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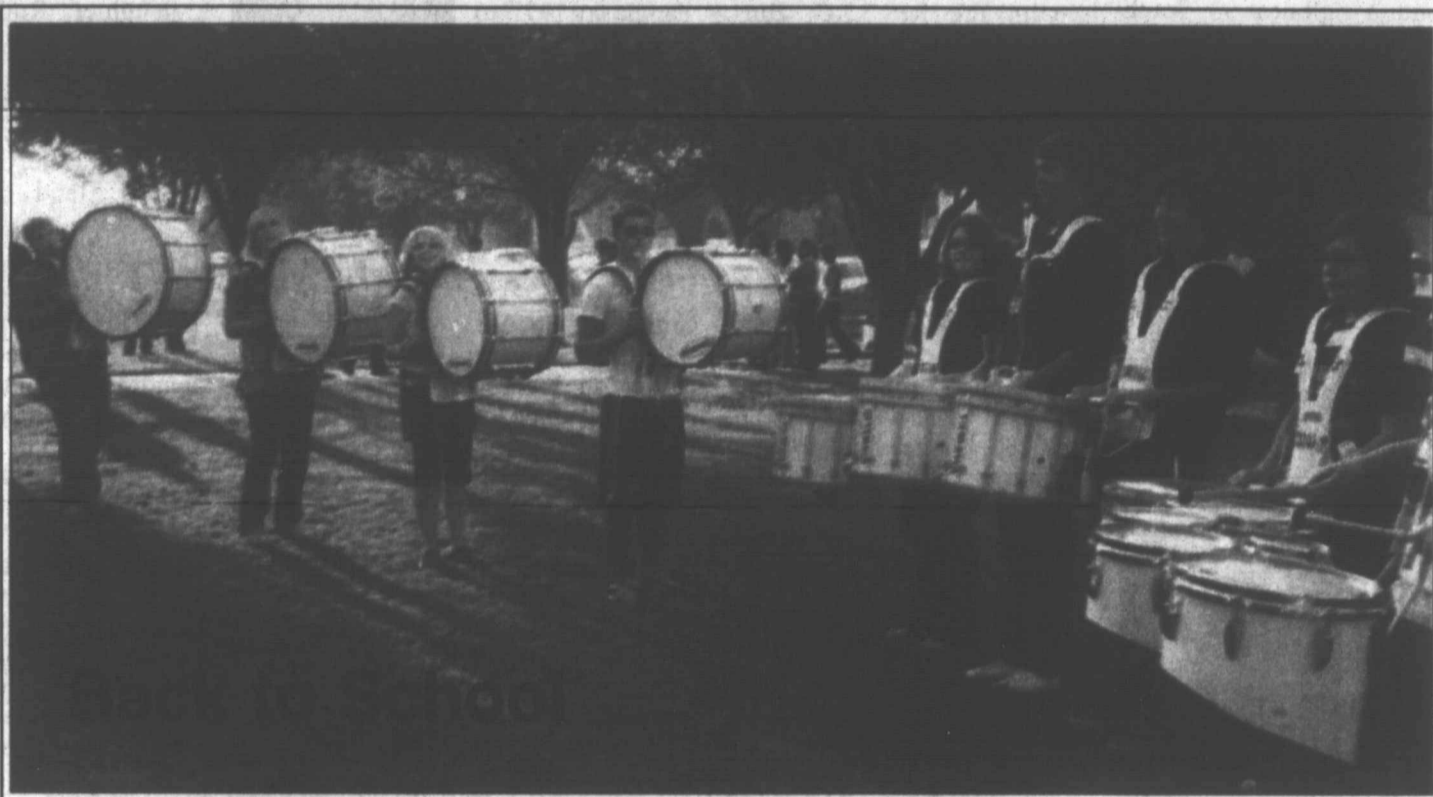
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staff photos by Rachel Stennett and Julie Ann Thompson
Students in Pampa attended the first day of classes today. Above - Students of the Pampa High School drumline perform on the front lawn this morning to welcome back the students. The drumline is lead by new coach, Chance Stater. From left are Brodie Peters, Hannah Smith, Shannon Leigh, Dustin Neef, Cassie Doyle, Craig Conner, Jameson King, and Margo Mendoza. Photo at left - Austin Elementary had a day to "Meet the Teachers" on Friday, Aug. 22. From left to right are Seth Erickson, Jerri Erickson, Whitney Banks, Katie Banks and Michael Erickson. Seth will start kindergarten this year while Whitney will start first grade.

Grant on city agenda

A block grant, tax abatement and the Pampa community fund will headline the Pampa City Commission meeting Tuesday afternoon. The commission will consider the public works department request to apply for \$250,000 for a Texas Community Development Program's rural community affairs office block grant to

See Grant, Page 10

Barbecue debuts new program

CrossPointe Church will announce plans to provide services to needy Pampans at a barbecue which will begin at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church, 711 E. Harvester. State Rep. Warren Chisum of Pampa will be guest speaker at the barbecue, which is free and open to the public. Two service programs which will be discussed at the barbecue are Celebrate Recovery and Power Packs. "Celebrate Recovery is a

See Program, Page 5

Budget talks held in preparation for public hearings

by Marilyn Powers
 mpowers@thepampanews.com

Budget talks for fiscal year 2009 were scheduled to continue today for Gray County commissioners as they prepare for the first of two public hearings on the proposed county budget and tax rate. The first public hearing will be at 9 a.m. Wednesday in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell. The second public hearing will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2 at the same location. Commissioners will vote on the proposed budget and tax rate at their Sept. 15 meeting. The county's fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The proposed tax rate is .44673 cents per \$100 valuation of taxable property for fiscal 2009. The current tax rate is .47326 cents per \$100 valuation. Previous tax rates were .445623 cents per \$100 valuation for fiscal year 2007

and .488926 cents in fiscal year 2006. The proposed county budget for fiscal 2009 is available for public inspection at the county clerk's office on the second floor of the courthouse. The proposed budget is \$11,679,129. The county budget for 2008 is \$11,004,455, and the 2007 budget was \$9,401,094. The budget which is available at the county clerk's office does not reflect cuts made by commissioners and department heads this month during budget talks, said County Judge Richard Peet. A special meeting of the county commissioners was held Friday to discuss budget matters and consider two issues. A resolution grant for Pampa's Meals on Wheels program was approved. The program is budgeted to receive \$1,500 from the county for fiscal 2009. The resolution certifies that the

program delivers meals to homebound residents, Peet said. "The resolution allows them to seek a Texas Department of Agriculture grant," he said. Longevity pay for county employees was continued for fiscal 2009 after a discussion of its cost. County employees are eligible for longevity pay after four years of employment. The highest amount of longevity pay received by any one employee is \$1,860 per year, said County Auditor Elaine Morris. Total cost to the county for all longevity pay is \$54,749, she said. "We haven't looked at any raises. I would hate to take that away. I move that we continue it," Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hefley said concerning the longevity pay. Several department heads seeking funds for additional projects, equipment or per-

sonnel found county commissioners difficult to sell on their requests during the budget talks, which began at commissioners' Aug. 1 meeting. District Clerk Gaye Honderich's request to add another full-time employee to her department was one such casualty. Honderich spoke to commissioners at their Aug. 15 meeting and

said that an increase in the workload for her department was the reason for the request. Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Kurt Curfman's request for a laptop computer was turned down at the Aug. 15 meeting. Curfman had also asked for a scanner to scan documents into a com-

See Hearings, Page 10

Lefors ISD budget meeting tomorrow

A public meeting to discuss the budget and proposed tax rates of Lefors ISD will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 26 in a special meeting of the Lefors School Board. The meeting will be held in the high school library located at 209 East Fifth Street. The board will adopt a budget and tax rate for the 2008-2009 school year and approve budget amendments for the 2007-2008 school year. The board will also discuss the financial condition of the district as well as monthly expenditures.

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Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday



Mostly sunny Mostly sunny Partly cloudy

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 66. South wind between 10 and 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 67. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 93. South wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68. South wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

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James Kirkwood, 78

James K. Kirkwood, 78, of Pampa, died Aug. 24, 2008, at Pampa. Services are pending with Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.



Kirkwood

Cheney to visit war-torn Georgia

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) — President Bush is dispatching Vice President Dick Cheney to Georgia, setting up a high-ranking diplomatic mission to an ally reeling from war.

The White House announced Monday that Cheney will head abroad on Sept. 2 for stops in three former Soviet Republics — Azerbaijan, Georgia and Ukraine — plus Italy.

"The president felt it was important to have the vice president consult with allies in the region on our common security interests," White House spokesman Tony Fratto said Monday.

The vice president's office described Cheney's mission in similarly broad terms, and called it a chance to reiterate the U.S. commitment to its allies.

Indeed, Cheney's presence in the war zone is a clear sign to

Russia of the U.S. resolve behind Georgia after the small country was pummeled by a Russian military response.

Cheney's office has used tough rhetoric against the former Cold War foe, saying that "Russian aggression must not go unanswered." The Pentagon has ruled out a military response.

Cheney's trip was in the works before the war erupted in Georgia on Aug. 7, but clearly takes on heightened significance as a result of it.

Cheney will hold talks in Georgia with President Mikhail Saakashvili, and will meet with the respective presidents of the other countries he is visiting.

The news comes as Russia's parliament voted unanimously Monday to urge the country's president to recognize the independence of Georgia's two breakaway regions, a move likely to stoke further tensions between Moscow and the small Caucasus nation's Western allies.

The war erupted Aug. 7 as Georgia launched a massive artillery barrage targeting the separatist province of South Ossetia. Russian forces repelled the offensive and attacked deep into Georgia, taking crucial positions across the small former Soviet republic.

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Services tomorrow

DAVIS, Wanda Lorene "Nanny" — 4:30 p.m., Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors Colonial Chapel, Pampa.
MATHIS, Jess "Hoppy" — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

Wanda Lorene 'Nanny' Davis, 89

Wanda Lorene "Nanny" Davis, 89, of Pampa, died Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in Pampa.

Services will be at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008, in Carmichael-Whatley Colonial Chapel with the Rev. J.C. Burt, retired Baptist minister, and the Rev. Doug Hixson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, officiating.

Burial will be in Memory Gardens Cemetery under the

direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors.

Mrs. Davis was born Sept. 27, 1918, in Duncan, Okla. She came to Pampa in 1977 to live with her daughter and son-in-law.

Mrs. Davis accepted the Lord as her savior at the age of 84 and was a

member of Cornerstone Baptist Church.

She loved fishing, quilting and going to garage sales. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Ruth Ann Black.

Survivors include three daughters, Gloria Brown and husband Dale, of the home, Jean Hand of

Shawnee, Okla., and Barbara Phillips of Moore, Okla.; 14 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

MEMORIALS: Cornerstone Baptist Church Vision Fund, 2410 W. 23rd St., Pampa, TX 79065 or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Jess 'Hoppy' Mathis, 71

Jess "Hoppy" Mathis, 71, died Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, in Pampa. Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008, at the First Baptist Church with Dr. Johnny Funderburg, pastor, and Donald Hill, pastor of the River Church in Canadian, officiating.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Directors with military rites courtesy of U.S. Air Force personnel from Altus AFB in Altus, Okla.

Mr. Mathis was born March 31, 1937, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He married Joyce Miller on June 1, 1956, in Pampa.

He was employed by Celanese Chemical Co. for 32 years and was a specialist over areas six and seven.

Jess was a member of First Baptist Church and Everyman's Bible Class. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and was a member of Pampa Masonic Lodge #966



Mathis

AF&AM.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He loved playing golf.

Survivors include his wife, Joyce Mathis, of the home; one son, Brad Mathis and wife Pamela of

Pampa; one daughter, Janice Gulick and husband Gary of Little Elm; one sister, Beverly-Barnes of Long Beach, Calif.; six granddaughters, Jennifer Lozano

and husband Rudy of Frisco, Denise Herr and husband Josh of Pampa, Samara Cummins and Kathryn Cummins, both of Pampa, and Melisa-Gulick and Melody Gulick, both of Virginia; and one grandson, Dustin Mathis of Amarillo.

MEMORIALS: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 621, Pampa, TX 79065 or BSA Hospice, 800 N. Sumner, Pampa, TX 79065.

—Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whatley.com.

Traffic fatalities ease amid higher gas costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roll back the clock to 1961: John F. Kennedy was inaugurated president. The Peace Corps was founded. The Dow Jones industrials hit 734. Gasoline reached 31 cents a gallon.

And the number of people killed in U.S. traffic accidents that year topped 36,200.

This year, gasoline climbed over \$4 a gallon, and the traffic death toll — according to one study — appears headed to the lowest levels since Kennedy moved into the White House.

The number is being pulled down by a change in Americans' driving habits, which is fueled largely by record high gasoline prices, according to the Transportation Research Institute at the University of Michigan.

The institute's study — which covers 12 months ending in April — found that as gas prices rose, driving and fatalities declined. The surprise, said Professor Michael Sivak, author of the study, was the huge decline in fatalities in March and April as gasoline prices surged above \$3.20 a gallon.

Over the previous 10

months, monthly fatalities declined an average of 4.2 percent compared to the previous year. Then, Sivak's data shows, fatalities dropped 22.1 percent in March and 17.9 percent in April of this year — numbers that did not show up in a recent federal report that tracked a drop in traffic deaths through the end of 2007.

The institute's study — which covers 12 months ending in April — found that as gas prices rose, driving and fatalities declined.

The declines found by Sivak suggest that motorists reached what he calls a "tipping point" and have begun significantly changing their behavior — altering not only how much they drive, but where, when and how they drive. Sivak said early data for May and June show similar trends.

"There is something more than just the reduction in driving that has to be brought in as an explanation for the huge

drop in fatalities," Sivak said.

If the pattern continues for the rest of this year, it would lead to "an unheard of improvement" in motor vehicle fatalities, said Sivak, who used data from the National Safety Council, National Center for Health Statistics and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sivak predicts that highway deaths this year will drop below 37,000 for the first time since 1961 if the March and April trends continue. The government motor vehicle death count for 1961 totaled 36,285. The number of highway deaths peaked in 1972 at 55,600, then generally declined over the next two decades. For the past several years, the number has hovered above 42,000 a year.

NHTSA reported last week that motor vehicle deaths in the United States totaled 41,059 last year, the lowest level in more than a decade. And the Federal Highway Administration said Americans drove 12.2 billion fewer miles in June than a year earlier, the biggest monthly decrease in a downward trend that began in November.

Experts who have studied motor vehicle fatality trends said one reason for the dramatic decline is that people are reducing their nonessential driving first, which is often leisure driving at night or on weekends. That also happens to be riskier than daylight commuting on congested highways at lower speeds.

Teenage and elderly drivers — who also have higher accident rates — are more likely to feel the pinch of higher gas prices, and thus may be cutting back more than other drivers. Federal data also shows that driving declines have been more dramatic on rural roads, which have higher accident rates than urban highways.

And, some drivers are simply trying to save on gas by slowing down, which also decreases risk.

"It's really very interesting that with all these efforts that have gone into building safer highways, safer cars, better enforcement ... this really dramatic change we're seeing is due to economics, to the price of gasoline," said Paul

Fischbeck, director of Center for the Study and Improvement of Regulation at Carnegie Mellon University.

The impact of high gas prices appears to extend well beyond traffic fatalities, also reshaping the way in which Americans travel and where they choose to live. Public transit, from trains to buses, is enjoying a revival. Amtrak, the passenger rail service that once struggled to attract riders, is now so popular it may soon not have enough trains to meet demand.

The increased cost of commuting to work by car is making close-in urban neighborhoods more attractive, accelerating a shift away from suburbs on the fringes of metropolitan areas — neighborhoods that have already been battered by the mortgage credit crisis.

"This is really the first time since the 1970s that people are thinking about driving and about what is the cost of an individual trip," said Mark Vitner, a senior economist at Wachovia.

Christopher B. Leinberger, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution and an expert on metropolitan development trends, predicts that in many metropolitan areas fringe suburbs will become tomorrow's slums, while walkable neighborhoods close to employment and city amenities become more desirable because of a variety of demographic changes that have been under way for several years.

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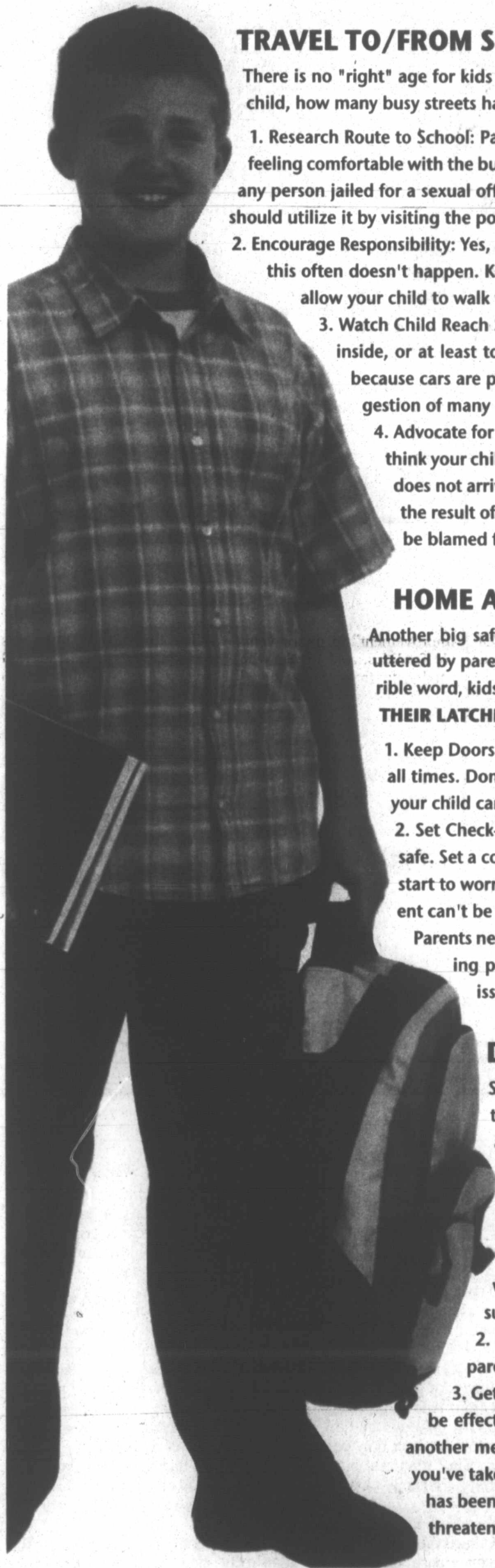
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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS



TRAVEL TO/FROM SCHOOL

There is no "right" age for kids to start walking or biking to school alone or with a friend. Each family needs to consider the maturity of their child, how many busy streets have to be crossed, if these streets have lights or crossing guards.

1. **Research Route to School:** Parents and kids together need to map out what route to take to school, and any alternate routes. In addition to feeling comfortable with the busy streets, etc., it's very important that parents know who lives along the child's path. Megan's Law requires that any person jailed for a sexual offense and then released be "registered" in the neighborhood where they live. This is public record and parents should utilize it by visiting the police station and researching the route to school.
2. **Encourage Responsibility:** Yes, adults in cars should always be on the lookout for kids in the street, especially in a school zone, but we all know this often doesn't happen. Kids should not expect cars to look out for them; they need to take responsibility and protect themselves. Don't allow your child to walk to school wearing headphones or playing a Gameboy because this will make him oblivious to his surroundings.
3. **Watch Child Reach Safety:** If you drive your child to school, don't take off the moment she steps out of the car. Make sure she gets inside, or at least to the front lawn/sidewalk where she's with other students and teachers. Don't feel pressure to pull away just because cars are piling up behind you - this is important. Many kids disappear between Mom's car and the school. Also, the congestion of many cars and buses can be dangerous.
4. **Advocate for Safety Changes:** Parents often don't realize how much power they have to change things within a school. If you think your child's bus should have a crossing gate, or your school needs a call-back system (the administration calls if your child does not arrive at school), then gather other parents together and complain. Don't wait for these changes to be instituted as the result of a tragedy. Stuber says administrations are very open to listening and responding to parents. They don't want to be blamed for an accident, and they know that they're funded by the parents' tax dollars.

HOME ALONE

Another big safety concern for parents is how to protect "latchkey" kids who are home alone after school. The favorite rule uttered by parents and experts alike is: Don't let a stranger inside the house. It's a good rule, but ineffective. Stranger is a terrible word, kids expect strangers to be scary, and they're not. **THERE ARE REALLY ONLY TWO RULES PARENTS NEED TO GIVE THEIR LATCHKEY KID:**

1. **Keep Doors Shut:** Instead of telling kids not to let a stranger in, the real rule needs to be: Keep the door shut and locked at all times. Don't fill your child's head with "don'ts"; simply tell them to keep all doors closed. If someone comes to the door, your child can communicate with this person through the door.
2. **Set Check-In Time:** Another thing parents should ask their child to do is call and let Mom or Dad know that she is home safe. Set a consistent time for the child to call each day. Give her 10 minutes plus or minus to allow for a slow bus, etc ... then start to worry if she doesn't meet this deadline. Also, find a close neighbor who is usually home around this time. If the parent can't be reached, the child knows to call this person.

Parents need to remember that kids who are home alone are much more likely to encounter dangers such as fire from burning popcorn or falling down the stairs than being abducted by a stranger. Parents need to consider some of these issues facing their families and deal with them accordingly.

DEALING WITH A BULLY

Sometimes, the idea of a bully seems more like a sitcom plot than a reality. However, bullies are one of the big things parents continue to worry about when sending their child to school. Bullies make the child feel terrible and make the whole family miserable. This can't be a wait-and-see issue; parents need to be aggressive on this one. Kids don't usually admit they are being abused at school. Parents must make it clear to kids how essential it is to share this information. **WHEN PARENTS DISCOVER THEIR CHILD IS THE VICTIM OF A BULLY THERE ARE THREE STEPS FOR THEM TO TAKE.**

1. **Visit School in Person:** Talk to the principal or counselor. Explain the situation and give them a chance to deal with the problem. You **MUST** go in person to show the school how serious you are about the bullying and make sure you have the administrator's full attention.
2. **Request Meeting with Parents:** If the school doesn't stop the behavior, ask to meet at the school with the bully's parents. Make them aware of what's going on and ask them to deal with it immediately.
3. **Get Police Involved:** Finally, if you have seen no changes, go to the police. This step rarely has to be taken, but it can be effective if necessary. Going to the police doesn't mean you want to have the child arrested; think of the police as another mediator, one the bully's parents may be more likely to respond to. Sit down with the police, explain the steps you've taken to stop the bullying, and ask for advice. They may have information you didn't know before such as, this boy has been a problem in the past. You can then go back to the bully's parents, tell them you've spoken with the police and threaten to officially lodge a complaint if the bully's behavior doesn't stop

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Viewpoints

A few things I've learned about Pampa...

I have already learned a few crucial lessons about survival in Pampa.

I am a newcomer to Pampa and although I've visited the community twice for brief periods, I didn't know anything about it. I knew the size of the town. I knew my cousins had been Pampans for many years. I knew there was a newspaper I wanted to work for and a church I planned to attend. That was it.

What I didn't know was that there are a few things that everyone knows.

Here they are:

1. My life will revolve around Hobart Street.

-- I am a person who actually plans to get lost when I'm going somewhere and I schedule "lost" time in the estimated time it will take me to get from one location to another. I love Hobart, although I'm still confused on how to say it (ert vs. art, rumor has it there is a great debate in the city). When I am lost (I've been genuinely lost three times so far) I search for Hobart. Someone told me there was a map in the phone book, so I tore it out and circled where I work and where I live

(both locations are off of Hobart). The most important unwritten Pampa rule thus far is that all roads lead to Hobart...hopefully.

2. Pampa weather is unfathomable.

-- Another important aspect of Pampa that natives know and foreigners like myself have to figure out involves the weather. I have learned even in this short time that cloudy doesn't always mean rain. Cloudy can mean hot and my car doesn't enjoy the humidity that the clouds seem to bring. On the first day to work, it seemed to be especially humid. My windshield fogged up while driving. Not the traces of fog that seem to linger at the crack of the bottom of the windshield, but full vision-blinding, accident-causing fog; the kind Steven King writes scary books about. After rolling down my window and glancing around, I realized no one I was sharing the road with had the same problem. Do Pampa cars not fog up because they are accustomed to the humidity? Is there a special recipe I

should smear all over my windshield to prevent the condensation? Will my car just adjust over time? Since humidity seems to be a fixture in Pampa, perhaps my car, which is comfortable in the dry climates of



Rachel Stennett
Staff Writer

Colorado and Arizona, hasn't quite acclimated. I don't know what to do about foggy windshield, but I have learned that I can count it being there on most mornings when I drive to work. By the way, I'm happy to report I made it to work that day without hitting any other cars and I only had to make one U-turn.

3. Everyone knows M.K. Brown.

-- It is a crucially important name that every Pampan knows. When receiving my Pampa tutorial from my cousin, she informed me that this was the name to know in Pampa. Why I asked? She replied that three out of four buildings are named after Mr. Brown including swimming pools, auditoriums, civic centers, college buildings, and maybe even some little children named

Montague Kingsmill. I felt the need to understand who M.K. Brown was because if I didn't, I thought I would never fully understand the city of Pampa. Instead of visiting the local museum, which reportedly has detailed information on the history of Pampa, I "Googled" Mr. Brown. After Google failed me, I asked a co-worker who gave me the official "Newcomers and Visitor Guide" of Pampa. Turns out that Mr. Brown worked with my other favorite man in Pampa, Mr. Hobart. M.K. had a vision for Pampa, and even after his death, the M.K. Brown Foundation inc. is making that dream reality by donating money to various buildings and constructing the M.K. Brown Auditorium.

I have concluded that I don't need a GPS system as long as I have Hobart, I need to allow five minutes of extra time to get to work to deal with windshield fog, and M.K. Brown is a deserving namesake for many locations in Pampa.

I'm excited to learn what else Pampa will teach me.

Explore your own personal, basic premises

What follows are a few of the basic premises on which I base my thinking. You might or might not agree with them, but may I suggest that you make a list of your own basic premises? It will help you clarify your thinking.

Charley Reese

Columnist



1. Government is inherently incompetent, and no matter what task it is assigned, it will do that task in the most expensive and inefficient way possible.

2. The American government is corrupt from top to bottom.

3. If you rely on the mass media to inform you about your community, state and nation, you will, with rare exceptions, be woefully ignorant of what is really going on.

4. The universal franchise is a bad idea. The notion that the destiny of the nation should be put in the hands of ignoramuses, parasites, boobs, party hacks and idiots is absurd on its face.

5. Public education in America is a failure and is so flawed it cannot be reformed.

6. Not much has changed in the past 5,000 years of human history. All of that might sound cynical, but it really isn't. True conservatives have argued for years that government, even a benign one, is like a clumsy, retarded giant, and therefore you have to be careful to limit what tasks you assign it.

You can make a career out of just criticizing obvious bloopers committed by the various departments of government, because they all commit them. The Romans built roads that are still around, but states today continue to build roads that will

pothole and crack within a year, sometimes sooner. Look at the federal airport-security people. They take nail trimmers away from grandmothers but allow real weapons to get through. And so on and so on.

As for the news media, since most media companies are now controlled by a handful of corporations whose sole interest is in maintaining a high profit margin, you are getting mostly fluff instead of hard news. Hard news is labor-intensive. It is cheaper to go with the fluff.

Thomas Jefferson's theoretical belief in a free press soon foundered on the reality, and he came to despise it. He advised one young man never to read newspapers, since it was better to be ignorant than misinformed.

As for government corruption, it's all around us. Sure, there are honest public officials, but the system itself is corrupt. It now requires so much money to run for office that the field is narrowed to bored millionaires and office-seekers willing to take as much money as they can from anywhere they can get it. That's why Congress pays no attention to the people. It pays attention to the suppliers of campaign funds -- not to mention junkets, fancy vacations and off-the-radar business deals.

As for the universal franchise, the problem with that is obvious. People who wish

to vote should at least be required to pass the same test given to immigrants who want to become citizens. A lot of voters are not even sure what state they live in -- or what century, for that matter. How can people who are ignorant of history, economics and basic science

make an intelligent choice for a national leader? They can't. They will go with the demagogue.

And, of course, it is public education that is mass-producing these ignoramuses. Imagine people completing 16 years of formal education and not knowing how to

spell, punctuate or use their native language correctly. Imagine college graduates who know virtually nothing about their country's history or geography.

As for the final premise, it is simply a reminder to utopians: Human beings are selfish, flawed and fallible ani-

mals. They always have been, they are now, and they always will be. Therefore, any human institution, public or private, will reflect those flaws. If you want perfection, plant a rosebush.

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



Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ Aug. 17

Austin American-Statesman on biomass plant production:

The Austin City Council is considering a \$2.3 billion contract with a 20-year commitment that has had far less public scrutiny than what's been given to many a zoning battle. Austin Energy ratepayers need to sit up and pay attention especially given that the contract will not be public.

The city-owned utility, Austin Energy, wants the council to contract to buy electricity for 20 years from a planned 100-megawatt power plant in East Texas that will burn waste wood from forests and lumber mills. The \$2.3 billion cost would cover everything building the plant, operating it, buying its fuel and, of course, providing a profit for the builder.

However, Austin Energy will not own the plant, even after 20 years. The builder-owner is Nacogdoches Power LLC, a joint venture of two privately held companies, BayCorp Holdings Ltd. and Energy Management Inc.

Roger Duncan, Austin Energy's general manager, said at a City Hall meeting last week that there is no danger that Austin could effectively pay for a plant that doesn't produce electricity: "If they don't deliver us power, we don't pay for it."

But, he said, the City Council must act by Aug. 31 because the terms agreed to by Nacogdoches are "locked in for a very limited amount of time." Also, he said, delay almost certainly would mean higher

costs later for the power from the plant because of escalating construction project costs.

Duncan gives two other reasons for committing Austin ratepayers to such an expensive project for 20 years: Unlike wind turbines and solar panels, this will be a renewable energy plant that can produce electricity 24 hours a day, not just when the wind blows or the sun shines.

And, he said, the City Council has set a goal for Austin Energy of getting 30 percent of its power from renewable energy sources by 2020. That goal will be difficult, if not impossible, to meet only with wind and solar. The biomass plant, Duncan said, would put the city closer to that target.

How would this affect monthly bills? Duncan offered a range on the impact on the fuel adjustment clause included in monthly bills, from a reduction of \$1.50 to an increase of \$2.50 for residential customers. Much of the difference depends on federal and state credits that might be available to subsidize biomass power projects like this one, he said.

More than a dozen speakers, including several from environmental groups, at the City Hall forum last week offered variations of the same thought: We like renewable energy and we're glad you're pursuing projects like this but there's just too much unknown at this point to approve this particular project so quickly.

Several council members have told us the same thing.

And we agree. The public wasn't told about this project until late July, yet Duncan wants a

council answer by the end of August. For a \$2.3 billion commitment for 20 years, that little amount of time is unreasonable on the face of it, especially given that the terms of the contract will remain confidential for proprietary reasons.

There's nothing about this project so critical that such a decision must be made now. The 30 percent benchmark is self-imposed, and it is not more important than giving thorough study to this deal especially when Austin Energy is about to embark on a lengthy process of soliciting public opinion about how to meet this city's future power needs.

Threatening higher prices if you don't act right now too often is a sign that something's not quite right, or at least not fully vetted.

There's another question: The fuel adjustment clause is a mechanism for passing along to utility customers variations in the cost of fuel used to make power, particularly natural gas.

But Austin Energy plans to use the clause to pay for the power purchased under its contract with Nacogdoches Power, as it has done with some wind power contracts. Though this approach reduces the city's financial risk, it also means that council members, now or later, avoid actually having to vote on rate increases to pay for this contract.

The council is scheduled to consider the contract on Thursday. The contract might be as good as Duncan says it is. But a lot more public examination is needed, and it is much too soon for the City Council to decide.

THE PAMPA NEWS

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Kyle Hefner of White Deer stands in front of a 1955 Chevrolet at one of the car shows that he organizes each month in Amarillo during the summer.
 staff photo by David Bowser

Hefner may have the 'best job in the world'

by David Bowser
dbowser@thepampanews.com

AMARILLO — Kyle Hefner may have the best job in the entire world.

The White Deer native spends summer Sunday afternoons once a month at Hooter's Restaurant with a bunch of cars.

The story starts in Pampa. "A friend of mine and I were helping with Pampa's Burning the Bricks and got to know some people out of Dallas that did our awards and tee shirts for us," Hefner said as a cool summer breeze blew across the parking lot at Hooter's next to Westgate Mall in Amarillo Sunday

afternoon, "and they were hooked up with Hooter's Corporate."

One of the guys was driving six hours one weekend a month to Amarillo to put on the car show at Hooter's here.

Hefner and his friend took over for him, and then his buddy moved off.

"I've been doing it for about two years now by myself," Hefner said.

The Hooter's car show is the fourth Sunday of each month, April through October.

The show is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., but Hefner said he usually gets here about 10:30 to 11 a.m. and people are waiting for him.

"It's open to anybody," Hefner said. "Anybody. Any year model."

On this sunny Sunday afternoon, the cars ranged from a 1934 red pickup to a 2008 Ford Mustang.

Jim Moyer of Pampa was there with his Dodges. Cecil Newman from Pampa was there with his Fords.

"There are a lot of regulars," Hefner said.

But every month, there are different cars that he hasn't seen before.

Hefner used to put on the Hooter's car shows in Lubbock on the second Sunday of the month, but this summer, he stopped doing that.

"There are a lot of cars down there," he said. "People from Lubbock come up here for the show."

Hefner is no slouch when it comes to cars.

"I've always been a car guy," Hefner said. "I love old cars."

He has four show cars. One's in the shop being restored, one's being painted and two are at home in White Deer.

A 1970 Chevelle convertible is the one being restored, he said. A 1970 Buick Skylark is being painted.

A 1950 Mercury is waiting to be restored, and a 1952 Ford pickup is finished and sitting in the barn, Hefner said.

Grant

Continued from Front Page ministry that has been used nationwide to help people from every walk of life with various addictions and life struggles," said Rev. Charles Lowry, pastor of CrossPointe Church. "The Power Pack program is really going to be a community effort."

Power Packs are packs filled with food to be eaten on the weekends, and will be provided

to needy children. "I've been talking to others and found that this is a real problem for some children on the weekends," Lowry said.

Pampa schools will allow the church to send home information on the program with students, he said.

"We will start with the kids on free and reduced school lunches," Lowry said. "If someone tells us they have a need for

a Power Pack, we'll provide it." Chisum will speak on the Power Pack program and on involvement of local churches in community services.

"Right now, we're in the process of getting information together and sharing the vision," Lowry said. "We're wanting to work with the community and other churches. It is truly our desire to be servants right here in Pampa."

More flooding expected in South Texas

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — Deep South Texas awoke Monday to find itself once again on flash flood watch after torrential rains swamped the already saturated region again over the weekend and more thunderstorms prepared to cross the border from Mexico.

Jose Garcia, police and fire chief in Roma, said his city received another four inches of rain Sunday, re-flooding areas that had begun to dry out and sending nearly 60 residents

scurrying back to the shelter. Several people were rescued from their homes, he said.

This is typically the area's rainy season, "but not this much," Garcia said. "We've been overwhelmed by water."

The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for Starr, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg and Zapata counties until 7 p.m. CDT Monday and predicted as many as four more inches of rain from storms expected to begin mid-morning.

The forecast attributed the rains to "abundant tropical moisture" and disturbances in the middle layers of the atmosphere over northeast Mexico.

It has rained off and on for more than a week in an area already sopping from Hurricane Dolly.

More than 13 inches of rain fell one week ago in and around Roma, a city of about 10,000 residents, 210 miles south of San Antonio.

8 inmates escape

CLOVIS, N.M. (AP) — Authorities say eight inmates, including a convicted murderer and another man charged with murder, have escaped from a county jail in eastern New Mexico.

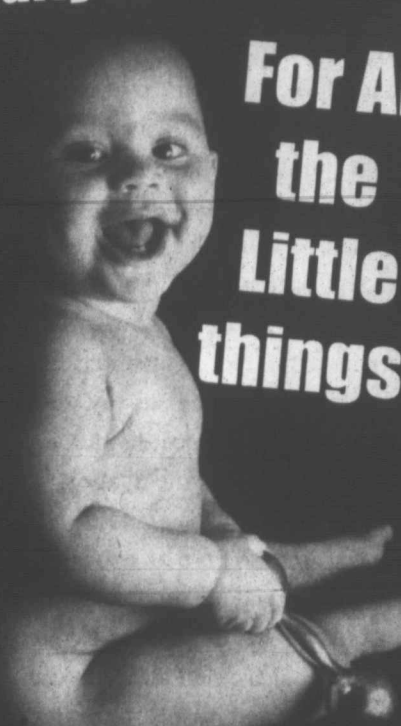
One of the men was captured by Clovis police, but the other seven remain at large.

It's not immediately clear how the men escaped, and no one at the Curry County

Sheriff's Department was available to comment early Monday. One of the missing inmates is Edward Salas, who is sentenced to life in prison for the murder of a 10-year-old boy. Shots were fired through the child's bedroom window as he slept.

Another escapee, Larry McClendon, is charged with murder and aggravated robbery in the death of a secondhand store owner.

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FUN RUN / WALK • 5K RUN

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

When: September 1, 2008

- Registration Day of Race beginning at 7:00 am
- Fun Run/Walk (one mile) begins at 8:00 am
- 5K Run begins at 8:20 am

Entry Fees: Register By Mail Before August 27th

- Fun Run/Walk \$4.00 & 5K \$8.00
- Register Day Of Race
- Fun Run/Walk \$5.00 & 5K \$10.00

ENTRY FORM

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

Last Name
 First Name
 Age Male Female
 City & State

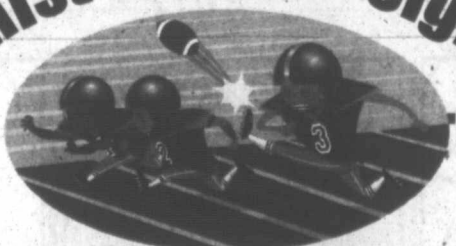
Check One 5K Fun Run

T-Shirt Size Needed Youth/Med Youth/Large Adult/Small
 Adult/Medium Adult/Large Adult/X-Large

ALL ENTRY FEES DONATED TO PAMPA UNITED WAY

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

Optimist Football Signups



AUGUST 25th-28th 5:30PM TO 7:00PM

at the OPTIMIST CLUB

\$45 • FLAG • 1ST & 2ND GRADE

BOYS & GIRLS
(Signups only!)

\$70 • TACKLE • 2 DIVISIONS

3RD - 6TH GRADE BOYS
(Signups and Tryouts!!!)

COACHES & REFEREES NEEDED

For more information contact Billy West at 669-1846

A Pampa United Way Agency

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My husband's best friend of 40 years, "Nick," started dating a woman about a month ago. Nick has been down on his luck personally and financially for several years. He called and asked if he could bring "Hattie" to our home for dinner. We agreed, hoping it would be a good relationship for him. Within 15 minutes of meeting her, Hattie told me she was bipolar and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. She has two small children, but when I asked where they were, she changed the subject. Nick doesn't have kids, and he's nearly 50. When Hattie asked me for something to drink, I offered her tea or soda. She took the soda, then said she preferred beer and wine, and did I have any. I poured her a glass, then she asked for a second and proceeded to drink 2 1/2 bottles of wine. Later, she told me she had a "headache" and asked if I had anything for pain. I offered Tylenol. No, she wanted something with a "kick." Needless to say, they didn't stay long after that because she was looking for prescription medication, and we had none. My husband told Nick that Hattie was not the type of woman he needed. Nick shrugged off my husband's advice of not seeing her anymore. Personally, I don't want that woman at my house again. If Nick calls and wants to bring Hattie around again, how should we say no? -- **BEST FRIEND'S WIFE**

DEAR WIFE: Don't say no. Suggest that the four of you go out for dinner and make it a short evening.

DEAR ABBY: When I was in high school I was involved in a car accident that took the lives of two of my friends. I was driving. A deer ran out in front of my car, I swerved to miss it and hit a tree. I was wearing a seatbelt, my friends were not. The police ruled it an accident. My friends' parents believed me, but because of the comments and physical attacks from my classmates I dropped out of school at 17. I got my GED and moved on -- or so I thought -- until two weeks ago, when I received an invitation to my 20-year reunion. A handwritten note was enclosed from a girl whom I had thought was my best friend back then. (She turned her back on me when the rumors started.) Her note read: "Come. PLEASE come. I want to see you. We all do." I don't know what to do. First of all, I dropped out. Second, there will be people there that I do not ever want to see again. My husband and my parents are pressuring me to go. My husband says it will bring me "closure," and my parents say I will look guilty if I don't go. Please help me decide. -- **REUNION WORRIES**

DEAR REUNION WORRIES: Pick up the phone and call the woman who sent the note. You are not the same person you were 20 years ago, and neither are the classmates who treated you so cruelly. You are now an adult, and you will have your loving husband beside you. As to "looking guilty" should you choose to stay home -- you weren't guilty when the accident happened and not attending won't make you seem guilty now. If you attend, do so because you have unfinished business. The choice, of course, is yours, but I think you have more to gain by going than you have to lose.

For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS — 44 Copied

1 Felt

concern

6 Soon-to-

be-retired

stadium

10 Martini

addition

11 "I've —!"

(exasperated cry)

13 David of

"Separate

Tables"

14 Texas

landmark

15 High card

16 Shop tool

18 Sailing

site

19 Amster-

dam

setting

22 Shade

tree

23 Ham or

veal

24 Settle, as

a debt

27 Soiled

28 Way out

29 Swamp

30 Native

countries

35 "— a

deal!"

36 Music

genre

37 Need to

pay

38 Indian lute

40 Crude

home

42 Make a

point

43 Consider-

ing

everything

DIPS CHIS
RENAL LADYS
ARENA AGENT
GIVENTIN ATA
EVE DOGSTAR
SERVED TEXT
ARISE
SPAS ZEPHYR
TAKETEN TOU
ELI ADDENDS
ELMER OCTET
ROBOT URALS
ROSS TUTS

Saturday's answer

12 Com-

fortably

27 Whale's

cousin

29 Lingerie

item

17 Sleeve

filler

31 Goofed

32 Exploding

stars

20 Moor

plant

33 Lived

34 Markets

21 Juanita's

friend

39 "Right

you

8 "Lou

Grant"

25 Unusual

stuff

—!"

26 Refueling

41 Counting

star

9 Tried to hit

break

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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42 43

44 45

8-25

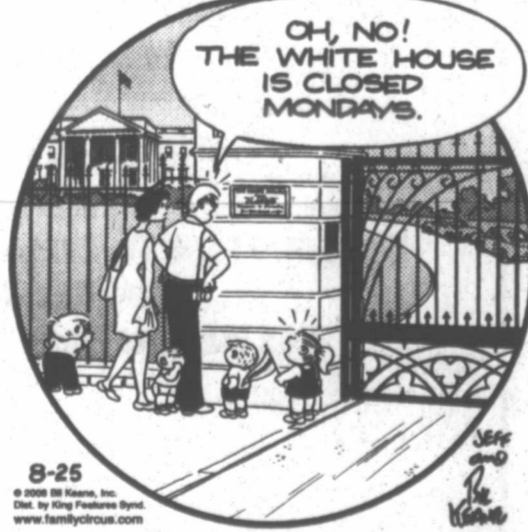
Marmaduke



"No more Food TV for you."

The Family Circus

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bill Keane



"Know why, Daddy? It's the day the Bushes do their vacuuming."

Flo & Friends



Sports



The Texas H.S. Coaches Association honored the 1958 Texas H.S. All-Stars on the occasion of their 50th anniversary at the 2008 H.S. basketball all-star game in San Antonio on August 7. Those shown on court of the halftime ceremony include, left to right: James Barrum of Beaumont French, Bill Brown of Pampa, Jim Curtsinger of Hereford, Bill Ehman of Boerne, Ed Gattis of Morton, Elbert Kirk of Cayuga, Randall Raburn of Wellington, Phil Reynolds (and grandson) of Waxahachie, David Warnell of Galena Park and Billy Wilbanks of Belton. Brown, of Pampa, was named Most Valuable Player at the 1958 game.

Pampa Sports Update

Softball

Parents of daughters in the high school softball program are encouraged to attend a meeting for the Lady Harvester Softball Booster Club this Wednesday at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Pampa High School athletic ready room.

Fundraising activities for the 2008/2009 season will be discussed. Any individuals wanting to support the softball program are also encouraged to attend.

Soccer

The Pampa Soccer Association will be taking registration until Saturday, August 30.

Youn gathletes must be at least four years of age. The cost of participation is \$65 which includes both the fall and spring seasons.

Registration forms can be picked up at T-Shirts and More located at 111 Kingsmill.

Golf

The 71st annual Hart Warren Top of Texas golf tournament is set for Saturday Aug. 30 through Monday Sept. 1 with a practice round on Aug. 29.

The tournament, which originated in 1938, has hosted many of the nation's finest golfers. Former winners include Masters' Champion Charles Coody, Lloyd Moody the brother of US Open Champion Orville Moody, and six time winner Richard Ellis.

There is still room in the field. The format consists of 72 holes of medal play in the Championship Flight, 54 holes of medal play in the President's and Super Senior flight (70 and older this year), and two days of match play. There will be one day of stroke play in all other flights.

If you are interested in participating please call the Pampa Country Club Golf Shop at 806-665-8431.

\$1.1B Tiger Woods Dubai course plan 'on track'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods is already the world's top-ranked golfer and highest paid athlete. And if all goes according to plan, he'll soon be sporting his biggest trophy yet: a luxury golf course hewn from the sands of the Arabian desert.

The ambitious project, touted as the first course in the world designed by the 2008 U.S. Open champion, remains a work in progress on the outskirts of this Middle Eastern boomtown — much like the rapidly growing city itself.

But the project's chief said Monday that the first phase of the development, which among other unlikely features promises 5 million square feet of locally grown grass and more than 30,000 full-grown imported trees, is on target for completion sometime in the last three months of 2009.

"Our schedule is currently on track," Abdulla Al Gurg said in an interview with The Associated Press.

However, Gurg did leave the Dubai-based developer Tatweer some wiggle room in case the city's notorious work delays snag one of its most high-profile projects, adding: "Our key criteria is adherence to excellence."

Tatweer is a division of Dubai Holding, which is owned by the emirate and its ruler, Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The golf course project, known as The Tiger Woods Dubai, will be part of a massive theme-park complex known as Dubailand the company is building on barren desert along the edge of the city.

Gurg said the company is spending 4 billion dirhams — about \$1.09 billion — to build the course and the surrounding housing development.

He wouldn't say how much Woods was being paid.

Gurg spoke following an event to showcase the project at a glitzy beachfront hotel just down the road from a man-made marina surrounded by dozens of skyscrapers, many still under construction.

Full-page ads in Emirates newspapers have been trying to entice local buyers to consider one of the 197 so-called palaces, mansions and villas that will flank the course.

The project's first stage will consist of the 18-hole, par 72 course itself, as well as a golf academy and a driving range. A hotel and most of the gated housing community should be finished by the second or third quarter of 2010, Gurg said.

On Monday, Woods paid

his first visit to the construction site since a June knee surgery sidelined him for the rest of the 2008 season. He said he didn't know when he might return to play next year.

"It's frustrating for me," he said when asked about the injury. Woods didn't rule out defending his title as Dubai Desert Classic champion, adding that he plans to "be hitting golf balls at the beginning of the year."

Despite its dry, desert climate — temperatures on

Monday hovered around 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or 38 degrees Celsius — Dubai is rapidly becoming a major golfing destination.

The city, which is banking on tourism to diversify its economy, each year hosts the Dubai Desert Classic and Dubai Ladies Masters.

Woods said he drew inspiration for his first course from clubs in the "sandbelt" golfing region near Melbourne, Australia. "We want this golf course to play fast, quick," he said, while

remaining appealing to a broad range of players.

Woods is not the only golfer laying out links in Dubai.

An 18-hole course designed by Colin Montgomerie was launched in 2006, and another by Ernie Els opened earlier this year. Greg Norman, Sergio Garcia, Pete Dye and Vijay Singh are also working on courses scheduled to open this year or next.



TAKE ME WITH YOU!



Going on a TRIP?

Take a copy of The Pampa News with you and once you arrive, take a picture of us together. We'll run your photo in the newspaper and you'll have a chance

to win a prize at the end of the year.

So, whether you are going to Paris, France or Paris, Texas take us along for the ride!

Remember to identify every person in the photograph from left to right and to give us some information about the trip and the landmark.

Either bring the photo and information to our office or email a copy of the photo and information to this address: rpribble@thepampanews.com.

Hidden Hills Results

Lion's Club Day/Nite
Hidden Hills
Golf Course
August 22, 2008

1st Place (46)

R. Perez
K. Driver
J. Montoya
S. Keys

2nd Place (48)

R. Tapp
S. Boyd
B. Pingel
L. Defever

3rd Place (48)

P. Montoya
S. Stribling
B. Horton
J. Blackmon

4th Place (49)

C. Miller
K. Hickman
S. Stokes
T. Hickman

5th Place (49)

C. Allen
A. Tiedt
J. Fessenden
J. Allen

Grand Prize

Drawing winner for a set of clubs was Donny Nail.

Cloest to the Pin

Daniel Williams (#15)

Tyson Hickman (#1)

Longest Drive

Kelly Hickman (#17)

Indians beat Rangers for 7th straight win

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Franklin Gutierrez's tiebreaking single in the ninth inning Sunday night led the Cleveland Indians past Texas 4-3 for their seventh straight win and a three-game sweep of the fading Rangers.

With the game tied at 3, Ryan Garko led off the ninth with a single off Eddie Guardado (3-3). Pinch runner Andy Gonzalez advanced to second on Kelly

Shoppach's sacrifice bunt, and Gonzalez raced home on Gutierrez's single up the middle.

Rafael Betancourt (3-4) picked up the decision, pitching a perfect ninth after forcing in the tying run with a bases-loaded walk in the eighth.

Full-page ads in Emirates newspapers have been trying to entice local buyers to consider one of the 197 so-called palaces, mansions and villas that will flank the course.

The project's first stage will consist of the 18-hole, par 72 course itself, as well as a golf academy and a driving range. A hotel and most of the gated housing community should be finished by the second or third quarter of 2010, Gurg said.

On Monday, Woods paid

The Pampa News

403 W. Atchison Ave.
669-2525

Events calendar

In observation of August as World Breastfeeding Month, the Outreach Health Services WIC office in Pampa is making available to the public breastfeeding information at its office at 1201 N. Hobart, Suite 1-1.

Harrington Cancer Center's Pampa Support Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 26 in the second floor classroom at Pampa Regional Medical Center. The featured speaker will be Stan McKeever, a social worker with the cancer center. His topic will be "Lessons Learned from Cancer." The meeting is open to the public.

Services-To-At-Risk Youth and Their Families will conduct a free "Back in Control Parenting Workshop" from 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 6 at Texas Panhandle Mental Health Retardation Children's Services Building in Amarillo. Participants must preregister to join. Instructors will be Janice James, MA, UCAP coordinator, QMHP, and Ruth Sullivan, QMHP, STAR case manager II. Continuing education units will be available. For more information, call (806) 359-2005.

The Greater Amarillo Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure will stage its 2008 "pink luncheon" at 12 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Heritage Room of Amarillo Civic Center in Amarillo. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$35 a piece. For more information, call (806) 354-9706 or visit www.komenamarillo.org on the Internet.

Pampa Book Club is scheduled to meet at Lovett Memorial Library on the following dates: Sept. 10 ("Cool Sassy Tree" by Olive Ann Burns); Oct. 8 ("Facing Terror" by Carrie McDonnell); and Nov. 12 ("Mother of Pearl" by Melinda Haynes).

Texas Medical Board will host a town hall meeting Sept. 9-10 at Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Amarillo.

Institute for Natural Resources will present a seminar for health care professionals worth six credit hours Oct. 2 at the Holiday Inn Lubbock Plaza in Lubbock and Oct. 3 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo. "Chronic Pain" will be presented by instructor S. Thomas Deahl II, D.M.D., Ph.D. The pre-registration fee is \$82. The seminar will be conducted from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at both locations. For more information or to register, call 1-800-937-6878.

Clarendon College-Pampa Center will host a MIP alcohol awareness program from 6-9:30 p.m. Oct. 3-4 in room 209 of the campus. The class fee is \$45 and is limited to the first 25 students. Attendance is required at both classes to receive credit. The class is to be taught by Dennis Burton, Texas Department of State Health Service, and covers the following topics: Possession, consumption, DUI, public intoxication, purchase of alcohol and misrepresentation. For more information, call (806) 898-5300.

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.

8-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

AHSQ OQHOFQ PKGRD GP'A
KHFMRV HR PKWP SWDQA
HRQ APIHRV. AHSQPGSQA GP'A
FQPPGRV VH. — ACFYGW

IHEGRAHR
Saturday's Cryptoquote: I'M TIRED OF LOVE,
I'M STILL MORE TIRED OF RHYME, BUT MONEY
GIVES ME PLEASURE ALL THE TIME. —
HILAIRE BELLOC

Horoscope

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2008:

You have style and energy working for you this year. You will get what you want or will achieve a long-desired goal. It won't happen out of the blue, but it will be the result of your hard work. Networking, commitments and friendships play big roles in bringing you to the finish line. If single, you do not need to stay that way. This year, you could meet someone very special through associations or friends. If attached, you will bond far more tightly if the two of you focus on a common goal, be it your lives, home or children. **CANCER** makes a great life cheerleader.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Unless you are dealing with real estate and investments, you might have a difficult time remaining focused. Your mind keeps drifting to a personal and/or domestic issue. If you can, leave work early, or take a day or two off. Tonight: Close to home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might lose your temper out of the blue and break off what could have evolved into an important communication. Your way of dealing with a personal matter might not be working for you. Take a break if issues are too intense. Tonight: Hang out with pals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Curb a need to spend or possibly go overboard. Work through some frustration; ultimately, the end result could

have you shaking your head. Express your duality, and pull back into your intellect. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You are all smiles and wonder about what is going on. Living life to the max will happen naturally. An even and steady style of communication proves to be successful, if tedious. Creativity bubbles forth with a key friend or associate. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take time to think, which might look like you're backing off from a project or commitment. Thought and reflection could prevent a problem. Feel free to pull back and do what you need to do. Make time for a visit to the dentist or doctor. Tonight: Play it low-key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Emphasize your goals, but not at the risk of putting yourself in an untenable financial position. A friend might root you on. Know when to say absolutely "no." Opportunities strike out of the blue if you are creative and open. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Pressure builds as you feel the need to make a must appearance. More often than not, others look to you. You make strong decisions as long as you aren't triggered or upset by a situation. Tonight: Could be late; burn the candle at both ends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Make phone calls to those at a distance. Seek out experts if need be. You are more in control than you might realize. Relax. A friend gives you that extra shove to think outside the box. Tonight: How about a game of Scrabble or chess.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Work with a partner closely. You might not agree with some of this person's goals, but that does not mean you cannot become kindred spirits over a key goal or desire. Let the other person express him- or herself. Listen. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others demand center stage. Be smart; let them have what they want. This allows you to be much freer than you'd anticipated. News from a distance or information heading your direction could be significant. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Accomplishment could be undermined by a need to look at a situation in a different light. Try to accomplish what you can with ease. If you feel a need for an expert, put aside that project for now. Tonight: Exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your imagination knows no limits. Be imaginative yet direct with others. A partner or associate could react negatively. You do not need to take this person's view personally. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

BORN TODAY
Art patron and collector Peggy Guggenheim (1898), Roman Catholic missionary Mother Teresa (1910), physician Albert Sabin (1906)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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RUSSIA

Lawmakers recognize Georgia separatists

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's parliament voted unanimously Monday to urge the president to recognize the independence of Georgia's two breakaway regions, a move likely to stoke further tensions between Moscow and the small Caucasus nation's Western allies.

The votes by both chambers of Russia's parliament, which were not legally binding, come as the White House announced Vice President Dick Cheney would travel to three former Soviet republics next week — Georgia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

"Russia's historic role of the guarantor of piece in the Caucasus has increased," said Boris Gryzlov, speaker of the lower chamber. "The Caucasus has always been and will remain the zone of Russia's strategic interests."

The continued presence of Russian troops in Georgia after a lightning war over the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia has sunk relations between Russia and the West to a post-Cold War low. Western nations have accused Russia of reneging on its commitment to withdraw forces from U.S.-allied Georgia.

The vice president's office described Cheney's trip, which begins Sept. 2 and also includes a stop in Italy, where the U.S. has a major base, only in the broadest terms, saying President Bush wants his No. 2 to consult with key partners on matters of mutual interest.

Experts say the Russian parliament's blessing of the Georgian separatists gives the Kremlin extra leverage as Russia tries to reassert its influence in the former Soviet republics and resist moves by Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO.

But it was up to President Dmitry Medvedev to make the final call on establishing full diplomatic relations with South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Currently, neither Russia nor any other member of the United Nations

recognizes the two provinces' independence claims. Both won de-facto independence in the 1990s after wars with Georgia, and have survived since with Russia's financial, political and military support.

'Russia's historic role of the guarantor of piece in the Caucasus has increased. The Caucasus has always been and will remain the zone of Russia's strategic interests.'

— Boris Gryzlov
Russian lawmaker

"Neither Abkhazia ... nor South Ossetia will be part of the Georgian state," Abkhazian leader Sergei Bagapsh told the upper chamber of Russia's parliament Monday.

Despite their desire for independence, one or both regions could eventually be absorbed into Russia.

After Georgia tried to reassert control of South Ossetia by force Aug. 7, Russian troops overwhelmed the Georgians, and for nearly two weeks occupied positions deep within Georgia.

Most of those forces withdrew Friday, although some Russian troops continue to operate near the Black Sea port of Poti and just outside the boundaries of the breakaway regions.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy has called a special meeting of European Union leaders Sept. 1 to determine what steps the EU will take in terms of aid to Georgia and future relations with Russia. France holds the 27-member bloc's rotating presidency.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, however, said Monday the EU was not considering any sanctions against Moscow.

Russia's critics say the conflict in Georgia heralds a new, worrying era in which an increasingly assertive Kremlin has shown itself ready to resort to military force outside its borders.

On Sunday, a U.S. Navy destroyer loaded with humanitarian aid reached Georgia's Black Sea port of Batumi, bringing baby food, milk, bottled water and a message of support for an embattled ally.

The guided missile cruiser, carrying about 55 tons of humanitarian aid, was the first of three American ships scheduled to arrive this week.

The deputy chief of Russia's general staff suggested Monday the arrival of U.S. and other NATO warships in the Black Sea would increase tensions. Russia shares the sea with NATO members Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria as well as Georgia and Ukraine.

The steps taken by the United States "add another degree to the tension in the region," Anatoly Nogovitsyn said Monday in televised remarks.

A U.S. official said the American ship anchored in Batumi, Georgia's main oil port on the Black Sea, because of concerns about damage to the Georgian port of Poti. Russian troops still hold positions near Poti, and Georgians say the Russians inflicted extensive damage on port facilities there.

In central Georgia, a few miles west of the city of Gori, a fire tore through an oil train after an explosion Sunday, sending plumes of black smoke into the air. The cause was not clear, but Georgians have accused Russian troops of targeting oil facilities and transport links.

Realtors: Existing home sales up in July

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sales of existing homes rose 3.1 percent in July, easily beating Wall Street's expectations, as buyers snapped up deeply discounted properties in parts of the country hit hardest by the housing bust.

However, the number of

unsold properties hit an all-time high, the latest indication that the worst housing market slump in decades is far from over.

The National Association of Realtors reported Monday that sales rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5

million units. Sales had been expected to rise by only 1.6 percent, according to economists surveyed by Thomson/IFR.

Home sales were 13.2 percent lower than a year ago and prices were down dramatically. The median price for a home sold in July dropped to \$212,000, down by 7.1 percent a year ago.

Despite the third monthly sales jump this year, the number of unsold single-family homes and condominiums rose to 4.67 million, the highest number since 1968, when the Realtors group started tracking the data.

That represented a 11.2 month supply at the July sales pace, matching the all-time high set in April.

Sales were up in all regions of the country except the South, which posted a 0.5 percent decline. Sales rose by 5.9 percent in the

Northeast, 0.9 percent in the Midwest and 9.7 percent in the West.

Analysts say that until the inventory level is reduced to more normal levels, the housing slump is likely to persist. The inventory level is being driven higher by a massive wave of mortgage foreclosures.

Despite the rise in sales, Lawrence Yun, the Realtors' chief economist, was reluctant to conclude that the U.S. housing market has hit bottom.

While buyers are pouncing on lower prices — especially in places like California, Florida and Nevada — sales are sluggish in formerly stable states like Texas.

"People are responding to lower prices," Yun said, but there is "too much uncertainty" about the housing market's future to mark a definite bottom.

Sean Connery launches autobiography

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — He's recognized around the world as the iconic face of James Bond. But in Britain, Sean Connery is also well known as a proud Scot, and on Monday he returns to his hometown to launch his autobiography.

"Being a Scot" looks at Connery's early life as a milkman in Edinburgh's Fountainbridge neighborhood, then delves into a wide-ranging look at Scottish culture including the work of poet Robert Burns, novelist Sir Walter Scott and Mary, Queen of Scots.

"It will illuminate what Fountainbridge's most famous former milkman thinks of many aspects of Scottish culture and life,

including sport, architecture, and of course the gothic tendency in Scots literature," said Edinburgh International Book Festival director Catherine Lockerbie.

Connery is a vocal supporter of the pro-independence Scottish National Party. He lives in the Bahamas and has said he will not reside in Scotland until it gains independence from the United Kingdom.

He was the first — and, many say, the best — Bond. In a six-decade career, Connery also starred in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," "The Hunt for Red October" and "The Untouchables," which earned him an Academy Award for best supporting actor.

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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.

10 Lost/Found

LOST female dog, white with black head & short tail. Come by 318 Warren, or call 665-4194.

13 Bus. Opp.

GREAT Investment opp. Pampa motel. Retired couple or individual, 665-1875, 806-383-1985.

TUMBLEWEED Trailer Park, 1128 Rider, Pampa, TX: 19 space trailer park & 24 storage units on 9 acres. Can expand. Potential income \$30,780 / yr. Call Cathy Derr, CCIM, J. Guat & Associates, 806-373-3111.

14d Carpentry

Carpentry, Roofing, Replacement Windows, steel siding & trim. Continuous gutters. Jerry Nicholas 669-9991, 662-8169

CUSTOM Building & Remodeling. Replacement windows. Ref. avail. Shawn Deaver Const. 662-2977 or 665-0354.

OVERHEAD DOOR REPAIR Kidwell Construction. Call 669-6347.

14e Carpet Serv.

NU-WAY Cleaning service, carpets, upholstery, walls, ceilings. Quality doesn't cost...It pays! No steam used. Bob Marx owner-operator. 665-3541, or from out of town, 800-536-5341.

14h Gen. Serv.

HOUSE Cracking? In bricks or walls? Childers Brothers, Inc. 800-299-9563, 806-352-9563

COX Fence Company. Repair old fence or build new. Free estimates. Call 669-7769.

CERAMIC tile work. Remodeling floor, shower, kitchen. Texture, painting, dry wall. Free esti. Call 665-3453 leave message, Jesus Barraza.

DIRT work
Clean up
Limbs
Haul off
679-7985

14h Gen. Serv.

CAGLE Backhoe Service. Driveways, Demolition, General Construction, Farms & Ranch. Free Est. Call Jack 806-898-2149.

14n Painting

PAINTING Inside & Out Professional Job Guaranteed. Call Steve Porter 669-9347 Home 662-2574 Cell

14s Plumbing/Heat

JACK'S Plumbing, 715 W. Foster, 665-7115.

Larry Baker Plumbing Heating/Air Conditioning Borger Hwy. 665-4392

21 Help Wanted

MECHANICS Eastex Crude Co. is taking applications in Pampa, TX. Applicants must have knowledge and exp. in servicing of diesel trucks, brakes and general repair. Full Benefit Package (903) 856-2401 x 137 or (800) 443-8580 Clint

MAINTENANCE Man needed for Gwendolen Apts. Must have own tools & transportation. Apply at 800 N. Nelson.

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has opening for Director of Nurses, RN. Long term care exp. a plus but not required. Normally a Mon. thru Fri. schedule with one on-call week per mo. Position has benefits as 401K Plan, insurance, paid vacation. For more info, or to apply call 806-779-2469 for Anita Massey, Administrator or come by 605 W. 7th, McLean.

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has openings for Nurse Aides. Position has benefit of paid vacation after one year of service and 401K program. Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, in McLean.

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has openings for Nurse Aides. Position has benefit of paid vacation after one year of service and 401K program. Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, in McLean.

21 Help Wanted

TEXAS Rose Steakhouse is now hiring wait staff, hostess, cook & dishwasher. Apply in person! No Phone Calls.

NOTICE

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

MCLEAN CARE CENTER has full-time position of Laundry / Housekeeping Aide. Position has benefit of paid vacation after one year of service and 401K program. Call 806-779-2469 or come by 605 W. 7th, McLean.

D.E. Chase, Inc. is looking for Exp. Drivers for the Pampa & Wheeler Area. Please apply in person at 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, TX

ACCOUNTS Receivable, data entry, and invoicing position with established company. Computer knowledge required. Full time Mon-Fri, 8-5:00, great benefits. E-mail resume to tmppa@tmppa.com mail to ATTN: Accounting P O Box 2358 Pampa, TX 79066.

GAS Prices cutting into your budget? Earn extra cash! Start your Avon business-only \$10. Call 664-0208.

TRUCK Drivers needed & hot shot drivers. CDL req. Drug test and references required. Competitive pay! Call 665-0379.

JANITOR - full & part-time job. No experience needed, will train. To apply call 662-9775.

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: Personnel
Excel Production
P.O. Box 1800
Pampa, TX 79066-1800

21 Help Wanted

COODER'S Dixie Cafe now hiring for Wait Staff, full-time, 18 yrs. or older. Apply in person, 2537 Perryton Parkway. No phone calls.

DISHWASHER & Exp. Cook needed at Granny's Home Cookin. No phone calls! 328 E. Frederic.

NEED full-time Make Ready Person for rental properties. Light carpentry, plumbing, painting. Have own tools & transportation. 665-4274 or apply at 1347 Coffee St.

CHEMICAL Delivery Driver, Oil field experience helpful. Mandatory drug test and background check. CDL with hazmat and air brake endorsement will be required during employment. Good benefits, 401k after 1st year of employment. Pampa, Perryton, Canadian area. 1-806-228-3462 for application. 1-888-881-3248 (ask for Roger, Mike or Chris)

FULL-TIME RN needed at Parkway Home Health in Wheeler. Please call 826.1370, ask for Susan Leflew RN Director, or come by 306 E. 9th, Wheeler, for an appli.

ACCEPTING applications for Rig Supervisor, Exp. Roustabout, Cable Tool Operator and Pumpers. 401K, paid vacation, holidays. Send resume to P.O. Box 43, Pampa, TX 79066-0043

CONSTRUCTION LABORERS Western Builders of Amarillo, Inc. is looking for experienced construction laborers for work at Pampa High School. Employment is subject to passing a drug test. Please contact Construction Superintendent: Jeff Popp, 806-672-5689 Western Builders of Amarillo, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against applicants or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, national origin, veteran's status, age, disability, perceived disability, or any other reason prohibited by applicable law.

Truck Driver Needed Must have CDL & Hazmat. Blue Ridge Oilfield 806-323-6855 or pick up application at 10938 US Hwy 83 Canadian, TX.

HELP Wanted. Clerk & Deli. Good working environment. We pay competitive wages and gas mileage. Call 806-868-3221 or pickup application @ Crossroads Market in Miami.

21 Help Wanted

CDL Drivers Needed! Night & Day shifts available in Miami, TX. Must pass drug test.

Also Have opening for Experienced Diesel Mechanic

Competitive wages, paid weekly, 401K & insurance, 2 weeks vacation after 1 year. Please call Turner Energy (806) 898-0414

WESTAIR Gas and Equipment, L.P. is looking for a Warehouse Man / Driver. The qualified applicant must have a minimum Class B CDL with haz-mat endorsement, pass a drug test, DOT physical and be able to lift up to 50 lbs. Westair is a joint venture with Praxair, Inc. which assures an outstanding benefit package, which includes medical, dental and life insurance, a great 401K plan, along with competitive pay. We have the benefits of a large company and the attitude of a small company. Come join our team! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are available at our location in Pampa, TX. @ 740 W. Brown Street (HWY 60) or call 806-665-2351 for more information.

NEED Handyman at Schneider House Apts. P. T. 30 hrs. week. Knowledge of boiler, cooling tower, electrical, plumbing & some painting. Please call 665-0415, 9-2.

HARVESTER Donuts is now hiring cashier or cook's helper. Start immediately. Come to the store personally. No phone calls. 508 N. Hobart, Pampa, TX.

OILFIELD HAND needed for Water Transfer Company. Will train. Apply in person at 1010 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

CREATE a Beat! Pampa Community Center for the Arts needs an Art Teacher for elementary aged children. 2 one hour classes per week. Contact: Julie Long - 1615 N. Banks, P.O. Box 1565, Pampa, TX 79065 (806)665-7474. createabeat@createabeat.org.

CREATE a Beat! Pampa Community Center of the Arts needs high school graduate to help supervise elementary aged children. M-F 3:00pm to 5:30pm. Contact: Julie Long - 1615 N. Banks, P.O. Box 1565, Pampa, TX 79065. (806)665-7474. createabeat@createabeat.org

DIETARY Staff needed. Please apply in person. Coronado Healthcare Center, 1504 W. Kentucky Ave, Pampa.

PROPERTY MANAGER WANTED Bent Creek Family Community 40 units in Pampa 25 hours per week Must have clerical skills & management exp. Please furnish resume to: MJS Management, Inc. P.O. Box 847 Linden, TX 75563

21 Help Wanted

NOW hiring Code and Structural Welders. Must be able to pass weld test. Pay based on exp. Benefits avail. Apply in person at Conner Industries, 118 Buntion, in Borger.

FLUID COMPRESSOR PARTNERS is looking for: Field Maintenance Tech Competitive Pay Quarterly Bonus Health Ins. Vacation 401K Pampa / Borger Area 806-669-7499

DRIVERS-\$500 Sign-On Bonus. Tanker Drivers needed. Class A CDL req. with Hazmat endorsements. 2 yr. exp. preferred. Local hauling only. Home every night. Benefits & great pay. 432-683-2868 or 432-288-3761 for more information.

NEED Handyman at Schneider House Apts. P. T. 30 hrs. week. Knowledge of boiler, cooling tower, electrical, plumbing & some painting. Please call 665-0415, 9-2.

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OILFIELD HAND needed for Water Transfer Company. Will train. Apply in person at 1010 S. Price Rd., Pampa.

HOUSEKEEPERS needed. Apply in person Coronado Healthcare, 1504 W. Kentucky.

Legal Secretary Needed for Pampa Attorney Exp. & References required Fax resume to 806-688-1150 or e-mail to bls@sturgeonlawfirm.com

NEEDED Part time night watchman, Heritage Feeders in Wheeler. Call 806-826-5591.

ASST. Cook needed at Meals on Wheels. 6:30am-11:30am, \$6.55 per hr. Great working conditions. Call Jeanne Autry 669-1007 or come by 302 E. Foster.

EZ MONEY is in search of experienced retail / service industry Mgrs. and CSRs for our newest Pampa location opening soon! We are closed on Sundays and work better than retail hours. Apply on-line today at www.ezmoneyjobs.com

21 Help Wanted

PAMPA ISD is now hiring for a Night Watchman. Applicants must have their own reliable transportation. Apply in person at the Personnel Office at 321 W. Albert.

HELP Wanted. Apply in person @ Pak A Burger.

Chiropractic Office is expanding our team! Two positions available. Direct patient care position and clerical / computer skills position. On the job training. Fax Resume To: (806)665-0537

CASHIER NEEDED. Apply in person at Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center, Pampa.

Kelley's Chevron We are looking for 2-self motivated, energetic people to fill a full-time evening shift and a part-time early morning shift. We have a great working environment, and excellent starting wages. We drug screen. Apply in person, 1020 E. Frederic.

NEED DRIVER w/ Class A CDL License HAZMAT Endorsement & Good Driving Record Uniforms Health Ins. Paid Vacations After 1 yr. DOT Drug Testing & Physical Required We Pay Top Wages!

Apply in Person No phone calls please

TRIANGLE WELL SERVICE 129 S. PRICE RD. PAMPA

JANITOR needed. \$7 per hr. Call Hi-Land Christian Church, 669-6700.

NURSERY Worker needed, \$7 per hr. Sun. mornings, Wed., Thur. & Sun. evenings. Hi-Land Christian Church, 669-6700.

50 Building Suppl. White House Lumber 101 S. Ballard 669-3291

60 Household WASHERS, Dryers, Livingroom & Bedroom Furn., Hutch, many more items, 662-7557.

BRAND new qu. pillow-top mattress, 2 pc set, in plastic. Original warranty, \$125. 806-341-6233.

DOUBLE / Full orthopedic mattress set. FLAME RESISTANT, warranty, \$120. 806-341-6233

MATTRESS Set-Queen orthopedic, \$130. Must sell, still in plastic. 806-341-6233

60 Household

A brand new twin mattress and box. Sealed in plastic w/ warranty, \$100. 806-341-6233.

MUST Sell brand new king pillowtop mattress and box, in plastic, \$225. 806-341-6233.

BODY contouring memory foam mattress and foundation, still wrapped with warranty, \$375. 806-341-6233.

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

USED Office! Back From Lease! Free Del/Warranty, Transferable. CALL 806-358-9597.

I buy used drilling bits, gas, water & oil 940-366-1108 940-872-3636

CRAFT SHOW Sept. 27th MK Brown 10am-4pm. Reserve Table Call 806-663-0704

BLACK leather recliner-good condition, \$125. Save or trade clean '93 Cougar, needs head gasket \$900. 665-1122.

BOOKCASES, desks, chests, VHS movies \$1.50 ea. Red Barn, 1420 S. Barnes, Sat. 10-5. 665-2767.

75 Feeds/Seeds FOR Sale Brome & Prairie Hay 1-620-221-2270 1-620-222-4301

80 Pets & Suppl. AKC Lab Pups. 4 Yellow & 1-Chocolate. Males \$125, Females, \$150. Will be ready Sept. 8th. 806-664-3180.

FREE to approved home. AKC Male Yellow Lab puppy. Will be ready Sept. 8. 664-3180.

95 Furn. Apts. All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." State law also forbids discrimination based on these factors. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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2428 Fir	\$169,900	4/2.75/2 - 2473 SF/GCAD	
1301 N Charles	\$145,000	4/2/2 - 1732 SF/GCAD	
2519 N Christine	\$119,000	3/2/2 - 1681 SF/GCAD	
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2221 N Russell	\$89,500	3/2/1 - 1824 SF/GCAD	
1601 N Russell	\$85,000	3/2/1 - 1516 SF/GCAD	
1208 Williston	\$83,000	2/2/1 - 1548 SF/GCAD	
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1004 Sierra	\$135,900	3/1.75/2 - 1752 SF/GCAD	
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1000 W Crane	\$79,000	3/1.75/1 - 1128 SF/GCAD	
2900 Rosewood Ln	\$72,000	3/1.50/0 - 1537 SF/GCAD	
2124 N Christy	\$67,900	3/1.75/2 - 1232 SF/GCAD	



The City of Perryton and Ochiltree County awarded Lindell Cornelius with a "Proclamation of Heroism" last week for his bravery and determinedly bold efforts that saved the life of 20-month-old Aalieya Caviness on the night of July 7. The child's mother, Betthany Caviness and Diana Castillo died on impact in the accident. A standing-room-only audience crowded the council chambers to observe the solemn ceremony. Pictured in front, baby Aalieya with her mother's sister, Brittney; and in back, Fire Chief Paul Dutcher, the baby's father Pablo Caballero, Sheriff Terry Bouchard, Cornelius and County Judge Earl McKinley.

Cornelius honored with proclamation

story and photo courtesy
The Perryton Herald

City and county officials proclaimed Lindell Cornelius a hero Wednesday at City Hall with a "Proclamation of Heroism" for saving the life of 20-month-old Aalieya Caviness by pulling her out of a flaming car on the night of July 7.

Before a standing-room-only audience, County Judge Earl McKinley read the proclamation, which stated:

"Whereas: Lindell Cornelius is recognized for his courageous actions involved in saving a life;

"Whereas: Lindell Cornelius was bravely involved in saving the life of Aalieya Caviness on the night of July 7th 2008 in Ochiltree County, Texas;

"Whereas: Lindell Cornelius fearlessly entered into the flaming vehicle without any regard to his own safety;

"Whereas: Lindell Cornelius determinedly and boldly attempted to free Betthany Nichole Caviness, and Diana Sanchez Castillo the other occupants that were pinned and trapped inside vehicle;

"Whereas: Lindell Cornelius continued his heroic efforts until he was driven away by the flames;

"Therefore: Let it be known that as the County Judge, Sheriff, and Fire Chief, of Ochiltree County, City of Perryton we recognize Lindell for his Heroic efforts on July 7 2008."

Following the reading, McKinley joined Sheriff Terry Bouchard and Fire Chief Paul Dutcher to present Cornelius with the written proclamation encased in glass. The audience included several of the child's relatives as well as Cornelius' family. Others attending the ceremony included Police Chief Bob Maness and several city police officers, county deputies, EMS personnel and various city department managers.

Dutcher emceed the ceremony, and he asked members of the child's family to speak before McKinley read the proclamation.

Misty Prichard, Betthany's mother, said, "We lost something very dear and special to us in this accident but because of your bravery some gains have been very special. We would have lost both of them, and still have Aalieya in our lives is a miracle. And you were an angel on the side of the road that night... And I want you to know from the bottom of my heart, from the bottom of our hearts, that we

thank you for saving Aalieya's life."

The child's father, Pablo Caballero, said, "I don't know why the accident happened, but I do know there was a reason you were there. I still have my daughter, and that's because of you. And I just want to thank you."

Aalieya's great-great-grandmother, Vesta Thomas, said, "If it wasn't for the tears we shed, we'd never have the rainbow in our souls. Thank you."

Cornelius graciously accepted their thanks, and told the great-great grandmother, "Believe me, I've shed a few tears myself."

Before the ceremony closed, Dutcher related that he and others who helped Aalieya that night had been attached to her and worried about her, but "once we got to Amarillo, there were family members there, and we knew Aalieya was very well loved and she would be taken care of and everything would be all right."

Dutcher also joined Bouchard in presenting Cornelius with a special plaque bearing the words, "In recognition of Lindell Cornelius: For your acts of heroism in saving the life of Aalieya Caviness on July 7, 2008, you are truly an angel to Aalieya."

Later, in an interview with the Herald, Cornelius described the night of the accident, and related how his life has changed as the result of his heroic acts.

"We saw the wreck," Cornelius said. "We saw the car catch fire" after smashing into the tractor-trailer at the intersection of highways 83 and 15. They called 911.

Before help arrived, Cornelius said, "I just jumped out of our car and went and looked in the burning car. There was the baby and the two girls. The child was screaming and hollering."

While he was trying to extract Aalieya from the Daewoo, Cornelius said, "There was fire on the ground all around the car except for the back door where I was in." The car itself "was all engulfed in flames" when Cornelius reached in to retrieve the baby girl.

After giving Aalieya to his wife, Shirley, Cornelius returned to the vehicle. "I grabbed a hold of Betthany and tried to pull her between the seats," but she was stuck. Then he tried her door, "but I couldn't get it open." Then he moved around the car again, and "I tried to pull her over the back seat and pull her out." But the woman was "hung up under the dash and I

couldn't get her out. There was no life in her. It was terrible."

Cornelius turned his attention to Castillo, but she was trapped against the dash and already deceased as well. Nevertheless, he continued in his attempts to extract the women until the flames blew him back and away from the car.

"It was just terrible, a terrible experience," he said.

Cornelius related that the worst part of the experience, however, came "after we got the baby out. Just waiting for the ambulance to show up while the car was burning."

The Perryton Fire Department, EMS and law enforcement arrived on the scene only minutes after receiving the 911 call. Aalieya was taken to the hospital, the raging fire was extinguished and the women in the care were pronounced dead.

All of this took place in only a few minutes. In this short period of time, Aalieya had been saved and her life was permanently changed, and the lives of everyone related to her have been permanently changed as well.

In the interview, Cornelius said that one of the changes he's experienced since the accident is he gets "some bad feelings" going through the intersection where it happened.

Cornelius also said that people around town treat him differently now. "Everybody always waves at me," he said. "People say 'Hi!' to me, and I don't even know who they are. The other day I was mowing and this guy walked by and said 'Congratulations! You did a great job!' and I didn't even know who he was."

Another change concerned his status as a real life hero. When asked what it felt like to become a hero, he said, "It boosted my self image. I think of myself better now. I used to think everybody didn't like me, but now I've kind of changed my mind. I think a lot better of myself now because I proved to some people that 'I'm not such a sorry guy as they thought. I do have compassion, and I do care about my life and everyone else's.'"

'American Idol' adds DioGuardi as fourth judge

NEW YORK (AP) — Scoot over, Simon Cowell. "American Idol" is adding a fourth critic to its panel of judges.

Grammy-nominated songwriter Kara DioGuardi will sit alongside Cowell, Paula

Cornelius said his marriage has "definitely grown stronger" because of his heroic acts on that night. He also noted with a smile that Shirley brags on him a lot, "and that's okay, but you can push it to extremes there a little bit."

Cornelius was asked if the events of July 7 had affected his faith in God, and he said, "No, not really. I'm still a Christian, and I believe those girls are somewhere better than here."

Saving Aalieya's life has altered the lives of everyone related to her in the present and will alter many generations in her family from now on, and Cornelius was asked how he felt about this. He said, "Well, they sure were happy to have their baby back. And she's a beautiful baby, too. God was watching over her."

When asked about his plans, Cornelius said that he would continue operating his S & L Tree and Lawn Service business during the summer months and running casing crews in the winter.

Texas AB Commission plans crackdown on illegal sales

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — College students, beware.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is planning to crack down on bootlegging this fall. And that will include arresting people like Texas Tech student Nolan Newsom, who charged \$8 for people to attend a June party where alcohol was provided.

The 22-year-old spent a night in jail for selling alcohol without a permit, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported Sunday.

Officials said charging money at the door falls under the bootlegging law.

That law also covers someone who buys a trunkload of liquor and sells it out of his or her home, and club owners who operate illegally.

"We're going to look first - who's hosting, who's bootlegging," said TABC Sgt. Michael Lockhart.

Abdul and Randy Jackson when the eighth season of "American Idol" premieres in January, the Fox network said Monday.

"For the past seven seasons, Paula has had to endure the experience of being the

Grant

Continued from Front Page

replace and repair the city's water system in the Prairie Village neighborhood.

Richard Morris, director of the city's public works department, said the city is contributing \$107,529 from the general fund for the project.

In the past, Morris said, the city hasn't been eligible for such grants, but the criteria has changed and the city hopes to obtain funding for the water system improvements this time.

The city commission will also consider a resolution indicating Pampa's intention to offer tax abatements.

According to the proposed resolution, tax abatements will strengthen the city's economy and encourage new industry and business to locate in Pampa.

Tax abatement requests, said City Manager Trevlyn Pitner, will be considered individually. The city has received two requests for tax abatements.

The commission is to consider a resolution that would allow the Pampa Economic Development Corporation to contribute \$50,000 to establish a Pampa Community Base Fund. The fund would be managed by the Amarillo Area Foundation, which would match the city's contribution, opening up the fund with \$100,000.

The city commission will also consider a request from the public works department to declare 125 poly carts,

plastic trash containers on rollers, as surplus property and authorizing the sanitation department to sell them.

Morris said the carts had originally replaced small dumpsters and have been in use for about 10 years.

The sanitation department has only one truck that can retrieve the carts and that truck is scheduled to be retired soon. Morris said retrieving the carts by hand is very difficult.

David Teichmann's contract to run Hidden Hills Golf Course is up for renewal.

The proposed contract would pay Teichmann \$196,983 each year for three years to cover the costs of running the municipal golf course with a cost of living raise each year for the three employees at the course.

Teichmann would pay \$10 a month rent for the course.

The city would retain 35 percent of net beer sales, 75 percent of gross revenue from the driving range and all green fees. Teichmann would retain revenues from vending, concession, merchandize, private golf lessons, repairs to golf equipment and caddie carts.

The commission is also expected to shift their Sept. 9, meeting to Sept. 16.

They will also hear reports on utility rates, the budget and an update on collective bargaining negotiations between the city and the firefighters.

The commission meets at 4 p.m., Tuesday, in the city commission chambers in City Hall.

Hearings

Continued from Front Page

puter. Sheriff Don Copeland asked for three vehicles to replace aging ones in his department's fleet, but commissioners suggested at their Aug. 15 meeting that he replace only two.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby also met with opposition Aug. 15 when his precinct's road and bridge budget was discussed. Willoughby had sought an increase of \$29,971.

Perry LeFors Airport will have a lower budget total for 2009, due in part to completion of roof repairs which

cost approximately \$81,000. Even so, commissioners

whittled further on the airport's budget at their Aug. 22 meeting. A request for \$10,000 to hire an engineering firm to plan a new terminal was trimmed to \$5,000, and another \$30,000 for a new tractor was eliminated when Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright offered one of his precinct's tractors to the airport.

Wright also agreed to cut \$18,000 out of his proposed 2009 budget, an amount he had planned to use to buy a rubber tire roller for road work.

The bootlegging law at parties has seldom been enforced in the past, but this new crackdown will focus heavily on parties that usually crop up when school starts, Lockhart said.

Newsom's party was the second one of the year to be shut down for bootlegging, according to the TABC. In addition, the agency has shut down two illegal clubs this year and is investigating several houses in the Lubbock region.

Newsom said he was shocked when he was arrested. He said it ultimately cost him \$2,000.

Newsom got a noise permit for a country band and hired a security detail, which carded patrons before they could attend. But he did not have a permit to sell alcohol, though he maintained that the cover charge was for the band.

Lockhart said people can legally hold parties and events and sell alcohol if they get a temporary permit.

Lubbock forbids the sale of packaged alcohol within city limits. However, there are a string of liquor stores in Southeast Lubbock, known as The Strip, and alcohol is being sold in local restaurants. Neighboring towns and counties are wet.

Some bootleggers set up bars in their garage. Others conduct business out of their home on a customer-by-customer basis, or set up illegal clubs, TABC officials said.

Lockhart said bootleggers are driving to the Strip, loading up alcohol and then selling it for profit in Lubbock. Some residents buy it because it's more convenient, some are old clients in the habit of buying from their bootlegger and some just want liquor at 3 a.m.

only woman at the judges' table," said Mike Darnell, president, alternative programming of Fox, in a statement.

"With Kara by her side, Paula has some backup and now there is going to be a lot

more 'girl power' on the show," Darnell said.

"We are turning the heat up on 'Idol' this year and are thrilled to welcome Kara to the judges' table," said creator and executive producer Simon Fuller in a statement.