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City, county in fire fight

City refuses county's offer

By DEE DEE LARAMORE
 Editor

Pampa City Commissioners Tuesday decided to send a counteroffer of an annual payment of \$139,831 to Gray County for fire-fighting services in the county but outside the city.

Commissioner Ray Boring, who introduced the motion, said he had studied the history of the city's and county's agreement, consulting with former and present city officials involved in the agreements. For the past decade, the county's payment has constituted approximately 9.5 percent of the city's budget each year, he explained, which led to the \$139,831 figure proposed in the motion.

Commissioner Robert Dixon,

who also serves as the Gray County Veterans Officer, did not vote. The rest of the commission voted in favor of the motion.

The county budgeted \$130,000 for Pampa Fire Department services for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. The amount passed in the 2004-2005 budget is \$100,000.

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department was paid \$15,000 by Gray County for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. That total increased to \$35,000 for the 2004-2005 budget.

Representatives of Cabot Corporation, Titan Specialties and Bourland & Leverich Supply Company spoke to county commissioners at recent meetings concerning their fire department coverage preferences. All three wished to

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Fire contract down in flames

By MARILYN POWERS
 Staff Writer

After lengthy, emphatic discussion this morning concerning the City of Pampa's request for \$139,831 for Pampa Fire Department coverage of approximately 27 square miles of out-of-city area for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, Gray County Commissioners unanimously voted to postpone action on the issue until a meeting with city officials could be arranged and completed.

"Last night, I attended the city commission meeting but was not asked for my input. The city asked for \$139,831 for 2004-2005" for county fire coverage, said Gray County Judge Richard Peet at this morning's regular meeting of county commissioners in Gray County Courthouse.

"I was astounded at the move to increase the amount, even though we had decreased the coverage area," Peet said.

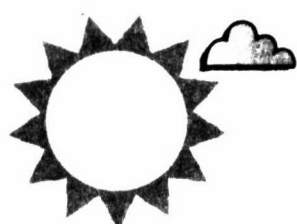
County commissioners had previously developed a plan by which Pampa Fire Department's area of responsibility would decrease from last year's 220 square miles to about 27 square miles for the coming fiscal year. The county planned to pay the city \$100,000 for this coverage, compared to last fiscal year's \$130,000.

Hoover Volunteer Fire Department would be responsible for the square miles no longer covered by Pampa Fire Department, and their payment from the county would be \$35,000, compared to last year's \$15,000.

"If they need a north and central fire station, that's fine, but that should

See COUNTY, Page 3

Today's weather



H 83 L 57

Deaths

Hazel Clark, 89, home-maker.

Texas Today

Negligence suit filed in bridge collapse

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Three years after a string of loose barges knocked a deadly hole in the bridge to South Padre Island, the man who was at the helm of the tow boat has filed a negligence suit against the tow company and the barge line that chartered it.

Eight people died in the Sept. 15, 2001 collapse of what is now the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway and the resort island's economy was devastated for months.

David Fowler, 47, filed the lawsuit in federal court late Monday. He is claiming that the Brown Water V tow boat he was operating was unseaworthy and that defendants Brown Water Towing, Inc., of Rockport, Texas, and American Commercial Barge Line of Jeffersonville, Ind. knew it.

The accident was "due solely to the carelessness, recklessness, and negligence" of the defendants, the lawsuit reads, citing a failure by Brown Water to "keep and maintain the aforesaid vehicle in a seaworthy condition and responsible state or repair."

The lawsuit is being filed under the Jones Act, a federal statute protecting the safety of shipping crews.

Animals in Louisiana, Florida head to Texas as hurricane nears

HOUSTON (AP) — Almost 200 dogs and cats, some left homeless in Florida by Hurricane Charley, were taken to a shelter in Houston and others were en route Tuesday from Louisiana where authorities feared shelters there would be inundated by the killer winds and waves of Hurricane Ivan, swirling in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Last night, we had continued to look at the projected track for Hurricane Ivan and where our shelter is located is a heavy flood zone," Laura Maloney, executive director of the Louisiana SPCA in New Orleans, said Tuesday.



Pampa News photos by BEN BRISCOE

Senior Breakfast moments

Senior Class President Brittany Adams, left, talks at the Pampa High School Senior Breakfast honoring PHS seniors and their parents Tuesday morning at M.K. Brown Auditorium. The annual event this year was hosted by Pampa Independent School District board, Superintendent Barry Haenisch, The City of Pampa and Pampa Regional Medical Center. In the photo at right, Chantille Hemphill and Luke Dyer act in "Test that Senior," a skit presented by the Pampa High School theater department at the Senior Breakfast.

Parade, reunion to be part of PHS Homecoming plans

Pampans will get a first glimpse of the Homecoming Queen and King candidates during Pampa High School's Homecoming Parade, Thursday, Sept. 30.

The parade kicks off a weekend of Homecoming activities including a Harvester Veterans reunion, and the Homecoming game against Plainview High School at 7:30 p.m. in Harvester Field. Homecoming Queen and King will be crowned at the game.

On Thursday, Sept. 30, parade entries will line up on Harvester Avenue in front of the high school, 1100 E. Harvester.

At 4 p.m., the parade will proceed down Mary Ellen Street through downtown to the railroad tracks where it will

then disband. At 1:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 1, Harvester Veterans anyone who played football for PHS will be honored with a reception at the high school library.

Punch and cookies will be served and photographs taken. Following the reception, the Harvester Veterans will have special seating at the pep rally.

Harvester Veterans are asked to call Student Body President Michael Pergeson at 669-3624 or Student Body Treasurer Lindsey Ammons at 669-3170 and let them know if they will attend.

For more information about PHS Homecoming activities, contact Sherry Seabourm at 669-4800, ext. 301, or at 669-9213.



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Campaign kick-off

Bob Marx, 2004 campaign chairman for Pampa United Way, Inc., names local United Way agencies which will benefit from the funds raised by the 2004 campaign. Next to him is John Warner, UW vice president. Marx was one of several speakers at a luncheon Tuesday in the Community Building which was to kick-off the annual fund-raising effort. This year's goal is \$312,000 and the campaign is named "Community Matters."

Head for the hills!

Coastal folk fleeing from huge storm

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Stragglers streamed toward higher ground Wednesday on highways turned into one-way evacuation routes and pounding surf started eroding beaches as Hurricane Ivan roared toward the Gulf Coast with 135 mph wind.

Ivan could cause significant damage no matter where it strikes, as hurricane-force wind extended up to 105 miles out from the center. Hurricane warnings were posted along a 300-mile stretch from Grand Isle, La., across coastal Mississippi and Alabama to Apalachicola, Fla., but Ivan had turned onto a northerly course, generally toward the center of the warning area, the Alabama and Mississippi coasts.

"We're leaving today. All this is going under," said surfer Chuck Myers who was only taking pictures of the waves Wednesday morning at Gulf Shores, Ala. "We surfed it all day yesterday. It was glorious."

"This is a bad one and people need to get out," Mobile, Ala., Mayor Mike Dow said Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America."

Deputies went door-to-door through the night in south Mobile County, instructing residents to evacuate. Some are expected to remain, Sheriff's Sgt. Steve Kirchharr said, but overall "we have received a good response."

Interstate 65 in Alabama was turned into a north-bound-only evacuation route Wednesday morning from the harbor city of Mobile to Montgomery. Chemical plants and refineries around Mobile Bay had been closed down.

Roughly 2 million people had been urged or ordered to leave coastal areas, including more than 1.2 million in the New Orleans

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Economy: Industrial activity shows slight gain in August

WASHINGTON (AP) — Industrial activity edged up by 0.1 percent in August as declines in utility and mining output tempered a gain in factory production. The small rise in industrial activity reported by the Federal Reserve Wednesday followed a sizable 0.6 percent gain in July. Although economists

were forecasting a 0.5 percent gain for August, some analysts said the report wasn't as weak as the overall number seemed to suggest. Those analysts took comfort in the fact that manufacturing output grew. "The report is stronger than appears on the surface. Unlike other parts of the economy, manufacturing

activity moved up so I would say in general this is a pretty solid report," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "Utility output was down probably because of the relatively cool summer we had." On Wall Street, though, stocks fell. The Dow Jones industri-

als lost 51 points and the Nasdaq was off 14 in morning trading. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, appearing before Congress last week, said economic activity hit a "soft patch" in late spring, which he said was related in large part to high energy prices. He added at the time that

there were some signs the expansion has "regained some traction" such as a pickup in the nation's payrolls in August. The Fed's report showed that mining production dropped by 1.1 percent in August, compared with a 1.3 percent gain in July. Output at utilities declined by 2.4 percent in

August, following a 2 percent decline. At the nation's factories output rose by 0.5 percent in August, following a 0.9 percent advance the previous month. Businesses saw their inventories rise in July as sales picked up, according to the Commerce Department.

Obituaries

Hazel Clark, 89

Hazel Clark, 89, of Pampa, died Monday, Sept. 13, 2004, at Amarillo, Texas. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the First Assembly of God with Pastor Leland Lewis officiating. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Carmichael-Whitley Funeral Directors. Mrs. Clark was born Oct. 28, 1914, in Cameron, Oklahoma. She had been a resident of Pampa since 1942, moving to Amarillo in 2003. She married Orval McDaniel on Aug. 30, 1934, in Seminole, Oklahoma. He preceded her in death on Nov. 9, 1953. She married Clarence Coffin on Nov. 16, 1959, in Pampa. He preceded her in death on May 30, 1980. She later married George Clark on Sept. 3, 1987, in Chillicothe. He preceded her in death on



Clark

Nov. 19, 1997. She was an active member of the First Assembly of God Church. Survivors include a son, Steven McDaniel of Amarillo; two daughters, Frances White and husband Herbert of Pasadena, and Barbara Sue Moreland and husband Harry of Mounds, Ill.; one stepson, Dale Coffin in Denver, Colo.; one stepdaughter, Casey Preston of Amarillo; 11 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by eight brothers and sisters. The family requests memorials be to Evelyn Rivers Christmas Project, 314 S. Jefferson Ave., Amarillo, TX 79101. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 5-7 p.m. today, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2004. —Sign the on-line register book at www.carmichael-whitley.com.

Services tomorrow

CLARK, Hazel — 10:30 a.m., First Assembly of God Church, Pampa.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department today reported the following arrests and incidents. **Tuesday, Sept. 14** Theft of prescription drugs and cash, estimated value of \$138, was reported in the 700 block of East Frederic. Lucinda Lee George, 48, 1225 Charles, was arrested on six capias pro fines for issuing bad check.

Sheriff

Gray County Sheriff's Office today reported the following arrests. **Tuesday, Sept. 14** Jessica Elaine Smith, 22, 612 N. Dwight, was arrested on a warrant for possession of marijuana. Connie Elaine Oxley, 40, 603 E. Foster, was arrested by the Texas Department of Public Safety on three capias pro fines. Warren Gene Garner, 41, Los Angeles, Calif., was arrested by the DPS on a felony fugitive warrant out

of California.

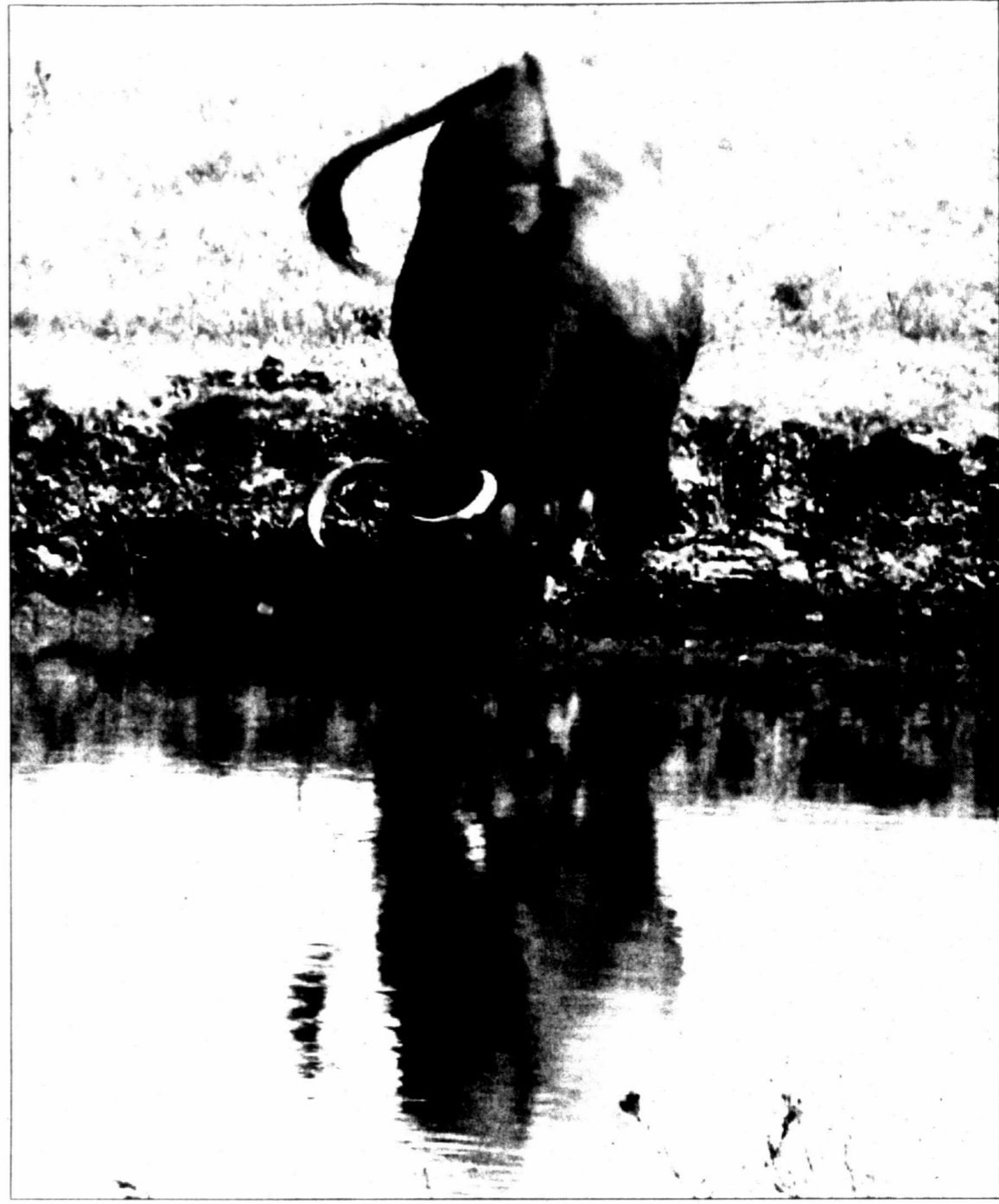
Fire

Pampa Fire Department responded to the following calls during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Sept. 14** 8:32 p.m. Two units and four firefighters responded to a vehicle fire at 12175 County Road D. A 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup owned by Steven Willett was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived. The apparent cause of the fire was a ruptured fuel tank. Firefighters extinguished the fire with water and foam. No injuries or other damage were reported. **Wednesday, Sept. 15** 1:18 a.m. Two units and six firefighters responded to a medical assist in the 400 block of Pitts.

Ambulance

Guardian EMS ambulance reported the following calls

during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today. **Tuesday, Sept. 14** 2:35 p.m. A mobile ICU responded to Pampa Regional Medical Center and transferred a patient(s) to Northwest Texas Hospital, Amarillo. 6:41 p.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 2600 block of Evergreen and transported a patient(s) to PRMC. 10:08 p.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 900 block of South Wells and transported a patient(s) to PRMC. 10:14 p.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 1400 block of East Francis. No patient. **Wednesday, Sept. 15** 12:46 a.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 1900 block of Faulkner. No patient. 1:26 a.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 400 block of Pitts and transported a patient(s) to PRMC. 5:06 a.m. A mobile ICU responded to the 800 block of Beryl and transported a patient(s) to PRMC.



This cow appears to be studying its reflection while taking a cool drink from a pond on U.S. Highway 60 east of Pampa.

Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS

Gray County Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high around 83. Windy, with a north northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph. Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 57. Northeast wind between 10 and 20 mph. Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 85. Northeast wind around 10 mph becoming south. Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low near 62. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday: Partly cloudy, with a high around 92. Southwest wind between 10 and 15 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 63. South wind around 15 mph. Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 90. Southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph.

Stocks

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Includes Cabot Corp, Cabot Oil Gas, Coca Cola, VLO, HUI, Inad, SOI, KMI, NCL, Kerr McGee, XOM, Limited, Wm, Williams, BPC, ADR, Atmos, Pioneer Nat, ICP, COP, SLB, Tenneco, CVX, Wal Mart, OKE, NSG, New York Gold, Silver, West Texas Crude.

Presbyterian pastor in Austin could face church tribunal

AUSTIN (AP) — A Presbyterian pastor could face a church trial after an accusation that he conducted same-sex union ceremonies. The Rev. Jim Rigby, pastor of St. Andrew's Presbyterian in Austin, acknowledged conducting the ceremonies, which violate church rules, and has even provided information to his accuser. Rigby said he wants his denomination to confront the issue of homosexuality in the church. "Either they have to strip me of my ordination, or the church has to change," Rigby said in Wednesday editions of the Austin American-Statesman. Rigby acknowledges that he has

also ordained an openly lesbian elder at St. Andrew's. Rules spelled out in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Order — the denomination's constitution — forbid the blessing of same-sex unions and state that those eligible for ordination must meet the "requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness."

Robert Brown, a University of Texas student from Carrollton, said an article in the Daily Texan that Rigby presided over a marriage blessing in April for two male students. Brown told his pastor in Carrollton and then began working with Paul Rolf Jensen, a Virginia lawyer who has filed accusations against Presbyterian clergy across the country for defying church law on homosexuality. Jensen filed the accusation Monday with Mission Presbytery, a regional church governing body based in San Antonio. Mission Presbytery officials told the newspaper they could not comment because the clerk who receives such accusations is out of the office this week. When complaints are made, the clerk appoints an investigative committee that determines whether there are grounds to the accusation and decides whether to refer the matter to a judicial commission. The commission hears cases and renders verdicts, which parties can appeal.

'Either they have to strip me of my ordination, or the church has to change.'
— The Rev. Jim Rigby
Presbyterian pastor

Twelve-year-old missing girl found safe in Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A 12-year-old North Texas girl who had been missing for nearly two weeks was found safe at an Oklahoma City motel early Wednesday after her stepfather apparently shot himself. Jami Hicks' stepfather, James Roy Hudachek, was in critical condition and on life support at an Oklahoma

City hospital, said Oklahoma City police Sgt. Charles Phillips. Jami was briefly hospitalized and was on her way back to Texas, Mesquite police Sgt. Shannon Greenhaw said. Hudachek — who had recently professed his romantic love for Jami called Jami's mother shortly after midnight and told her

to come pick up the girl, Greenhaw said. Angela Hudachek called Mesquite police, who notified officers in Oklahoma City. As officers approached Hudachek's room, they heard a gunshot. Soon after that, Jami walked out unharmed, Greenhaw said. Phillips does not expect charges to be filed in

Oklahoma against James Hudachek. But Greenhaw said that if Hudachek survives, charges will be filed in Texas. Police had been looking for Jami since Sept. 4, when her mother reported her missing from her home in Mesquite, about 15 miles east of Dallas. Authorities in Texas and South Carolina had issued

Amber Alerts for her. Angela Hudachek, the girl's mother, said she drove to Oklahoma City as quickly as she could when she heard her daughter was there. "I was hoping to put my eyes on her. I ain't seen her in a couple of weeks," Angela Hudachek told Oklahoma City television station KOCO.

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Cou Continued be covered and is not ot. ty." Peet said. He provid ers with a lis Department's past county had marked as "authoriz "wrong loca vention pro intent call, patched an route." "Gentleme culty with th a fire preven fire run," Pe Through A by \$119,000 \$130,000 for there were 6 "or just ov run." Peet sa "The clos was Hale C paying Plain \$800 per un "Judge, o the city wa regardless of they make. City Continued remain co Fire Dep Hoover V Department ice. Pampa Fi out-of-city reduced fro 220 square square mile 2005 county fire departm responsibili Creek, the Keller Est along Texas and the ar Highway 6 Oilwell. The rema miles previe Pampa Fi would be th of Hoover 2003-2004 square mile Xcel F Lynn Smi and Wes poster sel who enter Iva Continue metropol Forecasters Ivan, which people in th weakened 135 mph W still an "ext category 4 l strength before it cra GI C Ren

County

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be covered in their budget and is not our responsibility," Peet said this morning.

He provided commissioners with a list of Pampa Fire Department's runs for the past county fiscal year. Peet had marked runs designated as "authorized controlled," "wrong location," "fire prevention program," "good intent call, other," and "dispatched and canceled en route."

"Gentlemen, I have difficulty with that. The city calls a fire prevention program a fire run," Peet said.

Through August, covered by \$119,000 of the county's \$130,000 for the entire year, there were 65 runs by PFD, "or just over \$1,800 per run," Peet said.

"The closest thing I found was Hale County, which is paying Plainview just over \$800 per run," he said.

"Judge, our contract with the city was for \$130,000, regardless of how many runs they make. I suggest we

have a joint meeting to work out a contract acceptable to both," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Gerald Wright.

"I have been to a city meeting and presented our issues," Peet said. "I did not appreciate the comments some of them made about you last night, Mr. Wheeley," Peet said to Precinct 1 Commissioner Joe Wheeley. "They claimed you said you didn't want a professional fire department in the county."

"I think we have a very good fire department in Hoover Volunteer Fire Department and we're lucky to have them," Wheeley said.

"It's not for us to tell the city how to run their business, but I think there's a problem when you've got \$80,000 a year in overtime," Peet said.

"I believe we could have a joint meeting between the county and city, and it would help resolve the situation. I never saw an issue that, open-minded, we couldn't sit down and resolve," Wright said.

"I think the ultimate solution to this is a fire district. I hate it, but that may be the solution to this," said Precinct 4 Commissioner James Hefley.

"I think when two government entities can't sit down and discuss the issue, we really have a problem," Wright said. "Here's my problem with that. It already has been talked about," Peet said.

"If we don't communicate, we will probably never get it resolved," Wright said.

The \$100,000 was an amount originally used by Acting City Manager John Horst and Mayor Lonny Robbins, Hefley said. "I was accused early on that I was wanting to use the jail as blackmail," Peet said. Pampa Police Department has not had a jail or holding facility for several years, and has a contract with Gray County to use Gray

County Jail.

"I tell you, gentlemen, \$50,000 a year does not cover our cost" concerning the jail. "We have been very fair. I believed, and saved the city a lot of money," Peet said.

"If we don't communicate, we will probably never get it resolved."

Gerald Wright
Gray County Commission

"We don't know what we're willing to pay for volunteer service. Are they willing and able to run on all the same runs as PFD has, and are they prepared to

handle it? We can't really go by this report," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Gary Willoughby, referring to the printout of PFD's county runs to date for the 2003-2004 year.

Hefley asked Hoover VFD Chief Joe Millican if his department intended to go on automobile accident calls. Millican, who was present at this morning's meeting, said they would go if Guardian EMS or Gray County Sheriff's Office

requested it.

"We're going to have to be ready to act on this. If we stick by our original plan and they turn it down, I think we're going to have to know if that \$100,000 will be sufficient to take care of that area and provide the same level of service," Wheeley said. "I don't want to be accused of trying to save money at the expense of safety or anything like that."

Millican said his department had considered building a new, second station with two trucks in the north end of the county, and had projected that they would need \$115,000 the first year to do so, followed by a decrease the following two years. The department has also identified a need for more water tanks for its use, and has begun a program to add tanks in various locations, he said.

"I am not excited to pay taxpayers' money for their overtime. If we are the reason for that overtime, we need to help," Peet said of PFD.

"How the city spends the contract money is their business. Our only business is how much," said Wright, who suggested at least seven times that county and city commissioners get together to discuss the fire coverage issue before making further decisions.

Commissioners voted unanimously to set a meeting with city commissioners to discuss fire coverage. The special session will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 24 in the second-floor courtroom at Gray County Courthouse.

Action on the proposed fire coverage is listed on the agenda immediately following discussion with city officials.

City

Continued from Page 1

remain covered by Pampa Fire Department, with Hoover Volunteer Fire Department as backup service.

Pampa Fire Department's out-of-city coverage was reduced from approximately 220 square miles to 30 square miles in the 2004-2005 county plan. The city fire department would retain responsibility for Walnut Creek, the Cole Addition, Keller Estates, the area along Texas Highway 152, and the area along U.S. Highway 60 to National Oilwell.

The remaining 190 square miles previously covered by Pampa Fire Department would be the responsibility of Hoover VFD, which in 2003-2004 covered 108 square miles of the county.

Gray County Judge Richard Peet said.

Commissioner Faustina Curry said she had attended a county budget meeting this summer. At the meeting, she said, County Commissioner Joe Wheeley told her, "You know where we're going with that. We do not want any professional service in the county. We want to be all volunteer."

Curry said, "If the county wants to do that, it's their decision, but I think the citizens of Pampa shouldn't have to pick up the tab."

"I personally want to have a professional group on call every minute of every day," she added.

She said that studies show

that it costs the city of Pampa at least \$130,000 annually to provide firefighting services outside the city limits.

Commissioners also approved the 2004-2005 budget on final reading. The budget contains \$613,000 in capital expenditures, an amount that concerned Mayor Lonny Robbins. He was particularly concerned about spending \$143,000

"I personally want to have a professional group on call every minute of every day."

— Faustina Curry
Pampa City Commission

for a new fire truck. "I have a problem about taking on that amount of debt without knowing where the money is coming from," he said.

Interim City Manager John Horst assured Robbins that the proposed capital expenditures, with the exception of the fleet vehicles, would not take place without the commission's approval when the bidding process began.

The new budget is based on the same tax rate as last year's and includes estimated sales tax revenues of more than \$2.2 million and a 3 percent cost of living increase for 36 city employees who would not be eligible for a 5 percent step increase.

A tax rate of 69.5 cents per \$100 valuation was set by the commission.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Staff Writer Marilyn Powers contributed to this report. Other action taken in the City Commission meeting Tuesday will be reported in the next edition of The Pampa News.



Xcel Poster contest winner

Lynn Smith, Samantha Kelly, Myra Carlisle of Community Christian School and Wes Reeves from Xcel Energy congratulate Samantha for having her poster selected for the November Xcel calendar from students in 11 states who entered an energy poster contest sponsored by the company.

Ivan

Continued from Page 1

metropolitan area. Forecasters said that although Ivan, which killed at least 68 people in the Caribbean, had weakened very slightly to 135 mph Wednesday, it was still an "extremely dangerous category 4 hurricane," and its strength could fluctuate before it crashes ashore.

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Viewpoints

Surviving in the modern world of technology

With the SAT just weeks away, I have started preparing like mad, so that I can have a chance at raising my score.

In part of these preparations, I finally broke down and bought the Texas Instruments Graphing Calculator 84, which is often idolized in math circles.

For those of you who don't know, this is the kind of calculator that can do everything short of making a home-cooked meal.

The only problem is that I can't use it. I get lost in all of its complexity; there are simply too many buttons. I

only feel worse when I try to hunt up how to work a function, such as creating formulas for statistics. I get lost in the user-guide, which comes complete with a 27-page appendix and a 14-page index. In short, it seems like the calculator, as with much of the technology of today, was created to save time; however, it ends up only wasting it.

This seems to be happening to me often lately. For example, I am typing this column up on the computers in the Pampa News office tonight. Normally, I would type it at home and e-mail it

in before deadline, but I had no choice this week because my DSL Internet connection has gone down.

All of these technology problems are very frustrating.

Last week, in the middle of a boring lecture in one of my classes, my mind drifted off to think about what life would be like if we did not have the electronics around to cause these problems.

I came to the conclusion

that it would be great.

No longer, would I have to search through buttons used to square coefficients and test inequalities simply to find the basic addition and subtraction symbols. I held this thought for an entire day, then I went home and watched UPN's hit reality show "Amish in the City," a favorite of mine.

The show's premise is that it takes five Amish teens and places them in a house in

Los Angeles, with five teens from the city. There they experience what technology is like, and decide whether they wish to return to the Amish or stay in their new-found niche.

Before the first commercial break, I realized what an ignorant fool I had been.

Life without the technology of today would be awful. I can barely make it an hour without using my cell phone, listening to music, or partaking in some pleasantries of today's wired age. I had a hard enough time at camp this summer when I had to rely on nature to provide

entertainment for one week. I fear even trying to picture what it would be like if that time was extended.

When it comes down to it, technology is great. Our society would be nowhere without it.

That is why I am choosing to put my faulty Internet connect and other electronic problems behind me.

I am also making it a personal goal to master the Texas Instruments number 84 this month. I do not care if it takes hours of practice. I will learn every function of that math tool.

Ben Briscoe
Staff Intern



Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 15, the 259th day of 2004. There are 107 days left in the year. The Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 15, 1963, four black girls were killed when a bomb went off during Sunday services at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala. (Three Ku Klux Klansmen were eventually convicted for their roles in the blast.)

On this date:

In 1776, British forces occupied New York City during the American Revolution.

In 1789, the U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs was renamed the Department of State.

In 1821, independence was proclaimed for Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

In 1857, William Howard Taft — who served as president of the United States and as U.S. chief justice — was born in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1917, Russia was proclaimed a republic by Alexander Kerensky, the head of a provisional government.

'God made the world round so we would never be able to see too far down the road.'

— Isak Dinesen
Danish author

In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of their citizenship and made the swastika the official symbol of Nazi Germany.

In 1940, during the Battle of Britain in World War II, the tide turned as the Luftwaffe sustained heavy losses inflicted by the Royal Air Force.

In 1950, during the Korean conflict, United Nations forces landed at Inchon in the south and began their drive toward Seoul.

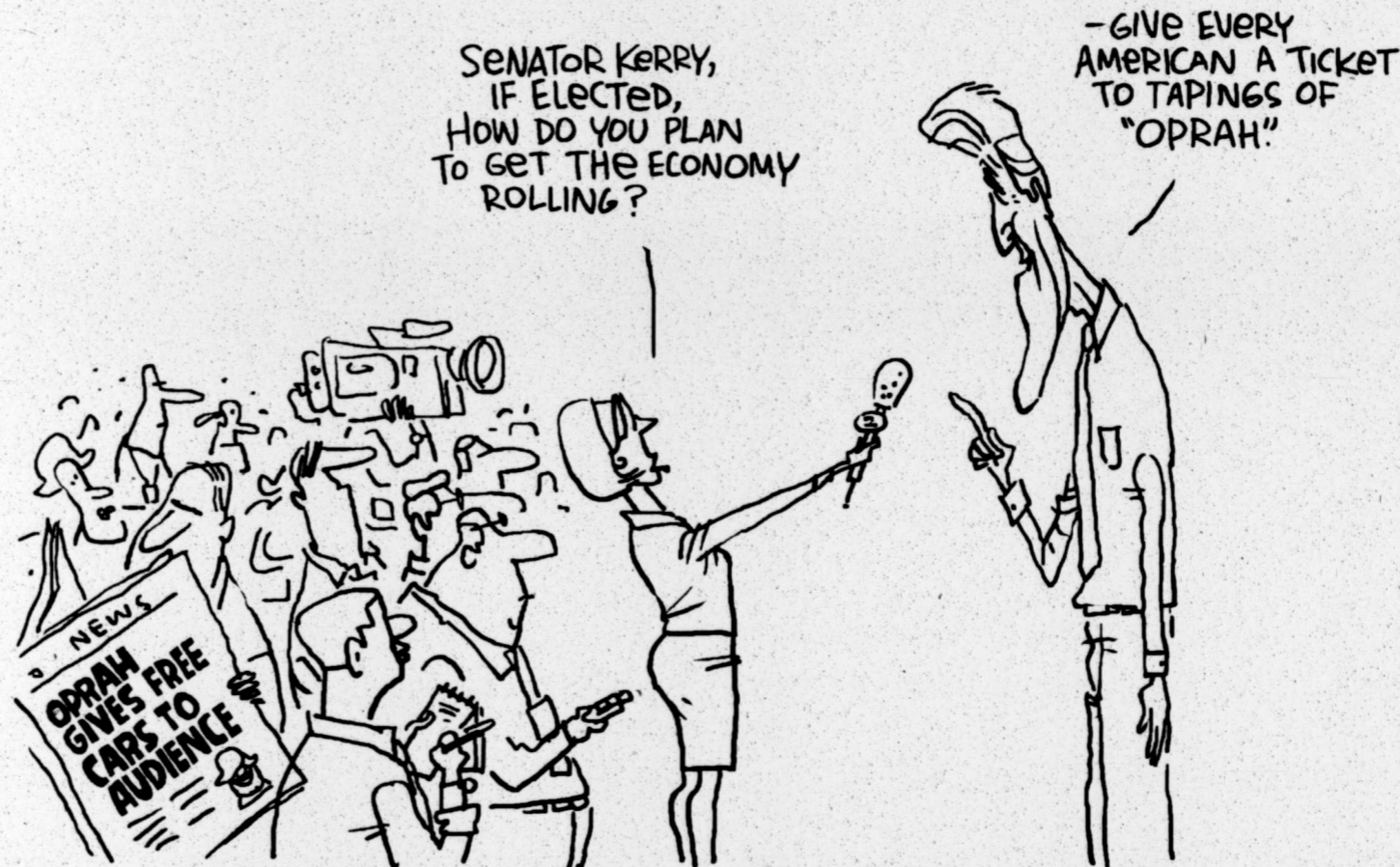
In 1959, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev arrived in the U.S. to begin a 13-day visit.

In 1982, Iran's former foreign minister, Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, was executed after he was convicted of plotting against the government.

Ten years ago: In a terse ultimatum from the Oval Office, President Clinton told Haiti's military leaders in a prime-time address: "Your time is up. Leave now or we will force you from power."

Five years ago: One month after being charged in the United States with laundering suspected drug payoffs, Mexico's former top drug prosecutor, Mario Ruiz Massieu, was found dead in his New Jersey apartment, an apparent suicide. Larry Ashbrook opened fire in a Fort Worth, Texas, Baptist church, killing seven people and himself.

One year ago: The WUSA soccer league shut down operations five days before the Women's World Cup, saying it didn't have enough money to stay in business for a fourth season.



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Israel root of Middle East mess

It was 1996, and Bill Clinton was president. To give the rascal his due, he was laboring mightily to make the Middle East peace process work. That same year, three Jewish-American neoconservatives produced a policy paper for the newly elected Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

The neocons were Richard Perle, Douglas Feith and David Wurmser. Their policy paper recommended to Netanyahu that he abandon the peace process, reject "land for peace" and strengthen Israel's defenses in order to confront Syria and Iraq. The document said, "This effort can focus on removing Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq — an

important Israeli strategic objective in its own right." It also recommended that Israel use pretexts for pre-emptive attacks.

Now, if all of this sounds familiar — and it should — that's because Perle, Feith and Wurmser joined other neocons in the Bush administration. Perle was especially vocal in pushing the war on Iraq. They had two pretexts: the attack of Sept. 11, even though Saddam Hussein had nothing to do with it, and the mythical weapons of mass destruction.

Netanyahu, by the way, did abandon the peace process. And, at a cost of \$200 billion and nearly 1,000 American lives, Israel did achieve its "strategic objective in its own right" — removing Saddam from power. Unless Perle and his buddies were paid for their advice, it didn't cost Israel one shekel or one life.

Furthermore, if you stretch your memory, you will recall that until Iraq blew up in its face, the Bush administration was laying the groundwork to attack

Syria, the other country Perle and his crowd named as a target for Israel. It has already imposed sanctions on Syria despite the fact that, according to our own intelligence people, Syria had been cooperating with the war on terror. The other target of the Israelis — excuse me, the Bush administration — is Iran.

If you want more details on these neocons, I recommend "Secrets and Lies," by Dilip Hiro, a distinguished Middle East scholar, and James Bamford's "A Pretext for War."

When President Bush first started talking about terrorism, he used to say "terrorists

See ISRAEL, Page 5

Charley Reese
Columnist



Violence hampers Iraqi democracy

The Houston Chronicle on the prospect of peace in Iraq:

Is the approach of democratic elections in Iraq motivating the escalation of insurgent violence? If so, will it subside with time and Iraqi self-government?

Whenever Israelis and Palestinians sit down to negotiate a peace agreement, the violence in the Middle East escalates and intensifies. Sometimes during periods of stalemate and discouragement, calm pervasively descends.

The Bush administration maintains that a similar dynamic is at work in Iraq. The closer draws January's

appointed date for elections, the more numerous and lethal grow insurgent attacks against coalition forces and Iraqi officials and buildings.

The coincidence of rising violence and the approach of the election date cannot be denied. On Sunday in Baghdad alone, 37 people were killed and 142 injured in a series of car bombs and rocket and mortar barrages. The Associated Press reported.

The administration's the-

sis, however, is that we must stay the course until the elections, and then things will improve. Unfortunately, the lack of security is making

postponement of the elections more likely. Democracy cannot function well if voters stand a good chance of being killed or wounded while they stand in line to vote.

With some Iraqi cities firmly in the hands of insurgents of one stripe or another, the U.S. forces have

come to rely on airstrikes on suspected insurgent hideouts. Iraqi health officials say this is claiming an intolerable number of innocent lives, a charge the U.S. command denies.

Even if U.S. firepower is sparing Iraqi casualties, the same cannot be said for the terrorists, whose car bombs and mortar attacks kill Iraqi civilians and U.S. soldiers alike. The interim Iraqi government headed by interim Ayad Allawi is blamed for failing to bring the day-to-day security it promised.

A large part of the U.S.

See WAR, Page 5

Texas Thoughts

The Houston Chronicle

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Reports fuel doubts on documents used in CBS News story

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS News continued to defend the legitimacy of its recent story about President Bush's Vietnam-era service in the Texas Air National Guard, even as two experts it hired to examine records CBS used told ABC they could not vouch for their veracity.

Meanwhile, a former secretary in the guard said Tuesday she believed the documents in question were fake, although they accurately reflected the thoughts of one of Bush's commanders.

CBS News on Tuesday said Dan Rather's report on "60 Minutes" last week did not rely on assessments made by the two examiners quoted

in the ABC report, and found it notable the secretary affirmed the content of the documents.

"We continue to believe in this story," said Betsy West, CBS News' senior vice president.

CBS said its story about Bush's guard service relied on much more than documents. But the controversy has raised credibility questions for the network news division and it's not certain if those questions will be definitively answered.

CBS says the documents from one of Bush's commanders, Lt. Col. Jerry B. Killian, indicated Bush didn't follow orders to take a physi-

cal and that Killian was being pressured to sugarcoat his performance ratings. Bush's father was a Texas congressman at the time.

Questions were immediately raised about the documents' legitimacy, with some believing they were produced by a computer not available at the time.

Emily Will, a documents examiner from North Carolina hired by CBS, said

she told the network before the report aired that she questioned handwriting in the documents she was shown and whether it could have been produced by a typewriter.

'I did not authenticate anything and I don't want it understood that I did.'

— Linda James
Document expert

for comparison.

"Although I never told them, and I still would say the documents were definite-

ly not authentic, I had some problems with the documents," Will told The Associated Press late Tuesday.

Will said she e-mailed a CBS producer and urged her the night before the broadcast not to play up that a professional document examiner had authenticated the papers.

"I did not feel that they wanted to investigate it very deeply," Will told ABC News.

Another expert hired by CBS, Linda James of Plano, Texas, told ABC that "I did not authenticate anything and I don't want it understood that I did."

James told AP late Tuesday

she raised similar concerns about signature samples.

"I really pressed that because I knew that other document examiners looking at the same documents would have a real problem authenticating these," she said.

CBS News said that Will and James played only a "peripheral role" in assessing the documents, and had seen only one of the four used in the report. Ultimately they deferred to another expert who has seen all four documents, Marcel Matley, and who continues to back up CBS' account.

West said Will did not contact the network the night before the report aired.



In appreciation

Meredith House held a special appreciation luncheon for Pampa firefighters in memory of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Pampa Fire Department Capt. Jessie Hanes accepts a certificate of appreciation for Meredith House Administrator DiDi Houghton. With Capt. Hanes at the presentation are Pampa firefighters, John Evans, Robert McDonald, and Jim Sirmans.

Israel

Continued from Page 4

ism, he use to say "terrorists with global reach" to distinguish between al-Qaida and strictly local outfits with local agendas. That did not suit the Israelis and their American supporters. They wanted Israel's enemies to be our enemies, and so the distinction was soon dropped, and Israel's enemies were added to the official list of terrorist organizations.

The problem is that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are Palestinian organizations fighting for independence. True, they have used terrorist tactics, just as the Jewish organizations -- the Stern Gang and the Irgun -- did when they were fighting British occupation of Palestine. But their target is the Israeli occupation, not us.

Calendar items

- **Students of Madeline Graves Dance and Gymnastics Center** are selling cookie dough as a fund-raiser. Orders will be taken through Thursday, Sept. 16. Cost of the dough is \$10 a tub. Flavors include chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, white chocolate macademia, sugar, brownie peanut butter chip, coconut macaroon, apple berry cookie and M&M. For more information, call 665-8921 and ask for Jeanna Zuniga.

- **West Texas A&M University** will conduct a seminar in stress management from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20 in the Small Business Development Center, 2300 N. Western, Amarillo. To register, call (806) 372-5151 or log onto www.smallbusinessdevelopmentcenter.com on the Internet.

- **Pampa Area Singles** next dance will feature **Indian Summer** and is scheduled from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at M.K. Brown Auditorium. As always, snacks are welcome. No smoking and no alcohol allowed. For more information, call 665-7059.

- **A "Wildlife Management Workshop** for Absentee Landowners,"

Hezbollah is a Lebanese organization that has also used terrorist tactics, including attacks against Americans in Lebanon when it figured we were helping the Israelis in their occupation of Lebanon. But there again, its quarrel is with Israel.

I have long since given up the hope that Americans would wake up and resent the manipulation of their government by a foreign country. The Israeli lobby has been so successful in labeling any criticism of Israel, no matter how justified, as anti-Semitic that most Americans prefer to stick their heads in the sand. For sure, American politicians and much of the media seem to be terrified by the Israeli lobby, which says more about their cowardice than it does about the power of the lobby itself.

So, suit yourself. Go ahead and spend American blood and treasure for the

benefit of Israel.

Just remember, the United States has one, and only one, legitimate interest in the Middle East, and that is buying oil that everybody who has it wants to sell. It doesn't matter whether we buy it from a dictator (we bought plenty from Saddam) or from a democratic government. It doesn't matter to us if the country that sells us oil likes or hates Israel.

This whole mess, including the war in Iraq and the terrorist attacks, is a result of the American government's involvement with Israel. It's a dangerous and unhealthy state of affairs that will not be cured until Americans find the courage to have an open and honest debate about our foreign policy in the Middle East.

Charley Reese is a retired journalist living in Florida who writes a syndicated column for King Features.

First black chief justice named to Texas high court

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Wallace B. Jefferson, a descendant of slaves and the first black member of the Texas Supreme Court, became the court's first black chief justice Tuesday.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed Jefferson to replace Tom Phillips, who stepped down earlier this month after nearly 17 years as chief justice to become a law professor in Houston.

"I am deeply honored to accept this appointment," said Jefferson, accompanied by his parents, wife and three young sons.

Asked about the historic significance of his selection, he said: "There's very little that stands in our way if we prepare ourselves. There's no limits to what this country will allow you to do."

Perry's appointment of Jefferson is subject to approval by the Texas Senate after it convenes in January for its regular biennial session, but Jefferson will hold the job in the meantime.

Jefferson, 41, of San Antonio, is among the nine-member court's more conservative members.

War

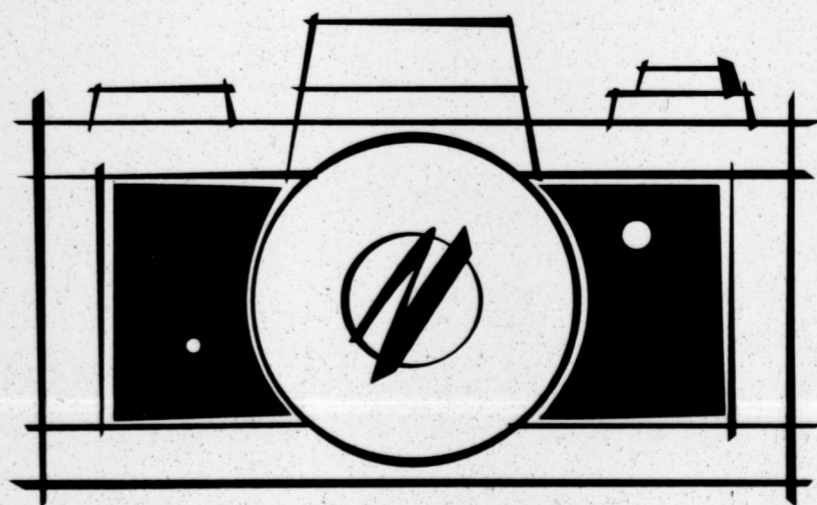
Continued from Page 4

strategy is to rapidly train Iraqi police officers and soldiers to battle the insurgents and guard government and industrial facilities. The insurgents know this and target Iraqi recruits as collabo-

rators. The police are not effective enough to attack insurgent strongholds and sometimes patrol cities at the pleasure of the insurgents who control them.

The prospect of Iraqi peace and emerging democracy shimmers like a chimera on the horizon. But overhead are the dark clouds of what could become a full-blown civil war.

COMMUNITY CAMERAS



The new **DIGITAL COMMUNITY CAMERAS** are here! We want to share with our readers events throughout the community ... so come by to borrow a camera for Church Socials, Family Reunions, School Activities or Any Other Ideas You Have!

THE PAMPA NEWS

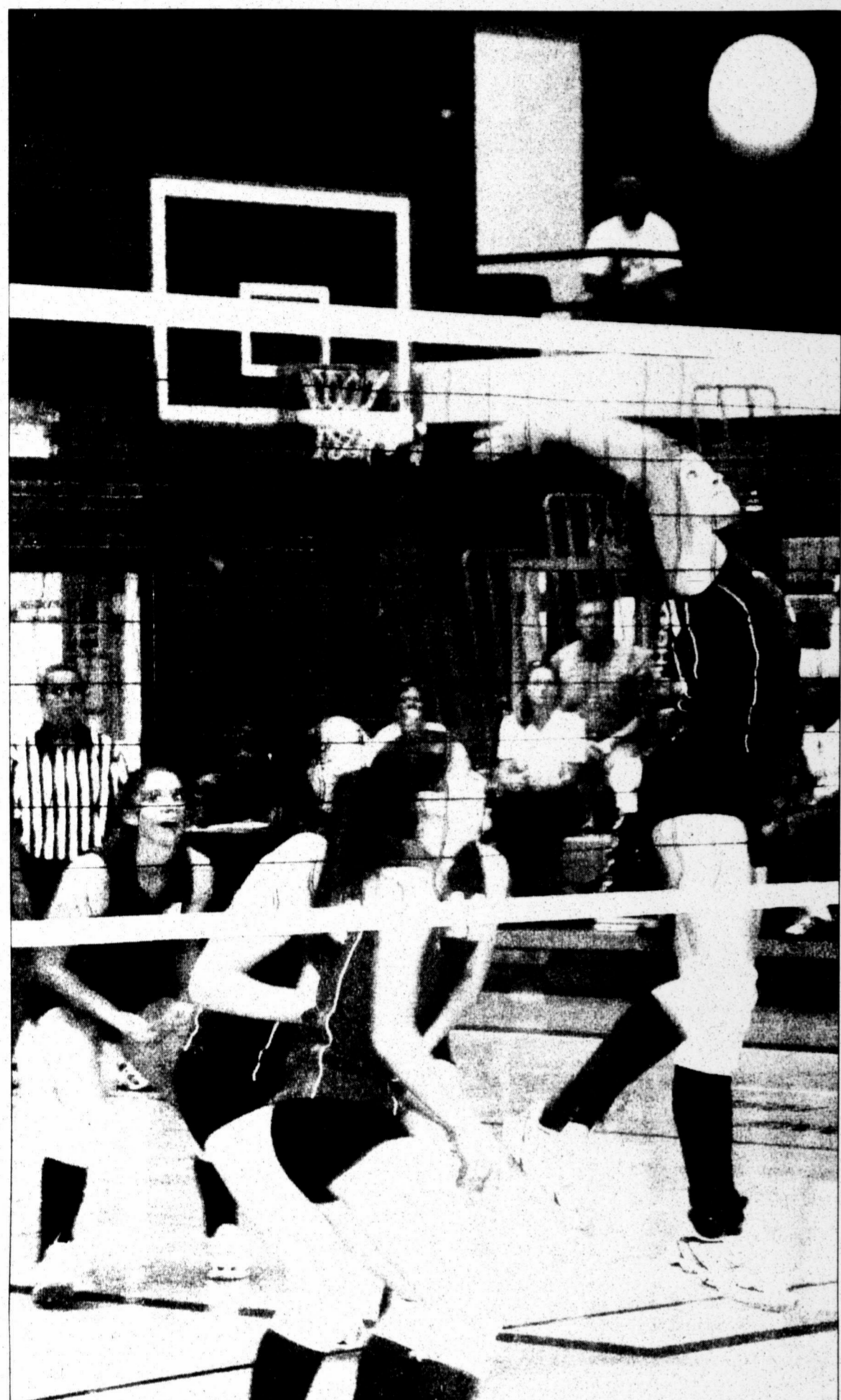
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Sports Day



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

PHS Lady Harvester Jackie Gerber slams the ball over the net while Alyssa Bromlow and Kendel Stokes look on. The play scored one point for Pampa when the Amarillo team failed to return the ball over the net in the allotted number of hits.



Pampa News photo by BEN BRISCOE

Pampa Head Coach Shannon Stroud gives her volleyball team tips on the weaknesses of the Amarillo High Lady Sandies during the break between the second and first games.

Pampa falls to Amarillo, Randall next on schedule

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Lady Harvester volleyball team hosted the fourth-ranked Lady Sandies of Amarillo High last night. Amarillo took the win 25-12, 25-17, 25-9.

Despite the loss, what did Coach Shannon Stroud take away from yesterday's game? "Well, I did notice a major improvement on our team work

and togetherness. We have been really struggling with that, but we came together last night a lot better than we have, but we still need to continue to work on it," Stroud said.

Stroud and her team entered the game last night after working on a few changes, including going from a perimeter-type defense to a rotating defense. Asked to evaluate the new look defense, Stroud said, "I have changed up our defense, so this was the first game to use it, and I really like it. The girls responded really well to it, but we will need to work on it a ton more."

What has impressed Coach Stroud the

most about her team so far this season? "What really impresses me about this years team is their work ethic and determination. They are so determined to do so good, they sometimes get caught up in their own selves

"They are very quick and powerful, so we will have to be quicker and keep rallies going."

— Shannon Stroud
Coach, Pampa Harvester Volleyball

and that is what we have to work on. But they try so hard. They are willing to do everything and anything to get better," Stroud said.

With the Estacado match scheduled for this Saturday canceled, the Lady Harvesters are getting set for district play with their first game coming against Randall. "They are really good, but very beatable," said Stroud. Adding, "We have to come out strong and

keep our focus on the positive things, not negative things. If we can get inside Randall's head early on in the match, I think we will have it made. It will be a hard match though and we have to come mentally prepared to do all the little things. They are very quick and powerful, so we will have to be quicker and keep rallies going."

Pampa hosts Randall next Tuesday at 6 p.m.

LOCAL EVENTS

Hidden Hills to host tournament

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Take Down Club is currently accepting registrations. To sign up, stop by 1236 Hamilton or call Bobby Burns at 665-0227.

Hidden Hills Ladies Golf Association Championship Tournament will be held this

weekend at the Hidden Hills golf course. Call 665-8000 or 669-5866 for additional information.

The Celanese Community Care Pamcel Golf Course hosts a 4-person scramble this Saturday. For more information, please call Don Alexander at 663-4942, Cory Stone at 669-9859, Gard Gershmel at 663-4479 or Julie Breuer at 665-3823.

Rangers, A's still pointing fingers of blame

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Athletics and Texas Rangers disagreed over who's to blame for an altercation in the stands that led to the arrest of Rangers reliever Frank Francisco after he threw a chair that hit a woman and broke her nose.

David Rinetti, A's vice president of stadium operations, said a review of the ninth-inning fracas the night before — which took place in the field box seats between the Texas dugout and bullpen — showed the fans' behavior wasn't over the line according to baseball's rules of conduct that are posted at every ballpark entrance.

He noted the fans didn't yell racial slurs or swear at the Texas players.

Yet Rangers manager Buck Showalter was quick to point to previous problems the Rangers have had in the Oakland Coliseum. He claimed the Rangers had asked for more security in the area, but Rinetti said neither he nor his security staff had been approached with such a request.

Still, the A's beefed up security for the remainder of the series — and probably for the rest of the season. Several additional officers from the Oakland Police Department were brought in to assist the Coliseum's regular security staff, which was increased by 10 people in the visiting bullpen and dugout.

Clemens shuts down Cardinals, Astros in hunt

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Roger Clemens shut down the St. Louis Cardinals' potent offense, doing his part to keep the Houston Astros in the NL wild-card race.

Clemens won his 327th game with seven strong innings and the Astros held on for a 7-5 victory on Tuesday night.

The Cardinals' 3-4-5-6 hitters were a combined 0-for-11 with four strikeouts against Clemens.

"He was fantastic," manager Phil Garner said. "He did a super job."

Lance Berkman matched a career high with four hits, including a three-run double that highlighted a five-run fourth. The Astros have won 15 of 18 and remained a game behind San Francisco, 3-2 winners at

Milwaukee, and a half-game back of the Cubs, who beat Pittsburgh 3-2 in 12 innings, for the wild card.

Tony Womack had three hits, a stolen base and scored on a first-inning double play for St. Louis, which has lost five of seven.

"We made a good run at it," manager Tony La Russa said. "I know they were worried at the end and we were excited, but it's tough getting down to a great pitcher."

Clemens (17-4) passed Eddie Plank and moved into a tie with John Clarkson (1882-94) for 10th, while improving to 3-0 with a 1.64 ERA in four starts against the Cardinals this year.

7th and 8th grade teams do well against Hereford

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa 7th and 8th grade football teams took to the gridiron yesterday against Hereford. While the 7th grade team stayed home to play host, the 8th grade team made the trip to take on the future Hostile Herd.

The 8th grade A-team shut out Hereford, 26-0. Madison Wilson scored two touchdowns on runs of 80-yards and 40-yards respectively. Darren Parker ran in the extra point on the first. Thomas Fraser chipped in an 18-yard pass reception from Casey Trimble which he ran in for a touchdown. Trimble also tossed an 8-yard TD pass to Blake Sieck.

The 8th grade A-team is now 2-0 on the season.

The B-team also had a strong outing. But fell to Hereford 26-22.

Jeremy Busse had a 10-yard touchdown

run in the game. Heath Skinner scored a TD on a 2-yard run with Chris Benge adding the extra point. Corbin Harris also had a 2-yard touchdown run. That extra point was the product of a Jeremy Maxwell pass to Taylor Aderholt.

The 8th grade B-team is 1-1.

Both teams are home next Tuesday to host Canyon. B-team kick-off scheduled for 5 p.m. The A-team will tee it up at 6:30 p.m. Stats unavailable at press time, we can tell you the Pampa 7th grade A-team won its game against Hereford by a 34-22 final. The B-team took a loss but held their opponent to only 6 points. Final in that game was 6-0.

The A-team is 1-0 on the season while the B-team is 0-1.

Both teams are at Canyon next Tuesday. B-team to take the field at 5 p.m. The A-team to do so at 6:30 p.m.

Lightning strike injures players, coaches

GRAPELAND, Texas (AP) — About 40 players and coaches with the Grapeland High School football team in East Texas were injured, two of them critically, when lightning struck near their practice field Tuesday evening, authorities said.

One of the critically injured students was flown by helicopter to East Texas Medical Center in Tyler and the other was being

transferred to Memorial Hermann hospital in Houston. ETMC hospital officials said.

Twenty-eight students ranging in age from 15-17 and two coaches were being treated at ETMC in nearby Crockett, hospital officials said. Their conditions ranged from good to critical, and they were complaining of soreness, abdominal pain and headaches.

5 Special Notices

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

10 Lost/Found

FOUND male Dachshund on 19th & Christine. 669-3440.

FOUND 6-8 wk. old Chow puppy. Brown legs, br. & bl. body. bl. N. Sumner. 665-7272.

13 Bus. Opp.

BAR in Pampa and equipment for sale. Offer. Call 664-1745.

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THE PAMPA NEWS COMICS

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl with a lot of questions about sex and growing up. I can't ask my mom because every time I bring up the subject, she accuses me of having sex. There isn't another adult I would consider talking to about this.

Abby, I am not having sex -- I am just curious. Is it wrong to be curious? Please help me. — **BLINDSIDED** IN BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

DEAR BLINDSIDED: It is normal to be curious. Your mother should thank her lucky stars that you are coming to her for information. Many young people turn to their friends for answers, which often turn out to be wrong.

Please clip this item. Give it to your mother and tell her you wrote it. You are not a little girl anymore, and you should already have been armed with accurate information.

The Sexuality Information and Education Council has a wealth of information resources and tools for parents in addressing this important subject. Its Web site, www.familiesaretalking.org, helps families talk about sexuality-related issues and provides information and resources for young people, parents and caregivers.

If your mother continues to accuse you of being sexually active or puts you off, go to the library and ask the librarian for books on the subject. Other reliable Web resources include **Planned Parenthood's Teenwire**, www.teenwire.com; and the **American Social Health Association**, www.ivanaknow.org, which is a safe place for teens to learn about sexual health.

DEAR ABBY: I recently started dating a man I'll call Freddy. We met through an online dating service. We live in the same city and have had several dates, including a sleep-over. I am completely taken with him. My

problem is that Freddy continues to keep his profile on the dating site and visits it frequently. He says he goes there only if someone contacts him. I told him it makes me feel insecure; he said until he feels "safe" (previous women have left him for other men), he's going to continue to go to the site.

Am I wrong to feel insecure about this, or do lots of people leave their profiles active while dating someone? — **SUSPICIOUS** IN COLUMBIA, S.C.

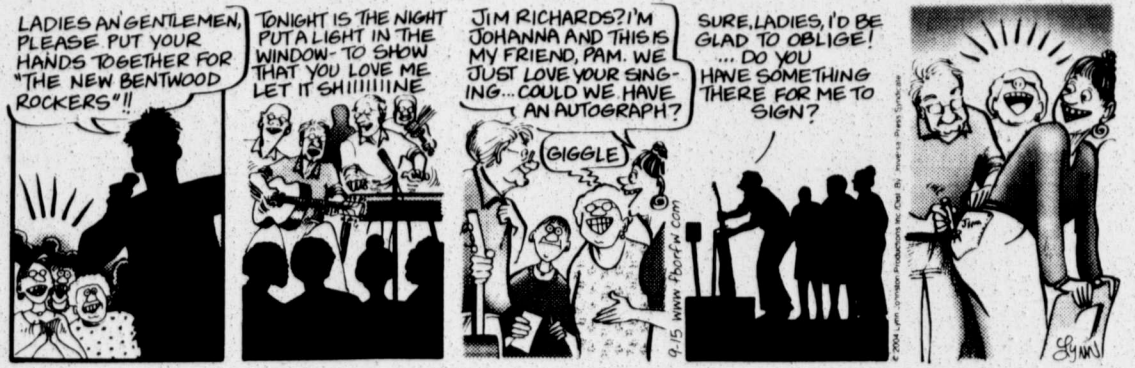
DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Many people do -- at least for a while. And if I were you, I'd remember that several dates and a sleep-over are not a committed or exclusive relationship. Although you may be "completely" taken with Freddy, he may prefer to test-drive several models before buying a car -- or anything else. Slow down.

DEAR ABBY: In a few weeks I will be attending my boyfriend "Don's" daughter's wedding. Several years ago, Don cheated on me with a woman I'll call Mona. It was only a short fling, and since then we have worked hard to repair our relationship. My problem is, Mona will be attending the wedding,

Should I go and hold my head high -- or not attend? I know it will be hard seeing her and not acting in a negative way. Mona has never stopped trying to interfere with our lives, and I have had a lot to swallow. What would you do? — **NEEDS SOME INPUT** IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NEEDS: I'd ask Don how he plans to handle it if Mona tries to attach herself to him, and agree upon some ground rules. Then I'd attend the wedding, be gracious to everyone, and revel in the fact that I was Don's girlfriend while Mona is the "loser" in more ways than one.

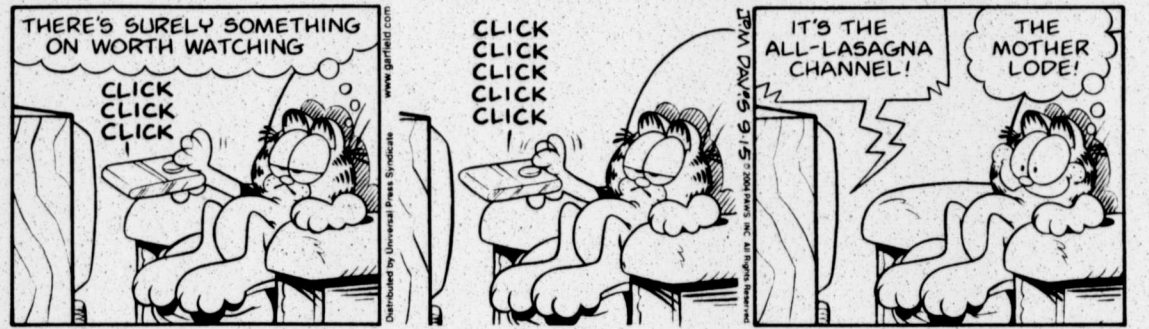
For Better Or Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Store

1 Come come-on boss
5 Pack fight
9 Campaign

11 Letter before
12 Up

13 Humming
14 Track
15 Thanks in
17 Trying to

19 Compass
20 Moine
21 Lawyer's

22 Thanks in
24 Beret
26 Our home
29 Great

30 Shower
32 Thanks in
34 Gardner
35 Wanderer
36 Not now
38 Rascal
39 Exhausted

DOWN

1 Starch, to
2 UFO fliers
3 Mail-related

4 Small bill
5 Smart
6 Change
7 Relaxed
8 Billiards
10 Car part
11 Partner of
16 Fall back
18 Moist

21 Some ever-
23 Winter
24 Ring
25 Beast
27 Perfectly

28 Refuges
29 Army
30 Ordered, in olden days
31 Line on a repair bill
33 Donated
37 NYPD
38 alert

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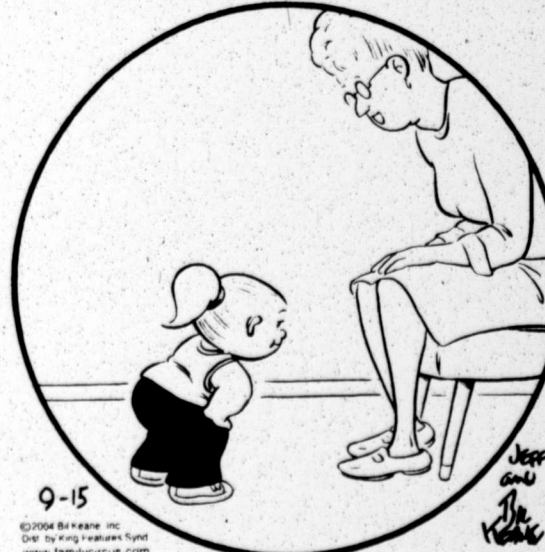


Marmaduke



"Marmaduke is a fashion don't."

The Family Circus



9-15

"Thank you, Dolly, but they're not tattoos. They're varicose veins."

B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Flo & Friends



Blondie

