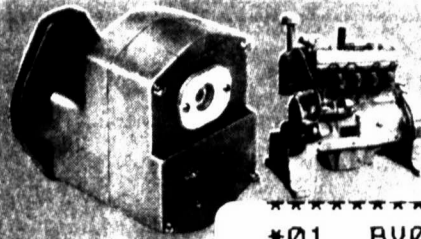


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City targets junked, abandoned vehicles

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

In the next 30 days, Pampa Police Department will begin the process of "cleaning up the abandoned and junked

vehicles throughout the city," according to Officer Donny Brown of the department's community services division in a news release dated Aug. 4.

"This is in compliance

with both state and local laws," Brown said in the release.

An abandoned vehicle, according to the release, is defined as:

• A motor vehicle that is

inoperable and over five years old and is left unattended on public property for more than 48 hours; or

• A motor vehicle that has remained illegally on public property for a period of more

than 48 hours; or

• A motor vehicle that has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of

See **VEHICLES**, Page 3

Let's party!

City skate park grand opening to be Saturday

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

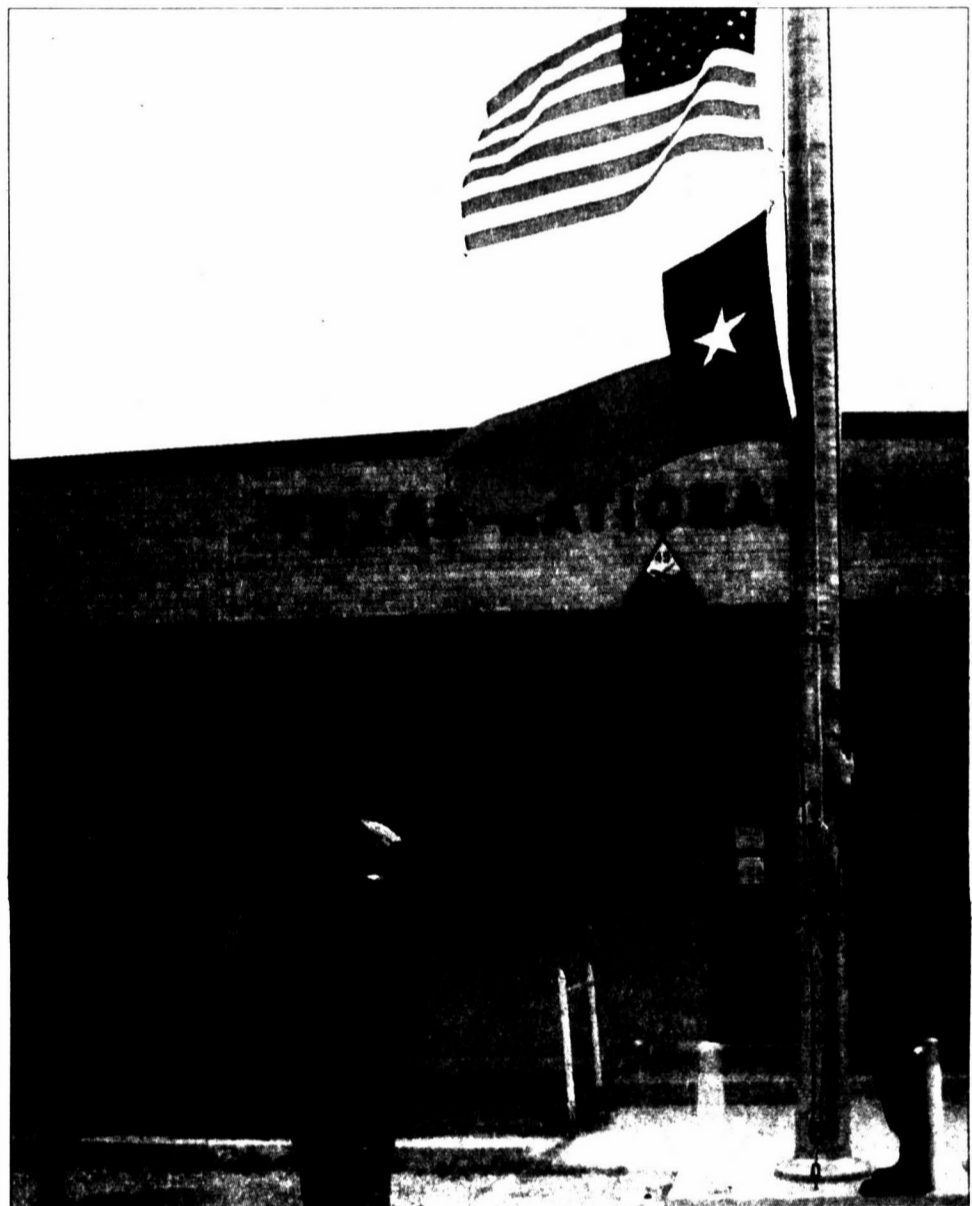
A grand opening of the City of Pampa's new skate park, located in Central Park, will begin at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 7, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Free hot dogs will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., courtesy of United Supermarket. First Presbyterian Church and First Christian Church, according to Shane Stokes, city recreation superintendent.

An ugly skateboard contest will be held, with prizes awarded courtesy of Hall's Auto Sound. The City of Pampa and Hall's Auto Sound have donated prizes for a skating contest to be held during the grand opening. Live music will be provided.

Sponsors and donors to the skate park project include the City of Pampa; the parks, recreation and auditorium advisory board; the district attorney's office; United Supermarket; Dr. David Hampton; NBC

See **PARK**, Page 3



Pampa News photos by MARILYN POWERS

Long may she wave

Gerald Turner, a crew chief for the City of Pampa's Public Service Department, left photo, stands inside a city bucket truck at the top of the flagpole at the National Guard Armory on East U.S. Highway 60 Thursday morning to help repair the ropes used to raise and lower the American and Texas flags. Turner is a veteran of the Vietnam conflict and the Persian Gulf War, and retired from the U.S. Navy after 27 years' service. The Guard's Bravo Company asked the city for help in making the flagpole functional so that the infantry unit could fly the flags until they ship out for Iraq on Aug. 15. In the photo at right, Spc. Robert Risner, right, raises the American and Texas flags at the Armory as Sgt. Rodney Bishop, far left, and Sgt. William White salute the flags. Company B of the 2-142 Infantry Unit, stationed at the Pampa armory, made needed repairs to their flagpole ropes with the help of the City of Pampa Thursday so that they could fly the flags until activated members ship out on Aug. 15 to head to Iraq. "They're going to fly 'till we leave," said Bishop.

Author of surveillance report arrested by British authorities

LONDON (AP) — A key al-Qaida operative suspected of authoring surveillance documents that sparked terror alerts in the United States was among 13 terror suspects arrested in Britain, an official said.

The documents of surveillance of five U.S. financial institutions were found on the computers of two accused members of Osama bin Laden's terror network arrested in Pakistan last month. Pakistani intelligence officials told The Associated Press the computers also held images of London's Heathrow Airport and that this information was passed to British officials.

"If we had evidence of a specific threat, then we would tell everybody."

— Peter Hain
Leader, British House of Commons

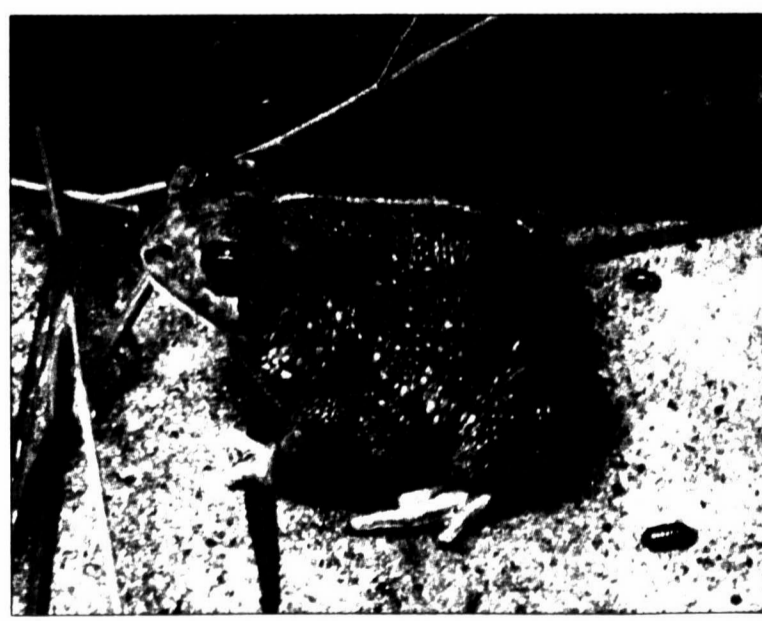
The revelations draw a link between two major sweeps against suspected al-Qaida networks in Pakistan and Britain — as well as the alerts announced Sunday in New York, New

Jersey and Washington.

At least 20 people have been detained in Pakistan in the past month, and Britain is holding 12 men from raids on Tuesday after releasing one person. British police on Thursday announced the arrest of another man, wanted in the United States for allegedly helping finance terrorism activity.

Among the 12 held in Britain was a senior al-Qaida member, known as Abu Eisa al-Hindi or Abu Musa al-Hindi, who the official said is suspected of having written the surveillance reports detailing security, construc-

See **ARREST**, Page 3



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Frog and friends

This frog seems to be enjoying the rainy day today as he sits on a cement patio outside a home in the 2300 block of Comanche. He may also be contemplating the roly-poly near his foot as a potential meal.

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AUG 06 2004

Vehicles

Continued from Page 1

the property for more than 48 hours; or

- A motor vehicle left unattended on the rights of way of any designated street, alley or highway within the City of Pampa in excess of 48 hours.

A junked vehicle, according to the release, is defined as any motor vehicle as defined in Section 1 of Article 6701d-11, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, which is operative and which does not have lawfully affixed thereto both an unexpired license plate or plates and a valid motor vehicle safety inspection certificate and which is:

- wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled or discarded; or
- remaining inoperable for a continuous period of more than 72 consecutive hours if the vehicle is on public property, or 30 consecutive days if

the vehicle is on private property.

A junked vehicle is declared to be a public nuisance if it is visible at any time of the year from a public place or right-of-way if:

- It is detrimental to the safety and welfare of the public.

- It tends to reduce the value of private property.

- It invites vandalism.

- It creates a fire hazard.
- It is an attractive nuisance, creating a hazard to the health and safety of minors.

- It produces urban blight adverse to the maintenance and continuing development of the city.

• It is a public nuisance. "The police department will be targeting different areas of the city. Once one area is complete with the clean-up, officers will move into another area while frequently checking back in already-completed areas to make sure that residents remain in compliance," Brown said in the release.

"We encourage residents to notify the police department or city code enforcement department of any complaints involving abandoned or

junked vehicles. Complaints will be taken as priority calls and will be handled in the order in which they are received," Brown said in the release.

For more information, call the police department at 669-5700.

"The police department will be targeting different areas of the city."

— Donny Brown
Pampa Police Dept.

Park

Continued from Page 1

Bank; FirstBank Southwest; Pampa Regional Medical Center; M.K. Brown Foundation; First Presbyterian Church; First Christian Church; Hall's Auto Sound; and Lesley Gershmel, Pampa High

School counselor.

Plans for the skate park began in earnest after a standing-room-only crowd showed up at the March 25 meeting of the city's parks, recreation and auditorium advisory board in response to an item on the board's agenda concerning a proposed skate park.

The board recommended to the City of Pampa to allo-

cate \$25,000 from the city's water bill donation fund to construct the park.

The city on April 29 exceeded that recommendation by pledging \$40,000 for the skate park and a new basketball court adjacent to the skate park.

Work on the new park and court began soon after the funds were allocated.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

Monday, Aug. 2

Telephone harassment was reported in the 1200 block of North Wells.

Thursday, Aug. 5

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1400 block of Charles. A door was broken. Estimated value of damage is unknown.

Assault was reported in the 600 block of East Frederic. Minor injuries were reported.

Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 500 block of North Dwight. A safe valued at approximately \$400 was stolen.

Theft was reported in the 1500 block of West Kentucky. A bottle of perfume and cash were stolen, for an estimated loss of \$49.50. The case has been turned over to the criminal

investigation division.

Domestic violence was reported in the 900 block of South Finley.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 900 block of North Frost. Windows were broken during the incident. Value of damage is unknown.

Assault causing bodily injury to a family member was reported in the 600 block of Lowry. The victim is reported to have a missing tooth as a result of the assault. Morna Lee Allen, 40, 601 Lowry, was arrested in connection with the incident and charged with assault causing bodily injury to a family member.

Damian Garza Jr., 32, 1324 N. Starkweather, was arrested in the 1000 block of South Hobart for possession of a controlled substance less than one gram, no driver's license and no insurance.

Friday, Aug. 6

Theft was reported in the

1600 block of Darby. A shotgun and electronics valued at approximately \$500 were taken.

Sheriff

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

Thursday, Aug. 5

Anthony Beebe, 18, Amarillo, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance over one gram and less than four grams.

Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following call during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Thursday, Aug. 5

2:11 p.m. — Three units and seven firefighters responded to a report of smoke at a residence in the 1700 block of Charles. Smoke from the city's sewer line inspection was coming from a sewer pipe.

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Stocks

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

Wheat	3.05
Milo	3.29
Corn	4.05
Soybeans	5.33

The following 9:30 a.m. N.Y. Stock Market quotations are furnished by Edward Jones & Co. of Pampa.

OXY	48.53	-0.48
BP	55.50	-0.40

Cabor Corp	37.40	-0.29
Cabo. Oil Gas	40.01	-0.29
Coca Cola	43.43	-0.42
VLO	67.06	-0.44
HAL	29.70	-0.41
Triad	32.81	-0.79
NOI	30.13	-0.79
KMI	59.76	-0.01
XCEL	17.24	+0.14
Kerr McGee	50.76	-0.81
Limited	19.16	-0.24
Williams	11.82	+0.16
MCD	26.71	-0.17
XOM	45.47	-0.36

Atmos	25.05	+0.25
Pioneer Nat	32.06	-0.29
JCP	37.58	-0.54
COP	74.85	-1.05
SLB	61.66	-1.23
Tenneco	12.96	-0.23
CVX	95.09	-0.71
Wal-Mart	51.65	-0.40
OKE	22.45	+0.08
NS Grp	16.07	-0.30
New York Gold	392.75	
Silver	6.70	
West Texas Crude	44.41	

Arrest

Continued from Page 1

tion and other features of the five U.S. financial buildings.

The official called al-Hindi "a key al-Qaida operative." A counterterrorism official, speaking on the condition of anonymity earlier this week, said much of the documentary evidence for the alerts, including surveillance reports, was in fluent English, indicating the author spent significant time in the West.

The terror alert concerned the Citigroup Center Building and New York Stock Exchange, the Prudential Building in Newark, and the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington.

Maps, photographs and other details of possible targets in the United States and Britain were found on computers belonging to Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani — a Tanzanian indicted for his

role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa — and a Pakistani computer expert identified as Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, said two Pakistani officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Much of the information was at least several years old, some of it preceding the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, U.S. officials have acknowledged, though some of it may have been updated as recently as January.

Khan was arrested by Pakistani forces on July 13, followed by Ghailani's arrest on July 25.

The CIA provided information that contributed to the detention of al-Hindi, as well as information that led the Pakistanis to detain Khan.

The Washington Post and British papers said al-Hindi was also suspected in plotting an attack on Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport.

A Lahore-based intelligence official involved in the investigation following the July 13 arrest of Khan said his computer contained photo-

graphs of Heathrow airport, as well as pictures of underpasses that run beneath several buildings in London.

Earlier, Peter Hain, leader of the House of Commons, told British Broadcasting Corp. radio that those detained Tuesday "are important arrests" but declined to comment on reports of a plot against Heathrow.

"If we had evidence of a specific threat, then we would tell everybody," he said. "Now the situation is not that at this stage."

A Heathrow spokeswoman said airport authorities had not heard anything from the government "to suggest the threat level to Heathrow has increased in recent weeks."

British police also said Thursday they had arrested a British man, Babar Ahmad, wanted on terrorism charges in a warrant issued by a federal prosecutor in Connecticut, and that anti-terror officials were searching three "residential premises" and one business in southwest London on behalf of U.S. authorities.

Viewpoints

True Americans don't run from adversity

I'm shocked into submission. It's as if I've been tasered to the floor. By the way, tasers are great for red ant problems, but that's another story.

I'm stunned that our school board is running from adversity by taking away the name "Shockers," all because of an illicit website that is marketing their version of a "shocker."

Seems some of our youth know more than their parents, teachers, and school board when it comes to the Internet, and have been attempting to purchase this shocker via the site's owner. Go figure?

What are these youth doing visiting an illicit web

site in the first place? Where is parental control these days? I feel that's where our school board should direct their inquiries instead of running from the devil, so to speak.

Ol' Beelzebub did win this one, didn't he? Is running from adversity what our ancestors taught us? What if this was Lewis' and Clark's answer to Thomas Jefferson upon receiving their orders to seek an overland route to the Pacific Ocean: "You've got to be kidding, dude, that's got to be 3,000 miles. Why, there's a gazillion Indians, not to mention the saddle sores we'll get, the mosquitos, the weather, we'll have to sleep in tents,

no beds, God knows what else..."

Running from adversity is the theme these days.

I've more running themes for you to read:

There is suggestions from our Olympic Committee and others that our Olympic athletes not participate in any celebration upon winning medals this summer in Athens. Seems the committee doesn't want the wrong people (terrorists) to single out our athletes.

What a crock. Did someone taser these people sense-

less? We're Americans. We don't run from adversity. What's scary is the amount of people in our country who would rather run than fight.

In the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany, Israeli athletes were the targets of terrorists. Some were killed, but did Israel

run? Has Israel ever run? No, they didn't in 1972 nor have they ran from adversity yet. Israel went after the terrorists and hunted them down no matter how long it took. World opinion be damned. Maybe the U.S.

should turn Israel loose in the Middle East, but that's another story as well.

I'm disappointed that our sitting President (I'm not sure if it was indeed his idea) suggested that the November general election be postponed due to the terrorist threat to our country. We don't want what happened in Spain to happen here.

What another crock. If the elections are cancelled over fear of attack, why, the terrorists win anyway. The person attempting to unsit the current President, if elected, says he will bring back respect to our country from other nations in the world, namely France, Germany,

and Russia.

Why should we care about respect from the very nations we saved from Hitler and Communism? America has been their punching bag long before the terroristic threat became paramount. We are the most successful and powerful nation in the world. Those countries and the rest of the world should be prostrating at our feet.

Back to those terrorists that we're running from — will they ever respect America?

Yes, the theme today is to run from adversity, and maybe by running, adversity will go away.

See RUN, Page 5



Dennis Palmitier
Columnist

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Aug. 6, the 219th day of 2004. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, killing an estimated 140,000 people in the first use of a nuclear weapon in warfare.

On this date:

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia began to debate the articles contained in a draft of the United States Constitution.

In 1806, the Holy Roman Empire went out of existence as Emperor Francis I abdicated.

In 1825, Bolivia declared its independence from Peru.

In 1890, convicted murderer William Kemmler became the first person to be executed in the electric chair as he was put to death at Auburn State Prison in New York.

In 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war against Russia and Serbia declared war against Germany.

In 1926, Gertrude Ederle of New York became the first American woman to swim the English Channel, in about 14 and a-half hours.

In 1962, Jamaica became an independent dominion within the British Commonwealth.

In 1965, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.

In 1986, William J. Schroeder died after living 620 days with the Jarvik Seven artificial heart.

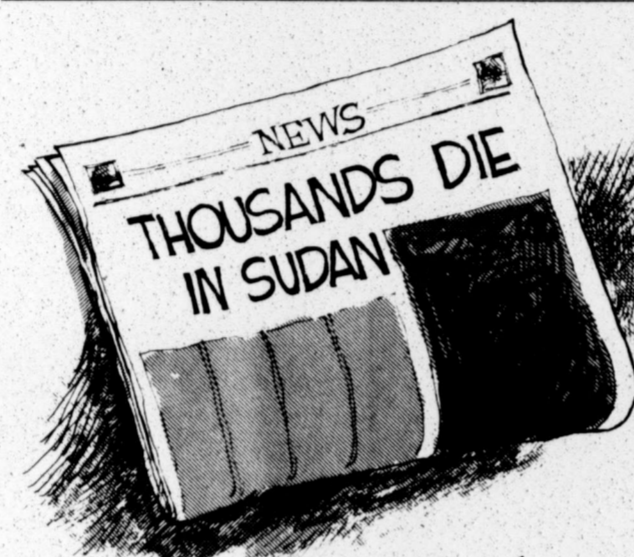
Ten years ago: In Wedowee, Ala., an apparent arson fire destroyed Randolph County High School, which had been the focus of tensions over the principal's stand against interracial dating.

Five years ago: In Canton, Texas, a 36-year-old woman facing lifelong heart problems that she blamed on the diet drug combination fen-phen was awarded \$23.3 million in the first such lawsuit to reach a jury. (The case was settled for less than a tenth of that amount during an appeal.) Tony Gwynn became the 22nd major leaguer to reach 3,000 hits.

One year ago: Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger used an appearance on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" to announce his successful bid to replace Calif. Gov. Gray Davis. Hours later, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante said he was entering the recall race as well. Israel freed 334 Palestinian prisoners in a bid to jump-start peace efforts — but the gesture fell flat among Palestinians.

'The soul of civilization is its religion, and it dies with its faith.'

— Will and Ariel Durant
American historians



OTC Ottawa Citizen
Caglecartoons.com

Socialism is a form of slavery

What is socialism? We miss the boat if we say it's the agenda of left-wingers and Democrats.

According to Marxist doctrine, socialism is a stage of society between capitalism and communism where private ownership and control over property are eliminated.

The essence of socialism is the attenuation and ultimate abolition of private property rights. Attacks on private property include, but are not limited to, confiscating the rightful property of one person and giving it to another to whom it doesn't belong. When this is done privately, we call it theft.

When it's done collectively, we use euphemisms: income transfers or redistribution. It's not just left-wingers and Democrats who call for and admire socialism but right-wingers and Republicans as well.

Republicans and right-wingers support taking the earnings of one American and giving them to farmers, banks, airlines and other failing businesses.

Democrats and left-wingers support taking the

earnings of one American and giving them to poor people, cities and artists.

Both agree on taking one American's earnings to give to another; they simply differ on the recipients. This kind of congressional activity constitutes at least two-thirds of the federal budget.

Regardless of the purpose, such behavior is immoral. It's a reduced form of slavery. After all, what is the essence of slavery? It's the

forceful use of one person to serve the purposes of another person.

When Congress, through the tax code, takes the earnings of one person and turns around to give it to another person in the forms of prescription drugs, Social Security, food stamps, farm subsidies or airline bailouts, it is forcibly using one person to serve the purposes of another.

The moral question stands out in starker relief when we acknowledge that those spending programs coming out of Congress do not rep-

See SLAVERY, Page 5

Walter Williams
Columnist



War on drugs victimizes innocent

In the midst of the soaring rhetoric of the recent Democratic Convention, more than one speaker quoted Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address, invoking "the better angels of our nature."

Well, there is an especially appropriate task awaiting those heavenly creatures — a long-overdue reform of our disastrous "war on drugs."

We should begin by recognizing its costly and inhumane dimensions. Much of the nation, in one way or another, is victimized by this failure — including, most notably, the innocents, whose exposure to drugs is

greater than ever. This despite the fact that there are housed in federal and state prisons and local jails, on drug offenses, more than 500,000 persons — half a million people! Clearly, no punishment could be too severe for that portion of them who were kingpins of the drug trade and who ruined so many lives. But by far the majority of these prisoners are guilty of only minor offenses, such as possessing small amounts of

Walter Cronkite
Columnist

marijuana. That includes people who used it only for medicinal purposes.

The cost to maintain this great horde of prisoners is more than \$10 billion annually.

And that's just part of the cost of this war on drugs: The federal, state and local drug-control budgets last year added up to almost \$40 billion.

These figures were amassed by the Drug Policy

Alliance, one of the foremost national organizations seeking to bring reason to the war on drugs and reduce substantially those caught in the terrible web of addiction.

There are awful tales of tragedy and shocking injustice hidden in those figures. — the product of an almost mindlessly draconian system called "mandatory sentencing" in which even small offenses can draw years in prison.

Thousands of women, many of them mothers of young children, are included among those minor offend-

See DRUGS, Page 5

THE PAMPA NEWS
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348
Fax: 806-669-2520
email: editor@thepampanews.com
Publisher: L.W. McCall
Editor: Dee Dee Laramore
Advertising Director: ReDonn Woods
Composing Supervisor: Brenda Cook

This newspaper (UPS 781-540) is published daily, except Saturdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, by The Pampa News. Periodicals postaged paid at Pampa, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Pampa News, P.O. Drawer 2198, Pampa, TX 79066-2198.

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Moscow
WASHINGTON — Two leaders were killed in an early Thursday attack in a purportedly planned grenade launch attack on a diplomat.

According to a report, the two leaders were killed by a grenade launched by an ambassador at the United Nations. The report also says the United Nations was the target of the attack. The report says the United Nations was the target of the attack. The report says the United Nations was the target of the attack.

Slave
Continued from page 5

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Drug
Continued from page 5

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Run
Continued from page 5

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Mosque leaders held in alleged plot to buy grenade launcher

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities arrested two leaders of a mosque in Albany, N.Y., early Thursday and charged them with aiding in a purported plot to buy a shoulder-fired grenade launcher to assassinate a Pakistani diplomat.

According to an FBI affidavit, the men laundered money for the purchase of the launcher they were told would be used to assassinate the ambassador at the Pakistani consulate across from the United Nations in New York. The murder supposedly was meant to punish the Pakistani government for cooperating with non-Muslims.

In fact, there was no such plot. The purchase of the RPG-7 grenade launcher and the assassination scheme were fabrications put forth by a convicted felon who was secretly cooperating with federal prosecutors to reduce his prison sentence on document fraud charges.

At a news conference, Deputy Attorney General James Comey acknowledged there

was no genuine threat of any terrorist attack. "This is not the case of the century," he said.

However, Comey said, in addition to removing two potentially dangerous people from the streets, the sting operation was meant to send a message to terrorists and their sympathizers.

"Anyone engaging in terrorist planning would be very wise to consider whether their accomplice is not really one of our guys," he said.

The arrests in Albany were unrelated to the Bush administration's terror alerts over the weekend indicating al-Qaida may be plotting attacks against U.S. financial buildings, Comey said. He dismissed suggestions that the administration's warning, largely based on intelligence that was several years old, was overblown.

"We are not playing games," Comey said.

"This is a very serious time, and I wish it weren't. I wish we were worried about something else this summer. But I am worried about one thing, and so is everybody else in law enforcement."

The Albany men were identified as Yassin Muhiddin Aref, 34, the imam of the Masjid As-Salam mosque, and Mohammed Mosharref Hossain, 49, one of the mosque's founders and owner of the Little Italy Pizzeria in Albany. They were arrested during early-morning raids at their homes.

Their wives denied the men were involved in any terror plot. "It's totally wrong and totally false and totally a lie," Hossain's wife, Mossamat, said in a telephone interview. The men are charged money laundering, conspiracy to commit money laundering and conspiracy to conceal material support for terrorism. Both could face up to 70 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine. U.S. Magistrate David Homer ordered the men held without bail pending a hearing on Tuesday. According to the FBI affidavit, Hossain approached the FBI informant in the summer of 2003 about getting a fraudulent New York driver's license. In subsequent meetings, the informant told Hossain that he imported weapons from China, the affidavit said. At a videotaped meeting on Nov. 20, the informant showed Hossain a picture of an RPG-7, a fairly rudimentary anti-tank weapon developed by the Soviet Union.

'Anyone engaging in terrorist planning would be very wise to consider whether their accomplice is not really one of our guys.'

— James Comey
U.S. Deputy Attorney General

Slavery

Continued from Page 4

resent lawmakers reaching into their own pockets and sending out the money. Moreover, there's no tooth fairy or Santa Claus giving them the money. The fact that government has no resources of its very own forces us to acknowledge that the only way government can give one American a dollar is to first — through intimidation, threats and coercion — take that dollar from some other American.

Some might rejoice that all of this is a result of a democratic process and it's legal. Legality alone is no guide for a

moral people. There are many things in this world that have been, or are, legal but clearly immoral. Slavery was legal. Did that make it moral? South Africa's apartheid, Nazi persecution of Jews, and Stalinist and Maoist purges were all legal, but did that make them moral?

Can a moral case be made for taking the rightful property of one American and giving it to another to whom it does not belong? I think not. That's why socialism is evil. It uses evil means (coercion) to achieve what are seen as good ends (helping people). We might also note that an act that is inherently evil does not become moral simply because there's a majority consensus.

An argument against legalized theft should not be construed as an argument

against helping one's fellow man in need. Charity is a noble instinct; theft, legal or illegal, is despicable. Or, put another way: Reaching into one's own pocket to assist his fellow man is noble and worthy of praise. Reaching into another person's pocket to assist one's fellow man is despicable and worthy of condemnation.

For the Christians among us, socialism and the welfare state must be seen as sinful. When God gave Moses the commandment "Thou shalt not steal," I'm sure He didn't mean thou shalt not steal unless there's a majority vote. And I'm sure that if you asked God if it's OK just being a recipient of stolen property, He would deem that a sin as well.

Drugs

Continued from Page 4

out motherly care are the most innocent victims of the drug war and the reason some call it a "war on families" as well as on drugs.

Women are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. prison population, with almost 80 percent of them incarcerated for drug offenses. The deep perversity of the system lies in the fact that women with the least culpability often get the harshest sentences. Unlike the guilty drug dealer, they often have no information to trade for a better deal from prosecutors and might end up with a harsher sentence than the dealer gets.

Then there are women like Kimba Smith, in

California, who probably knew a few things but was so terrified of her abusive boyfriend that she refused to testify against him. (Those who agree to testify, by the way, frequently are murdered before they have a chance to do so.) Ms. Smith paid for her terrified silence with a 24-year sentence!

Nonviolent first offenders, male and female, caught with only small amounts of a controlled substance frequently are given prison sentences of five to 10 years or more. As a result, the number of non-violent offenders in the nation's prisons is filling

them to overflowing, literally. The resulting overcrowding is forcing violent felons onto the streets with early releases.

The Drug Policy Alliance also points out other impor-

tant areas of injustice in the present enforcement system. For instance, people of color — African Americans and Latino Americans — are far more likely to be jailed for drug offenses than others. And college students caught in possession of very small amounts of illegal substances are denied student loans and even food stamps.

'Women are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. prison population ... almost 80 percent incarcerated for drug offenses.'

— Walter Cronkite
Columnist

Run

Continued from Page 4

Adversity will not go away, but will spread like the cancer it is. What are we teaching our youth by running? How will our youth, when they are the leaders or our country, react to adversi-

ty? Will there be enough track shoes to go around?

Colin Powell, remember him, our Secretary of State? Secretary Powell, when asked a running-from-adversity themed question by a TV reporter after 9/11/01, replied; "We're Americans. We don't run scared."

Some are preferring to

run, in our very community and all the way to Washington D.C. We still have time to save those running souls.

We have prayer, we have knowledge and freedom, and we have superior strength.

Let's not forget what has made this country the nation it is.

Community happenings

• **Mamá Maniá is a support group** for mothers entirely in Spanish. It meets at 10 a.m., the third Thursday of each month at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. For more information, call 1-888-892-2273, ext. 228.

• **Mom Mania, a support group for mothers** with small children, meets at 6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each month in the meeting room at Lovett Memorial Library in Pampa. Come for facts, food and fun. Nursery not included but infants and toddlers are welcome. For more information, call 664-2459.

• **Mommy 'N' Me is a support group** for nursing mothers and women needing information on breastfeeding that meets at 10 a.m., the first Monday of each month at Zion Lutheran Church, 1200 Duncan. For more information, call 664-2459.

• **A wide range of free, direct support services** is available to local residents suffering from multiple sclerosis through Multiple Sclerosis Association of America. Services include general information, therapeutic equipment, educational literature, national lending library, no-cost MRIs, cool suits, wheelchairs and scooters, support groups and more. For more information, contact MSAA at 1-800-LEARN-MS or access www.msaa.com on the Internet.

• **The Multiple Sclerosis Society** offers a monthly program for people with MS every third Thursday of each month. Some of the topics covered include: "Moving Forward: A Program for People Newly Diagnosed with MS,"

"When MS Progresses," "Intimacy and MS," "Life after Diagnosis: A Wellness Approach" and much more. A transcript is provided at the site after each program. For more information, call 1-800-FIGHT-MS or (806) 468-7500 or contact the National MS website at www.nmss.org and select Educational Programs.

• **Muscular Dystrophy Family Foundation** seeks donations of old or slightly used vehicles for sale by the organization to raise funds to help individuals and families living with muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseases covered under the program. MDFF's purpose is to provide wheelchairs, hospital beds, van lifts, breathing machines, clinic services and other items of aid to clients in need. For more information, call 1-800-544-1213.

• **Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center's Quality of Life Project/Palliative Care Services** offers free Music Therapy Sessions at 10:30 a.m. weekly on Wednesdays at the Harrington Cancer Center Quiet Room. Patient and adult family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call 1-800-274-4673, ext. 291.

• **Narconon, active in the field of drug rehabilitation and education** since 1966, provides free professional counseling, evaluation and referral services to internationally recognized alternative and traditional facilities via its hotline and website, 1-800-468-6933 or www.stopaddiction.com. Narconon means "No Drugs."

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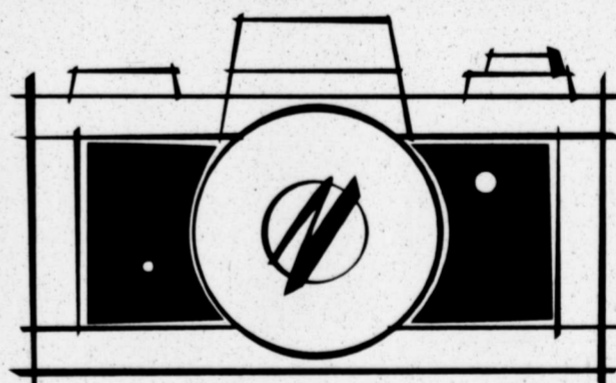
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THE PAMPA NEWS

403 W. ATCHISON • 669-2525

AUGUST 6 2004

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HEBREWS 13:8**

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Religion

Jordan Chapel \$94,500 closer to goal

'These funds come from 31 individuals, 12 local churches/church organizations, six local/area foundations and four local organizations.'

— Jordan Chapel Builders in a report to supporters

In its "2004 Semi-Annual Report to Supporters," Jordan Chapel Builders board of directors recently reported raising approximately \$94,500 as of July 1. "Eighty-one thousand dollars of this is in cash donations and the balance is in pledges and in-kind services," the board said in its report.

"These funds come from 31 individuals, 12 local churches/church organizations, six local/area foundations and four local organizations." The goal is to raise \$650,000 by Jan. 31, 2006. Another goal is to gain the support of all churches in Pampa. "We are identifying liaison individuals in each church to

facilitate communications and organize fund-raising for the Chapel," said the report. "We want to see all Pampa churches involved. One program idea is for each church to raise \$5 for each member of the church and to contribute in the name of the church." In the report, the board gives special recognition to the M.K.

Brown Foundation for its "significant" contribution towards the board's fund-raising goal. Members of Chapel Builders board of directors are as follows: Dr. Ron Easley, president; Jack Reeve, vice president; Stan Franke, secretary; Don Zumstein, treasurer; Curt Beck, Ray Hupp, Chaplain Willard Kipper, Darville Orr and Ken Steele.

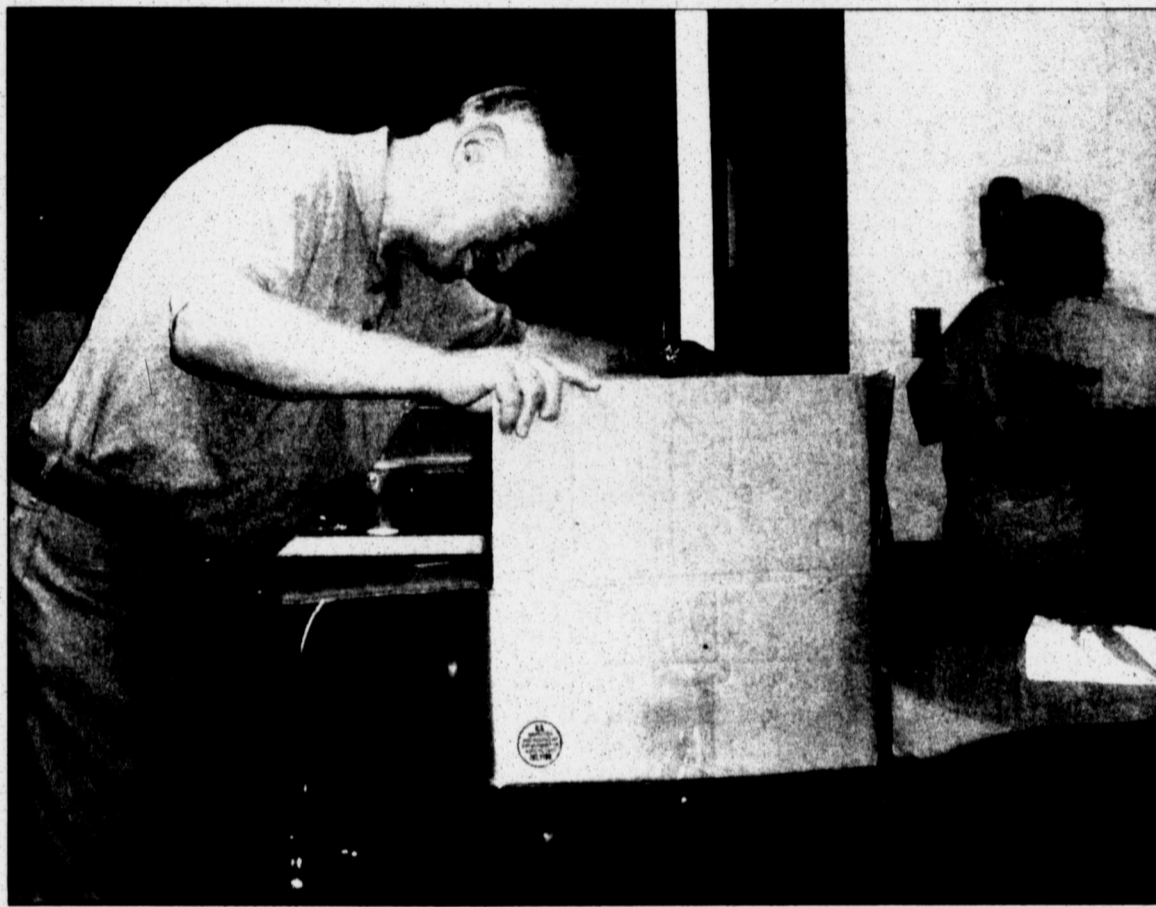
McLean First Baptist plans centennial

McLEAN — First Baptist Church of McLean plans to celebrate its 100th year on Sunday, Aug. 15. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. and a continental breakfast served at that time. Morning church services

start at 11 a.m. Miss Piggy's Barbecue of Wellington will cater the lunch at 12:15 p.m. A program of music and reminiscing is scheduled from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Red River Boys will be entertaining as

well as other talented people. Visitors from all over the United States are expected to attend. Others are sending letters telling of how First Baptist has affected their lives. The history of First Baptist

Church will be provided, filled with photos and information about the 100-year-old institution. For more information or to make a reservation for the Sunday lunch, call (806) 779-2175.



Taking a peek

Pastor Nathan Hopson inspects a box of "Angel" food. Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship Church, 1733 N. Banks, is sponsoring Angel Food Ministries, a soon-to-be nationwide food ministry recently come to Pampa. According to a press release from Lighthouse, Angel Food Ministries sells name-brand food items at reduced cost to the public to benefit others. Most of its products are frozen or non-perishable. The food package is subject to change monthly. For more information or to obtain a list of items available for purchase, call the Rev. Bob or Debra Epperson or Cindy Malone at 669-3317 or 848-2183.

Steve Archer to appear in concert here

First Church of the Nazarene, 500 N. West, will host a concert with Christian recording artist Steve Archer at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 7.

The church invites the public to attend this night of praise and worship.

Archer began his music career at age 13. He traveled extensively with the Archers, a group comprised of Steve, Tim and Janice Archer. They traveled the world and have appeared at the White House, on the Jerry Lewis Telethon and a number of other television shows.

In 1980 the Archers received a Grammy Award for "The Lord's Prayer," a musical by Reba Rambo and Dony McGuire.

In 1982, Steve Archer embarked on a solo career and has recorded several albums and appeared numerous times on television as well as singing across the country and around the world.

Do what God says, no matter what

Shari and I have three children: Two by "natural birth" — Christina and Jeffrey, and one by "God blessed circumstance" — Chad.

Chad came to live with us when he was about 3.5 years old. In the process of becoming Chad's legal guardians we dealt a lot with Child Protective Services in Oregon. One day as we neared the end of the process a caseworker came over to our home with some papers for me to sign. Most of them were just the normal papers that I had seen and signed before. However one of them wasn't. That is the focus of this article.

One of the papers was what I would call an "anti-spanking" commitment form. It basically was an affirmation that Shari and I would never spank Chad or use any other kind of corporal/physical punishment. I signed all of the forms

except that one and handed them back to the caseworker. He pointed out that I have missed one of the forms and I pointed out that I hadn't. He then said, "Mr. Sublett, if you don't sign this form, you can't become legal guardians for Chad."

I told him, "Well, since the Bible says that corporal punishment is necessary for the 'best interests of Chad,' then

what would you have me do? Do you want me to ignore the 'best interests' of Chad? I won't sign the form."

He immediately left and in about 15 minutes the phone rang; it was his supervisor. She tried to re-explain the situation, thinking that he hadn't properly done so. My response to her was the same as it had been the gentleman.

We talked for a few more minutes and then I asked her, "Ma'am, don't you believe that it is in Chad's best interests to spend his life in our home instead of bouncing around in various foster homes?"

She said, "Yes, Mr. Sublett, but you just don't understand. I have to have all of my paperwork in order."

That's when I thought I was going to lose it. "So ma'am, do you mean to tell me that your paperwork is more important than Chad?"

— Mike Sublett to social worker

Then an amazing thing happened on the phone. There was the longest pause — absolute silence. "No, Mr. Sublett, my paperwork isn't as important as Chad. Can I call you back in a few min-

utes?" I told her that would be fine. You see, I believe that God was at work.

Then about an hour later she called and said, "Mr. Sublett, it should take less than 30 days for us to process

our paperwork and finalize your legal guardianship of Chad and get our nose out of your business. Would you sign an amended agreement that states that you will not physically punish Chad for 30 days? That's the best my boss will let me do?"

I told her that would be fine and that I appreciated her help. Chad is now 22 years old and his last name is Sublett. I share this story to remind us all that at times God says one thing and the world says something else. When that happens Christians had better know what to do.

Stand by God and by what He says and He will bless you. I just got off of the phone with a Christian mother of a college student trying to move into an apartment for the coming school year. It seems that there was some kind of unpaid bill with the last tenants and the utility company told the daughter that she would have to pay almost \$300 up front because of her age and lack of credit.

The daughter called her mom and asked her to call and pretend to be the person



Mike Sublett
HiLand Christian

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: If a gentleman asks a lady to accompany him to a casino and gives her money to gamble, is it proper for him to insist that she split her winnings with him? This happened to me recently.

Even before the \$1,000 credits were finished rolling, my date called out that it was a 50/50 split. Most of my friends felt it was highly inappropriate, and that I should have been entitled to my entire jackpot.

I would have preferred being given the chance to make up my own mind about whether I wished to share my winnings. My friends also pointed out that this man makes four times the money I do and should have been more generous.

Do you think my friends were right? At first I was just a little bit irritated. Now I feel taken advantage of.

— SHORTCHANGED IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SHORT-CHANGED: Considering the fact that your date advanced the money that brought your windfall, I'd say you are 100 percent ahead of where you would be had he not been so generous. You may feel offended at his sense of entitlement, but a lady would have offered to share.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 33-year-old woman who has never been married. My boyfriend, "Mickey," recently proposed and I accepted. We're planning a small wedding in about four months. It's a first marriage for both of us.

I have two small dogs whom I adore. Their names are Melody and Harmony. Mickey insists that I get rid of one of them and that I am immature for wanting to keep both.

I explained that Melody and Harmony were around before he was, and I can't give up

either one. He knew about them before we began dating.

They are not outdoor pets. I keep them very clean and do not see what the problem is. Melody and Harmony both have been through basic dog training and are well-behaved.

I am disturbed that, knowing how much I care for them, he would ask such a thing. We seem unable to reach an agreement about this. I love Mickey dearly and know he loves me, too. How can we resolve this?

— BROKENHEARTED IN PEORIA, ARIZ.

DEAR BROKENHEARTED: What your fiancé is suggesting is a very poor start for a marriage. If you cave in to these demands, you will never forgive yourself — and it will only be the beginning of what he will want you to sacrifice. My advice to you is to postpone the wedding until your fiancé can find enough love in his heart for the three of you, because you are a package deal.

DEAR ABBY: Please tell people that when shaking hands, not to "squeeze" a person's hand hard. I have arthritis in my hands and it hurts so bad when some people shake my hand. Just a gentle shake is sufficient. Please print this.

— SORE HAND IN PILGRIM, KY.

DEAR SORE: A person can shake your hand only if you extend it. The next time you're in a social situation and someone extends his or her hand — smile, reach out and touch the person on the upper arm and say, "I'd shake your hand, but I can't because I have arthritis."

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For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie

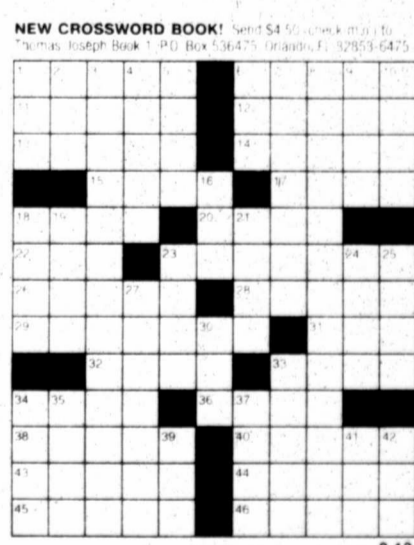


Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 VCR inserts
 - 6 Minor goof
 - 11 Marsh bird
 - 12 Directional sign
 - 13 River through Nantes
 - 14 Beam
 - 15 Quick tastes
 - 17 Subtraction column
 - 18 Monopoly need
 - 20 Idle in the movies
 - 22 "Gotta Man" rapper
 - 23 Eye rudely
 - 26 Rodeo rope
 - 28 "Good-Feelas" actor
 - 29 Blink of an eye
 - 31 Try the tea
 - 32 Rage
 - 33 Says further
 - 34 Mint product
 - 36 Cool quaff
 - 38 In the thick of
 - 40 Hare chaser
 - 43 Zellweger of "Chicago"
- DOWN
- 1 Bus card no
 - 2 Before today
 - 3 "Shrek" character
 - 4 Spine-tingling
 - 5 Dance bit
 - 6 — Cruces
 - 7 Ornate wardrobe
 - 8 Judith Krantz book
 - 9 Single
 - 10 Some sheep
 - 16 Go down
 - 18 Hero setting
 - 19 Director
 - 21 Enthralled
 - 23 Emulate
 - 24 Icarus
 - 25 Pointers
 - 27 Real beauty
 - 30 Where the IRT runs
 - 33 Dole out
 - 34 Train
 - 35 Sign
 - 37 Galley
 - 39 Mousse kin
 - 41 Cartoon frame
 - 42 Ins setting



Marmaduke



"Getting a closer look at dinner?"

The Family Circus



"A reminder of a miracle in the Bible — turning water into wine."

Flo & Friends



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Sports Day

Pampa Open tennis results in

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Open tennis tournament was held the weekend of July 17 and 18. The turnout was reported to be and the matches even better.

Nancy Castillo defeated Kailee Intemann in the girls 12-14 singles finals. Marli Street defeated Nicole Moore in the consolation match.

The boys 12-14 singles winner was John Haynes who defeated Miles Foreman.

Myca Vinson bested Lacie Long in the girls 16 singles finals with Shauna Friend taking her consolation match against Natalie Knowles.

The boys 16 singles final went to Nick Julian who outlasted Kendall Hunt.

In the girls 16 and open doubles final, it was Lacie Long and Myca Vinson winning over Tanna Stowers and Ashlee Lucus.

The men's open singles crown went to Zack Hucks who defeated Britton White. Steven Smith took the consolation match where he faced Mitchell Crow.

In the men's open doubles final, it was Zack Hucks and Jay Gerber over David Haynes and Joshua Freeman. Jed Martin and Ryan Zemanek took the consolation match over Tom Isaacs and David Young.

And in the open mixed doubles, it was Joshua Freeman and Helen Brooks defeating Britton White and Lacie Long.



Fish eyes

6 year old Caelan Locke of Pampa, took advantage of the cooler weather Thursday by taking his paw-paw, Bonner Green, fishing. Young Caelan looked like a seasoned pro beneath his brand name fishing cap and casts any grown up would be proud of.

Pampa Football League to meet

The Pampa Football League will hold a coaches meeting at the Pampa Optimist Youth Club, 601 East Craven, tomorrow morning to discuss the upcoming season.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. and will focus on 3/4 and 5/6 grade

football. Parents and coaches are encouraged to attend.

Registration dates are Aug. 17-20 and Aug. 23, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Players can also register Aug. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration fee is \$60.

Testaverde again Parcels' QB

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — When Bill Parcels told Vinny Testaverde that his gig was up, the 40-year-old quarterback knew that was a good thing.

Testaverde got what he hoped for when he reunited with Parcels this summer in Dallas. Always one of Parcels' favorite players, he is now the coach's starting quarterback again instead of being the Cowboys backup.

"He said to me, 'You're giving me my boxing gloves back?' I said, 'You want them?'" Parcels said Thursday. "He said, 'That's what I came here for.' That was the conversation."

That came Wednesday, right after the Cowboys suddenly and unexpectedly released Quincy Carter, the quarterback drafted by owner Jerry Jones three years ago to be Troy Aikman's successor.

Carter led the Cowboys to 10 wins and back to the playoffs in Parcels' first year, and was the opening-game starter each of his three seasons. But there were widespread reports that he failed a drug test.

The team remained vague Thursday about the reasons for Carter's release. Jones again refused to specifically address the reports, and Parcels said he was focused on the future.

"I'm not going to talk about this subject anymore. It's not worth it, doesn't really mean anything now," Parcels said. "I want to go where I know I've got to go now."

That means getting Testaverde ready as the starter for the Sept. 12 season opener at Minnesota and determining whether Drew Henson or Tony Romo, neither of whom has played in an NFL game, can be the backup.

See VINNY, Page 10

Brown gets solid start; Prior gets first win in more than a month

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American League

In his second start since returning from the disabled list, Kevin Brown gave the New York Yankees the kind of performance their shaky starting rotation desperately needed.

Brown pitched four-hit ball over eight innings, and John Olerud went 3-for-3 in his second game in pinstripes to lead the Yankees over the Oakland Athletics 5-1 Thursday.

"He was overpowering. His stuff was moving all over the place. His sinker was just unhittable," New York catcher Jorge Posada said.

The 39-year-old Brown (9-1), who was on the DL for seven weeks with a sore back and an intestinal parasite, struck out seven and walked two as he matched the longest outing by a Yankees starter this season. His performance was encouraging news for New York and its struggling staff.

"That's the Kevin Brown we knew was in there somewhere, and he knew was in there somewhere," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

It was just the 10th time this season a Yankees pitcher threw eight innings, the first in 19 starts since Jose Contreras beat Detroit on July 15. New York starters entered with a 5.06 ERA, 24th among the 30 major league teams, and they averaged just 5.76 innings per start, 18th in the majors, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

In other AL games, it was Cleveland 6, Toronto 3 in 10 innings; Texas 2, Detroit 1; Anaheim 8, Minnesota 3; Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 2 in 11 innings; and Kansas City 6, the Chicago White Sox 4.

National League

Mark Prior got back to his winning ways and finally felt comfortable on the mound. That's got to be an unsettling thought for the Chicago Cubs' opponents.

Prior (3-2) pitched six scoreless innings for his first win in more than a month, leading the Cubs to a 5-1 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Thursday.

"I made some pitches when I had to," the right-hander said. "I was more relaxed in pressure situations than I have been. I didn't try to press."

The win completed a three-game sweep of the Rockies, the Cubs' first at Colorado since they took three straight from July 18-20, 1994, at Mile High Stadium.

"It just goes to show you how strong our starting rotation is," said catcher Paul Bako, who had a two-run single. "We're just happy to have everybody healthy."

That's been a problem this season for the Cubs, especially when it comes to Prior, who missed the first two months of the season with right Achilles' tendinitis. A healthy Prior, combined with Kerry Wood, Greg Maddux, Carlos Zambrano and Matt Clement, makes the Cubs one of baseball's toughest teams to beat.

The Cubs are in second place in the NL Central, but lead the wild-card standings. Chicago, playing 12 straight against the NL West, has won eight of 10 and improved to 13-8 since the All-Star break.

"I was looking forward to them coming to town," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said. "Now I'm looking forward to them leaving."

Prior got his first victory since beating the White Sox 7-4 on June 25, a span of six starts. He allowed six hits, struck out eight and walked two. He was done after throwing a season-high 108 pitches.

"He looked great," Bako said. "I think he's had great stuff since he's come back."

In other NL games, it was Atlanta 6, Houston 5; St. Louis 2, Montreal 1; Philadelphia 5, San Diego 3 in 10 innings; Los Angeles 8, Pittsburgh 3; Cincinnati 12, San Francisco 3; Florida 11, Arizona 5; and New York 11, Milwaukee 6.

'He was overpowering. His stuff was moving all over the place. His sinker was just unhittable.'

— Jorge Posada
Catcher, New York Yankees

Stewart hopes to change luck

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — No driver wants to win at Indianapolis Motor Speedway more than Tony Stewart.

He grew up in Indiana, about 45 minutes away from the storied track, making deals with his parents that traded good grades and good behavior for trips to the track.

All he's ever wanted is one chance to kiss the famed Yard of Bricks, or drink a glass of milk in Victory Lane. Yet in 10 appearances here — five Indy 500 starts and five in NASCAR's Brickyard 400 — all Stewart has experienced is heartache.

He has led a total of 122 laps in his Indy 500 starts, but two of his chances at victory were crushed by car failure. His luck hasn't been better in the Brickyard,

when opportunities to win were erased the past two years with resulting 12th-place finishes.

So frustrated after the race in 2002, he punched a photographer in the garage area. Last year, he stormed away, leaving car owner Joe Gibbs to speak to yet another "heartbreaking" loss for the "Rushville Rocket."

Stewart heads back to Indy for Sunday's Brickyard 400 looking to finally change his luck.

"Take the one thing in your life that you're the most passionate about and you'll have a good understanding of what Indy means to me," Stewart said. "There's at least something in everybody's life that they're very passionate about, and for me that's winning at the Brickyard."

See STEWART, Page 10

USTFA MASTERS

Pampa's Wendell Palmer in the USTFA mix

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

Pampa's Wendell Palmer is in Decatur, Ill. This week where he is taking part in the USTFA Masters Track and Field Championships. Competition got underway yesterday and will last through Sunday.

Palmer competed in the Shot Put yesterday, finishing second behind former Dallas Cowboys trainer, Bob Ward.

Ward heaved a 13.40 m/43' 11" shot. Palmer was close behind with a put of 12.89 m/42' 31/2".

Ward was the Dallas Cowboy's conditioning coach from 1976 to 1990. Other USTFA participants include former Houston Oiler, Billy 'White Shoes' Johnson, who will be taking part in the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the men over 50 division.

Palmer will next compete tomorrow in the Discus.

Mouse Davis joins University of Hawaii staff

HONOLULU (AP) — Darrel "Mouse" Davis, known as the architect of the run-and-shoot offense, was hired Thursday by Hawaii as a special teams coach, reuniting him with head coach June Jones.

"I can't wait to tee it up and get after it," Davis said.

Davis is coming off his first season as coach of the San Diego Riptide of arenafootball2. His team went 8-8 and tied for second-place in the league's West Division.

"He has been like a mentor to me, and I think our players

will really respond to him," said Jones, who played for Davis at Portland State.

Davis and Jones also worked together on the coaching staffs of the Houston Gamblers (1984), and Denver Gold (1985) of the USFL and with the Detroit Lions (1989-90) and Atlanta Falcons (1994-96) in the NFL.

Davis replaces Tyson Helton, who left earlier this year to take a similar position at Memphis.

AUGUST 6 2004



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

New goal post

Mac Martinez, left, of the City of Pampa public services department, and Rick Nelson, of the city's recreation department, set in place a new basketball goal in Central Park. A new basketball court is being created by the city along with the new Skate Park in the park, which displaced the old basketball court located in the park.

Plant closing is latest for city's hard-hit workforce

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — Another longtime employer has decided to end its operations in St. Joseph, costing 400 jobs in a city that has already absorbed three major closings this year.

MeadWestvaco Corp., which makes paper products for schools and offices, announced Thursday that it would close

its century-old factory and a newer distribution center in St. Joseph, as well as a facility in Garland, Texas, that has about 200 employees.

Greg Bruchett, a vice president of the Stamford, Conn.-based corporation, said executives decided about three weeks ago to consolidate production in

Alexandria, Pa., and Garden Grove, Calif.

"It is an extremely competitive environment," said Bruchett, who was in St. Joseph to break the news to employees. "It was important to adjust our manufacturing footprints."

Consumer confidence surges upwards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer confidence surged during the past month to its highest level since the beginning of the year, with Americans feeling better about their own finances and more optimistic about the future despite renewed terror threats and rising oil prices.

Consumer confidence has been rising for the past four months as the economy has been on a solid path to recovery.

The AP-Ipsos consumer confidence index climbed to 104.8 in August, up from 92.0 in July, led by consumers' perceptions of their own finances and optimism about the future.

For Mike Mainello, a North Carolina businessman retired from the military, evidence of the improving economy is all around him.

"My wife sells new homes to first-time home buyers. They're buying right and left," said Mainello, a 45-year-old conservative Republican from Winston-Salem. "We're finally paying off bills faster than we're incurring them."

The AP-Ipsos survey of consumer attitudes by spending and household found a surge of economic optimism that has shown up in several recent measures of consumer attitudes.

While months of steady improvement in the job market has fueled some optimism, the AP-Ipsos index found the increase this time was based more on people's improved perceptions of their own personal finances, and their view of how their local economy will be doing six months from now.

The snapshot of consumer sentiment found Americans considerably more upbeat about the economy than a year ago, when the index was at 89.0. Much of the improvement came during the past month, however.

The AP-Ipsos confidence index is benchmarked to a 100 reading on January 2002, the month the index was started by Ipsos.

Lynn Staggs, a 33-year-old saleswoman from Austin, Texas, said she can sense the economy is doing better just from looking around her neighborhood on the way home.

"It seems like the housing market is doing better. I don't see as many houses around here for sale," said Staggs, a political independent. "I see a lot of people in my neighborhood turning up with new cars and making big purchases."

Staggs said she thought the tax cuts of the past couple of years have helped people save money and make purchases.

The rise in consumer confidence comes at

a time of mixed indicators for the American economy.

June's payroll was the 10th straight month of gains, though the total of 112,000 new payroll jobs was lower than expected. Many retailers reported lackluster sales gains in July, particularly mall-based apparel chains such as Gap. Some analysts attributed the disappointing sales to higher gasoline prices, which made some people more cautious spenders.

On Wall Street, stocks fell Thursday as worries about rising oil prices rattled investors. And all that combines with renewed fears of terror attacks.

Mark Zandi, an economist with Economy.com, said the increasing optimism was surprising, given the current uncertainty.

But he said the steady increase in the job market in recent months along with the surging house market could be contributing to optimism.

Home sales have been a major factor in the economic recovery this year. Economists said they expect both new home sales and existing home sales to set all-time records for the year, even if sales slump some this summer.

The number of people who felt their personal finances were strong increased from just over two in 10 in July to almost three in 10 now.

More than half of those making \$75,000 or more a year, 52 percent, said their financial situation was strong. Only two in 20 of those making \$50,000 or less felt that way.

Republicans were twice as likely as Democrats to say their personal finances were strong.

The health of the economy is at the center of the presidential campaign, with President Bush arguing that the economy is snapping back, and Democratic nominee, John Kerry, saying any gains in the economy are not helping millions of Americans.

Bonnie Swigert, a 61-year-old Democratic retiree from Grandon, Mo., said she doesn't see the economy getting any better.

"I've known very, very few people that got any of this tax money back over the last two years," she said. "These Republicans haven't got sense enough to take the minimum wage and multiply it by 40 and see how much people are making."

"As far as they're concerned, anybody who makes \$40,000 on down, they just don't exist."

Fortune 500 home builder to relocate

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Executives of D.R. Horton Inc. are moving the Fortune 500 company's base from Arlington to downtown Fort Worth, giving the growing homebuilder four times more headquarters space.

Company officials have signed a 10-year lease for more than 160,000 square feet of space on eight floors in downtown Fort Worth's City Center complex. The builder will become the tower's largest tenant and the building will be renamed D.R. Horton Tower when the company moves more than 220 workers there early next year, officials say.

The space targeted by Horton is to be vacated by Pier 1 Imports, which was to start moving into a new 20-story headquarters nearing completion on downtown's western edge. That move is expected to take several months.

"What this reflects is an ongoing market validation of downtown's appeal as a corporate address," Andrew Taft, president of Downtown Fort Worth Inc., told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Friday's editions.

Horton should move in during the first quarter of 2005, said Sundance Square Management officials handling leasing at the complex.

Donald Horton, the firm's founder, lives in Fort Worth and founded the company in the city in 1978 with \$3,000 and one home site. Officials say his company grew into one of the nation's largest homebuilders by volume, by paying close attention to its bottom line and shrewd acquisitions.

D.R. Horton reported revenues of \$8.7 billion for 2003.

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