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THE PAMPA NEWS

Tuesday, August 8, 2006

Volume 102 • No. 106

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OPPORTUNITY

Incubator project to foster businesses

By DAVID BOWSER
Staff Writer

Dan Redd is looking for a few good people. He has a building and no one in it. Redd, a rural development specialist with the West Texas A&M University Enterprise Network, is in charge of the Pampa Business Incubator, 822 E. Foster, and he is looking for people with business ideas who want to grow them.

"If you have an idea concerning a business, contact us," Redd said. "If you are doing something on your present job to make your present job easier that can be taken to the next level, contact us."

Pampa's an industrial town, Redd says. "The oil, the energy, the farming, the ranching, that is Pampa and there's got to be people out there who are doing things to make their jobs easier."

'If you have an idea concerning a business, contact us. If you are doing something on your present job to make your present job easier that can be taken to the next level, contact us.'

— Dan Redd
Rural development specialist

that could be taken to the next level, and they don't even realize that."

That was the case with Gary Sage, Redd said, except that Sage realized what he had.

Gary Sage was a corn farmer near Texline who thought it was inefficient to shut down an irrigation well to change oil in the engine. He came up with a system that would suck the oil out and inject fresh oil while the engine was still

running.

Soon neighbors were asking him to make them an Oil Vac, the machine he was using to change oil in his irrigation engines.

"He was making his Oil Vac in a Quonset hut the three months he wasn't growing corn," Redd said.

Sage moved into the Amarillo business incubator, refined the idea and developed a marketing and business plan.

Now, one of his major

customers is the U.S. government.

"That was just something to make his job easier," Redd said. "We feel like there are many Gary Sages out there."

Sage was the Amarillo incubator's first client. Sage Vac Oil is now up to 27 employees and has built a new facility on the east loop around Amarillo.

"They moved out a year ago in June," Redd said.

Oil Vac expanded to the point they needed a larger facility.

"That's the way an incubator should work," Redd said. "Companies should grow."

The Amarillo incubator now hosts a company that provides organic fertilizer, one that builds machinery for body shops, one that makes granite counter tops, a company that makes exercise equipment and

See REDD, Page 2

Police seeking armed robbers

By MARILYN POWERS
Staff Writer

Pampa Police Department is investigating an armed robbery which occurred at 3:44 a.m. today at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Three males entered the store and showed the clerk a handgun, according to police reports. The men, whose faces were covered, may be Hispanic, the reports said.

The men were given an unreported amount of cash from the store and left in a white Ford F-150 pickup.

An unknown amount of consumable goods, which may have included fuel, was also taken by the three.

No injuries were reported in connection with the armed robbery, and no other armed robberies have been reported.

Police responded to the scene after a burglar alarm was activated at the store, according to police reports.

Persons having any information on the incident may call the police department at 669-5700.

Interest rates may remain static for now

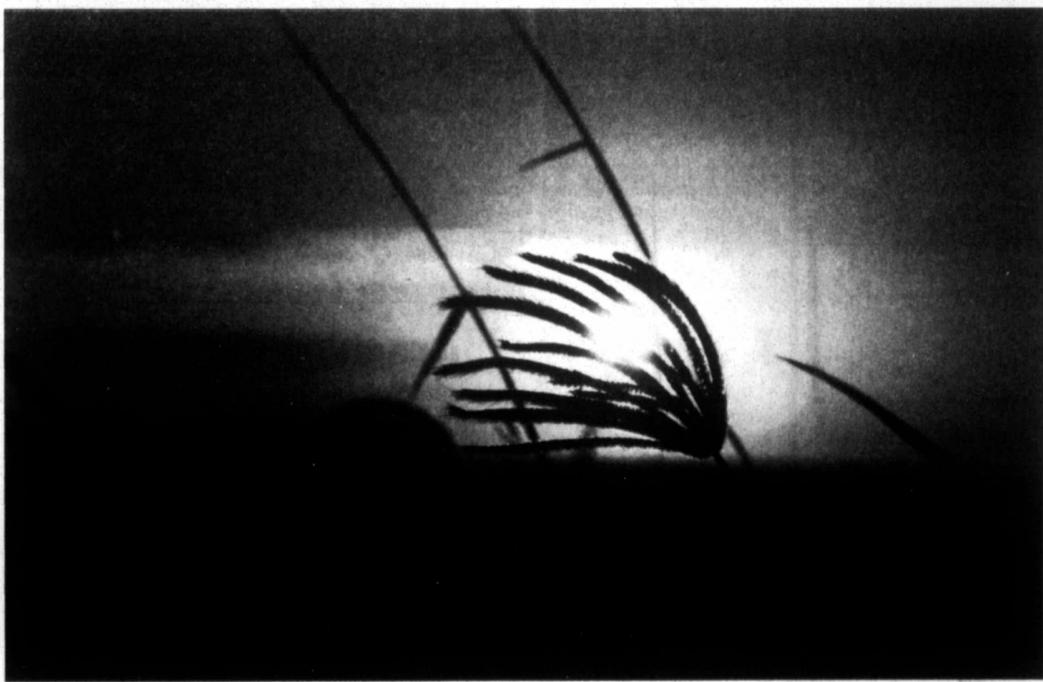
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve may finally be ready to halt its two-year campaign to raise interest rates, but with soaring energy prices threatening to make inflation worse any pause may be temporary.

The central bank has not missed a chance to boost interest rates since it started the current credit tightening campaign in June 2004, the longest stretch of Fed rate hikes in recent history.

It has nudged the federal funds rate up by a quarter-point at each of 17 consecutive meetings, going from a 46-year low of 1 percent to the current level of 5.25 percent.

That trend could change Tuesday.

Many analysts believe Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues will decide they don't need to raise rates further, at least for now, because of growing signs that the economy is slowing.



Just the beginning

▲ Top: Heads of grass blow gently at dawn east of Pampa.

► Right: Waving seeds of grass bow before the Panhandle winds.

Pampa News photos by DAVID BOWSER

JOB RECRUITING FAIR

A National Customer Service Company Will Conduct A "Job Recruiting Fair" In Pampa
Tue., Aug. 8 - 4-8pm & Wed., Aug. 9 - 8am-8pm. At The Clarendon College Pampa Center 1601 W. Kentucky
For More Information Contact The Pampa Chamber Of Commerce At 806-669-3241

Gray County Weather

Today: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Tonight: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 96. Southwest wind around 10 mph.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 75. South-southwest wind around 10 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy,

with a high near 95. West-southwest wind between 5 and 10 mph becoming calm.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 73. South-southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, with a high near 95. Calm wind becoming south-southwest between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 93.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 70.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a high near 90.

Emergency Services

Pampa PD

Pampa Police Department reported the following incidents for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Eleven traffic stops were made. An abandoned vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of North Hobart. Traffic complaints were received from the 2200 block of North Hobart and an unreported location.

A suspicious vehicle call was received from the intersection of McCullough and Faulkner streets.

Suspicious person calls were received from the intersection of 19th and Nelson streets and the 2200 block of North Sumner.

A prowler was reported in the 1100 block of South Christy.

Disorderly conduct was reported in the 800 block of North Nelson, the 1000 block of West Wilks and the 1200 block of East Frederic.

Violation of a city ordinance was reported in the 2600 block of Navajo and the 1300 block of Garland.

A civil matter was reported in the police department lobby.

A domestic disturbance was reported in the 1800 block of Hamilton.

Assault was reported in the 2400 block of Evergreen. Minor injuries were reported, and no medical attention was needed.

Assault was reported in the 1200 block of East Foster. The incident was verbal only, with no injuries reported.

Possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance, possession of a dangerous drug and possession of drug paraphernalia were reported in the 500 block of Montagu.

Four burglar alarms were reported. One alarm concerned an aggravated robbery at Allsup's, 1900 N. Hobart.

Burglary was reported in the police department lobby. The incident occurred in the 800 block of East Murphy. A cell phone, various computer software, and items of clothing were taken, for a loss valued at an estimated \$5,475.

Burglary was reported in the 1200 block of Wilcox. Tools, a door and cabinets were taken, for a loss valued at an estimated \$1,680.

Burglary of a motor vehicle was reported in the 1500 block of North Banks. The incident occurred in the 1100 block of Varnon Drive. A laptop computer valued at \$4,000 was taken from a vehicle.

Forgery was reported at Mr. Payroll of Pampa, 309 N. Hobart.

Fraud was reported in the police department lobby and the 1900 block of Lea.

Theft was reported in the 2700 block of North Hobart and the 2100 block of North Russell.

A gas drive-off was reported in the 300 block of North Hobart.

Pampa was arrested by PPD on capias pro fines for two counts of animal at large.

John Franklin Ellis, 28, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO on a motion to revoke probation for driving while license is invalid.

Katrina Wood, 20, of Pampa was arrested by GCSO for theft of services, no insurance and failure to appear.

Charlie Broadbent, 48, no address reported, was arrested by GCSO on nine counts of issuing a bad check and a blue warrant to revoke parole.

Edward Briley, 27, of Memphis was arrested in the 1000 block of Varnon Drive by PPD for assaulting a public servant, evading arrest/detention with a vehicle and no seat belt.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Donald Johnson, 56, of Pampa was arrested in the 500 block of Montagu by PPD for possession of a dangerous drug, possession of less than one gram of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

David Kaniowski, 49, of Westland, Mich., was arrested by GCSO on insufficient bond for a charge of possession of marijuana.

Sheriff

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

Monday, Aug. 7

Joseph Aaron Slagle, 28, of Pampa was arrested in the 1200 block of East Foster by Pampa Police Department on a capias pro fine for disregarding a signal.

Michelle Christine Slagle, 28, of

Fire

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

Monday, Aug. 7

12:29 p.m. — One unit and two personnel responded one mile west on Highway 60 on a small grass fire.

CITY BRIEFS

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

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PUPPY PARLOR Affordable Dog Grooming, 662-7352

WORD ENCOUNTER with David Tompkins at Lighthouse 18th and Banks tonight 7pm.

Redd

Continued from Page 1

one that manufactures architectural concrete machines for overseas use.

"If it meets their needs, it's going to meet other people's needs," Redd said. "If we can find those people and work with them, get them past where they are, we can help them move their idea along."

The incubator, Redd said, gives entrepreneurs access to experienced business consultants, lower capital and operating costs, state of the art technology and assistance with capital formation.

"We can shorten the learning curve," Redd said.

The incubator offers accounting and record keeping guidance, administrative and secretarial assistance, training programs, market research, sales and marketing strategy development, mentoring and networking opportunities, equipment and facilities.

In addition to Pampa and Amarillo,

Redd's group has incubators in Dumas, Borger and Childress. They are looking to expand to Muleshoe and Guymon.

"Dumas is going great guns," Redd said. "They've graduated two or three companies up there. They have space for three companies right now."

Borger is doing well, he said.

"It's almost full," Redd said.

Childress, he said, is about 40 percent full, but they have a very large facility.

"They've probably got the biggest incubator outside of Amarillo, spacewise," Redd said. "If it was the size of the Borger incubator, it'd be full."

The incubator in Pampa has about 11,000 square foot available in the old U.S. Bus Building, 822 E. Foster. There are five production spaces and four office spaces.

"With Internet sales, we're finding we need more office space than production space," he said.

Redd said that a lot of people may not have an interest in starting a new business, but they may know someone who does.

"The incubator is a great place to be," Redd said.

Comrade: Soldiers in rape case suffered war stress

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Frequent deadly attacks by insurgents sapped morale and raised combat stress in a U.S. Army unit that included soldiers accused of raping and murdering a 14-year-old Iraqi girl, a private testified at a military hearing Tuesday.

Pfc. Justin Cross recounted the "mentally draining" living conditions of the unit in the third day of the hearing to determine if five U.S. soldiers will be court-martialed in the March 12 assault near Mahmoudiya. The girl's parents and sister were also slain.

"It drives you nuts. You feel like every step you might get blown up. You just hit a point where you're like, 'If I die today, I die.' You're just walking a death walk," Cross told the hearing.

He said soldiers often

drank Iraqi whiskey and took painkillers to relieve the stress of not knowing whether the day would be their last. One such drinking session preceded the rape and murders, the hearing was told by another witness on Monday.

Spc. James P. Barker, Sgt. Paul E. Cortez, Pfc. Jesse V. Spielman and Pfc. Bryan L. Howard are accused of rape and murder. If convicted by

a court-martial, they could face the death penalty.

Another soldier, Sgt. Anthony W. Yrube, is accused of failing to report the attack but is not alleged to have been a direct participant.

On Tuesday, lawyers for the four main accused demanded a new hearing, accusing Yrube's counsel of deliberately asking incriminating questions. A ruling was expected later in the day.

Former Pfc. Steven D. Green, who grew up in Midland, Texas, was discharged from the Army for a "personality disorder" after the incident and was arrested in North Carolina in June on rape and murder charges. He has pleaded not guilty in federal court and is being held without bond.

Combat stress is likely to be the foundation of the defense. All are assigned to the 101st Airborne Division from Fort Campbell, Ky.

Jeanne Willingham

announces

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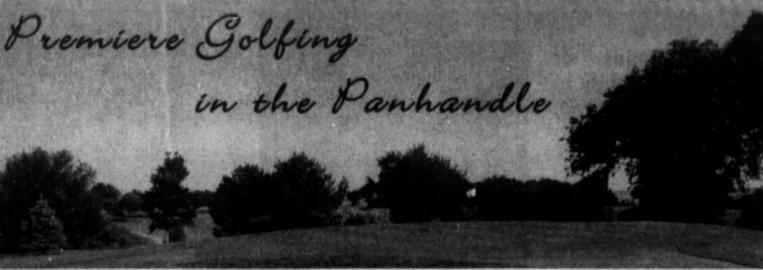
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Stocks

The following grain quotations are provided by Anebury Grain of White Deer.

Wheat	4.31
Milo	3.25
Corn	4.14
Soybeans	4.44

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

OXY	106.91	-0.38
BP PLC ADR	69.82	-0.63
Cabot Corp	31.18	+0.20
Celanese	18.16	+0.27
Cabot Oil Gas	55.29	+0.14
Coca Cola	43.74	+0.13
VLO	66.98	+0.60
HAL	33.25	-0.15
TRI	42.32	-0.39
KML	101.15	+0.18
XCEL	20.37	+0.13
Kerr McGee	70.43	+0.06
XOM	69.40	+0.17
Nat'l Oilwell	65.75	+0.01
Limited	25.99	-0.21
Williams	24.71	+0.08
MCD	35.32	-0.21
Atmos	28.62	+0.08
Pioneer Nat	44.77	+0.06
JCP	64.50	-0.22
COP	67.95	+0.34
SLB	66.13	-0.11
Tenneco	23.88	+0.05
CVX	67.26	+0.43
Wal-Mart	44.81	-0.01
OKE	38.21	+0.69
NS Grp	47.83	-0.81

New York Gold	649.55
Silver	12.29
West Texas Crude	76.98

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Texas researcher taking skills to former Soviet Republic

By KAY LEDBETTER
Extension News

AMARILLO — Dr. Charlie Rush is using knowledge gained in the sugar beet fields of the Panhandle to help the Republic of Azerbaijan, formerly a part of the Soviet Union, build economic stability.

Rush is a plant pathologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Amarillo. While the sugar beet fields have disappeared across the Panhandle, he still helps other regions of the U.S. find solutions to sugar beet disease and pathogenic problems.

Now, he is taking his expertise overseas.

Azerbaijan recently built an oil pipeline from the capital Baku to the Turkey border and they are realizing increasing oil revenues, he said. The government is trying to use some of that money to improve the infrastructure and job market in the country outside of the capital city.

The primary source of income and jobs outside the city is through farming, Rush said. Cotton and sugar beets are both high-value crops to the region.

The first sugar beet processing factory, Azersun Sugar in Imisli, has been built and processed the first crop of a few 1,000 acres of beets this year, he said.

But there are still many issues related to harvesting and getting large amounts of beets to the factory. For instance, many beets are grown on five-acre plots watered by a series of hand-dug trenches and are hand harvested, he said.

Rush's trip to Azerbaijan was at the request of Valmont, a Nebraska company which produces Valley center-pivot irrigation systems. Valmont is establishing a pilot project on cotton and sugar beets.

"Basically, I think the



(Texas Agricultural Experiment Station photo)

Dr. Charlie Rush, left, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station plant pathologist, and Jerry Clement, a Dumas farmer and Valmont representative, stand by the first irrigation system installed in Azerbaijan to water sugar beets.

Azerbaijanis just need someone with experience with sugar beets," Rush said. "They are so new at this, they really don't know what they need. Before, they had cooperative farms and someone in Moscow would write out the specs and the growers would follow them."

Now they need someone to work with them and help them begin research on their own, he said. This includes variety trials, seeding rates and spacing considerations.

Valmont helped set up the first center-pivot sugar beet pilot project near Beylagan while Rush was there. They hope this automated irrigation will help expand the acreage.

Because the seasons are slightly milder than those in the Panhandle, Rush said the Azerbaijanis may be able to plant two crops per year and keep the factory running all year long.

Rush is not the only Panhandle presence involved with this irrigation project. Jerry Clement of Dumas, a farmer and former sugar beet grower, is working with Valmont to help the

company establish a presence in Azerbaijan.

Valmont has 10 irrigation systems set up for cotton and one for sugar beets. Clements helped set up the irrigation systems and will help advise the farmers on the farming practices they use.

The pivot for sugar beets is about a half mile long, Rush said. It was set up to help demonstrate how beets can be grown on a larger acreage.

The hand-dug ditch canals currently used create problems with uneven stands and weed control, he said. Those are the types of issues Rush believes he can help them with most.

He hopes that some of the country's farming leaders can be brought to the U.S. to visit the beet-growing regions and see everything from winter beets in California to harvest in Minnesota.

Sugar beet research still comprises 60 percent of Rush's research efforts. Many of the diseases he first looked at in the Panhandle are now problems in other

sugar beet-growing regions. He receives funding from the Minnesota and North Dakota Research and

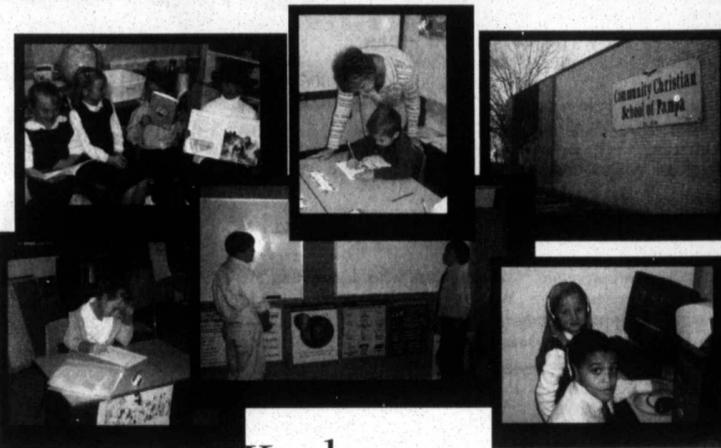
Education Board, and the Beet Sugar Development Foundation out of Denver, Colo.

"Pathology is my expertise," Rush said. "But I have a good general understanding of the whole operation."



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Wal-Mart changes pay structure to keep competitive

By MARCUS KABEL
AP Business Writer

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it is raising wages at nearly a third of its 4,000 U.S. stores and introducing wage caps at all stores in an effort to remain competitive and meet a need for workers and managers as it continues to expand.

Workers at more than 1,200 stores will see their paychecks grow by an average 6 percent.

Wal-Mart, the nation's largest private employer, has more than 1.3 million U.S. employees, which it refers to as associates. In addition to the wage increases, it said it would set wage caps for the first time on each type of job at stores.

The announcement comes less than two weeks after Chicago became the largest city in the nation to require big-box retailers to pay a "living wage," despite objections from Wal-Mart and other businesses. Chicago's City Council adopted an ordinance requiring major retailers to pay at least \$10 an hour plus \$3 in fringe benefits by mid-2010.

Mayor Richard M. Daley could veto the measure but would need two aldermen to drop their support in order to avoid having

his veto overridden.

Gerald Celente, director of The Trends Research Institute in Rhinebeck, N.Y., an independent think tank that follows economic and other trends, said Wal-Mart appeared to be reacting to negative publicity about its pay following the Chicago ordinance.

"The increase in starting salary is a very smart thing to do," Celente said.

Wal-Mart said its pay increases began before the Chicago vote.

"It's part of a wider effort that's been under way for more than two years," said Wal-Mart spokesman John Simley. He said the pay restructuring started in June 2004 when Wal-Mart introduced new classifications for each type of job.

The retailer's pay and benefits have been under fire from union-backed critics. Wal-Mart has defended its average full-time hourly wage of \$10.11 and launched lower-cost health plans this year with premiums as low as \$11 month in some areas.

"We've created about 240,000 jobs in the last three years and we are continuing to grow. We need to ensure that we have the most appropriate classification and pay programs to meet our growth needs," Simley said.

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We will be recycling tires, car batteries, motor oil & filters, antifreeze and paints, as well as plastics, aluminum and paper. (Limit 10 tires per vehicle. No commercial or retail shops.)

DO NOT BRING... explosives • radioactive • dioxins or waste generated by businesses or farms • container larger than 1 gallon (except for motor oil & paint) • compressed gas cylinders • waste reactives.

Please transport all products in their original containers, do not consolidate them. Make sure the containers are properly sealed and will not leak. Put containers in the trunk or back of your vehicle, away from passengers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
669-5840 OR 665-2514

This Event Is Sponsored By The City Of Pampa • Celanese
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Viewpoints

It's important to get away once in awhile

Everyone knows someone who never takes a vacation, never travels out of town, and perhaps would even prefer to work holidays.

Gasoline and diesel prices being what they are, it's understandable why some people decide not to do extensive traveling. But I say it's well worth it to get away

from it all, even for just a day or two.

My husband and I went on a jaunt over a recent long weekend. We crammed a lot of traveling into three days, and while it would have been nice to have more time, it was wonderful to be on the road.

We weren't the only ones,

either. We saw license plates from as far away as New Jersey, along with plenty from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. We also saw lots of famil-

Marilyn Powers

Staff Writer



their homes.

One or two places had

changed since our last visit, but most were just about as we had left them the last time we'd been there.

Of course, it's also fun to go to a new place and see things you haven't seen before. We did that, too.

It's important to get away once in awhile. It doesn't have to be for a long time or

to go a long distance.

What matters is that you break away from your usual daily routine and do something different. If you have that attitude, you can even take a day's vacation in your own back yard.

Try it. You'll feel like a whole new person.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2006. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 8, 1974, President Nixon announced he would resign following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

On this date:

In 1876, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his mimeograph.

In 1942, six convicted Nazi saboteurs who'd landed in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others received life imprisonment.

In 1945, President Truman signed the United Nations Charter.

In 1945, the Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1963, Britain's Great Train Robbery took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1968, Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president at the Republican national convention in Miami Beach, Fla.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as

'It is the anonymous 'they,' the enigmatic 'they' who are in charge. Who is 'they'? I don't know. Nobody knows. Not even 'they' themselves.'

— Joseph Heller
American author
(1923-1999)

"damned lies" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he eventually did.

In 1978, the U.S. launched Pioneer Venus 2, which carried scientific probes to study the atmosphere of Venus.

In 1991, the slain bodies of former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar and his chief of staff were found in Bakhtiar's residence outside Paris.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

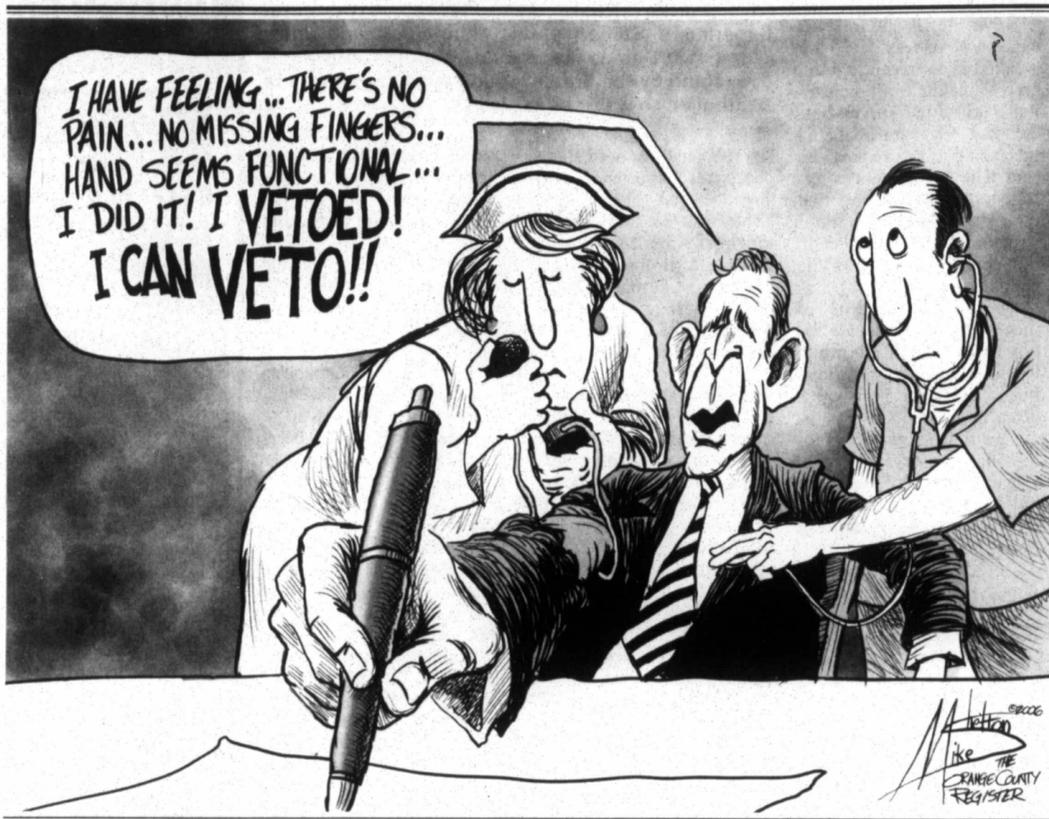
Ten years ago: President Clinton belittled Bob Dole's tax plan, vowing to oppose tax cuts that he said the country couldn't afford. Republican sources, meanwhile, said Dole was seriously considering choosing Jack Kemp for his running mate.

Five years ago: Former President Reagan's daughter Maureen died at age 60. Mohammad Khatami was sworn in for a second term as Iran's president.

One year ago: President Bush signed a bill to give billions in tax breaks to encourage homegrown energy production but acknowledged it wouldn't quickly reduce high gasoline prices or the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Iran resumed work at a uranium conversion facility after suspending nuclear work for nine months to avoid U.N. sanctions. Actress Barbara Bel Geddes died in Northeast Harbor, Maine, at age 82. Publisher John H. Johnson, founder of Ebony and Jet magazines, died in Chicago at age 87.

Today's Birthdays: Producer Dino DeLaurentiis is 87. Actress Esther Williams is 85. Actor Richard Anderson is 80. Joan Mondale (wife of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale) is 76. Actress Nita Talbot is 76. Singer Mel Tillis is 74. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 69. Actress Connie Stevens is 68. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 67. Actor Larry Wilcox is 59. Actor Keith Carradine is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Airrion Love (The Stylistics) is 57.



Three cheers for smugglers, free exchange

During the days of the Soviet Union, Swiss watches were illegal. In the era of the American Prohibition, the sale, manufacture and importation of intoxicating liquor was illegal. England's Navigation Acts imposed high tariffs and restrictions on goods sold to the American colonies and led to our 1776 War of Independence. The common theme in all of these acts is government seeking to interfere with, regulate or outlaw peaceable voluntary exchange between individuals.

I don't see anything wrong with people wearing Swiss watches, or having a drink or purchasing tea from a Dutch producer rather than an English producer. But, often people in government think they know better, and they use government's brute force to hinder peaceable voluntary exchange. In comes my hero, the smuggler, to the rescue.

He's the guy who, in effect, tells us, "I know the government doesn't want you to have a Martini or a glass of wine, but I can get it for you." He might have to run clandestine operations, and blackmail and corrupt

public officials, all of which adds to cost — but at least you have the booze.

Before we look down our noses at smugglers, we might consider that some of the men we celebrate each Fourth of July, such as John Hancock, were involved in smuggling.

You say, "What's with the history lesson, Williams?"

According to a story titled "Big Tobacco's Next Legal War" in a recent edition of Newsweek,

there's a flourishing trade in smuggled cigarettes. Tobacco companies legally manufacture their product and legally sell it to domestic and foreign wholesalers. Afterward, the cigarettes might change hands several times before they wind up in the hands of smugglers.

Smugglers might proposition California or New York citizens: "Your government is trying to rip you off by making you pay \$4.50 a pack for cigarettes. Give me \$2 a pack and you can afford to puff your head off."

In my book, that guy's a

hero.

But here's the problem. Even though there's no moral justification for federal and state governments' tax extortion of cigarette smokers, most smokers relent because they are law-abiding people. Almost by definition, people who get involved with smuggling have a lower regard for laws in general. These are people who don't mind the use of violence in settling disputes.

Neither do they mind corrupting public officials through intimidation, bribes or payoffs.

Outlaws are major beneficiaries of the national attack on smokers.

A couple of weeks ago, federal authorities charged 18 people with smuggling cigarettes out of North Carolina, a state with low cigarette taxes, to Michigan, where taxes are higher. The Feds have even set up a cigarette-smuggling "war room" in the U.S. Federal Building in Raleigh, N.C. Incredibly, the Feds are targeting cigarette manufactur-

ers for smuggling. That makes as much sense as holding a tool manufacturer responsible for my assaulting you with a hammer he sold me.

Let's look at prospects. The British weren't successful in stopping our Founders from buying from whom they pleased. Eliot Ness and his team of U.S. Department of Justice agents weren't successful in stopping our parents from boozing it up. The nation's War on Drugs has been a total flop, not only in terms of not eliminating drug trade, but also in turning whole neighborhoods into war zones. Is there any reason to believe the government war on smuggled cigarettes is going to be any more successful?

While we're at it, let's ask ourselves two more questions: Is the war on cigarette smokers worth the crime creation and corruption of public officials that's becoming part and parcel of cigarette smuggling? And even more important: Is the attack on cigarette smokers worth further trivialization of our Constitution and rule of law?

—Walter Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

Walter Williams

Columnist



THE PAMPA NEWS

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Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ July 30

Houston Chronicle on an economic boom in Houston:

Battered by rising interest rates and energy costs, the Commerce Department reported, the U.S. economy's annual growth rate shrank to 2.5 percent in the second quarter. Counterintuitively, the stock market rallied Friday because news of a cooling economy could signal low risk for inflation and lead the Federal Reserve Board to halt its steady hikes in interest rates.

While the nation's first quarter economic spurt might prove to be short-

lived, Houston's economy might be on the verge of a boom. The Houston branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas reports that sustained high energy prices could prompt investment and hiring in the energy sector.

Despite decades of economic diversification, the Federal Reserve Bank here says half of Houston's jobs are in the energy sector or produced by it. Robert Gilmer, the bank's vice president, notes that except for a short recession in 2001, oil prices have remained above \$20 a barrel for six years, while natural gas prices passed \$3 per thousand cubic feet in 2000 "and never looked back."

A boom in Houston requires not only high energy prices, but the belief by energy company executives that prices

will not fall sharply. With crude oil consistently above \$70 per barrel, demand rising and spare production capacity dropping, continued high energy costs look like a good bet.

Interviewed in Sunday's Chronicle, senior executives for Shell, BP America and ConocoPhillips said almost any disruption of the oil supply chain could cause temporary shortages and send prices higher. It doesn't take a major war in the Persian Gulf. A storm in the Gulf of Mexico or Americans' failure to conserve and develop alternative energy sources could cause supply to fall short of demand.

With supply so precarious and global demand rising, the profitability of the U.S. energy sector now concentrated in Houston seems secure.

Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: This is in reference to the letter from "Shannon in Houston" (6/25), the mother who thinks it's inappropriate for her 11-year-old son to tell his girlfriend he loves her. I agree with your answer, and would like to point out that love at such a young age is devoid of the ulterior motives of more mature love: It's not physical, and it's not social or money-driven. It is untainted love, love for love's sake. Besides, children learn to love by being loved themselves. That mother must have done something right, as her young son knows how to give someone love -- a skill many people never acquire during their lifetime. -- **LOVING MOM OF LOVING SONS**

DEAR LOVING MOM: Point well taken. I firmly believe children are able to feel love for each other -- because I was one of them. Read on: **DEAR ABBY:** You ran a letter from a mom who felt that her 11-year-old son couldn't know what love is. While it may be true for some kids, it's not true for all. Parents should let their kids develop emotionally, not belittle their feelings. I fell in love with a boy in my class when I was about that age. Those feelings remained throughout grade school and high school. He was the first love of my life, and I'll always have special feelings for him -- even though it has been years since I last saw him. Even if the girl doesn't turn out to be her daughter-in-law, these relationships will prepare her son to be the man he will one day become. -- **CASSIE IN GRESHAM, ORE.**

DEAR ABBY: That mother missed an important teaching moment, an important milestone in her son's life. She should have validated his feelings because children do feel deeply. When my daughter was in love

for the first time at 13, we talked about what love means. It means wanting only the best for the other person. You care about the safety and welfare of that person and always treat him (or her) with kindness and respect. You would never encourage someone you love to do anything unlawful, dangerous or harmful. And you will know he loves you if he feels this way about you. I repeated the same litany as she was growing up. My daughter is now 22, and still talks to me about her romances and almost everything else. -- **BEEN-THERE MOM, ENGLEWOOD, FLA.**

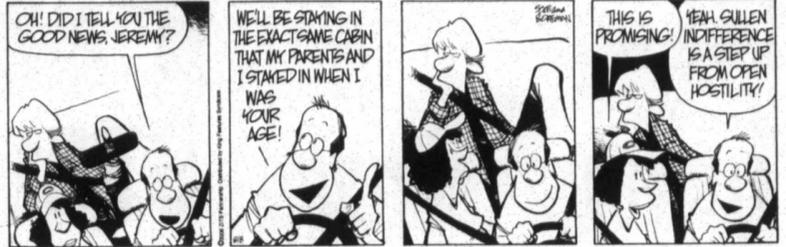
DEAR ABBY: I am now 91. You gave that mother the right advice. I wish someone had told my mother the same. She scoffed at my "puppy love," but it has endured -- just as Charles Schulz in his "Peanuts" strip never forgot his "little red-headed girl." Eighty years have passed since I fell in love with Margaret Ruprect back in Dubuque, Iowa. I can still remember her golden hair shining in the sun and her laughter. I only got to kiss her once, but I'll never, ever forget her. If she's still living, I hope she sees this and knows I still love her. -- **BOB C., ATASCADERO, CALIF.**

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to address my comments to "Shannon in Houston." I am confused. What are the most frequent words you say to your child? "I love you," again and again. You show your son your love every day. But as soon as he professes love for someone outside the family, you tell him "he's too young to understand what love is." How can that possibly be true, if he has been raised in a loving family? -- **JOANN J., TAMPA, FLA.**

For Better Or For Worse



Zits



Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



B.C.



Haggar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie



Crossword Puzzle

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Disrobes

1 Got an A+ 43 Ties the

5 Director knot

Frank

10 Fizzy

drinks

12 Chef's

wear

13 "Doctor

Dolittle"

author

15 Actor

Wallach

16 Presidential

nickname

17 Presidential

nickname

18 Capitol

group

20 Soccer

great

21 Spurred

casino

22 Calculation

23 Bye, in

Baja

25 Freeway

exit

28 Put up

31 Buffalo's

county

32 Tight

34 Heir, often

35 Play part

36 Pitching

stat

37 "Da"

playwright

40 Koran

faith

41 "Sweet"

O'Grady"



Yesterday's answer

11 On the

agenda

27 Enjoy the

party

14 Compliant

29 Fold

5 Casual

30 Scorching

19 Visibly

shocked

33 Walks in

water

7 Set a cost

20 Tough

puzzle

35 Money

for the

poor

8 Jimmy's

maker

38 Movie

computer

25 Send

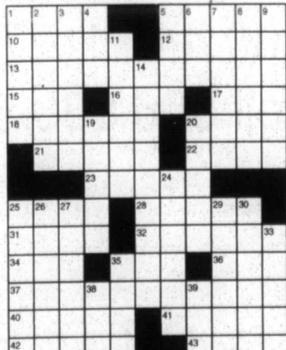
anew

39 At this

moment

26 Wake

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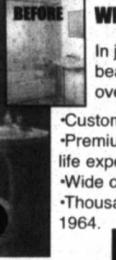
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BUSINESS REVIEW

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ITC
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ITE
In-the-Ear

BTE
Behind-the-Ear

'Best' — What is the best hearing aid for me?

High Plains Hearing Aid Center offers a variety of listening devices for every budget

In our last article, we discussed the five steps to better hearing with admitting you have a hearing problem as being the very first step. Part of the process is also choosing the hearing aid that best suits your needs.

So, what is the best hearing instrument available today?

"A hearing instrument that works well for one person may not produce the same results for someone else since everyone has different listening needs," says Shirley Moore, hearing specialist and owner of High Plains Hearing Aid Center.

Each major manufacturer makes a product that is highly comparable to other manufacturers' products. The "best" hearing instrument for you is one that can meet your needs, offers you a good warranty and service, and one that your professional at High Plains Hearing Aid Center is experienced in fitting.

It's also important to know the differences between conventional, programmable and digital instruments.

1. The traditional analog circuitry in conventional hearing instruments acts as a basic volume control for all sounds, allowing only for minor adjustments — which you make.

2. Programmable hearing instruments with analog circuitry can be programmed by your hearing health care professional based on your hearing loss and your likes and dislikes and feature automatic volume control.

3. The digital circuitry of entry-level digital devices offers cleaner and clearer sound quality

and is programmed by your professional. They also offer automatic volume control and specific fine-tuning of sounds based upon your hearing level and likes and dislikes.

4. Advanced digital devices offer digital circuitry, cleaner and clearer sound quality, are a bit clearer in noise and may have a noise-reduction feature for constant noise sounds and are programmed by your professional. They provide very specific automatic fine-tuning of sounds based upon your hearing level and likes and dislikes.

Digital hearing instruments are for almost everyone. Today's digital hearing instruments provide both clarity and amplification. Someone with a severe to profound hearing loss, who is used to conventional technology, may now be a candidate for digital circuitry. Ask Shirley Moore and the knowledgeable professionals at High Plains Hearing Aid Center for more information.

You'll also want to ask what size hearing aid you will need. Different types of circuitry come in all sizes. Selection of a size depends upon your personal preference, your ear canal size, and your hearing loss.

To learn more or to schedule an appointment, call High Plains Hearing Aid Center at (806) 355-8889 or visit them at 5501 West 9th Street in Amarillo.

High Plains Hearing Aid Center also has additional offices in Dalhart, Dumas and Pampa. The Pampa office is located at 100 N. Cuyler, Suite 103. The local phone number is 665-6246.

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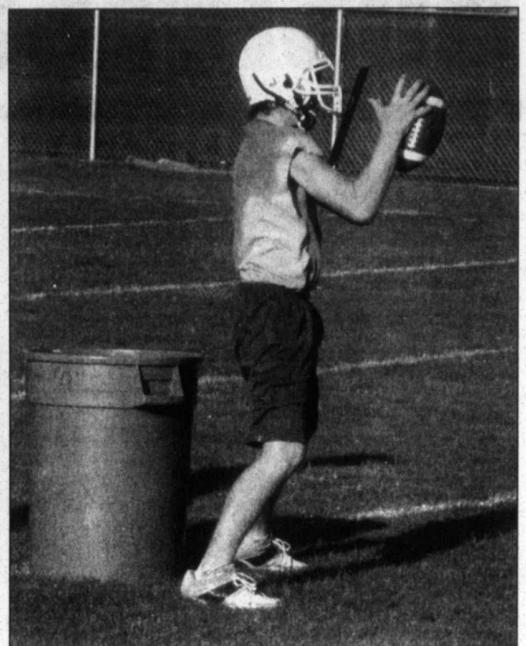
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Early morning practice



Pampa News photos by MICHAEL J. STEVENS

With temperatures already rising as the sun still cast long shadows across the field, the 2006 Pampa Harvesters JV and varsity football teams entered their second day of practice this morning. Whistles echoed across the campus as players were led through drills. A junior varsity player works on pass catching skills (above) while varsity players focus on blocking and pursuit assignments (left). Both squads will scrimmage against Wichita Falls Hirshi Aug. 19 in Childress. The varsity team opens the season at Perryton Sept. 1. The JV and freshman teams will face the Rangers on the road Aug. 31.

NFL Preseason standings

All Times EDT
AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Miami	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New England	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	16	10
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	10	16

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	.000	0	0

Sunday's Game

Oakland 16, Philadelphia 10

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.

Indianapolis at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Friday's Games

Denver at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

New England at Atlanta, 8 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 8 p.m.

Chicago at San Francisco, 10 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Pittsburgh at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.

Jacksonville at Miami, 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Tennessee, 8 p.m.

Kansas City at Houston, 8 p.m.

Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Green Bay at San Diego, 10 p.m.

Owners hear finalists speak

NORTHBROOK, Ill. (AP) — All 32 NFL owners seemed impressed by the five finalists for the commissioner's job when they finally got to see and hear them.

Nothing happened to indicate that Roger Goodell, Paul Tagliabue's No. 2 man, isn't the overwhelming favorite to be elected Tagliabue's successor. That could happen late Tuesday, but more likely on Wednesday.

Tagliabue and Pittsburgh owner Dan Rooney, co-chairman of the eight-owner selection committee, both said they believe a new commissioner was likely to be chosen during this three-day meeting in suburban Chicago.

The thought all along has been that if a commissioner is elected here it will be Goodell, the NFL's chief operating officer, but if the process is extended, one of the other four finalists could enter the picture.

McGuire, David take PCC couples scramble with 58

Couples Scramble
Pampa Country Club
Aug. 5, 2006

1st Place (58.0)
Peggy McGuire
Clay David

2nd Place (60.0)
Joe Manzanares
Connie Lynch

3rd Place (61.0)
John Davis
Kim Davis

4th Place (62.0)
Mike Goad
Melody Goad

5th Place (63.0)
Aaron Fulcher
Patti Fulcher

5th Place (63.0)
Greg Logan
Renita Logan

7th Place (64.0)
Tracy Peet
Kim Peet

POYC FOOTBALL

Sign-ups start soon

By MICHAEL J. STEVENS
Sports Editor

The Pampa Optimist Youth Club will hold registrations for padded and flag football Aug. 16, 17 and 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. each day at the POYC building.

Both programs are open to boys and girls. The season is scheduled to begin Sept. 5.

Registration fee is \$35 for flag football, \$55 for padded football.

Flag football will be open to first and second grades only. Each grade will have its own division.

The padded football program will be open to those in the third through sixth grades and will feature two divisions. Third and fourth grade players will play in one division while fifth and sixth grade players compete in the other.

Organizers encourage all who are interested to sign up early so teams can be formed evenly.

For additional information, contact the Pampa Optimist Youth Club.

Rangers fall to streaking A's, 7-4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mark Ellis felt like a spectator while the Oakland Athletics roared off on their latest winning streak. The second baseman's slump finally ended with two clutch hits — and the A's roll shows no signs of slowing.

Ellis drove in four runs with a homer and a bases-loaded double, leading the surging A's to a 7-4 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday night.

Milton Bradley also homered and drove in two runs for AL West-leading Oakland, which won for the eighth time in nine games in the opener of a 10-game homestand. The A's went 5-1 on the road last week against division rivals Los Angeles and Seattle — no thanks to Ellis, who was batting .192 since the All-Star break.

But Ellis did most of the A's offensive work from the ninth slot in the batting order against Texas. He also made a sparkling play in the field, sprinting to grab Ian Kinsler's pop up near the foul line in the ninth.

"Sometimes when you're in a prolonged slump like I've been, you

don't feel you're contributing," Ellis said. "It was nice to be a part of it."

Ellis put a two-run shot off a sign in left field in the third inning, and followed it with a sharp double that scored Jay Payton and Nick Swisher in the sixth.

"Those were two huge hits," manager Ken Macha said. "Hopefully, he'll have some carry-over, get a little confidence going."

Before the game, Macha said Ellis might be taking too many pitches — a rare criticism for a player on the walk-worshipping A's. After talking to hitting coach Gerald Perry before the game, Ellis fell just short of his season high of five RBIs, set July 14 at Boston.

"In certain situations, you have to be a little more aggressive," Ellis said. "We've talked about it before, and today was one of those days."

This victory pushed Oakland to a season-high 10 games above .500, maintaining its three-game lead over the Angels atop the AL West.

Esteban Loaiza (5-7) got only his second victory in eight starts, repeat-

edly pitching out of trouble in 6 2-3 innings while allowing 10 hits and four runs.

"I'm happy with what I've been doing, but now I just feel a lot stronger," Loaiza said.

His inconsistent, injury-plagued first season in Oakland has featured regular boos from the Coliseum crowd — and his arrest on drunken-driving charges in June while reportedly going 120 mph in his Ferrari on an Oakland freeway.

But Loaiza got a warm ovation from fans when he left in the seventh, and three relievers finished his second home win of the season.

Kiko Calero pitched the ninth for his second save, resting Huston Street after three straight days of work for the Oakland closer.

Eric Chavez, the A's Gold Glove third baseman, made two big plays to back Loaiza.

Chavez threw out Mark Teixeira at the plate in the second inning, then tagged Mark DeRosa off third and threw across the diamond for a double play in the fourth.

Landis: Officials have an agenda

Floyd Landis insists cycling officials made it almost impossible for him to defend himself by divulging test results before he saw them. He also claims that anti-doping officials have "misrepresented" the quality of the evidence since.

Worse still, the embattled Tour de France champion wonders whether the appeal process will be any more evenhanded.

"By what I've seen so far, I don't expect to get a fair chance," Landis said in a telephone interview from California. "But I'm hoping that will change."

Landis offered no new explanation for the elevated testosterone levels, or synthetic testosterone, found in his system after a stirring comeback ride to victory in Stage 17. During a round of media interviews that began Sunday and included all four network morning shows Monday, the cyclist insisted again he won that stage and wrapped up the

race because of hard work — and nothing else.

"I put in more than 20,000 kilometers of training for the Tour. ... I was tested eight times at the Tour de France, four times before that stage and three times after, including three blood tests.

"Only one came back positive. Nobody in their right mind would take testosterone just once," he said. "It doesn't work that way."

Landis also complained that the media learned of the test results from both his "A" and "B" sample around the same time he did, "forcing me to try and defend myself when I had no idea what was going on." The more research Landis did, the more he became convinced officials from UCI, the international cycling federation, and the anti-doping agencies had rushed to judgment — and turned public opinion against him.

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5 Special Notices

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CDL position open. Dump truck exp. preferred. Day hauls only. Pre-employment drug test is required. Apply in person to Billie or Johnny only. West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart, Pampa.

UNION Tank Car is taking appli. for car repair mechanic. 401k, pd. vacation, medical ins. For info, call 806-663-4677.

EXP. Maintenance person needed. Must have own tools. Call to apply 665-4274 or 806-433-6939

OUTSIDE sales position with base pay of \$1,900 per month plus commission. After 1 year, average sales person is making \$39,000 per year. We will provide vehicle and you work Monday-Friday. You must be willing to relocate to Dumas, TX or Liberal, KS. For interview, call 580-651-9619.

MCLEAN Care Center has immediate openings in the Dietary Dept.: cooks & aids. Housing-keeping Dept.: 2 house-keeping aids. CNA's all shifts. Come by to apply or 806-779-2469 for info.

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EXP. cook & dishwasher needed at Granny's Home Cookin' 328 E. Frederic. No phone calls.

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OILFIELD Trucking Co. needs Drivers, Pushers & Swampers. 1724 McCullough, Pampa 665-0729, 866-415-4104.

PAMPA ISD is accepting applications for a substitute bus driver. Must have CDL license. Apply in person at the personnel office, 321 W. Albert.

CDL position open. Dump truck exp. preferred. Day hauls only. Pre-employment drug test is required. Apply in person to Billie or Johnny only. West Texas Landscape, 120 S. Hobart, Pampa.

UNION Tank Car is taking appli. for car repair mechanic. 401k, pd. vacation, medical ins. For info, call 806-663-4677.

Pampa Nursing Center 2 LAUNDRY AIDE positions avail. Please apply in person at 1321 N. Kentucky Ave, Pampa NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE m/f/h/v

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21 Help Wanted

SEEKING housewife or retired person for minimal hours per month to return phone calls, etc. Call Lori at 610-929-1761.

RHEAMS Diamond Shop needs an experienced Salesperson. Must be dependable, trustworthy & a people person. Apply in person, 111 N. Cuyler, Pampa, Tx.

D.E. CHASE, INC. 1445 S. Barnes Pampa, Tx.

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Requirements: CLASS A CDL DOT Physical Tanker Endorsement Must pass DOT Drug Screen

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LVN is needed for 3-11 shift, full time w/ benefits. St. Ann's Nursing Home in Panhandle, 537-3194.

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FOOD Service. Good hours. Mature, Honest & Dependable. Apply in person, Heard-Jones, Pampa

CATERING Assistant needed. Apply in person. No phone calls. Dixie Cafe, Pampa.

Help wanted. Apply in person at DK Glass, 315 W. Foster. No phone calls!

EXP. Oiler needed for heavy equipment. Must have Class A CDL w/ HazMat endorsement. Call 888-817-2347, Mon. thru Fri. 9am-4pm. to apply. EOE

21 Help Wanted

EXP. Heavy Equipment Operators needed. Call 888-817-2347, Mon. thru Fri. 9am-4pm. to apply. EOE

FT position available for insurance sales & service. Send resume to P.O. Box 2689, Pampa, Tx. 79066

OFFICE receptionist needed at Dish Solutions. Bring resume to 1617 N. Hobart. Call 665-4442.

DYER'S is hiring for kitchen help and dishwasher. Apply in person. No phone calls!!

FULL time employee needed, 30-35 hrs. per wk., off on Sun. Apply in person Hoagies Deli, Coronado Shopping Center.

Fresenius Medical Care World's Largest Integrated Dialysis Co. is now seeking qualified applicants for the following position: Patient Care Technician M-W-F

Qualifications: High School Diploma or GED

A desire to work as a team player Love to be around people Fresenius Medical Care Provides Competitive Salaries, 401K, Pension Plans, Full Medical Benefits, etc.

Apply in person at: Pampa Dialysis Center 2545 Perryton Parkway Pampa, Texas 79065

Court Records Contractor Nationwide company seeks experienced independent contractor to collect public record information at the court. Must have knowledge of civil, judicial, and tax liens. Laptop/PC required. Pay based on production. Fax resume to: 1-866-293-7705, attn. Kristie.

SNOKER Table 1910-1920. "The Premiere" by Amer. Billiards of Lubbock Reg. 4.5x9 ft. slate bed, 3 piece, 1.25 in. new green felt. \$3500 antique value. 806-665-8132

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1324 N. Banks, Pampa
Fax 806-665-3511

60 Household

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HOT TUB / SPA 2006 models 6.5 hp. Solid State. Lounger, waterfall aromatherapy, 43 jets, 6 person. Beautiful! In Stock \$4000. 806-670-9337

WOOD framed Aztec print furniture \$600. Couch, love seat, 2 end tables, coffee table, chair and ottoman. 662-4514.

ONE hotpoint refrigerator, side by side, ice & water through the door. DJ Williams, 662-9693.

69 Misc.

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

AT The Red Barn: kid's books, western, cookbooks, novels, chests, mattresses, cookware. 1420 S. Barnes, Open Sat. 10-5, 665-2767.

FOR sale: Topper that was on '88 Ford LWB \$30, dishwasher, needs repair, \$20, and a floor furnace \$30. 669-1241.

1930'S Antique Tiger Eye Maple Veneer bedroom suite. Full bed, headboard, footboard, armoire, mirrored vanity, 2 night stands, Only \$850. Call 440-4070.

LAKEVIEW Apt. 1 & 2 bdr. unfurn. apt. avail. Ref., dep. req. 669-2981 or 669-4386

FOR rent: newly remodeled 2 bedroom, 1 bath home at 812 Jordan. \$400 per month. Call Lori at 610-929-1761.

1 bdr., washer / dryer hookups, fenced backyard, 808 Beryl. \$300 mo., \$250 dep. 665-5473

1 bedroom house. Bills are not paid. Call 669-6198 or 669-6323.

99 Stor. Bldgs.

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

102 Bus. Rent. Prop.

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DEBBIE'S Used Furniture. We buy & sell 1 piece or complete house. 903 S. Main, Borger, 273-2905, 886-0268 Tues-Sat.

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2611 Evergreen	...\$110,000	...2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
1008 Sirroco	...\$65,000	...3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
510 S. Grimes-White Deer	...\$82,550	...3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath

Century 21 PAMPA REALTY, INC. 806-669-0007

TWO AUCTIONS
Friday Evening & Saturday Estates
Friday Evening Aug. 11, 5:33 pm.
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Appliances, TVs, VCRS, keyboard, furniture, collectibles, fishing, ammo, money, books, office furn. & equip., household, kitchen.
E-Mail lyndon @loydsauction.com
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OFFICE Space for rent, ask about 3 months free rent. 669-6841.

103 Homes For Sale

Twila Fisher Century 21 Pampa Realty 665-3560, 440-2314 669-0007

1701 Christine, 3 bdr., 1 ba., fpl., c. h/a, lrg. basement, single gar., near 3 sch. Rear apt. w/ garage. Corner lot. 440-4070.

2 bedroom, 1 bath. Central heat and air, large rooms, detached garage. 2.5 acres. Call 665-8062 for details.

2325 Fir St., 3 bdr., 2 ba. 2 car gar., 1727 sq. ft., \$107,000. 665-3085 or (801)380-8129.

3 bdr., 2 ba., with new metal fence, on 3 acres w/ barn and roping arena. Call 665-5218 or 662-0812.

701 E. 15th, 3/2. \$28,000. 1201 Garland 3/2, \$16,000. Owner/Agent 972-691-4538

737 Bradley: living room, 2 br, 2 ba., fireplace, lg. sunroom, lg. den, 1 car garage, RV shelter, 3 carport, cellar, 2 corner lots, 3 storage buildings, ch&a. 669-7612

BY Owner: Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, central heat & air, carport, on corner with 2 lots, \$24,000. 665-2818 or 325-201-2486.

FOR Sale By Owner 129 Walnut Creek Shown by Appointment only. Call 665-7164

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MARIE EASTHAM Realtor 665-4180, 440-3044 Pampa Realty Century 21

104 Lots

2 Mausoleum Crypts Side by Side \$3995.00 Call 440-2449

110 Out Of Town Prop.

FOR sale: KMT Cafe in Miami, TX. Wonderful opportunity! Town is very busy with oil business. Call Lorene Paris at 806-868-6971, sales associate Shed Realty 665-3761.

114 Recre. Veh.

1993 Hitchhiker II 5th wheel, 31 ft., 1 owner, 1 slide-out, covered since new. \$13,000. 665-4784, 683-7223.

115 Trailer Parks

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

116 Mobile Homes

FOR sale: 14x70 mobile home to be moved. Make an offer. Call 806-669-6543 and leave a message.

FOR SALE small 2 bdr., 2 ba. mobile home with lot & cellar. 416 Perry, Pampa, Tx. \$13,000 cash. Call 806-676-2323

FSBO American Home 14x80, remodeled bathroom for handicap, 3 br., appliances with washer & dryer, new plumbing, 15x31 attached den. Call 665-2944 for more info.

334 Doyle, 3 bdr., 2 ba. mobile home w/ lot, \$8000 cash. Will finance with \$3000 down. Call 664-8551.

120 Autos

2001 Chevy Tahoe 4x4, leather, new tires, fully loaded. 72,000 miles. \$17,000. 665-4784, 683-7223.

2004 Jeep Wrangler 4x4, soft top, glass windows, trailer hitch, 17,000 miles. \$18,000. 665-4784, 683-7223.

121 Trucks

1999 GMC pick-up, V6, automatic. Sport side, reg. cab, 87,000 miles. \$7,900. Please call 665-3238 for details.

95 Dodge Cummins diesel 3/4 ton heavy duty, tool box & 5th wheel hitch. \$8000. 665-4784, 683-7223.

126 Boats & Access.

FOR sale: 2000 Yamaha Millennium Edition 1200R wave runner, \$4750. Also, 1998 Yamaha XL 1200, perfect cond., \$3500. Both come with trailer & cover. 665-3788.



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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.

8-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

PBA IM HB TS RTTU ECBBZ,
ZBGBGH BZXDR ACWA ACB
GXMSTZAIDBM CWZUBMA AT
HBWZ WZB ACTMB VCXEC
DBQBZ ETGB. — WGO PTVBPP
Yesterday's Cryptquote: EVERY MAN SHOULD HAVE A FAIR-SIZED CEMETERY IN WHICH TO BURY THE FAULTS OF HIS FRIENDS. — H.W. BEECHER

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Dennis Swanson
1-800-259-0879
All interviews will be kept strictly confidential

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, Aug. 9, 2006:
You waver often, be it with interpersonal relationships or when making a key decision. You might want to back off in order to see the solution that could incorporate both extremes. Your creativity remains key to your success. You don't see people realistically this year, but more as you would like them to be. Disappointment could result if you live in a rose-colored haze. If you are single, you will have swarms of admirers. Choose carefully. Winter and spring 2007 allow someone special into your life. If you are attached, you might need to agree to disagree. Respect others' differences, and you'll be much happier. AQUARIUS can be confusing.

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)
★★★★ Dissolve tension through action. Though lying back is not your style, you still might need to push harder than usual. Revive your opinions and plans. Notice how many different ways you can look at a situation. Tonight: Do what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might feel pulled in two different directions. You'll handle the pressure well, but you still might want to pull back. Your creativity comes forth no matter what you do. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could waver between two different opinions or plans. It might be best to step back and see how you could incorporate both into your life. Your imagination plays a big role in your actions. Tonight: Join in with another's suggestion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others make demands, but how far you can go to make them happy might be restricted. Establish a strong grasp on your finances. You might be delighted by what you can accomplish if you focus. Tonight: Relax with a friend over dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might feel like you are pulling teeth trying to get to the bottom of a problem. Someone feels inspired. Within, you might be doubting his or her grasp on reality. Still, roll with the moment. A suggestion could make a difference. Tonight: Go along with another's whims.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be too tired or worn out to deal with an issue that rears its head. Don't pretend that everything is OK. Be realistic about what is happening, and at the same time understand your limits. Tonight: Put your feet up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You find events fun and humorous, while others might be pulling out their hair. You have perspective on your side. Don't push someone too hard. Let events flow. A relationship or new friend could be developing new intensity. Tonight: Romp away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could feel as if you are between a rock and a hard place. Juggle the many different areas of your life that all seem to need care immediately. Don't feel pressured. Slow and steady works. Head home early, if possible. Tonight: Veg.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Quite clearly, you can handle a lot more than most people. You might have to juggle plans and screen calls, as so much is coming toward you so quickly. Be where you want to be, not where you think you should be. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others might not realize how important it is for you to maintain a steady financial course. You could easily misread a money matter. Your instincts might be off. Take your time and don't feel pressured. Tonight: Treat yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You are a force to be dealt with. The Full Moon in your sign gives you that extra zap of energy, magnetism and intelligence. Your perception of a friendship could be changing. Avoid judgments for now. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ Don't overreact. You need to stay anchored when dealing with a boss or someone you look up to. You might not be reading the situation as clearly as you would like. Understand that you don't have to do anything quickly. Tonight: Rest up. Life gets dicey.

BORN TODAY
Singer Whitney Houston (1963), actress Melanie Griffith (1957), psychologist Jean Piaget (1896) ***

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>.
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Loss of Alaska oil field puts pressure on both prices, feds

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — The fast rise in oil prices after BP's announcement that it was shutting down one of its biggest oil fields for repairs that could take months appeared to have leveled off Tuesday morning.

Oil prices fell in several markets, but the price was still more than \$1 above last week, putting pressure on prices at the pump.

Light sweet crude for September delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange slipped 33 cents to \$76.65 a barrel in electronic trading by midday in Europe. September Brent at London's ICE Futures exchange fell 40 cents to \$77.90 a barrel.

BP said it discovered corrosion so severe that it will have to replace 16 miles of pipeline at the huge Prudhoe Bay oil field. The news Monday put pressure on prices at the pump during the peak summer driving season and prompted the government to consider dipping into its emergency stockpile.

Most of the crude oil produced out of Alaska's North Slope each day goes to refineries in Washington, California and Hawaii, said Joe Sparano, president of the Western States Petroleum Association, a trade group based in Sacramento, Calif.

Sparano said it's too soon to tell how the shutdown will ultimately affect consumers. "Until we know the full extent of any necessary repairs and how long they might take, it's impossible to predict what the impact might be," he said.

The average U.S. retail price of a gallon of unleaded,

regular gasoline was \$3.036 on Monday — near its all-time high of \$3.057, reached Sept. 5 after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. Gasoline futures also rose, indicating the market expects further increases.

'Until we know the full extent of any necessary repairs and how long they might take, it's impossible to predict what the impact might be.'

— Joe Sparano
Western States Petroleum Association president

The Energy Department said it is prepared to provide oil from the government's emergency supplies if a refinery requests it. "If there is a request for oil we'll certainly take a serious look at that," spokesman Craig Stevens said.

The government has about 700 million barrels in storage on the Gulf Coast to be used in case of a serious supply disruption. The Energy Department in the past has lent some of the oil to refineries when there were disruptions.

Bob Malone, chairman of BP America, said that in a worst-case scenario, it could take weeks or months to replace the pipelines. But the company said it will try to put portions of the network

back into operation as they are repaired.

"We estimate it could take between 2-3 months to get it back on line," Bruce Lanni, an industry analyst with A.G. Edwards, wrote in a research note. "However, there are no assurances that it will return to current capacity, given the complexities and age of the reservoirs."

Washington state's largest refinery has enough oil stockpiles to keep the shutdown from becoming a major problem in the next two or three weeks, said Mike Abendhoff, spokesman for BP's Cherry Point refinery in northwest Washington.

"If it prolongs and goes six weeks, eight weeks, three months or four months, then it's going to require us to be more creative in where we get our crude from," he said.

BP operates the Prudhoe Bay oil field for itself and for other oil companies, including ConocoPhillips and Exxon Mobil. Prudhoe Bay and other oil fields on Alaska's North Slope feed oil into the 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline. The North Slope produces approximately 800,000 barrels a day; Prudhoe Bay accounts for half of that.

BP discovered corrosion in the transit lines only after the U.S. Transportation Department ordered their inspection following a spill of up to 270,000 gallons in March. It was the biggest spill in North Slope history, and has become part of a criminal investigation into the company's Alaskan operations.

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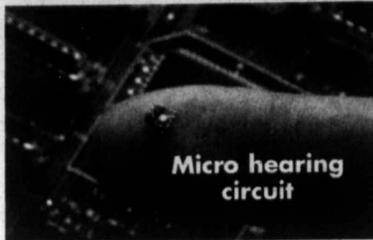
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