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## Gray County eyes lower tax rate

Commissioners pass budget with \$100 per month pay increases for employees

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
 Staff Writer

Gray County property owners will be taxed .488926 cents per \$100 valuation if the proposed rate is passed by county commissioners on Sept. 15 after a public hearing at 9 a.m. Sept. 10.

"That's almost 4 cents less per \$100 valuation, compared to the current year's rate," said Gray County Judge Richard Peet yesterday after county commissioners held their regular meeting in Gray County Courthouse. The tax rate for 2003-2004 is .522267 cents per \$100.

The new rate would be effective Oct. 1 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. In a notice of public hearing for the proposed tax increase, Peet said that a residence valued at \$30,912 last year would have paid \$161.44 in county taxes. The same residence would proba-

bly be valued at \$31,206 for the 2004-2005 budget year and would pay \$152.57 in county taxes under the proposed county tax rate. The decreased tax rate is possible because of increases in property value assessments. The public hearing on Sept. 10 will be held in the

second-floor courtroom of the courthouse at 205 N. Russell. Commissioners' next regular meeting is Sept. 15, when the final vote will be taken on the proposed tax rate. The taxes will fund the

See **COUNTY**, Page 3

### Texas Today

#### Texans pumped for Bush nomination

NEW YORK (AP) — Texas delegates were shining up their boots and pressing their Texas flag shirts as they readied for the highlight of the national convention, when President Bush takes the stage to accept the nomination Thursday night.

They had an energizing preview Wednesday night with the keynote speech of Democratic Georgia Sen. Zell Miller, whose fiery speech brought the convention crowd to its feet several times.

"I'm proud. I'm excited," said Dwight Bosworth, 42, of Dallas, who arrived in New York Wednesday morning because he couldn't leave his business. He said he had watched most of the convention on television.

Texas delegates have been coordinating their convention wear all week. On Monday, the convention's first day, they wore denim shirts and their straw, summer cowboy hats. Then came the polo shirts, followed by Wednesday's blue blazers.

But the loudest wear was being reserved for Thursday, when Bush was to formally accept his party's nomination. Men were to wear Texas flag shirts and women planned to don Texas flag vests. And, of course, they all planned to wear their Stetsons.

#### Halliburton: Investigation shows payments considered

HOUSTON (AP) — Halliburton says an internal investigation related to a liquefied gas plant contract has led to information suggesting that members of a consortium it now leads once considered payments to Nigerian officials.

Halliburton said in a news release posted on its Web site Wednesday that the probe has not found any evidence confirming that payments to Nigerian officials were ever made to obtain or retain business.

The material Halliburton found suggested the payments appeared to have been discussed at least 10 years ago, the company said.

An investigation has been under way into allegations of a \$180 million bribery scandal.

## School, police put together a new game plan

By **DEE DEE LARAMORE**  
 Editor

Harvester fans attending the first home game against Clovis, N.M., Friday night may find the spectating experience less hectic this year.

That's the goal of school officials and local law enforcement. "I've had a lot of people tell me that there's a lot of congestion in front of the concession stand on Friday night. They have trouble getting to the concession stand and getting to the bathrooms," explained Barry Haenisch, superintendent of the Pampa Independent School District.

"Since I've been here at the (high school football) games, I've had people complain about the kids being disrespectful and causing a disruption in the flow of people getting into the stands," added Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner.

Both officials agreed that a large number of unsupervised children attending the games seems to be the root of the problem. "We're going to have a more diligent and better presence than we've had in the past."

— Trevlyn Pitner  
 Pampa Police Chief

So this year, school officials decided on several actions that they believe will relieve the congestion and make watching the Harvesters play more enjoyable for everyone.

Officials estimate that on average, 4,000 to 5,000 people attend home football games during the fall. If it is a major district game or against a strong rival, the attendance can jump to 6,000 or even 8,000, officials agreed.

To help control the crowd, Haenisch said Pampa ISD will increase the number of security staff including hiring more Pampa police officers. In the past, he said, the school district has complied with UIL requirements for 4A schools and hired four police officers to work each game. The primary purpose of the officers is to protect the referees, he explained.

"We're going to have a more diligent and better presence than we've had in the past," he said.

This year, five police officers will work the games and another officer will be added to work district games or any game that higher attendance is expected.

See **GAME**, Page 2



(Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS)

Students gather at the curbs at Pampa Junior High School after classes end for the day. Traffic jams are common on 23rd Avenue and Charles Street during times when parents are dropping off or picking up their children.

## Start of school also brings start of traffic congestion

By **MARILYN POWERS**  
 Staff Writer

The beginning of another school year means motorists must resume obeying certain traffic laws which they did not have to observe during the summer months.

Texas Department of Public Safety in Austin reminds drivers to obey school zone speed limits and other rules, and watch for students crossing the street, according to a news release from the DPS.

One traffic law which is not always observed is the law requiring approaching drivers to stop when a school bus is

stopped to load or unload students on a roadway.

State law requires approaching drivers to stop when a school bus is stopped and operating a visual signal — red flashing lights or a stop sign. Drivers should not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed, or the visual signal is no longer activated. This law does not apply to drivers on the opposite side of a highway or roadway which is divided by a physical barrier or intervening space such as a grass median.

Pampa Police Chief Trevlyn Pitner said the penalty in Pampa for not stopping for a school bus

which is loading or unloading, a Class C misdemeanor, is a fine of between \$400 and \$500, which includes municipal court costs. One woman recently paid about \$450 to Pampa Municipal Court for committing the offense.

If a driver causes serious bodily injury as a result of not stopping for the bus, the offense is a Class A misdemeanor. If the driver has previously been convicted of the Class A offense, the subsequent offense becomes a state jail felony, Pitner said.

A driver who is charged and convicted of not stopping for a

See **TRAFFIC**, Page 3

## School board tweaks goals for '04-'05

By **DEE DEE LARAMORE**  
 Editor

Three changes were made to the district's goals and objectives for 2004-2005 at a meeting Tuesday of the Pampa Independent School District's Board of Education.

Board members worked throughout the summer on the Goals and Objectives for the district, forming a blueprint to help Pampa ISD reach exemplary status by 2007.

At the Tuesday meeting, board members approved the Goals and Objectives with three changes suggested by Superintendent Barry Haenisch:

Under Goal I concerning teaching accountability and staff supervision, the board revised the goal to include at least six walkthrough visits by

campus principals for each teacher during the school year.

Under Goal V regarding parent and community involvement, school officials had planned to gather e-mail addresses of parents as a way to convey school information to them. An attorney, after reading about the plan in The Pampa News, recommended that the district not require e-mail addresses because they would

then become public record and the district would have to provide lists to any individual or group. If a parent voluntarily provided the e-mail address, it would not be a part of the public record and exempt from disclosure, the attorney told school officials.

Also in Goal V, start of Planet K-12 was changed to "ASAP" instead of the first day of school. Haenisch said other computer software problems have kept the dis-

trict from being able to install the program so far.

Board members renewed an inter-local agreement with the Texas Association of School Board's Risk Management Fund for unemployment compensation coverage. The renewal will cost the district \$5,605.12, down from \$5,626.95 paid for the coverage last year, reported Business Manager Carol Fields.

Pampa High School Band Director Bruce Collins requested board approval for this year's spring band trip to Dallas. The trip is scheduled for April 29-May 1 and would include the band performing at a festival at Myerson Symphony Hall, a tour of West End and John F.

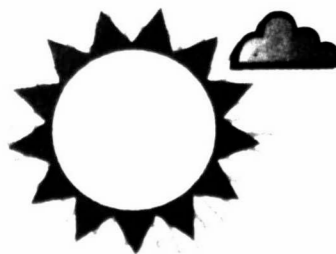
See **GOALS**, Page 3

### Goals and Objectives changes

- Six principal walkthroughs for each teacher per year.

- Parent/ guardian e-mail addresses to be given voluntarily.

- Planet K-12 to be started "as soon as possible."



H 90 L 60

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 4

# Bush ready to accept GOP nomination at convention finale

NEW YORK (AP) — As President Bush prepared to accept the Republican nomination for a second term, Vice President Dick Cheney portrayed his boss as a decisive commander in chief. "He doesn't waffle, he doesn't agonize," Cheney said Thursday.

"That's exactly what we need in a president. We don't need indecision or confusion," Cheney said at a breakfast with Ohio delegates on the concluding day of the Republican National Convention.

Bush was attending a worship service at a

Park Avenue church and then making a brief visit to the Madison Square Garden convention site for a microphone and podium check ahead of his prime-time speech.

About 100 anti-Bush demonstrators staged a quick, loud and well-organized protest at Grand Central Terminal during Thursday's rush hour, unfurling banners and colorful balloons that called on the president to do more in the fight against AIDS. Nineteen people were arrested after they refused police orders to leave.

Convention-related arrests for the week

number more than 1,700, far surpassing those made in much more violent circumstances at Chicago's 1968 Democratic convention.

Cheney, who unleashed a withering attack on Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry in his speech to the convention Wednesday night, cited Ohio's importance in deciding the election and why he believes Bush is the right person to be president.

"When he has to make a decision, he doesn't waffle, he doesn't agonize over it," Cheney told the Ohio gathering.

No Republican has ever won the presidency without winning Ohio. Bush carried the state narrowly in 2000 but polls show it to be a dead heat this year.

Rep. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, a close friend of the Bush family, will play the part of Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards in Cheney's preparation for this fall's vice presidential debate.

Bush planned to use his convention address to encourage Americans to keep him on the job.

## Emergency Services

### Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following incidents and arrests.

#### Tuesday, Aug. 31

Criminal trespass was reported at the Pampa landfill. A fence was cut. Estimated amount of damage was unknown.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 900 block of Fisher.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 1

A missing person report was taken in the 700 block of Magnolia.

Breaking and entering was reported in the 900 block of Terry. Nothing was taken. A

window valued at \$50 was broken.

Burglary was reported in the 2200 block of Dogwood. Nothing was reported missing, and no forced entry was reported.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 1100 block of Duncan. Approximately \$30 damage was done to a windshield.

Mark Bennett, 39, 1044 S. Hobart, was arrested in the 700 block of West Crawford for two counts of no driver's license.

### Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's

Office today reported the following arrests.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 1

Vickie McClelland, 56, 808 E. Locust, was arrested on a grand jury indictment for forgery of a financial instrument.

### Accidents

Pampa Police Department today reported the following accidents.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 1

5:22 p.m. — A 2001 Honda Accord, driven by Elizabeth Ann Ward, 28, 1104 N. Somerville, and a 2001 Chevrolet Lumina, driven by

Ramona Escobedo Portillo, 63, 857 Locust, collided in the intersection of Frederic and Henry streets. No injuries were reported. Portillo was cited for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

### Fire

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

#### Wednesday, Sept. 1

9:23 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a one-vehicle rollover at 17th and Duncan streets with

no injuries and no hazardous material spill. Firefighters stood by until the vehicle was righted and moved from the roadway.

10:44 a.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 1500 block of Banks.

5:23 p.m. — One unit and three firefighters responded to a motor vehicle collision with no injuries at Frederic and Henry streets.

### Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls during the 24-hour period

ending at 7 a.m. today.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 1

9:23 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to 18th and Duncan. No transport.

10:42 a.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1500 block of North Banks and transported a patient(s) to Pampa Regional Medical Center.

2:58 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 100 block of West Foster and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

11:44 p.m. — A mobile ICU responded to the 1700 block of North Russell and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.

## Game

Continued from Page 1

Junior High students, he said, and the security staff will enforce that the students stay in their seats and watch the game.

"This year it's not going to be optional (that they stay in the seats)," Haenisch said. "We'll tell them, if you don't want to watch the football game, don't come to the football game."

"We're working for the school," Pitner asserted. "We'll assist in crowd control and order below the stands, at the concessions and around the perimeter."

"It's really about safety," he added. "We don't want kids hurt crawling around under the stands. We don't want them to get into big fights."

Both Haenisch and Pitner said the intent is to control only students who are unsupervised and causing problems for others.

"We're talking about the wanderers, anyone who is creating a disturbance," Pitner said.

It will take the cooperation of the community to make the plan work, Haenisch said.

"We're asking parents and guardians for their cooperation," the police chief said. "We ask parents to remind their children of the rules."

Pitner stressed that the addition of more police officers is not a security issue. "There's nothing going on," he said. "We're just trying to make it better for everyone. We're not trying to squash the fun."

Rod Porter, assistant athletic director, said that he assigned five faculty members and three administrators for security at Pampa High School games, in addition to ticket takers and ticket sellers who also assist after their duties are finished.

"We have around 20 stationed all over the stadium," he said.

Porter said Gray County Sheriff's deputies often attend the games and are available to help with security if needed.

Haenisch said the increase in athletic event security will cost the school district approximately \$20,000 which has been provided for in the budget.

Pampa will host five games at Harvester Field this football season.

*'It's really about safety. We don't want kids hurt crawling around under the stands. We don't want them to get into big fights.'*

— Trevlyn Pitner  
Pampa Police Chief



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

This prickly-pear cactus has produced deep red fruit in the 600 block of Roberta.

## Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 91. South southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 63. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 94.

Windy, with a south southwest wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as

high as 35 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low near 61.

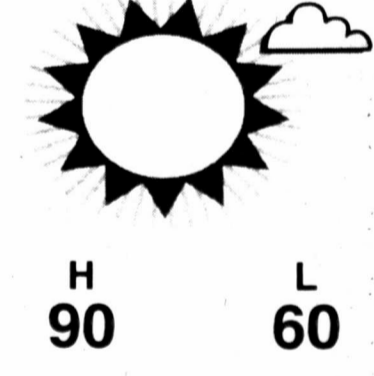
Windy, with a south wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Partly cloudy, with a high around 88. South southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. North northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 82. Northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.



## Obituaries: Services tomorrow

SCRIBNER, Bonnie Jean — 2 p.m., First Baptist Church, Pampa.

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### Stocks

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

Wheat	3.19
Milo	3.98
Corn	4.61
Soybeans	5.78

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

OXY	53.20	+0.37
BP PLC ADR	54.52	+0.04
Cabot Corp	39.96	+0.34
Cabot Oil Gas	41.22	+0.06
Coca Cola	44.64	NC
VLO	66.96	-0.46
HAL	29.94	+0.06
Trad	31.80	-0.20
NOI	31.35	+0.33
KMI	61.30	+0.30
XCEL	17.61	+0.07
Kerr McGee	53.39	+0.28
XOM	46.53	+0.09
Limited	20.35	+0.10
Williams	11.94	+0.10
MCD	27.41	+0.22
Atmos	25.42	-0.08
Pioneer Nat	34.45	-0.05
JCP	37.67	-0.15
COP	76.02	+0.27
SLB	63.60	+0.63
Tenneco	13.51	+0.17
CVX	98.65	-0.02
Wal-Mart	52.51	-0.12
OKE	23.63	-0.07
NS Grp	15.37	-0.02
New York Gold	408.75	
Silver	6.77	
West Texas Crude	44.00	

## Judge orders battered child removed from life support

DALLAS (AP) — A 5-year-old girl left brain dead after an alleged beating by her mother and stepfather should be removed from life support, a judge ruled Thursday after doctors testified the girl had no hope of recovering.

The judge acted on a request by Texas' Child Protective Services, which took custody of the child earlier in the week.

The girl was admitted to a hospital Aug. 18 with head trauma, a broken pelvis, a broken arm and broken ribs.

"This little girl deserved a better life," Juvenile District Court Judge John Sholden said. But based on testimony from her doctors at Children's Medical Center, "that life's already ended," he said.

## Point

Point of Sale and a new vel now available announced Wed  
The new reg eral improv and eliminate control, accord Gaye Whiteh Assessor-Colle  
"This new improvement Whitehead. "It vehicle owner worthless if the Officials say system will b employees.  
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Students or prompt extra drivers, as we getting on or o  
The City recently began dents in the vi Amarillo hi because they down the mid during their

## Goal

Continued fr

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Collins said arrange a tour Book Reposit and Dealey President K assassinated i said only one day will be planned snow 29 is not need

The board approved the r  
In other ac the board app lowing:

- hiring Lo grade teache Elementary;
- retention tax property at the city can co problems;
- designati Learning C Alternative C
- final amer

## Medical fu for Pampa

A fund t Cindy Coop expenses has lished at Southwest, Kingsmill.  
The fund v Special Olyn Club.

# Point of Sale Sticker Printing now in use at Gray County office

Point of Sale Sticker Printing (POSSP) and a new vehicle registration sticker are now available in Gray County, officials announced Wednesday.

The new registration stickers feature several improvements to deter sticker misuse and eliminate the need for state inventory control, according to a news release from Gaye Whitehead, Gray County Tax Assessor-Collector.

"This new method is a significant improvement in our processes," said Whitehead. "It offers greater protection for vehicle owners by making the stickers worthless if they are stolen."

Officials say the new vehicle registration system will be a time saver for county employees.

"We also expect to improve our customer service efficiency. Because POSSP prints the sticker on the customer's receipt, county employees will no longer have to staple reg-

istration stickers to receipts and maintain manual sticker books and inventories," Whitehead explained.

The new process, piloted in Caldwell and Bastrop counties, was implemented in 185 counties across the state on Aug. 25.

The initial phase involves counties that do not process transactions through subcontractor stations, like grocery stores, or automobile dealerships.

These types of transactions are to be piloted in McLennan, Williamson, Angelina and Harris counties over the next few months, the release states, with full statewide implementation expected to be completed by early 2005.

Registration stickers will now be printed at the point of sale, officials said.

Information specific to the registered vehicle will be printed directly on the sticker which will help deter theft.

Texas Department of Transportation

switched from license plate stickers to windshield stickers for most passenger vehicles about 10 years ago to cut down on theft. Plate stickers are still used for motorcycles, trailers and some other type of vehicles, however.

The new method is expected to enhance TxDOT's efforts.

Each sticker will show the last eight digits of the vehicle identification number, the license plate number, county of registration, and registration month and year.

Because each windshield and plate sticker is vehicle-specific, officials say it's important for customers who own more than one vehicle to be sure they apply the sticker to the correct one.

Also customers should carefully follow instructions for peeling and applying the sticker.

The new windshield sticker must be peeled from the back of the form; otherwise,

it could be damaged and a replacement sticker would be necessary.

This method also eliminates the manufacturing and storage of 400,000 preprinted sticker books annually for the current system.

In the past, yearly windshield stickers were printed in mass quantities based on projections of annual vehicle registrations.

POSSP will eliminate excess stickers being printed.

As each sticker is printed "on demand" for a specific vehicle rather than preprinted and later assigned to a vehicle, any internal accounting of the blank forms used for POSSP is now optional rather than required.

Registration transactions will be tracked through the state's automated Registration and Title System in much the same way as the previous method.

## County

Continued from Page 1

county budget for 2004-2005, which was passed Wednesday by commissioners. The total budget for the coming fiscal year is \$8,637,121, an increase of \$354,546 over the 2003-2004 budget of \$8,282,575.

The general fund portion of the budget increased \$453,669, from \$5,684,186 for 2003-2004 to \$6,137,855 for 2004-2005. Departments in the general fund which received increases in their budgets are county auditor, from \$115,685 last year to \$117,452 for the coming year; building maintenance, from \$85,210 to \$95,008; county buildings, from \$73,600 to \$77,600; 31st

District Court, from \$40,563 to \$42,595; 223rd District Court, from \$158,058 to \$164,587; highway patrol, from \$35,817 to \$38,040;

Perry Lefors Airport, from \$53,550 to \$72,417; veterans' service, from \$35,327 to \$37,329; extension service, from \$87,990 to \$89,249; White Deer Land Museum, from \$92,034 to \$98,403; general miscellaneous, from \$910,010 to \$969,338; tax assessor/collector, from \$452,086 to \$475,963; district clerk, from \$229,451 to \$237,286; county clerk, from \$248,831 to \$352,484;

sheriff administration, from \$872,903 to \$937,330; sheriff jail from \$947,031 to \$1,089,666; county judge, from \$116,672 to \$120,169;

county attorney, from \$111,852 to \$114,206; county treasurer, from \$99,731 to \$102,728; district attorney, from \$196,221 to \$202,909; justice of the peace precinct 1, from \$78,012 to \$81,359; justice of the peace precinct 4, from \$49,936 to \$51,669; constable precinct 1, from \$43,523 to \$45,447; and state indigent health, from \$161,076 to \$183,200.

*'We've lost two people to the city. We lose jailers to the prison system. Both are because they pay more.'*

— Richard Peet  
Gray County Judge

## Traffic

Continued from Page 1

school bus while it is loading or unloading passengers is also subject to having their driver's license suspended for up to six months, Pitner said.

Students on foot may prompt extra caution by drivers, as well as students getting on or off buses.

The City of Amarillo recently began ticketing students in the vicinity of one Amarillo high school because they were walking down the middle of streets during their lunch hour,

obstructing traffic.

Pitner said Pampa has not had the same degree of problem with students in roadways.

"I'm unaware of any problems with kids intentionally interfering with traffic," he said.

Pampa's morning and afternoon traffic jams at each school have more to do with vehicles than pedestrians, he said.

"It's so congested (at Pampa Junior High School) sometimes that we can't even get in there. If we have to respond to another call, we can't get out of there," Pitner said.

There is no crossing guard

at PJHS this semester, Pitner said.

"The city has to pay for crossing guards at school zones. The city employs them. A lot of middle schools and junior high schools don't have crossing guards. Very few other schools have crossing guards for that age level," he said.

"We are looking at it this year, at least this semester, to see how it goes without a crossing guard," Pitner said of PJHS.

Parents should be cautious about parking across the street and waving their child across in an area that does not have a crosswalk, he said. Parents who feel more

crossing guards are needed may choose volunteer crossing guards to work the crosswalks, he said.

## Goals

Continued from Page 1

Kennedy Museum, Six Flags and possibly a performance at a Texas Rangers baseball game.

Collins said he hopes to arrange a tour of the Texas Book Repository Building and Dealey Plaza where President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. He said only one actual school day will be missed if a planned snow day on April 29 is not needed.

The board unanimously approved the request.

In other action Tuesday, the board approved the following:

- hiring Lori Boyd, fifth grade teacher at Lamar Elementary;
- retention of delinquent tax property at 825 Talley so the city can correct drainage problems;
- designation of Pampa Learning Center as an Alternative Campus; and
- final amendments to the

2003-2004 budget.

Jane Steele, deputy superintendent, presented a curriculum department report and the board received a property value study report provided by Linebarger, Goggan, Blair and Sampson, LLP, of Austin.

The firm represents the district in negotiations with

the state comptroller's office regarding property tax values and also collects delinquent property tax payments. The firm receives 10 percent of any additional tax values it is able to obtain through negotiations and 15 percent of delinquent taxes it is able to collection, school officials said.

## Medical fund set up for Pampa resident

A fund to help with Cindy Cooper's medical expenses has been established at FirstBank Southwest, 300 W. Kingsmill.

The fund was set up by Special Olympics Booster Club.



**"MY ADVICE ON OVERHEAD POWER LINES? DON'T TOUCH 'EM WITH A 10-FOOT POLE. 10-FOOT LADDER. 10-FOOT FISHING ROD. 10-FOOT PRUNER..."**

"Don't touch them with anything. Tools, ropes, kites - anything that hits a power line has the potential to kill. Then there are the things a line can hit by itself. The ground, for one, in high winds or a storm. If you see a downed power line, leave the area immediately and call our Emergency Line, 1-800-895-1999. Or in case of fire or injury, call 911. And take it from a parent - if your kids want to climb a tree, the one near the power line is not the place to do it. Play it safe. Stay over 10 feet away from the power lines around your house and yard. Remember: Stay away. Stay alive." Xcel Energy. You get all of our energy.

Tom, Lineman

For more safety tips, visit our website at [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com).

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S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 4

# Viewpoints

## Nation worships at the altar of sensitivity

"Red may be a startling color, but the important thing is that it gets results," reads an on-line article penned recently by Jim Brown, writing for AgapePress. Brown gives credit for this insightful comment to veteran English teacher Carol Jago.

In the article, Brown discusses a "startling" and unsettling trend by modern educators to apparently shirk the color red for the less offensive color purple.

The article notes that "The Boston Globe" reports some teachers across the country are now correcting their students' papers with purple pens instead of red

ones, because they believe red has a negative connotation. (well, yeah) and they have concerns that it adversely affects students' confidence and self-esteem." Tsk, tsk, tsk. We mustn't discourage students who are self-confident and happy just because they are not reaching their full potential ... or because they are not studying or because they are failing to turn in their homework or, well, just because.

I fear we are becoming a nation that worships at the altar of sensitivity and diversity to the point that we have lost all sense of proportion.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the human landscape were

completely and utterly devoid of pain or conflict of any nature? Our knee-jerk reaction, no doubt, is to respond with a resounding "yes"; however, perhaps we would be too hasty.

Not all pain and not all conflict are bad. It is, after all, adversity that shapes us. It is how we respond to life's little roadblocks that defines and gives us character.

Some people, for instance, when faced with a problem, tend to give up while others

try harder to achieve and to overcome. They push through to discover the limits of human ingenuity and perseverance.

Who do you think is happiest? The quitter or the doggedly determined? Whose horizons are broadened here?

Let's face it, life is no picnic. We all fail. We all experience hurt feelings. It is often through our mistakes that we learn life's most important lessons, and through the careless or deliberately hurt-

ful actions of others that we understand how much harm human beings can wreak upon one another.

If youngsters are brought up in a world where feeling good about themselves is the pinnacle of successful thinking, where is the incentive to look outside themselves and "feel" for someone else?

If feeling good is the ultimate goal, why bother to cultivate humility, modesty, courtesy and respect towards others?

If a highly developed sense of self is tantamount to happiness and a well-structured life, how then do we reconcile such inner-favor with the human conscience?

When does this internal predator of good conduct versus bad get "developed?"

I mean, guilt and healthy self-esteem doth not go hand-in-hand, right? For guilt, without doubt one of the most uncomfortable and unpleasant of human emotions, is the technique whereby we convict ourselves, not only of ill judgment, but of inappropriate, immoral or unjust thoughts or actions.

Educators, listen up.

\*\*\*

Skyla Bryant is news editor for The Pampa News. Email her at [lifestyles@thepampa.com](mailto:lifestyles@thepampa.com)

**Skyla Bryant**

News Editor



## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 2, the 246th day of 2004. There are 120 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri, ending World War II.

### On this date:

In 1666, the Great Fire of London broke out, claiming thousands of homes, but only a few lives.

In 1789, the United States Treasury Department was established.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman's forces occupied Atlanta.

In 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt offered the advice, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair.

In 1924, the Rudolf Friml operetta "Rose Marie" opened on Broadway.

In 1944, during World War II, Navy pilot George Herbert Walker Bush was shot down by Japanese forces as he completed a bombing run over the Bonin Islands. (Bush was rescued by the crew of the U.S. submarine Finback; his two crew members, however, died.)

In 1945, Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam an independent republic.

## Our readers write

### Better right than President

To the editor,  
The Ochiltree Observer article "Too Many Books" reminded me of a new book by Mario Cuomo, former governor of New York, "Why Lincoln Matters Today More than Ever." Only 183 pages with chapters dealing with Lincoln's wisdom regarding war, civil liberties, religion, race, Supreme Court — a must read.

Mario Cuomo, once a Democratic presidential hopeful, might best be remembered for his speech at a long past Democratic convention. A speech I like to refer to as "Let us all

move forward in America like a giant wagon train headed west in which we will leave no one behind."

Unlike the most recent John Edwards speech, "The Two Americas Speech," which most everyone labeled, "The Same Old Song" has already been given by the great Democratic orator, William Jennings Bryan, who ran for President three times in the late 1890s. He lost all three times, but was referred to as the peerless leader of the Democratic party. Edward's speech is clearly wrong for America.

When one runs for an office as I have, you know you must give several addresses over a period of

Continued on Page 5



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JEFF PARKER

## Power not limited to the rich

The truly rich don't deserve all the political hype we hear; they're only a tiny percentage of our population and not that important.

According to recent U.S. Treasury statistics, the top 1 percent of income earners have an adjusted gross income that starts around \$300,000. While \$300,000 or \$400,000 a year is nothing to sneeze at, it's a far cry from being rich; it's not even yacht-and-Gulfstream-jet money.

The truly rich Americans are those with assets like Bill Gates (\$46 billion), Warren Buffett (\$43 billion) and Paul Allen (\$21 billion). All

told, there are about 275 Americans in the billionaire club. Having just a couple of million dollars in assets won't get you much respect as a rich person.

The 99 percent-plus of the rest of us can safely ignore the truly rich. Our attention is better focused on issues far more important to us instead of allowing politicians to divert our attention by getting us worked up over whether the rich are paying their fair share and so-called

tax cuts for the rich. The reason we can ignore the rich is because they have little or no power over our lives.

Even if Gates, Buffett, Allen and the 272 other billionaires pooled their assets, what could they make you and me do? Could they force you to bus your kid to a school across town? Could they force you to abandon use of your property so as to provide an abode for some endangered species? Could

they force you to wear a seat belt when you drive? Or could they force you into the government's retirement program? All by themselves, billionaires and millionaires have little power over us compared to the awesome power that politicians and midlevel government bureaucrats have over us. They can force us to do many things that we otherwise wouldn't do.

"All by themselves" is the operative phrase. The rich can get power over us, but they must first spend their resources to get permission

See RICH, Page 5

**Walter Williams**  
Columnist



## 'Don't forget the economy ...'

Houston Chronicle on domestic issues reassert their importance:

The war, either the one in Iraq or the one fought decades ago in Vietnam, has been the principal focus of the presidential campaign. George W. Bush promotes himself as a wartime president. Sen. John Kerry, the Democratic challenger, wishes to be seen as a hero in a war he later condemned, but finds himself the target of charges, unproved, that he did not distinguish himself in action.

Regardless of the candidates' aims, economic matters are pushing their way to

the front, as if to say, "Don't forget the economy, stupid."

The latest U.S. Census figures show Texans' wages slipped and poverty increased from 2000 to 2003. U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that average wages have increased hardly at all over the last two decades. Medium household income has risen, but more people are working longer hours and multiple jobs. Eroding health insurance coverage

has left many families worse off, even if their income rose.

U.S. economic prosperity depends upon consumers' sustained profligacy. As a consequence, the Federal Reserve Board reported in

June, household debt has grown by 9 or 10 percent each year since the 2001 recession. President Bush is touting financial initiatives under the rubric of "ownership society." The typical household, however, would

be better off gaining affordable health insurance and reducing its high-interest debt than acquiring new property.

Although middle-class Americans enjoyed some tax cuts under the Bush administration, the gains were often wiped out by rising property tax bills.

The Bush administration advertises that the federal deficit is declining, but that has not happened yet. This year the deficit is expected to exceed \$445 billion, up from \$375 billion in the last fiscal year. The only thing

See ECONOMY, Page 5

### Texas Thoughts

Houston Chronicle

**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
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Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

### Fetch, anyone?

This black and white dog seemed happy to entertain herself by playing with a stick in the 400 block of North Dwight.

## Rich

Continued from Page 4

from our elected representatives to rip us off. Wealthy corporate executives can use their wealth and influence to get politicians to rig markets in their favor — like keeping foreign sugar out so they can charge us higher prices and earn more profit.

They can convince politicians to enact laws and regulations and create special privileges that benefit them and their allies at the expense of the rest of us. Donald Trump got politicians to use laws of eminent domain to throw Vera Coking, an elderly widow, out of her Atlantic City, N.J., home to make room for expansion of his casino. Had it not been for the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for Justice, Atlantic City officials would have succeeded.

We might be tempted to blame the rich. I say no. In the example of Donald Trump, had he privately

tried to take Vera Coking's house, he would have been arrested and sent to jail. He avoids that risk by getting politicians under the color of law to do the same thing. In this case, we should blame

much more than Donald Trump.

Finally, there's one thing that I truly don't understand, America's leftists, whether they are heads-full-of-mush college

students and their professors, politicians, civil rights activists or union leaders, just love to beat up on the rich. But there's something they need to explain.

Why are so many of their heroes rich and super rich? Most leftists, unionists and ex-flower children support John Kerry's candidacy. It

turns out that if Kerry becomes president, he'll be the richest president in U.S. history and his vice president a multimillionaire. Leftists also idolize and worship the Hollywood rich

and other rich people in the sports and entertainment industries. I'd like to know their criteria for which rich deserve our condemnation and which don't.

As for me, I have nothing against rich people. In fact, I've been struggling most of my life to join them.

\*\*\*

*'... if Kerry becomes president, he'll be the richest president in U.S. history and his vice president a multimillionaire.'*

— Walter Williams  
Columnist

*Walter Williams is the John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. He is a public speaker, syndicated columnist, author and frequent guest on many national radio and television news programs.*

## Letter

Continued from Page 4

several months and it is hard not to repeat the same old message.

I borrowed from Lincoln who liked to start with "My politics are sweet and simple like the little old lady dancing." I would start the same, but drop the little old lady dancing, saying I favored school prayer, opposed abortion, and pledged to

support indigent health care for all. And go on with the message of Cuomo to leave no one behind in this great country of ours.

While my message was not well received by all Democrats and health care providers, I took great pride in saying like the great Henry Clay, who also ran for President three times only to lose all three times, "I would rather be right than President."

John D. Seaman  
Perryton

## Economy

Continued from Page 4

that declined was the estimate of the budgetary damage.

Meanwhile, the corporate pension meltdown threatens the employment and financial security of tens of thousands of Americans. The ability of taxpayers to bail out the pension funds is

strained and subject to collapse.

National security is government's first duty, but from time to time throughout the day Americans stop thinking about the distant war and the unease produced by the constant threat of terrorism. In such moments, they are free to contemplate how hard they are working, with little assurance they will remain insured and employed.

## Calendar of events

• **Pampa Area Ministerial Alliance** meets the first Monday of every month. Location changes monthly.

• **The Pampa Prison Ministry** meets the first Tuesday of every month at Central Baptist Church located at Francis and Starkweather at 7 p.m. sharp. For further information call or J.B Walker at 669-2266.

• **St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church** hosts Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) beginning at 7:15 p.m.,

Wednesdays at 2004 Williston. For more information, call Aloise Martin at 883-4901 or Peggy Rodriguez at 669-2683.

• **Gray County Chapter of the American Red Cross** is seeking volunteers from the community to respond during times of crisis in Pampa and other parts of the county. ARC is willing to deliver informational discussions on disaster preparedness to area church or community organizations. For more information, call (806) 669-7121.

• **St. Mark will host a monthly breakfast** the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

• **Lovett Memorial Library** will offer a story hour at 10 a.m., every Tuesday. The free program is open to children 18 months to 6 years of age and will include stories, crafts and other activities. No registration is required. For more information, call the library at 669-5780.

## Judge says lawsuit didn't have teeth

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)— A judge says the lawsuit just didn't have teeth.

Third District Judge L.A. Dever dismissed a lawsuit brought by Tina Keeney, who claimed emotional distress after alleging a can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup she split with her 13-month-old son contained a human tooth.

"I just don't eat," said the 37-

year-old West Jordan resident. "It has affected the way I shop, the way I fix food, things that I eat."

She says she's had "obsessive" eating issues since the July 9, 2002, incident.

"To the contrary, Ms. Keeney indicates that she is not sick and has not suffered diseases, ulcers or headaches as a result of the incident," Dever wrote.

## Rub A Dub Dub...



Kathy and Bowser

Please Welcome

**Kathy**

Our New Pet Groomer At  
Easley Animal Hospital

## FINAL DAYS... SALE ENDS SATURDAY, SEPT. 4<sup>TH</sup>

EVERYTHING UP TO  
**50% TO 70% OFF**  
PLUS... TAKE EXTRA **30% OFF** LOWEST SALE PRICE

*images*

Downtown Pampa • 669-1091

## Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

Gray County Commissioners Court will conduct a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of

### Gray County

from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 5.9 percent

on September 10, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

Gray County Courtroom

Gray County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

The Gray County Commissioners Court is scheduled to vote on the tax rate

that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on

September 15, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

At the Gray County Courtroom

Gray County Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I know you care passionately about individuals taking steps each day to improve the quality of their lives. Please help me spread the word about improving the health of millions of Americans.

Nearly two out of three Americans are overweight/obese and at risk for diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses associated with obesity. Recent studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that overweight and obesity may soon surpass tobacco as the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. People need to know that conquering weight gain is more about taking a daily walk around the neighborhood than running a marathon.

Please encourage your readers to see for themselves how small steps can lead to big health benefits. Taking the stairs instead of the escalator, substituting fruit for sweets, and eating only half portions of dessert can add up to giant steps on the path to a healthier life.

Earlier this year, we introduced a program and Web site called Healthy Lifestyles to help individuals and families make healthy choices about their diets and physical activity. The site, [www.smallstep.gov](http://www.smallstep.gov), provides hundreds of simple suggested steps to get people started.

— TOMMY G. THOMPSON, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DEAR SECRETARY THOMPSON: You're right, mail on the subject of obesity does cross my desk. I'm pleased to promote your campaign because I want to do my part in helping my readers help themselves to longer, healthier lives.

It's interesting that you mentioned "steps" to better health, because coincidentally, I received the following a few days before your letter came:

DEAR ABBY: When I hit the

scale at 250-plus, my blood sugar shot up and I knew it was finally time to take action. I had read an article about walking 10,000 steps a day and decided to try it. It changed my life.

At first I couldn't walk more than 6,000 steps without hurting all over. It was discouraging, but it was my last hope, so I cut back to a more manageable number of steps and increased gradually -- by about 500 steps a week. After three months, I was finally up to 10,000 steps a day.

I lost a pant size in three months, but there were more benefits: My appetite changed. I enjoy salads, vegetables, fresh fruit, lean meat. I began to discern the difference between being full and being satisfied. I stopped craving food between meals.

It has now been a year, and I have lost more than 40 pounds and increased to 11,000 steps a day. My blood sugar and blood pressure have normalized.

Please, Abby, encourage your readers to check out a 10,000-step program. Information is readily available on the Internet -- just type "10,000 steps" into your browser. The only cost is a good pair of walking shoes and a pedometer.

— LEANER AND HEALTHIER IN NEW YORK

DEAR L AND H: Congratulations for your progress and thanks for sharing your secret. When it comes to exercise, sometimes the hardest step to take is that first one.

Now, I have a favor to ask of Secretary Thompson. Please do Americans a favor and issue government guidelines about what "low carb" means. Too many people are bingeing on "low-carb" products in the belief they can eat unlimited amounts and still lose weight. Some of those products contain more carbs in one serving than a dieter should consume in an entire day, and too much fat as well.

## For Better Or Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## B.C.



## Hagar The Horrible



## Peanuts



## Blondie



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

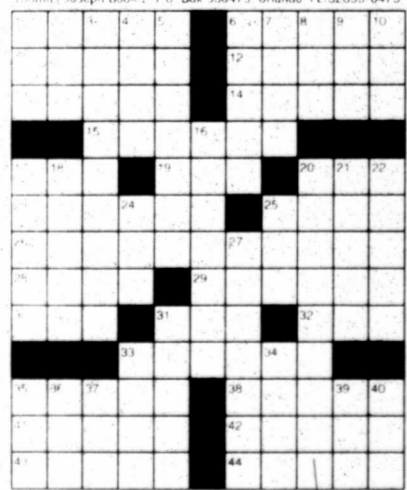
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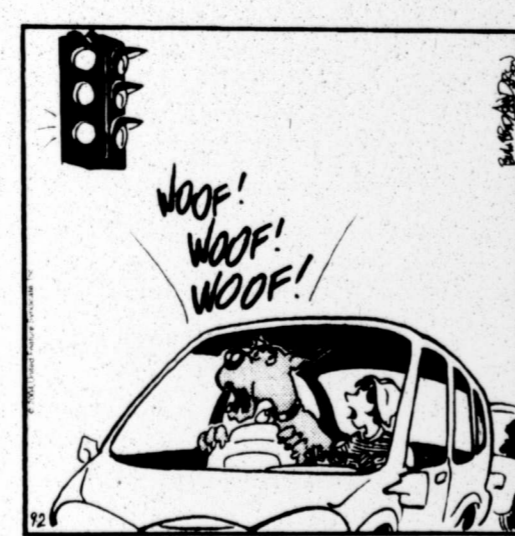
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NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.50 (check/mo) to Thomas Joseph Books, P.O. Box 5, 6475, Orlando, FL 32851-6475.



## Marmaduke



"OK, so I'm wrong. Barking at it did make it turn green."

## The Family Circus



"I don't like this state. It has too much history."

## Flo & Friends



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# Pampa Champion this week ment. PCC

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# Sports Day

## Harvesters host Clovis

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

It's been a good week of practice for the Pampa High School Harvesters. Focus and resolve the motivation following last week's performance against the Rangers of Perryton.

Head Coach Heath Parker says things have really picked up this week, specifically after Monday's practice. "I have felt good about practice this week. The team has a real fire and intensity," Parker said. He added, "But we do not expect to go from mediocre to great in one week."

What would the difference be if his team was 1-1 after this Friday night as opposed to 0-2? "We are never going to overreact. We are focused on improvement. Our team will never judge itself by the scoreboard," Parker said. He added, "We will not sell the house or burn down the shed just because

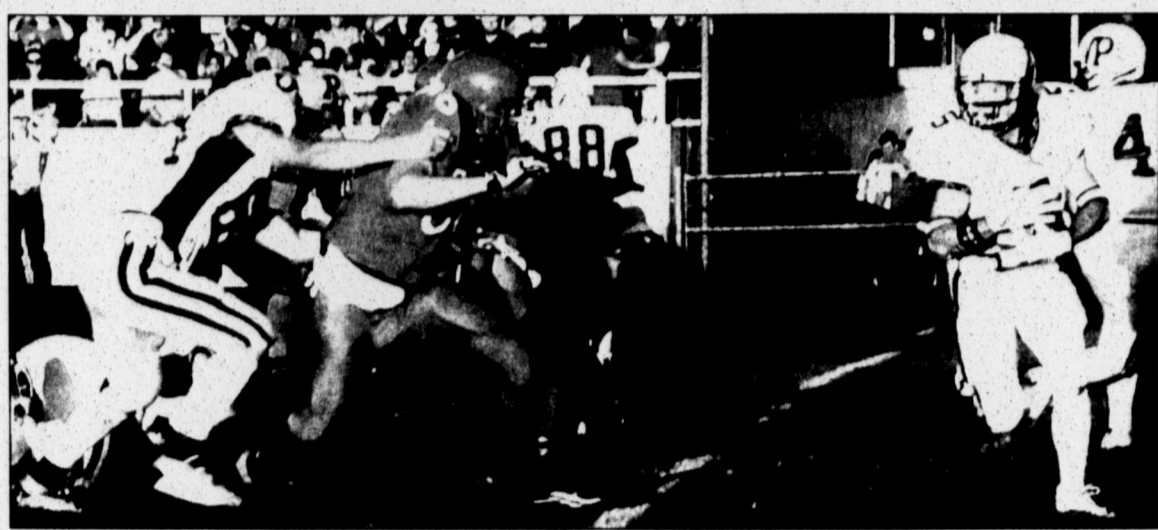
we lost a game."

Parker also pointed out his team was early into its non-district schedule. If it were the district schedule, things might be a little different.

The Wildcats of Clovis mark the second non-district game on the Harvester's schedule. Obviously a win at home for Pampa would not only bring them to .500 (1-1), but it would also boost the team's confidence and further establish the character of the team that Coach Parker considers extremely important.

Asked to offer his thoughts on Clovis, Parker said, "Clovis is a very good team also steeped in tradition. Two proud franchises will take the field Friday night—both eager to get its first win." Clovis was shutout by the Mayfield (NM) Trojans in their season-opener last week, 35-0.

Game time tomorrow night is 7:30 p.m.



Shea Brown, #5, takes a handoff from Harvester quarterback Tyler Doughty, #4, (above) while the Pampa offensive line tries to lend some run support. Cameron Segar #81, (below) has Perryton quarterback Bo Merrell by the ankle as Harvester teammates Dusty Lenderman #20, and Sam Gamble #33, close in to help in last weeks' season opener.



## Other Week Two games of local interest

Canadian vs. River Road, 7:30 p.m. (home)  
White Deer vs. Spearman, 7:30 p.m. (away)  
McLean vs. Happy, 7 p.m. (home)  
Miami vs. Kress, 7:30 p.m. (away)  
Wheeler vs. Trinity Fellowship, 7:30 p.m. (away)

Groom vs. Holy Cross, 7:30 p.m. (home)  
Lefors vs. Bible Heritage, 7:30 p.m. (home)  
\*Game is Saturday, Sept. 4.

## KOBE, KNIGHT AND SANDERS

### Three individual examples of wasting time, money and other resources

#### Example One

Persecutors in the Kobe Bryant rape trial dropped the sexual assault charge against the NBA star because their client didn't want to participate in the trial process any longer. What? I have held the thought that, knowing Bryant and his attorneys would be able to buy their way out of this, the fact of the matter is Bryant, long seen as what his sport and fellow athletes should want to emulate, committed adultery. He cheated on his wife. He, for at least a night, was as dirty as others who came before him. The victim's past should never have been called in to question. So what if she was something of a tart? If she in fact declined Bryant's advances and he ignored them, a crime was committed.

But to take the process to this

point, to where a jury of your peers is being put in place, then declare you don't want to continue, that's wrong as well. And should be punished. A lot of money and man hours went into getting this case ready for trial. What restitution should she face? Did Bryant pay for her silence? It wouldn't make sense if he did. A civil suit is still pending.

But here is the thing that really got me. Many sources have quoted Kobe in the aftermath of yesterday's announcement as saying, "Although I believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did." He added, "I now understand how she feels that she did not consent to this encounter."

Sounds like the confession of a guilty man to me. And thanks to

the rule of Double Jeopardy, why not?

#### Example Two

Seinfeld. The Drew Carey Show. Home Improvement. For those a little more 'mature', let's

Michael J. Stevens

Sports Editor



go with All In the Family. Three's Company. Happy Days.

Me personally, I have been a die-hard Simpsons fan for many years now. Still, if what I heard yesterday is true, and I have every reason to believe it is, we can get ready for the next great television comedy which will be based on the

life of current Texas Tech Red Raider basketball coach, Bob Knight.

Seems the programming wizards of CBS and Paramount Television think Knight's life is worthy of a sitcom. Knight has already met with them. He has given the project his blessing and has offered to serve as a consultant.

Whenever I think of Bob Knight and his life, I laugh, don't you?

Where have you gone, Norman Lear?

#### Example Three

So Prime-Time has signed a one-year deal with the Baltimore Ravens? You have to hand it to Coach Billick. He's playing his role to the hilt, pretending to be happy to have Deion Sanders on the team.

One needs to keep in mind that

Sanders, only a year ago, was openly pining to be the next Head Coach of the Atlanta Falcons. The network he was working for at the time allowed him to do so. Maybe they just wanted to get rid of him.

Does Sanders still have game? Possibly. But why would the Ravens sign him? Based on the 1-year deal he received from Baltimore, and given his propensity to get hurt (he whined about his toe constantly before going on his three year sabbatical), it is not inconceivable that Deion could go out in the first game, stub his toe and ride the pine to a Super Bowl ring. He has already said he is only doing it for the chance to win a ring.

I wonder how many other has-beens are on the phone to teams today trying to work come-back deals?



Pampa resident and past PCC runner-up Champion Doug McFatridge will be taking part in this weekend's Warren Hart Top of Texas tournament.

## PCC hosts golf tournament

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The 67th annual Hart Warren Top of Texas golf tournament will tee off this Saturday at the Pampa Country Club.

The tournament, which began in 1938, is rich in tradition and has hosted many of the nation's top golfers. Former tournament winners include past Master's Champion Charles Coody and U.S. Open Champion Orville Moody's brother, Lloyd Moody. Pampa resident Richard Ellis, is a 6-time winner at this event. Five of his wins came during an impressive streak that lasted from 1979 through 1983.

The format consists of 72 holes of medal play in the Championship Flight, 54 holes of medal play in the President's Flight. There are 30 players scheduled to take part in each this year. There will also be three days of match play in other flights.

See GOLF, Page 8

## McLean, Wheeler seek much needed improvement

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

While Miami and White Deer enjoyed the extra week of practice, Wheeler and McLean may have wished for it.

Miami had the early open date as they were scheduled to face Ft. Elliott, whose district canceled football this year as low student numbers made it almost impossible to field a team.

If the Wheeler Mustangs held any misconceptions about their first season of 6-man football, reality reared its ugly

head last week. Once a District 3-1A 11-man powerhouse, low enrollment numbers forced the Mustangs to make the switch. And judging by last week's final score, the learning curve is greater than expected. Wheeler was rocked by District 2 force, Valley, 76-27.

Preseason number one District 1 pick McLean had a tough time with District 4 mid-pack choice Chillicothe. McLean lost that game last week, 48-33.

Both teams will be looking to improve on those performances this week.

## Lady Harvesters travel

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS  
Sports Editor

The Pampa High School Lady Harvester volleyball teams are taking part in tournament action Friday and Saturday.

The JV squad will be on the road for a tournament in Dumas.

The varsity team makes the long trip to Seminole.

## Scores and results needed

Please be sure to get your scores and results into The Pampa News sports department as soon as possible. Faxed them to 669-2520. E-mail to sports@thepampanews.com.

You are encouraged to do the same with upcoming events as well. Please allow plenty of time between your submission and the date of the event.

## Kobe Bryant sex assault case dismissed

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) — The sexual assault charge against Kobe Bryant has been dropped, but his accuser — whose reluctance to participate derailed the criminal trial before it really got started — isn't letting him off the hook just yet.

With jury selection under way, the criminal case was dropped late Wednesday by prosecutors who said the 20-year-old woman accusing Bryant of rape decided not to participate. She dropped out following a series of gaffes that led to the public disclosure of her name and other personal details, and prosecutors said they would not carry on without her testimony.

But the Los Angeles

Lakers star still faces his accuser's federal civil lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. That case is still on, said L. Lin Wood, the woman's attorney.

"There has been no settlement of the civil lawsuit and there have been no discussions concerning a settlement," he said.

The 26-year-old Bryant issued a written apology that stopped short of taking responsibility for his actions.

"Although I truly believe this encounter between us was consensual, I recognize now that she did not and does not view this incident the same way I did," he said.

Bryant's statement was a

condition of the woman withdrawing her testimony, his lawyers told ESPN for a story posted on its Web site Thursday. Defense attorneys Pamela Mackey and Hal Haddon told the sports network that the accuser "insisted on that statement as a price of freedom."

Bryant tearfully admitted more than a year ago he had consensual sex with the then-19-year-old employee of a Vail-area resort where he stayed last summer. If convicted, the married father of a little girl could have faced four years to life in prison, or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.

See KOBE, Page 8

## Texans trade punter to K.C.

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans traded punter Steve Cheek to the Kansas City Chiefs on Wednesday in exchange for a conditional seventh-round selection next year.

Cheek has spent time in four NFL training camps and played for the past two seasons in NFL Europe.

He was not going to make the Texans as Chad Stanley has a firm grip on the job in Houston. However, he had looked impressive in camp and had the second-best preseason average among AFC punters at 46.2 yards.

S E P 0 2 2 0 0 4

# Wednesday's MLB Linescores

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

Seattle 000 002 000 — 2 6 2  
Toronto 000 002 20x — 4 8 0

Meche, Villone (6), Hasegawa (7) and Olivo; Bush, Frasor (8), Speier (9) and Zaun. W—Bush 3-3. L—Villone 5-5. Sv—Speier (2). HRs—Seattle, BBoone (19). Toronto, Menechino (8).

Cleveland 100 000 020 — 3 6 0  
New York 000 300 11x — 5 9 0

Sabathia, Riske (7), Miller (7), Bartosh (7), Betancourt (8) and VMartinez, Laker (8); OHernandez, Gordon (8), MRivera (8) and Posada. W—OHernandez 6-0. L—Sabathia 10-9. Sv—MRivera (46). HRs—New York, Posada (18), Olerud (7), Cairo (5).

Baltimore 300 001 202 — 8 16 1  
Tampa Bay 000 000 000 — 0 2 1

Cabrera, Williams (7), Parrish (8) and JvLopez; Hendrickson, Gaudin (7) and Fordyce. W—Cabrera 10-7. L—Hendrickson 8-14.

Detroit 000 000 000 — 0 4 0  
Kansas City 000 100 00x — 1 6 0

Maroth and IRodriguez; Greinke, Cerda (8), Carrasco (8), Affeldt (9) and ACastillo. W—Greinke 7-9. L—Maroth 10-10. Sv—Affeldt (9).

Anaheim 023 000 110 — 7 11 0  
Boston 410 223 00x — 12 16 1

Sele, Shields (4), Gregg (6) and BMolina; Arroyo, MMyers (3), Adams (4), Timlin (7), Embree (8), Leskanic (9) and Varitek. W—Adams 5-4. L—Sele 8-2. HR—Boston, Millar (14).

Oakland 120 000 100 — 4 11 0  
Chicago 000 010 301 — 5 11 0

Zito, Bradford (7), Mecir (7), Duchscherer (8) and DMiller; Grilli, Marte (7), Takatsu (9) and Burke. W—Takatsu 6-3. L—Duchscherer 5-5.

Texas 101 000 000 — 2 8 0  
Minnesota 100 000 03x — 4 11 0

Park, FCordero (8) and Barajas; Mulholland, Crain (7), Nathan (9) and Borders. W—Crain 1-0. L—FCordero 3-1. Sv—Nathan (36). HR—Minnesota, ShStewart (10).

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Houston 030 010 500 — 9 12 1  
Cincinnati 102 000 000 — 3 7 1

Oswalt, Harville (7), Springer (8), Lidge (9) and

RChavez; PWilson, Van Poppel (6), PNorton (7), RWagner (7), GWhite (9) and Valentin. W—Oswalt 16-9. L—PWilson 9-5. HRs—Houston, Berkman (25), JKent (20). Cincinnati, Freel (2).

Florida 201 002 000 — 5 8 1  
New York 010 300 000 — 4 9 0

IValdez, Bump (6), Seanez (6), Mota (7), Benitez (9) and Lo Duca; TGlavine, Fortunato (7), HBell (8), Looper (9) and JPhillips. W—IValdez 12-7. L—TGlavine 9-11. Sv—Benitez (40). HRs—Florida, Lowell (25). New York, WDelgado (1).

Atlanta 121 100 020 — 7 13 0  
Philadelphia 020 000 000 — 2 9 0

JSWright, Alfonseca (7), Reitsma (8), Gryboski (9) and JEstrada; Padilla, Cormier (6), FRodriguez (7), Geary (8), Worrell (9) and Lieberthal. W—JSWright 14-6. L—Padilla 5-7. HRs—Atlanta, CJones (26), AJones (23).

Chicago 000 000 000 02 — 2 11 0  
Montreal 000 000 000 01 — 1 7 0

(11 innings)  
Wood, Remlinger (9), Hawkins (10) and Barrett; Armas Jr., Majewski (7), Ayala (8), CCordero (9), Vargas (11) and Schneider. W—Hawkins 4-4. L—Vargas 5-5.

San Diego 000 001 010 — 2 9 0  
St. Louis 300 000 01x — 4 6 0

Eaton, Linebrink (7) and RaHernandez; Carpenter, Tavarez (8), King (8), Isringhausen (9) and Matheny. W—Carpenter 14-5. L—Eaton 9-12. Sv—Isringhausen (39). HRs—St. Louis, LWalker (11), Pujols (42), Rolen (32).

Pittsburgh 000 100 001 3 — 5 12 0  
Milwaukee 000 110 000 0 — 2 11 1

(10 innings)  
Vogelsong, Brooks (7), Gonzalez (8), Torres (9), Mesa (10) and Kendall; Santos, Adams (7), Vizcaino (8), Kolb (9), JBennett (10) and GBennett, Moeller (10). W—Torres 7-4. L—JBennett 1-5. Sv—Mesa (36). HR—Pittsburgh, CWilson (26).

Los Angeles 000 001 000 — 1 4 0  
Arizona 003 000 00x — 3 6 2

Nomo, Sanchez (7) and Mayne; Webb, Nance (7), Koplove (8), Aquino (9) and Snyder. W—Webb 6-14. L—Nomo 3-11. Sv—Aquino (10).

Colorado 100 021 000 — 4 13 1  
San Francisco 001 000 000 — 1 4 2

Wright, Harikkala (8), Chacon (9) and TGreene; Rueter, Herges (6), WFranklin (7) and Pierzynski. W—Wright 2-2. L—Rueter 7-11. Sv—Chacon (31).



## Riot team

Members of the Pampa High School Riot keep the crowd loud and in the game during last week's PHS varsity football opener in Perryton.

## Kobe

Continued from Page 7

Instead, prosecutors dropped the case after spending at least \$200,000 preparing for trial. District Attorney Mark Hurlbert said he could have won the case, but he supported the woman's decision to withdraw, with a stipulation that charges will never be refiled.

"Today justice is sadly interrupted. The casualty in this interruption has been a brave young woman who was grievously hurt," Hurlbert said.

Victims' rights groups said the way the case discontinued could force states to take another look at rape-shield laws, which typically bar the sex life of an alleged assault victim from being admitted as evidence.

Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law in Boston and a former prosecutor, said the case could shake many women's faith in the justice system.

"The rules, the laws, the things that are supposed to make us treat each other with civility are a big joke, it doesn't matter," she said.

In this case, District Judge Terry Ruckriegle ruled that the woman's sex life in the three days surrounding her encounter with Bryant could be admitted as evidence, which may have bolstered the defense contention that she slept with someone after leaving Bryant and before she went to a hospital exam — a potentially key blow to her credibility. The woman's lawyers have denied the accusation.

And after mistakes that revealed her identity, at least two death threats and relentless media attention,

she apparently had had enough.

"The difficulties that this case has imposed on this woman the past year are unimaginable," said John Clune, one of her attorneys. He said she was particularly disturbed by mistakes including the release of her name on a state courts Web site and her medical history to attorneys.

*'Today justice is sadly interrupted. The casualty in this interruption has been a brave young woman who was grievously hurt.'*

— Mark Hurlbert  
District Attorney

Neither Bryant nor his accuser were in the courtroom as the judge threw out the case, blaming budget cuts in part for a lack of courthouse staff and the mistakes.

Outside the courthouse, Hurlbert said the decision to drop the case "is not based upon a lack of belief in the victim — she is an extremely credible and an extremely brave young woman."

"A trial can be traumatic for any victim of any crime, more so with the victim of a sexual assault, and even more so with the victim of a sexual assault whose victimization has been subject to worldwide scrutiny," the prosecutor said.

Bryant said the civil case against him "will be decided by and between the parties directly involved in the incident and will no longer be a financial or emotional drain on the citizens of the state of Colorado." "I also

want to make it clear that I do not question the motives of this young woman," Bryant said. "No money has been paid to this woman. She has agreed that this statement will not be used against me in the civil case."

Larry Pozner, a former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, said he did not think Bryant's statement suggested an interest in settling the civil lawsuit.

"I would have guessed today would have been a global settlement (covering both cases)," he said. "If it isn't, it's because the defense has told them, 'We aren't paying you very much, and if you want to continue, bring it on.'"

The lawsuit, like the criminal case, accuses Bryant of attacking the woman in his room at the Cordillera resort near Edwards, causing her emotional and physical problems that linger to this day.

Prosecutors said Bryant flirted with the woman, a front desk employee, during a tour of the resort. After the two ended up in his room, they began to kiss, which she acknowledged was consensual. Investigators have said the encounter turned violent and that she told Bryant "no" at least twice.

In the civil suit, the attorneys said at some point during the kissing "Bryant's voice became deeper and his acts became rougher" as he began to grope the woman. She asked him to stop, but Bryant allegedly blocked her exit, grabbed her and forced her over a chair to rape her. Bryant's hands were around the woman's neck, the attorneys said — "a perceived threat of potential strangulation if she resisted his advances."

## Astros streak at six

CINCINNATI (AP) — Lance Berkman hit a tie-breaking home run in the fifth inning and Jeff Kent capped a five-run seventh with a grand slam as the Houston Astros extended their season-best winning streak to six games with a 9-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday.

In sweeping the three-game series against the Reds, the Astros hit 10 home runs and scored 28 runs. Houston has won 14 of its last 17 games. Roy Oswalt (16-9) improved to 10-0 in 14 career games against Cincinnati. He left after six

innings with sore ribs, allowing three runs and six hits, walking three and striking out four.

Paul Wilson (9-5), who came off the disabled list earlier in the day, failed in his eighth attempt to earn his 10th win. He allowed four runs and six hits in five innings.

With two out in the fifth, Berkman hit his fourth homer of the series and 25th of the season to break a 3-all tie.

away with a five-run seventh that included Kent's 11th career grand slam — and 20th homer of the season.

## Golf

Continued from Page 7

Participants this year include golfers from Cameron University, McMurray University, Hardin-Simmons, the University of North Texas and West Texas A&M. They will compete with area golfers in the chase for the 2004 championship.

Some of the local names taking part in this year's event include 1996 champion Dan Nicolet, Doug McFatridge, Cory Stone and Daniel Heuston.

Organizers invite everyone out for a great weekend of golf.

## Public Notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The City of McLean hold a public hearing 5:45 p.m. on Sept. 27, 2004, at the City (220 N. Main Street) regarding submission of applications. Texas Community Development Program (TC) grants to provide improved services in City. The City encourages citizens to attend public hearing to discuss the citizen participation plan, local housing community development needs, available funding amounts, eligible applicants, and past due unfunded. Citizens may submit their views or proposals to the City Secretary's Office at the Hall. Citizens who have disabilities or need auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City Secretary at (806)779-2481 at two days before the meeting so arrangements can be made.

A-25 Sept. 2, 2004

## 5 Special Notices

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

## 10 Lost/Found

FOUND Australian poodle on Price Rd. C describe. 665-2972.  
FOUND male Pom an. well cared for. near gray 5 Call to n description. 669-0555.

One letter for the three apostrophe hints. Each 9-2

DLPU

HYP I

TRBF

KXV

LDVY

Yesterday ALWAYS THORNS ROSES.

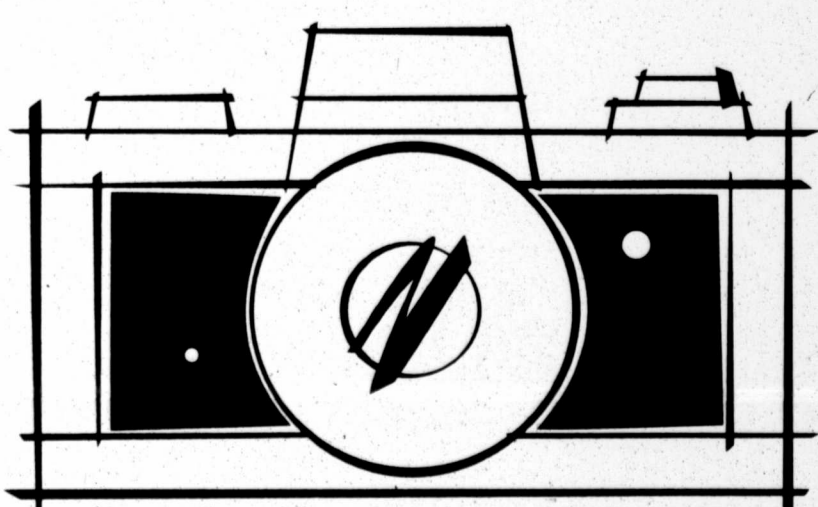
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. 3, 2004: You have what imagination all barriers that sturdier rigid thinking creative thinking others who don't imagination color and daily life. Becomes more in low your whims yourself to differ single, you could might be differ this person. Butures. If you could enjoy pic gathering new. RUS helps you perspective.

The Stars Show Have: 5-Dyn; Average: 2-50

ARIES (March) ★★★★★ Financ as well as yo another convin will be less exp is. Friends want might not be a Tonight: Treat you want.  
TAURUS (Apr) ★★★★★ You want to. The M gizes you. You somewhat surp imagination ad plans or a proje door.  
GEMINI (May) ★★★★★ Take yo

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**1 Public Notice**

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CITY OF MCLEAN  
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A-25 Sept. 2, 2004

**5 Special Notices**

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

**10 Lost/Found**

FOUND Australian Shepard on Price Rd. Call to describe. 665-2972.  
FOUND male Pomeranian, well cared for, found near gray 5 Call to make a description. 669-0554

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LOST male Sheltie, 10 yrs. old, no collar, ans. to "Yawnie." Call 665-0984.

**14d Carpentry**

NEW Construction. Remodeling, Comm/ Residential. Deaver Construction. 665-0447.

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

**14h Gen. Serv.**

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

**21 Help Wanted**

Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.  
G.P. Gunn, Inc. now hiring exp. Oil Field Truck Drivers w/ Current Class A CDL. Competitive pay, medical ins., retirement, uniforms, safety equip. Interview w/ Paul at Hwy. 60 & 83 South, Canadian, Tx, or Tonnice at 101 Carolina, Borger, Tx, or call Tonnice 806-273-2362.

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HANDYMAN Hank able to do home improvement, maint. & gen. services. Gimme a call 665-2516.

**RICHARD'S** painting, remodeling, roofing, fencing, carpentry, & carpentry. 886-0267, or 274-2505

**14n Painting**

INT/EXT. painting, mud tape. 35 yr. exp. References. Call Gene Calder 665-4840.

**14s Plumbing/Heat**

JACK'S Plumbing & Faucet Shop. 715 W. Foster. 665-7115. Faucets, plumbing supplies, new constr., repair, remodeling, sewer / drain cleaning, septic systems installed. Visa/MC  
LARGE collection of Harley Davidson knives! Chief Plastics, 1237 S. Barnes 665-6716. V/MC/ Disc/AmEx/Debit.

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**NOTICE**  
Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.  
G.P. Gunn, Inc. now hiring exp. Oil Field Truck Drivers w/ Current Class A CDL. Competitive pay, medical ins., retirement, uniforms, safety equip. Interview w/ Paul at Hwy. 60 & 83 South, Canadian, Tx, or Tonnice at 101 Carolina, Borger, Tx, or call Tonnice 806-273-2362.

**21 Help Wanted**

RETAIL Sales position with clerical skills. Full-Time & Part-Time position. Apply in person, West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart, Pampa.

**PART-TIME Staff needed.**

Apply at 1020 E. Frederic.

**PART-TIME janitorial positions open.**

Call (806)848-2517.

**OPERATOR Seeking Experienced Oilfield Pumper For The Pampa / Lefors area.**

Send Resume / Pay Requirements to P.O. Box 52040, Amarillo Tx. 79159-2040.

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**BROWN'S SHOE FIT CO.**

seeking full-time sales position. Req. strong communication & people skills. Comp. wages & flexible schedule w/ many benefits. Pick up application 1500 N. Hobart. No phone calls please.

**BOOKER Packing Co.**

is seeking an exp. Industrial Electrician. Booker Packing Co. offers ins. and paid vacation. Salary based on exp. Apply in person, 910 E. Industrial, Booker, Tx. or call (806)658-4561 or 800-972-1139

**ASSEMBLY** Person needed.

No experience necessary. Days Mon-Fri. Call 665-5010.

**HOSTESSES** and Waitresses needed.

Apply in person @ Texas Rose. No phone calls please!

**BILINGUAL** Manager-needed

at Lonestar / La Estrella Bar. Call 440-1347.

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**hchd**  
IMMEDIATE opening in laboratory for full-time MT and MLT, must be ASCP, AMT or NCA certified with 2 yrs. experience. Responsible for accurate performance and analysis of test data. Shared call weekends and holidays. Excellent benefits package, and competitive salary. Please apply at 707 S. Roland, Spearman, Tx 79081 or contact Jackie Nelson, HR Mgr. at 806-659-5841 or Fax resume to 806-659-1027. Visit www.hchd.net for more job listings.

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\$202 QN mattress set, brand new never used with warranty. QN Pillow top double sided mattress set new, still pkgd. warr. list \$550, sell \$236. Full Pillow top Double sided mattress set new, still pkgd. warr. List \$400, sell \$208. Full size mattress set new, never used \$180, \$230 King mattress set, brand new, still pkgd. warranty, \$268 King Pillow top mattress set, brand new, still pkgd. warranty, Queen Cherry sleigh bed, new, still boxed. List \$750 sell \$399, new 7 pc QN cherry wood bdrm set w/sleigh bed, still boxed, sell \$999, new 7 pc QN Pinewood bdrm set w/4 poster bed, still boxed, \$999. Call 806-517-1050.

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\*86 Olds Regency 98 Leather seats, air, elec. Clean! \$900. 665-9792 aft. 6 p.m. or 662-1985. Come by 321 E. Francis.

Junk Cars Towed Away Free--If Towable Jim Davis, Skellytown 806-848-2386

87 Fiero, new paint and tires! tags current! \$2000 848-2111

1995 Chevy Monte Carlo. Runs good. Looks great. \$1700. 665-1827 or 236-0820.

2000 Pontiac Grand Am SE, 4 door, loaded, under 70k miles, \$8,000 595-0715

99 Pontiac Montana. Loaded, Leather Seats, 82k Miles. \$7995. Call 665-4157.

**122 Motorcycles**

\*88 Suzuki Quadzilla 500 (4-Wheeler) Great Condition! \$4,500. 665-3379

**AXYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW**

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

**9-2 CRYPTOQUOTE**

DL PUVNTRV TR D CXBBPH  
HYP IXBTXOXR D YPZRXCBA  
TR BPPMTLK CPW D HDA VP  
KXV PZV. — KXPWKX FXDL  
LDVYDL

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** SOME PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS GRUMBLING BECAUSE ROSES HAVE THORNS. I AM THANKFUL THORNS HAVE ROSES. — ALPHONSE KARR

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Friday, Sept. 3, 2004:**

You have what it takes. Your strong imagination allows you to break past barriers that stump others. Give up current rigid thinking and work on more creative thinking. Ask experts. Seek out others who don't think like you. Your imagination comes out in your work and daily life. You become more efficient as a result. Your work will become more inspirational if you follow your whims. Take a course; expose yourself to different cultures. If you are single, you could meet someone who might be different, and learn a lot from this person. Be open to different cultures. If you are attached, you two could enjoy pioneering new ideas and gathering new understanding. TAURUS helps you see life from another perspective.

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

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) \*\*\*\*\* Finances punctuate your day as well as your weekend. Don't let another convince you that something will be less expensive than you know it is. Friends want you with them, but you might not be able to handle the cost. Tonight: Treat yourself and another, if you want.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) \*\*\*\*\* You cannot stop, even if you want to. The Moon in your sign energizes you. You find others' responses somewhat surprising right now. Your imagination adds a special touch to plans or a project. Tonight: Hop out the door.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) \*\*\*\*\* Take your time. You might be

thinking about something that you choose not to verbalize. Let your dreams lead you, but also write down some of your ideas. You might not be up to sharing right now. Tonight: Reflect, read and relax.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) \*\*\*\*\* You might want to carefully think through a problem that involves a partner and this person's handling of his or her funds. You might find that the best idea is to separate the money tie between you. Tonight: Celebrate the beginning of the weekend.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) \*\*\*\*\* You take a stand, but others could disagree with you in a major way. Otherwise, someone might not be telling you the whole story. This person might think he or she is, but is leaving out details that might not be relevant to him or her. Tonight: Out late.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Don't take others' information as if it were written in stone. Do your own checking. Concentrate at work, as you might be quite distracted. Leave visualizing new ideas for later. Break past rigidity. Tonight: Think deeply.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) \*\*\*\*\* Someone has a lot to say. Even though you might feel like you have better ideas, listen. Share your thoughts, but defer to this person like the typical Libra. You will claim your power soon enough. Tonight: Vanish quickly.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Others seek you out and come from a very different spot. Listen to suggestions, as many people have the same objective as you do. You might have a hard time focusing, as you might be thinking of the weekend ahead! Tonight: Go off and do. Find your

friends.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) \*\*\*\*\* Emphasize work and what you can do. Laugh and enjoy what is going on around you. A joke or intuitive feeling lightens you up, as well as those around you. Emphasize what you can do. Clear out as much as you can. Tonight: Romp out the door.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) \*\*\*\*\* Your imagination takes you in a new direction financially. You might be up for a risk, but you also need to be up for the end results, if you experience failure. Allow more flirtation and fun into your day. Tonight: Let the weekend begin with your great style.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) \*\*\*\*\* Your imagination appeals to others, even if they don't let you know it. Everyone seems like business as usual, which might be the case. They know that the weekend is coming, and they want to clear out extra work. Tonight: Happily lead others out the door.

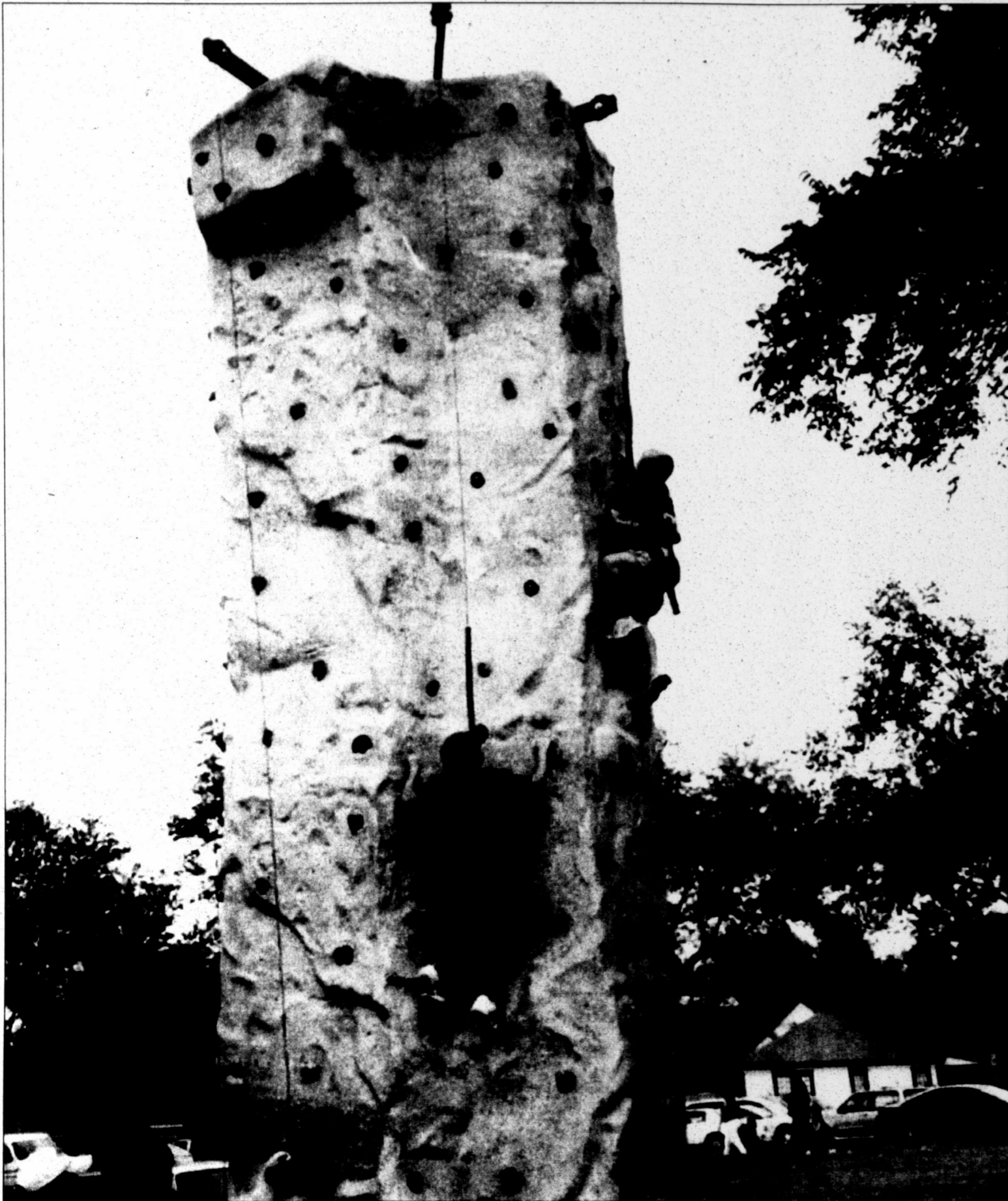
**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) \*\*\*\*\* You say what you want, and you get it. Use your strong ability to manifest. Others appreciate your leadership because they want to get out for the day. You have a vision. Don't share it yet. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

**BORN TODAY**  
Actor Charlie Sheen (1965), musician Steve Jones (1955), actor Alan Ladd (1913) \*\*\*

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

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S E P T E M B E R 2 2 0 0 4



### Chautauqua climbers

A challenge attraction at this year's Chautauqua, slated Sept. 6 in Central Park, is Trinity Fellowship's climbing wall. Chautauqua, a yearly, family-oriented event, is staged each year on Labor Day in Central Park.

### PHS counselors set to administer PSAT/NMSQT, registration open

Officials from Pampa High School in a press release recently announced the upcoming PSAT/NMSQT test date. The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be administered by Karla Howell, Starla Kindle and Dale Ammons, all counselors at PHS, on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Registration for the test will begin Tuesday, Sept. 7, in Mrs. Lowrey's office at PHS. The deadline to register is Friday, Sept. 24. The testing fee is \$12, payable at registration. A study guide and bulletin will be given to each registrant.

Freshmen and sophomores may register for the test, but preference will be given to juniors. Middle school students, too, may register; however, they must make their own way to the testing site.

Students not enrolled at PHS must inform their school counselor if interested in taking the test. It will be up to their individual school counselors to contact counselors at PHS to make the necessary arrangements.

The PSAT/NMSQT is a short form of the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities against other college-bound juniors in competition for National Merit Scholarships.

The PSAT/NMSQT is a prerequisite for juniors who hope to qualify for PSD's Superintendent's Scholar Program.

**401(K)**  
**ROLLOVER HEADQUARTERS**



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### Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The County of Gray will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 5.90 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted. The public hearing will be held on September 10, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., at the Gray County Courtroom, Gray County Courthouse, 2nd Floor.

**FOR** the proposal: Judge Peet, Comm. Wheeley, Comm. Willoughby, Comm. Wright and Comm. Hefley

**AGAINST** the proposal:

**PRESENT** and not voting:

**ABSENT:**

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$30,912	\$31,206
General exemptions available	\$0	\$0
(amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)		
Average taxable value	\$30,912	\$31,206
Tax rate (per \$100)	\$0.522267	\$0.488926
Tax	\$161.44	\$152.57

**Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would decrease by \$8.87 or 5.49 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would decrease by \$0.033300 per \$100 of taxable value of 6.38 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.**

# CHAUTAUQUA 2004

## Fun Run / Walk • 5K Run

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

**When:** September 6, 2004  
 •Registration Day of Race beginning at 7:00 am  
 •Fun Run/Walk (one mile) begins at 8:00 am  
 •5K Run begins at 8:20 am

**Entry Fees:** Register Day Of Race  
 •Fun Run/Walk \$5.00 & 5K \$10.00  
 All Entry Fees Donated To  
**Pampa United Way**

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

Last Name .....

First Name .....

Age .....  Male  Female

City & State .....

Check One  5K  Fun Run

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

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

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