

THE Pampa

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2003

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LOCAL

Pampa Learning Ctr. interviews set Aug. 14

Pampa Learning Center will have student interviews on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Students who have applied need to attend the interview and bring a parent or guardian with them.

Selections will be made and posted on the door the afternoon of Aug. 19. Students and parents will need to attend enrollment sessions on Aug. 20.

Each student will need to bring a birth certificate and social security card.

Enrollment/orientation times will be as follows: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12 noon and 2 p.m.

For more information, call PLC at 669-4750.

DEATHS

June Nadie Heare, 75, homemaker.

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Law changes generate state \$'s

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

Changes to state laws, many going into effect Sept. 1, are going to hit violators where it hurts most - in the pocketbook.

Texas hasn't instituted a state income tax, but it will be getting more money just the same through fees attached to certain offenses, says Justice of the Peace Kurt Curtman.

The state's fee on all traffic violations will go up to \$30, Curtman said,

and the state is instituting a point system that's been mandated by the federal government. If the state doesn't use the point system, it will lose federal funds, he explained.

Violations will be assigned a certain number of points, he said. Every time a person commits that violation they receive that number of points. When they receive six points, they will have to pay the state a \$100 surcharge every year for three years, just to keep their driver's license.

For example, speeding 25 miles or

less over the speed limit might equal one point. If a person receives six speeding tickets in one year, they must pay the \$100 surcharge for the next three years.

"The way I understand it, the points drop off after three years, if you don't have any in between," Curtman said.

Convictions of certain driving while intoxicated charges can lead to a surcharge of \$1,000 a year for three years, he said. A conviction on a second offense can be \$1,500 a year for three years. And if a person's blood alcohol

level shows above .16 on a subsequent offense, the person must pay a \$2,000 surcharge to the state for three years.

"Everyone without (vehicle) insurance will have to pay a surcharge of \$250 per year for three years beside the fine," he added.

"Right now with the new state fees, one citation for no insurance costs \$1,085 over a three year period," Curtman said. "If they have a second conviction in that time period, it can double."

(See LAWS, Page 3)

Pursuit, fight ends in arrest

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

A Gray County deputy investigating a suspicious vehicle near an anhydrous ammonia tank east of Pampa Thursday evening ended up in a pursuit, a fight, and a trip to the emergency room before all was said and done.

And Eric LeeRoy Smith, 36, RR 1, Box 22, Miami, ended up in Gray County Jail charged with aggravated assault of a peace officer, evading arrest with a motor vehicle and resisting arrest. Smith remained in custody today awaiting a bond hearing on the charges, jail officials said this morning.

At about 7:40 p.m., Thursday, Deputy Vincent Marasco went to check on a suspicious vehicle near an anhydrous ammonia tank on Gray County Road 29, about a mile and a half east of Laketon, Deputy Heath Cates

said this morning.

The vehicle, a Ford GEO, seemed suspicious to the officer, Cates said, because it had Tennessee license plates but came out of Amarillo.

When Marasco tried to stop the car to investigate, the driver took off at a high rate of speed.

Eventually the GEO struck a telephone pole and the driver jumped out and ran away from the car with Deputy Marasco running after him, Cates said.

Then the suspect turned and came at Marasco and the two began fighting, he said. Marasco finally subdued the man and placed him under arrest, he said.

Both men were checked for injuries at the hospital emergency room, he said. Smith was booked a day and a half after midnight, according to jail records.

Anhydrous ammonia, used in agriculture, is sometimes stolen for use in making illegal drugs.

Looks like a good book



(Pampa News photo by Dee Dee Laramore)

Taking advantage of cooler morning temperatures, Nancy Broggin, Brennan Broggin, 3, and Tristen Morgan, 6, look at children's books at Wanda Everson's garage sale across from Central Park early Friday. Temperatures may reach record highs Friday with 104 in the forecast. On Thursday, the mercury hit 104.

It's like a furnace

TCEQ issues highest ozone level warning

By ANITA CHANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

DALLAS (AP) — With the furnace-like heat baking the state this week, many Texans have tried to avoid the outdoors as much as possible.

Now state officials are urging residents of the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston areas to stay indoors Friday, as dangerously high ozone levels were expected during the day.

For the first time, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued a level "purple" warning, indicating high levels of ozone.

It is not the first time ozone levels have gone that high, according to TCEQ spokesman Terry Clawson, just the first time officials have been able to predict it.

"It's the first time we've had the forecast ability and meteorological conditions all come together," he said.

The high ozone levels are due to forecasts of extremely high temperatures, lots of sunshine and very low winds, according to a news release.

"The level purple pollution advisory set for Friday is considered very unhealthy especially for people who have chronic lung disease such as asthma and emphysema. The elderly and the young are the most vulnerable and should avoid being outside as much as possible," said National Weather Service meteorologist Lonnie King.

The rest of the state was expected to be at level "orange," meaning unhealthy for people in sensitive groups.

The heat was expected to abate slightly over the weekend in the Houston area, as some rain is possible through early next week. Highs should be in the upper 90s.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area was expected to remain sunny and hot Saturday and Sunday, but should have some rain next week. Highs over the weekend should be around 104; temperatures should dip into the 90s next week.

On Thursday, temperatures in Texas climbed as high as 110 in Wichita Falls, and Texans used more power than ever before.

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which manages the power grid for most of the state, reported that it broke usage records for the second day in a row.

On Thursday, ERCOT reported an unofficial total of 60,157 megawatt hours used. That broke the record set Wednesday, of 59,098 megawatt hours during peak use.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner's office also confirmed Thursday that the county had its first heat-related death in two years when Thomas Ray Holmes, 46, suffered a heat stroke June 20, the Dallas Morning News reported. Holmes was working for a company that had a labor contract with the city of Dallas sanitation department when he was stricken

(See HEAT, Page 3)

Pampans take part in Lineman's Rodeo

Two Pampans will be among electric utility linemen from six states competing in Lubbock Saturday, Aug. 9, at Xcel Energy's 13th annual Lineman's Rodeo.

Dru Chidester will return as an Apprentice in the Apprentice Rodeo and Jack Loggins will be a member of a three-man Rodeo Team. Both men are Xcel employees from Pampa.

Lineman's rodeo contests highlight safe and swift performance of the jobs linemen do every day and in emergencies to maintain or restore electric service, said Bill Weems, Xcel Energy Rodeo chairman.

Contests include utility pole climbing races and "rescues" of mannequins representing electrically shocked, hurt employees from the tops of 40 foot poles. Three "mystery" contests are also planned, Weems said.

"All our events will focus on the linemen's skills in constructing, operating and maintaining power line systems," he said. "Possible mystery contests include races in

installing an electric service drop from power lines to a home and in replacing heavy, on-the-pole electrical equipment."

The more senior, journeyman linemen compete in three-man teams. Apprentice linemen compete as individuals. Twenty teams and 23 apprentices from Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wisconsin and Minnesota also entered in the event.

The public is invited to the rodeo on a free-admission, come-and-go basis. Contests begin at 8 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m. in northwestern Lubbock at the Xcel energy training grounds at the intersection of Indiana and the Clovis Highway, U.S. Highway 84.

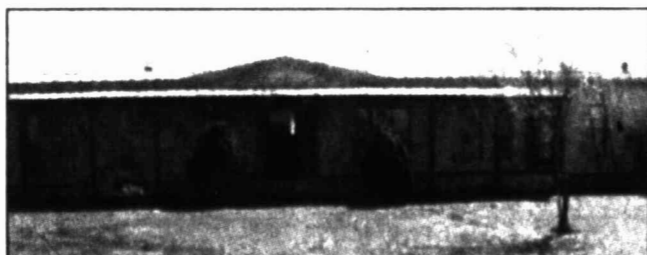
Activities for children include electric safety demonstrations and a "Kiddie Rodeo."

The top three Southwestern-region Xcel Energy teams will qualify for the International Lineman's Rodeo held each year in Kansas City, Mo.

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ON RECORD

ACCIDENTS

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

Thursday, Aug. 7

2:50 p.m. — A 1988 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Jack Osborne, 824 N. Dwight, and a 1974 Chevrolet Malibu driven by Hazel Kathrine Willis, 40, no address given, collided on the United parking lot. The driver of the pickup failed to leave identifying information, according to the police report. No citations were listed on the report. No injuries were reported at the scene.

4:30 p.m. — A 1993 Chevrolet Cavalier driven by Amber Dawn Dulaney, 17, Miami, and a 1982 Ford F-150 pickup driven by Thomas Daniel Short, 40, 1008 Crane Rd., collided at the intersection of Hobart and

Brown streets. Dulaney was cited for failure to yield right of way at an intersection - left turn. No injuries were reported.

5:22 p.m. — A 1991 Nissan 240-SX driven by Mitchell Cory Carroll, 17, 1905 N. Wells, and a 2000 Buick LeSabre driven by LoDerma Barham Mitchell, 80, 1420 N. Dwight, collided in the 1900 block of North Wells. Carroll was cited for no valid driver's license, backing without safety and no insurance.

Friday, Aug. 8

3:03 a.m. — Police are investigating an early-morning hit and run incident. A 1981 Datsun registered to Carol Bookout, P.O. Box 372, Pampa, collided with a tree in the 1200 block of East Browning.

SHERIFF

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

Thursday, Aug. 7

Ricky Carl Clark, 41, 1044 S. Christy, was arrested on capias pro fines for no driver's license, failure to appear, expired motor vehicle registration and no insurance.

Brent Wayne Dyer, 40, 1601 Somerville #1007, was arrested on a warrant for furnishing alcohol to a minor. He was released on bond.

Marilyn Searl, 54, 1017 Love, was arrested for theft by check and released on bond.

Maricella Rosalez, 23, 808 Beryl, was arrested on 12 charges of issuing bad checks.

Christian Dale King, 21, 300 Tignor, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for burglary of a building.

Friday, Aug. 8

Eric Lee Roy Smith, 36, RR 1, Box 22, Miami, was arrested for aggravated assault on a peace officer, evading arrest with a motor vehicle and resisting arrest. (See related story, Page 1.)

POLICE

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

Burglary of a residence, no forced entry, was reported in the 2600 block of North Hobart. A computer and \$200 cash was reported stolen.

Harassment was reported in the 1300 block of West Kentucky.

Thursday, Aug. 7

Drug paraphernalia was found in the 1400 block of West 19th Street.

Someone took \$10.01 of gasoline without paying at Allsup's, 309 N. Hobart.

Police received a report of assault with minor injuries and child in need of supervision in the 1100 block of Prairie and Huff.

Thomas Don Herring, 25, 1013 E. Kingsmill, was arrested for Texas Department of Public Safety on warrants for unregistered vehicle and failure to appear.

Shane Allen Douglas, 17, 1120 S. Christy, was arrested on capias pro fines for no driver's license, improper turn - two counts, expired registration, speeding, failure to display driver's license and consumption - minor.

OBITUARIES

JUNE NADINE HEARE

1928-2003

MIAMI — June Nadine Heare, 75, died Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2002, at her home in Miami. The body was cremated and consequently will not be available for viewing. Memorial services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, in Miami First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Don Kinder, pastor, and the Rev. Billy Holland, pastor of First Christian Church of Quannah, officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors of Pampa.

Mrs. Heare was born June 30, 1928, at Waynoka, Okla., to James and Eva White. She married Melvin McCuiston on June 1, 1945, at Pampa; he died in 1996. The couple farmed and ranched until Mr. McCuiston's death. She later married Bernie Heare on March 21, 1998, and they lived in both San Rafael, Calif., and Miami.

She was a homemaker and volunteered at several nursing homes. She was active in Eastern Star and Supper Club. She was also an active member of First United Methodist

Church in Miami. She was a former member of First Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and a brother, Loren White.

Survivors include her husband, Bernie, of the home; a daughter, Melinda Holland of Quannah; two sons, Jerry McCuiston of Austin and Jim McCuiston of Miami; three stepdaughters, Sara Zykanov, Mary Amadio and Nelda Braver; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

The family will be at 120 Summit Street in Miami and requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church of Miami.

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



AMBULANCE

Rural/Metro Ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m., today.

Friday, Aug. 8

12:08 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1800 block of North Hamilton and transported a patient to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

FIRE

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

Thursday, Aug. 7

11:54 a.m. — Three units and six firefighters responded to the 1200 block of Duncan on a grass fire. The fire was contained in the yard of a residence.

CORRECTION

In a front page story, Thursday, Aug. 7, about the Pampa Army Airfield Reunion, the wrong dates for the reunion were given. The annual PAAF reunion is set for Aug. 13-16.

WEATHER FOCUS

PAMPA

Today the forecast is calling for partly cloudy skies, highs near 104 and southeast winds 5 to 15 mph. Tonight should see partly cloudy skies with a chance of showers and thunderstorms after midnight. 30 percent chance of rain, lows in the upper 60s and east winds 10 to 20 mph. Saturday should be mostly cloudy. Chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning. Highs in the mid 90s. East winds 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30 percent. Saturday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Sunday, partly cloudy. Highs near 101.

West winds 5 to 15 mph becoming light and variable. Sunday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Monday, partly cloudy. Slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 90s. Chance of rain 20 percent. Monday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 70s. Tuesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s. Tuesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Wednesday, partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 90s. Wednesday night, partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 60s. Thursday, partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 90s.

SERVICES TOMORROW

HEARE, June Nadine — Memorial services, 10 a.m., First United Methodist Church, Miami.

City Briefs

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

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Two Arizona inmates at Texas prison escape

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Two Arizona inmates housed in a private Texas prison escaped but were caught a short time later.

It is the second escape at the Newton County Correctional Center since Arizona officials began sending state prisoners there on Dec. 4.

The inmates were in a recreation area at the prison when they scaled a fence early Wednesday evening, said Jim Robideau, spokesman for the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Prison guards fired warning shots and the 28-year-old men,

Jose Diaz and Victor Lopez, were caught minutes later, Robideau said.

Diaz is serving 10 years for burglary while Lopez is serving 21 years for armed robbery and burglary.

James Kimble, an Arizona Department of Corrections administrator, said authorities will conduct an investigation to determine what went wrong.

Authorities also did the same when an inmate escaped from the same prison by cutting through a fence in March. The inmate spent nine days in a nearby town before being apprehended.

In addition to the two escapes, Arizona inmates have also caused disturbances at the prison, destroying property and staging hunger strikes to protest conditions there.

The disturbances caused state officials to stop prisoner transfers and requested that improvements, such as adding recreation and job activities, be made.

The delay cost the state \$415,939 which erased the savings expected by hiring the company, state records show.

Company officials told Arizona correctional leaders that the requested improvements had been made and in February, Arizona inmates were once again being sent there.

Houston schools given six-month time line to improve drop-out record-keeping

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Education Agency will give the Houston Independent School District six months to improve its record-keeping on dropouts rather than immediately lower the district's state rating from acceptable to academically unacceptable.

However, 15 Houston schools' ratings were lowered Thursday by the agency.

State officials came down hardest on Sharpstown High School, demanding changes in the management of a school that has become an example of what's wrong with the district's bookkeeping, the Houston Chronicle reported in Friday editions.

The doctored was most flagrant at Sharpstown, a school district report said.

Dropout records for 30 students were intentionally changed to improve the school's dropout rate.

Houston schools Superintendent Kaye Stripling said Thursday she agrees with TEA's demand to "reconstitute" the leadership staff at Sharpstown High School. "We agree and we are replacing the entire top leadership of the school," Stripling said. Sharpstown's principal already has retired and the district reassigned an assistant principal during the investigation.

"I am suspending the current accountability rating for Houston ISD for the next six months while I review reports ... and consult with agency staff members regarding the progress of the district in resolving data deficiencies," TEA Chief Deputy Commissioner Robert Scott said in a letter dated Aug. 7 to the school district.

Scott told the district the education agency will dispatch a monitor to review student dropout data and report on the district's activities and progress. The district must also hire an external consultant to look at problems with data collection.

The district will have "Special Accreditation Investigation" added to its rating for the next six months, a sign of serious problems that is applied to only three of the state's 1,040 school districts, an agency spokeswoman said.

Stripling praised the commissioner's decision.

"The commissioner's decision not to lower HISD's accountability rating is an important one, and we appreciate that careful review," Stripling said.

Houston school officials said in June that problems with counting dropouts had been fixed.

Stripling said in a letter to the TEA that 2001 was a difficult year, after the state agency created a complex system for counting dropouts and changed the way it wanted the district to track GED students.

In the TEA investigation, auditors reviewed 5,458 records of students who left school in the 2000-2001 school year and found 2,999 of them had wrong or missing information. Those students now are considered dropouts.

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Rodney McCulloch scholarships



(Pampa News photo)

Jordan Spearman, left, and Zack Cobb, right, receive the first Rodney McCulloch Scholarship awards from McCulloch's sister, Rhonda Chapman, center. The two students each received \$250. Spearman will be attending Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Cobb plans to go to Howard College in Big Spring. The scholarship was created from funds raised by the community to help in McCulloch's cancer treatment, Chapman said. "He wanted it to go back into the community, especially for agriculture. That was his love-agriculture," she said.

CONT. FROM PG. 1

HEAT

with hyperthermia, said Gayle White, a spokeswoman for the medical examiners office.

People who often have to work in the heat stressed the importance of proper hydration.

"There's really nothing you can do other than keep plenty of fluids in your system," said Dallas Fire Rescue officer Keith Jones of Fire Station 19. Jones spent two hours Thursday fighting an electrical fire.

"You drink plenty of fluids and keep sweating. Make sure you're sweating," he said.

Suse Torres, a carhop at Dallas' Prince of Hamburgers drive-in, said she does the best she can while bringing hamburgers to the cars of hungry customers.

"You always have to be smiling for the customers, even in the heat or the cold," she said.

In Houston, residents of an apartment complex were forced to find ways to keep cool when the air conditioning broke in their 150-unit Pasadena complex. Some left for work at 5:45 in the morning, one slept in an 18-wheeler, and other surrounded themselves with portable fans, the Houston Chronicle reported in its Friday editions.

"It was so hot, the roaches went outside," said Deborah Delattre as she sat outside in a shaded area, fanning herself and dabbing her face with cold compresses.

But other people in Houston were happy to be out in the heat.

Many visitors to the Six Flags AstroWorld theme park stood for 45 minutes in the sun waiting to ride Diablo Falls, currently one of the park's more popular rides — probably because it involves rafts in water and getting wet, said Daryl Freedman, the park's public relations manager.

Thousands of people visit the park each day in the summertime, Freedman said.

Ozone warning levels

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A look at ozone warning levels issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality:

—The ozone warning program began in 2000 to issue warnings to the public based on measured levels of ozone in the atmosphere.

—The initial warning system targets high ozone levels in three metropolitan areas; Houston, Galveston and Brazoria, Dallas and Fort Worth and San Antonio. The commission plans to add more metropolitan areas in the future.

—There are three color-coded warning levels as well as a level when no caution is necessary.

—Warnings are all based on levels of ozone measured in the previous hour.

—No warning: No unhealthy levels of ozone were measured during the previous hour. No precautionary actions for adults of children are required.

—Level orange: The highest measured levels of ozone during the previous hour are considered unhealthy for sensitive groups. Active children and adults as well as people with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, should limit prolonged exertion outdoors.

—Level red: The highest measured levels of ozone during the previous hour are considered unhealthy. Everyone, especially children, should limit prolonged exertion outdoors. People with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged exertion outdoors.

—Level purple: The highest measured levels of ozone during the previous hour are considered very unhealthy. Everyone, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion. People with respiratory conditions, such as asthma, should avoid all exertion outdoors and limit exposure by staying inside of air conditioned spaces.

Source: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

LAWS

One of the biggest changes people will see will be the new rules for using a defensive driving course to have a traffic ticket deferred.

In the past, offenders had 180 days, or six months, to take a defensive driving course and turn the certificate of completion into the judge.

That's been decreased to 90 days, or three months, Curfman said.

Also, persons with a commercial driver's license cannot take a defensive driving course for ticket

deferrals at all.

"That's been completely denied," the judge said.

Persons with a motorcycle license and a CDL who are ticketed cannot take the motorcycle course and get the deferral, either, he said.

"Some juvenile laws have changed for the better, I think," Curfman said. Judges can now order a juvenile detained for contempt of court and parents are being held more accountable for their children's actions, he said.

Animal laws are stronger, Curfman said, and law enforcement will be stricter

on disabled placards and towing zones.

Seat belt laws are also stricter, he said.

"If a driver is picked up on DWI and there's a minor in the car, under age 15, the law is really going to come down hard on you," Curfman said. "It'll be a state jail felony instead of a class B misdemeanor."

The state didn't pass any laws restricting use of cell phones in a vehicle, Curfman said, but if the driver is able to see a TV/DVD player in the car, it is now an offense under the Transportation Code.

Redistricting battle goes to courts

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The battle over efforts to redraw the state's congressional districts has intensified, with both Republicans and Democrats turning to the courts for help.

Democrats were swift in their criticism of Gov. Rick Perry and Lt. Gov David Dewhurst, who on Thursday asked the Texas State Supreme Court to order back to the Capitol the 11 senators holed up in a Albuquerque, N.M., hotel to fight redistricting.

"The heavy-handed use of legal process to deny and really subvert the normal Democratic process is really sad," said Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio. "They're going to court to try to take political prisoners and like Texans throughout history we are making our stand."

The Democrats filed a lawsuit Thursday that

asked that state officials or their deputies be prohibited from arresting the Democrats should they return to the state.

Their lawsuit also challenges Perry's authority to call a special legislative session on redistricting, saying the Texas Constitution limits the governor's powers to call a special session to extraordinary occasions.

"The Democrats' political reasoning is flawed and obviously politically motivated," Dewhurst said.

The court actions come in a heated fight over the Republicans' desire to redraw the state's congressional districts. Democrats oppose the move and have thwarted the effort in two legislative sessions this year.

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AUG 08 2003

Hezbollah shells disputed border region; Israel launches strike

By HUSSEIN DAKROUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Hezbollah guerrillas shelled Israeli positions in a disputed Lebanese border region for the first time in eight months Friday, drawing Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire, security officials said. There were no reported casualties.

Hezbollah said in a statement that its attack, which began at 9:45 a.m., was in retaliation for Saturday's killing of a Hezbollah security official south of Beirut. Hezbollah blamed Israel for killing Ali Hussein Saleh, who died when a bomb tore apart his car.

The Lebanese officials said Hezbollah forces fired a volley of rockets and mortar shells at the Israeli military outposts of Rouissat el-Alam, al-Samaka and al Radar inside the Chebaa Farms area. Black smoke was seen rising from at least one position, witnesses said.

Israeli troops responded with an airstrike

In a statement faxed to The Associated Press, Hezbollah said it attacked the Israeli positions to avenge Saleh's death, "using rockets and other weapons and scoring direct hits."

and 155mm artillery fire targeting suspected guerrilla hideouts in the outskirts of Kfar Chouba, a small farming village near the Israeli-occupied Chebaa Farms, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Two Israeli warplanes fired at least eight missiles into a valley and mountainous areas, the officials said.

There was no immediate word on casualties from either side's attacks.

An Israeli army spokesman said on condition of anonymity that there was "massive Hezbollah fire" on the Chebaa Farms, during which the militant group "fired anti-tank missiles, light weapons fire and mortars at several (Israeli army) posts."

Israeli forces returned artillery fire and Apache helicopters searched the area for the source of the Hezbollah fire, the spokesman said, adding that two mortar shells fell in Masada in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Lebanese officials said Israeli helicopters strafed the mountainous area with machine-gun fire in search of guerrillas.

The hostilities shattered an eight-month lull on the Lebanese-Israeli border during the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Hezbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran, had refrained from military action during that period so not to give Israel

a pretext to attack Lebanon, the militant group's host.

In a statement faxed to The Associated Press, Hezbollah said it attacked the Israeli positions to avenge Saleh's death, "using rockets and other weapons and scoring direct hits."

Hezbollah led a guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of a southern Lebanon border zone, which ended in May 2000. Israel and the United States view Hezbollah as a terrorist group, but Lebanon regards it as a legitimate resistance movement opposed to Israeli occupation of Arab land.

Despite Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Israel remains locked in a territorial dispute with Hezbollah over the Chebaa Farms, which is claimed by Lebanon. Israel captured the area from Syria during the 1967 Mideast war. The United Nations says the region belongs to Syria, and that Syria and Israel should negotiate its fate.

Zoo honors animals killed in flood

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — Their tragic deaths from last year's devastating floods topped national news: There was Kadir, a stranded elephant that had to be shot, and Gaston, the sea lion that died of exhaustion while trying to swim to safety.

In all, 135 animals at the Prague Zoo were swept away during the August 2002 floods, which also killed 16 people in the hard-hit Czech Republic. Now the animals are among those being featured in a Hollywood-style walk of fame built to honor them and other cherished animals.

Included is a cast of Kadir's footprints. Kadir, a large older male, had been kept separate from the other elephants. He lived at the zoo for 34 years. When he became stranded up to his ears in floodwaters, his handlers

decided to euthanize him.

Gaston the sea lion braved a 150-mile journey down the Elbe River to Germany. Though rescued, Gaston later died of exhaustion, sickness and lack of food during his ordeal.

Other victims included a gorilla, two hippos, a bear, and a lion.

A year after the floods, Prague, like most European cities, is in the throes of a prolonged heat wave and drought, and at the zoo, there is little physical evidence of the high waters that wrought havoc back then.

The 72-year-old zoo had been severely damaged. More than 1,000 animals were moved to higher ground or evacuated when rising floodwaters submerged half of the zoo grounds on the low-lying outskirts of Prague.

Zoo director Peter Fejk

said Thursday that some damage caused by water and mud remained and that a complete reconstruction of the damage will take another year.

"We hope that by the end of this year, our visitors won't see any signs of the flooding," Fejk said.

With 322 animals born in the zoo over the last year, empty cages have been filled and visitors can once again spend hours marveling at the wildlife.

One particular birth surprised employees.

In June, almost 11 months after the floods, Gaston's mate, Bara, gave birth to a baby sea lion, a female who will be called Abeba. Pregnancy in sea lions can remain undetected until the end, and Bara showed no signs she was pregnant.

Defense attorneys to appeal death sentence for convicted Bali bomber

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — Defense lawyers for the Islamic militant convicted in last year's Bali bombings said Friday they would appeal to save him from a firing squad even though he wants to be a martyr.

Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, who has been dubbed the "smiling bomber," was found guilty Thursday of planning and organizing the Oct. 12 blasts that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists.

The 41-year-old mechanic smiled broadly and thrust out both hands in a thumbs-up sign when an Indonesian court handed down the verdict and announced that he would die for his crime.

Attorney Wirawan Adnan said Amrozi had told him not to appeal, but had also decided to retain his services as his lawyer. This, Adnan said, gave him the right to appeal on his client's behalf.

Adnan hoped to file an appeal with the Denpasar Higher Court later Friday or on Monday.

"I'm not doing what he wants but what he needs," Adnan told The Associated Press. "I have to use the facilities that the law provides for the benefit of my client."

Adnan has argued in court that Amrozi was not the mastermind of the bombings, the dead-

liest terrorist strike since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

Amrozi was the first of 34 suspects to be convicted. All are accused of being members of Jemaah Islamiyah — a Southeast Asian terror group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

The guilty verdict and sentence against Amrozi and other trials in the Bali case have raised fears of revenge attacks by militants.

On Tuesday, a car bomb exploded at the Marriott hotel in Jakarta, killing at least 10 people and wounding 150. Investigators in that attack suspect the same group blamed for the Bali bombings: Jemaah Islamiyah.

Two jailed Jemaah Islamiyah members who were shown a photograph of the alleged hotel bomber's face identified him and confessed to having recruited him, said Indonesian chief of detectives Erwin Mappaseng.

The bomber's severed head was found at the site of the attack. The two detainees identified him as Asmar Latin Sami, a 28-year-old man from the island of Sumatra.

Mappaseng identified the two Jemaah Islamiyah operatives as Sardono Siliwangi and Mohammad Rais. He said the two had been arrested in June

and accused of involvement in bombings and robberies on Sumatra, Indonesia's western-most island.

Also Friday, an independent audit cleared the Australian Red Cross of defrauding the victims of the Bali bomb blasts, but said the charity could have better disclosed how it was spending millions of dollars in donations.

The audit by accounting giant PricewaterhouseCoopers was commissioned by the Red Cross after complaints that it had not given victims enough of the \$9.8 million raised through a public appeal. The attack killed 88 Australians.

Fishermen adrift at sea for a month

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — For 33 days they drifted across the Caribbean Sea with no food or fresh water, cracking open the spines of fish to suck out the liquid and collecting rainwater in a desperate battle to stay alive.

Three fishermen from the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago returned home Thursday from Mexico, where they were finally rescued after floating about 2,000 miles.

"We told each other we had to stick together," said Joseph Ramkissoon, 30. "But all we could do was pray to God."

But Ramkissoon said without water or food "we gave up on life." His wife and three children also had given up hope and even had held a funeral for him.

The men were rescued after being spotted by a Mexican navy plane off the Yucatan Peninsula on July 27. Ramkissoon, Anil Ramsook, 26, and Andy White, 28, embraced relatives during a tearful airport reunion Thursday.

The three fishermen had set out for a day fishing trip June 26 from Tobago — the smaller of the two islands of this Caribbean nation.

But sea water swamped the two outboard engines. By the time the men fixed the stalled engines, they had drifted out of range and then ran out of gas trying to return.

The three fishermen tried to signal large boats with a light, but no one saw their skiff.

They rigged a raincoat to collect rain water. When that water ran out, the men drank sea water and cracked the spines of fish to suck out the liquid inside. What fish they caught, they tried to preserve by taking small bites.

The men have been in Mexico getting medical treatment since their rescue 115 miles south of Cancun at Punta Allen.

Afghans hunt rogue Taliban

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan troops fanned out across the country's southern desert Friday to hunt down suspected Taliban fighters, a day after a guerrilla attack killed six soldiers and an Afghan driver for an American aid group.

Meanwhile, a second attack was reported in eastern Afghanistan, where insurgents fired two rockets at a U.S. base, but there were no reports of casualties or damage, the U.S. military said Friday.

The rockets hit near a coalition base in Asadabad, in eastern Kunar province near the border with Pakistan, the U.S. military said in a statement from its headquarters at Bagram Air Base, north of the capital, Kabul.

On Thursday, about 40 suspected Taliban fighters ambushed a remote government building in the Deshu district of Helmand where the

soliders and Afghan aid workers were sleeping.

The Taliban militia, ousted in late 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition for harboring al-Qaida, has stepped up attacks against the government in recent days, especially in the southern and southeastern parts of Afghanistan.

Foreign troops, government forces and aid workers have all been targeted in several months of low-level insurgency, hampering the government's efforts to rebuild the country.

Haji Pir Mohammed, the deputy governor of Helmand province, said some 150 local Afghan soldiers were searching for the Taliban fighters suspected in Thursday's attack, including 60 brought in as reinforcements.

"It is a huge border and desert area but we are trying to get these terrorists," said Mohammed, speaking by satellite telephone. "We have tightened security in the area."

Verizon, unions continue contract talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Union negotiators said new proposals from Verizon Communications may delay a contract resolution by forcing talks to move to regional bargaining tables.

Verizon contends it made the proposal to address job security "days ago" and that both sides "had agreed on a basic framework to deal with this and all other major issues." Nearly 80,000 Verizon

telephone workers are remaining on the job for a sixth day without a contract.

The Communications Workers of America, which represents about 60,000 of the workers, said Thursday the Verizon proposals have moved some issues regarding job security to regional bargaining tables.

Top level talks continue with government mediators.



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Gov. popu conti to de

SACRAM (AP) — Amic California's recall drive appears certain. Davis is sinking trouble a Democrats and Repub around the s Arnold Schw In twin bl on Thursday Supreme C lawsuits that delayed the O Lt. Gov. Cru and Commission Garamendi br unity to an would run. The pressu mounting o Washington, sources say Democratic I Pelosi of C reversed hers cluded the p replacement c In contrast, brightened Schwarzeneg after his surpr ment on the J that he wo replace Davis. Former I Mayor Richar the top potenti contender in r the recall race he would Schwarzeneg GOP moderat And Repu Darrell Issa v tearful news saying Schwarzeneg to run helpe enough qualifi would seek th "Once it w not have to be recall, not ha candidate if would lead, I opportunity between two d said. "One is Washington, t what many pe was blind amb The field changed aln through the Saturday dead dates to file neared. Forn commissioner Ueberroth, a was one of the nent figures to Thursday. Green Par Peter Camejo, 5.3 percent of last year's gov also added his list. GOP busi Simon, who lo November, wa jump into the r The feverish capped with a the Californi Court that clea for the Oct. 7 t The jus Republicans Democrat, decl vene in five p ing to delay, b the recall prov created a free-politicians, t celebrities and with \$3,500 a tures. Bustamante state Assembly the first Hispan statewide offi than 100 years, prominent D enter the fray d of saying he out.

Gov. Davis popularity continues to decline

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Amid the frenzy of California's gubernatorial recall drive, one thing appears certain: Gov. Gray Davis is sinking deeper into trouble as prominent Democrats abandon him and Republicans rally around the star power of Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In twin blows to Davis on Thursday, the state Supreme Court rejected lawsuits that could have delayed the Oct. 7 vote and Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi broke with party unity to announce they would run.

The pressure even started mounting on Davis in Washington, with party sources saying House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California had reversed herself and concluded the party needs a replacement candidate.

In contrast, the prospects brightened for Schwarzenegger, one day after his surprise announcement on the Jay Leno show that he would seek to replace Davis.

Former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan — the top potential Republican contender in recent polls on the recall race — announced he would endorse Schwarzenegger, a fellow GOP moderate.

And Republican Rep. Darrell Issa withdrew in a tearful news conference, saying that Schwarzenegger's decision to run helped assure him enough qualified candidates would seek the office.

"Once it was possible to not have to be the face of the recall, not have to be the candidate if no one else would lead, I now have the opportunity to choose between two directions," he said. "One is my service in Washington, the other was what many people assumed was blind ambition."

The field of candidates changed almost hourly through the day as the Saturday deadline for candidates to file signatures neared. Former baseball commissioner Peter Ueberroth, a Republican, was one of the most prominent figures to step forward Thursday.

Green Party candidate Peter Camejo, who earned 5.3 percent of the vote in last year's governor's race, also added his name to the list. GOP businessman Bill Simon, who lost to Davis in November, was expected to jump into the race Saturday.

The feverish activity was capped with a decision by the California Supreme Court that cleared the way for the Oct. 7 ballot.

The justices, six Republicans and one Democrat, declined to intervene in five petitions seeking to delay, block or alter the recall provision that has created a free-for-all among politicians, businessmen, celebrities and any dreamer with \$3,500 and 65 signatures.

Bustamante, a former state Assembly speaker and the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in more than 100 years, was the first prominent Democrat to enter the fray despite weeks of saying he would stay out.

Many critical of delays in program to arm airline pilots

By LESLIE MILLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer than 100 pilots have been trained to carry guns in the cockpit in the eight months since Congress approved the idea, and hundreds more are waiting, but pilots and members of Congress say the program is not moving fast enough.

Pilots say it's more important than ever to get weapons in the cockpit because the Transportation Security Administration froze hiring in the air marshal program in May and the government is warning al-Qaida may try more suicide hijackings.

"Between the air marshals and the federal flight deck officer force, we should cover a vast majority of the domestic flights," said Capt. Bob Lambert, president of the Airline Pilots' Security Alliance. "It just seems like we haven't learned very much from Sept. 11."

Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on aviation, said he's angry that the TSA is moving at "a snail's pace."

"You can't imagine my frustration," he said. "This should be a quick orientation."

The first 44 pilots to complete the five-day weapons training program were designated "flight deck officers" on April 19 and began flying with weapons. The second class finished in July, and now classes are conducted weekly.

Hundreds more who have undergone background checks and psychological tests are lined up for the weapons training program in the fall, said TSA spokesman Robert Johnson.

TSA is already in trouble in Congress. Lawmakers say the agency, which has a \$900 million shortfall, has grown too

large, too fast, doesn't properly prioritize spending and is slow to respond to queries from Congress.

The TSA had opposed arming pilots, believing heightened security at airports, bulletproof cockpit doors and more vigilant passengers made it unnecessary. Critics also said adding weapons to airplanes was inherently dangerous.

Pilots lobbied Congress,

arguing they could supplement the air marshals, who cover only a small percentage of the 35,000 daily flights in the United States.

TSA chief James Loy grudgingly endorsed the idea after it became apparent Congress would pass such a directive.

Under the program, pilots take a week of classes, weapons instruction and hand-

to-hand combat drills at the TSA Law Enforcement Academy in Glynco, Ga. Background checks and psychological testing can take two months to complete.

Johnson said the TSA believes pilots must be submitted to the same kind of screening that other federal law enforcement officers go through before they're sworn in.

Ford offers fire suppression feature for 2005 police car

NEW YORK (AP) — Ford Motor Co. will offer fire-suppression technology as an option on the most popular police cruiser model, the Crown Victoria, which has been cited for gas-tank explosions following rear-end collisions.

About 85 percent of all police departments use the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor.

Since 1983, 14 officers have died in crashes when the Crown Victoria's gas tank erupted in flames after being hit from behind. Critics say the behind-the-axle design of the tanks makes them vulnerable. When the cars are struck, the tank wraps around the axle, where it is punctured by sharp bolts, causing them to engulf the cars in flames.

Dallas police Officer Patrick Metzler died Oct. 23 when his Crown Victoria cruiser was hit from behind and burst into flames.

The new technology will not be available to the public because it's a sophisticated product designed for professional use, Susan Cischke, Ford vice president for environmental and

safety engineering, said Thursday.

In the past, police unions and some political leaders have complained about the safety record of the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor. The cars have been the subject of a federal investigation and numerous lawsuits by cities and states, as well as by the National Association of Police Organizations, which represents police unions around the country.

Though Ford denies the cars are dangerous, the company about a year ago introduced a program of retrofitting older models with plastic shields to protect the gas tanks.

Police cars on the road now cannot be retrofitted with the suppression technology because the system uses advanced electronics and onboard sensors that must be integrated into a new computer system, Ford said.

The company said it was too soon to say how much the option would cost, as it's still in development. The system, which includes sensors that deploy under certain conditions like an airbag, is being made by Redmond, Wash.-based Aerojet, a

supplier for the U.S. military.

Cischke also said she was not concerned that the system wouldn't be available to police cars currently on the road because the problem lies with the accidents, not the cars.

"We think the vehicles out there are safe. Retrofitting has made a significant difference. And the trunk packs have been able to prevent sharp objects from puncturing the vehicle," she said.

Cischke also said Ford didn't introduce this technology because of the lawsuits that the company has been facing or because of any design defects.

Safety expert Clarence Ditlow, executive director for the Center for Auto Safety in Washington, D.C., was disappointed with Ford's response.

"Today's officers need protection, not two years from now. Safety should not be an option, it should be standard equipment," he said. "Ford has just shown a disregard for police officers' lives in the last 10 years by not doing enough to make Crown Victoria's safe. Ford is putting profits and sales above officer safety."

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JESUS CHRIST, THE SAME

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER

HEBREWS 13:8

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RELIGION

Houston pastor lives by a simple philosophy

By LEIGH HOPPER
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

HOUSTON — Though he leads a congregation of 450, the Rev. Cleothus Montgomery does not exude the air of a powerful preacher.

Instead, with peppermints on his desk and stories punctuated by amused "hee hee hee," the founding pastor of Northside Missionary Baptist Church embodies the word "grandpa" and is a magnet for small children. He says grace before his lunch at Luby's.

Yet in 40 years, Montgomery, 76, has transformed his church from a gathering of four men meeting in a living room into a vehicle for community change, with ambitious plans to build senior housing and a nursing home and cultivate small businesses. His efforts are part of a trend in which black churches are bringing affordable housing and economic development to neglected neighborhoods.

Montgomery has rubbed shoulders with the Rev. Billy Graham and been a guest of the South African government. He is president of the Eastex/Jensen Super

Neighborhood, an initiative of Mayor Lee Brown's to encourage residents' participation in city government. As a member of the Houston Police Department's Ministers Against Crime, Montgomery helped shut down a drug dealer working out of a convenience store.

His success boils down to his practical philosophy: "Whatever you give comes back to you."

Good things have a way of finding Montgomery.

There was the time he lost his passport, plane ticket and \$1,000 at a Canadian airport. With panic mounting — he had a Sunday sermon to preach — he approached a ticket agent, who wordlessly reached under the counter and handed him his valuables.

Then a flight attendant bumped him up to first class.

Later, there was the donation of 20 computers for a church classroom; the gift of a new playground, constructed in four days; the grant to build a commercial strip shopping center that will bring half a

dozen new businesses to his neighborhood.

"I didn't ask for it," Montgomery said. "They just called me."

Next door to Northside Missionary Baptist, three miles north of downtown near the intersection of U.S. 59 and Crosstimbers, the church is constructing a basketball court. Adjacent to that will be a barbershop, a nail salon, a recording studio, a bookstore and a fast-food restaurant. Upstairs will be classrooms and fitness machines.

A short drive from the church, men in the congregation work weekends building two small houses to give to families whose homes were damaged in Tropical Storm Allison. The families — one white, one Hispanic — don't belong to predominantly black Northside Missionary Baptist, but Montgomery accepted the project as a learning experience for his church.

"What they're doing on the flood recovery is awesome," said Gloria Sanderson, pro-

gram director for the nonprofit Local Initiatives Support Corp., which helps pay for urban renewal. "We're going to continue to be a funding partner for him."

Montgomery grew up one of nine siblings on a farm in Henderson, north of Nacogdoches, one of nine siblings. He says his father, who "had a lot of wisdom," asked his children to finish high school. He told them he wouldn't force them into college, but those who chose not to attend would work on the farm to support the others.

Of course, all went to college.

Montgomery worked as a welder in California, then graduated from the California College of Engineering Science. He spent five years drafting images of car parts for Ford Motor Co., then tried his hand at raising cattle back on the farm in Texas.

With a wife and five children to support, he found better-paying work at a steel plant in Houston. He moved into supervisory positions and

ultimately opened a lucrative company that sandblasted and painted rail cars.

Meanwhile, he attended Union Baptist Theological Seminary in Houston at night, answering a growing sense that he was being called to serve God. He earned a doctorate in divinity from Inter Baptist Theological Seminary in Houston and a doctorate in ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary in Indiana. In 1962, four men approached him and asked him to be their pastor.

Founding member Jackson Miles remembers being struck by Montgomery's quiet strength as a teacher. Montgomery wasn't one to sing, cry or shout from the pulpit.

"He was more interested in, 'Do you understand what

I'm saying and why I'm saying it?'" Miles said.

At first, Montgomery's wife, Emma, refused to attend church in someone's living room. Her sights for his career were set higher, Montgomery said. She relented 18 months later when the church moved into a tiny wooden building purchased from Gethsemane Baptist in Pleasantville.

"He's done wonderful things. The Lord's still blessing us," said founding member Aaron Agee Jr.

Emma Montgomery died in 1988 and the pastor, who has nine grandchildren, has never remarried, believing it his long hours at work would be unfair to a spouse, since he spends so much time at work.

"I'm here every day but Monday," he said. "I'm happy. I like what I do."

Distributed By The Associated Press

'Whatever you give comes back to you.'

Back-to-school youth rally set

"Soar in '04" youth rally for returning students, Saturday, Aug. 16, at Calvary Baptist Church will feature special speakers, free hot dogs, and music by Twice Born Ministries.

The Back to School youth rally begins with a free hot dog feed at 6 p.m. at Calvary Baptist, 900 E. 23rd.

Entrance is located in the back of the church.

Speakers for the rally that begins at 7 p.m. in the youth Sanctuary are as follows:

Seek God - Paul Carruth, First Christian Church;

Obedience - Carlos Regalado,

Trinity Fellowship;

Assurance - Justin Easton, Cornerstone Baptist; and

Restore - Chris Crow, Calvary Baptist Church.

Special music will be provided by Twice Born Ministries from Huntsville.

Two were healed, only one saved

Which would be the greater gift from God, for a lame person to be given the power to walk or a blind person to be given sight? I don't know about you, but my first impulse was to say that receiving sight would be the greatest. Of course that would be true until I wanted to go somewhere or take a walk with my wife or play ball with my grandson. I don't know that there is a way to say which would be the greatest gift.

In John 5, a lame man's legs were given power once again and in John 9 a man who had been born blind was empowered by God to see for the first time. Which man owed the Lord the most? Which one received the greatest gift? How would you have reacted if your legs had been strengthened again? What if your eyes had been opened for the very first time? What I want to do for the next couple of moments is to set these two men against each other. Why? One reacted as poorly as a human could and the other revealed the golden character living within him.

In John 5:1-18, Jesus found a lame man who had not walked in 38 years lying near the pool called Bethesda. Jesus desired to help him beyond his imagination, so he began to work with him. He wanted to heal him, but not just his legs. Jesus wanted to make his whole life well. When Jesus asked him if he wanted to get well, the man couldn't see past the healing powers of the water. But Jesus healed him anyway. Then the man revealed his character. When confronted by the Jews about who had violated the Sabbath day by healing him, he didn't even know Jesus' name. Jesus gave him the gift of mobility



Minister's Musings

MIKE SUBLETT
HI-LAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

and strength and he didn't even find out Jesus' name. Now it is true that Jesus slipped away, but if someone healed your lifeless legs, don't you think you would run him down to thank him and to discover his name? Well, this man didn't.

Later Jesus found him and tried to help heal his life by talking to him about his sin. What did he do? He turned his back on Jesus and then squealed to the local Jewish vigilantes who began working even harder to kill Jesus. This lame man revealed himself to be one of the all-time biggest self-centered, thankless cowards that the world has ever known. He could have had a healed life to go along with his healed legs, but he settled for transportation instead of salvation. So sad.

Contrast him with the blind man in John 9:1-41. He too was sorely afflicted, blind since birth. Jesus reached out to work with him too. Without the man even asking, Jesus spit on the ground and made a miraculous mud pie for his eyes. Then he even sent him to the pool of Siloam to wash off

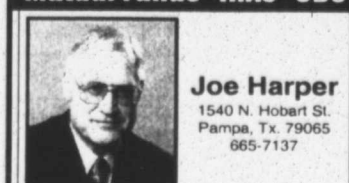
the mud. And the scripture doesn't say anything about Jesus offering to take him by the hand and help him find his way. He was working with the man by testing him. When the "seeing man" was confronted about his healing, he knew right away that it was Jesus who had healed him. And when the Pharisees tried to turn up the heat on the man, he even spoke out boldly in Jesus' behalf and proclaimed, "He is a prophet." How different from the thankless coward in John 5, huh?

A second time the Pharisees tried to intimidate the "seeing man" and he not only testified to Jesus' healing power, but he even took a dig at the Pharisees by asking them if

they wanted to become disciples of Jesus. (Don't you know that some of them probably had to have some dental work done after grinding their teeth as hard as they surely must have.) They become so angry with the "seeing man" that they kicked him out of the synagogue. When Jesus heard that he had suffered this humiliation, he found the man so that he could work with him some more. Jesus revealed himself as the Son of God and the man professed his faith and worshipped Jesus. This man had a matched set - healed eyes to go with his healed life and soul.

I pray that each of us is more like the man in John 9. But if we are actually more like the man in John 5, may God reveal it to us so that we might repent, profess our faith in Jesus as the Son of God and worship Him. God bless.

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AUGUST 2003

FRIDAY • AUGUST 8, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Engaged Woman's Workout Partner Is Coming On Strong

DEAR ABBY: I am 24, and after four years of dating have recently become engaged to "Zack." We are very much in love, and quite frankly, until lately I never could have imagined myself with anyone else.

Last week, one of my co-workers — I'll call him Keith — confessed to me that he's developed a crush on me — and the more I think about it, the more I feel a mutual attraction. Keith has been a good friend over the years. We work out together on a regular basis in the company gym and have shared many lunches. Abby, I am confused. I find myself thinking about Keith more than my fiance.

Keith has always been easy to talk to. I wish Zack and I could have the conversations I'm able to share with Keith.

The last thing I want to do is wreck my engagement. How can I stop this confusion and once again focus on my relationship with my fiance? Help!

S.O.S. ASAP
IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

DEAR S.O.S.: Let's analyze this situation. Why did Keith wait until you were engaged to Zack before declaring his feelings? Could it be that once you were "taken" you became safe — and not a threat to his freedom? Many men find women who are married, engaged, going steady, etc., easier to talk to and even more attractive than those who are available.

Do not allow yourself to be distracted from a relationship that has worked for four years. Limit your workouts with Keith and put your energy into developing better communication with Zack.

DEAR ABBY: For more than a year, I have been a live-in caregiver for a sweet 94-year-old lady I'll call Ethel. For the most part, Ethel has enjoyed good health. We have a lot of fun together.

Last week, when we went on our weekly outing to the beauty shop and lunch, I noticed how loud her voice was in the restaurant. She attracted the stares of several din-

ers. Ethel has also begun chewing with her mouth open, completely unaware of how she appears.

I want to let her know that she isn't acting like the well-mannered lady she's been in the past, but I don't know how to tell her without hurting her feelings. Please give me some advice on how to broach the subject. There is only one restaurant in our small town, and Ethel dearly loves our weekly meal there. Thanks, Abby.

EMBARRASSED
IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Tell Ethel what you have observed about her hearing loss and schedule a visit with her doctor. She needs a referral to have her hearing checked. While you're there, mention to the doctor the change in her table manners. Any abrupt change in the behavior of a person is something his or her physician should know about.

Please don't be reticent or embarrassed. You are her caregiver, and it is your obligation to inform her physicians what you observe.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wedding etiquette question. Twice within the last month, I've been invited to a bridal shower without receiving an invitation to the wedding.

I have witnessed a social blunder or two in my day, but this takes the cake. Are you with me on this, Abby?

DISGUSTED
IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR DISGUSTED: To invite someone to a bridal shower who will not be invited to the wedding is a breach of etiquette. However, before becoming angry about it, please consider that this was ignorance on the part of the couple or the families.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

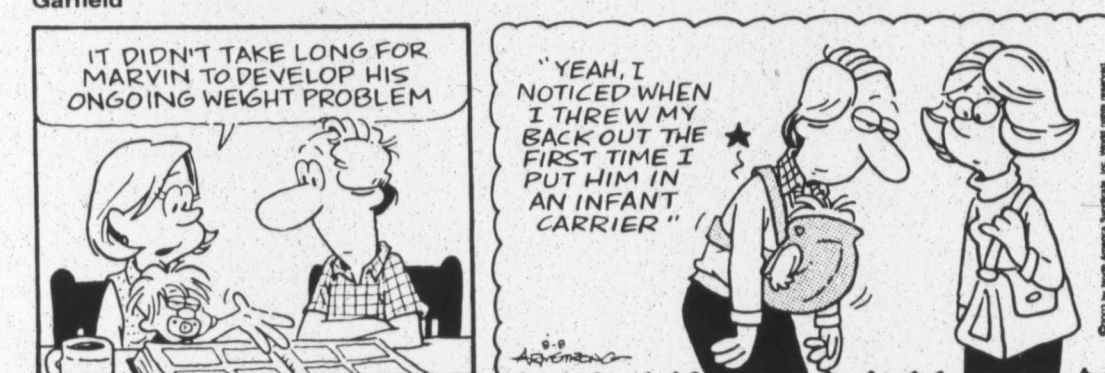
For Better or For Worse



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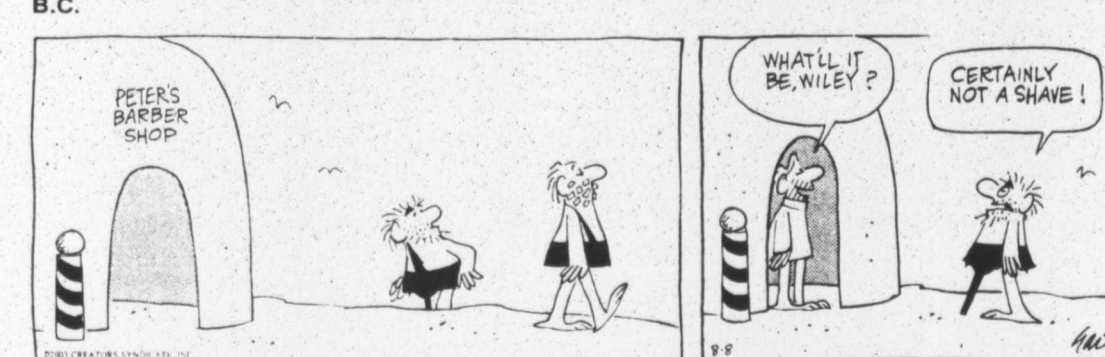
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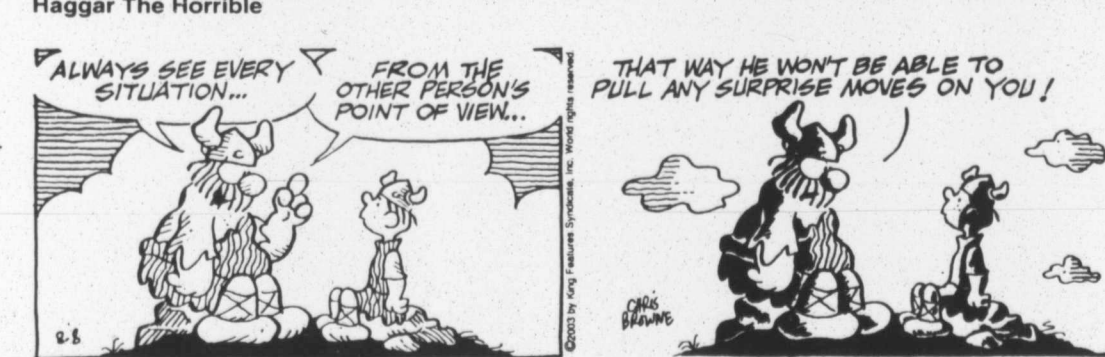
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B.C.



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Chopped up, in a way
 - 6 Harness race
 - 11 Plain silly
 - 12 Not out
 - 13 Windmill parts
 - 14 Heredity units
 - 15 Cunning
 - 16 Jargon
 - 18 Sandal
 - 19 Fireplace fuel
 - 20 Wine choice
 - 21 Bakery buy
 - 22 Avoid an accident
 - 24 Ashtray sight
 - 25 Election time, usually
 - 27 Acting rapper
 - 29 Dell dweller
 - 32 Lots of 'sees
 - 33 Cartoonist
 - 34 Apple sampler
 - 35 Expert
 - 36 Giant Mel
 - 37 Track trip
- DOWN
- 8 Beatles song
 - 9 Just
 - 10 Bristle at
 - 17 Thinks appropriate
 - 23 Boring life
 - 24 Ingot
 - 26 '60s series set in Africa
 - 30 Dodges
 - 31 Be contrite
 - 33 Active folks
 - 39 Course start
 - 41 Misbehaving

ATWAIR SALES
MAHIRE OPERA
PRIED LEGAL
TAROTS
DEE OUT WIG
ATLANT THOU
WHITE PLAINS
NOISE LOST IT
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VALUUE TRALLA
ALONE EULER
NIXIED REESE

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Beatles song
9 Just
10 Bristle at
17 Thinks appropriate
23 Boring life
24 Ingot
26 '60s series set in Africa
30 Dodges
31 Be contrite
33 Active folks
39 Course start
41 Misbehaving

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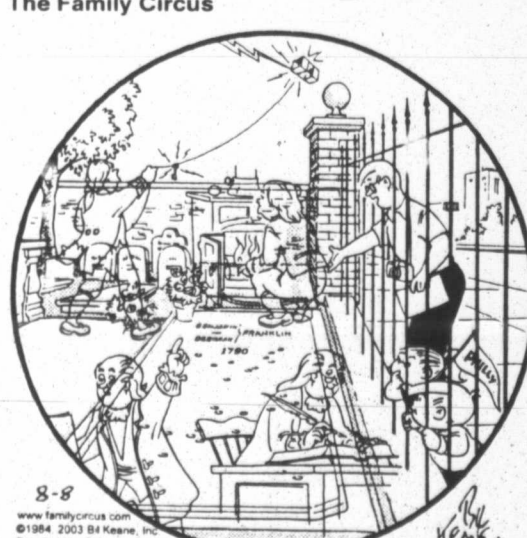


Marmaduke



"It's your turn; I took the last suicide mission."

The Family Circus



"Ben Franklin was a great statesman, a scientist, an inventor, an author ..."

Flo & Friends



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BEDFORD Survival Clubing team pa weekend in 2003 Games o

The Games the Texas An Federation young fighters of Texas.

The Pampa last Thursday Bedford, near the Bedford Activity Center nament was he

"Four in comes very e kids that wan but for the kids, they kno be at the bo

a.m., ready to excuses," said J.R. Moreno

"These athlete skilled and are ticipate in harc different plac cult conditions

"There's be where the build conditioning, I are trained for conditions.

Survival team tournaments to their skills, and of Pampa knov athletes they Moreno.

The 15-pass loaded with bo ready for the Worth, Moren

"Only the ve at the Games c team brings o best boxers," h Nikki Me Alvarez, Tiger

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By AP

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Baske PAMPA - be a Pampa Girls Basket

Volleyball to meet A PAMPA - be a Pampa Volleyball E meeting for a p.m. Aug. 12 library.

Fans are u and support program.

The Lady are schedule season Au Plainview.

SPORTS

Youth Survival Club boxers compete in Games of Texas

BEDFORD — The Youth Survival Club of Pampa boxing team participated last weekend in the prestigious 2003 Games of Texas.

The Games, sponsored by the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, draws the best young fighters across the state of Texas.

The Pampa boxers left at 4 last Thursday morning for Bedford, near Fort Worth, and the Bedford Boys Ranch Activity Center were the tournament was held.

"Four in the morning comes very early for young kids that want to sleep late, but for the Youth Survival kids, they know they have to be at the boxing club at 5 a.m., ready to take off, no excuses," said club founder J.R. Moreno who accompanied the boxers to Bedford. "These athletes are physical skilled and are trained to participate in hard competition at different placed under difficult conditions."

"There's been some places where the buildings had no air conditioning, but these kids are trained for those type of conditions. The Youth Survival team goes to these tournaments to win, to show their skills, and let the people of Pampa know about the top athletes they have," said Moreno.

The 15-passenger van was loaded with boxing gear and ready for the long trip to Fort Worth, Moreno added.

"Only the very best survive at the Games of Texas. Every team brings only their very best boxers," he said.

Nikki Medley, Santos Alvarez, Tiger Lilly Garcia,

Venessa Rivera, Rusty Kelly and Crystal Garcia would represent Pampa the Games of Texas.

"Other licensed boxers just weren't ready for this trip. Chris Perez and Sam Gamble had jobs and had to work," Moreno said. J.J. Casanova, Rudy Rivera and many more couldn't make the trip."

The boxing group got lost a few times in Bedford, but they finally found the building.

"The kids checked it out," Moreno said. "It was a big place with two rings and some of our kids were nervous."

The boxers had to get up at 5 each morning to exercise, followed by their physicals at 7 a.m. A licensed physician and a team of medical personnel examined each boxer.

"Right from the start, Nikki Medley had to lose four ounces and Tiger Lilly Garcia had to drop three pounds or they couldn't compete. Santos Alvarez and Rusty Kelly made their weight," Moreno said.

Moreno said Medley and Garcia had only two hours to lose the extra weight.

"Temperatures were severely hot, but they had no choice. Off they went, running around the buildings and any place they could find to run. The coaches kept watch over them with water in hand," he said.

Medley made her weight, but Garcia was still running to try and get her weight down to 108, Moreno said.

"After one hour of fighting the heat and sweat running off her entire body, she was able to drop two pounds with one pound left to lose. With 45

minutes left, she had to meet her weight requirement or be disqualified. To lose weight that fast in the hot sun could mean disaster for a boxer," Moreno said. "She had worked so hard to get there. She would come in re-weight herself and off she went again. She didn't want to be deprived of her hard work."

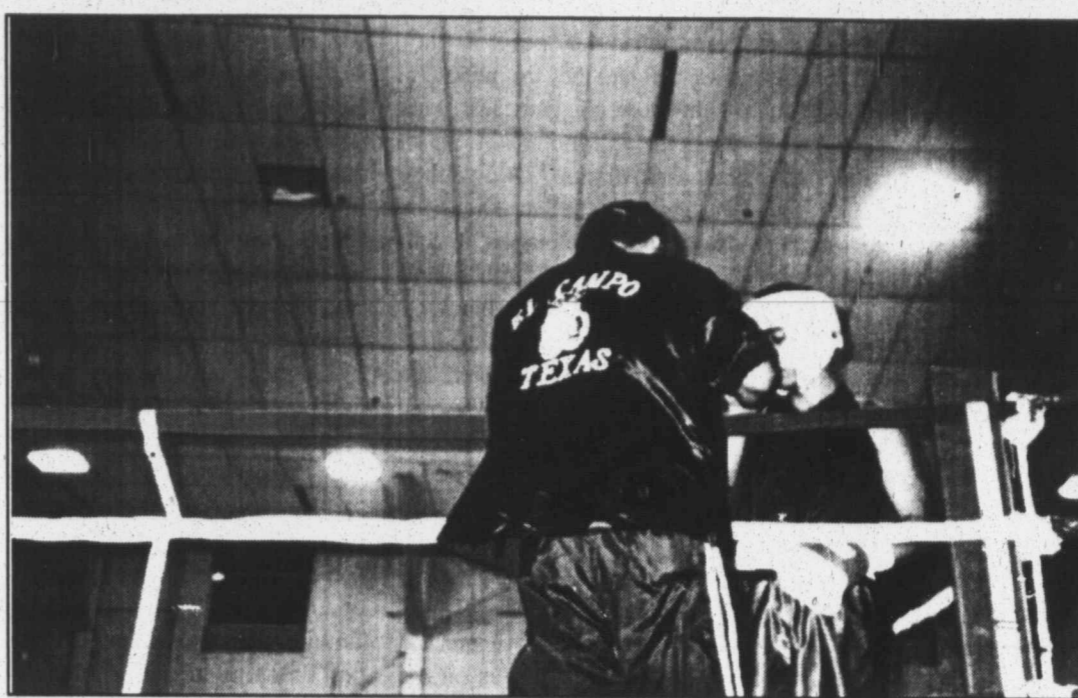
Moreno said Tiger Lilly was there to win for the people back home in Pampa and also for her team.

"With only a few minutes left, a decision was made," Moreno said. "All the Pampa coaches gathered together for a short meeting. A decision was made that this girl would not be deprived of her gold medal."

The coaches entered her in a different weight class and she was called back in, looking white as a ghost.

"We explained to her what we did. She was happy, but very tired," Moreno said. "After the coaches meeting we visited for awhile and there I met a boxing friend (Silvester Arambridez) I hadn't seen for 40 years. We talked about the old days, no-pass books vs. boxing barefooted, no money to eat on. We would pass by a hamburger joint and all we could do was fill our nostrils with the wonderful delicious smell of meat cooking on the grill. We didn't even have a dime to buy a package of Fritos."

The Marquez brothers (Chico and Mike), Silvester Arambridez, Cookie Arambridez and Moreno were known as the "Fantastic Five" in Golden Gloves Boxing Tournaments across



Cornerman Silvester Arambridez works with Nikki Medley of the Youth Survival Club of Pampa during one of her matches at the Games of Texas.

the state. "We were the champs in 1958 and '59," Moreno said.

Silvester Arambridez is a professional trainer and worked the corner for the Pampa boxers at the Games of Texas.

"Silvester is coming to Pampa to see us," Moreno said. "He was impressed with our team."

Nikki Medley, Pampa's two-time Golden Gloves Champion and the winner of the Texas Junior Olympics championship, stepped into the ring to meet Valerie Cardonas in the 125-weight division. Medley won all three rounds and then won again Sunday against Leslie Guerra of Waco to claim the gold medal.

"Nikki had climbed into the ring like a champion. The crowd in the arena had heard

of a girl from Pampa who was very good with the gloves," Moreno said.

Tiger Lilly went unopposed in her division to win the gold medal.

Pampa's other two female boxers didn't compete.

Rusty Kelly won a silver medal and lost by a slim margin to Lora Esteban in the 138-pound division.

Santos Alvarez fought David Nuves in his first bout and William Anderson in the second bout of the 165-pound division. Alvarez won a silver medal despite fighting with an injured right arm.

Anderson was 23 years old and had a lot of ring experience. He hit Alvarez in his right arm and the fight was halted.

"He went down with severe pain and the fight had

to be stopped. Santos was praised for his courage and was awarded the silver medal for his efforts," Moreno said.

The Games of Texas had six divisions, ranging from Bantam (ages 8 through 10) to Open (ages 17 through 34).

"This was very heavy competition, but this is what the club is all about. We turn wimps into amateur athletes," said Moreno. "We train them not to lie, steal, and not to pick on other young athletes from other clubs. We also want to alert people who are sponsoring a club not to allow their members to be too aggressive with the public. The rules have to be followed to make things work. Also, fair play and the ability to win is what makes the Pampa Youth Survival Club a leader in sportsmanship."

Wells no longer stranger to NASCAR

By MIKE HARRIS
AP Motorsports Writer

A lot of people who didn't even know Cal Wells III disliked him when he came to NASCAR as a team owner in 2000.

The quiet Californian, moving to stock cars from the CART Champ Car series, Toyota-Atlantic and off-road racing, was a stranger to the Southern crowd and, worse, had somehow wound up with Tide and McDonald's as the sponsors of his new two-car PPI Motorsports team.

They had been the primary sponsors for Ricky Rudd and Bill Elliott, respectively, and Wells was considered an unscrupulous carpetbagger and interloper for allegedly snatching those companies from two of NASCAR's most popular drivers — both also struggling team owners at the time.

His reception in the Winston Cup garage area was cool, but Wells has insisted from the beginning that he did nothing unethical or underhanded in signing sponsors who were looking to make a change.

"There may have been some skepticism or disbelief that somebody could come in and capture that type of attention, two very premier sponsors," said Ricky Craven, who moved into the No. 32 Tide Ford at the start of the 2001 sea-

son and has given Wells his only two Cup victories.

"The first year was tough on Cal. In hindsight, I believe he's benefited from it. I believe he is as tough as anybody I've ever met, mentally. I believe there are people who wouldn't have survived that first year."

For his part, Wells said, "I've been able to develop a couple of friendships in the garage area that I really enjoy. But there's still some bitterness from a few folks."

Things have not gone smoothly for Wells since then, either.

McDonald's dropped its primary sponsorship late in the 2001 season and economics forced Wells to drop his second Cup entry in 2002.

"He just refocused, reevaluated and became more efficient," Craven said of his boss. "We've had steady progress in 2 1/2 years, and a lot of it is because of him."

Wells acknowledges losing the second car was tough to take at the time, but said it has turned out to be a plus.

"I think it was the best thing that could have happened to the company. Trying to run two cars, I just wasn't capable of doing."

"My gosh, we went from 70 people to 250 between Cup, Busch, CART, Atlantic and desert. It was too much.

Being bicoastal was too much. I wasn't enjoying it. I was scrambling all the time. There was a lot of money in and out of it, but all I was doing was screwing it up."

The 47-year-old Wells, who lives full time in Hickory, N.C., said he knew making the transition from open-wheel and desert racing to stock cars would be hard, but not this hard.

"But I love steep competition. If you win here, you've really done something. My disappointment right now is we're just not doing it enough. We have speed about half the time — good speed, really good speed, great winning speed. And about half the time, we don't. I have to fix that other half."

Going into Sunday's road race at Watkins Glen, N.Y., Craven has had a mostly mediocre season, including just five top-10 finishes in the first 21 races. But one of those was a win in Darlington.

Wells said he considered Craven's first PPI win, in Martinsville in fall 2001, a happy surprise, but his Darlington victory was a sign of the team's growth.

"I do believe the rest of the season, we're going to be stronger," he said. "We ought to be able to win another race and we ought to be able to finish in the top 10."

Basketball booster club to meet on Aug. 21

PAMPA — There will be a Pampa High School Girls Basketball Booster

Club organizational meeting Aug. 21 at 8 p.m. in the PHS library.

Fans are urged to come and support the girls basketball program.

Volleyball boosters to meet Aug. 12

PAMPA — There will be a Pampa High School Volleyball Booster Club meeting for all parents at 8 p.m. Aug. 12 in the PHS library.

Fans are urged to come and support the volleyball program.

The Lady Harvesters are scheduled to open the season Aug. 16 at Plainview.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CITY OF PAMPA PROPOSED 2003-2004 BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on the proposed 2003-2004 City of Pampa Operating Budget. The hearing will be held by the City Commission on the 19th day of August 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 200 W. Foster, Pampa, Texas. All taxpayers and other interested persons are requested to be present and participate in said hearing. A copy of the 2003-2004 proposed budget is on file in the Office of the City Secretary for public review.

Phyllis Jeffers
City Secretary
C-82

Aug. 8, 2003

PAMPA SOCCER ASSOCIATION 2004 SIGN-UPS

Registration for the 2004 season of the PSA is now upon us! Sign-ups will begin Saturday, Aug. 9th @ T-Shirts & More, 111 W. Kingsmill, in downtown Pampa, between the hours of 10 AM & 5:30 PM, and run thru Saturday, Aug. 23rd.

A one-time fee, of \$40 includes two sessions of games, both Fall and Spring leagues, and a soccer uniform, consisting of a numbered team jerseys shorts, socks and player insurance.

For additional info call (806) 665-3036.

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Pujols, Gagne join exclusive company with milestones

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Albert Pujols' penchant for driving in runs and Eric Gagne's ninth-inning mastery on the mound put them among some exclusive company in baseball's record books.

Pujols hit an RBI double in St. Louis' 3-0 victory over Florida on Thursday night, and joined Jose Canseco as the only players with 30 homers and 100 RBIs in each of their first three seasons.

"It's good to get it and it shows what I've accomplished, but it's more important that we won," said Pujols, who also scored his 100th run and extended his hitting streak to 21 games.

Gagne struck out the side in the ninth for his 46th straight regular-season save and 38th this year in Los Angeles' 4-3 victory over Cincinnati. The hard-throwing Gagne matched the single-season record for consecutive saves to start a season that Jose Mesa set in 1995 with Cleveland.

"With Gagne, he just goes in, punches out three guys and walks off," said Dodgers reliever Paul Shuey, who also played with Mesa for five seasons. "And when they put it in play, they feel like they got lucky."

In other NL games, it was: Arizona 5, Montreal 4 in 10 innings; Atlanta 7, Milwaukee 1; Chicago 9, San Diego 3; New York 5, Houston 4; San Francisco 7, Pittsburgh 5; and Colorado 4, Philadelphia 3.

Pujols is 33-for-82 (.402) during his hitting streak, the team's longest in four seasons, to raise his average to a major league-leading .372. His run-scoring hit in the first off Josh Beckett (5-6) gave the Cardinals a 1-0 lead.

"He did it like he usually does it," manager Tony La Russa said. "He got us on the board in the first inning."

Brett Tomko (8-7) pitched shutout ball into the ninth as the Cardinals ended a three-game losing streak and avoided a three-game sweep.

Tomko won for the first time in five decisions at home, and Jason Istringhausen worked the ninth for his ninth save, completing the Cardinals' fifth shutout.

At Los Angeles, Adrian Beltre hit a go-ahead two-run double and Gagne nailed down his third save in the three-game series. It's the fourth time this season the bespectacled right-hander saved every game of a three-game set.

Gagne's only blown save this season didn't count on his record — it came in the All-Star game.

"He will use, in three or four saves, as many pitches as some closers may need to get one," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "And as long as we don't deal with arm fatigue, we'll look at opportunities to use him."

Hideo Nomo (13-9) pitched 6 1-3 innings, allowing three runs and six hits — including solo homers by Brandon

Larson and D'Angelo Jimenez.

Cincinnati's Paul Wilson (6-9) allowed four runs — two earned — and eight hits in eight innings while walking five.

Diamondbacks 5, Expos 4, 10 innings

At Phoenix, Raul Mondesi homered on Eric Knott's first pitch in the 10th to give Arizona a three-game sweep of Montreal.

Mondesi, acquired from the New York Yankees on July 29, smashed it 408 feet into the left-field seats for his first home run as a member of the Diamondbacks.

Knott (0-2) pitched a hitless ninth before taking the loss. Jose Valverde (2-0) came on to get Arizona out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the ninth, then pitched a scoreless 10th to get the victory.

Braves 7, Brewers 1

At Milwaukee, Mike Hampton won his sixth straight decision and Vinny

Castilla drove in three runs with a triple and a homer in Atlanta's victory.

Hampton (9-5) allowed five hits, struck out four and walked one in his first complete game since July 23, 2001.

Cubs 9, Padres 3

At San Diego, Sammy Sosa hit a two-run homer for the second straight game and Moises Alou and Eric Karros also connected for Chicago, which completed a three-game sweep.

The Cubs led the last-place Padres in every inning of the series and outscored them 15-5.

Carlos Zambrano (10-8) won his fourth straight start, allowing one run and seven hits in six innings. He struck out eight and walked three.

Mets 5, Astros 4

At Houston, Tony Clark hit a tiebreaking home run in the sixth for New York, helping Steve Trachsel (10-7) earn his 100th career victory.

Clark's homer was his 15th of the season and fifth in five games for the Mets, who won

two of three games in the series against the NL Central leaders. Timo Perez and Marco Scutaro also homered for New York.

Jeff Bagwell hit two homers as he tied Duke Snider for 34th on the career list with 407.

Giants 7, Pirates 5

At San Francisco, Jeffrey Hammonds fouled off a bunt attempt and then hit his first homer for the Giants, a two-run shot that broke a seventh-inning tie.

It was 5-all when Jose Cruz Jr. drew a leadoff walk from Brian Boehringer (5-3). Hammonds tried to sacrifice but fouled it off before homering.

Rockies 4, Phillies 3

At Denver, Todd Helton and Chris Stynes homered as Colorado came back to beat Kevin Millwood (11-8).

Helton homered for the second straight day, and Stynes connected in the seventh inning, breaking a 3-all tie with his ninth homer.

Hutto once again chosen as Tiger League Commissioner

PAMPA — David Hutto has been appointed Commissioner of the Optimist Tiger League football program for coming season, according to Ron Carr, second vice-president.

Sign-ups for boys in the third through sixth grades are expected to begin the week of Aug. 18.

Hutto has served as Commissioner of the league for the last three years. For six years, he coached a team in the third-fourth grade league. He has served on the Optimist Board of Directors as vice-president, has been Commissioner of the Optimist 11-12 Cal Ripken Baseball League, and is a past member of Masonic Lodge No. 966 of Pampa. He and wife, Janet, are members of First Baptist Church where she had taught four-year-olds in Sunday School the past 25

years. The Huttos have three children and seven grandchildren. They own and operate Poppy's, the local Spudnut franchise.

"Kids begin learning the rules in Optimist football. That makes it more interesting for them to watch," Hutto said. "They also learn responsibility to themselves and their teammates. He continued with a grin, "Besides, it's just fun."

Hutto said there were 183 players in the program last year.

"We had five teams in the fifth and sixth grade division and four teams in the third and fourth grade division," he said.

Adults interested in coaching Optimist football may contact Hutto at 665-3017 or at Poppy's.

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An organizational meeting for parents and adults inter-

ested in coaching Optimist Tiger League football for boys in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades will be held at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Optimist Club, David Hutto, Commissioner, announced.

"It's time for football," Hutto explained. "We want to see how many coaches we have so that we will know how many teams we can handle."

Last year saw a record 183 boys on a total of nine teams participate in Tiger League Football.

"I have been coaching in the third and fourth grade league for six years," Hutto said. "Last year when I went to Harvester football games, I realized that more than half of the players on the team had gone through the Optimist Tiger League program."

Adults interested in coaching are asked to contact Hutto at 665-3017 or at Poppy's.

Griese likely to start in Dolphins debut

MIAMI (AP) — Bob Griese's uniform is displayed in the lobby of the Miami Dolphins' training complex, along with his photo from the 1973 Super Bowl, and his plaque hangs over the front entrance.

"I make sure I come through the side door," Brian Griese said with a smile.

Following family footsteps is tough enough without daily reminders about dad's accomplishments. Bob Griese made the Pro Football Hall of Fame, while his son is just trying to get comfortable in his new job as Miami's backup quarterback.

The younger Griese's debut with the Dolphins comes

Friday in their exhibition opener against Tampa Bay, and he'll likely start.

But the role is temporary — No. 1 quarterback Jay Fiedler has missed practice the past two days with back spasms and is expected to sit out as a precaution.

"It'll be different putting on a Dolphins uniform for a game for the first time, but it's going to be exciting," Griese said. "I've got a lot of people coming to the game, friends and family that I've had here in Miami for a long time who've wanted to see me play. So it'll be fun."

An anticipated quarterback controversy has yet to materialize, but then the first regular-season game is still a month

away. Griese has been erratic during the first two weeks of training camp as he becomes acclimated with the offense and his teammates, while Fiedler looked poised and polished in practice until his back flared up.

Griese and coach Dave Wannstedt have repeatedly said the starting job is Fiedler's. And Fiedler said he doesn't feel threatened by his new backup.

Controversy?
"The question is going to keep coming up, I guess," Fiedler said. "That doesn't mean I have to answer it all the time. I understand where it's coming from, but it doesn't change what I'm doing out there."

Wilson's grand slam lifts Yankees by Rangers, 7-5

NEW YORK (AP) — In the on-deck circle, utilityman Enrique Wilson, making a rare start for the New York Yankees, was studying struggling Texas starter Joaquin Benoit.

Benoit had allowed a single to Jorge Posada and walked Hideki Matsui to start the second inning Thursday, immediately putting a three-run Rangers' lead in peril. Now he was in a tug of war with Karim Garcia, running a full count before walking him and loading the bases.

Wilson worked the count to 3-2 and, after fouling off ball four, hit the next pitch

into the right-field seats for the third grand slam of his career, helping the Yankees to a 7-5 victory.

"I saw a lot of pitches from Benoit," said Wilson, who entered the game with a .217 batting average. "Garcia was battling and battling. I was watching. That was a key. I was reading him."

He knew he had let Benoit off the hook one pitch before the slam.

"It was a bad pitch, but you've got to be aggressive. A bench guy, you go up there and swing the bat," he said.

Wilson has one of baseball's toughest jobs, playing

infrequently but ready to play all the time. Thursday's game was just his 21st start of the season.

"It's very hard coming from the bench to do the job," he said. "If you play every day, you get your timing. If you don't play, it's very hard."

Soon after the slam, Benoit was gone, having used 60 pitches to get five outs. He knew why, too.

"My fast ball was all over the place," he said. "I had too much movement on it. I had no control."

Texas manager Buck Showalter was critical of his starter.

White Deer Cheetas



The White Deer Cheetas, an Under 8 girls outdoor soccer team, participated in the Pampa Soccer Association this season. Team members are (l-r) head coach Kellie Metts, Kylee Metts, Bailey Wichert, Savanna Mertz, Kristen Ladd and Alexa O'Brien. Not pictured is team member Lacey Dodson. Coach Metts wanted her players to know that they worked hard and had come a long way by the time the season ended. "I enjoyed every minute with the players and I wish them all the luck in the future," she said.

Blade wants to prove himself at Dallas

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Willie Blade didn't make it out of his first two training camps with the Dallas Cowboys. And he hasn't played a down since being the third-round draft pick in 2001.

Blade is now trying to prove that the Cowboys didn't waste their pick.

Going into the first preseason game under coach Bill Parcells, Blade is listed first-team at left defensive tackle — ahead of returning players Michael Myers and John Nix.

"I don't feel like I'm a bust.

I know what everybody's been saying and I've read some of the articles," Blade said. "Performance is a reality and I wasn't performing."

After being drafted by the Cowboys, Blade signed his rookie contract after camp began and broke his right wrist in his first practice. He then reported to camp last summer at 355 pounds — 40 pounds heavier than now — and was waived before the season began.

The Cowboys had hoped to put Blade on their practice

squad and push him into shape, but Houston claimed him instead. Blade was with the expansion Texans for 15 games without ever being activated and was cut again.

But the Cowboys decided to give Blade another chance. And Parcells provided plenty of motivation.

"I feel this is my last chance and my best chance," Blade said. "After getting cut twice and the respect coach Parcells brings to the table, it's a combination of all of that. I didn't like getting cut."

Yankees by Rangers, 7-5

"The count's in his favor and the next thing you know, it's 3-and-2," Showalter said. "He doesn't use advantages in the counts. He's 26. At some point, he needs to get that focus."

Yankees starter Mike Mussina (12-6) is going through his own focus problems. For the fifth time in the last six starts he allowed first-inning runs after not allowing a run in the first in 18 straight games. This time the runs came on a three-run homer by Rafael Palmeiro.

It was one of those days when it took a few innings to figure out what was working

and what to do," he said.

After Wilson's slam, Mussina allowed another homer by Alex Rodriguez, tying the score at 4. Then he settled down and pitched into the eighth inning.

By then, the Yankees had the lead, scoring three runs in the seventh on Posada's bases-loaded single and a sacrifice fly by Matsui. Texas reliever Aaron Fultz (1-2) took the loss.

Jesse Orosco and newly acquired Jeff Nelson got New York through the eighth and Mariano Rivera nailed down the victory with his 22nd save, although he gave up a

run in the ninth. It was a reversal of fortune for Rivera, who had blown two straight saves and three of his last four save opportunities.

"You shut that out," he said. "I learned that a long time ago. After you lose a game, you forget about it and move on."

Notes: 2B Alfonso Soriano (sore thumb) and CF Bernie Williams (left knee) were not in Yankees starting lineup. Williams pinch-hit and walked twice. He is batting .231 since returning from surgery on the knee in May. "He doesn't have full strength in the knee," manager Joe Torre said.

Public Notice
NOTICE OF CREDITORS ESTATE OF MERLE PO...
Notice is heretofore given that original letters testamentary upon the estate of MERLE PO...
ceased, were granted, under the undersigned, the August 5, 2003 Cause No. 9066 in the County of Gray County, Texas, to persons having against this Estate currently being administered, are requested to present them to the time and in the manner prescribed by DATED the 5th August, 2003.

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1 Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF MERLE POLK
 Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the Estate of MERLE POLK, Deceased, were granted to me, the undersigned, on the August 5, 2003, in Cause No. 9004, pending in the County Court of Gray County, Texas. All persons having claims against this Estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them to me within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 5th day of August, 2003

VIRGINIA POLK
 Independent Executor of the Estate of MERLE POLK, Deceased
 c/o Vanessa G. Buzzard
 Peterson Farris Moss
 Pruitt & Parker,
 Ste. 440 Hughes Building
 Pampa, Texas 79065
 C-87 Aug. 8, 2003

3 Personal

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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

FOUND Adult Persian female white w/lan ears and tail on the 600 block of Bradley. Call 669-2076

FOUND Tool Box Call to identify 669-2782 aft. 5:30 p.m.

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21 Help Wanted

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

PHARMACY Clerk/ Delivery. Must be 18 yrs. old. Send resume to Box 66 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx.

TEXAS ROSE is taking applications for Full-time Wait Staff- high energy, good personality, likes working w/ public. Also, Full-Time Cook, experienced only! No Phone Calls Please!! Come by 1-5 p.m. Mon. thru Sat. at 2537 Hwy 70.

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D&R Transport is now taking applications for day and night shift. Must have a Class A CDL & pass drug test. Call 806-323-6161

ATTENTION Work From Home. \$1500-\$10,000 mo. 1-800-571-0837. www.securecallfromhome.com

IMMEDIATE OPENING I need a family man or woman to help me with my business in Pampa. If you live in Pampa, have a sales personality, have reliable transportation, if you desire an above average income, Call 669-7605

FULL-TIME and Part Time LVN's needed. Must have caring attitude. Great benefits. Apply in person at St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle 537-3194.

CNA'S needed. Great benefits. Apply in person, St. Ann's Nursing Home, Panhandle 537-3194.

NEED part-time Cashier/ Deli, 5 a.m.-9 a.m. daily. Good benefits & work environment. Apply in person 1020 E. Frederic.

SITTER Needed. Must be able to pick up from Austin school. References req. 669-0183

EARN up to \$10 per hr. Domino's Pizza now hiring delivery drivers. Must be 19 yrs. old with 2 yrs. driving history. Apply 1332 N. Hobart.

NEEDED exp. pulling unit operators & floor hands. Permanent work in N.E. OK. & S.E. KS. Lots of hours, good pay & 2345 leave message.

SUBWAY is now hiring day shifts & lunch help. Apply in person at 2141 N. Hobart.

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KITCHEN Help & Catering Person needed. Must have driver's license. Apply in person Dyer's BBQ

OUTREACH Health Serv. needs a provider in Pampa. Please call 1-800-800-0697.

VISION SOURCE is now accepting applications for experienced eyecare staff. Apply in person or mail resume to 1324 N. Banks, Pampa, Tx. 79065

DOCTORS office front office position. Involves heavy telephone, multi-tasking and a team attitude. Let us know about your past experience and salary requirements. Send resume to Box 69 c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, Tx. 79066.

HELP NEEDED! Apply in person at Scarab Manufacturing, 2 mi. West of White Deer and 1-1/2 mi. South of Highway 60.

INSURANCE Claims Collector needed. Computer exp. a plus. Apply in person at 200 N. Cuyler, 8-5, M-F.

CRANE Operators & Riggers with exp. Top pay. Great benefits. Able to travel Okla. & North Tx. areas. 800-256-4752

NEED Pharmacy Clerk / deliveries. Must be 18. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2314, Pampa.

IMMEDIATE openings for Director of Nurses, CNA's, LVN's and Dietry help at McLean Care Center Contact Billy Ray Johnston at 779-2469

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69 Misc.

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30 ac, 2 mi S. Pampa on FM 749, Barn & horse pens, \$28,000.4 yr broke bay \$1500, 4 yr blue rhone pony \$900, 16ft. stock trailer \$1200, 1998 16x80 mobile home, 3/2. Must sale. D 886-8451 N 669-7157.

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69a Garage Sales

BACK To School Sale for Boys & Girls, 729 Deane Dr. Sat: 8-? Limited 2, Abercrombie, Doc Martin, jeans, shirts, girls twin bedding ensemble, lots of misc.

FRI. 5-8pm, Sat. 8-2, 1715 Christine, furn, dishes, collectibles, garden tools, antiques, more.

LARGE Yard Sale Fri. & Sat. 9:00-? 912 Christine

5 Family Sale: 717 E. Kingsmill. Fri. 8-?, Sat. 8-noon. Something for everyone!

GARAGE Sale 3 Family Sat. 9-? 1608 Grape

SAT. 8-2 p.m. 2507 Mary Ellen. Boys' sz. 8-12, wm's, videos, misc.

GARAGE Sale 904 Twiford Fri. 4-7pm Sat. 8-?

2015 N. Russell. Clothes, furniture, appliances, hunting, fishing, camping, lots of everything. Fri. 6 p-p, Sat. 8-12. No Early Birds.

BIG YARD SALE: Avon rep. present to take your orders. 115 N. West st., Pampa. Thurs. & Fri.

MOVING Sale: Sat. only 8-4. No Early Birds. 2 entertainment centers, computer desk, chest of drawers, books, clothes, lots of misc. 2809 Rosewood.

69a Garage Sales

SUPER Garage Sale Saturday only 7:00am - ? Corner of 17th & Williamson.

516 E. Browning Fri., Sat., Sun 8 a.m. Baby items!

GARAGE Sale 1909 Hamilton Friday & Saturday 8-2.

GARAGE Sale Sat. 8-? 1004 S. Banks Washer/dryer and stove. Lots of misc.

FRI & Sat. 8:30-? 2711 Aspen Nice schools clothes, Bikes, misc.

YARD Sale 612 Hazel Fri. & Sat. 7-?

1037 S. Wells Friday & Saturday 7-? Lots of knickknacks and stuff

GARAGE Sale, Sat. 7:30-2, 1601 Duncan, trolling motor, microwave, furn, lots of misc.

GARAGE Sale, 533 Powell, 1990 Lumina, Mini Van, stove, ice box, washer, dryer, mattress, bed frames, Sat. 8-12.

NEAT and Clean! Lots of goodies. Come see Saturday 8:00-1:00, 1013 S. Summer

SAT 8-?, Sun 10-?. Laptops, electronics, plus size clothes, furn & much more. 3 miles east on Hwy 60 & Prison Road, North side of Hwy.

504 Powell Sat 7:30-1:00. Free swingset, nice toddler girl clothes, some boys. Lots more.

1910 Mary Ellen Saturday only! 8-1 Kids clothes, Tons of Toys, Bikes and much much more!!!

CARPOR Sale Behind 1334 N. Coffee #4 By Sonic Sat. 9:00 AM

2 PIANOS, lg. selection of clothes, playstation & games, computer. Sat 9-?. Sun 9-? 321 E. Francis

80 Pets & Suppl.

5 mo. old, full blood Sattin male Rabbit. \$15. Call 665-7318.

TO give away to good home male 9 mo. Golden Retriever current on shots & potty trained. 669-2296

95 Furn. Apts.

2 bedroom, dining, utility, 1308 Garland \$295. Will sell with small down. Call 665-8925.

HOUSE for lease. 4 BR, 1 1/2 BA, 2 CG, C/H/A, new carpet & paint. \$650/mo plus deposit. References. 665-2393

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

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

95 Furn. Apts.

DOGWOOD Apts., 1 bdr furn. avail. Dep. & ref. required. 669-9817, 669-2981.

EFFI apt. \$300 mo., bills pd. Rooms \$24.50 day, \$100 wk. & up, air, tv, cable, phone. 669-3221.

96 Unfurn. Apts. CAPROCK Apts. has fantastic specials on all 1, 2 & 3 bdr. apts. starting at \$290. 3, 6, 9 & 12 mo. leases avail. Pool, laundry, washer / dryer hook-ups, club room, on-site management and SOFTENED WATER to all units. 1601 W. Somerville, 665-7149 Mon-Fri. 8:30-5:30, Sat. 10-4.

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

NEW Management! Low rent 1 bdrms., duplexes, & homes - Remodeled, Nice, clean, call 665-4274

EXECUTIVE Home. 3-2-2 + 2 liv. areas. Fireplace. Recent carpet / paint. Dogwood Ln. Jamie Lewis, 665-3458.

2 bdrs. cent. h/a 332 N. Christy, 1140 Terrace. 3 bdrs.: 1109 Crane, 1072 Prairie-sale or rent. HUD. 669-2080, 665-2119.

3 br, 1 b, 1 garage, fenced yard, \$350 mo. + \$150 dep. 1117 E. Foster, 669-9424.

2 bedroom, dining, utility, 1308 Garland \$295. Will sell with small down. Call 665-8925.

PAMPA MANOR

SENIORS OR DISABLED ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE W/D CONNECTIONS 2700 N. HOBART 665-2828

98 Unfurn. Houses

PICK UP rental list from Gray Box on front porch of Lakeview Apartments. Update each Fri.

EXECUTIVE Home. SAT 9th & SUN 10th. 2.4 p.m. 3 bdr. 2 1/2 ba. 2 liv. areas, game rm., recent paint & ceramic tile. 1604 Evergreen. 662-0015.

SPACIOUS - 2,000 s.f. 3-2. Whirlpool, 2 living area. Great neighborhood. Call 665-3005

104 Lots LOT for sale, 611 N. Wynne St., 100x101. Call 806-857-8749

105 Acreage MEYDITH Ranch, Lipscomb County 1220 acres. See at www.pencilscapes.com

5 acre tracts, 2 miles from Pampa. \$2500 per acre. Call 665-4842.

106 Coml. Property 7 room commercial building for sale in Lefors, Tx. Approx. 910 sq ft. good location. Call 835-2773.

114 Recre. Veh. RED Dale 10 1/2 ft. cab-over-camper, ash cabinets, very clean, elec. water pressure pump. 669-9568

115 Trailer Parks TUMBLEWEED Acres, Storm Shelters, fenced, stor. bldg. avail. 665-0079, 665-2450.

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

1995 16x76 Shult mobile home for sale, in Lefors. Call 835-2837.

120 Autos

Quality Sales 1300 N. Hobart 669-0433 Make your next car a Quality Car

Doug Boyd Motor Co. "On The Spot Financing" 821 W. Wilks 669-6062

CULBERSON-STOWERS Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick GMC-Olds-Cadillac 805 N. Hobart 665-1665

1995 Taurus GL 4 door \$1825.00 Call 835-2773

1992 GMC Vandura Van for sale, \$2000 or OBO, 1414 N. Zimmers. or call 898-2738.

CLASSY white interior convertible 91 LeBaron 669-6093, great work or school car.

121 Trucks 1998 Ford Pickup \$5000.00 Call 835-2773

ACCEPTING scaled bids on a 1996 Dodge pickup. Lefors FCU reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. For more info. call 835-2773.

122 Motorcycles 1994 Kawasaki Ninja 500. Excellent Condition, \$3000. OBO (806)435-4701 (Perryton)

126 Boats & Access. 200 HP 18' Invader, 70 HP 16' Ebotide, 25 HP 14' 6" StarCraft, 665-4664, 2419 Cherokee.



Shepard's is in need of a part-time Physical Therapy Assistant. Hours are flexible. If you are interested come by 916 N. Crest Road and fill out an application.

We have openings in Pampa, Texas for the following:

Electronic Technicians- In-depth electronics experience and good troubleshooting skills required. Associates Degree in Electronics or equivalent required.

Electronic Assemblers- Good mechanical aptitude and soldering skills required for close assembly work. Electronics knowledge a plus.

Physical exam (including drug screen) and skills assessment required. Contact Titan Specialties, Ltd. at 2838 W. Alcock, or P.O. Box 2316, Pampa, Tx.



79066, or hr@titanspecialties.com EOE

A major supplier of specialty products and services is currently soliciting resumes for the position of Industrial Treating Specialist and Customer Delivery Specialist in various areas of West Texas. The qualified candidate will have a minimum of three years experience driving and operating a diesel truck with an excellent driving and work record. He will have a current CDL driver's license with HAZMAT and Tanker endorsements as well as chemical handling experience. We are looking for individuals who are self-motivated and are customer oriented to join a winning team. DOT, company physicals, and drug screens are required. Interested parties should send their current resumes to the following address.

LF-ITS
 P.O. Box 61377
 Midland, Texas 79711



HANSFORD Manor is seeking a few special people for LVN positions. Long Term Care experience preferred. Our attractive facility has an excellent survey track record and has received state-wide recognition for quality. Salary commensurate w/experience. Great benefits package, weekend differentials, paid holiday, vacation, sick leave and health insurance.

We have supportive administration and staff, good working conditions in a friendly rural community with excellent schools and a moderate cost of living. Apply at 707 S. Roland, Spearman, TX or contact Lisa Unruh, HR Mgr at 806-659-5841 EOE.

Horoscope BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, Aug. 9, 2003: Make the most out of a very special work or day-to-day opportunity. You are in the process of spreading your wings and trying many new things. Expect a financial upswing, but be careful with spending. You also might gain tremendous financial insight, if you so choose. You have a tendency to go to extremes, as you have a lot of energy and sometimes a devil-may-care attitude. If you are single, a very special relationship will walk into your life. What you decide to do with it is your call. If you are attached, you will benefit from being more nurturing to each other. CAPRICORN helps you.

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) ★★★★★ Others seek you out. You are called to action, and you'll meet the challenge. You might need to pull plans together or even stage the party. Whatever your role might be, enjoy yourself to the utmost. Some of you could find yourself working, but liking it. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ If you have the opportunity to take off, why not? Someone at a distance reaches out to you. Why not meet him or her halfway for a fun day? In a different setting, you renew and recharge your energy. Don't let anyone stop you. Tonight: Try some exotic cuisine.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Deal with others directly and individually. An important discussion that needs to happen naturally occurs in such a friendly environment. Make plans

with those special people in your life, making time for each one. Tonight: Someone wants to pull in close to you.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Others approach you, putting you in a yeah or nay situation. Although in some form you feel cornered by all this action, you do feel cared for. Learn to support yourself, making the choices you want. Take your time choosing a gift. Tonight: Out.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Projects come forward, whether it is getting the barbecue ready or doing some lawn care. You will enjoy yourself no matter which way you turn, as long as you have company. Invite someone along; he or she will pitch in. Tonight: Make dinner easy.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You say what you think, and someone responds. You might not believe what is happening around you. Understand how much a child or loved one appreciates your caring; just hang out with him or her. Tonight: Ever playful.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Invite others to come to you, rather than going to others. A conversation with a family member might be long overdue. You aren't going to change this person, but the two of you can find a halfway point. Entertain only those you really care about. Tonight: Happy at home.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ You naturally fall into the right place at the right time. A call or invitation encourages you to get together with friends. Don't forget someone you haven't seen in a long time. Perhaps it is time to catch up on each other's news. Tonight: By all means, don't stand on

ceremony.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Expenses could quickly have you flapping your arms in dismay. Rather than carrying on, do something about the situation. You also might opt to put in more overtime, if need be. Extremes punctuate what is going on. Tonight: Treating others doesn't have to be expensive.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Whatever you get your hands into naturally seems to turn out as you like. Try something totally new if you're in the mood. Different might very well appeal to you right now. News heading your way could be very interesting. Tonight: Free-flow with the moment.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Knowing when to allow others to take over could be instrumental to your well-being, as well as a relationship. A partner or close friend loves being able to steal the scene. He or she might like taking a stronger role. Tonight: Togetherness works.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Someone has an awful lot to say. Although you might feel cornered on some level, you also might enjoy all the news. You might be surprised by what is going on with some friends. Don't forget a call to a loved one at a distance. Tonight: Where your friends are.
BORN TODAY
 Singer Whitney Houston (1963), actress Melanie Griffith (1957), athlete Deion Sanders (1967) ***
 Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com.
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Aerial hunts in Montana cause furor

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Environmentalists who oppose aerial hunts of coyotes and other predators are renewing calls to ban the practice following a recent string of crashes of aircraft involved in the hunts.

Opponents say the crashes, including two this summer in Montana that injured four people, prove the practice is dangerous and probably ineffective.

But operators of such flights, including ranchers and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, say they are a safe means of controlling nuisance animals.

The USDA is the largest operator of such flights through its predator control program. It uses 18 of its own aircraft and also contracts out to private pilots.

The National Transportation Safety Board is still investigating the two Montana crashes this summer of aircraft involved in coyote hunts.

One occurred July 1 when the small plane apparently lost air speed and crashed while flying close to the ground, the NTSB said in an initial report. Both the pilot and the gunner were seriously injured.

In June, a USDA-operated predator control flight crashed near Big Timber. The helicopter, operated by the wildlife services division of the USDA, lost all power while maneuvering about 40 feet off the ground, according to an NTSB initial report. The pilot and gunner suffered minor injuries.

The NTSB also is investigating the crash of a federal predator control flight in Nevada last month. Neither occupant was injured.

The environmental group Sinapu, based in Boulder, Colo., said it has documented 21 crashes involving federal predator control flights since 1989.

The group said there are documented cases of the aircraft hitting trees and power lines and even instances in which the gunner accidentally shot the aircraft.

"Recent crashes that involved shooters who target wildlife from aircraft underscore the necessity of ending this practice," said Wendy Keefover-Ring, with Sinapu's carnivore protection program.

Her group wants the practice banned, saying the USDA is not forthcoming about the cost, effectiveness or safety of the program.

Steve McCreary, an investigator with the NTSB, said flying close to the ground, as is required when hunting predators, and shooting a gun from a plane do pose some special safety risks.

"You do have to be a bit more precise," he said. "You have to be careful you don't shoot the plane, also."

But he said it is unclear whether the safety record of such flights is any better or worse than general aviation.

The Department of Agriculture said it does not keep complete statistics on the safety record of predator control flights, nor could it immediately confirm whether Sinapu's figures on the number of accidents was accurate.

President seeking new ideas for promoting transition in Cuba

By GEORGE GEDDA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ruling out tighter sanctions against Cuba, the Bush administration is pushing for a democratic transition on the island through increased international pressure and more robust support for Cuba's dissidents.

The administration dispatched three officials to Miami this week in hopes of coming up with fresh ideas for bringing about a democratic Cuba. They have been consulting with elected leaders of the Cuban-American community.

Roger Noriega, newly installed as assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the administration's evolving policy on Cuba will feature a "plan with concrete measures and with a timetable."

He said a tightening of sanctions against the island is not an option.

Noriega said it was a "great tragedy" that U.S. policy over the years has been focused on U.S. economic pressures on the island instead of looking to the dissidents themselves as the most effective agents of change.

It was the most explicit repudiation by the administration of the utility of sanctions as a pro-democracy tool.

Other officials said existing restrictions on travel to Cuba and other economic measures will remain in place as long as there is no progress toward democratic rule.

Prisoners allegedly beaten in incident at Illinois jail

CHICAGO (AP) — One prisoner suffered a split lip, another got splinters from being hit with a pool cue, and others suffered bruises when guards beat prisoners in the latest outbreak of violence at troubled Cook County jail, community groups alleged.

Cook County Sheriff Michael Sheahan's office denied the accusation, saying eight inmates housed on the jail's maximum-security tier picked a fight with two guards and had to be subdued by reinforcements.

The groups asked State's Attorney Richard Devine for an investigation into the July 27 incident, which they say is the third case of guard violence reported at the jail in three years.

A Devine aide said the allegations were under review.

Federal prosecutors have said they are investigating the Cook County Sheriff's Department, which is responsible for operating the jail. The chief judge of the Circuit Court's criminal division said in April a grand jury would look into jail conditions.

"These beatings are not an isolated incident — they are part

Noriega said the international community has been unwilling to support the American policy of economic denial over the years — a point demonstrated annually in the "virtually unanimous" U.N. General Assembly votes in opposition to the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

He said the U.S. goal of "reaching out in solidarity to dissidents" will be a lot more effective if it has the support of the international community.

European and Latin American governments have signaled support for this approach in recent months, he said.

Noriega, a former ambassador to the Organization of American States and a one-time aide to former Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said the administration will seek ways of overcoming Cuba's jamming U.S. government television and radio broadcasts tailored for Cuban audiences.

Another key goal he said, is to increase support for independent libraries and human rights groups on the island which have persisted despite a major anti-dissident crackdown last March and April.

Seventy-five dissidents were rounded up and sentenced to long prison terms for alleged ties to the U.S. diplomatic mission in Cuba.

To the extent that independent libraries and rights groups continue to exist, Noriega said they need U.S. and other international support "so that they have a little more reach, so they can get the word out about what's happening on the island."

Coastal commission warns of possible risks of tapping ocean as water source

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Companies are lining up to help California squeeze salt from the sea in its quest for new water sources, but the agency that would approve the projects says tapping the ocean could pose serious problems for the coastline.

In a report to its board of directors, the California Coastal Commission warns that allowing desalination plants to proliferate could threaten marine life, spur development in sensitive habitats and turn what has long been considered a common good — the ocean — into a commodity.

The commission's board of directors is reviewing the report

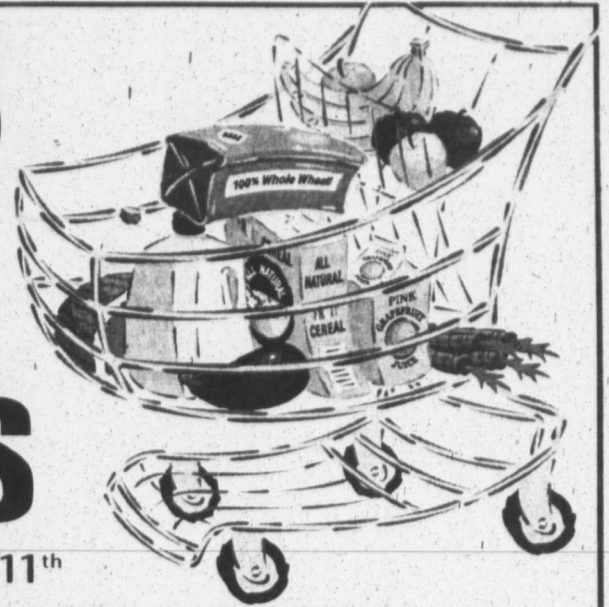
during its monthly meeting in Huntington Beach this week. A 60-day public comment period will follow.

The report says desalination poses risks to marine life because it can trap plants and small sea creatures while drawing in water, and it releases large amounts of salt back into the ocean.

The study also says private and multinational companies that are permitted to build and run desalination plants are likely to seek profit over protection of coastal resources.

Under international free trade agreements, multinational companies could claim exemptions from state rules on coastal protection, the report says.

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10 Ct. 3 For \$2.00



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