March 30, 1979 and the assignee of that certain Deed of Trust (Direct), dated of even date therewith, granted by Fred S. Vanderberg Jr. and wife Sandra Kay Vanderberg, to Fred Lawrence as Trustee, and recorded on August 6, 1979, as Document No. 50116, in Volume 219, at Page 64 in the Real Property Records of Gray County, Texas, as amended by that certain Modification of Promissory Note and Extension of Deed of Trust, dated May 30, 1989, and duly recorded on June 16, 1989, as Document No. 100716, in Volume 593, at Page 286 in the Real Property Records of Gray County, Texas. Notice is further hereby given that, following default in payment of the obligations secured thereby, the property described therein is intended to be sold at foreclosure sale on April 4, 2006, on the south entrance of the courthouse in Pampa, Gray County, Texas, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (10:00 a.m. being the earliest time at which such sale will occur no later than three hours thereafter). A Notice of Sale has been or will be filed and posted at the Gray County Court-house containing further details. E-4 Mar. 8,15,22,29, 2006

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1 Public Notice

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5 Special Notices

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

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Summer Employment Fun Valley Family Resort. South Fork Colo. Needs students to work all types of jobs. kitchen, dining room, house keeping, stores, maintenance, horse wrangler & office salary, Room, Board, Bonus. For info. & appl. Write to Personnel Director, 6315 Westover Dr., Granbury Tx. 76049

21 Help Wanted

NOTICE Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

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

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EXCEL Production is accepting resumes and/or application for an Exp. Field Pumper. Individual must have knowledge and exp. in the operations of oil & gas wells, compressors & tank batteries. No Phone Calls will be accepted. Please bring resume or pick up application at 1050 N. Price Rd. or mail resume to: Attn: Personal Excel Production P.O. Box 1800 Pampa, TX 79066-1800

Enbridge Energy Company, Inc. a leader in natural gas industry, is currently seeking a Gas Measurement Supervisor for our AnadarkoSystem located in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandle. The select candidate will safely and efficiently supervise 6 measurement techs, 2 communication techs and 1 flowal measurement analyst.

Qualified candidates will possess: A minimum of a High School Education/GED A minimum of 10 year experience in field gas measurement or related operations experience. Good computer skills including a working knowledge of MS-Excel and MS-Access programs. Able to work with electronic flow meters, applicable software and other related gas measurement equipment.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please forward your resume & salary history/requirements in confidence to: Gas Measurement Superintendent PO Box 2678 Palestine, Texas 75801

Enbridge is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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

3-15 CRYPTOQUOTE O P Y T P O P Y . L I X F J A F F M W W X F F G L J A F K A U F G I A K X P Y Q J A F F X W L Y Q I A K X G L J A F F M W W X F F . - C A O Z P W R M F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A MAN CAN WEAR A HAT FOR YEARS WITHOUT BEING OPPRESSED BY ITS SHABBINESS. — JAMES DOUGLAS

21 Help Wanted

SALES position available. Must have forklift experience and able to lift 50lb. A professional appearance is mandatory. Must have a valid drivers license. Pre-employment drug test required. apply in person. West Texas Landscape. 120 S. Hobart.

CDL position open. Dump truck experience preferred. Day hauls only. Pre-employment drug test is required. Apply in person. West Texas Landscape. 120 S. Hobart.

OUTREACH Health Services hiring home health providers in Pampa area. Must be 18 yrs. of age. No exp. necessary. Please contact Regina or Dee 800-800-0697. EOE.

FT Pharmacy Technician needed. Send Resume to Box 13 C/o of The Pampa News, PO Box 2198, Pampa Tx 79066

FOUNTAIN help. Great hours. Clean, Neat & Dependable. Apply in person. Heard-Jones, Pampa

SECRETARY/Bookkeeper, computer exp. necessary, part-time. 669-9661, 8 a.m.-noon for appl.

DRIVERS NEEDED EXP. full-time Truck Drivers needed to haul crude oil. Must have a good driving record & at least 2 yrs. exp. on tractor trailer rigs; CDL req. Tanker and HazMat endorsements will be required. Must be able to pass a DOT physical & drug screen. Local hauls and exc. benefits. Day Shift. \$500 sign-on bonus. Openings in the Pampa area. For an appli., phone: 1-800-451-1931 or 1-806-659-2571. Plains Marketing, L.P. An Equal Opportunity Employer, M/F.

OPENING for Heating & Air Tech, and 2 helpers. Drug test req'd. No Phone Calls Please. Come by Larry Baker Plumbing Heating & Air at 11780 Hwy 152

FT Electronic Assembly Work. Will train. Must be motivated to learn & work. Apply @ Guardian. 1490 S. Doyle. 665-5010. D.L. & background req.

EXP. Maintenance person needed. Must have own tools. Call to apply 665-4274 or 806-433-6939

Aaron's Sales & Lease Will be accepting applications for Sales Mgrs. & Product Technicians Apply Texas Workforce Comm. 1224 N. Hobart (NBC Plaza) Pampa

NEED energetic sales people, part-time hrs. Apply at Murphy USA (station in front of Wal-Mart)

NATIONAL HOME HEALTH CARE is searching for a Full-Time Delivery Technician. On-Call time and heavy lifting req. Final applicant will be subject to drug screen, driving record & criminal background. 1521 N. Hobart, Pampa

EXPERIENCED Pressers needed. Apply in person at Quality Cleaners, 410 S. Cuyler, Pampa.

OUTSIDE Sales People needed. Experience Preferred. Top Pay- Paid weekly. Call 665-4442.

21 Help Wanted

PT Evening Cook's Helper is needed at St. Ann's Nursing Home. Must be able to work weekends. More info., call 537-3194, ask for Linda or Phyllis.

PAMPA Nursing Center needs LVN/RN & Laundry Aide. Apply in person. 1321 W. Kentucky. No Phone Calls Please.

Children's Home Healthcare is accepting applications for RN's with pediatric exp. for Borger & Pampa areas. Full time and part time positions avail. Home health exp. a plus. We offer benefits to full time employees and shift differentials. Please come by: 1612 S. Van Buren, Amarillo, Tx. for an application or call 806-367-6612

CLERKS Needed. Apply in Person At Davis Minit Mart. 1106 Alcock.

Car Washer / Detailer Apply in Person Prestige Auto 101 S. Hobart, Pampa

Auto Painter's Helper Apply in Person Prestige Auto 101 S. Hobart, Pampa

PUTMAN'S Quality Serv. Tree trim, custom carpots, stor. bldgs., decks. Msg. 662-4583

WE Do Tree & Lawn Service, Shrubs, Flowerbeds, etc. David Jenkins, 2100 N. Banks, Pampa, Tx. 806-665-0480. Free Estimates, Sr. Discounts.

White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

TITAN TG-5000 industrial Diesel Generator and TAC-2T Industrial Dual Tank Air Compressor. \$5500 for both. 217-0436

MODEL 11 Remington 12 gauge auto. Model 11 Remington 20 gauge auto. 806-665-0583 or 405-824-3647.

Elite Furniture 806-677-0400

HOT TUB Beautiful 2006 w/Lounger Never used. Waterfall 6.5 hp, 43 jets, Aroma therapy, cover, startup kit \$4,000. 806-670-9337

Distributor Overstock Brand name mattress sets, orthopedic & chiropractic endorsed. All brand new w/ factory warr. 40-80% Off retail. Can deliver. Pillow tops: Tw. \$176, Full \$227, Qu. \$241, Kg. \$371, Plush tops: Tw. \$87, Full \$115, Qu. \$151, Kg \$243. 806-517-1050.

BIG light bl. couch \$75 obo. Never used 04 black & white gas Whirlpool Estate stove, \$350 obo. Call Brandi at 806-440-6548

NEW GE Gas Dryer, Never Used. Paid \$370 Will Take \$150. Call 665-5638 or (469)658-1622.

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

1970 series Coca Cola box. Early 60's cigarette machine. Roll top desk. Slot machine. Call 669-0343, leave message.

8X10 storage building for sale. \$450. Call 806-669-1361.

MOVE-IN Special \$275 + dep. Fresh paint, appliances inc. Come check out the New Coffee St. Duplexes \$300 1st mo. ("Going Fast") Candy or Tim 433-6939 or 665-4274.

GWENDOLEN Plaza Apts., 1&2 bdr. Gas / water pd. 3, 6 mo.-1yr. lease. 800 N. Nelson, 665-1875.

1, 2, & 3 bdrm. Starting at only \$335. 6 mo. lease available. * Pool * Laundry * Wash/dryer hook-ups * Club room * On-site management * SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

Beautifully furn. 1 bdr. starting at \$375. We pay gas & water, you pay elec. 6 mo. leases. Pool & laundry on site. Caprock Apts. 1601 W. Somerville 665-7149 Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5:30 Sat 10-4

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

Caprock Apartments 1, 2, & 3 bdrm. Starting at only \$335. 6 mo. lease available. * Pool * Laundry * Wash/dryer hook-ups * Club room * On-site management * SOFTENED WATER M-F 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4 1601 W. Somerville 806-665-7149

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Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent Valid drivers license Some continuous full-time work experience

Other Desirable Education and/or Experience: College level coursework. Process tech certificate or an Associates Degree in Process Technology or Instrumentation is preferred. Prior experience in a chemical/refinery plant is a plus.

Work Environment: The Borger Refinery is a 24-hour, 365 days per year operation. Candidates must be able to work rotating shift schedules which include nights, weekends and holidays as well as scheduled and unscheduled overtime.

ConocoPhillips offers competitive pay and benefits to include stock savings plans giving employee's ownership in the company, retirement programs, medical, dental, prescription discounts plus many life insurance options. Outstanding plant performance is also recognized through cash incentive plans

ConocoPhillips is an equal employment opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, citizenship, age, handicap, disability or veteran status. Applications must be completed at the following location. A resume with work history should be attached to the application. Applications will be accepted through Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

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Job Order #5969469

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Job Order #5969469

69a Garage Sales

DEBBIE'S Used Furniture. We buy & sell 1 piece or complete house. 903 S. Main, Borger, 273-2905, 886-0268 Tues-Sat.

GOOD Wyoming Grass & Alfalfa Hay. Call Jackie in at (806)379-7130 or (806)231-0916.

REGISTERED Angus 12-15 Months: 32 Bulls @ \$1,150. 37 Heifers \$1,050. Bill Helton. Residence: (806)355-0509. Ranch: (806)248-7552

FARM HOUSE Call for details!! 669-2216

TUMBLEWEED Acres, self storage units. Various sizes. 665-0079, 665-2450.

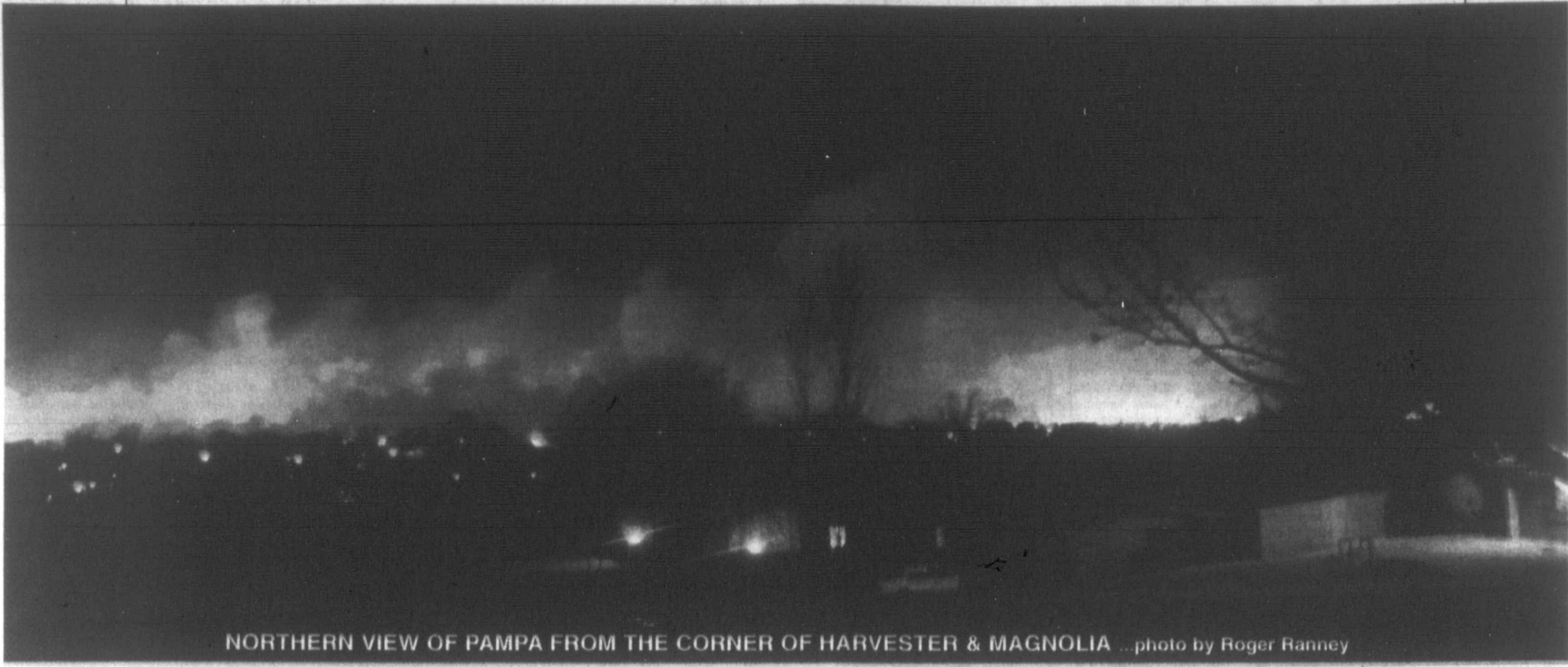
OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

LOWEST Rents in City! Downtown locations-stores, warehouses, rec. facilities. Call 665-4274.

\$8000 down, \$427.50 per mo., 6 yrs., 0 interest. 3 bdr., 1 ba., cent. b/a, det. gar. incl. fixer upper on opposite corner. Neat & Clean. 669-3498 Iv. msg.

Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

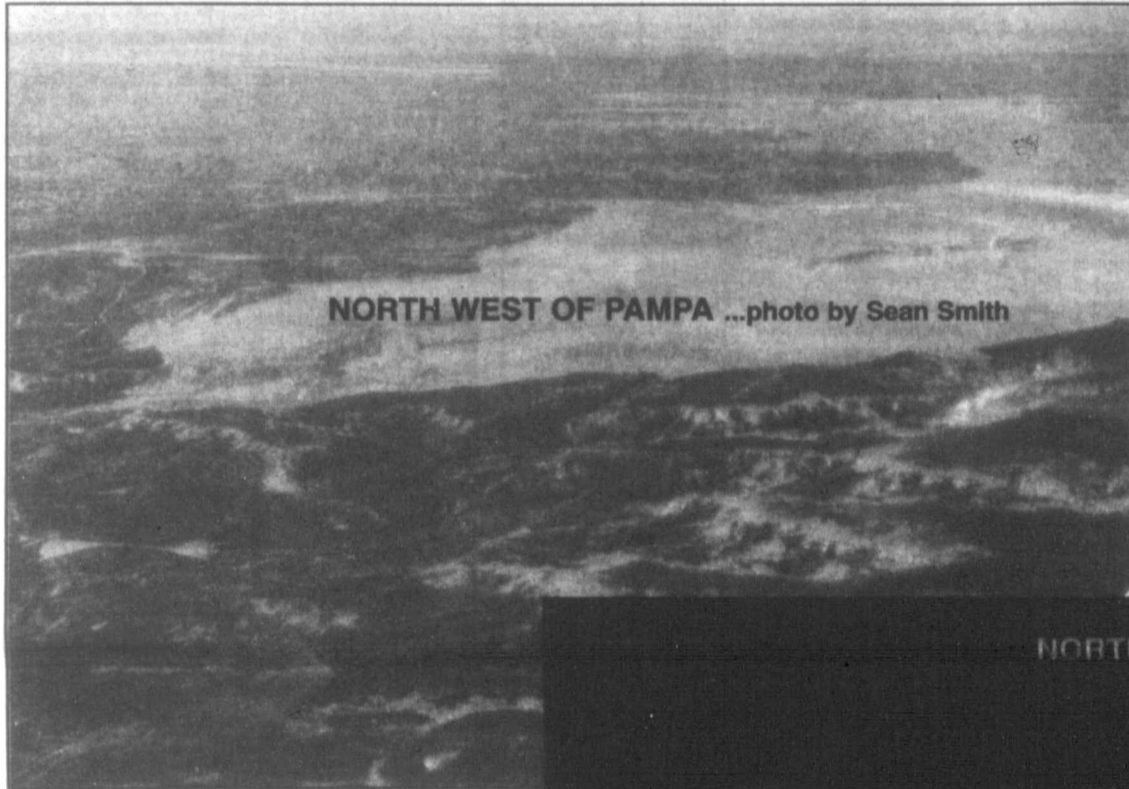
3800 sq. ft. 4 bd, 3 car gar. Keller Estates Home on 10.5 acres w/2900 sq. ft. horse barn Call 669-4327 Serious Inquiries Only.



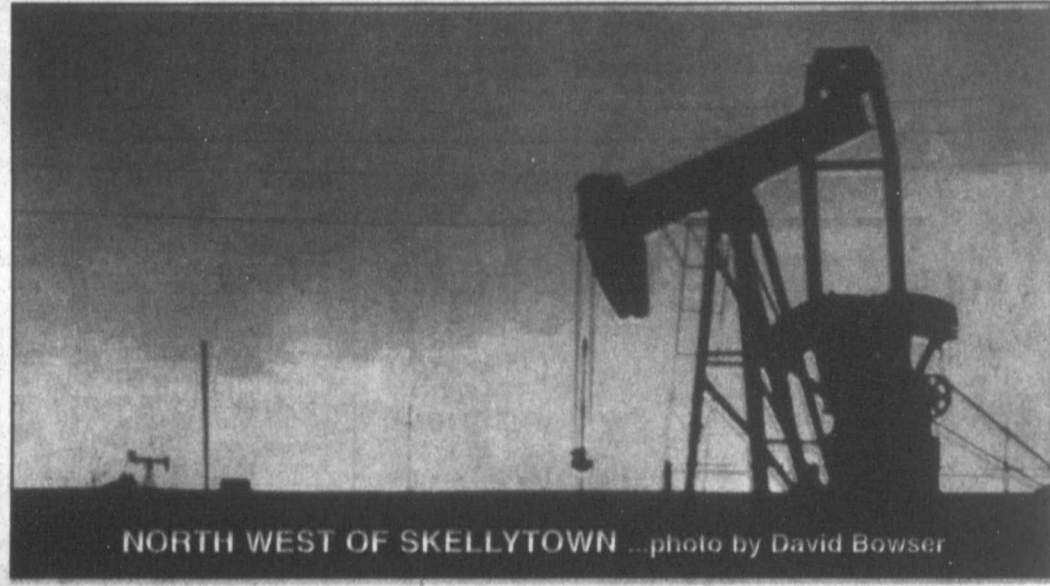
NORTHERN VIEW OF PAMPA FROM THE CORNER OF HARVESTER & MAGNOLIA ...photo by Roger Ranney

TEXAS PANHANDLE WILD FIRES

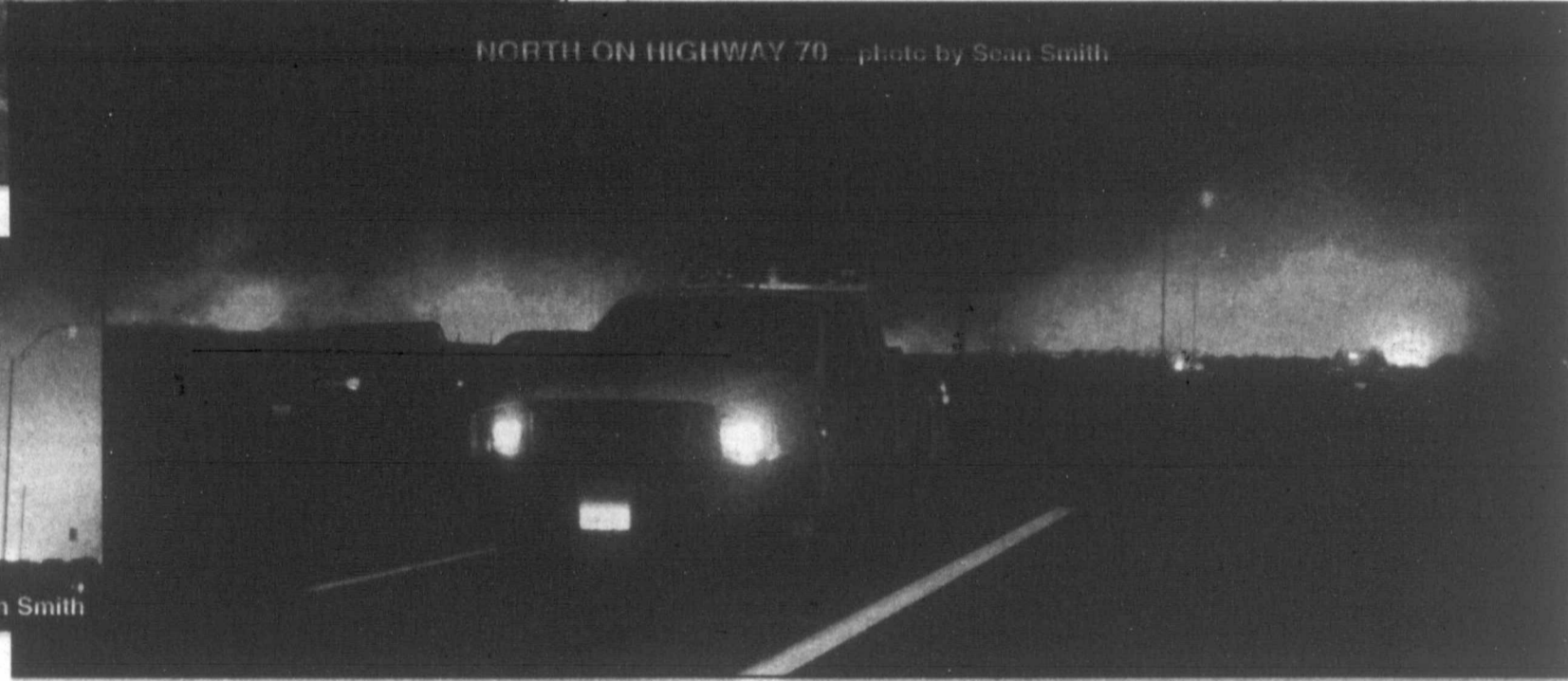
MARCH 2006



NORTH WEST OF PAMPA ...photo by Sean Smith



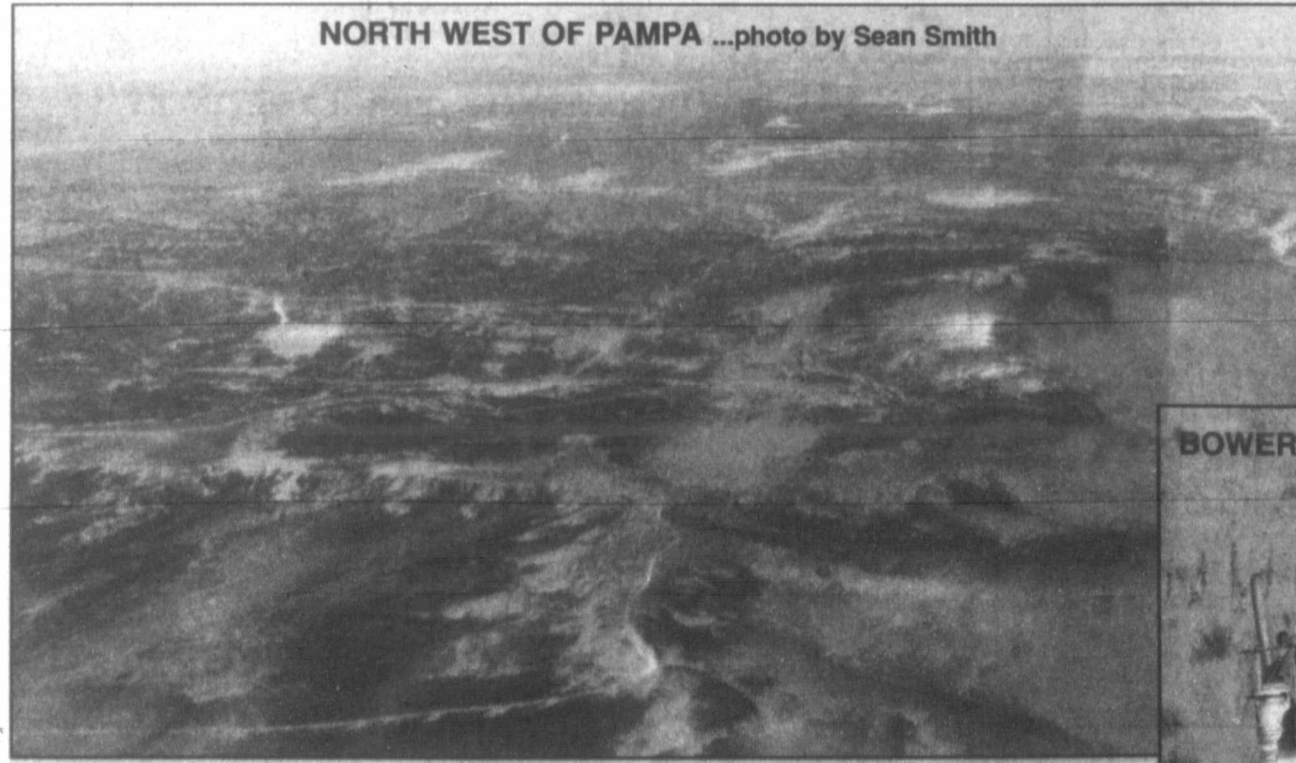
NORTH WEST OF SKELLYTOWN ...photo by David Bowser



NORTH ON HIGHWAY 70 ...photo by Sean Smith



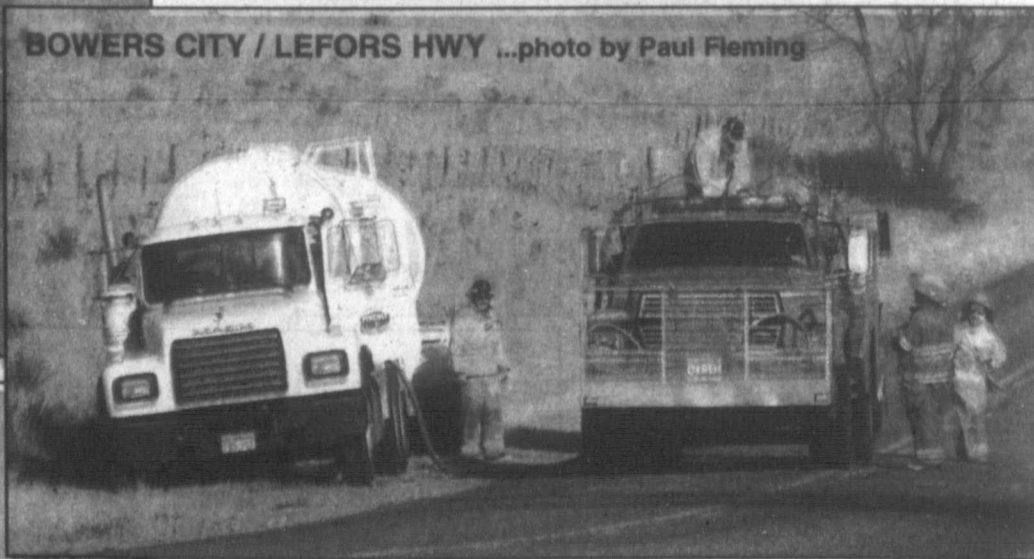
NORTH ON HWY 70 ...photo by Sean Smith



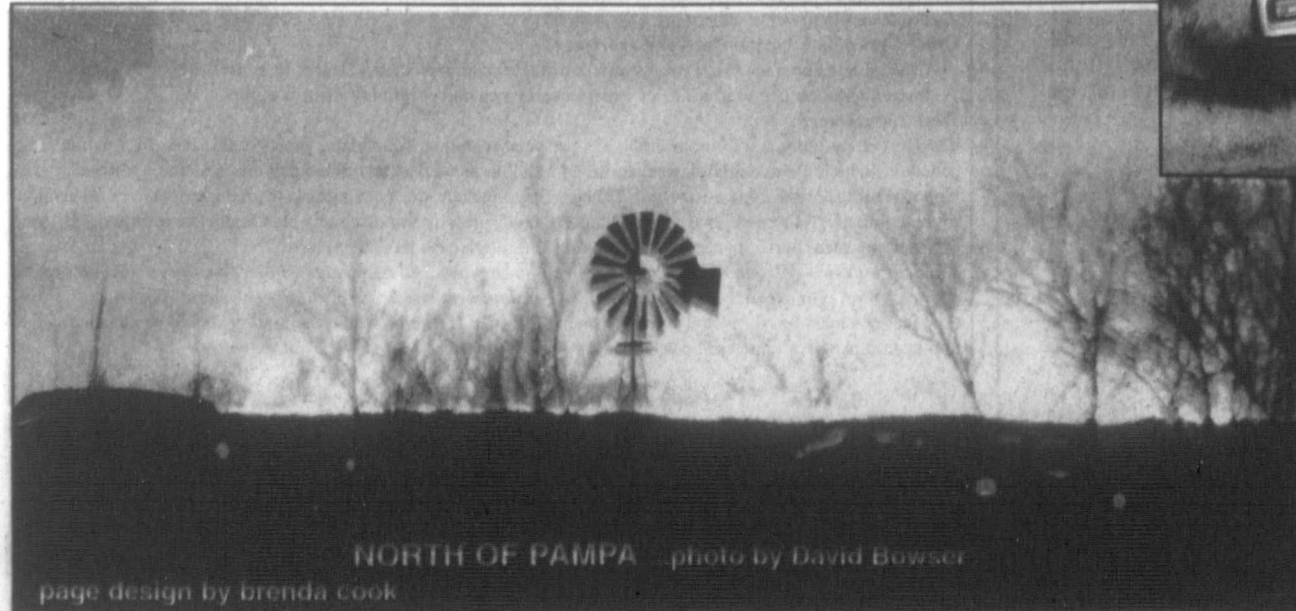
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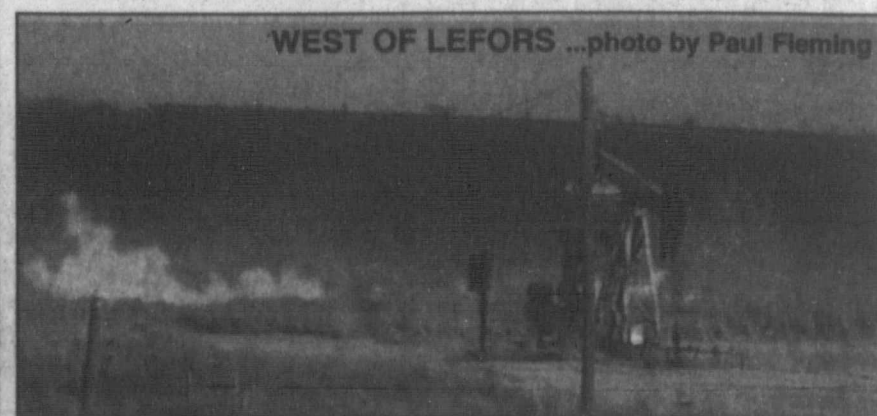
WALNUT CREEK ...photo by Sean Smith



BOWERS CITY / LEFORS HWY ...photo by Paul Fleming



NORTH OF PAMPA ...photo by David Bowser



WEST OF LEFORS ...photo by Paul Fleming