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Luncheon to benefit Komen Foundation

AMARILLO — The Greater Amarillo Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will hold its 2003 "In the Pink@ Luncheon" at 12 noon, Thursday, Sept. 4, in the Heritage Room at Amarillo Civic Center.

Julie Mitchell, 2003 honorary chair for "The Greater Amarillo Race for the Cure@," and other Race for the Cure honorees will be recognized during the function, held to honor breast cancer survivors and race underwriters.

Reservation are required. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, call (806) 354-9706.

DEATHS

Ralph McLaughlin, 76, services pending.

INSIDE...

Classified9
Comics6
Sports7

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School board sets \$1.561 tax rate

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
EDITOR

Pampa school board Tuesday set the tax rate at \$1.561 and approved a \$19.6 million budget for the 2003-2004 school year.

No citizens appeared for the public hearing on the budget and tax rate at the Pampa Independent School District board meeting last night at Carver Center.

The new budget includes an absorption of 20 teaching and aides positions, said Carol Fields, business manager, and is based on an average daily attendance of 3,000 students.

Fields said the estimated revenue is set at \$19,963,608, down from \$20.2 million received the year before.

She projects a \$300,000 surplus at the end of the budget year.

The budget reflects money set aside to build the girls softball field at Pampa High School and still leaves \$175,000 for facility maintenance, she said.

Almost 60 percent is dedicated to instruction. "Which is where it should be," Fields told the board.

Although Pampa ISD has reached the state's tax rate at \$1.50 per \$100 valuation for maintenance and operation, the board accepted Field's recommendation that debt service part of the

tax rate be increased to .061 for a combined tax rate of \$1.561 per \$100 valuation.

She explained that the 2002-2003 revenues fell short due to a greater-than-expected drop in student population and less-than-expected state funding.

"We got hit with a double whammy," she said.

As a result, the 2002-2003 budget ended with a \$71,665 shortfall, instead of the \$300,000 projected surplus, Fields explained.

The increase in the debt service rate will enable the school district to cover all debt payments for the coming year,

she said. First of school enrollment figures look promising, officials reported. On Aug. 22, more than 3,240 students were enrolled. Aug. 26 enrollment showed 3,262 students enrolled in Pampa public schools.

Board members unanimously approved spring trips for the Pampa High School Band and Choir.

Bruce Collins, PHS band director, plans to take 110 students and sponsors to New York City, May 5-10. The trip includes tours of Times Square, the Empire State Building and Ground Zero, Central Park, Metropolitan

(See SCHOOL, Page 3)

City tables budget, tax rate readings

By DAVID BOWSER
STAFF WRITER

Pampa City Commission deferred action on the city's budget and tax rate for next year during their meeting Tuesday evening, but approved budgets for the Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee and the PEDC.

The commission also set a special election allowing Pampa firefighters to participate in collective bargaining and arbitration and approved a new deferred compensation plan for city employees.

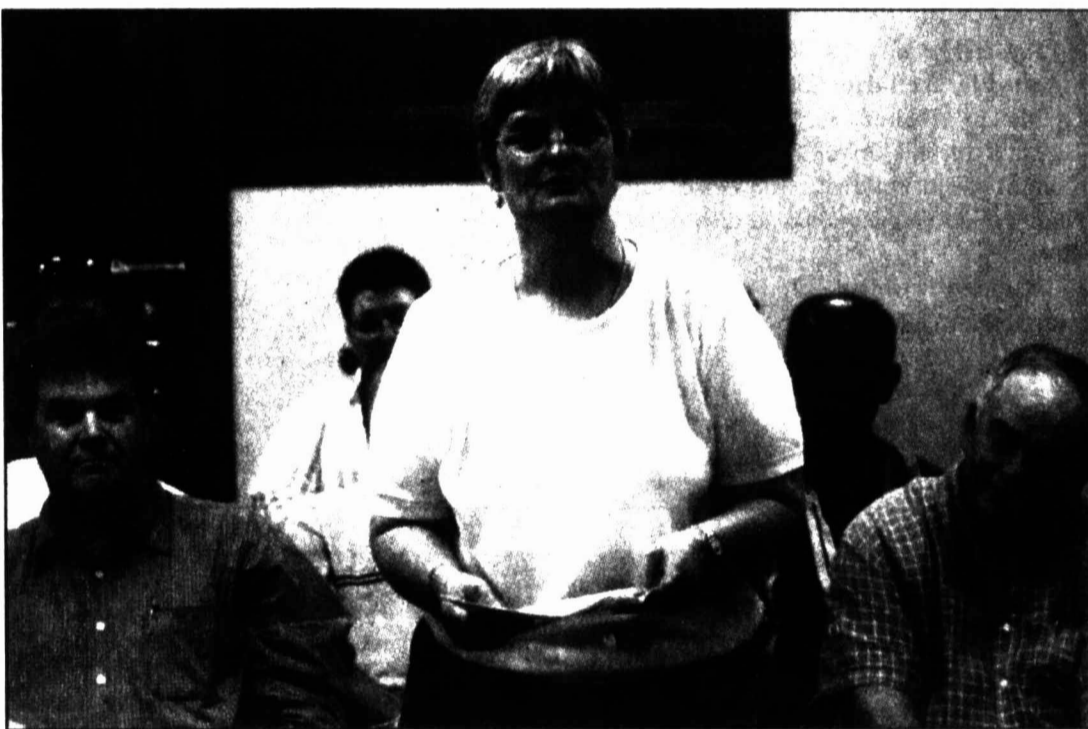
Commissioner Jeff McCormick was absent from Tuesday's meeting. Commissioner Faustina Curry and Mayor Lonny Robbins said they wanted to wait until all commissioners were present before voting on the city's budget.

The budget ordinance must pass two readings and be adopted by Oct. 1. Deferring the first reading of the budget Tuesday night will still allow the commission to hear two readings during their regularly scheduled September meetings and pass a budget by the required deadline.

The budget must be passed before a tax rate can be approved.

The proposed budget is based on the same tax rate as this year, although Commissioner Curry has suggested using the effective tax rate that would bring the same amount of revenue into city coffers as it raised this year. That would mean a slightly higher tax rate, but it would also give the city an extra \$80,000. Curry suggested using that money for a street seal coating project that other-

(See CITY, Page 3)



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Flanked by Clay Rice, executive director of the Pampa Area Chamber of Commerce, left, and John Forrester, tourism committee member, right, Paula Goff of the Pampa chamber's tourism committee told city commissioners during their work session that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has published a map showing wildlife viewing areas around Pampa.

PEDC board negotiates building sale

Pampa Economic Development Corporation may have sold one of the buildings that it owns, but that has upset one of its clients.

At their meeting last week, the PEDC voted to offer the American Energy Building on Price Road to Frac Services, Inc., for \$175,000. The sales package would include leasing the building to them for \$2,000 a month for three years, then getting a lump sum payment for \$103,000.

Doug Locke, president of the PEDC, said this week that they are awaiting a reply from FSI.

Earlier this month, David Gayanich of FSI had proposed buying the building for \$110,000. Gayanich said the company wanted to lease the building at \$2,500 a month for one year with lease payments going toward purchase of the building. FSI would then pay the PEDC \$80,000 for the building at the end of the year.

PEDC board members countered by meeting Gayanich's leasing proposal, but they upped the purchase price to \$175,000.

It was an offer FSI refused last week, so the board countered with their latest offer of \$2,000 a month for three years and a one-time payment of \$103,000.

Locke said he hoped to have a reply from FSI before the next scheduled

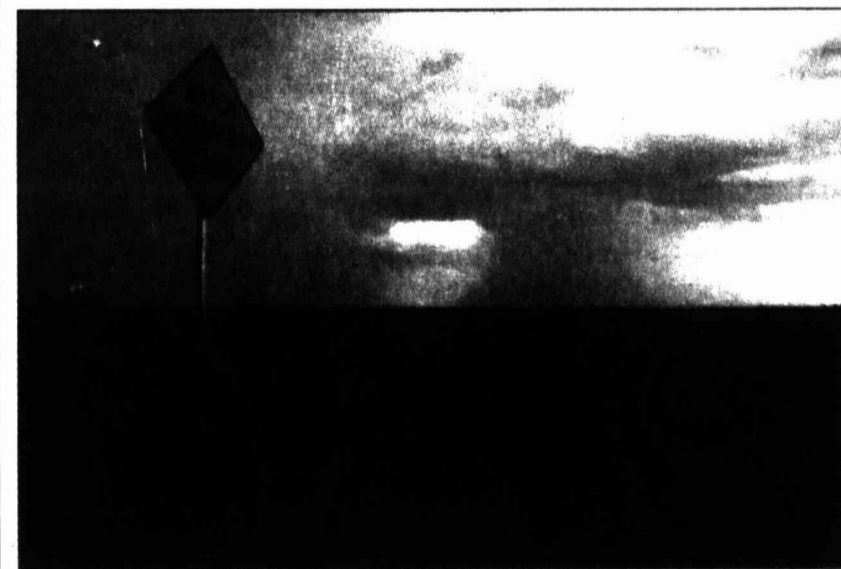
(See SALE, Page 3)

Fire and rain



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

Firefighters battle a grass fire north of Pampa near the Little Red School House Tuesday afternoon. The fire was thought to have started from a lightning strike.



(Pampa News photo by David Bowser)

This sign on Farm to Market Rd. 282 north of Pampa takes on greater meaning as thunderstorms rumble through the area Tuesday afternoon.

Fire contract in budget for Gray County

Gray County Judge Richard Peet said that as the county begins the approval process for their next fiscal year budget, the Commissioners Court has not cut any funding on what they pay Pampa for fire protection.

That budget comes up for its first vote Tuesday, Sept. 1, at the county commission's regular meeting.

Gray County contracts with the City of Pampa for firefighting services for the northwestern and most of the western part of the county. The county also contracts with area volunteer fire departments, including Hoover, Lefors, Groom and McLean, for fire protection services, but the cost of Pampa's fire protection, at \$1,300,000 a year, costs the most.

County and city officials met last week to discuss the city's role in county fire protection.

Pampa City Manager Mitch Grant told commissioners that the city would like to continue the existing contract.

"I think it went really well," Grant said of the meeting. "We want to continue to provide service to the county."

Grant said there are a lot of fires around town as well as in town.

"We're trying to give the citizens of Gray County the best protection for the least amount of money," Peet said.

Earlier this summer, the Hoover

(See CONTRACT, Page 3)

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AUG 27 2003

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SCHOOL

Museum of Art, Broadway shows, and a world premiere performance by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

He said he is setting up performances for the PHS concert band and jazz band.

Cost of the trip is estimated at \$900 per student.

PHS Choir Director Fred Mays has set up a trip to San Antonio, May 6-9, to compete in the Director's Choice Festival there. The choir will sing at the State Capitol in Austin, Mays said, and are auditioning for the Show Choir to sing at a Texas Rangers game in Dallas. The trip, which includes an overnight stay in Dallas and two nights in San Antonio, is expected to cost \$375 per student, he said.

After reviewing a contract

between the City of Pampa and Pampa ISD on sharing demolition of delinquent tax property costs, the board took no action. Board members will wait to take action on paying approximately \$4,000 in debris removal costs for a property on Ballard Street.

Board members elected Lance DeFever to serve as alternate delegate at the Texas Association of School Board Convention, Sept. 18-22. DeFever takes the place of Dr. Jay Johnson who will be unable to attend.

Also, the board approved the hiring of nine teachers: James Carter, Pampa Middle School band director; Mary Diggs, Wilson Elementary kindergarten; Courtney Finsterwald, Travis, third grade; Lyndee Gasaway, Wilson, first grade; Sabrina

Klismeyer, PMS math; Patricia Macumber, PHS speech; Amy Pierce, Lamar, fourth grade; Connie Wildcat, Lamar, fourth grade; and Curtis Peterson, Pampa Learning Center, social studies and business.

In other action, the board approved an agreement with Amarillo Regional Day School Program for the Deaf, July financials, appointed Supt. Barry Haenisch to the Region 16 regional advisory committee, approved a Tobacco Education Grant. The board members also okayed staff recommendation to approve snack food item bids as presented and reject all bids for computer hardware.

The board went into brief executive session for the superintendent's evaluation. No action was taken.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CITY

wise would have to be delayed or eliminated.

Curry said using the effective tax rate would increase taxes about \$3 a year for most citizens, or about 25 cents a month.

"That would go a long way toward helping the streets," she said.

Those figures, said John Horst, the city's financial director, are based on a 94.5 percent collection rate. Horst said that presently the collec-

tion rate for city taxes is running about 94.8 percent.

"If we don't collect as much next year as we did this year," Curry said, "we could be in a bad bind."

"Collections have been very satisfactory," Horst said.

In the past, rising property values have negated the need for raising taxes, but this year property appraisals are down.

While deferring the budget and setting a tax rate, the commission approved a \$15,000 budget for the Chamber's tourism committee.

Tourism Committee Chairman Paula Goff told the commission during their pre-meeting work session that the chamber had contracted for two billboards promoting Pampa as a tourist destination. One is at Shamrock and the other is at Dalhart.

The committee is spending \$7,500 on the two billboards as a test to see what kind of response they will bring.

Goff also presented commissioners with a Texas Parks and Wildlife map showing

(See CITY, Page 5)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CONTRACT

Volunteer Fire Department offered to expand their area of fire protection, which now is across the northern part of the county east of Pampa.

Peet said the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department has done an excellent job over the past 10 years.

While the county has not made any cuts in the amount budgeted for next year in the Pampa fire contract, Peet said, there have been problems over the past year. Recently, when Pampa firefighters were battling a grass blaze south of Pampa, they called County Commissioner Gary Willoughby for help. He had to take county employees from east of Pampa off the maintenance work that they had been doing so they could drive a county tank truck filled with water to help Pampa firefighters.

Peet said it would have been more efficient, and would have cost less, if the city had called Hoover to bring their water truck from their Price Road facility.

"We are not first responders," Peet said of the county

crews. "All we can do is bring water."

The Hoover Volunteer Fire Department, on the other hand, are trained firefighters.

"They're first responders," Peet said.

"Who knows what the future of fire protection will be," Grant said. "There's a push toward volunteer departments."

Grant said that the Hoover Volunteer Fire Department was quite good and commended them for their work.

"I think in the future there will be more volunteer firefighters out in the county," Grant said.

"Across the country," Judge Peet said, "fire protection is moving more and more

toward volunteer departments."

Still, Grant said he thinks the county would be wise to continue to use the city's fire department.

"The city, right now, provides top notch fire protection," Grant said. "It makes sense to me to use that resource to the maximum. I would think everybody would want to use the Pampa Fire Department."

It basically comes down to funding fire protection, Grant said.

Most of the revenue the county gets comes from inside Pampa, Grant said.

"We should get part of it back," Grant said.

(See CONTRACT, Page 5)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

SALE

and U.S. Highway 60.

Scribner said that his was the only major loan that the PEDC had outstanding that was current.

"I have paid them every month for six years," Scribner said.

Locke said this week that he was not personally aware of Scribner's negotiations with FSI.

PEDC meeting on Sept. 8.

In the meantime, Billy Scribner, who had received a loan from the PEDC six years ago, told The Pampa News he was upset because he had been negotiating with FSI, trying to sell them property he owns at Price Road

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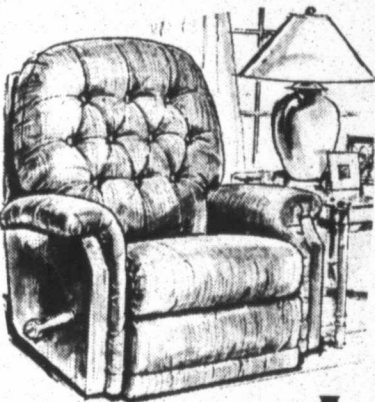
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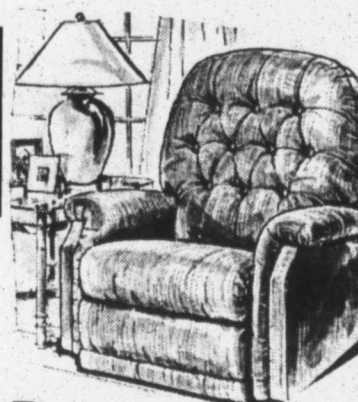
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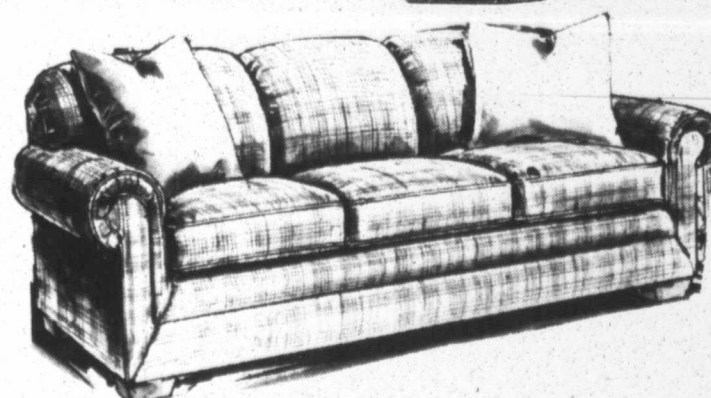
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Intentions to Drill
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & N.W. CANADIAN Douglas) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #3-91 Nix 'A', 1875' from South & 1200' from West line, Sec. 91,42,H&TC, PD 7000'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & S.W. CANADIAN Granite Wash) Bravo Natural Resources, Inc., #3201 Isaacs, 2080' from North & East line, Sec. 201,C,G&MMB&A, PD 12500'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #8067 Fred A Hobart, 725' from South & 2244' from East line, Sec. 67,A-2,H&GN, PD 12500'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #3 Hobart Ranch '20', 2000' from North & 900' from West line, Sec. 20,A-1,H&GN, PD 12500'.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, Hobart '49', Sec. 49,A-2,H&GN, PD 12500', for the following wells:
 #5, 2107' from North & 467' from East line of Sec.
 #6, 2173' from North & 1200' from West line of Sec.
 #7, 1625' from South & 2125' from East line of Sec.
HEMPHILL (WILDCAT & HEMPHILL Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #6 Hobart Ranch '50', 1200' from North & 1980' from East line, Sec. 50,A-2,H&GN, PD 12500'.

Oil Well Completions
ROBERTS (MATHERS Morrow) Range Production Co., #15 Ben Hill, Sec. 144,42,H&TC, spud 4-30-03, drlg, compl 6-5-03, rested 7-28-03, flowed 77' bbl. of 40 grav. oil + no water thru 6/64" choke on 24 hour test, TD 11400', PBTD 10996' —
Gas Well Completions
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #0812P Noah, Sec. 8,4,AB&M, spud 4-22-03, drlg, compl 5-11-03, tested 7-26-03, TD 11750', PBTD 11625' —
HEMPHILL (BUFFALO WALLOW Granite Wash) Patina Oil & Gas Corp., #4401P Willis, Sec. 44,M-1,H&GN, spud 4-11-03, drlg, compl 5-5-03, tested 7-20-03, TD 11730', PBTD 11675' —
HEMPHILL (HEMPHILL

Granite Wash) Samson Lone Star Ltd. Partnership, #5 Hobart Ranch '50', Sec. 50,A-2,H&GN, spud 5-9-03, drlg, compl 6-11-03, tested 7-28-03, TD 11500', PBTD 11372' —
ROBERTS (GILL RANCH Brown Dolomite) Ocean Energy, Inc., #2016 Gill, Sec. 16,44, Poitevent Survey, spud 6-5-03, drlg, compl 6-11-03, tested 7-21-03, potential 2230 MCF, TD 4800', PBTD 4720' —
Plugged Wells
CARSON (PANHANDLE) Ina Street Operations, #51-D R.C. Ware, et al, Sec. 105,4,I&GN, spud 6-16-57, plugged 7-18-03, TD 3120' (injection) —
GRAY (PANHANDLE) Myriad Resources Corp., #34 Powell 'B', Sec. 28,B-2,H&GN, spud 10-31-45, plugged 5-21-03, TD 3067'

(oil) — Form 1 in Danciger Oil & Refining
HEMPHILL (CANADIAN Douglas) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #1074 Urschel, Sec. 74,1,G&M, spud 3-8-03, plugged 5-30-03, TD 7150' (gas) —
HEMPHILL (N.W. CANADIAN Douglas) Bracken Operating, L.L.C., #1081 Nix 'B', Sec. 81,42,H&TC, spud 2-18-03, plugged 5-28-03, TD 6900' (dry) —
HEMPHILL (RED DEER CREEK Granite Wash) Apache Corp., #2 Wiggins 'A', Sec. 55,1,I&GN, spud 11-7-76, plugged 5-13-03, TD 11360' (gas) — Form 1 in Cities Service Oil
WHEELER (PANHANDLE) Vernon Davenport, #10W M.S. Bills, Sec. 45,13,H&GN, spud unknown, plugged 6-3-03, TD 2170' (oil) — Form 1 in Texaco, Inc.

Talks on North Korea's nuclear program begin

By **AUDRA ANG**
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BEIJING (AP) — The United States and North Korea held direct talks for the first time in months Wednesday, meeting for a half-hour on the sidelines of a six-nation summit designed to resolve the standoff over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

The South Korean official who confirmed the meeting took place said the North appeared "willing to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue."

The meeting, held soon after the six-way talks opened Wednesday, was the first concrete sign of progress in six-nation talks designed to resolve the disagreement over the nuclear program — and to ensure security for the East Asian region. China, Russia, Japan and South Korea are also participating in the three days of meetings.

The U.S.-North Korea meeting was confirmed by **Wie Sung-rak**, director-general at the South Korean Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau. It came hours after the North Korean government reiterated its insistence that the United States agree to a nonaggression treaty.

"The U.S. side made comments about easing North Korea's security concerns, but I cannot give you any more details," **Wie** said. "From what North Koreans said during the meeting, we could read that North Korea is willing to resolve the nuclear issue through dialogue."

The contact between the delegations ended a diplomatic drought between the two nations, at odds over the nuclear program and U.S. demands that it cease immediately. **Pyongyang** demands guarantees of security and economic aid as conditions for doing so.

Earlier, when the full six-nation talks convened, the two nations' delegation heads — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State **James Kelly** and North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister **Kim Yong Il** — shook hands and smiled before sitting

alongside the other participants around a vast hexagonal table behind the high brick walls of the Chinese government's state guest house.

"I am very happy the six countries are all here," Chinese Vice Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** told the assembled diplomats before the meeting was closed to reporters.

The North Korean government had long demanded one-on-one talks with the United States, but dropped its objections to the multilateral arrangement after Beijing agreed to host it.

Wie had no information about whether any breakthroughs were made in the one-on-one talks, nor did he say if **Kim** and **Kelly** took part in the meeting.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said she had no word of any bilateral talks between the United States and North Korea.

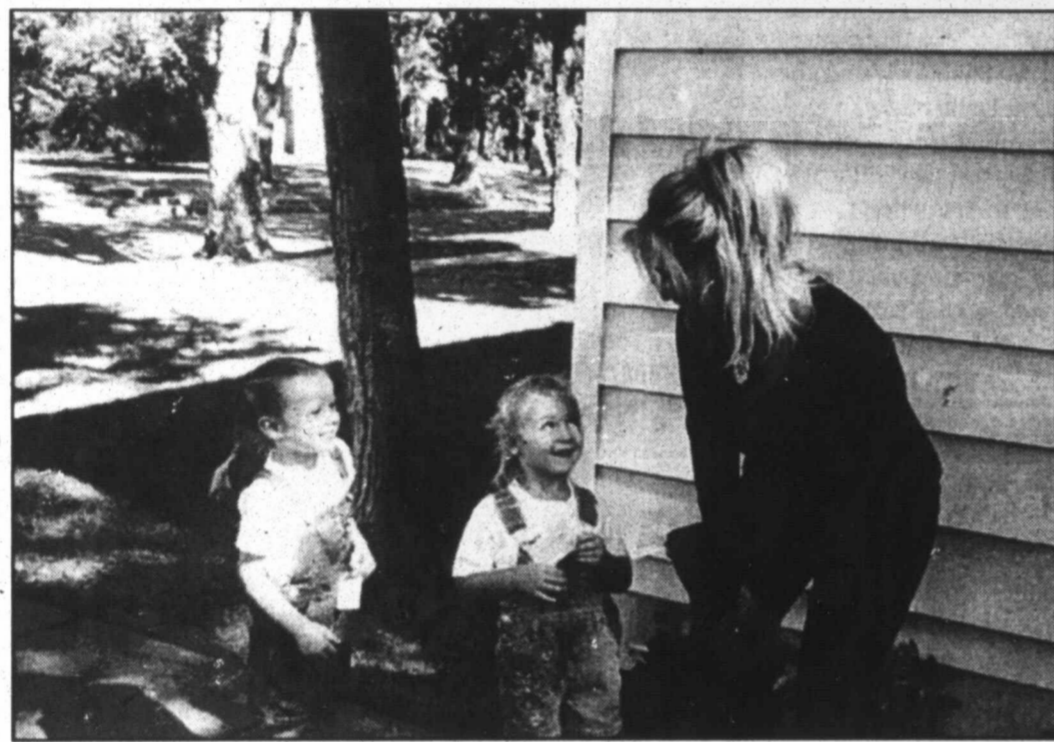
North Korea repeated its demand for the nonaggression pact from the South's key ally — the United States — saying it would not give up its "nuclear deterrent force" for anything less than that.

The United States should "clarify its will to make a switchover in its hostile policy toward (North Korea) and conclude a nonaggression treaty with it," **Rodong Sinmun**, the North's official newspaper, said in a commentary carried by **KCNA**, the North's official news agency.

U.S. officials say they believe North Korea has one or two nuclear weapons, and experts believe it could produce five to six more in a few months. The North has withdrawn from key international agreements in recent months, including the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In October, according to the United States, North Korea acknowledged having a secret nuclear program, beginning the standoff and war of words that led to this week's talks. President **Bush** already was wary of North Korea, calling it in a January 2002 speech part of an "axis of evil."

Tailgate Picnic



(Courtesy photo)

Elise Kennedy and Harper Kelly sell **Shannon Buck** tickets to 20th Century Forum Study Club's annual Tailgate Picnic scheduled to be held prior to the Pampa High School football game Friday, Aug. 29, in the teacher parking lot across from Harvester Stadium. Proceeds will benefit the club's PHS scholarship fund. To purchase tickets, call 665-7099.

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40-49	40-49	16-19	40-49		
50+	50+	50+	50+		

Childress Chamber co-sponsoring Michael Martin Murphey concert

Childress Chamber of Commerce and Old Settlers Rodeo and Reunion Association will present **Michael Martin Murphey** in concert at 7 p.m., Sept. 13. **Murphey**, a well known cowboy singer, has scheduled Childress as one of his stops on his tour.

Murphey has six gold records and many BMI awards for airplay, including 4 million radio and television plays of "Wildfire." He has had songs recorded by **Lyle Lovett**, **Jerry Jeff Walker**, **Kenny Rogers**, **John Denver** and **Nitty Gritty Dirt Band**.

Murphey co-hosted the 25th Anniversary show of **Austin City Limits** with **Lyle Lovett** in 2001. His musical play and production, "Cowboy Christmas," is now in its 10th year of soldout shows.

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TDA hosts town hall meetings across state

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs recently announced that she will be visiting with agricultural producers and rural communities at town hall meetings throughout the state to discuss issues impacting the agricultural industry as well as rural Texas.

The town hall meetings, hosted by the Texas Department of Agriculture, are open forums where producers and members of the community can discuss rural issues as well as present their ideas and solutions to the commissioner.

Town hall meetings scheduled to date include:

Thursday, Sept. 4

•Lipscomb/Ochiltree counties, 9 a.m., First Bank Southwest, 115 South Main, Booker

•Wilbarger County, noon, Wilbarger County Memorial Auditorium, 2100 Yamparika, Vernon.

•Cooke County, 2:45 p.m., Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Large Meeting Room, 101 South Culberson, Gainesville.

•Wood County, 5:30 p.m., Carol Green Civic Center, 602 McAllister,

Quitman.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

•Hudspeth County, 8 a.m. (MST), Dell Telephone Co-Op, 610 South Main St., Dell City.

•Edwards County, 12:45 p.m., Rocksprings Park Building, Highway 377 North at the Fairgrounds, Rocksprings.

•Zavala County, 3:15 p.m., Zavala Elderly Nutrition Center, 1210 North 7th Ave., Crystal City.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

•Atascosa County, 8 a.m., Atascosa County Livestock Showbarn, 2209 Oaklawn, Highway 97 West, Pleasanton.

•Colorado County, 11 a.m., Colorado County Courthouse, 400 Spring St., Columbus.

•DeWitt/Lavaca counties, 1:30 p.m., The Carl and Mary Welhausen Library, 810 Front St., Yoakum.

TDA is working with the Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Cooperative Extension Service and various commodity groups to organize these town hall meetings across Texas. The town hall meetings are free and open to the public.

Liberian official: Attack on town false rumor

MONROVIA. Liberia (AP) — Liberia's defense chief said Wednesday that reports of rebel attacks on one central town were rumors spread by his own troops to facilitate looting. West African peace troops headed into the interior to examine other reports of fighting.

The moves come as heavy streams of refugees flowed toward Monrovia from towns just to the north, fleeing what the government has claimed were new rebel attacks despite a week-old peace deal.

Persistent reports of clashes in the interior, while not seen as any serious threat to the peace deal, have provoked calls for West African peacekeepers to speed up deployment in the countryside.

Fighters on both sides in Liberia's conflict are generally rag-tag bands with little conventional discipline and patchy communication with top commanders, and some of the unrest uprooting civilians in the countryside is believed to be fighters out to secure last bits of spoils or territory.

Authorities had determined reports of attacks on the town of Bong Mines, 50 miles north

on the capital, were "just rumors" spread by soldiers to allow for looting. Defense Minister Daniel Chea told The Associated Press.

However, Chea insisted that genuine, "heavy" fighting was continuing farther north of Monrovia, around the towns of Gbatata and Gbarnga.

Throughout years of fighting, Liberia's forces have been suspected of staging some attacks on towns to scare away civilians to free the area for unimpeded looting.

Civilians and aid workers had said many of those refugees on the road in recent days were coming from Bong Mines and from Gbatata.

Gbatata was the former base of ex-President Charles Taylor's feared personal army, dubbed "anti-terrorist units," notorious for using the town as a center for torture and killings.

With Taylor fleeing into exile Aug. 11, the anti-terrorist units, demoralized, are believed to have abandoned the base and dispersed into the countryside and the capital, Monrovia.

Unrest in the countryside continues despite a nearly 4-week-old West African peace force and an Aug. 18 peace deal, meant to end 14 years of bloodletting ushered in by Taylor.

Refugees flowed toward Monrovia from both the north and southeast, saying they were fleeing explosions and reports of rebel attacks.

Conditioned by 1 1/2 decades of vicious attacks on population centers here, few civilians wait to determine the source of artillery and gunfire before fleeing again.

Persistent reports of fight-

ing to the north, around Gbarnga, have appeared more genuine.

Col. Theophilus Tawiah, chief of staff of the West African peace force, said he planned to send a "fact-finding team" up toward Gbarnga on Wednesday.

"We are concerned about happenings in the hinterland ... the allegations and counter-allegations," Tawiah said. "So we are going to try to find out what is happening."

Tawiah also said he hoped to engage rebel commanders there in a "general discussion" of deploying peacekeepers.

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BEALLS

LABOR DAY SALE & CLEARANCE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE

CITY

wildlife viewing areas near Pampa.

"We have at least eight places to see wildlife right around Pampa," she said.

Goff passed out brochures and cards the committee has produced advertising Pampa's tourist attractions.

The committee is funded by the hotel-motel tax.

With regard to the PEDC budget, Doug Locke, president of the PEDC, told commissioners during their work session that utility costs will be lower because the city took over the U.S. Bus building, which has since been leased. He said there were also changes in taxes and insurance for one of the properties.

Locke estimated that the PEDC would shut down within two years.

The PEDC is expecting revenues of about \$646,000 and expenditures of about \$425,000. The \$221,000 in excess, Locke said, would go toward paying off the PEDC's outstanding debt.

Horst said the PEDC started this fiscal year with indebtedness of \$2.1 million. Subtracting what they've paid

off this year and the half million dollars in cash that they have, leaves the PEDC with about \$1.1 million in debt.

Earlier this year, the city commission was presented with a petition to allow firefighters to participate in collective bargaining and arbitration. City Attorney Don Lane told commissioners Tuesday night that the signatures on the petition had been reviewed and met the requirements needed to put the question on a ballot.

Commissioners elected to hold the public vote on Nov. 4, the first Tuesday of November.

The city commission authorized a new compensation plan with the Hartford Life Insurance Company.

The new deferred compensation plan, like the old one, is voluntary. City employees enrolled in the old plan will have the option of staying in the old plan or rolling their funds into the new plan. The advantage of the new plan is that it will have a local contact person. Under the old plan, employees had to call a toll-free number.

There is no cost to the city in connection with the plan.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

CONTRACT

back," Grant said.

Grant said that the decision is completely up to the county. He also said that the city would like to retain the money the county pays for fire protection.

"It's that much less money we can use to provide service," Grant said.

Although Grant said that the loss of the contract would be felt, it wouldn't be a fatal blow to the city's budget.

"I don't see it making that significant a difference," Grant said. "That's the bot-

tom line."

The fire protection agreement is one of several contracts the city and county have.

"We have a lot of contracts with the county," Grant said. "We try to work with them on all of them."

Grant said that he agreed with the county judge that the city, the county and the school district need to work together to provide services as inexpensively as possible and ensure that there's no duplicate effort.

"We have to work together," Grant said.

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SALE 24.99

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BEALLS

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BEALLS

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AUG 27 2003

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 27, 2003

DEAR ABBY

written by Pauline Phillips and daughter Jeanne Phillips

Disputed Heirloom Silver Causes Family Ill Will

DEAR ABBY: I was very close to my grandmother. My sister, "Julie," was not. Grandma had beautiful silverware that I used to help her polish when I was a child. She promised it to me. A couple of weeks before she died, she said that her silver should go to Julie. Grandma often mixed our names at the end, and I think she was confused about who was who. My mother disagreed, the silverware was given to Julie. A few years later, after she realized how much it meant to me, Julie gave me the silverware.

Recently, my father told me that because our family has had a run of bad luck, that Grandma was "cursing" us from the grave for disobeying her wishes. He has ordered me to give the silverware back to Julie. I think this is nonsense. To suggest that my sweet grandmother would send my 14-year-old nephew severe health problems from "beyond the grave" is a vile thing to say about a woman who loved us all very much.

I am scheduled for major surgery in a few weeks (further proof of the curse, according to Dad). Should I return the silverware to Julie, even though I don't believe in curses, or should I just ignore the "curse" and take the consequences?

Please don't tell me to see a priest. We're Jewish.

"CURSED" IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR "CURSED": Curse, indeed! Call a rabbi and tell him or her what you have told me. There may be a blessing in Hebrew that can be recited that will put your father's superstitions to rest. However, the most precious legacy your grandmother bequeathed to her family is not her silver and china; it is the treasured memories of the good times you shared together. I hope that one day soon you will all enjoy a wonderful family dinner using Grandma's silverware.

DEAR ABBY: When you receive a gift on a special occasion and it's obvious that it's an envelope with a check inside, should the envelope be opened in front of the person or should it be tucked away to open privately?

I always worry that if I open the envelope in front of the giver, it's as though I am checking the amount. On the other hand, if I don't open it, it might appear that I think their gesture is insignificant. What do you think?

NOT AN OPEN-OR-SHUT CASE

DEAR NOT: I see no reason not to open the envelope, and to thank the giver verbally on the spot. No mention of the dollar amount should be made unless there is no one else around to overhear. The amount is no one's business but yours. A written thank-you should also be sent to the giver — preferably before the check clears.

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wit's end with how to deal with my parents. I am 29 years old and live 1,500 miles away from them. If I don't call or talk to them every day, Dad will say something like, "Your mom missed hearing from you on Monday and Tuesday." This is after I have just told them about some event I attended on those nights.

I prefer to talk to them once over the weekend. There would be ample topics to cover, and I wouldn't feel so smothered. Why don't they understand this? I'm tired of feeling pressured to talk to them every single day. How can I politely tell them to ease off a bit?

TALKED OUT IN TEXAS

DEAR TALKED OUT: Understand that you can't change your parents. Their problem is you have been the sole focus of their lives for so long, they are having a hard time letting go. That said, you must change the way you react to their pressure tactics. The next time you talk to them, be firm, upbeat and direct. Sign off by saying, "Bye! I'll talk to you next Sunday."

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



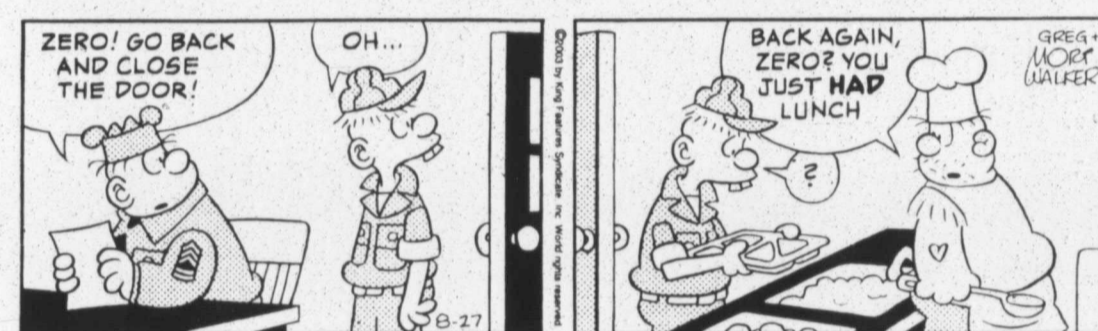
Zits



Garfield



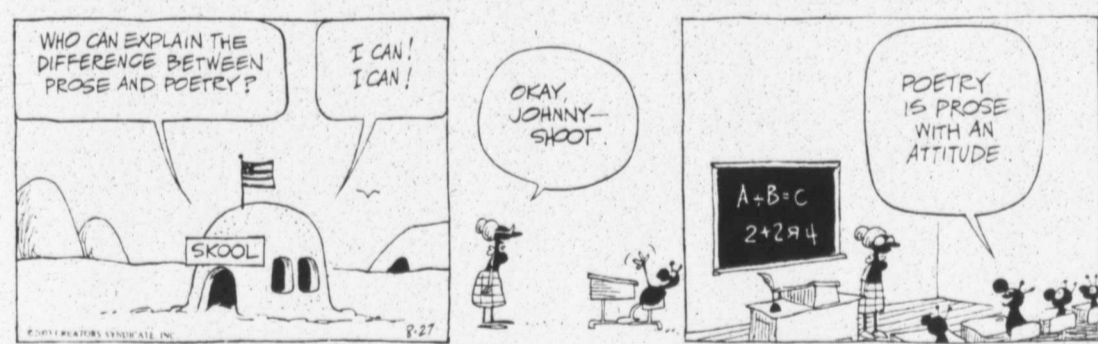
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



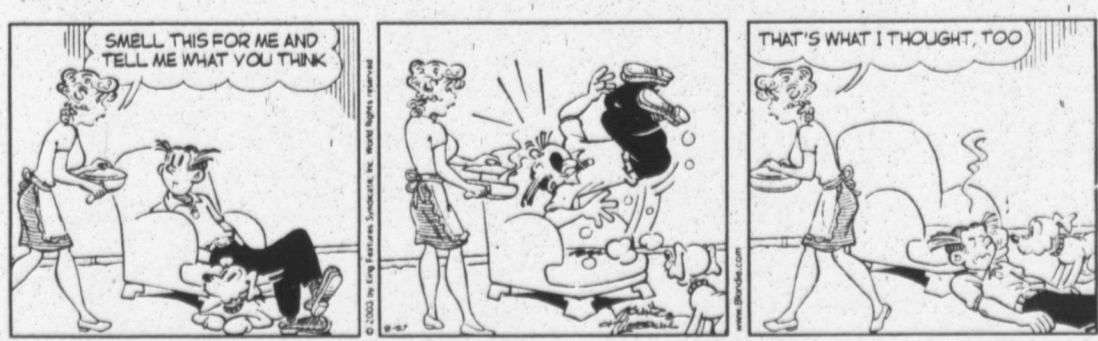
Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Solitary sort
- 7 January event
- 11 Noted cow owner
- 12 Hawk-eye's home
- 13 Martini's kin
- 14 Signaled on stage
- 15 Furtive ones
- 17 Aspirin target
- 20 Wee sounds
- 23 Old card game
- 24 Groom's attendant
- 26 Flightless bird
- 27 Have debts
- 28 Coach Parseghian
- 29 Saves
- 31 Spasm
- 32 Pay for everyone
- 33 School sight
- 34 Call forth
- 37 Fluffy wraps
- 39 Promise
- 43 Historic canal
- 44 Scold
- 45 Kennedy and Koppel
- 46 Bowls

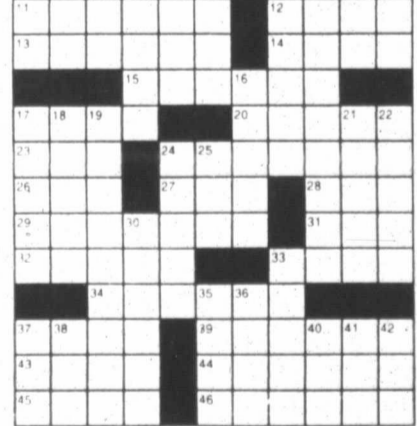


Yesterday's answer

- 18 Person with promise
- 19 Cleaning pro
- 21 European capital
- 22 Nosh
- 24 Ring contests
- 25 Farm female
- 30 Things to fight for
- 33 Took the wheel
- 35 Scarlett's home
- 36 At any time
- 37 Wager
- 38 Mine find
- 40 Take the title
- 41 Menu phrase
- 42 French article

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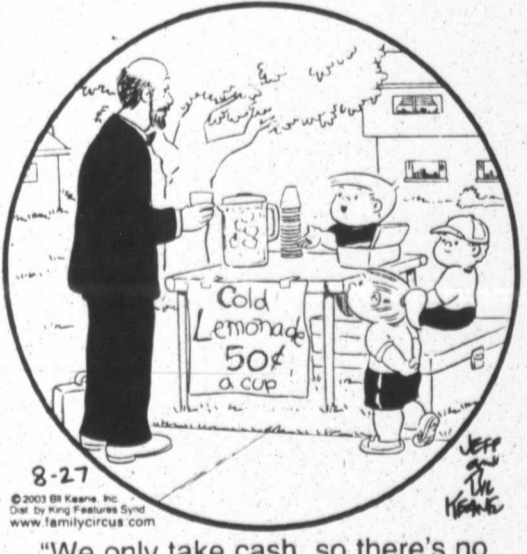


Marmaduke



"We were on the road to high adventure ... Becker's Pond ... Allen's Alley ... the city dump ... when he decided to fly a new course."

The Family Circus



"We only take cash, so there's no worry about a computer being down."

Flo & Friends



TENNIS

NEW Y

On the second of the U.S. Open, the men's No. 1 and No. 4 and women's Henin-Hardcourt and Jennifer Capriati were eliminated. Kuerten, Nadal, Lopez and Spadea. On the women's side No. 1 Maleeva, No. 2 Bovina, No. 3 Pistolesi, No. 4 Alexandra Stancu, Michael Chang, and last professional ranked 6-3, 7-5, 6-3, seeded Fernandez of Chile. Fernandez announced she would retire after the Open.

GOLF

PAMPA

Ladies Golf Association held a tournament at the Celina Country Club. Sharon first low, Angie Beylow net and second low. Vera Wilcox gross and Sonya first low net. Gail Wilcox gross flight and was first low.

BASKET

PAMP

Basketball will meet in the high school gymnasium for a basketball game on Sept. 1.

HOCKEY

DALLAS

Dallas Stars' Modano, a leader in the league, will play in an important category of the year competition Wednesday from agent until 2005.

With

the situation uncertain, bridges that rent collaboration agreements the next Modano limbo and lockout.

The Lefors

nesses for Lefors O'Connell Allison Advanc

Congrat

the tear

SPORTS

Big 12 coaches ready to get season started

DALLAS (AP) — Kansas State's Bill Snyder is the only Big 12 coach who has gotten to see his team play in a game.

Snyder had a mixed reaction about the No. 7 Wildcats' 42-28 opening win over California, saying Monday that his team "left a lot to be desired and did some fine things."

Now, the rest of the league's coaches are ready to be able to make their own on-field assessments.

"We're all anxious to play, to get on the field with North Texas," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops, whose Sooners start the season as the nation's No. 1 team. "We're talked out. We're tired of talking

about it and running into each other."

Yes, the coaches are ready for some football against different colored jerseys.

The Sooners open Saturday, the same day that nine other Big 12 teams also play their season openers and Kansas State plays its second game against Troy State. Fifth-ranked Texas has to wait until Sunday before playing New Mexico State.

"We're really excited about starting our season. We've got some unanswered questions and we want to see how the team is going to respond," Longhorns coach Mack Brown said during the weekly Big 12 coaches' teleconference.

Texas, after consecutive 11-2 seasons, has a new starting quarterback. Junior Chance Mock has played just 10 games, going 6-of-9 for 65 yards and a touchdown, while waiting for his chance since signing with the Longhorns in 2000.

"Like everybody else in the country that hasn't played, we're really anxious to get on the field to find out how good we might be," said Iowa State coach Dan McCarney.

Freshman quarterback Austin Flynn replaces Seneca Wallace in the Cyclones' starting lineup and makes his debut against Division I-AA Northern Iowa.

The Cyclones were 7-7

last year, losing six of their last seven games after a six-game winning streak that had pushed them into the Top 10 midway through the season.

Texas A&M's Dennis Franchione and Baylor's Guy Morriss will make their Big 12 coaching debuts under different circumstances.

Franchione has a job he had always cherished, and has brought a new sense of optimism to Aggieland after a disappointing 6-6 season. He plans to use both Reggie McNeal and Dustin Long at quarterback, but won't say who will start against Arkansas State, and has changed the "Wrecking Crew" defense from a 4-3 to

a 3-4 alignment.

"When it's the first game of your tenure, it's kind of an exciting week in particular. It's a unique time," said Franchione, at Alabama the past two seasons after an impressive turnaround at TCU. "I'm anxious to see the players in game situations and how productive they are."

Morriss is the fourth Baylor coach since the league started in 1996, taking over a team that has gone 4-52 in conference games. He tried to build team unity with a two-week preseason boot camp where players lived in a dormitory together after turning in their cell phones and car keys.

NOTEBOOK

TENNIS

NEW YORK (AP) — On the second day of play at the U.S. Open most top players advanced, including men's No. 1 Andre Agassi and No. 4 Andy Roddick, and women's No. 2 Justine Henin-Hardenne and No. 6 Jennifer Capriati. Three men's seeds were eliminated: No. 14 Gustavo Kuerten, No. 29 Feliciano Lopez and No. 32 Vince Spadea. On the women's side No. 10 Magdalena Maleeva, No. 16 Elena Bovina, No. 21 Anna Pistolesi and No. 31 Alexandra Stevenson lost. Michael Chang played his last professional match, losing 6-3, 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 to 15th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez of Chile. Chang had announced in January that he would retire after the U.S. Open.

GOLF

PAMPA — The Pampal Ladies Golf Association held a two-day Club Championship Tournament last weekend at the Celanese Course. Sharon Crosier won first low gross in the Championship Flight with Angie Beyer winning first low net and Brenda Kelley second low net. Vera Williams won first low gross in the first flight and Sonya Everson won first low net. Gail White won first low gross in the second flight and Delpha Cates was first low net.

BASKETBALL

PAMPA — Harvester Basketball Booster Club will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 2 in the high school library. Club members will plan for a baked potato supper on Sept. 12.

HOCKEY

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Stars center Mike Modano, the team's career leader in nearly every significant category, signed a one-year contract extension Wednesday that prevents him from becoming a free agent until the summer of 2005. With the league's labor situation after this season uncertain and potentially combative, this deal likely bridges the end of the current collective bargaining agreement and the start of the next one. That keeps Modano from being in limbo during a possible lockout next season.

Royals beat Rangers to stay in AL Central pennant race

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — When a team has used 14 starting pitchers by late August, that's usually a sign of desperation.

But in Kansas City, where manager Tony Pena's favorite starter these days seems to be named TBA — as in, To Be Announced — strong performances by new arrivals have kept the Royals in the AL Central race despite a season-long struggle with injuries.

On Tuesday night, it was Brian Anderson's turn.

A day after the Royals acquired him in a trade with Cleveland, Anderson — with plenty of support from Mike Sweeney and Aaron Guiel — gave his new team six solid innings in a 9-2 win over the Texas Rangers.

"I was as nervous as I've ever been in the major leagues," said Anderson (10-10), who gave up two runs and four hits in six innings with no walks and three strikeouts. "I'm joining a team at midseason, which I've never done before. I hadn't pitched in six days, and I hadn't even had a chance to meet a lot of these guys."

Anderson's nerves didn't show. He retired the first 11 before Alex Rodriguez singled with two outs in the fourth, and Rafael Palmeiro followed with a two-run homer that cut Kansas City's lead to 3-2.

Sweeney and Guiel each homered and drove in four runs as the Royals stayed one game back of Chicago in the AL Central.

Guiel, whose four RBIs were a career high, went 3-for-5. He homered off starter R.A. Dickey (8-6) in Kansas City's three-run third and ignited a six-run sixth with a two-out, two-run single with the bases loaded.

The homer came on a 3-0 count, when Dickey grooved a fastball — not knowing that Pena had told Guiel to swing away.

"I took it for granted that he was going to take a

strike, and I threw a BP fastball in there," Dickey said. "He did just what he should have done with it, if he was going to swing away. It took me totally by surprise."

It surprised Guiel, too.

"I'm usually a pretty patient hitter," he said. "It's not very often that I get the hit sign when it's 3-0. But I get excited when I do get it."

Sweeney, who came in with one hit in his previous 13 at-bats, went 3-for-5. He had an RBI single in the third and capped the Royals' big sixth with a three-run shot off Rosman Garcia — his first homer since June 16.

"When we were in New York and Minnesota, I had some balls get to the track but stay in," said Sweeney, who was on the disabled list from June 16 to Aug. 8 with a sore back. "Hopefully today, I found something."

Joe Randa had an RBI single in the sixth, after Guiel worked back from an 0-2 count and chased reliever Aaron Fultz with his two-run single to right.

"We were one strike away from getting out of that inning," Texas manager Buck Showalter said.

Notes: Palmeiro's 521st career homer tied him for 13th on baseball's all-time list, along with Willie McCovey and Ted Williams.

... The Royals acquired All-Star OF Rondell White from San Diego in exchange for two minor leaguers. ... Kansas City placed RHPs Runelvys Hernandez and Kevin Appier on the disabled list, both with elbow injuries. Hernandez (7-5) will need "Tommy John" surgery to replace a torn ligament and isn't expected to return before the middle of next season. The Royals are still waiting to see whether Appier (8-9) will need surgery to repair a torn flexor tendon. ... Kansas City has won seven in a row against Texas. ... The Royals are 31-0 when holding opponents to two or fewer runs.



(Photo by ReDonn Woods)

Students in the T&W Martial Arts class of Pampa are preparing for their next belt test. Instructor Gary Willoughby (far left) is pictured with (front, l-r) Hunter Hall and Samuel Smith; (second row, l-r) Christopher Taylor, Corey McCarn, Luke Abraham, Steven Marszel, Aaron Danner and Maddie Abraham; (back row, l-r) Vic Hathaway, Rebecca Taylor, Caroline Schwerzenbach, Martieka Jackson, Casey Jackson and Brian Bogges. They all passed the last martial arts test to advance to the next step.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The GRANDVIEW HOPKINS ISD will hold a public meeting at 7:30 PM, September 9, 2003 in THE MEETING ROOM LOCATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE ON HIGHWAY 293 OR RURAL ROUTE 1, BOX 27, GROOM TEXAS. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate this is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates				
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Local Revenue Total	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 0.932300	\$ 0.390000	\$ 1.322300	\$ 141
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$ 0.016000	\$ 0.425200	\$ 1.441200	\$ 141
Proposed Rate	\$ 0.932300	\$ 0.390000	\$ 1.322300	\$ 160

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 18,265	\$ 18,265
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 3,265	\$ 3,265
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.322300	\$ 1.322300
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 43.17	\$ 43.17
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 00.00

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$2.370356. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$2.370356.

Fund Balances	
Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 718,120
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 7,200

AUG 27 2003

The Lefors Youth Club would like to thank the following people and businesses for their contributions:

Lefors Fire & EMS
Lefors Credit Union
Culligan of Pampa
Clifton Supply
Allison Auto Rental
Advance Auto Parts

Allison Agency
Denton Family
Oldhammer Forge
The Dollar Store
Holmes Sports Center
GT Classic Products
National Bank of Commerce

Sheila Webb Insurance
Titan Specialties Ltd.
Carter Sand & Gravel
Carquest Auto Parts
B66 Electric
Lefors ISD

Congratulations to Easy's Pop Shop for their 1st Place win and thanks to all the teams that participated in Yardball IV.

NASCAR bowlers



Bowlers in the NASCAR Summer League at Harvester Lanes received driver jackets and Oval Earnhart Mirrors from Budweiser, the league sponsor. Holding the mirror is Genna Salazar, one of four Oval Mirror winners determined in a drawing. Also shown are Shirley Jernigan, Peter Woodin, Mike Robbins, Ginger Jernigan, Harli Jernigan, Andrew Morriss, Eric Nord, Belinda Nolte, Krista Villareal, Harvester Lanes Manager Ralph West, Randy Skovbo, Shane Nolte, Pete Long, Rocky McInturf, John Loche, Randy Skovbo, Joy Hilbern, Jesse Cannon, Amelia Dominey, Rusty Stover, Vickie Long and Morris Long. Other mirror winners during the summer were Jennie Vaughn, Judy Morriss and Donanne Gonzales.

Youngsters can still register in Pampa Soccer Association

PAMPA — Late registration is still possible at T-Shirts & More for the Pampa Soccer Association's fall season. However, there is no guarantee of being placed on a team, according to Michelle Dyson, the Association's Commissioner. Registration has been excellent so far, she said.

There will be at least 10 U-6 boys teams and six U-6 girls team, an increase over last year. There will also be eight U-8 boys teams and five U-8 girls teams. These age groups will have teams from Wheeler, McLean, White Deer and Panhandle. "This makes our registration ahead of last year," Dyson added.

In the U-10 Division, there will be two boys teams and two girls teams involving Pampa teams and Berger. In the U-12 Division, there will be both a boys and girls team. They will have matches in Amarillo, Berger, Pampa, and possibly, Perryton.

Coaches Director Roy Anderson said all coaches should note that the players draw will be Thursday at First Christian Church, starting at 7:30 p.m. A coaches meeting will be held at 7:30 Sept. 2 at the Lovett Memorial Library. A coaches clinic will also be held Sept. 6 from 8 to 12.

All practices can start Sept 1 and the first games are scheduled to begin Sept. 13. Several improvement were made on the PSA fields during the summer. The fields were covered with 600 yards of sand, goal posts were painted and new nets were installed.

Nine new referees were certified for the PSA matches. For questions, contact PSA President Brenda Hightower.

Prior putting playoff pressure on the Cubs' opponents

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

Pitching in a pennant race really seems to agree with Mark Prior.

Prior won again, shutting down St. Louis for eight innings Tuesday night as the Chicago Cubs won 7-4 at Busch Stadium.

Two weeks shy of his 23rd birthday and in the midst of his first playoff chase, Prior appeared unaffected by any pressure.

"I'm not trying to go out and strike out 10 guys. I'm not trying to put up a shutout every time," he said. "My job is to keep them from scoring as many runs as we do, and that's the bottom line."

Prior gave up one run and three hits. He's been dominant since coming off the disabled list from a bruised shoulder, going 5-0 with an 0.69 ERA in five starts.

The Cubs won the opener of a three-game series and stayed within a half-game of NL Central-leading Houston. The Cardinals are one game back, and play Chicago seven more times in the next 10 days.

In other NL games, San Francisco beat Colorado 3-1. Houston routed Los Angeles 18-4. Montreal rallied past Philadelphia 14-10. Milwaukee topped Cincinnati 7-1. New York held off Atlanta 6-5. Pittsburgh defeated Florida 4-3 and San Diego beat Arizona 5-4.

Randall Simon and Aramis Ramirez hit consecutive homers as the Cubs

broke it open with a six-run third inning.

That was plenty for Prior, who struck out six and walked one, he retired 14 of his final 15 batters, with Albert Pujols hitting his 35th home run.

Cardinals leadoff man Kerry Robinson went 0-for-4, not that he was impressed by Prior.

"His fastball is pretty straight," Robinson said. "It's not like he dominated anyone out there. I know he didn't dominate me."

Giants 3, Rockies 1
Jason Schmidt pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and San Francisco won at Coors Field.

Colorado hasn't been blanked at home in 354 games, an NL record. That streak was in jeopardy until the Rockies scored when right fielder Jose Cruz Jr. dropped Todd Helton's routine fly.

The Giants have won six of seven since a season-long six-game losing streak. They've won two of three without Barry Bonds, who's been on bereavement leave since his father, Bobby, died Saturday.

Astros 18, Dodgers 4
Jeff Kent homered, doubled and drove in five runs as Houston trounced Los Angeles at Minute Maid Park.

The Astros came within one run of tying the highest-scoring game in franchise history, last done in 1999.

Fred McGriff's 489th career homer gave the Dodgers a 3-0 lead in the first. But Odalis Perez couldn't hold the edge and

was tagged for 10 runs and 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Brewers 7, Reds 1
Doug Davis pitched a four-hitter for his first NL victory and Milwaukee won its eighth straight game.

The Brewers' winning streak is their best since a nine-game string in 1997. Milwaukee improved to 56-75, matching its 2002 victory total.

Davis, who pitched for Texas and Toronto earlier this season, held Cincinnati to an unearned run at Miller Park.

Expos 14, Phillies 10
Wil Cordero hit a pair of two-run doubles, helping Montreal overcome an 8-0 deficit at Olympic Stadium.

The Expos still trailed 10-4 before rallying for seven runs in the seventh, with Cordero and Jose Vidro hitting two-run doubles.

Montreal won its third in a row. Ricky Ledee homered twice for Philadelphia, which has lost four straight.

Padres 5, Diamondbacks 4

Phil Nevin and Ryan Klesko hit RBI doubles in the eighth and San Diego rallied past Arizona at Bank One Ballpark.

Down 4-0, the Padres began their comeback on a two-run homer by Gary Matthews Jr. in the seventh. Sean Burroughs added an RBI triple in the eighth.

Before the game, the Padres acquired All-Star outfielder Brian Giles from Pittsburgh for pitcher Oliver Perez, a minor leaguer and a player to be named. San Diego then sent All-Star outfielder Rondell White to

Kansas City for a pair of minor leaguers.

Mets 6, Braves 5
Mike Piazza hit a three-run homer and New York won at Turner Field.

Piazza homered against Atlanta for the first time this season. He missed the first 13 games between the teams, sidelined for almost

three months with a strained right groin. Gary Sheffield homered, doubled and singled for the Braves. But their three-game winning streak came to a halt when he grounded out with a runner on first base to end it.

Pirates 4, Marlins 3
Jason Kendall, who hoped to be traded along with

Brian Giles to San Diego earlier in the day, hit a two-run homer in the seventh that led Pittsburgh at PNC Park.

Florida lost for the sixth time in seven games, yet stayed tied with Philadelphia in the wild-card race.

Kendall also doubled and singled.

Major League Standings

Table with columns for National League (East, Central, West Divisions) and American League (East, Central, West Divisions) standings, including Win/Loss/Pct/GB, and a schedule for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday's games.

DIABETICS advertisement for Call Priority Medical Supply, LLC, featuring a picture of a person doing a backflip.

MACHINE & MFG AUCTION advertisement for Mike Jones Auctions, featuring a picture of a construction site.

HUGE Building Material Auction advertisement at Freeman Coliseum, featuring a picture of a large pile of lumber.

STOP MOLD IN HOME OR BUSINESS advertisement for Siamon's Mold Control, featuring a picture of a mold control bottle.

Going STRONG advertisement for CFI is now Hiring, featuring a picture of a semi-truck.

TEXAS THE BIG PICTURE advertisement for a movie showing, featuring a picture of a cowboy on a horse.

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Experts fear fixing NASA may prove difficult task

By PAUL RECER
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fixing NASA may be harder than fixing the space shuttle.

The Columbia Accident Investigation Board included in its 29 recommendations a call for fundamental changes in the "culture" of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a way of doing business that has resisted change for more than two decades.

In the report, the board found a continuation in the modern NASA of characteristics that were blamed 17 years ago for the accident that destroyed space shuttle Challenger and killed seven astronauts. NASA had pledged to change, and did for a while, but eventually drifted back to its old ways, the report found.

By the time Columbia was launched last January, "NASA retained too many negative aspects of its traditional culture," according to the report, which was released Tuesday.

Former astronaut Sally Ride, first American woman in space and a member of the board, said there were "very disturbing" echoes of the Challenger disaster. NASA "put a lot of attention into solving those problems in the few years right after 1987, but those lessons seem to have been lost," she told NBC's "Today" on Wednesday.

Columbia broke apart while returning to Earth on Feb. 1 following a 16-day mission. All seven astronauts on board were killed.

The report said some of the negative aspects included flawed decision making and a tolerance by managers of abnormal events, such as the shedding of foam insulation from the shuttle's external tank during launch.

Members of the board also found that communication was stifled in NASA and that the safety program often was "silent" because engineers with safety concerns were intimidated into silence.

The board's chairman, Ret. Navy Adm. Harold Gehman Jr., said the panel was confident that NASA would make sure that the next few space shuttles that fly will be among the safest ever, pushed by a vigorous vigilance, zeal and attention to detail inspired by the Columbia tragedy.

Gehman and others said they were worried that that enthusiasm will fade with time and NASA will slip into its old culture, setting the stage for another accident.

To guard against this, Gehman said the board included in its report recommendations designed to prevent the "atrophy of energy and zeal."

He added on CBS' "The Early Show" that "we have kind of fallen into a trap here of a mix between NASA overmarketing and overpromising what they can do and NASA's masters, both the Congress and the White House, demanding more than NASA can really achieve. That's a fatal trap."

The recommendations calling for culture changes in NASA, he said, "are more fundamental and harder to do" than the

repairs that have to be made on the space shuttle. But that culture must be modified "for success in the future," Gehman said.

After the Columbia tragedy, the space shuttle fleet was grounded. But the board said the shuttle was "not inherently unsafe," and NASA officials have a goal of resuming flights sometime between March 11 and April 6 next year. However, they acknowledge that may be too optimistic, given the board's recommendations.

The organizational recommendations include establishing:

—An independent Technical Engineering Authority to assure that all the safety standards are met before each launch. The authority engineers would vigorously investigate any abnormal events in the complex spacecraft and not ignore problems that could cascade into another catastrophe. In Columbia,

engineers knew that chunks of foam insulation coming off the fuel tank could damage the shuttle, but continued to fly because they were convinced, even without proof, that it posed no risk.

—An Office of Safety and Mission Assurance, with powerful authority over the space shuttle program. The office would have the power to stop launches if there were unresolved safety issues and would not be swayed by scheduling demands.

—A Space Shuttle Integration Office that would monitor quality and assure that quality is maintained in equipment, testing, parts and design changes.

The board said NASA should be required to submit to Congress annual reports detailing how these recommendations were being carried out.

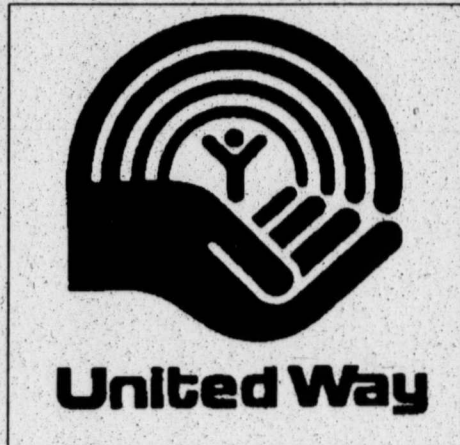
Gehman said the recommendations were just a start.

CASA relies on UW to help fund program

This article is one in a series of articles of profiles on the agencies and organizations supported by Pampa United Way. This information is being provided by Pampa United Way as part of its 2003 "50 Years of Caring and Still Going Strong" fund-raising campaign.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of the High Plains advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system. Last year, CASA advocated for 112 children. The following poem is an example of what some abused children face each day.

My Name is Sarah
My name is Sarah
I am but 3,
My eyes are swollen
I cannot see,
I must be bad,
What else could have made
My daddy so mad?
I wish I were better
I wish I weren't ugly,
Then maybe my mommy
Would still want to hug me.
I can't speak at all
I can't do a wrong
Or else I'm locked up
All the day long.
When I awake I'm all alone



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The house is dark
My folks aren't home
When my mommy does come
I'll try and be nice,
So maybe I'll get just
One whipping tonight.
Don't make a sound!
I just heard a car
My daddy is back
From Charlie's Bar.
I hear him curse
My name he calls
I press myself
Against the wall
I try and hide
From his evil eyes
I'm so afraid now
I'm starting to cry
He finds me weeping
He shouts ugly words,

He says it's my fault
That he suffers at work.
He slaps me and hits me
And yells at me more,
I finally get free
And I run for the door.
He's already locked it
And I start to bawl,
He takes me and throws me
Against the hard wall.
I fall to the floor
With my bones nearly broken,
And my daddy continues
With more bad words spoken.
"I'm sorry!", I scream
But it's now much too late
His face has been twisted
into unimaginable hate
The hurt and the pain
Again and again.
Oh, please, God, have mercy!
Oh, please let it end!
And he finally stops
And heads for the door,
While I lay there motionless
Sprawled on the floor
My name is Sarah
And I am but 3,
Tonight my daddy
Murdered me.

There are thousands of kids out there just like Sarah. And you can help. Support CASA of the High Plains by supporting the United Way.

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